



July 2015

This month:



8 lawns at Nottingham make for military regimentation in lawn settings.

We report on the World Women’s Association Croquet championships at Nottingham.

We also look forward to the new season with advertisements for early tournaments

From the Executive

We have let out a big sigh of relief as all the time-bound jobs for July have been completed. The auditors have been and gone. The Yearbook is in the hands of the printer. The huge Community Sport application has been submitted along with a number of grant applications. Preparations for the Golf Croquet Trans-Tasman Exchange are underway.

Nominations for the CNZ Executive and the annual awards have now closed. The Executive believes that we have a good programme of workshops to accompany the AGM this year so are looking forward to interacting with delegates in October.

A new website will be launched during August so look out for the new online presence.

It's also timely to remind all last year's winners of CNZ events to dig out the trophies, give them a polish and make sure they are engraved

ready to be taken to the coming season's tournaments.

On that note, the Tournament Committee have made changes to how CNZ trophies will be awarded this season. All winners will be presented with their respective trophy and an official photograph taken for posterity. We are therefore able to acknowledge and feature widely all trophy winners on the CNZ website.

After the formalities of each event have concluded the trophies will come back to the CNZ Office for permanent display. A new Trophy Cabinet has been fitted at the CNZ offices especially for that purpose. CNZ will be responsible for all engraving and transporting costs.

The new trophy cabinet in the CNZ Office



CNZ Awards & Qualifications:

Silver Merit Award: Dale Majurey (Whakatane)

Sport Development Officer

Greg is focussing on the Schools development programme. We will have more from him in the next newsletter

Handicappers Memorandum from the Executive

CNZ has asked handicappers to help promote players for squads and invitations and make the CNZ Development pathways even more of a success in the 2015-16 season.

What do we mean by CNZ Development pathways?

Well, Croquet NZ's vision is to see "More people playing better croquet more often".

To help achieve this in AC, we have the following:

- The Bronze, Silver and Gold Development Squads - which were launched last year (see the early pages of the Yearbook);
- The merit award system (Bronze, Silver and Gold, with Platinum for the elite);
- The RA Clarke Copper Tray and Gold Cup invitation events;
- Arthur Ross competition (club, regional, national levels)

What help do we need from you?

1. We would like you to think about all the players in your local association and identify those who have made progress over the last season or seasons - discuss these players with the club handicappers in your association. We would like you to contact these players and encourage them to nominate themselves for one of the three development squads (Bronze, Silver or Gold) and advise them of the local session (see attached). Greg Bryant is willing to discuss and encourage any player.
2. We would like you to advertise - at appropriate occasions throughout

the season - the Merit Award system.

3. We need you to be regularly evaluating talented players and liaising with Paul Skinley of the AC Selection Panel so their progress can also be monitored at the national level and they can be guided into appropriate competitions (including invitations). I've asked Paul to be in contact with you all at least every month over the playing season, but if you have someone to discuss with Paul, don't wait for his contact, get in touch yourself.
4. For nominations for Invitation events, we would like you to focus first and foremost on nominating players who are progressing through the handicap levels (in the past this has not always been the case).

Nominations close on 22 December 2015 for the invitation events.

We will keep track of the Merit Awards achieved by players in each region during 2015-16 and will report back to you on the success of our programmes at the end of the season.

Contact Details

Greg Bryant admin@croquet.org.nz
ph 027 481 8152

Paul Skinley
paul.skinley344@gmail.com
ph 04 389 9815

Development Squads for 2015-16 Season

Date	Level	Association	Host Club
28/9	Bronze	Sth Canterbury	Ashburton
6/10	Bronze	Counties-Manukau	Pukekohe
24/10	Bronze	Sth Taranaki	Hawera
29/9	Silver	Sth Canterbury	Ashburton
7/10	Silver	Counties-Manukau	Pukekohe
25/10	Silver	Sth Taranaki	Hawera
30/9}	Gold	Sth Canterbury	Ashburton
1/10}			
8-9/10}	Gold	Counties-Manukau	Pukekohe
26/10}			
27/10}	Gold	Sth Taranaki	Hawera

New Project for Croquet New Zealand

Perhaps this should really be called a continuation of a matter which has foxed CNZ for some considerable time – the creation of a history of Croquet in New Zealand. There have been a number of attempts to compile such a history but they have met barriers along the way which have seemed insurmountable.

