



CROQUET MATTERS

SEPTEMBER 2019

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Note from the Editor

Here is the September edition of Croquet Matters. I hope you are looking forward to playing better croquet, more often this season.

Please do read the fascinating article about Te Aroha CC in this edition. It gives plenty of food for thought.

It is time for me to pass the reins of Editor on to someone else, so if you are interested in finding out what the role involves, please contact Jake Inwood for more information and a job description.

Regards, Jackie

From the President



Kia ora,

Thank You

This is my final message in *Croquet Matters* as President of Croquet NZ. I want to thank all those who have supported the growth of croquet and have been willing to not only put up their hands but also to contribute to the betterment of

croquet. For me, it has been an incredible journey where I have learned more about each region and the leadership that keeps them growing. I am proud of the accomplishments that all of us have made together. The CNZ Annual Report will detail many of the activities that have had a positive impact on our sport. Thanks to all of you for asking the tough questions, helping to find the answers to those questions and finding ways to strengthen our organisation that supports our sport.

I would like to thank **Aaron Westerby** for his major contributions to CNZ while being on the Executive these past two years. Aaron has been a conscientious Councillor who has led the CNZ Playing Oversight Committee (now the CNZ Croquet Governance Committee), convened the CNZ Player Development Committee, convened the CNZ FAR Committee for the past 8 months, chaired the AC Selection Panel, overhauled the CNZ database, and worked on the CNZ website while working full time and raising a family. He has not only taken on many responsibilities; he has done them well. What I appreciate the most about Aaron are his contributions at every meeting. He asked the hard questions that need to be asked for us to grow; he found ways to move forward when there are differing opinions; he listened to what others said and tried to understand that person's point of view; and he shared his wealth of knowledge of and experience with croquet. Aaron is not standing another term because of family and work commitments. He has added value. He will be missed, and I thank him.

I appreciate working with the Executive members Vice-President Phyllis Young and Councillor George Coulter, and staff members Jake Inwood and Greg Bryant. All of them have worked incredibly hard for all of us. Please be sure to thank them for their work. It is good that Phyllis and George will continue on the Executive for continuity.

Congratulations

The NZ Secondary Schools Golf Croquet Championships that was held in Christchurch was a fantastic tournament—the first of the season. Approximately half of the teams were first time competitors, which is amazing. The games were highly contested throughout the weekend. I admire the passion, fun, and camaraderie that these youth bring to croquet.

I would like to congratulate **Winners Levi Franks and Myles Duggan (Cashmere High School)**. They had a tough match against **Runners Up Te Kiri King and Isabelle Tong (Hawera High School)**. Please help me congratulate **Plate Winners Thomas Henderson and Catlin Smith** and **Runners Up Sam Cuttle and Jack Miers – both from Mt. Hutt High School**. I would like to thank **Jenny Clarke** for managing this successful event, **Chris Clarke** for being the Referee of the Tournament, **Canterbury Association** for hosting the event, the **United Croquet Club** as the host venue, and all the **volunteers** who helped make it a successful event. I would like to express my appreciation to **parents, coaches, and schools** for the enormous support they give to our youth on a daily basis. Last, but not least, I want to recognise **CNZ Sport Development Officer Greg Bryant** for developing the youth programme. Since it has been under Greg's direction, the number of schools has increased, the number of youth joining clubs has increased, and the number of youth who continue to grow into world class players has grown significantly.

I would like to thank all the members who give at the club, regional, national and international levels. I would like to thank *Croquet Matters* editor, Jackie Tye. She has produced a publication that is widely read. Jackie has done a great job. THANK YOU.

There have been many accomplishments this year. They have been outlined in the AGM Reports. Please take time to read them to learn what CNZ has done and is doing for all of us.

I wish the very best for the next CNZ Executive and those who serve on the CNZ Committees. It has been an honour to work with these dedicated members, and to be the CNZ President for the past four years.

Annie

Upcoming CNZ Tournaments

17th – 20th October 2019

[CNZ North Island GC Championship at Matamata CC](#)

17th – 20th October 2019

[CNZ South Island GC Championship at United CC](#)

26th – 28th October 2019

CNZ AC Club Championship at Epsom-Remuera CC

2nd – 3rd November 2019 (coaching on 4th November)

[CNZ Women's GC Tournament at Heretaunga CC](#)

13th– 17th November 2019

[CNZ 85th S.I. AC Championship at Waireka CC](#)

20th – 24th November 2019

[CNZ 96th N.I. AC Championship at Mt Maunganui CC](#)

30th November – 7th December 2019

[CNZ National GC Tournament at Epsom-Remuera CC](#)

6th – 8th December 2019

CNZ 3+ Golf Croquet Championship at Howick CC

18th – 26th January 2020

[New Zealand Open at Wellington CA](#)

Click on the available links above for more detailed information on the individual events.

Click [here](#) to enter CNZ tournaments online.

National Secondary School GC Tournament

Adapted from report courtesy of Chris Clarke from the Nottingham-Lists

The finals of the NZ Secondary Schools Tournament were held at United CC on the 7th – 8th September. The event starts with regional events in March from which teams qualify for the national finals in September. The event is held as a golf croquet level doubles competition and had one-hour time limits. This year, we had 48 players in the finals representing schools and colleges from all around NZ.

There were large differences of experience on show with some players having played in the U21 Worlds at Nottingham, whilst others had only picked up a mallet less than a year ago.

Blue Block was won by Kapiti College represented by Nathan Bullen, winner of the Shield at Nottingham, partnering his younger sister, Jessica.

Red Block was won by locals, Cashmere High School 1, represented by Myles Duggan and Levi Franks with an unbeaten record.

