



# CROQUET MATTERS

# JANUARY 2020

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## Note from the Editor

Welcome to the first Croquet Matters of the new Decade! After a very successful tenure as editor, Jackie Tye has resigned from her position. I hope we can continue to maintain the excellent standard she set moving forward. Nevertheless, enjoy the first edition of 2020!

Regards, Jake

## President’s Corner



Greetings,

What a tremendous experience to watch the Kiwi Team win the David Openshaw Shield. How wonderful it was to be able to share the finals with a large audience thanks to Sky Sport Next.

Nelson-Hinemoa Club drew on a large pool of volunteers ensuring the whole event ran smoothly. A working bee the day following play included the removal of ball stop hosing and net fencing which was used to protect spectators and cars from balls jumping barriers and projecting forward. Extra protective fencing and the necessary port-a-loo were waved farewell. Well done everyone who contributed and worked together to assist the players in this prestigious event. It was good to see the lawns were still in good condition at the end of the event. Good lawn maintenance and knowledge is a valuable asset to any club.

Wishing you an enjoyable croquet time, whether competing or playing socially. Now is the time of the year when we are most able to have fun on the lawns.

A quote from Australia – “The NZ players are so good because the lawns are so good.”

**Kathie Grant**

## Tournament Results

### CNZ NZ Open Doubles Championships

1<sup>st</sup> Edmund Fordyce and Greg Bryant  
2<sup>nd</sup> Jace Hobbs and Dennis Bulloch  
Plate Chris Shilling and Robbie Spooner

### CNZ NZ Open Singles Championship

1<sup>st</sup> Aiken Hakes  
2<sup>nd</sup> Edmund Fordyce  
Bronze Medal Harps Tahurangi  
Plate Ali'i Posimani

## Upcoming CNZ Tournaments

**5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

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

**21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2020**

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

**28<sup>th</sup> February – 1<sup>st</sup> March 2020**

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

**14<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

[Don Reyland Stars Tournament at Rose Gardens CC, Palmerston North](#)

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 GC Invitations? If so, you can register your interest through the online registration portal now. Click [here](#) to register.

Registrations for the GC Invitations will close on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2020

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

Congratulations to Cindy Clarke (Bay of Plenty), Dallas Cooke (Bay of Plenty), Bonnie Johnstone (South Taranaki), Susan Leuchars (Wellington), Baubere Murray (Wellington), Carissa Price (Manawatu-Wanganui), Heather Richardson (Waikato-King Country), Alison Robinson (Wellington), Eleanor Ross

(Nelson) and Sonya Sedgwick (Hawkes Bay) on their selection to the Women's AC Invitation.

Invites for the AC Invitations will be sent to players shortly.

## 2020 Golf Croquet World Team Championship

The New Zealand team featuring Captain, Felix Webby (Taranaki), Duncan Dixon (Canterbury), Edmund Fordyce (Canterbury), Josh Freeth



*From L-R J.Freeth, D.Dixon, F.Webby(C), E.Fordyce and P.Drew(Manager)*

(Canterbury) and Manager, Phil Drew (Auckland) descended on Nelson to take on the best in the world and to defend the title New Zealand won in 2016.

Drawing a tough Block, the New Zealand team looked sharp, comfortably beating Australia (5-1), Ireland (6-0) and England (5-1) on their way to topping Block B. Such was their dominance, the New Zealand

team went 27 games between losses.

England were able to secure 2 wins, beating Ireland 5-1 and Australia 4-2, to join New Zealand in advancing from Block B.

Block A saw the inaugural tournament winners, Egypt, go undefeated beating South Africa (4-2), Sweden (6-0) and USA (4-2) to advance top of Block A. USA secured wins over Sweden (6-0) and South Africa (4-2) to advance to the semi-finals.

The semi-finals could not have been more contrasting. Egypt easily accounted for England, securing their place in the Final early on the second morning of the Test with the score at 7-1. The final score in that semi-final was 12-1.

New Zealand and USA had a much tighter semi-final which New Zealand eventually won 7-6 to book their place in the final. This ensured that it remained only New Zealand and Egypt that had contested the final for the Shields third challenge.

Day 1 of the final saw a tense battle. After splitting the doubles in the morning session, Egypt looked to claim control winning two of the first three singles matches to be completed. After a long day, the match tied at 1-1, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> game tied at 4-4, poor light resulted in the match between Webby and Amr Alebiary being pegged down.

Day 2 again saw a tight contest in the morning matches. After 5 hours, Egypt claimed the doubles match 2-1 to restore their lead in the Test match at 4-3 after Freeth had earlier tied it up after winning the first singles match of the day. From there, it was all New Zealand, winning the next 4 singles matches to claim a 7-4 Test Match win and successfully defend the Opensaw Trophy.

## CNZ NZ Open Championships

The New Zealand Open Championships returned to Wellington from 18<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> January as 16 pairs and 32 individuals vied to be crowned the 2019-20 NZ Open Champions.

Doubles got the tournament underway with block play which saw 4 pairs in each block and the top two advancing to the knockout stage.

Semi-Final 1 saw three of New Zealand's GCWTC winning team with Felix Webby (Taranaki) and Josh Freeth (Canterbury) taking on Edmund Fordyce (Canterbury) and his experienced AC partner, Greg Bryant (West Coast). Fordyce and Bryant would reach the final with a 26-9, 26-2 victory.



