



# CROQUET MATTERS

# FEBRUARY 2021

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## Chief Executive Update



The past month has been extremely busy for Croquet New Zealand and I wanted to provide you with an update on some key items.

After many months of relative

freedom from Covid-19, it re-emerged in the community. This resulted in Auckland moving to

Covid Alert Level 3 and the rest of New Zealand to Covid Alert Level 2 on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February 2021. Although the Covid Alert Levels were de-escalated relatively quickly, we unfortunately saw them heightened again over the weekend.

What these latest cases taught us is that things are still very fluid and we need to be ready to adapt. Good personal hygiene and continuing to use the Covid tracer app are key components in our on-going fight against Covid-19.

As these cases emerged around the Invitations, CNZ have reviewed the 2020-21 Tournament Guidelines and made updates to take into account the different nature of the Invitation tournaments. You can read more about this later in this edition of Croquet Matters.

The other item that CNZ has been working on is the discussions around gateball. In January, we asked for member feedback and I would like to thank all members that sent their thoughts to us. They are helping to inform our discussions.

Since this topic was initially raised prior to the 2020 AGM, CNZ has been keen to understand how any relationship between gateball and croquet could work. Following the establishment of Gateball New Zealand (GBNZ), CNZ has attempted to work cooperatively with GBNZ to understand how the organisations could work together while also highlighting some areas of concern that will need to be worked through.

To date, CNZ does not have a clear proposal from GBNZ around what kind of relationship they would like. This has been requested by 30 April 2021 and will be shared with Associations for feedback once received.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that the date for our next AGM has been set. The 2021 CNZ AGM will be held at the Brentwood Hotel in Wellington on the **9<sup>th</sup> of October**. More information on the AGM will be shared in future Croquet Matters.

*Jake Inwood*

## Croquet New Zealand Tournaments

The recent community cases of Covid-19 have raised further uncertainty around CNZ tournaments. Following the announcement that New Zealand would be ascending the Covid Alert Levels, CNZ began a review of the 2020-21 Tournament Guidelines. Acknowledging that the Invitations, Arthur Ross Final and Don Reyland Stars Final are different to the open entry tournaments, CNZ has update the 2020-21 Tournament Guidelines which can be found [here](#).

The key changes are;

- An Invitation (or Arthur Ross / Don Reyland Stars) can go ahead provided all players have been considered and not excluded due to Covid-19 restrictions. And;
- An Invitation (or the Arthur Ross / Don Reyland Stars) can go ahead provided all participants are residing in a region that is at Covid Alert Level 1 Regions. And;
- An Invitation (or the Arthur Ross / Don Reyland Stars) can go ahead provided it is being held in a region in Covid Alert Level 1.

In addition to the points above, Croquet New Zealand will work with the participants that are selected around the cancellation timeframe. This is a change from the blanket four (4) weeks which is still applicable to open entry tournaments.

## 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

Croquet New Zealand would like to congratulate all players who have been invited to compete in one of the Invitation tournaments in 2020-21.

Unfortunately, the change of Covid Alert Levels over the weekend has resulted in the Women's AC Invitation tournament being cancelled. A decision about the other AC Invitations will be made on the **8<sup>th</sup> of March**.

You can see the full list of participants for the invitations by clicking on the links below:

[AC Invitations](#)

[GC Invitations](#)

## NZ Open

January was the month for record breaking performances at the Nationals. Following a record 9<sup>th</sup> title for Duncan Dixon at the GC Nationals, a new New Zealand Open was crowned in Canterbury.

Felix Webby secured his first NZ Open title after beating Logan McCorkindale in the final 16-26, 26-21, 26-10.

The win made Webby the fourth player to have won the NZ GC Nationals Singles title and the NZ Open Singles title.

Earlier in the week, McCorkindale partnered with Aaron Westerby to win the 2020-21 NZ Open Doubles. McCorkindale and Westerby beat Tony Garrison and Jarrod Coutts in straight games 26-6, 26-15.

If you didn't manage to catch the Singles final, head over to our [Facebook page](#) to have a look!

The full write up on the singles and doubles can be found using the links below:

[NZ Open Singles](#)

[NZ Open Doubles](#)

For full scores, click [here](#).

## World Croquet Federation

**Website:** The WCF website has had a refresh. The new look website can still be found at [www.worldcroquet.org](http://www.worldcroquet.org) and has a few new items including some historical documents and a Roll of Honour, listing the previous World Championship winners.

**AC Laws:** The 7<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Association Croquet Laws have been passed and can be found [here](#). CNZ is currently working through when they will be adopted in NZ and more information on this will be in the March Croquet Matters.

