

2020 Autumn Golf Croquet Pennant – Pennant Manager’s Report

Divisional Structure.

The previous year’s competition had 4 divisions – unfortunately Divisions 2, 3 and 4 only had 3 teams resulting in a bye for one team each week – this was most unsatisfactory. After consultation with the clubs it was agreed that there were insufficient numbers of players expressing an interest in playing in a Division 4 and the pennant reverted to 3 divisions only.

It was also agreed that only Division 1 would be open to teams from around the state – this was to provide an opportunity for those players who may be trying for state selection to get the best competition available. The other divisions would be limited to teams from the southern clubs.

Handicap thresholds remained the same as the previous year – Division 1 -6 to 20, Division 2 5 to 20 and Division 3 8 to 20.

The Pennant

Division 1 consisted of 5 teams competing over 2 rounds – 1 from each of the southern clubs and 1 from the newly formed North Esk Croquet Club who formed a composite team with members from the East Launceston Croquet Club. Division 2 had teams from each of the southern clubs and were to compete over 3 rounds. Division 3 had 2 teams from the Eastern Shore Croquet Club and 1 from both the Kingston Croquet Club and the Sandy Bay Croquet Club – Division 3 was also to compete over 3 rounds.

The pennant appeared to be running smoothly with some close competition but unfortunately prior to the completion of the pennant it was abandoned due to the coronavirus crisis. The Pennant Manager recommended that the teams leading the completion when playing stopped be declared the winners of their respective divisions however Croquet Tasmania decided that no result should be recorded.

The Future

It had been agreed that Division 4 if it had been held should revert to the same format as the other divisions – that is teams of 4 with each player playing 2 doubles and 2 singles games. The option to include a Division 4 for the 2021 pennant should remain.

I am not of the view that the pennant conditions need to be amended to any extent and with sufficient players expressing an interest in playing the competition should remain an important component of the croquet calendar.

Hugh Denny – Pennant Manager