*G.Bryant & E.Fordyce - 2019-20 NZ Open  
Doubles Champions*

They were joined in the final by fellow block A pair of Dennis Bulloch (Manawatu-Wanganui) and Jace Hobbs (Nelson) who beat Steve Jones and Andre Murray, both from Manawatu-Wanganui, 26-12, 26-22 in the other Semi-Final.

Fordyce and Bryant remained undefeated in the tournament winning the final in straight games, 26-22, 26-9.

Chris Shilling (Otago) and Robbie Spooner (Wellington) claimed the Plate.

The singles final was contested between Fordyce and Aiken Hakes (Wellington). Fordyce was looking to add another trophy to the cabinet after an already impressive year which includes the GC U21 World Title, the GC World Teams Title and making the final of every event he has contested. While Hakes was making his third appearance in the final and was looking to secure his second title.



*A.Hakes - 2019-20 NZ Open  
Singles Champion*

After splitting the first two games, Hakes finally secured his second title with a 0-26, 26TP-0, 26-10.

Wellington Municipal Croquet Club members secured all the major singles titles with Harps Tahurangi beating Michael Wright 26-20, 13-26, 26-13 for the Bronze Medal while Ali'i Posimani secured the Heenan Plate in his first major AC tournament with a 26-18, 13-26, 26-16 win over Anthony Ritchie (Otago). Posimani was also awarded the Charles Jones Memorial Salver for the best performance by a player with a handicap of scratch or higher having started the tournament as a 9.



## Sky Sport Next Live Streaming

The 2020 Golf Croquet World Team Championship saw Croquet feature on the new platform, Sky Sport Next, for the first time. This platform enabled viewers from Great Britain, Australia, Egypt, USA as well as from around New Zealand to be able to watch the Final. With 5670 unique views and a total of 16,658 views, we are excited about what this platform can provide for croquet!



*Commentary Team of Hamish McIntosh and Jarrod Coutts in action during the GCWTC Final*

If you were unable to see any of the final, be sure to check it out. Simply follow the links below:

[GCWTC Final – Day 1](#)

[GCWTC Final – Day 2](#)

[GCWTC Final - Highlights](#)

## New Website Page

One comment that gets made often is “why isn’t croquet in the news more”. Could croquet get more coverage? Probably. Does croquet deserve more coverage? Absolutely!

But there are articles out there! So, to help get croquet in the news to people we have established a new page “Croquet in the News” on our website where articles that feature croquet will be posted.

While we will do our best to notice any news articles to keep the page updated. If you see any articles, please send the link to [croquet@croquet.org.nz](mailto:croquet@croquet.org.nz) so that this page can be a hub for all croquet news articles.

## Club News

### Triton Tournament

From 11 to 16 January, the Rose Gardens Croquet Club hosted the 31st Triton Hearing Tournament on their lawns in the Esplanade. With seven events over six days, and drawing players from around New Zealand, this is one of New Zealand's larger Association Croquet Club Tournaments.

The weekend was fine and saw a good start to the tournament with the completion of the doubles events. Local players did well, with players from Rose Gardens featuring among the winners. In the Open Doubles event, last year’s winners, Steve Jones (Rangatira) and André Murray of Rose Gardens, were unable to repeat their win, finishing runners up to Dennis Bulloch, also Rose Gardens, and Jace Hobbs of Nelson. This is the first time in four years that Murray’s name hasn’t appeared on the trophy. In the Handicap Doubles event, local players, Nicholas Flood and Neil Stantiall went through unbeaten to take the trophy with Vince Neall and Jeremy Neild, also from Rose Gardens, in second place.



*Nicholas Flood in action during the Triton Hearing Tournament*

Monday and Tuesday were taken up with the Open and Scratch+ Singles, with some top players participating. Unfortunately, on Monday morning, rain brought waterlogged lawns and interrupted play, after the first round, with one game being pegged down to be completed the next day, along with the rest of the games. Fortunately, Tuesday was fine and, after some rearrangement of the draw, the two events were completed. Bulloch followed up his success in the weekend’s doubles by beating last year’s winner, Steve Jones, 26-16 in the final of the Open Singles. In the Scratch plus singles, young Flood

played better than his handicap would indicate, winning all his section games and qualifying for the final. However, experience told here, and he went down 15-9 to Carey Johnstone of South Taranaki.

Wednesday and Thursday were taken up with three events for the higher handicap players. Local teenager, Paul Kaiser was outstanding in the 4+ event, winning all his games to carry off the trophy. Also from Rose Gardens, Vince Neall came second on a countback from Flood (in his third event of the tournament) and Stewart Pye of Wairarapa. The 9+ event culminated in a final between June Saunders-Francis of Wellington and Gary Engelen of South Taranaki, Engelen winning 26-3. Two local players, Neil Stantiall and Jeremy Neild battled it out in the 14+ Handicap event, finishing with five wins each, Stantiall the winner with a much superior net hoop count.



*Dennis Bulloch in action at the Triton Hearing Tournament.*

It was a very successful tournament, particularly for the host club, Rose Gardens members winning five of the seven events. In particular, Bulloch and Stantiall had two wins each, Flood, a win and a second place, and Neall and Neild, two second places each.