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***From the
President's Desk***

Henry Burbury is holidaying on Bribie Island in Queensland at present. He is looking forward to joining the other members of the state Golf Croquet team later this month and then getting back into the swing of meetings on his return to Tasmania. Meanwhile, he has asked me to record his appreciation and thanks to Ian and Liz Smith for their work on the Calendar. Thanks to their efforts, use of club lawns will be optimised while still allowing for top level competition in both forms of the game.

Congratulations

Sue Beattie has been selected by the ACA to compete in the World Croquet Association Womens World championship to be played at Cairnlea in early October:



***Printing sponsored by
Geoff Lyons MP
Federal Member for Bass***

State Golf Croquet team

The Tasmanian Golf Croquet Team is heading to Perth to play against other states in the Interstate Shield commencing 29th August

The Tasmanian Golf Croquet team for 2012 contains eight familiar faces, and two new ones, Graham Keating and Nick Twaits. They join 2011 team members Henry Burbury, Bob Godfrey, Gina Kirkland, Patsy Paine, Jenny Parrott, June Pongratz and Chris West, and returning member Lee Turner.



Patsy Paine



Henry Burbury



Lee Turner



Chris West



Jenny Parrott



Bob Godfrey



June Pongratz



Graham Keating



Gina Kirkland



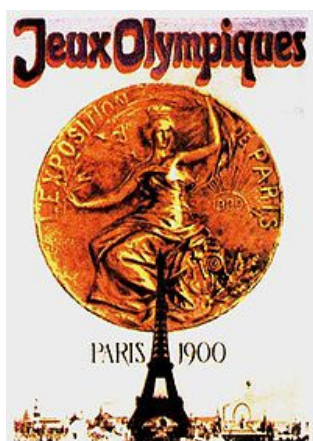
Nick Twaits



Croquet in the Olympics

I am assembling this edition of Tassie Tales bleary eyed from several all-night sessions watching the London 2012 Olympic Games.

Croquet was once (literally) an Olympic sport! At the Paris 1900 Summer Olympics croquet shared the stage with such sports as cricket, golf, polo, motor-cycle racing, tennis and live pigeon shooting!



The games were organised quite differently, and many sports did not even advertise that they were in fact Olympic events, being tacked on to the Paris World's Fair. Most of the winners did not receive medals, and in fact Margaret Abbott died in 1955 still unaware that she was the first American woman to win an Olympic gold medal!

Abbott had gone to Paris with her mother in 1899 to study art. The following year, she was one of ten women who entered a 9-hole golf tournament. The other women, she light-heartedly told relatives, "apparently misunderstood the nature of the game scheduled for the day and turned up to play in high heels and tight skirts." Abbott, more sensibly attired, won the tournament with a 47.

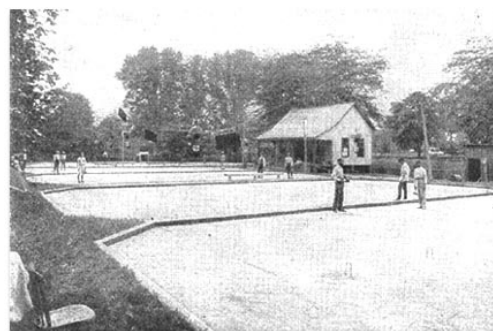
There were four croquet events held in the Bois de Boulogne: one ball singles, two ball singles, doubles, and a handicap singles. The latter is not considered to be an official Olympic event. All the competitors were French, except for a sole Belgian who was eliminated in the first round. So this remains the most successful French team of all time, as they filled all the places in every event.



Three women took part, becoming amongst the first women to be allowed to compete at an Olympic Games. (As an aside, the 2012 Olympics is the first where women have been allowed to compete in every sport, with the admission of Women's Boxing.)

The tournament was not a success with spectators. Only one paying spectator turned up, an Englishman on holiday in Nice who travelled up to Paris.

Croquet was replaced at the 1904 St. Louis Olympics by the equally short-lived sport of Roque, an American variant of croquet played on a smaller octagonal court with a hard surface and boundary walls and kerbs which allowed balls to rebound as in billiards or snooker.



Grounds of the National Roque Association at Norwich, CT. Source: Spalding's Official Roque Guide (1902)

It is said, though disputed, that roque was invented because of American dislike of playing any sport developed in England such as cricket and soccer! It did serve one purpose, as nobody else played it, allowing the Americans to dominate the medal winners. (Northern Tasmanians look forward to Vigoro being admitted as an Olympic sport!)



In the TCA Executive

In the June 2012 meeting the following topics were among the matters dealt with.

