

CROQUET AUSTRALIA

EXECUTIVE CIRCULAR – NO 2 2007

***Interstate Cup
ACA Executive
Executive Meeting
AGM
National Director Golf Croquet
WCF Women's World GC Championships
Australian GC Championships Hunter Valley
President's Eights
Rich River
Officers Required
Equipment Officer
Handbook
Electronic Payments / Transfer of Funds
Executive Director
Calendar of Events
Australian Ranking List***

Interstate Cup and Championships in Perth

The Interstate Cup, Men's and Women's Singles and Gold Medal events were held in Perth this year from 21st March to 1st April. The NSW team was convincing in its claim for the Eire Cup; the first such win for the team in twenty-six years. Congratulations to all team members and well played.

Peter Landrebe from NSW won the Men's Championship and Helene Thurston from WA, the Women's Championship. The Men's Plate Event was won by Greg Whymark and Nerida Taylor from NSW won the Women's Plate. Stephen Forster from Victoria won the Gold Medal Event and Ian Dumergue from WA won the Silver Medal.

The courts at Forrest Park, Nedlands, Cambridge and Como Clubs looked superb and the managers, referees, helpers and caterers at each club are to be congratulated for their contributions in making the events run so smoothly. Croquet WA was highly efficient and organised. Games and results were well managed. Tournament Manager Brian Hadley worked tirelessly to ensure that all the months of planning were executed smoothly.

Thank you to everyone involved, you have set a very high standard for the hosting of these events in the future.

ACA Executive

The Executive would like to welcome John Fransen (President) and Max Murray (Vice-President). Gary Fox has retired as President and Rosemary Graham has retired as Vice President. Thank you to both Gary and Rosemary for their contribution to Croquet Australia in these positions. Gary will continue as Immediate Past President for the next 12 months and will continue his excellent work on policies and procedures. We will need Gary's guidance and his knowledge of the sport to continue the good work he has started as President.

Stephen Meatheringham and Tony Hall will continue as Senior Vice President and Treasurer respectively. I will continue as Secretary and will commence a part-time paid position as Executive Director, commencing July 1st 2007 as agreed by Council at the AGM.

Executive Meeting

The Executive Meeting was held on Saturday 31st March and Sunday 1st April at Forrest Park Croquet Club. I have summarised the matters discussed below:

- Old has introduced a new handicapping system. The ACA has informed QLD that players who play under the QLD system may not enter the results of those events on their AHS card.
- Papers are being edited in relation to "Maintenance of Standards" for Referees. The WCF is also looking at introducing a Referee Development Program.
- Changes to the Selection Committee were discussed and the proposals were voted upon at the AGM.
- A decision was made to write to Croquet New Zealand and state quite clearly that in future "A Series" Events, Australia wants to see a Team Event with singles and doubles.
- The secretary is to write to the Australian Laws Committee to clarify the issue of Partnerless Doubles.
- A Procedures Manual is being produced. The document outlines the various duties and procedures of the Executive. It will be published on the Website.
- A Draft Annual Action Plan will be produced in conjunction with a Strategic Plan.
- Funding is required and the Executive will look at Grants in relation to demographics.
- Selectors will continue to use player's grades to determine selection.
- Croquet Australia will purchase some new hoop setters and Gauges.
- A paper will be prepared to submit to the WCF proposing a WCF Association Croquet Laws Committee be set up.
- The ACA subsidised the President's Eights in the amount of \$772.36 last year.
- EFT is being used increasingly within the organisation.
- The matter of Residency requirements for international events is still before the WCF for consideration.
- Resolution of Block Ties. A new system devised by Louis Nel has been reviewed – most Australian players are happy with net points determining block ties.
- The revised Anti-Doping policy has been submitted to ASADA.
- The Referees Manual needs editing and updating. That process is in progress.
- The Treasurer presented the financial documents for discussion.
- The future of the magazine was discussed. It was decided that Croquet Australia would continue to subsidise the publication (\$2,000 pa) and more emphasis will be placed on what the readers want to see in the magazine. Max Murray agreed to manage the magazine and the position of Editor will be advertised. An Advertising Manager is also required.
- The Executive proposed that the present secretary (Maree Skinner) be appointed as Executive Director and be paid on a part-time basis by Croquet Australia. The duties would include Secretary, Events manager and Insurance Officer. The arrangements to finance the position will be put to the AGM.
- The Interstate Event for Golf Croquet and Open Singles Championships will be held in the Hunter Valley from 8th – 16th September 2007. Singles will be played first. The Executive is hoping that each of the six states will submit a team for the event (2 men and 2 women). The Open Singles Championships will be played as a Round Robin Block Event (blocks of eight). Best of three – thirteen point games.
- The format for the MacRobertson Shield to be held in England in 2011 will change. It will be played at a four-lawn venue and on days when six best-of-three games are to be played, four matches will be scheduled for the morning and the other two will be played as soon as a lawn becomes available. More countries will be encouraged to compete. There are changes to funding arrangements and the residential qualification is still under consideration.

