



Hi everyone

Welcome to the June issue of the *Rocket*. I'm pleased to be editor again whilst Glen Whitehead is overseas.

In this issue you will find information including the latest news around the club for Association Croquet, Golf Croquet, Gateball, upcoming courses, and tournaments and their results.

Also, during the last month a merry group of around 24 members and friends enjoyed the club's annual dinner in a beautiful setting at the Hyatt Hotel on 28 May. Combining good food and good conversation the dinner was a great success. A big thank you to Roger Timms, our club secretary, for organising the event.

Next month Glen will take up the reins as editor again.

Happy reading.

Georgia Bray
Editor



Roger and Sylvia Timms

Club Annual Dinner



News from around the club

New club member

We extend a warm welcome to Catherine Filhol, our newest member. Catherine has recently come to Australia all the way from France. We hope she is looking forward to learning croquet (rule number one being to 'have fun'), playing many happy games over the coming months and making new friendships.

Refurbishment of croquet hoops

The club will soon refurbish the croquet hoops. They will be sand blasted, powder coated, and finished with a touch of red and blue paint to the crowns as required. The hoops will be away for a week. During this time the older hoops will be used for the club draws.

Cleaning the club house

A friendly reminder that volunteers run our club — we do not have a cleaner. The cleaning roster has been discontinued so please do your bit to help us keep the club house clean by leaving it in a tidy state. The cleaning jobs include: wiping the tables and benches, sweeping the floor, shaking the mat, putting out the rubbish, washing up and wiping up, taking the tea towels and hand towels home and washing them. A tidy club house is a happy membership!

Association Croquet and Golf Croquet Handicaps

At their meeting in May, the Playing Committee made a number of adjustments to non-competition players' handicaps who are not covered by the Australian Handicapping System and to those who don't play enough competition matches for the system to keep up with them. If you have concerns about your handicap please feel free to have a chat with any member of the Playing Committee or Stephen Meatheringham (Croquet Australia National Handicapper) who will explain the system to you and the reason your handicap is set at its current value.

Croquet training — Stephen Meatheringham

Become A Referee

In Association Croquet what happens when a wrong ball is played in a handicap game, two hoops scored by the player and a peel on an opponent made? In Golf Croquet what happens if a player strikes a ball which ricochets onto their opponent?

If you would like to find out more about laws of the games and refereeing come along to refereeing workshops in Association Croquet and Golf Croquet. If you then wish to become referees the club will help you prepare for the accreditation process and pay the small costs associated.

If you are interested please put your name on the notice board list. The club will negotiate suitable dates with those interested. Please contact Playing Committee members if you have questions.

Using Bisques

In Association Croquet we play handicap games so that players of widely differing skill levels can compete on an equal footing. However, players must know how to make the best use of their bisques. We often see players wasting bisques with less than optimal tactics. It is important to use the bisques to set out the court and make 4-ball breaks. If you do not do this you will not have an equal chance of defeating players better than yourself.

To improve the use of bisques I will be presenting a ½ day workshop from noon to 4pm on Sunday 14 June. There is no charge. The course will benefit all players on handicaps of 5 or higher, but most especially those from around 10 and above. There is a sign up sheet at the club for those interested.

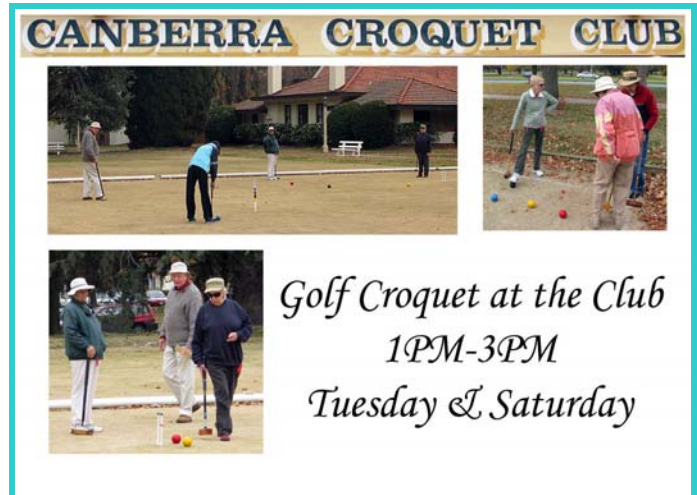
Tournaments

Golf Croquet

As foreshadowed in the last *Rocket* the club is introducing three new Golf Croquet tournaments. Details of the regulations and format can be found at:

<http://www.canberracroquet.org.au/governance/Trophy.pdf>

It is anticipated that the tournaments will be scheduled in the August to November period. This will be confirmed by the Playing Committee after the Annual General Meeting which will be held on Saturday 4 July 2009.



