

# CNZ Player and Manager Feedback

Dear all,

The CNZ Tournament Committee has decided to continue last year's policy of sharing the feedback received after each CNZ event and to comment on what changes, if any, they plan to review for events held in following seasons.

**Event:** 2019/20 NZ Open Championship

**Venue:** Kelburn Croquet Club, Wellington Croquet Club

**Manager:** Tom Berryman

The table below shows the feedback scores for each question together with how this compares to the average for all CNZ events last season.

NZ Open									
	Str Dis	Dis	OK	Agree	Str Ag	Total	Weighted Avg	CNZ Avg 2018/19	NZ Open 18/19
Format	0	2	0	8	7	17	4.18	4.24	4.01
Number of Games	0	1	0	6	10	17	4.47	4.22	4.17
Manager	0	0	0	5	12	17	4.71	4.47	4.48
Lawns	0	0	1	4	12	17	4.65	4.07	3.95
Likely to attend this tournament again?	0	0	4	5	7	16	4.19	4.25	4.22
Likely to attend tournament in this location again?	0	0	1	6	9	16	4.50	4.19	4.10
<b>Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>4.45</b>	4.24	4.16

## Response to feedback

### Format - the following feedback was received

- *Bo5 should of been used from quarters onwards. More plate games in the latter stages could of come over to Kelburn. The tournament had no atmosphere.*
- *I would prefer a straight knock out rather than blocks. I do NOT like the 'Players Choice' draw as it introduces tactical option which are inappropriate*
- *Odd order of singles block play. My block top 4 played each other 1*

### **CNZ TC Response**

Use of best-of-5 from the quarters onwards is at the discretion of the manager. This can be appropriate if playing conditions warrant it. However, only 4 TPs were completed in the 17 games played from the quarter finals onwards (by only two different players) which indicates that best-of-3 games was probably appropriate for the conditions.

The majority of respondents are happy with the format used in the event. Straight knockout has not been used in this event for decades and we are not looking to reintroduce it. Player Choice method has been in place for a number of years now, and generally receives very positive feedback.

Block playing order is not random and is played so that games which are likely to determine the marginal qualification places, i.e. between #4 and #5 in the blocks, are completed on the final day of the block.

### **Number of games per day – the following feedback was received**

- *Last day of blocks should of played 4 rounds to complete the blocks*

### **CNZ TC Response**

This may not have been possible in the conditions, given 3 hour games, if games went to time.

### **Lawns – the following feedback was received**

- *lawns are unnaturally fast, unhealthfully fast, should be slower*
- *best condition I've seen Kelburn in 15 years of playing. Well done.*

### **CNZ TC Response**

The vast majority of feedback on the lawns was positive – thanks to Kelburn and Wellington for providing top quality lawns for NZ's premier event.

As NZ's premier event in the croquet calendar, the purpose is to find the best player. Deliberately providing slower lawns does not fit this goal.

### **Manager - the following feedback was received.**

- *Tom Berryman was on top of everything and things ran very smoothly*

### **CNZ TC Response**

Thanks to Tom for managing the event and receiving excellent feedback in the process.

### **Other feedback**

- *This was great fun*
- *The catering at both clubs was excellent*
- *I do feel the tournament has become too long with the number of players attending. I think it could be reduced to 7 days. or 8 maximum.*
- *How come the prize money for winning has decreased from \$600 to \$300 in the space of 3 years?*
- *A well managed tournament with excellent lawns and facilities. Very enjoyable.*

- *Slightly concerned that the semi and final were not played as best of 5. I think they could have been*
- *In the doubles plate I would have preferred to have semi-finals rather than a straight playoff between block winners*
- *It was an unfortunate circumstance to have different batches of Dawson Balls at the two venues. Significant playing characteristics were detrimental for players. Missing trophies and badges is an embarrassing and unacceptable practice. Systems must be established and maintained to ensure players are fully recognized for their achievements at the event. The improved playing conditions particularly at Kelburn were very impressive. Although very good, Wellington was a little too patchy / 2-paced. Great lawn speeds overall. Safety was a concern at the Kelburn venue, particularly along the clubhouse side of lawns 1 & 2. Ball stops along that side and the Eastern and Western ends of the venue were insufficient / non-existent. Considerable time spent searching for croquet balls and on more than one occasion retrieved from Salimanca Road*
- *I think we need leadership in feeding our players healthful food. There are too many sweets, desserts that are just not on any sports menu.*
- *It was a great tournament in every respect*
- *On Monday, the last day of doubles, 1 game for the whole day is not a lot considering the cost of staying around. would be good to have a semi and finale in the plate for example to extend to 2 games a day and still leave lawn time for people to practise for singles...*
- *Family accommodation. Much easier to get to from Dunedin compared with Tauranga*
- *It's the premier event in NZ and I live in Wellington.*

### **CNZ TC Response**

CNZ has been running at a loss for several years, and so prize money was reduced in order to mitigate this.

The event this year had an excellent entry of 32 players and in order to accommodate both a full doubles and singles event, 7 days would not be sufficient.

It is unfortunate that the new Dawson balls have different playing characteristics. These new balls are sold under the same make/model as the old ones and so are difficult to distinguish physically. This has become apparent recently and CNZ is aware of the situation.

Thank you for the feedback on the plate doubles format – this will be noted for future years.

If you would like to provide further feedback in order to help future events, please email [croquet@croquet.org.nz](mailto:croquet@croquet.org.nz)

CNZ Tournament Committee