

# CROQUET AUSTRALIA

## ***EXECUTIVE CIRCULAR – NO 1 2007***

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I hope you all had a wonderful break over the Christmas/ New Year period and I wish you all the very best in 2007.

### ***President's Eights***

The President's Eights were played in Adelaide from 29<sup>th</sup> September to October 2<sup>nd</sup> 2006. A special thank you to all at Hutt Road, North Adelaide and Norwood clubs for organizing and hosting the events. Congratulations to Bruce Fleming who won the Eddie Hunt Trophy, Tony Hall who won the Tom Howat Cup and Claire Gorton who won the Jean Armstrong Bowl.

### ***Australian Nationals***

The Australian Open Doubles and Singles Championships were held In Sydney from November 2<sup>nd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> 2006. Congratulations to Robert Fulford and Chris Clarke the winners of the Doubles Championship and Chris Clarke, the winner of the Singles Championship. Thank you to all who assisted with the organisation of the Championships and to Chatswood, Mosman, Killara, Cammeray, Eastwood, Tempe and Sutherland Clubs for hosting the events.

### ***MacRobertson Shield***

Congratulations to the British team for their overwhelming success in the MacRobertson Shield World Croquet Series 2006. It was a privilege to see croquet played to such a high degree of excellence. Congratulations to the Australian team who came second and to the USA team who defeated New Zealand to take third place.

Thank you to all the volunteers who gave of their time and expertise to ensure that the Tournament ran efficiently and that every need was catered for. It was a long time in the planning and many people contributed so much towards making the Event a resounding success.

### ***ACA Administrative Assistant***

We have negotiated an arrangement with the South Australian Croquet Association for a range of duties to be undertaken by their Administrative Assistant on behalf of the ACA. This is a trial for 6 months and we will pay SACA \$667 per month. The position will be reviewed at the end of that time.

The cost was included in the last budget agreed by Council.

### ***ACA Events Manager***

Ann Crow has resigned from the position. We would like to thank Ann for all the work she put into making the events run smoothly whilst she was Events Manager – in particular, her considerable contribution to the organisation and running of the MacRobertson Shield. We wish Ann every success in her new business venture.

We do not intend to advertise for an Events Manager until the position is fully reviewed. The duties have grown significantly since the position was first introduced. The existing duties will be passed to the Administrative Assistant.

### ***ACA Executive Meeting***

On November 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, ACA held an Executive meeting at the Rich River Golf Resort. I have summarised the discussions and decisions arising from that meeting as follows:

#### **“A” Series**

It was decided that there will not be any New Zealand Scholarships offered in this round. However, players will be selected to play in the “A” series in New Zealand in February 2007. Following the 2007 “A” Series, the format of the event will be reviewed.

#### **Procedures Manual**

Creina Dawson is working on a policies and procedures manual that details the duties of each of the members of the Executive. The Manual will be published on the Croquet Australia Website.

#### **Draft Annual Action Plan**

This has been delayed due to the MacRobertson Shield commitments, but will be progressed within the next few months.

#### **President’s Eights**

Discussion centred around the current system of invitation and ranking of players. Invitations will be issued three months prior to the event, players will have two weeks to respond or their place in the event will be forfeited. The ranking list to be used will be published on the website the day the invitations are issued. The Entry Fee will be \$220 and the Event will be held at the Victorian Croquet Centre.

#### **Finance Report**

Tony Hall presented several papers in relation to the ACA’s Financial position:

1. ACA Budget 2006 v Actuals as at 24 Nov;
2. Profit and Loss (with year to date) Nov 2006
3. Draft Schedule of Prizes for ACA Events 2007 (This document has been provided to States)
4. Balance Sheet as of 24/1/2006
5. Draft Schedule of Fees Charges and Honoraria 2007 (this document has since been emailed to the States)

Tony has been working on an Investment policy; the paper will be presented at the AGM.

