

CROQUET AUSTRALIA

EXECUTIVE CIRCULAR – NO 3 2006

ACA Secretary
ACA Price List
ACA Member Protection Policy
MacRobertson Shield
Australian Championships

WCF Hall of Fame
Australian Ranking List

Croquet Australia Magazine
Bank Deposits
ACA Selection Appeal
Presidents Eights
National Golf Croquet
Events
Calendar of Events

ACA Secretary 2006

On July 1st I took over the duties of Secretary ACA. Sincere thanks to Creina Dawson, who has been very supportive and has made the transition easier for me by being so organised. Thank you also to all the members of the Executive and the States who have been so patient and helpful while I am 'learning the ropes'. This issue of the circular is late due to the need for me to familiarise myself with processes and current issues.

Croquet Australia Magazine

The first issue of the 'new look' magazine was published in July. Congratulations to the new Editor, Claire Gorton and also to Vice-President Rosemary News who assisted in the process. Thank you to retiring Editor Wendy Davidson for many years of contributing to the production of the magazine.

ACA Price List

I have attached a copy of the latest ACA price List. Orders should be sent to ACA Equipment officer Mrs Joyce Bray by state associations. You are reminded not to send a cheque with the order, an invoice will be sent to you by the Treasurer.

Bank Deposits

ACA Treasurer, Tony Hall has proposed that anyone depositing funds to ACA credit into our bank account should include on the deposit slip or

electronic transfer their player number as the “Agent Number”. If the particular deposit slip has no provision for an agent number, the depositor should write “Agent number XXXX” at the bottom of the slip. This will allow the treasurer to identify the depositor. It is not expected that too many people will use this facility initially; however with the trend towards electronic funds transfer we would expect that this method of payment will become more prevalent.

ACA Member Protection Policy

The Member Protection Policy for Croquet Australia was published on 26th July 2006 and complies with the guidelines set down by the Australian Sports Commission. Amendments to Croquet Australia’s Constitution were approved to implement the policy at the 2006 AGM. A copy of the Policy has been sent to all State Associations and is also available on the Croquet Australia Website. <http://www.croquet-australia.com.au> . The Policy came into effect on 31st July 2006.

As Croquet Australia Secretary, I have been appointed as a Member Protection Officer, as has John Fransen who is an accredited mediator, arbitrator and adjudicator and we are looking to appoint one further MPO.

Croquet Australia has established a pool of people to form appeals panels and is looking to form a co-operative venture with the states to assist in the resolution of both state and national issues. This follows on from the establishment of the Selection Policy Appeals Provisions. These provisions, together with the Complaint Resolution Procedures under the MPP provide new grievance procedures for croquet players Australia-wide.

We are particularly pleased with the calibre of the people who have accepted invitations to join the pool of people to sit on the Tribunals/Panels. We would like to express our thanks to them for making themselves available. They are:

Judy Benson
Robert Fenwick Elliott
Ann Fieldhouse
John Fransen
Alan Sands
Anna Miller
Robyn Stock
Allan Cleland

ACA Selection Appeal

An appeal was lodged by Ken Bald regarding his non-selection in the MacRobertson Shield Team 2006. A panel was appointed to consider the appeal and the decision of the panel was as follows:

Decision

36. This appeal succeeds on the ground that the Selection Committee should have, but did not, adequately consider the relative strengths of likely doubles pairings.

37. Accordingly, we refer the selection back to the Selection Committee for reconsideration of that issue under paragraph 9.9 of the Policy.

38. The Panel expresses no view as to whether the Selection Committee's reconsideration of this issue will or should alter the overall balance of the many factors that it has properly taken into account.

39. The Panel wishes to acknowledge the diligent and transparent approach that the Selection Committee has taken. We have seen no evidence of any bias or lack of objectivity, and the one area in which we have allowed this appeal is a limited one

The Selection Committee considered in detail the issue referred back to them, in conjunction with the issues covered by 38 above and confirmed that there will be with no change to the team announced.

