

# Croquet Australia

## Annual Report



# 2017



## MacRobertson Shield team



L to R – Ian Dumergue, Robert Fletcher, Greg Fletcher, Malcolm Fletcher and Stephen Forster (absent Simon Hockey).

## World Golf Croquet Championship



Winner: Reg Bamford

Front Cover: MacRobertson Shield



## AUSTRALIAN CROQUET ASSOCIATION

### Introduction

The Australian Croquet Association (ACA) became incorporated in the ACT on Monday 10 February, 1992 – Incorporation Number is AO2004. It also trades as Croquet Australia and is recognised by the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) as a National Sporting Organisation (NSO). Its main objective is to operate as the peak body for the administration of croquet in Australia.

Until early 2015, ACA had a Council which consisted of twelve delegates – two from each State Association – and an Executive responsible for the day to day management. On Monday 23 March 2015, the Members adopted a new constitution based on the Australian Sports Commission's – Constitution Template; Mandatory Sports and Governance Principles and Governance Principles – which was registered with the ACT Office of Regulatory Services. Approval was received on Thursday 9 April, 2015 and ACA moved from an Executive and Council to a Board structure.

### Members

There are six voting Members –

- Croquet New South Wales Incorporated (includes the ACT)
- Croquet Association Queensland Incorporated
- South Australian Croquet Association Incorporated
- Tasmanian Croquet Association Incorporated
- The Victorian Croquet Association Incorporated
- The West Australian Croquet Association Incorporated

### Affiliated Members

As at 31 December 2017, ACA had 9,351 Affiliated Members

State	2015		2016		2017	
	Adult	Under 21	Adult	Under 21	Adult	Under 21
NSW	3,079	7	3,086	7	3,044	10
VIC	2,756	4	2,751	8	2,775	11
QLD	1,349	3	1,387	8	1,411	2
SA	994	9	985	2	967	9
WA	675	2	702	2	699	11
TAS	372	0	396	1	398	14
Sub total	9,225	25	9,312	23	9,294	57
Total	9,250		9,335		9,351	

## **Meetings**

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held in Hobart on Monday 27 March, the day following the conclusion of the Eire Cup.

The Special General Meeting (SGM) was convened the day after the Interstate Shield in Brisbane on Monday 11 September.

## **Member of two World Bodies**

ACA is a full member of the World Croquet Federation and a member of the World Gateball Union.

## **Financial Year**

ACA's financial year is 1 January to 31 December.

## **Banking**

The ACA has two accounts – Operating Account to receive income and Treasurer's Account for expenditure.

## **Investments**

At the end of the year ACA had two investment portfolios – BT Financial Group (Westpac Australian Properties Fund) and MLC Share Fund and three term deposits.

## **Goods and Services Tax**

Australian Croquet Association is registered for GST.

## Board

Following the adoption of the constitution in March 2015 the makeup of the Board was outlined under the transitional arrangements between constitutions.

### Directors – 1 January to 27 March

Robyn Wallace – Chair  
Megan Fardon – Deputy Chair  
Don Close – Treasurer  
Mike Cohn  
Jim Saunders  
Murray Tinker  
Graeme Thomas  
Tricia Vierra

Secretary/Administrator – Susan Linge

### Directors – 27 March to 31 December

Megan Fardon – Chair  
Mike Cohn - Deputy Chair  
Don Close – Treasurer  
Tony McArthur  
Jim Nicholls  
Murray Tinker  
Graeme Thomas

Secretary/Administrator – Susan Linge

Susan Linge resigned in August 2017 and Graeme Thomas took over as voluntary acting Secretary/Administrator pending permanent filling of the position.



*Left to Right: Graeme Thomas, Murray Tinker, Megan Fardon, Mike Cohn, Don Close, Tony McArthur (absent: Jim Nicholls).*

## **Appointed Officers**

### **Association Croquet**

High Performance Manager – Peter Landrebe

National Co-ordinator Refereeing – Mike Cohn

National Co-ordinator Coaching – Greg Whymark

### **Gateball**

National Co-ordinator Gateball – John Park

### **Golf Croquet**

High Performance Manager – Ron McBride

National Co-ordinator Refereeing – Jim Clement

National Co-ordinator Coaching – Ron McBride

### **Under 21 Croquet**

National Co-ordinator – Jacky McDonald

### **Handicapping**

National Handicapper – Rob McAdam

### **Archivist**

Martin Clarke

### **Magazine Editor**

Carolyn Ribone

### **Australian Representation**

WCF AC Laws Committee – Liz Fleming

WCF GC Rules Committee – Gordon Matthews

WCF Management Committee – Peter Landrebe



Positions Vacant –

Complaints Officer

## **Committees**

### **Tournament**

Trevor Bassett, Chair

Kevin Beard

Terry Ericson

### **Event**

Peter Freer, Chair

Bob Godfrey

Peter Tracey

### **AC Selection**

Anne Quinn, Chair

Trevor Bassett

Martin Clarke

Ian Dumergue (Australian Team Captain)