- Owen Edwards will be appointed to the WCF Referee Development Program.
- Several positions for Appointed Officers will be advertised in the magazine (National Director gateball, National Director Coaching, Australian Team Coach, National Schools Coaching Director, National Golf Croquet Director).
- WCF Women's Golf Croquet Championships in Ireland. September 2007. Four players have nominated. Australia has been awarded 2 places and possible a Wildcard. Croquet Australia will supply shirts and subsidise the fares in the amount of \$1,000 each.
- The entries arising from the Logo competition were reviewed and the Executive decided to seek professional advice as to a new LOGO. Sincere appreciation to those who submitted entries.

AGM

The minutes of the AGM have been circulated and a copy may be viewed on the Croquet Australia Website www.croquet-australia.com.au

National Director Golf Croquet

Christine Pont has been appointed to the position. Thank you Christine, for agreeing to take on this important role. A sincere thank you to Valerie Lafel for her contribution as past Director.

2nd WCF Women's World GC Championship

Congratulations to Christine Pont and Creina Dawson who have been selected as Australia's representatives at this Tournament to be held in Ireland 3 – 9 September 2007. Congratulations also to Glennis Kitt who has been awarded a 'wild card' place at the Event. We wish all three ladies the very best of luck.

Australian Golf Croquet Championships Hunter Valley

The GC Interstate Teams Event and Open GC Singles Championships will be hosted in the Hunter Valley from 8 – 16th September 2007. Entry forms are available on the Croquet Australia Website, from your state secretary or from me.

President's Eights

The first round of invitations went out on May 16th and the second round of invitations went out this week. The event will be hosted at Cairnlea for the first time. Congratulations to all invitees. The amount that ACA has budgeted to subsidise this Event is \$1,000.

Australian National Handicap Championships Rich River

This Tournament will be hosted at the Rich River Croquet Club on 16 -22 September this year. The Tournament is open to all Handicaps but preference will be give to 8+ (should there be too many entries). Entry forms are available on the Croquet Australia Website, from your state secretary and a copy is available in this month's issue of Croquet Australia magazine.

National Director of Coaching; National Director of Gateball, Australian Team Coach and Magazine Editor

We are seeking expressions of interest from interested persons to fill these positions. Advertisements will be placed in the Croquet Australia Magazine, on the Website and will also be emailed to the States. Interested persons are to be asked to supply a submission that details how they feel they would fit the role and what initiatives they would be implementing to develop their particular area of responsibility nationally.

Equipment Officer

A sincere thank you to Joyce Bray, who has retired after many years as Equipment Officer. Shirley Hallinan has agreed to take on the duties. Shirley may be contacted by phone on: 03 9370 8748 or 0413 451 072 and her postal address is: 604/701 Mt Alexander Rd. MOONEE PONDS VIC 3039

Croquet Australia Handbook

The handbook has been updated and copies have been sent to the States. Extra copies may be purchased from the Equipment Officer.

Electronic Payments / Transfer of Funds

Claims/Payments from the ACA. If State Associations, ACA officers or players expect to be paid a claim or other payment from the ACA they can be paid by direct credit to their bank account by providing the BSB number of their bank, the name of their account and its number. This procedure saves time and expense. The Treasurer will normally advise by email that a payment has been made.

Executive Director

On July 1st I will commence to work for Croquet Australia in the position of Executive Director. The position is to be paid, part-time for approximately twenty four hours a week. My duties will include those of secretary, events manager and insurance officer. The position will be reviewed at the next AGM. In order to stream-line the operations of the organisation, I request that all emails for Croquet Australia be addressed to me: secretary@croquet-australia.com.au in the first instance, with the exception of those obviously intended for the treasurer, webmaster or magazine manager.

Calendar of Events

I am at present endeavouring to update the calendar two years in advance as we have agreed. I am still awaiting information and bids from some states for certain events. The Calendar can be accessed on the Croquet Australia Website. www.croquet-australia.com.au

Australian Ranking List

Please follow the link for 'Rankings' on the Croquet Australia Website.

Maree Skinner
Executive Director
5th July 2007