#### **Admin Assistant**

Council approved a budget of \$10,000 for an Administrative Assistant at the last AGM. This person should in theory, take on a considerable amount of the Secretary and Event

Manager's work. A duty statement will be prepared and a suitable person appointed to the position on a trial basis.

### **Referees and Accreditation**

States have requested referees accreditation courses. The Executive agreed that there is a need for a national accreditation course for referees. The ACA will provide a list of accredited referees for International Events – referees by invitation only for these events. Gary Fox will review documents prepared previously on this topic and produce current papers.

### **Anti-Doping Policy**

Changes have been made to the template and submitted as requested by ASADA. The legal team are still reviewing and they have indicated that there will be some minor changes required.

### **Selection policy**

The Bald appeal highlighted some issues within the Selection policy. Agreement was reached upon the following points:

- The timeframe to lodge an appeal is 7 days from the date the team is announced by publication on the ACA website.
- Players may request brief (dot pointed) details as to non-selection.
- The existing appeal system only refers to an appeal as being a 'hearing', this is a costly process and there is a need to also have provision for a determination, which would not involve a hearing.
- The decision as to whether there will be a hearing or a determination is entirely up to the chair of the Panel.
- If a hearing is to be held, then the appellant must pay a fee; fully refundable should the appeal be upheld.
- It is noted that Appeals Panel decisions and subsequent action by the Selection Committee cannot be appealed.

Additionally, issues were highlighted in relation to the composition of the panel. These issues will be presented to the Council at the AGM with the intent to amend the composition of the panel.

### **Laws Committee**

Referees on Request – issue referred to the Plenary Sessions. It has also been referred to the ILC.

### **Appointments**

*Insurance officer.* The Secretary will take on this task until further notice. This year, the States submitted their details direct to the Insurance Broker – in future, the Exec requests that information to the Insurance Officer in the first instance.

#### *Director Association Croquet*

QLD wrote to ask if ACA was thinking of appointing a Director of Association Croquet as we have Directors for GC and Gateball. As Association Croquet is the predominant sport played, there are already structures in place to cover it.

### **Golf Croquet Coaching**

The new Director of Golf Croquet will address the issue of Golf croquet coaches once appointed.

### **Mallet Sports**

Ricochet Rules are to be published on the website. Gary Fox will have discussions with reference to Gateball with Keith McLeod.

### **AGM 2007**

Details checked and finalised. Timetable revised. Notification has already gone to States. Plenary Session at 10am followed by AGM at 1.30 pm at Forrest Park Croquet Club in Perth WA on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2007.

### **Championships at Victorian Croquet Centre**

A letter has been sent to the Secretary Croquet Victoria formalising the arrangements for ACA events to be held at the VCC. ACA will pay a tournament management fee for the full hire of the complex at \$180 per day.

ACA Equipment will be stored at the VCC – with the exception of the wholesale stationery etc. Joyce Bray has four boxes of items that will need to be stored once someone has been appointed as Equipment/Retail Manager.

### **Australian Sports Commission Funding**

ASC will not be offering any funding to croquet in the next round. Alternative avenues of funding will be sought.

### **Handicapping**

Creina Dawson reported that revisions to the regulations are almost finalised.

The Executive agreed that it was unnecessary to maintain national handicap records on the Croquet Australia Website – States will be notified and a link to each State's online handicap list will be added to the ACA Website.

QLD has announced the implementation of a handicapping system that is contrary to the Australian AHS. This will be addressed.

### **WCF President**

David Openshaw attended the meeting to hold informal discussions regarding WCF matters. A query was raised as to the possibility of holding a Women's World Championship – David said he would take the query to his management committee. A GC World Women's Event will be held in Ireland in 2007. The (players) residency issue for selectors, that is currently being reviewed by ACA is also going before the WCF. David said that there was no move at the present to investigate a world-wide handicapping system.

### **Events**

#### *Australian Open*

The Open will be held at VCC and no longer rotated through the States. Accommodation needs to be reviewed. There is no proposal for the use of 'wild cards'. Handicap range (-3 to 7). Maximum 72 entries (9 blocks of 8).