Peter Landrebe (High Performance Manager)

### **GC Selection**

Terry Ericson, Chair

Lester Hughes

Anne Quinn

Chris McWhirter (Australian Team Captain)

Ron McBride (High Performance Manager)

## **Statement Chair – Megan Fardon**

The AGM was held in Hobart following the Eire Cup. Reports were presented and accepted. The motions presented were not accepted due to in-accurate wording. An election was held for four Director positions. The result was the re-election of Don Close, Treasurer and myself, Deputy Chair and two new Directors, Jim Nicholls and Tony McArthur. Thank you goes to the retiring Board Members, Robyn Wallace, who held the role of Chair, Tricia Vierra and Jim Saunders. Thank you to the State Delegates for attending. The first Board Meeting following the AGM determined by vote that I take on the role of Chair with Mike Cohn taking on the Deputy Chair.

During May Murray Tinker and I visited the Australian Sports Commission, our Canberra Office and played some croquet at the Canberra CC. At this time the croquet community was following Croquetscores to determine the Australian win of the MacRobertson Shield. It was great to be at Melbourne Airport to welcome home five of the Team and inspect the silverware. Well done.

A Finance Committee was formed to help the Treasurer and Finance Assistant with the future directions of our assets.

July was a face to face meeting of the Board Members in Adelaide. This was a great opportunity to introduce ourselves and meet with the executive of Croquet South Australia, its staff and members. To hear of the state's successes, Hammertime and to hear of its issues.

Susan Linge resigned as Administrative Assistant and Secretary to the Board. A big thank you to Susan for all her hard work and efforts. Susan was instrumental in introducing the MYOB package the Treasurer and Finance Assistant now work with. Susan was also great at getting the croquet message out to the wider community with PR and the Magazine. Graeme Thomas has taken on the temporary role of Secretary to the Board and is acting as the Administrative Assistant from his base in South Australia. Thank you, Graeme.

The Board gathered face to face in Brisbane after the Inter State Shield. A special General Meeting was held at Sports House in Brisbane and the reworded motions from the AGM were passed. The Discussion Forum that followed discussed the idea of introducing different categories of membership at the state level. A group was convened to consist of a representative from each State.

The Management Committee of the World Croquet Federation had an election for two positions with Peter Landrebe being successful for another four-year term.

During December the Board had two Skype meetings to discuss the Budget that was proposed by the Treasurer and Finance Committee. Agreement was achieved. This was also the budget where the Board's determination to financially support only Australian Croquet Teams came into action from January 2018.

There are twenty Association players making their way to Wellington, NZ to contest the World Championships in February 2018.

I would like to thank all Officers and Committees for their volunteer work in furthering the many forms of Croquet.

*Megan Fardon, Chair*

## State Reports

### **New South Wales** - Steve Thornton

CNSW continues to bed down its board structure and refine aspects of governance including commencing a routine review of our constitution and policies. We have also introduced a regionalisation model so that the Board and other Officials have a more direct link with individual members and clubs in each region can have a greater say. At the moment regionalisation has focused on improvements in the delivery of the ACA coaching program and reaccreditation of referees but with several of the regions now having active coordinators we are looking to extend the regional concept into other areas.

We were delighted that Alison Sharpe and Peter Landrebe were finalists in the 2017 NSW Sports Awards run by Sports NSW, Alison as a top female player and Peter as coach of the successful MacRobertson Shield Team. Their nominations gave croquet some high-level exposure in the sports community as well as acknowledging the contributions both make to Croquet in NSW and nationally

To encourage our junior players, we have Introduced a Junior Development Program Award which is very much along the lines of a similar program in Victoria, that will make its first award to assist a junior player who has participated in the 2017 CNZ U21 GC Nationals.

### **Victoria** - Jim Clement

#### **Achieving our goals**

Croquet Victoria is working to implement a five year strategic plan approved in December 2015, with goals in the areas of Governance, Image, Membership, and Capability. We have set ourselves interim milestones and agreed on strategies for 2017 and 2018. So far we are making good progress in most areas, particularly in relation to Governance and Capability.

Updating the image of croquet continues to be a challenge. Stories associated with the World GC championships focused on the younger players participating, but the image of croquet as a sport for retirees is hard to shake. We have hit our targets for recruiting new members, but we have had a small decline in total membership, with the loss of some of our older members. We are working on training coaches in the new system, and progressing well with recruiting GC referees, but recruiting new AC referees is a challenge.

