



# CROQUET MATTERS

# JANUARY 2021

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## Croquet New Zealand Tournaments

### Golf Croquet Nationals

By Colleen Stephens



*Vienna van Heeswyck in action during the doubles. Photograph Paul Taylor - Hawkes Bay Today*

The Golf Croquet National Championships were competed for at the Heretaunga Croquet Club, Hawkes Bay, from 3-10 January and were managed by Sonya Sedgwick, who was assisted by Neil Armitage.

There were 14 doubles combinations and 27 entries in the singles. The doubles started with two blocks of 7 and there were three

blocks of 9 in the singles. Players came from Thames Valley, Auckland, Manawatu Wanganui, Wellington, Canterbury, Nelson, Hawkes Bay, South Taranaki, South Canterbury and 2 from Northland. There were 16 under-21 players. The doubles included a Mother and Son, Father and Daughter and two brothers. Interesting to note that three Heretaunga players won certificates and one gained 5<sup>th</sup> place in the singles.

The lawns at Heretaunga were top class. Members provided their usual high standard of catering. On the Wednesday evening there was an enjoyable pizza evening. The junior players from the club



*All the place getters at the 2020-21 GC Nationals*

helped prepare salads.

The GC Nationals began with the doubles. In Block A, Paul Kaiser (Manawatu Wanganui) and Robbie Spooner (Wellington) qualified top. The Canterbury duo of Josh Winter and Levi Franks won Block B.

It was the top seeded pairs from each block which would eventually meet in the final. Winter and Franks showed their class in the final, winning the best of 5 match in straight games, 7-5, 7-4, 7-5, to be crowned the 2020-21 CNZ GC Nationals Doubles champions.

The doubles plate was won by Tony Stephens and 15-year-old Thomas Monteith (Heretaunga) and the runners-up were Brian & Jessica Bullen (Wellington).

In the singles, Block A was won by Duncan Dixon (Canterbury), Block B was won by Logan McCorkindale (South Canterbury) and Block C by Josh Winter (Canterbury). In the semi-finals Dixon beat Kaiser and Winter beat McCorkindale.

The final went all the way to the 5th game. After Dixon took the first game, Winter won games 2 and 3 to be within one game of securing his first GC Nationals title. Dixon showed his experience to win game 4 and force the deciding game 5 where he secured his 9th GC title, winning the match 7-6, 6-7, 5-7, 7-1, 7-5.

The singles plate was won by Ian Brown (Hawkes Bay) and the runner-up was Jason Hodgett (South Canterbury).

Each of the games in the GC Nationals Singles final was streamed to the CNZ Facebook page thanks to Sonya Sedgwick. Across the 5 videos, they have been viewed over 3,100 times!

Full scores can be found on Croquet Scores using the link below:

[2020-21 GC Nationals](#)

## CNZ GC 3+ Tournament

16 players converged in Taranaki to contest the CNZ GC 3+ Championship from 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

John Byers (Taranaki) and Claire Horncastle (Canterbury) both won 12 of their 14 games to top Block A and B respectively and qualify for the knock-out stage.

Horncastle advanced to the final after having to fight back from one game down in both the quarter-final and semi-final. She was joined in the final by Byers, who had won his two matches in straight games.

In a tight final, Horncastle emerged victorious, winning in straight games 7-5, 7-6.

Horncastle's win ensured the remarkable feat of all GC titles being contested that week (GC Nationals Singles, Doubles and GC 3+) would be returning to Canterbury.

Full scores can be found on Croquet Scores using the link below:

[2020-21 CNZ 3+](#)

## Tournament Registration

### Upcoming Tournaments:

[The Terminator Mallets U21 GC Championship to be held by Croquet Nelson from Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021.](#)

To register, click [here](#).

## CNZ Invitations

Congratulations to the following players on being selected to compete at the 2021 Women's AC Invitation:

- Janet Boutel (Wellington)
- Cindy Clarke (Bay of Plenty)
- Dallas Cooke (Bay of Plenty)
- Bonnie Johnstone (South Taranaki)
- Susan Leuchars (Wellington)
- Baubre Murray (Wellington)
- Sonya Sedgwick (Hawkes Bay)
- Phyllis Young (Thames Valley)

The Women's AC Invitation will be held at Whakatane Croquet Club from 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

#### Golf Croquet Invitations:

Time is running out to register your interest in being selected for one of the GC Invitations for the 2020-21 season. Expressions of interest for the GC Invitations close on **28<sup>th</sup> January 2021**.