The Annual Dinner was attended by 47 people which was a slight increase on the previous year. The Secretary raised a query as to whether the Clubs would prefer trophies to be presented at an annual Trophy Tournament day or even at the end of each Tournament rather than at the Annual Dinner. After some discussion it was agreed to seek the views of the Clubs

Graham Keating suggested that instead of holding one Special meeting at the same time as the AGM we hold an additional Special meeting mid-year. This would provide Club delegate's with greater liaison with the Executive Committee. It was moved by Graham and seconded by Ian Scott to proceed on this basis and the meeting is set for 4 PM on Friday 24 January 2013 at the Devonport Croquet Club prior to the annual Devonport Tournament

The ACA have recommended that each State appoint a Director of Association Croquet as the ACA are going to appoint a national a National Director. However no duty statement or other details have been progressed at this time. The Secretary sent an e mail to the SA Director of Golf Croquet asking for his duty statement and it was agreed to wait until TCA hear further from the ACA.

The position of Promotions Officer was not filled at the AGM. The Secretary suggested we should advertise around the Clubs to see if any one is interested in taking on this role. Henry agreed to dot point a list of expected duties and the position will be advertised in the Circular to be issued to Clubs.

Weekend in St. Helens

The Annual Golf Croquet Tournament at St. Helens was once again blessed with fine weather. Nine of the ten clubs participated, with large contingents from Royal Park, Kingston and Eastern Shore among the more than sixty participants.

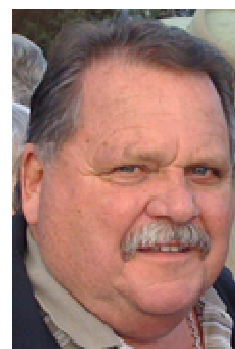


The mascot of the large Royal Park contingent

Once again, local president Mary Richardson is to be congratulated for hosting an ever more popular event.



Mary Richardson



Terry Doherty

Special thanks are due to Terry Doherty for preparing the lawns so well in spite of the recent weather.

Overall honours went to Eastern Shore's Pam Hamilton, followed by local member Edie Burns, and then the NewTown pair of June Pongratz and Nick Twaits.

Tournament Programme

The Calendar for the 2012-13 season has now been completed and should be in all clubs by now or certainly within a day or two. Please have a look at the events on offer and make a note of dates and competitions which suit you. Entry forms and conditions of play will be forwarded to clubs at times appropriate to each event so keep an eye out for these.

The committee has tried to provide sufficient variety so that players of all abilities and interests are catered for.

Every effort will be made to interrupt social play as little as possible but clearly it is not possible to avoid such inconvenience all the

time. There is a long standing agreement and commitment between clubs that Pennant days and Competitions will take precedence if necessary.

Thank you to all those who have had input into the preparation of the calendar.

Ian Smith – Tournaments Convenor

St. Leonards

Following the club's first ever AGM, there are a few changes at the club as we move into our second year of existence.

Not so much the changing of the guard as a rearrangement of deckchairs is through Ian Scott stepping down as President to become Secretary, and Bob Godfrey vacating the Secretary position to become President. Osma Marston remains as Vice President, and Kaye Jeffrey as Treasurer.

The new committee is a good blend of experienced members and recent recruits to the game: Jan Barnes; Karen Boswell; Margaret Brockett; Helen Larner; Christine Russell and Sylvia Wing.

Royal Park

Late in June Royal Park members were welcomed back to the lawns which had been out of action for seven weeks.



Grant Willson, Ralph Dawson inspect the new surface (Photo Courtesy: Launceston Times)

Grant Willson, Ralph Dawson and their loyal band of helpers did the work after seeking outside advice from turf experts. Special mention should be made of the large number of ladies who raked up thatch and gathered up acorns.



Club President Gillean Willson and Vice President Lois Richards celebrate the reopening. (Photo Courtesy: Launceston Times)

Gillean welcomed members back with an invitation to a Morning Tea in aid of the Cancer Council of Tasmania which raised \$150.

East Launceston

Hello to all fellow croquet friends. It has been a very busy and enjoyable time since our last contribution to the Tassie Tales publication.

The Club has held its Open Round Robin Golf Croquet Championship. It was a closely fought out event. The winner was Ruth McKean and runner-up Ken Philpott. Congratulations to all.

The Club Novice Championship was very closely contested with the winner being Bill Greenhill and runner-up Margaret Brooks. Congratulations to all.

