



# CROQUET MATTERS

# MARCH 2019

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## Note from the Editor

Even though it is close towards the end of the playing season, we still have plenty to report on. We have profiles on the players for the forthcoming GC Trans-Tasman event, with New Zealand looking to successfully defend the title. April sees the CNZ GC Invitation events being played, and next issue we will provide news of the CNZ AC Invitations which are being played as I write this piece.

Without assistance from the Clubs and Associations, these events could not take place, so once again thanks go to all the volunteers, whatever role you undertake to make these events a success.

Regards Jackie

## From the President



Kia ora,

One of the joys I have each month is to congratulate our winners and players who are selected to represent New Zealand on the national and world stage. It all starts at the club and regional levels. Like all sports there is a combination of those who enjoy the relaxed playing at the club level and those who continue to challenge their skills by competing in club, regional, national and international tournaments.

It is fantastic when clubs support and encourage both paths. Without players playing in tournaments, we would not have a sport. Without having social players, we would not have the joy and camaraderie that we all enjoy. When we have players who win national and international competitions, we are immensely proud. We are also very proud when we host international events because many croquet players travel to the event to watch (hopefully one of our members will win).

It is amazing to be at a world event. Having your country host is a treat. It is work for the club/s and region who host and CNZ is greatly appreciative of those regions who volunteer. When world events are hosted, it is an injection of excitement and energy that happens. The players are excited to be playing and have an opportunity to explore the region. It is an opportunity for members and the wider community to watch world class players. I compare preparing to host a world event to hosting guests at your home. You want to make the visit the best memories. You also have the benefit of taking care of things that may have been shelved for a while. After the tournament, you have a facility that is not only world class standard but also the

appreciation of it by those who visit. CNZ also acknowledges that not all regions have the number of lawns to host a national or world event.

**6<sup>th</sup>- 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020** will be our next opportunity to host the **GC World Team Championship**. The top eight countries in the world will each be bringing their top four players to compete for the title currently held by New Zealand. I hope you will watch these teams play in **Nelson** next January. It is exciting to host this prestigious event. Mark your calendar and make your reservations. Nelson will do its best to live up to its name of being the sunshine capital of New Zealand.

The important point is that we all love playing croquet, and I would hope that everyone wants to play the best croquet possible. Acknowledging that we have this diversity in our sport only strengthens us. I thank those clubs who encourage players to be challenged and support them when they do to fulfil our vision of "More people playing better croquet more often".

#### Our Winners

I would like to congratulate the winners of the Men's and Women's Championships that were held at Rangatira Croquet Club. Congratulations to NZ Women's Championship Winner: Nina Mayard-Husson (WLG) and runner-up Pam Fisher (W-KC). Congratulations to Dennis Bulloch (M-W) and John Christie (TV) for winning the NZ Men's Championship. Because of inclement weather they were unable to complete the match and will share the title. Congratulations to Steve Jones (M-W) and Alison Robinson (WLG) for winning the NZ Mixed Doubles Championship. A special thanks to Michael Hardman for managing the tournament and to the Rangatira Croquet Club (M-W) for hosting.

The NZ Women's Invitation winner, whom we congratulate, is Carissa Price (Wairarapa) and Nina Mayard-Husson (WLG) as runner-up. Thank you, Terry Price, for managing the event and to the Masterton Croquet Club (Wairarapa) for hosting it.

The Arthur Ross Memorial Event Handicap Singles Final was won by Robbie Spooner (WLG) with Carey Johnstone (So Taranaki) as runner-up. This event was hosted by the Wellington Association. Congratulations to Robbie and Carey! It was an honour to have Life Member Nancy McDonald to present the trophies at the closing ceremony. Thanks to Brian Boutel for managing the tournament and to the Kelburn Club (Wellington Ass) for hosting.

