



CROQUET MATTERS

NOVEMBER 2019

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Note from the Editor

I do hope you are all enjoying your croquet, whether you play socially or competitively. This edition includes wonderful news from Kathie about a recent announcement, opening up all sorts of possibilities for many grass roots sports, including our own.

Regards, Jackie

President’s Corner



Greetings,
 Exciting news was announced on Thursday 14th November. CNZ is now in partnership with the ‘New Zealand Sport Collective’ and Sky Next. Sky Sport Next will provide a platform for croquet,

along with 49 other sports, to showcase what we have to offer creating an opportunity for substantial exposure to the wider community. This will begin with the Golf Croquet World Team Championship in Nelson in January, watch this space.

Many thanks to Greg Bryant who has negotiated this deal with both other parties. The Sky Next broadcast will be available on You Tube, some on the Sky Sport Channel, and also ‘Free to Air’ Prime. This agreement opens increased opportunities for CNZ to gain sponsorship. Sky Next will also be looking for good stories that resonate with the viewers.

The countries competing in the WCF World GC Team Championship event are Australia, Egypt, England, Ireland, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden and USA. The NZ team comprises of Felix Webby, Duncan Dixon, Edmund Fordyce and Josh Freeth, with the average age of this team at 23 years old. Jenny Clarke is the reserve and Philip Drew is the manager of the team. Go Team NZ! All four of the team have won the Under 21 GC world champs which have only been held 5 times since their inception.

Epsom Remuera hosted the CNZ AC Club Teams event over the Labour weekend. This was an exciting opportunity for progressing AC players as they partnered with excellent players.

Jackie Tye is resigning as Editor of Croquet Matters to pursue new ventures. I would like to thank Jackie for her valuable work ensuring Croquet Matters is of a high standard. CNZ is looking for an editor and would very much like you to contact Jake if you would like to know what is involved.

As we are approaching Christmas most of you will be planning time together to celebrate the past year and enjoy the festive season. It is a time to be all inclusive, both codes together and see who else comes to your club.

The grounds maintenance team for some clubs often don't meet all the players so this is an opportunity for all people associated with a club to come together and share.

Kathie Grant

Tournament Results

CNZ AC Team Championship

1 st	Epsom Remuera CC	3 Tests
2 nd	Wellington CC	2 Tests
3 rd	United CC	1 Test
4 th	Whakatane CC	0 Tests

CNZ Women's GC Championship

1 st	Ellie Ross (Nelson)
2 nd	Helen Reeves (Hawke's Bay)
3 rd	Isabelle Tong (South Taranaki)

Silver K/O	Dallas Cooke (Bay of Plenty)
Bronze	Jenny Gower (Taranaki)

Upcoming CNZ Tournaments

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](#)

5th – 9th February 2020

[CNZ Men's and Women's Championships at Rangatira CC, Dannevirke](#)

21st – 23rd February 2020

[Women's AC Invitation at Marton CC](#)

28th February – 1st March 2020

[Arthur Ross National Final at Leith CC, Dunedin](#)

Click on the links for more information.

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

Invitation Events

Do you want to be considered for the 2019-20 CNZ Invitations? Either AC, GC or both? If so, you can register your interest through the online registration portal now. Click [here](#) to register.

Registrations for the Invitations will close on the following dates:

Women's AC – 5th January 2020

AC Invitations – 26th January 2020

GC Invitations – 3rd February 2020

More information on the Invitations can be found in the 2019-20 Yearbook [here](#).

CNZ AC Team Championship



While Labour Weekend was a relaxing long weekend for many, teams from four of the strongest AC clubs fought it out to be crowned the inaugural CNZ AC Club Champions.

Epsom Remuera (Auckland) hosted Wellington Municipal Croquet Club (Wellington), Whakatane Croquet Club (Bay of Plenty) and United Croquet Club (Canterbury) for the first AC Club Championships.

The format was a complete round robin where each team played the 3 other teams in a best-of-9 games test match.

The teams were made up of **Epsom Remuera**; Josh Freeth, Vincent Commarieu, Aaron Westerby, Kathie Grant, John Christie and Nelson Morrow: **United**; Jarrod Coutts, Dallas Cooke, Michael Wright, Logan McCorkindale, Chris Shilling and Stefan Horrer: **Wellington**; Aiken Hakes, Toby Garrison, Paul Skinley, Alison Robinson, Harps Tahurangi and Robbie Spooner: **Whakatane**; Mike Crashley, Frank Robinson, Greg Bryant, Cindy Clarke, Steve Clarke and Keith Ebdon.

