

# CROQUET AUSTRALIA

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In this final Executive Circular for 2008, I will summarise the Executive activity since August 2008.

### ***Volunteers***

During the time I have been Executive Director, I have become increasingly aware of the enormous amount of essential work performed by the numerous volunteers who are the backbone of this sport. Whether you help with the catering for or manage a tournament or take on a role as in an administrative capacity, your contribution is invaluable and much appreciated. I have had the opportunity to travel this year and meet many of the people who have previously been only a voice at the end of a phone. I have enjoyed meeting you all personally and discussing your perceptions and suggestions to improve and advance croquet.

### ***ACA Executive Committee***

It has been my pleasure to be a part of a very hard-working Executive Committee this year. My duties had proved too onerous and following the AGM it was agreed that the other Executive members would take on some of the duties and spread the workload. I would like to thank Max Murray, Stephen Meatheringham, Bruce Fleming and Tony Hall for their guidance and assistance throughout the year.

### **The ACA AGM**

The ACA AGM 2009 will be held at The Master Builder's Association Offices, 52 Parramatta Road Forest Lodge NSW 2037 on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 10 am. This year, President Max Murray has decided to incorporate all discussion into the AGM. Therefore there will not be a separate Plenary Session as in previous years. A light lunch will be provided together with Tea/Coffee and biscuits.

### **Vice-Regal Patronage of Croquet Australia**

Croquet Australia has received a letter from the Office of the Official Secretary to the Governor-General. Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC is delighted to accept the position of Patron to Croquet Australia.

### **Australian Golf Croquet Championships Sunshine Coast 2008**

The Open Singles GC Championships were held at the Sunshine Coast from 6 – 9 September 2008 and the Interstate Shield on 10 – 14 September 2008. Thank you to Headland-Buderim, Coolum, Caloundra and Nambour Croquet Clubs for hosting the events and to all the volunteers who willingly dressed the courts, catered, refereed, managed, kept scores and assisted in many other ways to ensure that the events were successful.

Congratulations to Kevin Beard (Vic) who won the Open Singles in a thrilling match against Peter Landrebe (NSW). Congratulations again to the Victorian Team who won the Interstate Shield convincingly for the second year in a row.

### **President's Eights**

The President's Eights were held at Cairnlea on 3 – 6 October 2008. Thank you to Tournament manager Brian Reither and the team of volunteers at the VCC for conducting the tournament on our behalf.

Congratulations to the following winners: First Eight, Harley Watts (SA); Second Eight, Mark Prater (SA); Women's Eight, Claire Bassett.

The players from this year's event submitted some suggestions to the Executive:

- That the Tournament Manager has discretion over court allocation. The Executive agreed;
- That a court setting roster be established at every tournament. The Executive decided that the host state association should be responsible for appointing suitable persons to set the hoops. The TR should check the hoops before play as a part of his/her normal duties;
- That reimbursement of travel costs be reviewed. Tony Hall agreed to review the reimbursement policy and submit a proposal for Executive approval;
- Max Murray has had some brass gauges made for hoop setting. Approved gauges will be supplied at all ACA Events (The new Orm Cook gauges or the brass gauges). Hoops should be set as close as possible to 3 11/16 inches. The Executive felt that Feeler Gauges are too difficult to use and should not be used to set hoops.
- A random draw in advance has been suggested for the event. This will be considered in the review of ACA Events.

### **National AC Handicap Tournament Rich River**

The AC Handicap Tournament was held at Rich River CC on 12 – 18 October 2008. Our sincere thanks to the Rich River Golf Resort and the volunteers from RR Croquet Club. Although entries were low, those who participated enjoyed a full program of play.

Congratulations to Ian Bassett (Vic) and Philip Wise (SA) who won the doubles championship and to Doron Gunzburg (Vic) who won the singles Championship.

### **National GC Championships Deniliquin**

The Handicap Singles and Doubles Events were held at Deniliquin on 20 – 24 October 2008. As usual, players appreciated the wonderful hospitality of the Deniliquin Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club. Thank you to Deniliquin Council and all the volunteers who assisted. The Deniliquin Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club has agreed to host the tournament in 2009.

Congratulations to Tony Hall (NSW) and Beryl McDonald (NSW) the defending champions, who managed to ward off strong opponents to take out the doubles championship again. Congratulations also to Creina Dawson (SA) who won the singles trophy.

### **AC Open Singles and Doubles Championships Cairnlea**

The Australian AC Open Championships were held at Cairnlea on 22 – 30 November 2008. The first day of play in the doubles championships was interrupted by hail. However, players donned their warmest outfits and battled on. Thank you to the VCA for again hosting the championships and also to TM Brian Reither, TR Owen Edwards, Bernie and Josie Bailey for their excellent catering and all the volunteers who set the courts and assisted in numerous ways throughout the event.

Congratulations to Stephen Mulliner (UK) and Kevin Beard who beat Peter Landrebe (NSW) and Margaret Melville (QLD) to win the doubles trophy. Congratulations to Peter Landrebe (NSW) who beat Robert Fletcher (Vic) in an exciting final that went to five games.

### **ACA Junior Scholarships**

On September 20 2008, the ACA and the ACA Selectors announced the winners of the AC Junior Scholarships. The players are: Chloe Aberley (NSW), Robert Fletcher (Vic) and John Smith (Vic). The ACA is pleased to support these young talented players. They will be competing in the NZ Open Championships from 17 – 25 January 2009.

