



# CROQUET MATTERS

# AUGUST 2019

## Contents

Note from the Editor.....	1
From the President .....	1
Thank You! .....	2
Upcoming CNZ Tournaments .....	3
2019 WCF GC World Championship.....	3
2019 WCF U21 GC World Championship .....	4
Thanks Betty, from Annie Henry.....	6

## Note from the Editor

Now that we are getting towards the end of winter, I hope that you are looking forward to the coming season of croquet. There has been so much work going on behind the scenes in preparation for the new Yearbook, AGM and forthcoming tournaments, all of which help to ensure a smooth start to the year.

Regards, Jackie

## From the President



Kia ora,

What an exciting month this has been for our New Zealand players who competed in world events! We should give them a standing ovation for their performance and be proud of all of them!

### WCF Under 21 World Golf Croquet Championship

The 9 players who went to England to play did very well. **Isobelle Alan-Ward, Nathan Bullen, Edmund Fordyce, Jeff Gatchell, Jason Hodgett, Logan McCorkindale, Ellie Ross, Kaleb Small, and Chris Spittall.** If they didn't win a title, they placed well in the events.

Congratulations to **Edmund Fordyce** for winning the **Gold** and title of **World's U21 Golf Croquet Champion.** Edmund played superbly throughout the tournament. This is an incredible accomplishment and a personal best for Edmund. It is fantastic!

**Nathan Bullen** played **Ellie Ross** in the final of the **Shield.** It was a very close match with **Nathan** winning 7 – 6. **Ellie** was the highest placed female in the tournament. **Chris Spittall** walked away with the **Bowl.** I am very proud of all of our youth.

On behalf of the Executive, I would like to thank **Brian Bullen** who was the manager for the U21s. After the last U21s in Australia, the Executive felt strongly that we needed to have someone from CNZ to represent us on behalf of the youth. Even though most of the youth had a parent who accompanied them, if there were any issues, we knew that we would have someone addressing them on behalf of our youth and CNZ.

### WCF World Golf Croquet Championship

Out of the 80 players who competed for the GC World Championship in England, New Zealand had 6. Half of them won titles. **Brian Bullen, George Coulter, Duncan Dixon, Josh Freeth, Hamish MacIntosh, and Helen Reeves** all took part. The field was very strong and our players played well.

**Congratulations** to **Josh Freeth** who claimed a **Bronze. Duncan Dixon** who won the **Shield** and **George Coulter** who won the **Bowl.** If you didn't have a chance to watch it live streamed, take a look on The Croquet Association's YouTube channel. They had some amazing wins.

**Well done to our U21s and those who competed in the World's! We are very proud of all of you representing New Zealand.**

## AGM

I am looking forward to seeing all the delegates at the AGM this year. Each year seems to be more productive, and I am grateful to the Executive who have worked to move CNZ forward. Without the support of our staff, Executive Director Jake Inwood and Sport Development Officer Greg Bryant, and the volunteers who serve on the various committees, it couldn't happen.

The workshops this year are important because the delegates are being asked for their input into the future plans for CNZ. The major discussion will be around the discussion paper that **Jake Inwood, Grant Poulton, Graeme Roberts, Geoff Young and Phyllis Young** created. The Executive gave the Committee the task to review the Constitution and bring forward recommendations. The Executive and delegates will be discussing the paper. The paper is the work of this subcommittee. We want to hear your region's views on what is proposed. I would also like to thank **Kathie Grant and Karen McLaren** for the seminal work they did.

The Awards dinner is always a joy. We will be honouring the outstanding individuals for their performance on and off the lawns. We will also have three Hall of Fame inductees, which is always special. This year the CNZ Publicity and Marketing Committee is putting together a special presentation. We hope you will attend. Everyone is welcome.

Soon the season will start. The first tournament will be the **National Secondary Schools Golf Croquet Championships** in Christchurch, 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> September at the United Croquet Club. There are 24 teams that will contend for the title. I hope that you will send the youth from your region best wishes for success and to have fun. It is always a special event. These youth epitomize what is best in croquet – having fun, enjoying each other's company and doing their best. Come along and watch. I am.

Have a wonderful start of the season and all the best.

*Annie*

### **Is Your Club on a Heritage Site?**

Have you thought about where your club sits in your community? Is it a historical site? If so, you may qualify for NZ or local heritage funding. Check it out!

## Thank You!

### **Thanks to all the Publicity Officers**

One of the goals the CNZ Publicity and Marketing Committee (P&M C) had this year was to draft a role description for club and association publicity officers. A draft role description was written and sent to all associations for distribution last month. We received 11 responses out of the 112 clubs and 19 associations. Even though the number is small, it is probably a good percentage of those clubs and associations that have publicity officers.

