

National Selection Update

April 2008

The selectors wish to keep players informed regarding selection issues. To this end the Selectors have put together some information of interest to all players.

Who Are the Selectors?

There are four national selectors, three are elected annually at the ACA AGM and the fourth is the most recent national team captain.

At the AGM Stephen Meatheringham (NSW) and Alan Sands (WA) were re-elected for another 12 months. This is Alan's second year as a selector and Stephen's fourth. We welcome onto the selection committee Anna Miller (Vic). Martin Clarke (WA) continues as the most recent team captain.

The ACA President, Max Murray (NSW) is a member of the committee in an ex-officio role. The national coach is also ex-officio. There is not a person in that position at the moment.

The selectors have chosen Stephen Meatheringham to Chair the Committee.

Peter Landrebe

The selectors and the ACA Executive wish to record their appreciation and thanks to Peter Landrebe for his time and efforts over 4 years as a selector, the way in which he carried himself as chair, his demeanour and approach to a number of difficult issues that arose. Peter's knowledge of international croquet play and his insightful evaluation of players was of great value.

Golf Croquet Selection

A motion was carried at the ACA AGM regarding Golf Croquet (GC) selection. In essence it said that the ACA Executive will appointment two people with GC experience to assist the selectors when selecting for GC events. It was reasoned that not all selectors may have GC experience at the level required to select players for international competition. These people will be ex-officio on the committee, will not have a vote, and will not necessarily be privy to all deliberations of the Selectors. However, their input will be valuable.

The Plenary session before the AGM also asked if there would be a move in future towards separate AC and GC selection committees.

The ACA Selection Policy does not cover GC. The ACA Executive will be looking to correct this to ensure clear selection guidelines for GC are included.

Trans-Tasman (TT)

This will be held in NZ (venue currently unknown) from 7-14 February 2009. The selectors have nominated an initial squad most of whom will be attending a training weekend in Melbourne on the weekend of 3-4 May.

Anna will be present to represent the selectors at that weekend.

The ACA Selection policy states that (section 5.4):

Croquet Australia shall ensure that players are informed of the timing of the selection of teams and/or squads. This timing shall depend upon the particular circumstances of the event.

However in general terms, it is expected that teams would be selected usually 6 months prior to the event and squads between 6 and 12 months prior. Subject to funding, longer term development squads may also be established and be subject to ongoing review by the Selection Committee.

In line with this policy the TT team will be selected near the end of August. The recent ACA nationals provided the last opportunity at the national level for players to place themselves in the selectors view.

The selection policy also says (section 6.2.3):

The Selectors will normally only consider events that have been conducted in the last 12 months, unless the Selectors otherwise specify.

The selectors will consider International events and results thereof dating back to, and including, the previous TT in April 2006. The rationale being that we need to look at the performance of previous team members during that TT event.

The selectors will be placing emphasis on team compatibility and doubles. Performances in previous TT events have been poorer than expected given the “on-paper” strength of our teams. Consideration needs to be given to a number of extra issues when choosing individuals for a team, in addition to weighing up playing capabilities.

Input will also be sought from Steve Jones who is acting in a consultant role for the ACA specifically for preparation of the TT team.

President's Eights

The 2008 Eights will be held at the Victorian Croquet Centre from 3-6 October.

The selectors have little input into the Eights. From the ACA Handbook:

The President's Invitation Event should be held annually at a suitable venue or venues and shall consist of 3 separate events. Each event shall comprise a maximum of 8 players, selected by the Selection Committee on the following basis: world ranking and subject to a minimum of 20 games in the preceding 12 months. Up to 2 wild cards for each event may be made available, having regard to rapidly improving players. Members of the Selection Committee are eligible for selection in these events.

For 2008 the selectors have indicated that we do not wish to make use of wildcards.

The ACA Procedures Manual says:

The Australian Ranking List updated after the completion of the Interstate Cup will be used to determine players who are offered places in the Presidents Eights. Places in individual Eights will be determined by the Ranking list one month prior to the commencement of the event.

The selectors have used the interactive Australian world ranking list as of 10 April and the names of eligible players passed to the ACA Executive Director for invitations to be sent.

12th WCF World Association Croquet Championship

This is to be held in Florida from 9-17 May 2009.

While it is a long way off selections will need to be made later this year. The Selection Policy says (section 7.3):

Selection timeframes for International individual events will be determined by the Selectors, taking into account the closing date of entries for the event and the desirability to provide sufficient time for selected players to prepare for the event.

At this time we have no indication how many places Australia will be allocated. The WCF Sports Regulations indicate that 7-9 months before the championships members will be notified. Numbers should be known before our Nationals (21-30 November 2008). In all likelihood selections will be made near the end of December 2008 or early January 2009.

Selectors will be present at the Eights and at the Nationals in order to aid selection deliberations for these championships.

New Zealand Scholarships

Regarding scholarships (in general) the Selection Policy states (section 5.2):

5.2.1 Depending on the availability of funds, the Executive may from time to time award scholarships to selected players to play in major tournaments both in Australia and/or other countries.

5.2.2 The basis for selection and the number to be selected shall be determined by the Executive each year.

5.2.3 Selection of the players shall be made by the Selection Committee.

5.2.4 The aim shall be to extend the individual's playing experience with a view to future international representation.

5.2.5 Junior Scholarships may be awarded to players under 25 years of age and these may provide for the full cost of tournament entry fees, economy return airfares and a contribution towards accommodation expenses.

5.2.6 Senior Scholarships may provide for tournament entry fees and up to 60% of economy return airfare costs.

The ACA Executive has provided funding for 3 junior scholarships to compete in the 2009 NZ Open.

The recipients of these will be announced immediately following the President's Eights.