



CROQUET MATTERS

DECEMBER 2019

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President's Corner



Wishing you all the best over the summer season. Embrace the moment and enjoy celebrations that come your way.

Preparations are ongoing in readiness for the Golf Croquet World Team Championship to be held by Croquet Nelson at Nelson

Hinemoa Croquet Club. The website <https://www.sporty.co.nz/gcworldteamsnelson2020>

contains details of the team members and the event, and is well worth a look.

I was privileged to attend the 100th year celebration of Te Aroha Croquet Club. They have a croquet lawn that precedes the formation of the club by several decades. It is alleged to be the oldest lawn in New Zealand. Tracing back stories, it appears to have been formed about the time Alice in Wonderland was written.

I have had the fun of watching outstanding displays of golf croquet at the National competitions in Auckland. Our younger players are the envy of other countries. Well done all competitors for an outstanding exhibition of golf croquet.

Travel safely all those who are on the move and wishing everyone a lovely festive season.

Kathie Grant

Tournament Results

CNZ GC National Doubles Championship

1st Josh Winter and Chris Clarke
 2nd Duncan Dixon and Felix Webby
 Plate John Christie and Nelson Morrow

CNZ GC National Singles Championship

1st Logan McCorkindale
 2nd Edmund Fordyce
 Plate Robbie Spooner

CNZ GC 3+ Singles Championship

1st Ali'I Posimani
 2nd Joel Steele
 Plate Vienna van Heeswyck

Upcoming CNZ Tournaments

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](#)

14th March - 15th March 2020

[Don Reyland Stars National Final at Rose Gardens CC](#)

Click on the links for more information or 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 National GC Championship

CNZ National GC Doubles Championship

It was the combination of youth and experience that reigned supreme over the weekend during the doubles portion of the 2019-20 Golf Croquet Nationals.

The Canterbury pair of Josh Winter and Chris Clarke defeated Duncan Dixon (Canterbury) and Felix Webby (Taranaki) to claim the 2019-20 crown at Epsom-Remuera Croquet Club in Auckland.

Winter, who won the 2019 Golf Croquet Most Promising Player, paired with Clarke, who has won

multiple World Championships, to form a pairing that went through the tournament undefeated.

After winning all five block matches, Winter and Clarke advanced to the semi-finals where they played Hamish McIntosh (Auckland) and Robbie Spooner (Wellington), advancing in straight games 7-5, 7-3.



Josh Winter and Chris Clarke

The other semi-final saw pairings from the NZ entry for the Golf Croquet World Team Championship square off against each other. With Dixon and Webby beating teammates Edmund Fordyce and Josh Freeth, both of Canterbury, in three games 7-6, 5-7, 7-2.

Having beaten Dixon and Webby in block play, 7-5, 4-7, 7-5, Winter and Clarke again took three games to claim the 2019-20 title with a 7-4, 4-7, 7-6 win.

The Plate was won by John Christie (Thames Valley) and Nelson Morrow (Auckland), who won 6 of their 7 games in the Plate block.

To see the full results from the doubles click [here](#).

CNZ National GC Singles Championship

After completion of the Doubles Championship, Epsom-Remuera played host to 22 players all vying to be crowned the 2019-20 Golf Croquet Nationals Champion. With two blocks of 11, each player had ten best of 3 game matches to try and qualify for the quarter-finals.

In the Black Block, it was the North Island GC Champion, Hamish McIntosh (Auckland), who set the standard winning all 10 of his matches. Josh Freeth (Canterbury) and Logan McCorkindale (South Canterbury) both advanced with 8 match wins, while Felix Webby (Taranaki) secured the final qualification spot with 7 match wins.

In the Yellow Block, it was 8-time champion, Duncan Dixon (Canterbury), who went undefeated with 10 match wins to qualify top. Josh Winter (Canterbury), coming off his doubles victory earlier in the week, qualified second with 8 match wins. Edmund Fordyce and Chris Spittal, both of South Canterbury, each secured 7 wins to also qualify.

Spittal was able to topple McIntosh in the quarter-final 7-4, 7-2 to set up a semi-final with McCorkindale who took three games to beat Winer 7-5, 6-7, 7-4. The other quarter-finals saw the GCWTC team go up against each other. Fordyce, the defending champion, defeated Freeth 7-3, 2-7, 7-4, to set up a semi-final against Dixon who defeated Webby 7-4, 2-7, 7-6.



CNZ GC Champion, Logan McCorkindale

Both semi-finals were won in straight games, with McCorkindale winning 7-3, 7-4 and Fordyce winning 7-6, 7-5.

The final between McCorkindale and Fordyce was a best of five games match which required all five games to get a result. After Fordyce won the first 7-3, McCorkindale won the next two 7-4, 7-4 to be on the verge of his maiden GC Nationals crown. However, as he did when he won the World U21 crown early this year, Fordyce fought back in the fourth to win 7-6 and force a 5th and deciding game. McCorkindale prevailed 7-5, winning the match 3-2 and becoming the 9th player to win the GC Nationals Singles title since its inception in 1999.

In the plate final, it was an all-Wellington affair with Robbie Spooner beating Nathan Bullen in a single 19-point game 10-7.

For the full set of results click [here](#).



Kathie Grant presents Robbie Spooner with the Plate

Ode to the GC National Championships

Written by Jean Tafa, a Roving Referee at the CNZ Singles at 8am

(Coached by W. Wordsworth)

Earth has not anything to show more fair
Dull would she be of soul who could pass by
A sight so touching in its tranquillity
This Green now, doth like a garment, wear
The expectation of the morning, silent, bare.