#### *Men's and Women's Event*

A results program is required and will be developed to complete the draw. It will also be used for the Open Singles Championships. H/C range (-3 to 7)

Maximum of 48 entries

Best of 3 games

#### *How to Resolve Block Ties*

Use of wins and net points may not be the best method of tie-breaking to determine knockout places. A paper will be reviewed and circulated.

#### *President's Eights*

Games untimed (time limit imposed after 1 ½ hours if necessary).

No pegged out games.

#### *National H/Cap Event*

This event began as an event for Divisions 3 & 4, but at present includes Divisions 1 & 2. Trial handicap range of 8+ for next year. No triple banking. 2 – 3 games per day. Limit entries to max. 48. Entries will close two months prior to the event. Entries opened on the one day – first come first serve; if partners drawn will automatically include partner. Random draw for play. A waiting list will be compiled. Must have a Tournament Handicapper present to adjust handicaps if necessary.

It was suggested that a separate event be staged for H/Cap range (-3 to 7) as the system in the past resulted in a too wide H/Cap range and too many bisques having to be given.

#### **Golf Croquet Events**

Interstate Cup and Open

These events will be rotated around the States. Tasmania, NSW and QLD all placed bids to hold the event in 2007 the Executive selected Hunter Valley in NSW on September 8<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> 2007. The open will be played first, then the Interstate Cup.

Format: 13 point block games

#### **Magazine**

It was agreed that two more issues of the magazine will be published and then a review as to viability will take place. A survey of all clubs nationally will be conducted regarding support for the magazine.

#### **President's Meeting**

Due to other commitments this meeting has not been able to be scheduled during 2006/7. The matter will be discussed at the Plenary Session in Perth prior to the AGM on 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

#### **Calendar of Events**

Requests have come from NSW and QLD requesting that the ACA Calendar be set 2 years in advance. The Executive agreed that this was a good idea and will endeavour to organise the calendar accordingly.

#### **ACA Logo**

ACA is looking for a new logo. A competition has been announced in the Magazine and details are published on the Website.

#### **Strategic Plan**

A Strategic plan for ACA will be ready for presentation at the AGM.

#### **New Club Grants**

A yearly maximum of \$2,000 p.a. will be fixed for these grants and all applications will be referred to the mid-yearly Executive meeting for decision.

### ***National Golf Croquet Handicaps***

On 13<sup>th</sup> October 2006 a change was announced to all Australian Golf Croquet Handicaps – to take effect from October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2006. The reason for the change was to rectify the discrepancy between Australian GC player's handicaps and those of players from other countries. A letter explaining the change was distributed to all States and is also published on the website.

### ***The "A" Series Squad 2007***

Our congratulations go to the players who have been selected to compete in the A Series in Auckland, New Zealand from Friday, 23 February to Sunday, 25 February 2007 at Epsom Remuera Croquet Club. The following players were selected:

Peter Ross, Kevin Beard (Manager), John Hardy, Tim Murphy, Anna Miller, Claire Gorton, Miranda Morgan and Chloe Aberley. (Reserves Neil Bonnar, Rod Kirk and Charlotte Morgan)

Claire Gorton and Chloe Aberley are unable to accept their selection due to other commitments; congratulations to Charlotte Morgan and Neil Bonnar who will travel to NZ to play in the Squad.

### ***Insurance***

Our sincere appreciation is extended to Greg Rowberry for all the work he has done in establishing and maintaining the National Insurance Scheme. Greg no longer has the time to perform these duties and consequently, the duties will be allocated to the National Secretary until further notice. Please address all enquiries to me: [secretary@croquet-australia.com.au](mailto:secretary@croquet-australia.com.au)

***Calendar of Events***

The Calendar of Events is available on the Croquet Australia Website.

***Australian Ranking List***

Please follow the link for 'Rankings' on the croquet Australia Website: [www.croquet-australia.com.au](http://www.croquet-australia.com.au)

Maree Skinner  
ACA Secretary,  
January 15<sup>th</sup> 2007