



Dear Members

Welcome to the first Rocket for 2010. Club activities are now back in full swing, don't forget to nominate for the upcoming club competitions in Association Croquet and Gateball.

A special thanks to Elizabeth Mountain and all the other members who contributed to this publication. Articles, reports and snippets of information are always much appreciated.

Glen Whitehead

## 2010 Canberra Open

The 2010 Canberra Hyatt Open was played in hot and humid conditions on the Club lawns from 22-27 January. It attracted 18 players from far and wide (including Queensland, Tasmania, South Australia and Victoria, not to mention from Sydney and assorted regional centres in NSW and even a few folk from Canberra)!

The Open was won by Stephen Richards who just beat Simon Watkins (Brighton, Vic) 2-0 in the final. The Y-Event, for losing quarter-finalists, was won by John Byers, a former Canberra member now playing out of Caloundra, who got over Jim Nicholls (Wagga) 2-1 in the final of that event. And the Plate event for players who did not make the quarter-finals, was won by Roger Buddle who defeated David Wise in an all SA final. The full results and some photos are on the Club website.

The Club is very fortunate to continue to receive the wonderful support of the Hyatt Hotel Canberra, which has generously donated the trophy for this event over a great many years and provides a delightful refuge for players at the end of a long, hot day's play. My thanks to Michael Fish and the Hyatt Hotel team for their support again during 2010.

Many club members and tournament participants also provided sterling support for the 2010 Open, which makes everything so much easier to organise. In particular, my thanks go to:

- Ben Freasier, who was a blessed sight each morning appearing through the soft dawn light with a bag of crushed ice to make up the iced water which players

consumed gratefully by the litre throughout the 6 days of play Ben also provided great assistance with the morning set up for the lawns.

- Tony Hall, who was Tournament Referee and did a fine job officiating in between playing and finalising the ACA accounts for the auditor's perusal!
- Greg Diprose, who arose early to roll the lawns before 7:30am a couple of times
- Peter Freer, who organised the revised mowing roster and was a constant presence offering assistance whenever required and billeted a couple of visiting players to boot!
- all those Club members who stopped in to watch and gave a hand with refereeing and umpiring when required, and
- all the players who variously assisted with lawn set up and bringing in, hoop setting (thanks, Simon) and checking and re-checking (thanks to all those others so handy with a gauge), umpiring and so on.

All players also coped extremely well with the consistently hot conditions, particularly those required to play 3 games on a couple of days when the temperature hit or topped 35 degrees. It was good to know everyone was working to get through the playing program, but doing so in a fashion where they were looking after themselves. If ever there was an event with a theme of "Slip, Slop, Slap" meshed with a melody of "Drink plenty of fluids and sit in the shade between turns", this was it!

Finally, arising from all the enjoyment the players experienced during the event, and for the combined efforts of those assisting with the organisation, I'm pleased to report the 2010 Open raised around \$750 for the club's coffers.

Stephen Richards  
Event Manager



Stephen Richards receiving his trophy,



CCC members and Carmel Statham who returned for a visit.

## **News from around the Club**

### ***Beginner Coaching Course***

The club is putting out a call for members interested in becoming a Croquet Australia Accredited Beginner Coach.

Two members are currently on a waiting list to complete the one-day course however a minimum of four nominations are required to conduct the course.

All of the course details are attached at the end of the Rocket.

### ***Membership Fee – Jim Payne***

Members are advised that at the next AGM the committee intends to recommend that the annual subscription for 2010/11 remain at \$240.

As you will recall, the Club's financial year ends 31 May with the AGM normally being held in early July. Members should be financial prior to voting at the AGM. With this in mind, the committee asks that members pay annual subscriptions by 30 June.

### ***Termites – Elizabeth Mountain***

Members may have noticed that closing the toilet door had become increasingly difficult at the start of the year. Just another effect of the general movement of the building perhaps. BUT NO! It was a TERMITE ATTACK!