More important is that the feedback was straight forward, informative, and useful for developing a relevant role description. On behalf of the CNZ P&M Committee, I would like to thank all of the people who responded. As a result of the valuable feedback, the P&M C has identified two areas to focus on immediately.

The first is to create a toolkit for every club and association. Before one can be created, a list of what is needed will be generated. We know that writing a press release, setting up and using social media, and having a role description for the publicity officer at the club and association levels will be the first pieces that will go into the toolkit. We are currently working on each of those areas. The second focus area will be to incorporate the feedback into the publicity officer role description and other areas where applicable.

**Again, the CNZ Publicity and Marketing Committee extend their thanks.** Our aim is to have a publicity officer for each club and region. Knowing what is asked of you and giving support is a good way to begin.

D. Annie Henry (Convener), Grant Poulton and Jackie Tye – CNZ Publicity & Marketing Committee

New Zealand Croquet Council Inc.  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
At:- The Brentwood Hotel, Wellington  
**5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

At the Awards Dinner on Saturday at 7pm,  
Croquet New Zealand will make the following awards:

Club Participation Award  
Presidents Trophy (highest % of new members)  
Huon Pine Bowl (highest total of new members)  
Baker Trophy (most improved AC player)  
Most Improved Trophy (most improved GC player)  
Player of the Year  
Volunteer of the Year  
Contribution to Croquet Award

## Upcoming CNZ Tournaments

### 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> September 2019

CNZ National Secondary Schools GC Championship at United CC

### 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> October 2019

CNZ North Island GC Championship at Matamata CC

### 17<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> October 2019

CNZ South Island GC Championship at United CC

### 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019

CNZ AC Club Championship at Epsom-Remuera CC

### 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2019 (coaching on 4<sup>th</sup> November)

CNZ Women's GC Tournament at Heretaunga CC

### 13<sup>TH</sup> – 17<sup>TH</sup> November 2019

CNZ 85<sup>th</sup> S.I. AC Championship at Waireka CC

### 20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> November 2019

CNZ 96<sup>th</sup> N.I. AC Championship at Mt. Maunganui CC

### 30<sup>th</sup> November – 7<sup>th</sup> December 2019

CNZ National GC Tournament at Epsom-Remuera CC

### 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> December 2019

CNZ 3+ Golf Croquet Championship at Howick CC

## 2019 WCF GC World Championship

The 2019 Golf Croquet World Championship took place last month in Sussex, England, with New Zealand players once again proving they are some of the best in the world. 80 players from 19 countries vied for the title as the 2019 Golf Croquet World Champion.

HRH the Duke of Gloucester opened the tournament, with a parade by the players and officials with country and WCF flags preceded by a jazz band. The New Zealand players competing included Brian Bullen (Wellington), George Coulter (Bay of Plenty), Duncan Dixon (Canterbury), Josh Freeth (Auckland), Hamish McIntosh (Auckland) and Helen Reeves (Hawkes Bay).

During the block stages, our players performed admirably with 4 of the 6 players qualifying for the knock-out stage. Some of the notable performances during the early stages included Dixon qualifying top of Block E undefeated and Freeth defeating world number 1 and defending champion, Reg Bamford (South Africa), 3-7, 7-3, 7-2.

Dixon, Freeth and McIntosh all qualified outright for the knock-out stage. Coulter later joined them in the last 32 after defeating Ian Burrige of Wales 7-4 in a play-off game after they, and Fathy Farouk of Egypt, ended block play with 6 wins each.

As with most sports, anything can happen once the knock-out stages are reached, and upsets were on the cards in round one. In the words of one observer "carnage ensued" with four previous champions, including the defending champion, falling in the first round. Freeth, Dixon and McIntosh all enjoyed victories to enter the second round. Dixon's unbeaten run at the tournament ended, however, when he fell to Englishman Richard Bilton 4-7, 7-3, 3-7. McIntosh also fell in the second round to eventual semi-finalist and world number 3, Hamy Erian (Egypt), 4-7, 4-7. Freeth, however, continued his fine form defeating Khaled Tharwat of Egypt 7-5, 7-6, to set up a quarter-final with world number 4, Stephen Mulliner (England). Freeth showed his class and advanced to the semi-finals with a straight games win over Mulliner 7-3, 7-5, 7-5.

Freeth's semi-final against Ben Rothman was a marathon event, lasting over 7 hours and becoming the longest recorded match at a world championship. He started strongly and took an immediate 2-game lead in the best of 5 semi-final. After a long lunch, the momentum shifted in game 3 when Rothman ran hoop 1 (with pace for the first time in the match) and the ball finished in the jaws of hoop 2. Freeth never got back into this game, despite still playing well, and went down 3-7. Freeth's magical run came to an end, losing the final two games to the eventual champion, so overall it was 7-2, 7-3, 3-7, 5-7, 5-7.