#### Club Opening

Waimarie Croquet Club has been in the process of moving to a new location for 15 years. On 2 March they officially opened at their new location with their new name: Waimarie Hutt Valley Croquet Club, and it was a celebration of many years work to make the move a reality. It was impressive to see every club in the Wellington Association, as well as Wellington Croquet Association (WCA) President Alison Robinson and WCA Tournament Convenor Kelvin Watson, there to support the club.



*Mayor Ray Wallace, CNZ President Annie Henry, Waimarie Hutt Valley CC President John McInnes*

It was evident that the members have worked extremely hard to tidy up the club house and to prepare the lawns. **Hutt City Mayor Ray Wallace** and his supportive team were part of the official opening. Hutt City Council worked with the club to produce a wonderful venue. The club rooms are spacious, the lawns are new and tender, and they are great to play on. It is heart-warming to see the tradition of gracious hospitality and good lawns continue for Waimarie Hutt Valley CC.

**Congratulations** to the **Club Members** and especially to the **Club President John McInnes**. It was an honour to be a part of your celebration. We look forward to returning to Waimarie Hutt Valley for CNZ tournaments. Well done!

I wish all the best to those playing in the Don Reyland Stars and the AC and GC Invitations.

Warm regards,

*Annie*

## Executive News

### Co-opted Councillor

The Executive is pleased to announce that **Neil Bendall (AKL)** has been co-opted onto the Executive as a Councillor. Neil is an accountant (CPA) by profession and Treasurer for Croquet Auckland. He has also agreed to be the Convenor of the FAR Committee. Neil will be overseas for a period of time, so Aaron Westerby has agreed to convene the Committee until he returns.

The FAR Committee welcomes **Dallas Cooke (BoP)** and **Stefan Horrer (Wairarapa)** onto the Committee. Stefan is also a CPA and Dallas has previously served on the FAR Committee and has a background in finance. Welcome Neil, Dallas and Stefan.

### Constitution Rewrite Project

I would like to thank **Kathie Grant (AKL)** and **Kareen McLaren (TV)** for the seminal work they did with this project. For years there has been talk about a need to rewrite the Constitution and they started the work. The project will continue with a newly formed Committee: **Grant Poulton (Wairarapa)**, **Graeme Roberts (WLG)** and **Phyllis Young (TV)**. I will be an ex-officio member.

The Committee is working with the Executive to define their brief for their work, associations to provide input throughout the process, and an updated Constitution that will serve us better for the future. When it is closer to the AGM an update will be sent to all Council members. We look forward to progressing this important work.

*Annie*

## 2019 GC Trans-Tasman Series

Cairnlea, Croquet Victoria 25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> April

Every four years a team of eight (four men and four women) compete in a series of test matches between New Zealand and Australia, with the venue alternating between home and away. This year the matches are to be held at the purpose-built facility in Cairnlea, in the western suburbs of Melbourne. Headquarters of Croquet Victoria, Cairnlea features 12 full size courts and a state-of-the-art pavilion.

The series will consist of three 1.5-day test matches, with each test match involving a mixture of singles and doubles (mixed and same sex).

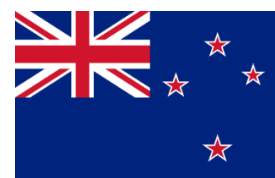
At the last series held in New Zealand in 2015, New Zealand won by 2 test matches to 1. The competition was intense and going into the final test the series stood at 1 test each. The final test match finished with 12 matches won by each side, but with New Zealand sneaking the result by virtue of winning 35 games against the 28 of Australia.

The Australian Croquet Association have confirmed that they will be live streaming the second and third tests. Starting around midday on 26<sup>th</sup> April (Australian Eastern time) through to the completion on 29<sup>th</sup> April. A link to the live stream will be posted on the Croquet Victoria website at: [www.croquetvic.asn.au](http://www.croquetvic.asn.au)

Will it be as tight this time around?