It was the hosts, Epsom Remuera Croquet Club, who emerged victorious over the weekend, winning all three of their matches. On their way to victory, Epsom Remuera beat United CC 7-2, Whakatane CC 6-3 and Wellington Municipal CC 5-4. Wellington Municipal Croquet Club claimed second after beating both Whakatane CC (7-2) and United CC (6-3).



L to R: Nelson Morrow; John Christie, Aaron Westerby, Kathie Grant, Vincent Commarieu and Josh Freeth (horizontal!)

CNZ Women's GC National Championships

A View from the boundary

The TVNZ weatherman had forecast that sunny Hawke's Bay was the place to be on the weekend of 2nd and 3rd November, and so it proved for the field of 22 women competing in the 2019-20 CNZ Women's Golf Croquet tournament. Heretaunga Croquet Club does tournaments very well. From the planning and preparation, management, to the catering and publicity, its members make everyone feel welcome.

Day One saw the initial round-robin block play. There were 4 blocks with A and B having 6 players each and C and D 5 players each. The top two from each block qualified for the Gold Knock Out to decide the eventual champion. In Block A, Ellie Ross won 4 of her 5 games, but lost her first game in three years of competing in this tournament to Lynette Grant (Hawke's Bay). The second qualifying spot was taken by Gillian Railey (Auckland) who won 3 games, by virtue of better net hoops (+8) than Susan McKessar (Auckland), who also won 3 games (+6).

Block B proved to be a very competitive affair with 5 of the 6 players finishing with a score of 3 wins and 2 losses each. Judged on net hoops, Moya Lewis (Taranaki) and Isabelle-Alan Ward (Manawatu-Wanganui) both finished with +5, however Lewis had won their game and thus went through as the leader of the block, with Ward second.

Block C saw an unbeaten 16-year-old Isabelle Tong (South Taranaki) heading the lists with 4 wins from 4 with Helen Reeves (Hawke's Bay) in second place having won 3 games. Likewise, in Block D, Sonya Sedgwick (Hawke's Bay) won all 4 of her games with runner-up being Marion Taylor (Auckland) who had 3 wins.

Of those who had not qualified for the Gold knock-out, the next two in each block qualified for the Silver knock-out, with the remaining six competitors forming the field for the Bronze block. The matches in the knockouts were best of three games, with the Bronze block round robin played as 19-point games.

In the gold to determine the make-up of the semi-finals, there were straight wins for Tong, Reeves and Sedgwick. Ross had a tougher battle against Taylor before winning 2-1. In the Silver there were wins for McKessar, Dallas Cooke, Vanessa Hanna and Grant.



L to R: Isabelle Tong, Ellie Ross and Helen Reeves

Day 2 dawned with high temperatures predicted, which proved very accurate. In the Gold semi-final matches, Ross had a tight match against Tong, a NZ Secondary Schools finalist, ultimately prevailing 7-6, 7-5. The other semi-final saw a 4-hour marathon match between Reeves and Sedgwick which was played in punishing heat of 27°C; Reeves eventually winning an exhausting match 5-7; 7-6; 7-4.

Meanwhile, in the Silver knock out, Hanna and Cooke progressed through to the final. In the Bronze block Jenny Gower (Taranaki) was a clear winner with 4 wins and 1 loss.

In the Silver final that went the full distance to three games, Cooke won 7-6; 5-7; 7-3. Meanwhile, in the 3rd and 4th place play off, Tong completed an impressive tournament with a 7-6; 2-7; 7-6 win in a very tight game against Sedgwick.

Soon to be doubles partners at the CNZ Nationals, Ross defeated Reeves in the final 2-7, 7-3, 7-4. After going down to Reeves in the 1st game, Ross raised her shooting averages significantly to take the last two games and her third consecutive title comfortably. "Helen didn't do a thing wrong in that first game and I couldn't do anything right, but something clicked in for me from the second game and I didn't miss anything from there on".

By retaining her title, 17-year-old Ross became Croquet New Zealand's youngest three-peat National Champion.

Sky Sport Next Live Streaming

New Zealand sport is set to get a massive boost thanks to a ground-breaking grassroots sport initiative launched on 14th November by Sky, together with Olympian, and former America's Cup sailor, Rob Waddell.



More than 50 national sports organisations and rights-holders have come together to form the New Zealand Sport Collective, led by Rob Waddell. Together, they will be part of Sky Sport Next, a platform designed to be a launching pad for some of New Zealand's most popular grassroots sports and rising young talent.

