

CROQUET AUSTRALIA

EXECUTIVE CIRCULAR – NO 3 2007

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Australian Golf Croquet Championships Hunter Valley

The GC Interstate Teams Event and Open GC Singles Championships were held in the Hunter Valley from 8 – 16th September 2007. Congratulations to Kevin Beard who defeated John Levick in the final of the Open Singles and to Victoria who won the Interstate Shield. Thank you to all the organisers and workers who put in an enormous effort to make the event so successful and the Clubs who made their facilities available for the Events.

A special thank you to Tim Murphy who wrote the scoring program. His program enabled the results to go direct to the website. Tim has agreed to write programs for all the ACA Events.

Review of Referee and Coaching Accreditation

Stephen Meatheringham, Peter Tavender and Owen Edwards have taken on the challenge and are working with the Australian Sports Commission to bring our Referee Accreditation up to date. Thank you, Stephen, Peter and Owen.

The Australian Sports Commission recently requested that we review and re-register our coaching courses. As a result, all coaching accreditation will be suspended until the courses are approved and registered with the ASC. National Director of Coaching, John Riches will be working with a Senior Project officer from the Department of Recreation and Sport in SA to update the courses. Thank you, John.

Executive Meeting

The Executive Meeting was held on Monday 12th November 2007 at the Victorian Croquet Centre. I have summarised the matters discussed below:

- **Preparation for the AGM in 2008.**

- **Referees Manual** – Owen Edwards has produced an AC and a GC Referees Manual. Both require further review prior to finalising.
- **Magazine** – agreed to run a photographic competition in the next issue and award prizes.
- The Executive decided to adopt the **Logo** designed by John Thompson of Design Plus, as the new Croquet Australia Logo. A copy of the Logo will be posted on the website as soon as possible.
- **Executive Director** – the duties of the position warrant far in excess of the original estimate of 24 hours a week. There will be a re-distribution of duties, particularly in the area of Events Management.
- **Events** – closing dates will be moved closer to events; entry fees will need to rise and will be announced in the Schedule of fees to go out to States imminently; the Player's Meeting at the Open Championships generated some useful suggestions for future events; Martin Barnsley suggested that ACA adopt a uniform for referees and supplied samples, the Executive felt that the Day-Glo vests used at present were the best option at present; Dates for Events will be set to avoid clashes with other major sporting events in future; The National Handicap Tournament at Rich River was discussed at length and opinions expressed by interested parties will be taken into account for the 2008 event; There was discussion regarding referees for events and it was decided that players will become their own referees for the Eights, Open, Gold Medal, Men's and Women's Singles and Interstate Cup. We will still require a number of referees for the National AC and GC Handicap Events and the GC Open and Interstate Shield. A Tournament referee will need to be appointed and states and ACA will negotiate the requirement for further referees.
- **Finances** – Tony Hall outlined the process for deriving the budget each year and discussed various fees and the need for increases in relation to expenses.
- **Teams Event for GC** - the Exec will look at suggestions for a 3 x 3 or a 4 x 4 teams event.
- **International Croquet** – Australia will bid to hold the WCF Women's GC Championships in 2009; New Zealand Scholarships will be offered for players to attend the NZ Open Championships in 2009.
- **Voting Rights** – this matter was raised at a previous AGM and raised again by Jacky Mc Donald and John Hanscomb. The Executive position will be drafted and sent in reply.
- **Appointments** – already covered in this circular.
- **Amendments to Selection policy** – needs to be amended to accommodate Golf Croquet selections. In addition the Executive decided to appoint two Golf croquet specific selectors to the Selection Committee at such time as they will be required.
- **ACA Policy on Posting on Public Forums** - ACA Officers must make it quite clear that anything they publish in the public domain is a personal opinion and not an authorised statement from the ACA.
- **WCF Council Meeting** – Discussion re delegates, motions to WCF and voting.
- **Developing Croquet in Australia** – suggestion that we reward new players. States to nominate their most improved player by the AGM each year – a trophy will be awarded.
- **Sponsorship** – Max Murray has formulated a sponsorship proposal for the ACA – still under consideration.

Golf Croquet

New Golf Croquet Regulations and Guidelines for games to be included in the Golf Croquet International Grading System have recently been posted on the Croquet Australia website. Thank you to the Handicapping Committee for all their hard work in formulating the Regulations and Guidelines.

A revised Golf Croquet Handicap Card is available for download from the website. Thank you to Stephen Meatheringham for updating the card.

AGM

The next Plenary Session and AGM will be held in Brisbane on Friday 4th April 2008. States and Officials have been advised accordingly.

Australian Gold Medal, Men's and Women's and Interstate Cup Events

These events will be held in Brisbane from 26 March – 6 April 2008. Entry forms have been sent to all State Associations and can be downloaded from the Croquet Australia Website.

ACA Appointments

Croquet Australia has appointed the following people to the following positions: Carolyn Ribone, Magazine Editor; Gilon Smith, National Gateball Director; John Riches, National Coaching Director and Steve Jones as Coaching Consultant to the Australian Team.

Congratulations to all of these people and thank you for being prepared to take up the challenge to assist Croquet within Australia.