*Josh Freeth and Hamy Erian Receive their Bronze Medals (Simon Carter in the middle)*



The final was a magical occasion with superb play by both players for an audience of about 300 spectators at Southwick and more than 500 people worldwide watching the live feed with great commentary by Stephen Mulliner.

Rothman won the first game, but Karem then started to find his hitting form and took the next game 7-2. He then won the third to put Rothman's back against the wall and even more so when he went 6-3 up, meaning that Karem only had to win one of the next four hoops to become the champion. But it was not to be - he had two chances at hoop 13 (the golden hoop) to run it from the boundary, one of them a bouncing jump, but failed both, so Rothman levelled the match. The final game was close again, being level at 5-5, but Rothman won the next two hoops to win the Championship by three games to two. Not just a new name on the trophy, but also a new country, the USA.



*left to right: Hamy Erian (Bronze); Euan Burrridge (Plate); George Coulter (Bowl); Ben Rothman (World Champion); Amir Ramsis (WCF President); Duncan Dixon (Shield); Josh Freeth (Bronze); Mohamed Karem (Silver)*

In the other trophy matches, Euan Burrridge won the Plate (players not qualifying for the knock-out stages), Coulter won the Bowl (an event for players knocked out in the first round of the KO) and Dixon won the Shield (for players knocked out in the second round of the KO).



*Duncan Dixon receives Tournament Shield Trophy from Amir Ramsis (WCF President)*

At the closing ceremony, after the presentation of all trophies and medals, the WCF Flag was formally handed over by England to Josh Freeth on behalf of Croquet New Zealand who will be hosting both the next U21 GC and Open GC World Championships in January/February 2021 (as well as the World GC Team Championship in Nelson next January 2020).



*George Coulter with the Tournament Bowl Trophy*

Click on the link below for the tournament photo album, highlighting the wonderful variety of shots: -

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/cZKcCpP6dzH8RkbJ8>

## 2019 U21 GC World Championship

24 players qualified to compete for the U21 GC trophy at the magnificent venue of Nottingham CC in England, of which 9 were representing New Zealand. The week's competition saw a range of weather conditions, from cold and blustery to the very hot, testing everyone's skills and stamina.

Play commenced with four blocks of six players from which the top four from each block qualified for the Championship knock-out. Block A saw tournament favourite Edmund Fordyce winning all his matches in straight games to comfortably top the block. Another Kiwi, Chris Spittal, also qualified from Block A in second place. Block A was a tough block and Logan McCorkindale was unlucky to lose out in a play-off for the final qualifying spot against Blake Fields (USA), in what was a quality match for both players.

In Block B, Jeff Gatchell topped the group with 4 wins from his 5 matches and in Block C both Nathan Bullen and Kaleb Small were successful in gaining knockout slots. Block D was won by James Galpin of England, with Jason Hodgett and Ellie Ross also qualifying.

Seven Kiwis had therefore qualified for the championship final 16 knock-out which was a tremendous result.



*Teams on parade at opening ceremony*

The nature of the draw meant that the top game in the final 16 saw the all New Zealand pairing of Edmund Fordyce and Kaleb Small matched against each other. Small became the first player in the tournament to take a game off Fordyce, both playing great croquet, although Fordyce ultimately came through 7-3; 6-7; 7-2.

Also qualifying for the quarter-finals were Nathan Bullen who beat Charlie Sharpe of Australia 7-2; 7-6 and Ellie Ross who beat an Australian, Jamie Gumbrell in three games 7-4; 5-7; 7-4.

The remaining Kiwis Chris Spittal, Jeff Gatchell and Jason Hodgett all unfortunately lost out in the first round against their Egyptian opposition, albeit in some close fought matches. This meant that the three moved on to play in the tournament Bowl for those knocked out in Round 1.

Chris Clarke, as well as covering his duties as a referee, was providing a wonderful informed and instructive commentary on the live streaming on The Croquet Association's YouTube channel. In a daily summary, from Day 1 he had identified Edmund Fordyce and James Galpin (England) as being leading contenders for the Championship.

Fordyce comfortably won his quarter-final against Mohamed Rashad (Egypt) and Bullen fought extremely hard but lost 4-7; 7-6; 3-7 against Euan Burridge (England). The third match was an all Egyptian affair which was won by Yasser Sayed 7-3; 7-1 against Karim Amaar. The final quarter-final saw the second favourite for the tournament, James Galpin, matched against Ellie Ross. This proved to be the toughest match of the tournament so far for Galpin, with Ross taking it to hoop 13 in both games, eventually narrowly losing out 6-7; 6-7.