Through Sky Sport Next, New Zealanders will get free access to watch more than 50 different sports and thousands of events, many of which wouldn't have otherwise been live streamed or made their way to a leading platform. The events will be streamed, and highlights packages available, on the Sky Sport Next YouTube channel. Some content will be broadcast on Sky Sport, Sky's sport streaming service Sky Sport Now, and Sky's free-to-air channel Prime.

In line with Sky's commitment to support women in sport, Sky aims to have an equal mix of male and female representation on Sky Sport Next. Sky Chief Executive Martin Stewart says: "As the Home of Sport in New Zealand, we're about the whole game, which means all levels of sport – from grassroots to the elite. We're keen to support all the sports that New Zealanders love to play and watch.

Rob Waddell says: "On behalf of the New Zealand Sport Collective, we are thrilled to be working with Sky on Sky Sport Next. The scale of our collaboration is unprecedented, and many sports that previously had little in the way of funding and exposure will now be seen on New Zealand's most prominent sports broadcaster. Together we want to inspire more Kiwis to play sport, and work with sports codes to reduce the barriers for young people to participate. It's an exciting era for New Zealand sport."

To find out more about Sky Sport Next click on [skysportnext.co.nz](https://www.skysportnext.co.nz)

Club News

Heretaunga GC Singles Tournament

By Colleen Stephens

The annual Golf Croquet Singles Tournament sponsored by YUMMY Fruit Co. was held from 28th - 29th September at the Heretaunga Croquet Club. There were 13 entries in the Open Singles and two sections of eight in the Handicap Singles. Entries were received from Heretaunga, Marewa, Barry Memorial (Gisborne) Hawera and Nelson, with several of the competitors competing in their first tournament. It was particularly welcome to have six from Barrie Memorial (Gisborne) - two regulars and four new competitors. It was also great to see three of the Heretaunga juniors competing, Zedina Sedgwick, Thomas Monteith and Oliver Brown. Other regulars included Jace Hobbs from Nelson, Leila Martin from Hawera and Lynette Grant (Marewa).

Carrying on a family tradition were 3 generations in the Stephens family - Tony, Sonya & Zedina. The tournament was smoothly managed by Colin & Sheila Hurst, the lawns were in pristine condition and the catering was superb.



OPEN WINNERS L to R: Sonya Sedgwick 2nd, Tony Stephens (both Heretaunga) 1st, Jace Hobbs (Nelson) 3rd



HANDICAP WINNERS: L to R: Bob Johnson (Heretaunga) 3rd, Jenny Burns Graham (Barry Memorial) 2nd, Per Elzen (Barry Memorial) 1st, Jenny Greig (Heretaunga) 4th.

South Island Croquet Masters

By Audrey Leath

In October 2018, Sport Tasman, who were to organise the 2019 South Island Master's Games in Nelson, made the decision not to run the games in Nelson in October 2019.

After some discussion, Kevin McGlinchy from Timaru, and Wayne Wooff from Riwaka, decided that as the South Island Master's Games were not going ahead, they would try to organise a standalone croquet

event in Nelson as a replacement, so that the impetus of the games would not be lost.

Unfortunately, the tournament could not be held in Nelson, so the decision was made to hold it in Timaru, with Kevin as the organiser.

Entry forms went out in late June, and by the end of July over 100 entries had been received. With an entry limit of 96 for the golf croquet singles, many later entries had to be declined, but most of those still entered the doubles. Total entry numbers were 180, with the breakdown as follows:-

GC Singles	96	GC Doubles	74 pairs
AC Singles	28	AC Doubles	16 pairs

Players came from Invercargill, Winton and Gore in the south, to Blenheim and Richmond in the north, and from as far west as Wanaka. Good entries were received from South Canterbury clubs, Christchurch clubs, and from Akaroa.

Golf croquet was played at the three Timaru clubs, Aorangi, Ashbury, and West End. The association croquet was played at Aorangi and Ashbury.

The week-long tournament was a great success, with nearly everyone saying that they would be back next year, when the tournament will be run as part of The South Island Masters Games in Timaru. If the large number of entries continues next year, we are considering playing some golf croquet sections at Geraldine (35 mins from Timaru). This would enable us to increase the golf croquet singles entries to 128.

We organised combined meals out on two nights with almost 100 at the Tuesday evening meal. A thoroughly enjoyable week.



Croquet Matters - November 2019