



CROQUET MATTERS

JUNE 2020

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President’s Corner



Isn't it great to be able to play croquet again? Back in March I didn't think we would get back on the lawns quite so quickly and I'm glad play has resumed in those parts of the country where the weather has permitted.

CNZ is adjusting the fixtures calendar for the upcoming season to take account of the deferment of the World Croquet Competitions NZ was due to host next summer and which have now been postponed to the 2021-2022 summer. This task is being worked through by the Tournament Committee and I'd like to thank the members of the committee for their dedicated time and work.

Jake and the Executive have reorganised the structure of the AGM with a view to trimming its cost and also to minimise the amount of time people are

required to spend together. The AGM will take place in Wellington but be confined to a single day.

Covid 19 has certainly changed our world. Within New Zealand, croquet has resumed play, albeit under a new normal. We must remain vigilant and aware of any changes that may occur.

Many of you had planned overseas travel and I am sorry that your plans have been thwarted. One way or another this is impacting on many people within NZ. On the other hand, nothing lasts forever so we must remain optimistic that we will manage within the limitations imposed upon us until restrictions are lifted some time down the track.

Given the stormy weather that greets different parts of the country particularly at this time of the year, I hope you are safe. Keep warm and enjoy the games of croquet when you are able to play.

Kathie Grant

Executive Director Update

The past month has been an extremely busy time at the CNZ headquarters as we continue to prepare for next season.

For the past year or so, CNZ was actively working towards developing a new strategic plan for 2020-25. Feedback from Associations and using the findings of the 2019-20 Club Questionnaire was critical to helping determine CNZ's key priorities. The intention was to finalise the new plan in the middle of this year and present it to the 2020 AGM. Then, Covid-19 hit in March. Like every other organisation, CNZ has needed to drastically change how we view our

operations, re-prioritise our work and review the budget to ensure we remain financially viable. We have had to adapt. Accordingly, we have decided to postpone the finalisation of a new 5-year strategy for 2020-2025 in favour of a 1-year [Reorientation Strategy](#). This 1-year strategy focusses on the immediate future and how we, as the national organisation, can support the Associations.

This does not mean we have lost sight of the long-term future of croquet. A new 5-year strategy will continue to be developed for presentation at the 2021 AGM.

2020-21 Tournament Calendar

As mentioned last month, we have been working through the mechanics of how next season might operate safely.

In accordance with the advice and guidance from Sport NZ and others, CNZ is excited to announce that CNZ Tournaments will go ahead as normal under Alert Level 1.

As we have seen just recently, there is still the very real possibility



there will be more cases of Covid-19 in New Zealand. We need to remain vigilant and prepared should another outbreak require New Zealand to ascend back through the Alert Levels. For this reason, the [2020/21 CNZ Tournament Guidelines](#) have been developed.

The postponement of the three world championships originally scheduled to be hosted by New Zealand, has allowed the GC Nationals and NZ Open to be rescheduled in their traditional timeslots in January.

The new dates for these tournaments are:

GC Nationals: 3rd – 10th January 2021

GC 3+: 8th – 10th January 2021

NZ Open: 23rd – 31st January 2021

The updated 2020-21 calendar can be found [here](#).

Home Advantage

We've all heard the quotations:

"At the top level it's the top 2 inches that matter the most.

Sport is 10% physical and 90% mental."

And when it comes to croquet, these quotations are particularly apt. This is because unlike the big three - rugby, football and cricket - our sport is self-paced. This means we don't react to what's happening in front of us, we have time to consider and choose exactly when and how to make a stroke. This in turn means that there can be more opportunities for our minds to get in our own way when we are competing. Whether they know it or not, the best players have the mental skills to ensure that their mind works alongside them, rather than against them.

The content in the Home Advantage Sport Psychology video series is an introduction to some fundamental sport psychology skills. Throughout the videos a model for looking at the world is referred to whereby one's way of interacting with the world can be broken up into thoughts, feelings and actions. Mental skills can target any of these three areas.

[The first video](#) gives an introduction to sport psychology and shows how the way you think about a challenge can change the result you get. [The second video](#) looks at the skill of visualisation or mental rehearsal. This is a technique that multiple world champion Reg Bamford has espoused the benefits of and one that lets you practise anywhere. [The third video](#) introduces the concept of focus and has an exercise to illustrate the importance of knowing what you should focus your attention on to optimise your performance in a particular task. Lastly, against the backdrop of returning to playing sport after lockdown, [the fourth video](#) looks at the effect changing your thoughts can have on your experience of a situation.

These videos were aimed at teenager athletes of any sport in lockdown but provide a starting point for anybody interested in developing their mental skills. For further reading, Pure Sport by Kramer & Moran is a wonderful resource.

- Hamish McIntosh

2020 CNZ Annual General Meeting

Covid-19 has forced many organisations to re-evaluate how they operate and explore possible cost saving measures and Croquet New Zealand is no different. As part of our 2020-21 planning we have explored ways to be financially prudent. As such, the decision has been made for the 2020 AGM to be a one-day event.



The AGM will be held at the Brentwood Hotel, Wellington, on the 10th of October 2020 with the 2019-20 CNZ Awards being announced at the lunch.

Croquet New Zealand Annual Awards

An important aspect of the Croquet New Zealand calendar is the ability to recognise the successes and contributions of our members.

2019-20 will be no different and we are now calling for nominations for the following awards;



- CNZ Player of the Year
- CNZ Most Improved AC Player
- CNZ Most Improved GC Player
- CNZ Volunteer of the Year
- CNZ Contribution to Croquet

More information on the awards and nomination forms can be found [here](#).

WCF Deputy Secretary-General



World Croquet Federation

Stephen Mulliner's term as the WCF Secretary-General expires on the 31st of August 2021. Stephen will have served his maximum term and as such, the WCF are now in the process of ensuring there is a succession plan in place.

The WCF are therefore looking to appoint a Deputy Secretary-General by 1 September 2020 to work closely with Stephen over the final year with the intention that this person would become the Secretary-General and that this year would provide ample time for a thorough hand-over.

If you are interested in this position, we strongly encourage you to read the [role description](#) and contact Stephen for more information.