Black Block was won by Nelson College represented by Mikey Lauer and Finlay Webb, again unbeaten.

Yellow Block was won by Hawera High School 1, represented by Te Kiri King and Isabelle Tong in a three-way tie with Nelson College for Girls and Palmerston North HS 1.

The Plate event was contested between two Mount Hutt Schools and resulted in a win for Caitlin Smith and Thomas Henderson.

The top 4 pairs from each block qualified for the knockout which was played as single game until the final round which was best of 3. The final pitted the winners of the Red and Yellow blocks and was eventually won by the locals, Myles Duggan and Levi Franks from Cashmere High School (1) 6-3, 4-6, 7-6.

It was great to see so many players and supporters stay to watch until the end despite freezing temperatures. There were plenty of strong performances from new players and improved performances from those playing in the event again. I expect at least a dozen of those playing at United this weekend to represent New Zealand in the 2021 WCF U21 GC World Championships.

NSSCC Competitors 7th Sept 2019



Many thanks to the caterers, referees and general helpers for making the event such a friendly and positive experience, to Greg Bryant for developing this event over the past few years and to our excellent manager, Jenny Clarke, who made sure even the least experienced players always knew what was going on.

Yearbooks

The full 2019-20 Yearbook No.97 is now available by clicking the following link [CNZ Yearbook Full 2019-20](#)

The 2019-20 Fixtures book is available by clicking the following link: - [CNZ Yearbook Fixtures 2019-20](#)

Look after Your Volunteers!

The following article is an abridged version of one written by Lou Beer, the Sport Waikato District Coordinator. The ideas and thoughts, whilst not particularly aimed at croquet, are all very relevant as we head into the new croquet season.

“At a recent volunteer workshop, I took away two top tips. If you are finding it difficult to get volunteers - break down all the jobs that need doing into bite size chunks so people can each do a little, and make sure you regularly appreciate your volunteers. Did you know that a thanked volunteer is 24% more likely to volunteer again and if thanked twice are 64% more likely to volunteer again? On this basis, it is worth making sure that someone in your club has the role of ensuring that gratitude doesn't fall off the to do list.

If you are already an active sport or recreation volunteer, a sincere thank you. If you ever question your 'why', the list below will remind you all the positive big picture outcomes of keeping sport alive and accessible: -

- Brings people together, providing opportunities for social interaction.
- Empowers, inspires and motivates individuals.
- Provides work/life balance.
- Sports clubs are often the hub of community life.
- Helps to sustain the environment through protecting open space and natural areas.
- Contributes to higher levels of self-esteem.
- Improves mental health and productivity.
- Kids who participate learn better and are more likely to enjoy school.
- Keeps kids away from the TV/computer screen!
- Binds families and communities through shared experiences.
- Provides a sense of belonging.
- Develops life skills and leadership abilities.
- Promotes a healthy, active lifestyle.”

History Repeats at Te Aroha

Te Aroha Croquet Club, which is to formally celebrate its 100th Anniversary in December, is actually 35 years older than thought. The all-women's team played an exhibition match at the opening of the Cadman Bath House, in front of 3,000 visitors and townsfolk, on the 24th May 1889. Before that, the group was helping people back to health and fitness by teaching them to play croquet as part of the recuperation programme for patients 'seeking the waters'.

History is repeating itself now, as the Club has joined forces with Sport Waikato to help the community from all walks of life to become healthier, and to improve their wellbeing.

Sport Waikato has a Green Prescription programme which enables people to join in the games and to acquire the basic skills easily, in a safe and friendly atmosphere.

Tui Priest, Sport Waikato's Active and Well Co-ordinator reports: "Croquet is a sport which doesn't require 'athletic' fitness, but will help people to move freely, while having fun". She adds that physical activity has many benefits - from muscle strength, flexibility, balance and co-ordination, to less likelihood of falls.

Te Aroha Croquet Club's Cath Hughes (coach and treasurer) says the Club will offer the basics of how to play croquet to anyone who wants to improve their health and fitness, and that includes people who rely on walking frames or who find bending difficult. "We croquet players all walk without noticing it. Nor do we bend down, as the bowlers do. In fact, we have a motto: 'Let your mallet do the work for you'."



Talking of which, the Club has a fine collection of shiny new mallets, thanks to the support of Pub Charity, all ready for Green Prescription people to try out.

Pre-season at Morrinsville By Joan Jenkin

Golf croquet is a very addictive sport. So, when the winter weather hits, and the lawns are closed what can the players do? The answer to the dilemma was a Soup 'n Slice lunch and club get together.

The 43 members who arrived were greeted with either a mulled wine or soft drink which caused the conversations to flow freely. There was a choice of three delicious soups very ably prepared by Frances Beattie and Phillipa Kilpatrick complete with a roll, followed by slices and strudel and cream. It was a most enjoyable way to spend a winter afternoon.

With members preparing for the season to start again, after much hard work, the club was looking its normal pristine self again, and ready for the season. In fact, when the annual club rooms Spring Clean was completed, so many members turned up it was exceedingly hard to find them a job! We had men washing the outside of the building and windows, scrubbing down the shelter sheds, cleaning concrete, doing edges, and the ladies inside cleaning everything they could find, as well as all the trophies.



Members were not anticipating, however, and just before the start of the season, that a late-night driver would leave a trail of destruction for the members to find the following morning. As can be seen from the above photo, besides leaving evidence as to the car involved in the form of a bumper, there was a significant clear up to be carried out. Still, it could have been much worse as the lawns weren't damaged and neither were the club rooms, so fortunately Morrinsville is once again looking at its best with the fence now repaired.