In the Bowl, three Kiwis progressed to the second round, Jeff Gatchell, Kaleb Small and Chris Spittal.

Gatchell lost out to the increasingly strong American (all of 12 years old!) Blake Fields; 5-7; 2-7, whilst in the battle of the Kiwis, Spittal beat Small 7-5; 7-5. The Bowl final was a tightly fought affair with Spittal scoring a great, and well deserved, win against Fields 7-4; 6-7; 7-5.

Meanwhile, Edmund Fordyce had progressed through to the Championship semi-finals, where he prevailed with a dominant performance against a consistent Euan Burridge 7-2; 7-5. In the second semi-final there was also a straightforward win for James Galpin against Egyptian Yasser Sayed 7-4; 7-3.

In the Shield competition, both Bullen and Ross progressed to meet in a single game all-Kiwi final. A tense affair saw the final match go to hoop 13 with Bullen winning 7-6.

In the Plate competition for those not taking part in the knock-out competition, initial block play saw Logan McCorkindale and the ever improving Isobelle Alan-Ward qualify for the final four. Results in the initial block play were carried forward resulting in an eventual win for Callum Johnson of England with 8 wins, runner up was McCorkindale (7 wins) and third was Alan-Ward (6 wins). Well played McCorkindale (who beat Johnson 7-1) and Alan-Ward (who beat Jared Bassmann 7-5).

The Championship final, played as a best of 5, saw Fordyce, who had only dropped the one game to Small, face Galpin who had not lost any games in the tournament. Galpin started as he had left off in the semi, with close to perfect play to win the first two games 7-4, 7-5. Fordyce has proved in the past that he is able to fight back from two games down and once again achieved this, winning the third game 7-5. Fordyce started to ratchet up the pressure in the fourth and at 6-2, it looked guaranteed to go to a decider, but Galpin fought back, and Fordyce ended up needing to run a 5 yard hoop 12 to tie the match.

The decider was a thriller. Fordyce ran hoop 5 to take the lead for the first time after 3 hours, but Galpin came straight back to take 6 after much clearing and then 7 with a long hoop. Fordyce tied it at 4-4 and soon took a 5-4 lead. Galpin played a lovely flip with yellow at hoop 10 to bring it back to 5-5 with black still in the jaws of hoop 10. Fordyce took excellent position at 11 with blue and red missed a vital 6 yard clearance. Fordyce then played a fabulous touch shot through hoop 10 to nestle a millimetre away from yellow and block it clearing blue.



These two balls were then deemed multiple times whilst Fordyce ran 11 and Galpin cleared him from 12 multiple times. Finally, the peg came in the way of Galpin's clearance and Fordyce powered through 12 to become 2019 U21 GC World Champion.



Left to right: Callum Johnson (Plate); Nathan Bullen (Shield) Euan Burridge (Bronze); Edmund Fordyce (Champion); James Galpin (Silver); Yasser Sayed (Bronze); Chris Spittal (Bowl)

What a tournament, with wonderful hospitality and a marvellous atmosphere at Nottingham. There was very impressive play from all our youth squad, ably supported by their families and friends, plus a great Team Manager, Brian Bullen. Of the four trophies on offer, three were won by New Zealand. Incidentally, this was the fourth NZ U21 champion from the five U21 championships played since inception in 2009. The future of croquet is looking to be in good shape, with keen interest from all the leading players in AC, as well as GC. The next U21 World Championships are scheduled to take place in Nelson in January 2021.



Edmund Fordyce 2019 WCF U21 GC World Champion

## Thanks Betty, from Annie Henry.

As I prepare to step down as CNZ President at the AGM in October, I would like to mention someone who, a few years ago, started me on a path that has led me to where I am today. There are people in your life who make a difference and Betty Winterburn has made a positive difference in mine.

Betty started by first asking me to stand for President of Croquet Nelson, and I was subsequently elected and served for three years. She then asked if I would accept the nomination for CNZ Councillor, then CNZ Vice-President and CNZ President. Before starting in leadership roles in CNZ I was content playing croquet and had not thought about taking on a leadership role. Moving into these positions have given me an opportunity to be a part of a larger community where I've grown along the way.

Too often we don't show appreciation for people who acknowledge and support us. Betty has been a positive influence in my life, and I wanted to thank her for starting me along this path. I believe every club and region should have someone like Betty who gives unconditionally to the betterment of croquet. This bouquet I presented her is a small token of my appreciation for someone who makes a difference in my life and many others. Thank you, Betty!

D. Annie Henry



Betty Winterburn (Richmond) and Annie Henry (CNZ President)