The upshot is that two former players CM editor Pamela George and CNZ Life Member John Prince recognised that another way of creating a historical record of the sport was to write profiles of players of note and ask CNZ to allocate a part of the upgrade of the current website to those profiles.

It was acknowledged that it may not ever be possible to write a full history of the sport as some of the critical documents are not readily accessible. By capturing at least the playing history of Croquet before the knowledge of players and their achievements is lost, some of the history will be available to future players

Collecting profiles of players in the sport

A major problem is that the culture bearers are getting older and some, such as Charles Jones, have already died. To capture what is out there work has begun on collecting profiles of prominent players of Croquet especially those who have achieved greatness on the international and national scenes.

As a start the profiles of New Zealanders who have been inducted into the World Croquet Federation Hall of Fame are the first to be prepared for uploading onto the CNZ website.

John Prince has written a number of profiles and has a collection of historical photos which can also be used to enhance the historical record. Work has progressed on this aspect of the project over the 2015 winter and will be added to as time and information availability permit. Some players have been asked for their own profiles.

At the time of preparing this document there are some 20-25 people who have been identified as ones whose profiles should be on the website.

Croquet New Zealand seeks help from Associations and clubs to send in information about their acknowledged players to the editor of Croquet Matters on pmgeo@xtra.co.nz or post to the Executive Director. Hopefully photos will also be sent which can accompany uploads to the website.

Thank you for your help on a project which may eventually morph into a full history of our beloved sport.

Many Associations and Clubs have over recent years celebrated major events like centenaries or milestones to reaching that level. Booklets have been published in house to mark the celebrations. Would it be acceptable for you to send those publications or a copy thereof to CNZ for its historical records? Thank you.

Tournaments

International

The Second World Women's Association Croquet Championship

Nottingham England from 27 July to 3 August 2015

If you are a nail biter and you have been following the progress and success of the New Zealand players in the tournament you probably need to find a way to grow your nails again. I am not a nail biter but a poor sleeper and I kept waking up and following the progress on our I-pad. It proved such an exciting event the sleep loss was incidental.

All 4 of our representatives made it from the block play to the knock-out stage.

Unfortunately there Jenny Clarke and Kathie Grant met in the first round. Jenny prevailed but Kathie made her work for her wins.

To get to the knockout Nina Mayard-Husson had to beat the British Open Women's Champion twice - no mean feat as Annabel McDiarmid is a great player - I met her in the 1990s before she married and had a family. A very competent and determined player - which traits do not seem to have deserted her in the interim.

Nina and Alison Robinson made it to the quarter finals of the knockout but the four seeds prevailed to progress to the semi-final. There the players played best of 5 games. Two England players conquered - Gabrielle Higgins won against Jenny Clarke 26tp/0, 10/26tp, 26tp/0, 26tp/0.

In the other half of the draw Miranda Chapman of England prevailed over Alison Sharpe of Australia 26tp/0, 26tp/9, 26/11.



Miranda is the new champion after a very close ought battle against Gabrielle 16/26, 26/22, 3/26, 26/0, 26tp/0

The bowl was won by Ailsa Lines of England and the Shield by Wendy Dickson of Australia

After a stunning summer Nottingham was most unkind as much of the play was in the rain. The effect was the lawns were relatively easy paced and also the hoops were not the unyielding Atkins hoops we have used in New Zealand for recent World events. It is with absolute delight to see that the effect of these elements was to encourage the players to do triple peels regularly. Congratulations to all who did so - 33 in all over the tournament. 15 in block play, 14 in the knockout, 2 each in the bowl and the shield.

We are full of admiration for our New Zealand players who played their hearts out and certainly made us proud of their successes. Congratulations to you all.

A few of photos to whet your appetites - hopefully we will have a gallery for the next newsletter.