### New Zealand:- Felix Webby (Captain)

Dallas Cooke  
George Coulter  
Duncan Dixon  
Edmund Fordyce  
Helen Reeves  
Eleanor Ross  
Sonya Sedgwick



**Team Manager:** Phillip Drew

**Reserves:-** Josh Freeth, Phyllis Young, Ashley Cooke

### Australia:- Pete Landrebe (Captain)

Fleur Brockway  
Wendy Dickson  
Greg Fletcher  
Robert Fletcher  
Alison Sharpe  
Judy Wembridge  
Edward Wilson



**Reserves:-** Gail Hopkins, Terry Hopkins, Rosemary Landrebe, Chris McWhirter.

## New Zealand Trans-Tasman Team Player Profiles

### Felix Webby (Captain)



Felix first started playing croquet 5 years ago at the West End Croquet Club in New Plymouth. He originally got involved through the secondary schools' competition and after a CNZ coaching weekend he was hooked.

Felix really enjoys the game as it requires both good decision-making and executing those decisions under pressure. Felix's biggest successes are winning the 2017 U21 GC World Championship in Melbourne and reaching the semi-finals of the 2017 GC Open World Championship. He is looking forward to defending his U21 title in the UK this coming July. Felix is currently in his second year of medical school at Otago University and also enjoys basketball and mountain-biking.

### Duncan Dixon



Multiple winner of the CNZ National GC tournament, Duncan plays for United Croquet Club. He works in the events industry at strange anti-social hours (and is therefore likely to be found napping by the side of the lawn like an elderly croquet player).

Duncan first started playing croquet whilst at Waitaki Boys High School when obliged to partake in a sport. So as croquet seemed to require low energy, Duncan considered that it was the perfect fit. Duncan was coached by the ever-patient Brian Monkton who was teaching maths at the school. At weekends, Brian often drove the boys early in the morning to interclub matches and tournaments in Timaru. If it wasn't for that kindness, Duncan likely might now not be playing as seriously. Outside croquet, Duncan enjoys

watching films and looking after his cat, Nala.

### Dallas Cooke



Dallas was previously a member of the winning 2015 Trans-Tasman GC test team in Nelson and won the Shield at the WCF 2019 GC Women's World Championship in Hawke's Bay. A new croquet stance developed during the championship due to a sore knee, and thus being unable to walk properly. She has played in all 6 GC women's world champs held around the world and is a qualified GC Referee and AC Umpire.

Croquet has been very much a family affair with both parents, Geoff and Phyllis, as well as husband Keith and daughter Ashley all playing, so it was inevitable that Dallas herself would start playing. Dallas once advised another player that the principle aim is to beat all family members in a tournament. This has only happened once so far.

Outside croquet Dallas works preparing accounts for the local Alzheimer Society and a local café called Deckchair. Dallas played tennis when her knees allowed and enjoys walking the streets of Mount Maunganui.

### Helen Reeves



A member a Heretaunga Croquet Club, Helen has played croquet for nine years. A qualified GC Referee, Helen has won the CNZ GC Nationals Limited Doubles title twice playing with different sons, been CNZ GC Nationals Limited Singles champion and runner-up in the CNZ Women's GC Tournament. Another highlight was playing in her first Women's World GC Championships this year.

Helen first started playing croquet when she took her son to a school "have-a-go" session and parents were invited to try it as well. She was immediately addicted. Helen keeps playing croquet because next time she always might do better. When not playing croquet, or fretting about her most recent terrible shots, or re-reading the new rules trying to understand them, Helen works in the student admin office at the local high school, manages two school teams (1st XI hockey, 1st team futsal), trains her six-month old beagle Didier N'Golo (Didi), watches Game of Thrones and does crosswords.

## George Coulter



George is a member of the Whakatane Croquet Club in the sunny Bay of Plenty. George first picked up a mallet in 2011 having been introduced to croquet by his grandparents, Mike and Zyelette Shepherd, both long standing members. He found the competitive nature, opportunity and satisfaction of the game were the main attractions as to why he continued playing. George's croquet highlights have included winning the Silver Medal in the 2017 U21 GC World Championship, winning the Plate event in the 2018 Open GC World Championship, winning the 2018 CNZ National GC Doubles with Edmund Fordyce and runner up in the 2018 CNZ National GC Open Singles. Currently based in Whakatane, George is studying for a Retail and Business Management degree with Massey University and he is also completing his Foodstuffs Management papers.