During the Canberra Open, one of the interstate players noticed that there was a termite infestation in the soft wood in the bathroom doorway at the club. We had a timber inspection done on the clubhouse and found, very fortunately, no other evidence of termites. It was recommended that we take action immediately rather than risk a spread of the termites.

A local pest control agency has installed a termite baiting system on the doorway to the bathroom designed to encourage the termites to take the bait back to the termite nest. This system (and associated ground baiting stations, inspections, and rebaiting) cost the club about \$3500. The baiting process will take two to five months.

In the meantime, we will not be able to fully close the bathroom door. At the moment bathroom security is enabled by closing the sliding door between the mallet room and the main club room associated with some signage about what to do. Any suggestion for increasing the bathroom security is welcomed by the committee. Suggestion plus volunteering to do the implementation will be even more welcome.

## ***Election to the World Croquet Federation***

Congratulations to Stephen Meathringham on his election to the World Croquet Federation Management Committee for the next 4 years.

## ***Water Under the Club House Floor – Elizabeth Mountain***

We noticed water under the floor during the timber inspection. We called out a plumber a few days later. Very surprisingly, we found no water under the floor, even after draining the kitchen sink, running the outdoor tap, and checking the hot water overflow. Our current suspicion (certainly not proven) is that the flooding may be due to seepage from outside due to misaligned sprinklers for the lawns. Jim Payne has attempted to do a sprinkler alignment, but Stephen Meathringham has suggested that we leave that to the people taking care of the lawns.

For the moment, we have decided to periodically (weekly) inspect for water under the floor. If we find it again, perhaps we can more clearly identify the cause.

## ***Come and Try***

February's come and try event was one of the club's biggest with thirty-two attendees. So far five people have signed up for introductory lessons.

## ***Goodwin Homes***

The club has been approached by Goodwin Homes at Ainslie to assist them in setting up a small croquet club. It is understood they are setting up a small multipurpose lawn with artificial turf and have already bought some equipment. It is likely that our members will be asked to help with lessons and training.

## ***Wednesday Twilight Golf Croquet***

Rodney Teakle has successfully organised Twilight Golf Croquet. There is now an informal draw on Wednesday afternoons from 5:30pm. The cool late afternoons are one of the nicest times of the day, come along and improve your single stroke play.

## ***Membership***

Welcome back to Alex Park who has returned to Canberra after living in London and Geneva. Alex participated in Gateball matches at several clubs in the UK and introduced the sport to Switzerland.

It is sad to hear that Brian Thomason is crook at the moment. Brian says that he will be back soon. We wish him all the best.

## **Forthcoming Competitions**

### ***Association – Margaret Reid Trophy***

Entries are now invited for the Margaret Reid Trophy competition, entries will close on 3 March. The Margaret Reid trophy, which will be played on Saturday 6 March, is a social competition of high low doubles. Players are paired with a senior or junior member with pairs changing between the morning and afternoon games. Therefore it doesn't matter how good or crook you are, you will still have fun. Don't forget to bring a plate for afternoon tea, when we have the presentations.

### ***Gateball – Club Championship – Tavender Trophy***

If you only play Gateball once a year then Sunday 28 March is the day to play. That's the date of the Club's annual Gateball competition, the Tavender Trophy.

The format of the day is a five-a-side team tournament in the morning followed by the doubles championship in the afternoon.

The teams event is played in a relaxed atmosphere and should prove a valuable refresher on the intricacies of Gateball, including how to execute a successful spark. Players will be allocated to a team before the tournament, teams will be colour based.

The afternoon doubles competition is faster paced with regular Gateball players partnered with a not so regular Gateball player to ensure an even competition. The doubles draw takes place at lunchtime.

Members are encouraged to nominate for either the morning teams competition or both the morning and afternoon competitions.

Entries open on 13 March and will close on 24 March.

### ***Association – Women's Open Singles***

There is a notice at the club calling for entries for the Women's Open Singles competition. Entries should have closed on 20 February but as there has been a delay in advertising the event, the closing date has been extended to 13 March. Games are to be completed by 7 June.