Alison Robinson being referred and then in action



AUSTRALIAN GATEBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD ON THE 4-6 SEPTEMBER 2015 AT THE WYNNUM CROQUET CLUB BRISBANE



Nina in Decision mode

*Decision made
Nina in action*



New Zealand for the first time in 16 years is sending over a team to compete in these championships.

There are 7 players in the team comprising of Jim and Sherrill Dennerly, Greg Dennerly, Pixie and John Merredew, all from Auckland, Janet Boutel from Wellington, and Pat Burton from the Caloundra CC in Queensland.

This will be a great experience for NZ to compete with teams from all over the world, including China and Japan. The team will be proudly wearing NZ uniforms.

Gateball is a non-contact sport, fast, tactical and a true brain game. It is great for players of any age.

GIVE IT A GO



The Lord Lieutenant of Nottinghamshire Sir John Peace opened the event as the representative of the patron HM the Queen.



After the play – it is the squirrel’s turn

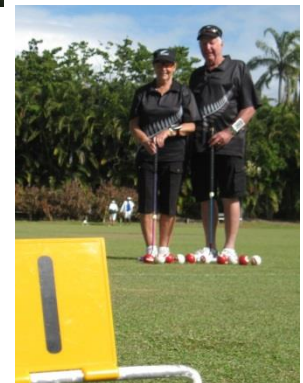
Commentary and scores are available on the website www.croquetscores.com

Congratulations to Paddy Chapman on being runner-up to Robert Fulford in the British Open Championships



*Sherrill Dennerly
Takapuna*

*Rockhampton’s beautiful
courts*



*The All Blacks(?) Jim and
Sherrill Dennerly at Gate
1*

From the Regions

Croquet Canterbury

Fendalton Park Croquet Club July 2015

At our early closing day in March we acknowledged a number of the successes of our club members. Fendalton teams participated in The Interclub tournaments, with Fendalton winning Division 2 (players Peter Wilson, Pauline Perwick, Dianne McCormack, Donald Barnard).

An initiative of our Club Captain, Lorraine McClurg, was to introduce a New Comers Trophy competition. There were eight entries which provided some interesting results with Jocelyn Baird the winner and Janet Slack runner-up.

In February we held a Twilight Tournament and had 40 entries from seven clubs plus a team from Australia. A successful event and one we are sure to include in our programme for next season.

CNZ Gold/Silver Stars played at FPCC provided those who came to watch with some excellent "what not to do" when you have extra turns. Chris Clarke completed the weekend winning all his 12 games, giving 130 extra turns and only conceded 34 hoops.

After an early closing Day due to having lawn renovations completed, we are now enjoying some lovely winter days with a number of members turning up on Wednesday and Saturday Club Days. We have a vibrant club and have welcomed 5 new members in the last few months, bringing our membership up to 61.

In June we had a successful mid-winter lunch as a fund-raiser, followed by some great Golf Croquet. At the lunch members acknowledged the untiring efforts of our Club Captain, Lorraine McClurg by granting her Life Membership. This is in addition to Pauline and

Brian Perwick who were granted Life membership last September. Pauline has done outstanding work as a past President and fund-raiser and Brian is our wonderful grounds manager. Our lawns are the envy of many other clubs thanks to the work of Brian and Pauline.



Lorraine McClurg; Pauline Perwick; Brian Perwick

On Sunday 19 July, Fendalton will host the John Dove "Fred" Memorial Trophy tournament. This is an annual friendly interclub tournament between Fendalton Park and St Martins, to honour the late John Dove from St Martins. Each club has 18 members taking part and Lorraine has organised the draw. We look forward to a great day of Golf croquet and friendly socialising.