Victorian Gateball Championships

Defending champions Canberra finished third in the teams event at this years Victorian Gateball Championship. The team was a little disappointed losing two matches including the final match to unbeaten champions Brunswick. Brunswick won the championships for the seventh time in eight years.

Canberra combinations fared well in the fourteen team doubles competition with the combinations of Glen and Tim and Daniel and Philip both making the semi-finals. After two tough semi-finals Sue and Chris from Brunswick defeated Glen and Tim in the final to win their first Victorian doubles championship.

The Canberra team enjoyed the well-run event with over 30 gateballers present and look forward to the upcoming QLD Gateball Championships in August 2009.

Blackall Cup (Association Croquet)

Congratulations and many thanks to Stephen Richards, Eddie Kowalski, Ben Freasier, Peter Freer, Yvonne Brereton and Roger Timms for taking part in the Blackall Cup against Queanbeyan. Canberra swept the first leg 4-0 and followed up with 3-1 on the second weekend, retaining the trophy 7-1.

Canberra Club — Women's Open singles Championship (Association Croquet)

Congratulations to Nerida Taylor on winning the club's Association Croquet Women's Open Singles Championship for 2008-2009.

President's Day Doubles Competition (Association Croquet)

Congratulations to Bruce Edwards and Bruce Caldwell who won the President's Day Association Doubles Competition on 16 May.

South Coast Shield — Narooma (Association Croquet)

As always there was a wonderful social atmosphere at Narooma for the South Coast Shield. The Canberra/Queanbeyan team finished a close third behind Nowra and Narooma. Peter Freer won a very exciting golden hoop game in the last round. Most of the team struggled with the speed of the lawns.

Club's Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held at the club house at **1.30 pm on Saturday 4 July 2009**. A BYO BBQ starting at 12.30 pm will be held before the meeting. The meeting will include the annual trophy presentation.

Nominations will also be called for vacant positions on the various committees. It is frequently said that a camel is a horse designed by a committee, however serving on a committee is an opportunity for members to help achieve worthwhile goals and the service to the club is invaluable.

Obituary - Brian Dixon By Elizabeth Mountain

Sadly, one of our members, Brian Dixon, has died aged 81.

No more yellow chairs will be set out on the Hyatt side of the club by our gentleman player, Brian.

Born in Kenya on 22 May, Brian was sent to boarding school at the age of 7 ½. He trained as a medical doctor at Oxford in England and worked in Africa, including remote outposts. In Canberra Brian worked in the Commonwealth Department of Health and also served as the Department of Immigration's doctor in Rome. In Rome he became friends with another club member, Mildred Mc Cloud, who was there with the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Brian constantly claimed that his handicap of 10 was too low, however he may have inherited his skills from his mother who was also a croquet player.

Croquet was not his only passion. His car boot contained not only a croquet mallet but also pitch and putt golf clubs and a snooker cue. No doubt the car also contained cards, as he was a bridge player and teacher. He was also quite the party animal, giving parties at the drop of a hat. In recent years, one notable party was held to celebrate his survival after a cancer operation and more recently, he held an 80th birthday party. He also loved music and attended local concerts with other club members. He was a member of Probus, a retirees association, and many other groups.

Most of all I will remember Brian as a croquet player of some considerable talent, for his gentlemanly behaviour at all times, and his humorous, terse comments on missed balls — "damn".

His wife died of cancer in 1994, sadly predeceasing him. His sister Pat, who played at our club every time she visited Brian in Canberra, still lives in Nairobi.

Brian passed away on Friday, 8 May 2009.