East was very well represented in the N.R.C.C. Golf Croquet Championships Handicap 8 and over event. This event was played at the St.Leonards Centre on the 5th and 6th May,2012. Ken Philpott was the winner in a very exciting match with Ruth McKean runner-up. Bill Greenhill played very well to finish in 3rd place.

Congratulations to our President Lee Turner on her selection in the state team for Golf Croquet to be played in Victoria later this year. Congratulations to all other members of the state team and Good Luck

The Club held a very enjoyable breakfast during March at the Tower Cafe and was followed up by a few games at the Club. Another breakfast will be held on the 3rd June,2012 at the Colonial Motor Inn at 0800 hrs. All welcome.

The refurbishment of the lawn at East has been completed and everyone is thrilled with the

result. It has been a great team effort. Thanks to all for the maintenance of same. Neil Drury has been working very hard in constructing a locker to house our mower etc. It is looking fabulous.

A warm welcome to our two new members Pat Hallam and Chris. Pointon. It makes it very enjoyable to have new members joining our playing days.

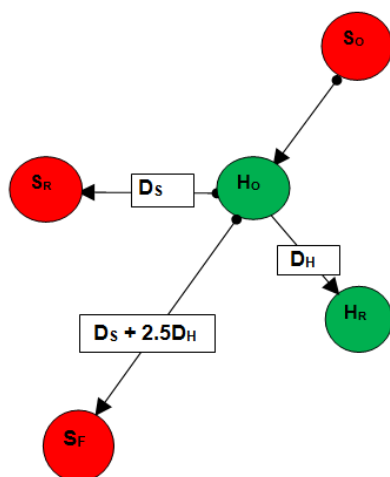
The Club is looking forward to pennants later in the year. An Egyptian Tournament is held once a month at St.Leonards and quite a few East players have expressed their enjoyment of same. Many thanks to Patsy Paine for her hard work on same.

Finally, many thanks to everyone for making croquet such an enjoyable game.

Replacing a Ball after Interference in Double Banked Games

I daresay that we have all at one time or another had the experience, when playing on a double banked court, of contact between balls of the two games. This quite often causes a quandary as to how to put them in what should be their correct positions.

In the ACA Referees Manuals there is a procedure described for replacing balls if the striker's ball from one game hits and moves a stationary ball from the other game. This procedure is accredited to Rudi Miller of Kew Croquet Club, and is probably the best rule-of-thumb method to use. However, I have found it hard to remember as it refers to "x distance" and "y distance".



In order to make it easier for myself and with apologies to Rudi, I have amended it slightly and come up with the mnemonic of "**SHHH**" to help me remember when refereeing. The amended system is shown in the diagram.

Key	
S_O	= Original position of Striker's Ball
S_R	= Position where Striker's Ball came to rest
S_F	= Final position of Striker's Ball
H_O	= Original position of hit ball
H_R	= Position where hit ball came to rest
D_S	= Distance travelled by Striker's Ball after interference
D_H	= Distance travelled by Hit Ball after interference

The procedure that I have found to work is (refer to the diagram):

- Mark the original positions of the Striker's ball (S_O) and the Hit ball (H_O) from the other game
- Extend, and mark, the line S_O and H_O, along which will be the position that we replace the striker's ball in its final position (S_F)
- Measure D_S and D_H (pacing them out is accurate enough) – these are the distances from the marked H_O to where the balls came to rest (S_R and H_R in the diagram).
- Calculate the distance that the striker's ball would have travelled beyond H_O if contact had not been made – this is D_S plus 2½ x D_H
- Replace the hit ball (at H_O)
- Place the striker's ball at S_F (pacing out the distance D_S plus 2½ x D_H)

The balls are now placed where they would have been if interference had not occurred. And the logic in the mnemonic "**SHHH**"? It is Striker's ball, Hit ball, Hit ball, half hit ball

Jim Clement (Secretary, Croquet Victoria)

Positions Vacant

Graeme Denehey advises that the TCA wishes to fill two vacant positions:

Assistant Secretary

(As reported elsewhere in these pages, Tricia Vierra has resigned)

Convenor Promotions sub-committee

Tournament regulations

The ACA recently issued amended Tournament Regulations and copies were sent to Clubs. The Regulations are a complete reprint incorporating Tournament conditions included in the ACA handbook and they cover both Association and Golf Croquet in the one document

It should be noted that the regulation for time limited games in Association croquet can now be found at Regulation 16(3) and Tournament Regulation 18 covers the absence of a doubles partner

Rule 12 (7) describes the new dress code as follows: "Players are to wear neat and appropriate sporting attire and flat-soled shoes ie shoes, the soles of which do not mark the court. Players choosing to wear sandals shall, as all players should, be conscious of surrounding play in order to ensure their own safety. A player presenting at the venue in unsuitable attire will be given the opportunity to dress appropriately or will not be permitted to participate in the event."