## Ellie Ross



Ellie is in her final year at Nelson College for Girls. Ellie started playing when her maths teacher invited pupils to the local Nelson Hinemoa club to try it out, so she went and got hooked. She loves playing the game and feels she has met so many amazing people from all around the world. Ellie reckons that the highlights of her playing career so far are winning the CNZ GC Women's Nationals in 2017 at her home club, and then winning this title again in 2018. Another highlight was going to compete in the WCF GC Women's Worlds and also the opportunity to go to the U21 Worlds in July with fellow Kiwis. Besides croquet, Ellie loves doing normal teenage things like hanging out with friends, taking her chocolate labrador, Marley, for walks and playing saxophone in the college band.

## Edmund Fordyce



Edmund is currently studying a commerce degree at the University of Canterbury. He has recently joined United Croquet Club after previously being a member of the Waireka Croquet Club in Ashburton. Edmund began playing with his father and has been playing croquet for roughly 9 years now. Edmund is extremely competitive and loves to play sport. Croquet is a perfect fit as Edmund has a heart condition which limits his ability to play contact sports and those requiring large amounts of physical activity. It is the competitiveness and strategy of the game which has maintained his love for the game. Achievements include being the CNZ GC National champion (twice), winner of the bowl (5th) in the 2017 U21 GC Championships, CNZ U21 GC winner (twice) and CNZ National Doubles champion (both GC and AC).

## Sonya Sedgwick



Sonya is really looking forward to the Trans-Tasman team event in Melbourne. She recently played in the WCF GC Women's World Championship in Hawke's Bay which she feels was a fantastic experience and a great learning curve. Although very experienced, Sonya is actively back in the sport after not playing much over the past decade. She is looking forward to the challenge of further international play, having played in a Trans-Tasman AC Test, which was hosted by sunny Queensland in the 1990's. Sonya was introduced to croquet by family. Other than croquet, Sonya enjoys playing the guitar, yoga and living the life in Hawke's Bay.

## Phillip Drew (Manager)



Phillip is a group CFO in a financial services group, and has been involved with croquet for over 20 years, being introduced to the game by his parents. Phillip played in his first GC individual world championship in 2006 and first AC individual world championship in 2008. At university he received both a NZ University Blue and Victoria University of Wellington Blue for croquet. A highlight of his playing time was being in the winning team for the GC World Team Championship in 2016, scoring the winning hoop. During the first GC World Team Championship in Johannesburg in his singles match against Sweden, Phillip was leading 6-3 in the 3rd game of the match, and then managed to rush peel his opponent through the hoop, on each of the next 3 hoops, before taking the match 7-6. Phillip came off the lawn to the rest of the team and all he could say was "Never in doubt".

## CNZ Tournament Roundup

### 2018/19 New Zealand Men's and Women's Championships

The 2018/19 New Zealand Men's and Women's Championships were held at Rangatira Croquet Club from Wednesday 20th to Sunday 24th February. Eight mixed doubles pairs vied for the doubles crown while there were eight players in both the Men's and Women's Singles Championships.

The Mixed Doubles Championship saw Steve Jones (Manawatu-Wanganui) and Alison Robinson (Wellington) reclaim the title they last won in 2016. Jones and Robinson won 5 of their 6 games on the way to claiming the title, only dropping one game to Dennis Bulloch (Manawatu-Wanganui) and Janet Boutel (Wellington) in section play. John Christie (Thames Valley) and Pamela Fisher (Waikato-King Country) finished second.

In the Women's Singles Championship, Nina Mayard-Husson (Wellington) won her third straight Women's title. Mayard-Husson didn't drop a game on her way to the final before overcoming Fisher in the final 26-21, 26-21. Fisher fought hard to make the final with both of her previous matches going to the third and deciding game. Bonnie Johnstone (South Taranaki) won the plate.