This is the first appeal under the new Selection Policy. This policy framework was introduced to ensure that we have more accountability and transparency in our selection processes. The appeal process has confirmed that we are on the right track. The Appeals Panel has discussed the process and the ACA President has addressed specific issues to them about the process. The Executive will consider these issues at its next meeting.

ACA President, Gary Fox, expresses his sincere thanks to the Appeals Panel; Robert Fenwick Elliott, Alan Sands and Allan Cleland; for the process which they have undertaken and for the diligent and careful manner in which it was handled. The Chairman of the Selection Committee, Peter Landrebe and other members of the Committee have undertaken a significant work load this year and as the Panel acknowledged the Committee's approach has been diligent and transparent with no evidence of any bias or lack of objectivity. Ken Bald as the appellant lodged an appeal within the Selection Policy and properly put his case to the Panel and addressed issues that were important. The process taken by Ken was proper and correct.

The Selection Policy will be reviewed at the next Executive Meeting and those involved in this case have been asked for input, this includes the Panel, the Team and the Appellant.

MacRobertson Shield

Preparations are well under way at Rich River and Shepparton for the hosting of the 19th MacRobertson Shield on 18th November to 3rd December 2006. We look forward to watching some fine croquet. Rich River Resort is

assisting in the conduct of the event. There will be 6 lawns provided at Rich River and 3 lawns at Shepparton for the event. The Formal Presentation Dinner will be held on Friday 17th November. A Toast and Tally will be held after the completion of play for the first and second test at Rich River and the Farewell Barbeque will be at 5pm on December 3rd. The Tournament Manager is Gary Fox and Assistant Tournament Manager is Ken Boal.

The next Executive Meeting will be held at Rich River on November 25th and 26th 2006.

Presidents Eights

The Presidents Eights will be played in Adelaide on 29th September to October 2nd 2006. The composition for the President's Eights has been published by Creina Dawson:

	<u>The First Eight</u>	<u>The Second Eight</u>	<u>The Women's Eight</u>
	Eddie Hunt Trophy	Tom Howat Cup	The Jean Armstrong
Bowl			
	Ian Dumergue	Ian Bassett	Anna Miller
	Bruce Fleming	Bryan Dawson	Claire Gorton
	Harley Watts	Kevin Beard	Charlotte Morgan
	Martin Clarke	Liz Fleming	Creina Dawson
	Trevor Bassett	Chloe Aberley	Judy Wembridge
	Mark Prater	Nick Chapman	Rosemary Graham
	Stephen Forster	Tony Hall	Gloria Howell
	Steve Jones	Simon Watkins	Wilma Bonnar

Congratulations to all those players and good luck.

The invitation process will be discussed at the forthcoming Executive Meeting as it proved problematical in so far as the timeframes regarding acceptances and further invitations being issued.

Australian Championships

Arrangements are progressing for the Open Singles and Doubles Championships being held in Sydney from 4th to 12th November 2006. There were fewer entries this year; we wish all competitors the best of luck.

National Golf Croquet Events

In August, ACA sent an email to the States requesting expressions of interest to conduct the Interstate Event for Golf Croquet and the Australian Open Singles Golf Croquet Championship Events in 2007 and 2008; and to conduct the Handicap events in other States as well Regional New South Wales and Victoria. We also asked whether the states would be fielding a

team for the Interstate Teams Event. All States have responded and this issue is also listed on the Agenda for the next Executive Meeting.

The GC Handicap issue has been referred to the Handicapping Committee. States input has been requested. States will be advised of the outcome.

WCF Hall of Fame

On 18th August the World Croquet Foundation announced the first inductions into the new WCF Hall of fame:

2006 WCF Hall of Fame Inductees

Tom Armstrong, AUS
Ashley Heenan OBE, NZ
Sir MacPherson Robertson KBE, AUS
Arthur Ross, NZ
John Solomon, ENG

We are proud to acknowledge our two Australian inductees. Full details of the achievements of each inductee can be seen on the WCF website:

www.wfcroquet.org

Calendar of Events

The Calendar of Events is available on the Website.

Australian Ranking List

The attached Ranking List is the latest listing derived from the world rankings as of 13th August 2006.

Maree Skinner
ACA Secretary,
September 18 2006