



CROQUET MATTERS

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President’s Corner

The impact of Covid-19 has many tentacles, reaching and affecting people in different ways.



In March I came to Queensland for a week between tournaments. I was due to return a week later, in time to play in the CNZ invitational events. Three days after I arrived in Queensland, NZ imposed a 14-day isolation period for all people entering the

country. This meant I was not going to be able to play in my next NZ tournament so I stayed in Queensland, hoping that travel restrictions would soon be eased.

Meanwhile, Queensland imposed restrictions preventing all unnecessary travel and shut itself off to other states as well as other countries. Shutting the borders was interesting as the border

between Queensland and NSW meanders through the township of Coolangatta and Tweed Heads. One can accidentally drive into NSW but had I done so I would have needed special papers to come back into Queensland! I would carefully check the map before going to Coolangatta to make sure I didn’t inadvertently cross into NSW and get stuck there. Opening the borders to other states has been fraught with problems.

The lockdown did not change too much about CNZ Executive meetings. We were already using “Zoom-type” meetings well before lockdown so we were adequately prepared when the lockdown started. We had a two-day face-to-face meeting scheduled for May to do some important planning work but, by the time we were due to meet, there was still such a degree of uncertainty we split the agenda items and had several virtual meetings to cover the topics. The Executive postponed major strategic planning until next year and adopted a transitional plan in the interim which is now on the CNZ website.

I have been able to keep up with all CNZ matters as these are dealt with either by phone or electronically. With not being able to play croquet for so long I have not been pulled in two directions and focussed on CNZ administration. I am just beginning to play again but encountering many hiccups on the way.

I hope to return when the promised “Trans-Tasman bubble” happens, but it seems to be receding ever further away.

Enjoy your croquet and make the most of each day.

Kathie Grant

New Zealand Secondary Schools Championships – Coaching Opportunities

CNZ is pleased to announce that the 2020 NZ Secondary Schools Golf Croquet Championship event will be replaced by three regional secondary school team competitions to be held in the Northern, Central and Southern regions this September.

CNZ believes that this year's format provides safer, more accessible pathways for students to reconnect with school and community sport activities for the remainder of 2020. Supporting this opportunity for students is an open invitation for participants to attend CNZ-resourced coaching sessions at the three venues on Sunday 27 September prior to competition. CNZ is inviting Level 1 qualified coaches to register their interest in fulfilling the lead coaching roles at these events!

Tournament entry numbers pending, we envisage opportunities for two (or more) coaches per venue to take up these coaching roles and to gain valuable experience in the youth croquet space. Coaching session guidelines will be provided by CNZ's Greg Bryant along with briefing meetings prior to the event via Zoom or another suitable online meeting platform. The promotion of the secondary school coaching sessions emphasises participation of new players and students who were unable to compete in their regional events due to cancellations earlier this year.

Coaching session content will be most suited to this demographic (games and fun!)—an ideal coaching environment for Level 1 and above coaches to kickstart this season's coaching activity!

Email Greg at admin@croquet.org.nz to join in!

Tournament Entries

CNZ has begun to receive some queries about when the tournament entry portal will be open.

It is great to see that so many people are eager to enter and play in CNZ tournaments again this season.

The online tournament entry form will be updated over the coming weeks with the link being placed on our website once it is ready. The link will also be included in the August edition of Croquet Matters.

In the meantime, you can still plan your [CNZ tournament](#) season by checking when and where each of the tournaments will be held.

Position, Position, Position

For those of you who aim for perfection, take a breath. 80% accuracy may put you in the winning league. Dr Jenny Clarke posted an article in the **Croquet World Online Magazine**, on the 23 May 2020. This system empowers players to identify which skills should be focused on for improvement and take this knowledge into account when making tactical decisions. The link for this article is found here:

<http://www.croquetworld.com/Game/quantifying-golf.asp>

President Kathie Grant writes:

Since receiving Jenny's article, I have been thwarted in my attempt to play GC for various reasons. However, I was able to transfer this analysis to Gateball where I asked a non-player to record the outcome of my strokes, as successful play in Gateball requires several strokes in succession. I found looking at the analysis of my game was very reassuring as I tend to remember the bad strokes and forget about the good play. It was a wonderful boost to my confidence. Confidence is important in croquet as it is a mind game as the recent videos by Hamish McIntosh have illustrated.

I highly recommend this reading for coaches and for players who would like to monitor skills and focus on which areas of play require concentrated practise. Even though they are fun to execute, jump shots don't warrant a lot of practice. Rather, one should concentrate on productive things such as position, position, position.

Handicapping

Croquet New Zealand occasionally receives reports of Clubs or Associations running handicap tournaments where players are forced to play off a lower handicap. This means, for example, that some players who have a handicap of 16, are forced to play off a lower handicap such as a 10.

The handicapping system is designed to ensure that in a handicap game, both players have an equal chance of winning. When a player is forced to play off a lower handicap, it can dramatically tip the scales in favour of the lower handicapper.

Not only does it potentially lead to a less enjoyable experience for the higher handicapper, it also artificially manipulates the handicapping system. By changing the probability of an individual winning, it means individuals are likely to gain or lose index points that they might not have won / lost if everyone was playing on their actual handicaps.

To maintain the integrity of the handicap system, we strongly recommend that players only play in tournaments that allow them to play off their actual handicap.

Manurewa Croquet Club Centenary Celebration

19th June 2021

The club is hoping to put together a booklet of information on our last hundred years and would welcome any stories or pictures, anyone in the croquet community is willing to share with us.

We are also planning two invitation only events: a fun tournament on the morning of the 19th June 2021 and an afternoon Tea to celebrate the occasion. We are interested in hearing from anyone with historical details or wanting to take part in either, or both, of these activities.

Please phone or email Cynthia Bates 09 2682821, 022 4296108, cbates@urbanpartners.co.nz

Croquet Taranaki Referee programme



As a result of a comment made by a delegate at last year's CNZ AGM about the importance of referees at club days, Croquet Taranaki has undertaken a referee training programme. We were pleased

with the number who came forward from our four clubs to participate in workshops conducted by Mavis Brogden. Around a dozen began the course but the COVID19 shutdown prevented some from completing; it is envisaged that more members will qualify during the 2020-21 season.

Of course, COVID also meant the cancellation of end of season tournaments so we have had only one mass turn out when instead of one referee to cover all lawns some out of sight, we had not just a referee on each lawn but a referee for every game! We are now practising our skills on winter club days where members are assisting by regularly asking for guidance, for example, watching iffy shots near hoops.

CT's newly qualified referees are Susan Burgess and Bob Thomas (New Plymouth), Bruce Carter (WestEnd), Bill Heapy and Judy Donnelly (Tasman).



Experienced referees Peter Batchelor and Rex Brogden renewed their qualification with Eileen Judd, South Taranaki's examining referee. The programme has resulted in not just an increase in referees but also an increased awareness of the rules by all members.