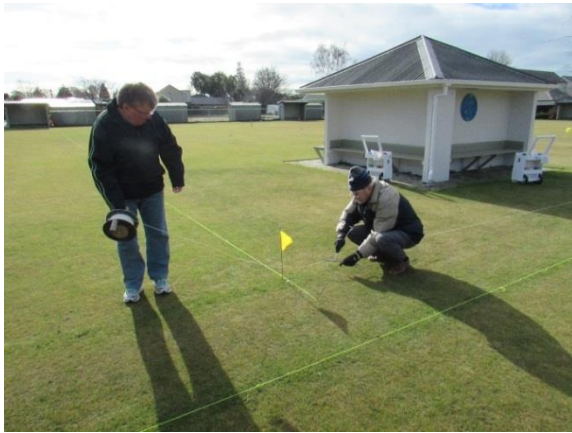
In November we are hosting our sponsored tournament and welcome any visitors who may be in Christchurch at the time to take part. Please contact Lorraine (lmclurg@clear.net.nz) for further details.

Four of our members are participating in the "Coaching for Coaches" weekend in August and we look forward to another great season, with hopefully also including some school players.

*Vilna Gough-Jones
Secretary
Fendalton
Park Croquet
Club*



And then it was on to winter croquet as reported below



Sunday 19 July - sleet and rain predicted - will we have our friendly match for The John Dove Memorial Trophy?

Yes!

Tom and Brian prepare our lawns early on the Sunday morning.



Hardy South Islanders well rugged up and heading out for some great social Golf croquet Note the warm headgear!



Some serious decision making



Fendalton members preparing for a cold day of Golf Croquet

St Martins members enjoying a warm drink before heading out on the lawns



Listening to Fendalton captain Lorraine explaining the finer points of a friendly quiz after three games of Golf Croquet - teams were made up of half FPCC and half St Martins.



*Delicious afternoon
tea and drinks
followed*



*Adrienne (widow of John Dove) handing over the trophy
to Tom
(president
of
FPCC) ...
the rules
are the
losing
team takes
the
trophy!
Looking
on is John
Dove's sister Pam Fairbairn*



burst its banks and came through the club grounds and the main street of Marton and other low lying areas. The lawns turned into a lake and our clubhouse had several inches of water through it. After the 2004 major flood event we had laid all weather floor covering, in case of a recurrence of flooding. However because of possible sewerage contamination, it was ripped up by the insurance contractor and needed replacing. The committee decided we could use this as an opportunity to renovate and without too much ado, the dividing wall between the main clubhouse and the porch area was removed to provide a much larger social area, and after some minor building alterations, painting is well under way and new floor covering should be laid shortly. Most of this should be covered by insurance. We look forward to a bright and fresh looking clubhouse for the new season. The lawns did not receive any lasting damage from their soaking.

Jean McIntyre Marton CC

Croquet Manawatu-Wanganui

Marton Croquet Club in flood



On 19th and 20th of June 2015 Wanganui and Rangitikei experienced some of the biggest floods ever. Needless to say Marton Croquet club did not escape, as the Tutaenui Stream

Croquet Hawkes Bay

MAREWA CROQUET CLUB

The Marewa Croquet Club held a successful Soup and Bun day on Saturday 11th July. Over 50 people attended including members from the Heretaunga Club, who host the next Soup and Bun day on August 15th. This event has been going for a number of years and it is a great way to socialise with people from another club as well as being a fundraising event.

HERETAUNGA CROQUET CLUB

Sponsored by YUMMY Fruit Co.

SPRING TOURNAMENT: GOLF CROQUET CHAMPIONSHIP SINGLES

Saturday/Sunday 26/27 September, 2015.

Entries close 23 September.

See CNZ year book page 337 and the

Advertisement attached to this newsletter

Auckland Croquet Association

Rodney Clubs go head-to-head

Two Rodney Croquet Clubs went head-to-head to gain supremacy on the lawns with Orewa and Warkworth Croquet Clubs fielding teams for Association Croquet for players with 10+ handicaps and Golf Croquet for players with 8-12 handicaps, both playing four handicap doubles games played over two rounds.

The first rounds were played earlier in the year at the Warkworth Croquet Club lawns at Point Wells. The Golf Croquet tournament was played for the Maggie Power Rosebowl in honour of the Club's past member whose family generously donated the Rosebowl to encourage new players to the game. Warkworth held the upper hand with a strong 12 to 4 result. In the Association Croquet matches teams played for the Orewa-Warkworth Challenge Shield. Orewa held a slender lead with only a 10 points advantage going into the second round, which was held recently in Orewa.