The lawns are mown, the hoops are turned
Blue ice-cream buckets guard the pegs,
Bright coloured balls await their fate – the mallets
Of the Players yet to come.

And come they do, all twenty-two
Excited and alert,
While Ghosts of past all dressed in white
Look on with mouths agape,
They're young! they're all male, but one!
And dressed in black!

What the future holds – who knows,
But in this moment our future is looking bright.

CNZ National GC 3+ Championship

A field of 18 enthusiastic players were entered into the 3+ championship which was played at Howick CC in East Auckland under the eagle eye of tournament manager Greg Bryant.

Tournament format was two American blocks of 9 played as single games, with the top 4 from each block progressing to a best of three games knock out.

In Block 1, Joel Steele led the way winning all 8 of his matches. Also qualifying from Block 1 were Myles Duggan, Flynn Moses-Jones and Claire Horncastle.

Ali'i Posimani topped block 2 with 7 wins, followed by Stephen Turner, Gaylene Jones and Patricia Lester.

The remaining 10 players went into an American block plate event played as single games. Winner of the Plate was Vienna van Heeswyck winning 8 of her 9 games, with Isobelle-Alan Ward runner up with 7 wins.

In the championship knockout, both of the eventual finalists had a tough opening match. At the top of the draw, Joel Steele lost his opening game against Patricia Lester, but in a tight tussle eventually came through 5-7, 7-6, 7-5. In the bottom half of the draw Ali'i Posimani also lost the opening game against Claire Horncastle but prevailed 5-7, 7-3, 7-5.

In the semi-finals Steele and Posimani both won in straight games to set up a tight final. Steele narrowly won the first game 7-6, however Posimani came back strongly, winning the second game 7-3 to level the match. There was then a very close deciding game for the championship which Posimani won at the 13th hoop 7-6 to take his first CNZ National title.

For full results please click [here](#).

Club News

Te Aroha Croquet Club Celebrations

Alice thought she had never seen such a curious croquet ground in her life: it was all ridges and furrows: the balls were live hedgehogs, and the mallets live flamingos, and the soldiers had to double themselves up and stand on their hands and feet to make arches.

(Lewis Carroll, Alice in Wonderland. 1865)

About this time, Te Aroha must have been thinking about developing their own club. The New Zealand Herald certainly advertised croquet equipment for sale and spoke about the lady's lovely ankles at this time.

Here was a game that could be played by both men and women. Some people found fault with this as it fostered flirtation. Disappearing into the bushes to look for a ball was much frowned upon and put the game into disrepute. The way croquet was played those days was very similar to the way gateball is played today.

To take croquet, one put the two balls together and the player put their foot on their ball, so it didn't move. They hit their ball and sent the other ball to a desired spot. This required showing an ankle. It was very brazen. No wonder the rules got changed.

In Te Aroha, the Government Tourist department controlled and provided direction for the game of croquet for well over a decade, possibly two decades. This was before the national body of Croquet New Zealand came into existence.



Unveiling of the Photo Plaque

Te Aroha, or perhaps Waiorongamai which preceded Te Aroha as a town, has a history of forward thinking. Finding gold, building and controlling hydro-electricity early in the town's life, actively taking an interest in community and showing leadership in all areas not only benefitted the town during the following century but provided croquet players who were able to get their minds around the complex game of croquet with opportunities for their leadership skills. This leadership clearly continues through to the current day.



Cutting the Cake

Enid Forrest who used to be an association handicapper for this area told me of a tournament she played here one time.

There were over eighty entries, no time limits and everyone was expected to be available when required for their game. A player could wait two or three days for a game. I think we live in a much more impatient world now.

Te Aroha council continue to support croquet by taking an interest in how they can assist the club and by leasing the grounds to the club which enables people of all ages and abilities to play a sport. For several years, one player Toby Robinson refereed tournaments zooming around on his mobility scooter to reach the spot needed for a judgement call.

I would like to congratulate Te Aroha Croquet Club on their tenacity in maintaining an active club for well over a century. They have moved with the times, adopting and adapting play to meet the needs of the community. Thank you, Te Aroha.

This speech was given by CNZ President Kathie Grant at the formal celebration of the 100th anniversary of Te Aroha Croquet Club. To learn more about their very interesting history and origins, click [here](#) for the link to the article in September's Croquet Matters.

Te Awamutu CC

Submitted by Jocelyn Dawkins

When Joy Morgan, one of our Te Awamutu Croquet Club members passed away last year, her family wanted to have a memorial plaque placed on the back of a chair at our club. Joy played the AC and GC games and was our treasurer for many years. The wording the family chose was so appropriate for croquet and had brought a smile to many faces, that it was suggested we share it through Croquet Matters. The family are happy for it to be published.



Youngsters making a promising start

Macy Wheeler (13) and Jameelah Warner-Morris (14) came second in their section at the Hamilton East's GC doubles, held in November. Macy is the grand-daughter of Hamilton East's player Vanessa Hanna and Jameelah is the grand-daughter of Paul Warner from Morrinsville.

Both players have only been playing this year and this was Macy's first tournament. They won 4 out of their five games.



Future women's champions?

A Final Note from the Editor

Signing off now. Thank you to everyone for their support, including John Yarrall and Jake, and to those who have submitted articles and photos – they have made compiling each edition so much easier. Please send your future news items and snippets of interest to Jake at croquet@croquet.org.nz.

Have a lovely Christmas and continue enjoying your croquet. Best wishes to the NZ team, and all the visiting teams, in the forthcoming Golf Croquet World Team championship (6th – 12th January 2020) - Nelson Hinemoa Croquet Club is looking fabulous and the croquet will be a real feast.

Regards, Jackie

Footnote – What Teamwork Means!



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