### ***Association – Division Advanced Singles***

There is a notice at the club calling for entries to Advanced Singles Association Croquet competition. Entries should have closed on 20 February but as there has been a delay in advertising the event, the closing date has been extended to 13 March. Matches are to be completed by 7 June.

### ***Association - Beryl Chambers***

Entries for the Beryl Chambers competition will open on 27 February.

### ***Association - Senior Citizen's Competition***

The Senior Citizen's competition is nearly finished with Roger Timms and Richard Meacock qualifying for the final after the round robin stage. The winner of the competition will represent the club in a State-wide competition in Sydney later in the year.

### ***Association – Easter Carnival***

Everyone is invited to nominate for the annual Easter Carnival. This is a delightfully low-key event which attracts players from all around the region. The entry form is available on the Canberra Croquet Club web site. Members are encouraged to get their entries in early as this attractive competition usually fills up quickly.

## **Become a Croquet Australia Accredited Beginner Coach**

Coaches who undertake coaching of beginners are some of the most vital members in the framework of our club. It is their input into the teaching process that will hopefully form a sound basis on which to build all further croquet coaching and for enjoyment of the sport.

Beginner Coaches are highly valued and the Canberra Croquet Club appreciates their commitment to teaching new players, assisting with Come and Try days, and helping out with the club hirings.

In an effort to recognise the time and effort given to the Club by our Beginner Coaches the club will cover costs associated with members undertaking the Croquet Australia Beginner Coach accreditation course.

### **The Course**

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The Beginner Coach program is accredited with Croquet Australia and is part of Croquet Australia's 5-tier coaching system.

Participants require no previous coaching practice or coaching knowledge. It is entirely croquet-specific and is of 5 hours duration. Participants are required to be assessed and demonstrate their competency at the end of the course.

Upon successful completion of the program participants will be registered and required to update their qualification every 4 years to remain accredited. Updating consists of carrying out a minimum of 20 hours of coaching and attending one or two workshops.

### **Objectives**

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The single object of the Beginner Coach program is to train coaches in WHAT and HOW to teach the beginner player in the shortest possible time so that the new player can play croquet at a beginner level.

Upon completion the coach will be able to demonstrate and teach skills and tactics such as: grips, stance and swing, roquets & rushes, hoop approaches & running, the take-off, how to get a rush, and how to play a beginner game.

### **Who Should Become a Beginner Coach**

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Anyone who teaches newcomers via our Introductory coaching course, assists in Come and Try days, or helps out with hiring groups should undertake the course. As well as reinforcing what you already know the course will assist you in identifying aspects to pass on in a clear and accurate manner. It is also important to stress that by becoming accredited you are covered under the Croquet Australia insurance scheme.

Any player on a handicap of about 14 or higher should become a Beginner Coach as it will reinforce skills and tactics you will have learnt but perhaps not used for a while; and it will certainly teach you new ways of thinking about the game.

## **Cost**

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If you undertake the course and pass the examination process there is no cost to you – the club will pay for your accreditation. You will receive a badge, a copy of the Beginner Coaches manual (if you wish) and accreditation. Provided you carry out the minimum requirements for re-accreditation the club will pay for that.

Please note that the course is only for those wishing to become accredited. If there are places left free existing Beginner Coaches may put their name down to come along as a refresher to form part of their re-accreditation process.

## **Questions**

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If you have any questions about the course or whether you should become a Beginner Coach please have a chat with any member of the Playing Committee. Stephen Meatheringham will conduct the course.

## **When**

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There is a limit of 12 people in a Beginner Coaching program. We already have two people on the waiting list, but we need at least 4 members to attend to make it worth the time and effort to prepare and present the course. It has also been advertised to Queanbeyan members. If there are spare places available existing Beginner Coaches will be able to come along and the day will count as one of their required "refreshers". The course would begin at 9am and run through until 3pm. The assessment will follow and should take approximately 30 minutes.