The second round saw Warkworth prevail in the Golf Croquet, even after a strong charge from the Orewa team, to secure the Maggie Power Rosebowl with a 9-7 result.

Orewa Croquet Club triumphed in the Association Croquet competition to run out winners over their Warkworth opponents by extending their competition lead, winning by 34 points.

A special 'thank you' must go to the respective Club Grounds Managers, Robert Letcher of Orewa and Brian Morrison of Warkworth, for preparing excellent lawns for competition play during each of the rounds.



AC_Shield:

Orewa-Warkworth AC Challenge Shield (from left to right), back row: Bruce Borthwick (Warkworth), Janet Shepherd (Orewa), Margaret Simpson (W), Chris Smith (O). Front row: Neville Fursden (W), Carol Pugh (O), Anne Murphy (W) and Jan Segedin (O)



GC Rosebowl:

Maggie Power GC Rosebowl (from left to right), back row: Pam Crowhen, Collette Clark, Leith Freeman, Joy Emirali, Bets Blake, Trish Ellis (all Orewa) and Cathy Meiklejohn (Warkworth). Middle row: Guy Scholefield (W), Rose-Marie Letcher (O), Vanessa Morrison (W), Juliet Allen (W), Ann Strasser (O). Front row: Heather Metcalfe, Shirley Scholefield, Muriel Sharp, David Metcalfe (all Warkworth)

Warkworth Croquet Club

The club sent this beautifully presented article which needs no editing from me Ed.



Warkworth's winning Golf Croquet team which won the Maggie Power trophy against Orewa Club recently. This is an annual tournament played in Great Spirit over two competition days.

*Standing: Vanessa Morrison, Heather & David Metcalfe, Guy Scholefield, Juliet Allen, Cathy Meiklejohn.
Seated, Shirley Scholefield (Captain), Muriel Sharp.
Cathy is new to croquet and in this, her first tournament, she scored 12 hoops!*

Brian & Vanessa Morrison who browsed TradeMe – eventually found, bought, transported, and installed our new kitchen. All at very little cost to the Club. They are valuable members and keen players who contribute so much to our Club – they keep our lawns in great condition also



Club Captain Marion Taylor and club stalwart Jan Fursdon blowing out the candles on the croquet themed cake as they celebrated significant birthdays recently

Waikato King-Country Croquet Association

Leamington Croquet Club, Cambridge

A blustery overnight storm in Leamington recently collapsed some of the metal poles holding up our verandah. The roof was comprised of individual strips of iron, some of which were on the roof of the clubhouse and some scattered far and wide over our greens. Fortunately, our insurance covered the rebuild and we now have a sturdy timber and colour steel replacement to give our players shade and weather protection.

Photos show our verandah: ragged, removed and rebuilt.

Cheers, Lyn Toka, Leamington Croquet Club, Cambridge.



I had an email exchange with Lyn over the Leamington lawns. I remember playing on them in early 1980s when the surface was mercury bay weed. Every roquet was true. Hard to win against wonderful hitter Bob Jackson despite it being a handicap match. The lawns are now grass. Ed

Wellington Croquet Association

Kelburn Municipal Club

Kelburn Club holds a mid-winter lunch for its members on the weekend nearest to the date of incorporation 17 July.

11 July 2015 the weather was brilliant - sunny, warm and no wind. A perfect Wellington day for an "al fresco" lunch.



The new President Lisa Thompson told the members of the proposed programme for the upcoming season and great times were had by all there.



Miscellaneous

CNZ has been sent a copy of the Australian Croquet Magazine in which there was a reprint of Micki Tyler's article on business house competitions from a recent Croquet Matters. In addition Bob Alman from the USA who publishes www.CroquetWorld.com asked for the article. We are getting our efforts known worldwide it seems. Again congratulations to Micki.

Kathie Grant reporting from Nottingham gave me this.....

I forgot this morning to mention the use for tiger poo.

