



CROQUET MATTERS

MAY 2020

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President’s Corner



Greetings,

It is pleasing to hear so many of you are keeping well during this tense period as we work towards a new normal.

It is great that so many clubs have been able to open their lawns and put in place effective health and safety procedures to prevent the spread of Covid-19. One person told me that the requirement for social distancing has led to calmer and quieter play.

On another front, I am also very pleased to hear that many delayed operations are now taking place or are scheduled in the next little while. This will no doubt relieve those players from a heap of pain and I wish all concerned speedy recoveries.

The lockdown has been a time when many longstanding home projects have been tackled, some of which have been on the ‘to-do’ list for decades. It must feel very satisfying to have those jobs completed. Mind you, I have to admit that I am not sure I am entirely suited to a life of domesticity and cooking, though in this lockdown I have managed to achieve much that is very satisfying. Someone said to me that lockdown was great for getting projects done and there should be one every year. I think once in a lifetime is enough for me!

There has been a lot of information released as we moved from Alert level 3 to Alert level 2 and Jake has done a really wonderful job sending out information to the Associations. Hopefully, your clubs will be able to use this information and to make appropriate decisions.

All the best to everyone.

Kathie

Executive Director Update

What an amazing job New Zealand has done as a nation! With more and more days of zero cases, we are beginning to see the rewards of our swift actions against Covid-19.

As mentioned last month, Covid-19 has not halted our work here at Croquet New Zealand. We continue to operate to ensure croquet is poised to thrive as we emerge from the worst elements of this pandemic.

Croquet New Zealand appreciates that everyone is eager to return to playing, however the message from Sport NZ, and which we have relayed to

Associations, is to not rush this process. It is important that we understand the guidelines and can ensure our clubs are clean and safe to return to. I know some clubs have returned to play already, for those that are still working through their procedures to restart, I am sure it is not far away!

As for CNZ tournaments, we are still working through the mechanics of how these can be managed safely. In March, we announced that to return to CNZ tournaments, the Alert Level would need to be 0. As the country has de-escalated through the Alert Levels, the descriptors and definitions of each of the levels have been updated and revised. It now looks like safe play might be able to occur under Alert Level 1. We are currently reviewing this process and will make an announcement on when and how CNZ Tournaments will resume shortly.

Trans-Tasman

The Trans-Tasman rivalry is one that has produced many memorable moments across a number of sports; from the underarm incident to having a stranglehold on the Bledisloe Cup since 2002.

Croquet became a part of this history in 1988 and there have been 18 series since. Showing the comparative strength of the two nations, the series is currently split 10-8 in favour of New Zealand.

In more recent times, with the proliferation of international tournaments and the success of our youth development programme, questions have arisen about the benefits of the series in its current format, which also happens to be quite expensive.

Over many years, CNZ has explored with the Australians different options to ensure that the Trans-Tasman remains a relevant aspect of our croquet calendar and also to prudently manage costs. Unfortunately, no mutual ground could be found with Australia who have repeatedly resisted any change to the current format.

During the May Executive meeting, the decision to withdraw from the Trans-Tasman was made. While the decision will no doubt be disappointing to some, it's continuation in an unchanged format was just not sustainable. We are excited for the future of croquet in New Zealand and hope to announce the programme replacing the developmental aspect of the Trans-Tasman towards the end of 2020.

Support for the Sector

Enough cannot be said for the excellent support and advocacy Sport New Zealand have provided for the sector as we have all tried to navigate the impacts of Covid-19.

Their transparency and timely information has enabled CNZ to pass this information onto Associations in a timely manner.

Along with this support, Sport New Zealand have also put together a \$25million relief package, details of which they released on the 7th of May. This package was split into 4 categories with the first being the \$15million Community Resilience Fund to support regional and local organisations which are struggling with the fixed costs due to the impacts of Covid-19. If you are interested in learning more about this fund, click [here](#).

In addition to this initial support fund, the sector received \$265million in the Government's 2020 Budget. This commitment to the Play, Active Recreation and Sport sector highlights the important role the sector plays in our society and that we will be at the forefront as our nation recovers.

The total amount will be spread over 4 years and will target three key areas; Rebuild & Reset, Strengthen & Adapt and Different & Better.

These key areas will look to support the sector in the immediate future while also providing a unique opportunity to shape how the sector could look moving forward.

More information on the budget release can be found [here](#).

World Championships

Throughout the Covid-19 Pandemic, sporting events have been affected at all levels; from community through to professional.

With international travel currently limited, and restrictions on group sizes, the WCF have announced that all WCF World Championships will be postponed by one year.

The full WCF announcement can be found on their website, [here](#).

Home Advantage

Your mental skills training continues with Hamish McIntosh as episode three is now available. These can be watched on the Sky Sport Next channel on YouTube or by clicking the links below.

[Episode 1](#) – Power of the mind

[Episode 2](#) - Visualisation

[Episode 3](#) – Improve your concentration