Rule 14 on Etiquette reads as follows: Players are responsible for maintaining good standards of behavior towards other players, equipment, courts and spectators. Some examples of unacceptable behavior that players are expected to avoid are:

1. Leaving the vicinity of the court without permission from the opponent, referee or manager.
2. In AC, giving advice inappropriately. See Law 50. A match in AC is intended to be a contest between the skills and intellect of the players alone. To avoid misunderstandings spectators are requested to not position themselves near a player or remain nearby if they could be thought to be offering advice.
3. Abusing their mallet or other equipment.
4. Disturbing other players during a match.
5. Interrupting the striker by standing or moving in front of the striker or otherwise, except as permitted or required by the laws or rules.
6. Arguing aggressively or continuously with or being aggressive towards an opponent.

7. Failing to play with due dispatch. Players are not to waste time.
8. Playing after an opponent has forestalled or clearly asked for play to be stopped to enable an action to be investigated or a ball to be placed.
9. Refusing to observe the required standard of dress (eg removing shirt).
10. Failing to accept a decision of a referee on a matter of fact or showing lack of respect for a referee.
11. Acting in such a manner that may bring the game into disrepute.

2. If a second act of unacceptable behavior occurs (not necessarily the same misdemeanour) the player may be penalised by the ending of that turn or the loss of the next turn. If a third act occurs the player may be disqualified from the match. In this case the opponent is declared the winner with the maximum points (usually 26 in AC and 7 in GC) and the disqualified player is recorded with the points scored when the match is stopped.

3. AC Laws 50 and 51 and GC Rule 14 and GC Reg 6 also address players' behavior.

On a less serious note, in 1902 Judge Barlaine Deane in the London Divorce Court adjudicated a case of cruelty brought by the wife of the Reverend Fearnley-Whittingstall. He heard the lady explain that during a game of croquet her husband became so infuriated because she claimed that his ball had not properly passed through the hoop that he refused to speak to her for a week. "I do not think," said Judge Deane, "that there is a game so liable to put one out of humour as croquet."

Sandy Bay

This winter has been a busy one at Sandy Bay with renovations going apace, thanks to Peter McCulloch, Colin Foster and Bill Neilsen who have been the chief movers and shakers.

It all started with the enlargement of the serving hatch. For many years the small size of this has meant several bumped heads from one side and sore knees and backs from the servers the other – so it was considerably enlarged. Then of course it needed painting. What was the point of painting that when the

rest of the Clubhouse had not been done for at least 20 years? So Peter and his band of helpers set to work and being an old, somewhat badly built Clubhouse in the first place one job led to another but finally we had a spick and span Clubroom, slightly rearranged with a ceiling that is just about level, hole-free walls and a slightly trendy colour scheme.

However, when slightly hyperactive, competent people get the bit between their teeth there is no stopping them and when the Professor came up with plans to renovate the kitchen no one had the heart to stop him, he obviously needed a project to get him through the winter months. So, out came all the gear, the new cupboards were ordered and work commenced and is well on the way to being completed. By the time the official season opens, all work will be completed.

In July a Winter lunch was held to christen the Club room. This was well attended and everyone had a pleasant social time – thanks to Joyce and her group of helpers. Although not planned as a fund-raising event we did make a few dollars. At the end of July a Craft Day was organized, with several members coming from other clubs – I don't know how much craft was done, but there was a lot of chat and it was a very enjoyable day.

On the croquet scene, social croquet has continued to be played throughout the winter and Division four had ad hoc full-bisque Challenge games for six weeks. This proved very successful with shortened games, either 14 or 18 hoops and bisques being arbitrarily awarded to encourage players to at least get to the peg and a few did manage to peg out.

The Club is very sorry to be saying good-bye to Andrew Hutchison and Tricia Vierra who are off to Sydney for a while with the probability of a return to the UK for a few months after that. Tricia and Andrew have been very involved in the Club since they joined, both on the lawns and the Committee and it will be difficult to fill the gap left – but we wish them well and hopefully look forward to their return in the not too distant future.

Jenny Parrott

Quiz

1. In a timed game Ray finishes his last turn by running a hoop to go one point ahead. Ray and Bab agree that Ray has won, both of them forgetting that Bab had one more

turn. They both then leave the court. Has the game ended?