At Nottingham croquet club beyond the fifth lawn is a smaller lawn. Rabbits were enjoying the sunshine and cavorting around the lawn. I asked if they had a problem with rabbits digging holes in the lawn. Never, was the answer. What you do is go to the zoo and ask for tiger poo. Put it into a stocking and the smell will keep the rabbits away. The poo does not need to be mixed into the ground. Just lie the stocking down. In fact the poo of any of those big cats can be used.

Later in the day I was in one of the many Sandstone caves here in Nottingham. One series of caves was used for a tannery. Initially the skins would be soaked in a mixture of human urine and dog poo. Clearly these people in Nottingham knew how to recycle excrement. Apparently that particular cave had no problems with the plague as even rats would avoid it.

Unfortunately they dug caves for sewage beside the wells for drinking water. It was a mystery to them why they kept getting sick. When many years later tunnels were dug connecting them all, they realised what had been done.

I also visited Nottingham Castle and the old Justice department both places made use of the underground. All the tunnels are man-made.

Regards Kathie Grant



We have been sent the article in the attached link about retirement villages – the preface to it is this picture of a croquet green which is at a number of retirement villages – usually a smallish lawn but good on which to play Golf Croquet.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/money/70600977/retirement-villages-are-booming-but-school-up-before-making-the-move>

Dates for the August issue of Croquet Matters

- articles requested 15 August
- date for receipt 24 August
- publication on 28 August 2015

Croquet Matters was prepared by the Executive Director, the Sport Development Officer and Pamela George

MORRINSVILLE CROQUET CLUB Inc.

Summerell's

GOLF CROQUET TOURNAMENT Sunday 20th September 2015



3 x games Handicap Doubles

2 x games Levels Doubles

Limited to 40 players

Entry fee \$12

Five Games of 45 minutes - Double bank 1st & last games

Entries close Monday 14th September

8.30am cup of tea

9.00am play starts

Tea and coffee provided

Bring own lunch

Dawson International 2000 balls used

GC Index Cards must be produced for all games

Entries to: Jenny McLaren Ph: (07) 889-7102

Email - g-jmclaren@xnet.co.nz

HERETAUNGA* CROQUET CLUB

*[amalgamated Te Mata/Hastings]

GC SPRING TOURNAMENT

Sponsored by:



CHAMPIONSHIP SINGLES

SATURDAY 26 and SUNDAY 27 September, 2015

VENUE: 341 NAPIER ROAD, HAVELOCK NORTH (7 lawns)
COMMENCING 8.30 am DAILY

Managers:

Tony Stephens - 173 Tuki Tuki Road, RD 10, Hastings 4180

Phone 06 875 0157

Email: braykopje@xtra.co.nz

Colin Hurst - Phone 06 877 1351

Email: cohurst@hotmail.co.uk

Entries: On Croquet NZ official entry form (or email with details as
on CNZ form), accompanied by fees, close Wednesday 23 September,
2015

EntryFee: \$20

Cheques payable to Heretaunga Croquet Club. Online payments may
be made to:

Westpac 03 0658 0066823 00. Reference: Spring Tnmt and surname.

Morning and afternoon teas included in entry fee. Note: BYO lunches

After entries close, sections depending on handicap and method of
play, will be decided.

CONDITIONS:

Double banking if necessary Balls: Dawson

Lawns available for practise from 1pm Friday 25 September

WAIKATO- KING COUNTRY CROQUET ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL ASSOCIATION CROQUET TOURNAMENT

Sponsored by Highfield Country Estate
To be held at Te Awamutu Croquet Club
Mon 21 September to Thurs 24 September 2015
Play commences 8.30am each day

Championship Singles commence Mon 21 September

Handicap Doubles commence Wed 23 September

Entry Fee; \$15 per person, per event (tea and coffee included)

3 x 2 1/2 hour games per day.

Entries close Wednesday 15 September 2015

Entries to; **Loral Piggott**, 954 Hazelmere Cres, Te Awamutu 3800

Email; loraldavep@clear.net.nz or

Jean Fisher, 132 Dalton Ave, Te Awamutu 3800

Email; jean.fisher@xtra.co.nz.