Players selected for the 2021 GC Invitations will be announced by the **14<sup>th</sup> of February**.

#### Association Croquet Invitations:

Expressions of interest for the 2020-21 AC invitations close on the **1<sup>st</sup> February 2021**.

Players selected for the 2021 AC Invitations will be announced by the **8<sup>th</sup> of February**.

To register your interest to be selected for either the GC Invitations, AC Invitations or both, click [here](#).

## Gateball

At the 2020 CNZ AGM, a remit was presented to the Council for Gateball to be administered by CNZ in New Zealand. The proposal to incorporate Gateball under the CNZ umbrella created plenty of interest and discussion. Discussions were focussed on what this may look like and the ramifications it could have on the allocation of CNZ resources. Following this lengthy discussion, the remit proposer opted to withdraw the remit in order for more analysis to be done which would support a future remit.

CNZ is committed to ensuring that we promote, develop and grow the game of croquet in New Zealand and this commitment guides our decision making.

Since the AGM, work had begun to carry out our due diligence on this proposal. CNZ were keen to understand how this could work as many of the people involved in Gateball are also part of the croquet fraternity.

In November 2020, Gateball New Zealand was established which has changed the discussions slightly.

During a social event at the recent GC Nationals, Gateball was played. While it was enjoyed by many who took part, it became apparent through

conversations with different members that there are many differing views on whether CNZ should become the overarching body for Gateball in New Zealand.

If you have any strong feelings, either for or against Gateball becoming part of CNZ, we would like to hear them. Please email this to [croquet@croquet.org.nz](mailto:croquet@croquet.org.nz).

## World Croquet Federation

It has been a busy period for the WCF. You can learn more about what they have been up to in their latest newsletter, [here](#).

## Club News

### Narrow win to Pakuranga over Howick.

The 2020 Golf Croquet Challenge between the two local club Patrons drew a wide community audience of around 70 people on 14 December cheering the performances of Howick Croquet Patron, Sharon Stewart, and Pakuranga Croquet Patron, Simeon Brown.

Howick Croquet hosted this challenge at their Millhouse Reserve lawns, and after a close and challenging game, Simeon Brown emerged the victor, narrowly winning by 7 hoops to 5.



Simeon Brown (Pakuranga) & Sharon Stewart (Howick)

In accepting the brand-new silver Patrons' Cup, Simeon admitted he found golf croquet much harder than he thought he would. He confirmed he had played "three or four" warm-up games but still found *the hoops never wide enough to be comfortable (!)*

Howick Croquet now plans that this Patrons' Cup will be put on the line twice a year between the two local clubs.

### Youth wins over experience, this time!

The Howick Croquet Club battle for the ages attracted a large and animated crowd of around 70 people from the Howick community at the Millhouse Reserve croquet greens on Monday 14 December, acknowledging the skill and experience of golf croquet veteran of 50 years, Lorette McNabb, versus the energy and determination of Elim College student, Mattie Clarkson, with just 12 months golf croquet playing experience.



Mattie Clarkson & Lorette McNabb

From a really intense, up-and-down game that could have gone either way, Mattie Clarkson eventually emerged, winning a narrow victory by 7 hoops to 6, acknowledging that Lorette *made a couple of small mistakes that let me through.*

Howick Croquet values its wide age group membership, and continues to promote golf croquet as the mixed gender game for all age groups.

## Croquet Hawkes Bay Annual GC Tournament Cancelled

Due to the significant damage caused by the flooding in Napier late last year, Croquet Hawkes Bay have announced the difficult decision to cancel the Croquet Hawkes Bay Annual GC Tournament which was to be held at Marewa Croquet Club in March (page 67 of the yearbook).

Marewa Croquet Club's clubrooms are currently undergoing renovations to repair the damage and are currently unsuitable for hosting large tournaments.

## From Across the Ditch

After being couped up in New Zealand for almost a year, you may be looking for a getaway as soon as the borders allow.

The inaugural PFC Hoop Maker GC Australian Masters, with \$3,600 in prizes, will be held from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> of June 2021 and is open to any GC player with a handicap of 2 or under.

With entries opening on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February, click [here](#) for more information.

## Vacancies

CNZ Tournament Committee:  
Croquet New Zealand is looking for 2 enthusiastic people to join the Tournament Committee. The Tournament Committee is responsible for overseeing the CNZ tournament calendar and ensuring tournaments are run to meet the needs of our members and prepare players for international competition (when it returns).

If you are interested or would like more information, please email [croquet@croquet.org.nz](mailto:croquet@croquet.org.nz).