2. The MacRobertson International Croquet Shield (known affectionately as the MacRob) is the premier croquet teams event in the world. It is named after Australian philanthropist, Sir Macpherson Robertson. What business was he in?
3. Why was Judith Clarke (NZ) omitted from the NZ 1974 MacRobertson International Shield test team?
4. What is the most popular (in terms of number of participants) mallet sport in the world?
5. Of which sport is it written "It is not long before every honorable feeling, every dictate of morality has become obliterated. In place of refined and upright people are two pairs of gruesome moral monstrosities, full of bitter loathing and antagonism, of low devilish cunning and murderous passion, each plotting some nameless revenge upon the other."
6. Oxford University hosts an annual Croquet Cuppers event where players compete for champagne prizes for the winners and runners-up. The 2012 event is to be sponsored by Pol Roger. How many players took part last year?
7. What do Samuel Goldwyn, Daryl Zanuck and Harpo Marx have in common?
8. Who wrote "'Consider that everything I am writing of took place in an almost pre-historic era in the history of British India. Some folk may remember the years before lawn-tennis was born when we all played croquet. There were seasons before that, if you will believe me, when even croquet had not been invented, and archery - which was revived in England in 1844 - was as great a pest as lawn-tennis is now."
9. Complete the following limerick (by Edward Gorey (1925-2000):
 There was a young lady named Rose
 Who fainted whenever she chose;
 She did so one day
 While playing croquet,
 Which word one of whose meanings is "an act of exfoliating dead skin in the cosmetic treatment of microdermabrasion" is commonly used in croquet?

(Answers overleaf)

Kath Lines is 80 years young!

Di Hollier sent in this photo of Kath blowing out the candles at the Kingston Club



Quiz Answers

Correspondence willingly received!

1. Yes. Law 4(c) states a game ends when, in agreement as to which side has won, the players quit the court or start another game on it.
2. Confectionary. MacRobertsons was founded in 1880 and introduced to Australia such confectionery lines as Freddo Frog and Cherry Ripe.
3. Because at the age of 13, she would have needed a chaperone!
4. Gateball. There are an estimated 10 million participants in China alone!
5. Croquet. The quote goes on to say "The poison of croquet eats deeper and deeper into their souls." and comes from "The Immorality of Croquet," from *The Living Age*, 1898.
6. With over 1800 participants, Croquet Cuppers 2011 was the biggest sporting event ever held at Oxford University to date.
7. There were all initial inductees (in 1979) into the U.S. Croquet Hall of Fame established by the Croquet Foundation of America to recognize individuals with exceptional skill in the sport or men and women who have contributed to the sport's health and growth.
8. Rudyard Kipling *Cupid's Arrows* (1888)
9. But was quickly revived with a hose.
(Edward St. John Gorey was an American writer and artist noted for his macabre

illustrated books including such titles as *The Deranged Cousins*, *The Glorious Nosebleed* and *Dancing Cats and Neglected Murderesses*.)

10. Peel



A concluding word from the editor

I had planned to produce an issue in May but had only one contribution by the closing date, and did not have time to chase up contributions before my annual trip around Australia. I shall need to rethink the schedule for next year so as not to have such a long gap over the winter months.

Bob Godfrey

Email: bobgodfrey1@gmail.com
3 Stone Street, West Launceston
Tel: 63346656

Who's Who?



President	Henry Burbury 34 Chardonney Drv Berriedale 7011 eMail: hburbury.8@bigpond.com
Vice president	Ian Scott, PO Box 95 Lilydale 7268 Ph: 63951048 Email: ijscott@aapt.net.au
Treasurer	Graham Keating PO Box 2085 Lower Sandy Bay 7005 Ph: 62254238 eMail: gfk68@bigpond.com
Secretary	Graeme Denehey 15 Maween Place, Kingston 7050 Ph: 6229 6318 email: gdenehey@bigpond.net.au
NRCC Convenor Director Golf Croquet	Patsy Paine Ph: 64246152
Director Coaching	Jenny Parrott Email: jparrott2@bigpond.com
Director Refereeing	Graeme Denehey email: gdenehey@bigpond.net.au
Tournaments Convenor	Ian Smith, 28 Nimala St. Rosny 7018 Ph: 62441332 Email: liziansmith@bigpond.com
Competition Secretary	Elizabeth Smith Email: liziansmith@bigpond.com
Tassie Tales Editor & Gazette Correspondent also Constitution Convenor	Robert (Bob) Godfrey 3 Stone Street West Launceston 7250 Ph: 63346656 eMail: bobgodfrey1@gmail.com
State Handicapper	Rob McAdam eMail: macadamrd@gmail.com
Web Master	Sally Liggins eMail: sliggins@bigpond.net.au