Dawson Balls

FOR YOUR AMUSEMENT

The dark heart of croquet

If everyone realised how nasty it is it might become very popular again

Extract from the Spectator 18 July 2015

Alexander Chancellor <<http://www.spectator.co.uk/author/alexander-chancellor/>>

I have always been what I suppose one could call a weed, and a cowardly one at that. I never liked sports and was never any good at them. When fielding at cricket at my prep school, I used to while away time making daisy-chains. Of my part in football one prep-school report merely said, to my mother's great amusement, 'Chancellor prefers to avoid the ball.' At my public school, where you had to choose between rowing and cricket, I chose rowing, but only because I was just small enough to get away with being a cox, which only involved sitting in the stern of a boat and bellowing orders at the oarsmen who were doing all the work.

But there was one sport at which from an early age I found that I was rather good, and that was the game of croquet – a game now reportedly threatened with extinction, in which 74 per cent of people have 'no interest', and of which one in 20 now haven't even heard. I started to play at about the age of seven when I stayed with my grandparents at their home in Lanarkshire. Being a small boy, I couldn't swing the mallet between my legs in the normal fashion but swung it from the side like a golf club, a habit I have never managed to break. Other players find this disconcerting, which is all to the good, since success at croquet depends to a great extent on one's ability to unnerve one's opponents.

Croquet is popularly regarded as a genteel sport played with exquisite manners by the well-to-do on their beautifully mown lawns. When John Prescott, then deputy prime minister, was photographed in 2006 standing with a croquet mallet in the garden at Dorneywood, the *Times* commented, 'The sight of the ageing class warrior playing croquet at his country retreat was an incongruity to compete with Marie Antoinette frolicking in the grounds of the Petit Trianon dressed as a milkmaid.' But that was misleading. Croquet, it is true, requires a lawn, which suggests a degree of affluence among those who play it, but you have to be much richer to own a tennis court, and nobody regards tennis as elitist.

A greater misconception is that croquet is genteel. It is, in fact, one of the most vicious of games. To quote Herbert Swope, the American gambler and legendary newspaperman, on whose Long Island estate Groucho Marx and Dorothy Parker are said to have played it with unsportsmanlike rivalry in the 1920s, croquet 'gives release to all the evil in you. It makes you want to cheat ...it's a good game.' In the United States, in the late 19th century, croquet enthusiasts far outnumbered tennis players; and if tennis eventually came out on top, this was largely because of croquet's unsavoury reputation. According to one American history of the game, 'it had become associated with gambling, drinking, and philandering to such an extent that it was banned in Boston by one Reverend Skinner', and there were several articles in the American press calling for its suppression as an 'immoral practice'.

Croquet, which seems to have arrived in England from Ireland in the 1850s, never earned such a low reputation in this country, but it is a nasty game nevertheless. I don't think any other activity has ever made me so angry and close to violence. It is a game designed to cause distrust and resentment among even the best of friends. The rules tend to vary according to the whims of the host, the boundaries of the lawn are often vague, cheating is tempting and difficult to spot, and the practice of impeding one's opponent's progress by hitting his ball out of play can seem to the victim both cruel and vindictive. It is, therefore, an excellent game for people who, like myself, lack athletic prowess but are endowed with low cunning and ruthlessness. The late Auberon Waugh was another such, but fortunately our friendship managed to survive our sometimes tense encounters on the croquet lawn.

According to a report in the *Times*, research indicates that croquet could become extinct by 2037 if current trends continue. It seems to me that the best hope for its survival is for its 'evil' qualities to become better known. If everyone realised how nasty it was, it might become very popular indeed.

Secondary Schools **INTRO-CROQUET** Workshops

SEPT 2015

South Canterbury

FEBRUARY 2016

Waikato King Country & Thames

Northland

Nelson

Canterbury



croquet
new zealand

Supporting Regional Secondary
Schools Golf Croquet Championships



Contact your local Croquet Association or talk to
Croquet NZ admin@croquet.org.nz for details