2nd WCF Women's World GC Championship

Christine Pont, Creina Dawson, Glennis Kitt and Vivienne Murphy travelled to Ireland to play in this event. Christine Pont finished second in her block. All reported that it was a great experience for them.

Croquet Australia will be placing a bid to host the 2009 Event.

President's Eights

This event was held at the Victorian Croquet Centre from 28 September to 1st October. Thank you to all who helped with the organisation and the running of the Event and to Tim Murphy for the scoring program.

Congratulations to Peter Landrebe who won the Eddie hunt Trophy, Ken Bald who won the Tom Howat Cup and to Liz Fleming who won the Jean Armstrong Bowl.

Australian National Handicap Championships Rich River

The event had to be cancelled due to the low number of entries. ACA has received a number of submissions from interested parties in relation to changing certain elements of the event to make it more appealing to players. We have taken all of the suggestions into account and will hopefully arrive at a suitable format for next year's event in October 2008. Negotiations are still in progress and dates will be confirmed as soon as they are finalised.

Australian National GC Handicap Championships Deniliquin

This event was held in Deniliquin from October 22nd – 26th 2007. Congratulations to Tony Hall and Beryl McDonald for taking out the Doubles Championships and to Jim Saunders who defeated Val Hanna to win the Singles Championship. Thank you to all who worked so hard to make the event such a success. I attended and was made to feel very welcome.

I am happy to announce that Deniliquin Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club have agreed to host the event again in 2008. The Deniliquin Council has made an offer to the Club to assist in the setting-up of the courts. The dates are still to be finalised.

Australian Open Championships Melbourne

The Australian Open Singles and Doubles Championships were held at the Victorian Croquet centre at Cairnlea from 2 – 11 November 2007. Congratulations to Paddy Chapman and

Greg Bryant who were awarded the Winner's Trophy in the doubles and to Bruce Fleming who won the singles convincingly against Paddy Chapman.

Thank you to all the volunteers who gave so much time and effort to ensuring the success of the Tournament. A special vote of thanks goes to John and Gisela Irlam for their wonderful catering; to the ACA Tournament Committee: Tim Murphy, Trevor Bassett and Kevin Beard who worked in conjunction with Tournament Manager, Brian Reither and me, to complete the draws, work out the lawn allocations and install and run the scoring program written by Tim.

4th Australian Gateball Championships Melbourne

The Australian Gateball Championships were held at the Victorian Croquet Centre 23 – 25 November 2007. Fifteen teams from Australia, Japan and China competed in the Championships. Petro China Sports Association was the Winning Team with a perfect score of 25 points.

Thank you to all who contributed to the success of the event. The 5th Australian Gateball Championships will be held in Queensland in 2009.

Insurance

The National Insurance policies have been renewed for another 12 months. We made a substantial saving on the Public Liability Policy this year. I would like to thank Steven Hill from OAMPS Insurance Brokers for all the assistance he has given to Croquet Australia with regard to insurance matters. Steven has recently left OAMPS to take up a position with another company and we wish him the very best in his new position. Matthew Wilson will be looking after our account.

Croquet Australia Magazine

I would like to congratulate Max Murray (Vice President and Magazine Manager) for producing a bumper issue of the magazine this month. There are some wonderful photographs of the Open Championships in Melbourne and also some brilliant shots submitted by entrants in the photographic competition. Max and I had a very difficult job deciding on the winners.

Croquet Australia's New Logo featured on the cover of the magazine. The Logo was designed by John Thompson of Design Plus.

Selections for WCF World Championships in 2008

The WCF called for nominations for the 11th AC World Championships in Christchurch NZ from 2 – 10 February 2008. Congratulations to all the players who have been selected and we wish you good croquet.

The WCF called for nominations for the 8th WCF World Golf Croquet Championships in South Africa from 8 – 16 March 2008. Congratulations to the players who have been selected to represent Australia and the best of luck.

Details of selections are available on the Croquet Australia Website.
www.croquet-australia.com.au

I would like to clarify the conditions that apply to the wearing of the Australian Coat of Arms. Croquet Australia must seek permission for players and officials to wear the Coat of Arms prior to each International Event. There has been some confusion as to whether individuals representing Australia can do so. I quote from the ASC:

“Anyone selected to represent Australia in a sport recognised by the Australian Sports Commission, either as an individual or in a team, in an event sanctioned by the International governing body, is entitled to wear the Commonwealth Coat of Arms on their uniform. Requests for the use of

the Arms must be made by the relevant association as recognised by the ASC.”

Electronic Payments / Transfer of Funds

The ACA is moving more to use this method of payment/reimbursement. Please note that from now on all entry fees will be payable by EFT. EFT payments must be clearly identified with the name of the payee and the event to which the payment relates. Entry forms must be sent to the Executive Director indicating that payment has been made by EFT and an email must be sent to the Treasurer, Tony Hall treasurer@croquet-australia.com.au advising him of the amount, date of transfer and which event the payment relates to.

Calendar of 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.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and good health and success in the New Year.

Maree Skinner
Executive Director
19 December 2007