*Arthur Ross Memorial Handicap Singles Final*

With neither Aiken Hakes nor Greg Bryant competing, this year would see a new men's champion crowned for the first time in 6 years.

After heavy rain for some hours the lawns were unplayable by about 3 pm on the last day and so some final positions were unable to be determined. The Men's Singles finalists had struggled their way through the puddles to finish the second game of the best-of-3 tied 1-1, but there was no likelihood of the lawns drying enough to allow the third game to be played, as a consequence the title was declared shared between Dennis Bulloch and John Christie.

Congratulations to Peter Filbee (South Taranaki) for winning the plate.

[2018/19 CNZ Men's and Women's Championships Results](#)

### 2019 Arthur Ross Memorial Event Handicap Singles Final

14 Associations were represented at the Arthur Ross Memorial Event Handicap Singles Final played at Kelburn Croquet Club, Wellington.

With last year's winner, Stefan Horrер, not in the field, there was inevitably going to be a new champion for the first time in three years after Horrер also won the title in 2016-17.

The 2019 Arthur Ross Memorial Event Handicap Singles Final finished with a repeat of a game from round one. After 6 rounds in the Swiss format, the event moved to the semi-finals stage. During this stage Carey Johnstone (South Taranaki) who was the top qualifier took on Robert Lowe (Auckland), while Robbie Spooner (Wellington) took on Chris Shilling (Otago).

In the first semi-final, Johnstone displayed exactly how he secured the top qualifying spot defeating Lowe 26-0. In the second semi-final, Spooner withstood Shilling, winning 26-12 and setting up a rematch of his round one loss to Johnstone.

The final went the way of Spooner, winning 26-3 and being crowned the 2019 Arthur Ross Memorial Event Champion. This is just another step in Spooner's meteoric rise having only started Association Croquet in October 2018.

[Arthur Ross Full Results Available Here](#)



*Robbie Spooner (winner), Nance McDonald (Life Member Kelburn CC & Wellington Croquet Ass. & cousin of Arthur Ross) and Carey Johnstone (runner-up)*

### CNZ Women's Invitation Event

The Women's Invitation Event held at Masterton Croquet Club from 8<sup>th</sup>- 10<sup>th</sup> March 2019 saw six women from five different Associations invited to compete.

Play commenced with a single game round robin and was followed by best-of-three match play-offs. Nina Mayard-Husson (Wellington) started her title defence by going undefeated during the round robin (five from five wins) to reach the final. She was joined in the final by local player, Carissa Price (Wairarapa), who only dropped her game against Nina Mayard-Husson during the round robin stage.

Mayard-Husson started the final well, winning the first game 26-9. Price bounced back in game two to win 22-12. Unfortunately, injury then forced Mayard-Husson to withdraw from the event and Price was awarded the match and became the 2019 Women's Invitation Event Champion.



*Carissa Price (winner)*

In the other play-off matches, Baubre Murray (Wellington) beat Bonnie Johnstone (South Taranaki) 2-1 (26-15, 10-24, 18-17) to secure third place and Cindy Clarke (Bay of Plenty) beat Heather Richardson (Waikato-King Country) 2-0 (21-14, 26-10) to place fifth.

[CNZ Women's Invitation Full Results Here](#)

### WCF Women's World GC Championship Charity Auction

The photograph below is of all the players and some of the organising committee, managers and tournament director at the recent Women's GC World Championship in Hawke's Bay.

The photograph was taken by Willy Ransfield of Design Studio in Havelock North who produced the wonderful scoreboards used for all the matches in the tournament. Willy framed the photo and donated it to the organising committee with a request that it be auctioned at the Presentation Dinner, with the proceeds going to Cranford Hospice. Willy's wishes were duly complied with and the successful bid was made by Heretaunga Croquet Club for \$750. Many thanks to Willy for his generosity.



*GC Women's World Championship 2019 Hawke's Bay*