**Sports Regulations:** Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the WCF Sports Regulations have been temporarily amended.

The amendment will require a minimum of 10 ranked games in the past *24 months* (previously 12 months) to be eligible for a ranking place.

This amendment is for the upcoming 2022 Women's AC World Championship, 2022 U21 GC World Championship and 2022 GC World Championship.

More details can be found on the WCF website [here](#).

## Club News

### Whangamata Croquet Club

By Maree Burt

Recently, Whangamata Croquet Club had the privilege of hosting Tony Stephens and his wife Colleen.

Having met Tony at a recent Association tournament, he kindly offered to come and give us some coaching, for both Golf and Association croquet. To have one of NZ's best players come and coach was certainly a privilege and all those who attended the sessions went away with new tactics, new strokes and a new insight into their respective game. Tony and Colleen handed out coaching sheets and were happy to give individual coaching when asked about specific elements to their game.

The good news is, they are happy to return soon. Of



*Soul Burger Staff*

course, with Whangamata being voted one of the best beach resorts in NZ probably helps!

The club has also hosted a couple of the local businesses for their staff get together/team building. It was great to see people who had never played, or even seen a croquet match, giving it a go and finding a new interest and respect for the game.

This is a great way to raise funds for the club, and also creating interest and potential new members.

## First National's Marlborough GC Annual Tournament



Once again, the reliable summer Marlborough weather with 26 degrees and warm breezes helped the First National Marlborough Croquet Tournament be a great success. 32 players, 24 from Blenheim and others travelling from as far afield as Ashburton and Riwaka battled it out to see which doubles pairs would take out the competition. A number of players showed exceptional ability in being able, from long distance to hit an opponent's ball away from a certain scoring position. Others scored hoops from more than 21m away as well as being able to take a certain hoop from the opposition, by jumping their ball over the opposition and scoring the hoop first.

Two Blenheim teams made the semi-finals and the other two were from Riwaka and Richmond.

In one semifinal and after a very tough tussle, Ron Ereckson and Erin Ahern beat Christine Grigg and

Tom Willis, all from Blenheim. The other semifinal saw the Riwaka team beat the Richmond team.

In the play off for third and fourth Christine Grigg and Tom Willis from Blenheim were five to two up against the team from Richmond who on paper were the more experienced players. However, the experience of the Richmond pair finally came through with them winning seven to five.

The final between the team from Blenheim of Ron Ereckson and Erin Ahern and the team from Riwaka was also a very close match. The lead changed many times as the game progressed. During the match members of both teams showed exceptional ability in making shots the rest of us dream about. Blenheim finally went down to Riwaka.

At the end of the day all the players left happy to have played and made new friends.

## Success for local croquet players at Rose Gardens Tournament

By Rex Oliver



*Nicholas Flood - 4+ Singles Winner*

Despite strong entries from across the North Island, local croquet players were to the fore in the recent Triton Hearing Tournament, on the lawns of the Rose Gardens Croquet

Club in the Esplanade, picking up several titles. The weather was excellent, apart from some strong wind and a brief heavy downpour on the last day.

The first two days of the six-day tournament were taken up with singles events for the higher handicap players. The 4+ event for the Neall Trophy was won by young local, Nicholas Flood, beating Baubre Murray of Kelburn 26-5 in the final. Regular participant in this tournament, Susan Leuchars of Wellington was the winner of The Junior Trophy for players with handicaps of nine and over, with Anne McKenzie of Paraparaumu Runner up. Players with handicaps of fourteen and over competed for the

Junior Handicap Trophy. This was won by Carol Ainsworth of Whakatane, with second place going to local, Neil Stantiall, in a count back from John Burns of Paraparaumu.

Days three and four of the Tournament saw the doubles events. Dennis Bulloch of Rose Gardens, and partner John Christie of Thames Valley carried off the



*Dennis Bulloch - Open Singles Winner*

1990 Trophies for the Open Event, with Sue and Len Lea of Wellington as Runners up. The Takaro Trophies, for the Handicap Doubles

event, were won by Tony Stephens and Thomas Monteith of Heretaunga, with Robert McLay and Lyn Johnson of Marton in second place.

The final day saw players from Rose Gardens pick up the top five positions. To go with his win in the Open Doubles, Dennis Bulloch won the Sesquicentennial Salver for the Open Singles, beating André Murray 26-14 in the final. Local teenager Paul Kaiser caused an upset in the Scratch plus event, beating Nicholas Flood 26-20 in the final for the Silver Jubilee Trophy, with Josh Smith taking third place.