Chloe Aberley has recently withdrawn.

### **Trans-Tasman Test Series 2009**

The TT Team held a training weekend at Bribie Island CC in early October. Thank you to Bribie Island CC for making your courts available to the team. Coaching Consultant Steve Jones has arranged a final training weekend at Cairnlea on January 10–11 2009. Thank you to the VCA for making your courts available. Team uniforms have been supplied and accommodation and transport arrangements in NZ have been made.

I would like to thank the Executive Director of Croquet NZ, Murray Taylor, for his assistance.

### **Australian AC Championships Sydney 2009**

The Gold Medal, Men's and Women's Singles and the Eire Cup will be hosted by various croquet clubs in Sydney in March 2009. Organising Committee Chair, Ken Edwards and his very efficient committee are well advanced in making the arrangements for the events. Details may be viewed on the Croquet NSW website <http://www.croquet-nsw.com>

### **ACA Entry Fees Reduced for Full-Time Students**

At our recent Executive meeting, the ACA decided to reduce all entry fees for ACA Events by 50% for full-time students under 25 years of age.

### **Women's GC Singles Championship**

This event will be hosted at the Victorian Croquet Centre 1 – 4 May 2009. This event will be a selection event for the WCF Women's World GC Championship.

Entry forms and tournament conditions will be published in January 2009.

### **Parity for AC and GC Events**

At the Executive Meeting in November it was decided that prizes for AC and GC Events would be equal. The review of ACA Events will further address the parity issue.

### **Review of ACA Events**

At our recent Executive Meeting, it was decided that Bruce Fleming, together with a small working party, will review all ACA Events. Suggestions from the last Players meeting will be incorporated into that review.

### **Plate Event Only Entries**

A small number of players elect to play only in the Plate Event at National Tournaments. The fee at present is \$20. The Executive decided that the fee should be based on the expected amount of play calculated as a proportion of the set entry fee for the event. In cases where there is a list of reserves for events, the reserves should be given places in plate events before 'plate only' entries are considered.

### **Recognition of Significant Contribution to Croquet**

The ACA Executive acknowledges that there are many volunteers who contribute significantly to the sport. A 'Medal for Meritorious Service' will be awarded annually. The ACA will call for nominations from the states.

### **Coaching Accreditation**

Drafts for Beginner Coaching and Level 2 Coaching Programs have been submitted to the Australian Sports Commission for review. We expect that we will receive feedback in January 2009.

### **GC Coaching Manual**

Bill Lawson from SA has produced a GC Coaching Manual and the South Australian Croquet Association supports Bill's submission that the ACA endorse the publication. A copy will be sent to the GC Co-ordinator in each state for review and the matter will be discussed at the AGM in March 2009. National Director of GC, Chris Pont has had input into the publication and endorses the proposed course of action.

### **Amended Anti-Doping Policy**

The Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority has approved Croquet Australia's amended Anti-Doping Policy that will be effective as at January 1 2009.

<http://www.croquet-australia.com.au/Governance/Documents/index.html>

### **ACA Tournament Regulations**

An amended set of ACA Tournament Regulations has been published on the ACA website, effective as at 1 January 2009. The amendments have been made to the Regulations concerning, hoop setting, partnerless doubles and impasses.

<http://www.croquet-australia.com.au/Governance/Documents/index.html>

### **AC Handicapping Regulations**

Regulation 4 of the AC Handicapping Regulations has been amended following agreement at the November Executive Meeting. There are no longer any step limitations on non-automatic handicap changes.

### **Insurance**

ACA Insurance Officer, Bruce Fleming has arranged the National Insurance Policies through Barclay Insurance Brokers. All insurance queries should be addressed to Bruce:

[bruce26tpo@bigpond.com](mailto:bruce26tpo@bigpond.com).

### **Croquet Australia Magazine – Photographic Competition**

Results of the photographic Competition may be viewed on the website: <http://www.croquet-australia.com.au> Congratulations to the winners and runners-up in each of the four categories.

### **Magazine Editor Secures a Grant**

Congratulations to Carolyn Ribone who (on behalf of Croquet QLD) was awarded a grant of \$10,000 by the Q150 Community Funding program to produce an electronic history (a database and CD-ROM of photographs and historical data) celebrating croquet in Queensland. The celebrations will also include tournaments throughout Queensland, celebrating croquet's nine clubs who have attained their centenary by 2009.

QLD celebrates the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of independence this year.

### **12<sup>th</sup> WCF World AC Championship Florida NSW 2009**

Congratulations to the following players who have been selected and awarded places to play in the World AC Championships in Florida USA 9-17 May 2009: Ken Bald (Vic), Kevin Beard (Vic), Bruce Fleming (QLD), Elizabeth Fleming (QLD), Robert Fletcher (Vic), Stephen Forster (Vic), Mark Prater (SA) and Simon Watkins (Vic). Tim Murphy (NSW) has been awarded a wild card place.

### **Calendar of Events**

The Calendar can be accessed on the Croquet Australia Website.  
[www.croquet-australia.com.au](http://www.croquet-australia.com.au)

### **Australian Ranking List**

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

Maree Skinner  
Executive Director  
31 December 2008