



CROQUET MATTERS

NOVEMBER 2020

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Croquet New Zealand Tournaments

November has been a busy month with the first CNZ Tournaments of the year going ahead.

The North and South Island GC Championships were played at Waikanae Croquet Club (Wellington) and Aorangi Croquet Club (South Canterbury) respectively from 5th to 8th November 2020.

The North Island GC saw Paul Kaiser (Manawatu-Wanganui) secure both the Open Singles and the Open Doubles with his partner, Dennis Bulloch (Manawatu-Wanganui).

Down south, Logan McCorkindale defended his South Island GC title going through the event undefeated. While Graeme Simpson (Canterbury) and Suzanne Cleveland (South Canterbury) won the doubles.

For the full article on the GC Island Championships, click [here](#).

The Men's and Women's Championships were contested at the Rose Gardens Croquet Club (Manawatu-Wanganui) over two days.

The participants battled the conditions as well as each other on the Sunday before Heather Richardson and Dennis Bulloch (both from Manawatu-Wanganui) emerged victorious.

For the full article on the Men's and Women's Championship, click [here](#).

Upcoming in December:

[South Island AC Championships hosted by Croquet Nelson from 9th to 13th December 2020.](#)

[North Island AC Championships hosted by Croquet South Taranaki from 9th to 13th December 2020.](#)

Tournament Registration

Upcoming Tournaments:

3rd to 10th January 2021

[CNZ National Golf Croquet Championship](#)

Entries close 17th December 2020.

8th to 10th January 2021

[CNZ 3+ Golf Croquet Championship](#)

Entries close 17th December 2020.

23rd – 31st January 2021

[CNZ New Zealand Open Championships](#)

Entries close 7th January 2021.

To register for any of the Croquet New Zealand tournaments, click [here](#).

REMINDER: Players who are interested in being selected for any of the **CNZ Invitations** in 2020-21 are asked to register their interest by clicking [here](#) and completing the EOI.

Expressions of interest for each of the Invitations will close on the following dates.

Women's Invitation – 13th January 2021

All GC Invitations – 28th January 2021

All other AC Invitations – 1st February 2021

The players selected will be announced on the following dates.

Women's Invitation – 22nd January 2021

All GC Invitations – 14th February 2021

All other AC Invitations – 8th February 2021

Click [here](#) to register your interest.

CNZ Handicap Committee

We are excited to announce that the Handicap Committee has been established.

The Committee includes Clair Horncastle (Canterbury), Allister McGregor (Waikato-King Country), Tony Sullivan (Auckland) and Jim Wardle (Auckland).

They have already begun work reviewing the feedback that has been received on the GC AHS cards.

Stay tuned for more developments!

Croquet on Mt Ruapehu

We are lucky to have so many clubs in New Zealand that have picturesque views that we can enjoy while we play.

But have you ever considered playing from the top of a mountain?

That's exactly what Kristian Reid and Alex Blair set out to do on the 20th of November. Collecting their equipment, the pair set off from the Whakapapa car park to climb to the summit plateau. Climbing to an altitude of 2,600 metres.



Reaching the plateau, they then set up their lawn in the snow and got into the game with Alex emerging the winner.

Check out a couple of videos from their game on our website [here](#).

Have you played a game of croquet with your friends or family in a unique setting? Let us know at croquet@croquet.org.nz.

Club News

The rise and rise of Golf Croquet

Rod Templeman

Some interesting statistics from the World Croquet Federation database suggest that the popularity of Golf Croquet in NZ is mirrored elsewhere in the world. In the 5 years from 2015 to 2019 the number of GC tournaments played has increased by 51%, and tournament participation is up by 41.9%. Sadly, that's not so with AC; in that same period the number of AC tournaments declined by 3.6% and participation therein declined 2.6%.

These past 12 months I have been made aware of disquiet amongst GC players, who suggest that 'their game' doesn't get the attention from CNZ that it deserves. They argue that with only 20% of members listed in the current Year Book having an AC handicap, GC should receive 80% of the focus, particularly since annual GC membership in NZ is increasing at 5%, whereas AC is declining at 10%. I'd like to reassure GC players that CNZ is fully aware of their concern, and that moves are afoot to address the apparent imbalance.

Change will not happen overnight, after all AC was played in 1900 at the Summer Olympics in Paris, whereas the first World GC Tournament only took place in 1996. However, the CNZ Tournament Committee is Chaired by Sonia Sedgwick, one of NZ's Croquet Matters - November 2020

top 5 women GC players, and Gretchen Benvie has already joined the CNZ Laws Committee. Meanwhile CNZ seek GC players to join both the Tournament Committee, and a new Handicap Committee; please contact your regional Association if you are interested to serve.



Premier winner Sabri Mullaaliu (Mt Albert) receiving trophy from Steph Cawte (Ryman Healthcare)

Having watched NZ's young team convincingly win the World GC event, Croquet Auckland decided to actively promote the game for older players. They revamped the outdated GC 'Northern Vets' and, having obtained sponsorship from Ryman Healthcare, renamed it 'The Ryman Golden Grades', taking entries only from those over 65, and playing it on 8 lawns over 3 days (thanks to both hosts, North Shore and Takapuna Croquet Clubs). There were 72 entries, with waiting lists for two of the 4 Grades, and the event was very well managed by Anne Mortimer and Melba Scott.

The results of the GG's, as it is now affectionately known, were as follows;

- Premier Grade singles; Winner Sabri Mullaaliu, RU Nelson Morrow
- Senior Grade singles; Winner Neal Henderson, RU Greg Hall
- Intermediate Grade singles; Winner Sharon Browne, RU Gael Donnelly
- Senior Grade doubles; Winners Sally Cole & Steve

- Field, RU's Dave & Jan Butcher
- Intermediate Grade doubles; Winners Marlyn Young & Sue Brodziak, RU's Brian & Vanessa Morrison
- Primary Grade; Winner David Galvin, RU Maree Brierley

Waikanae Open Golf Croquet Tournament

The Doubles were held on Saturday, the day started off with rain and the competitors got very wet, however thankfully the weather



Doubles winners, Paul Kaiser and Dennis Bulloch

cleared in the afternoon and the tournament finished late in the day with everyone dry. The winners were Paul Kaiser/Dennis Bulloch of the Manawatu Paul is a young rising player and he is well coached by his partner Dennis. Runners Up Robbie Spooner/Harps Tahurangi from Wellington. Robbie is another young player who has already made a name for himself in the Croquet World and Harps his partner is well known in the Croquet World.

Sunday was fine and clear for the Singles Tournament. The winner was Paul Kaiser who won all his games convincingly. The Runner Up was Brian Bullen of Paraparaumu a well-known player who has represented N.Z. Brian also played well just losing the 1 game to Paul. The rest of the field played lots of good croquet and I know they enjoyed the day.

Croquet Manawatu-Wanganui Annual Brighton Mallets Competition

Croquet Manawatu-Wanganui recently held its annual Association Croquet Championship Doubles Event for the Brighton Mallets at Marton Croquet Club. With players partnered on a high-low basis, the winners were Nicholas Flood (Rose Gardens) and Margaret Troup (Levin), the runners up being Malcolm Hutchins (Wanganui) and Neil Stantiall (Rose Gardens).

The Brighton Mallets are gold brooches of considerable historical and monetary value, and have been competed for annually over many years.