#### **WCF Championships**

The major event at the Victorian Croquet Centre (VCC) in 2017 was the hosting, on behalf of Croquet Australia, of the WCF GC U21 Championship and the WCF GC World Championship. The U21 and the Qualifier for the World Championship were both played solely at VCC, but the World Championship, with 80 entrants in eight blocks of ten players required more courts, especially as double banking is prohibited for this event. If courts are available in blocks of five, as we came to understand may be the norm in the UK, the event can be played on 20 courts, but as five court venues are far from the norm in Victoria, we had to supplement VCC's twelve courts by using another eleven at Alexandra (Ballarat), Belmont (Geelong), Essendon and Williamstown clubs.

Overall, the events went smoothly, thanks to the planning of Tournament Manager *extraordinaire*, Brian Reither, whose swan song it was, and his band of helpers and those who volunteered, or were pressed, to drive the buses to Ballarat and Geelong. The events were well supported with spectators flying in from Brisbane, Adelaide, Launceston and Hobart for the day, and clubs, or groups of clubs, hiring buses. Spectators peaked at 200 on some days. On the refereeing side, it was difficult for Australian referees, used to being appointed as "Supervising", to sit on their hands when appointed "on Request" and observing faults and errors.

With contributions from the Victorian Government, the Brimbank City Council, and other sponsors organised by Jim Saunders, a total of \$32,000 sponsorship was received for these events, limiting the ACA expenditure to a total of \$10,600 for both events (the U21 event cost \$15,600 to stage and there was no income for this other than the Croquet Victoria organised sponsorship).

Tying in with these events and using them as the "hook", Croquet Victoria committed \$20,000 to a publicity campaign run on our behalf by a PR company. This campaign saw many newspaper articles, including in the papers local to the competition venues and in home towns of Australian entrants; a story in the Australian Financial Review; a Herald-Sun competition and online story for junior Herald-Sun readers; features in several event listings; and online mentions on blogs and Instagram accounts with a total following of over 30 million. The PR company arranged for ABC Ballarat to interview Brian Reither, and ABC 774 Victoria to interview Lester Hughes, and got Bendigo WIN TV to run a snippet



of David Johnston. Independently, Jim Clement was interviewed by ABC Melbourne and ABC Gippsland and an article was included in *Crinkly News*, an online subscription newspaper delivered to the inboxes of schoolchildren. As usual with such publicity campaigns, the impact is difficult to judge.

### **Australia Day at Government House**

Croquet Victoria was invited to participate in Australia Day celebrations at Government House in both 2016 and 2017, the Governor being our patron. Members set up the croquet lawn and staffed the area, with members of the public being able to try their hand at the sport. As with most public demonstrations, the long term impact of this on croquet clubs cannot be measured, but it does bring the sport to the public's attention and many positive comments were left in the visitors' book on the day.

### **Update & Reprint of History of Croquet in Victoria**

As part of the Croquet Victoria Centenary Year in 2014, it was decided to update and reprint the book *A History of Croquet in Victoria 1866-1980*. The challenge was, of course, to gather the information on croquet in Victoria for the period 1980 – 2014. This was put in train and *A History of Croquet in Victoria 1980-2014* was collated by Anne McKee and ably edited by the Croquet Victoria Secretary, Sarina Cevaal-Hewitt. The end result is a bound volume, printed in colour, combining the two editions, as *A History of Croquet in Victoria 1866-2014*. Copies have been provided to all Croquet Victoria affiliated clubs, to State Associations, and to the National Library and Victorian State Library. The document can also be downloaded from the Croquet Victoria website.

### **Croquet Facility Guide**

The Croquet Victoria Marketing and Promotion Committee put together a guide for Local Government Authorities developing sporting facilities, outlining the requirements of a croquet club whether as a standalone entity or as part of a sporting complex. Bound, colour copies have been distributed to every Local Government Authority within Victoria. Colour and black and white versions can also be downloaded from the Croquet Victoria website.

### **Mandatory Board Quotas**

In order to improve the governance and administration of sport, especially the major, male dominated sports, by increasing the diversity of boards, the Victorian Government has announced that State Sporting Associations will not be eligible for government grants from 1 July 2019, unless they have in place measures to ensure that boards have a minimum of 40% female membership. Whilst Croquet Victoria usually achieves this quota, there have been two consecutive years in the past eleven when we have fallen below the target (at 38%), and we now face the challenge of documenting a procedure that allows us to meet the quota without contravening our Constitution.

### **Child Safe Program**

Sporting bodies in Victoria that have any involvement with children are required to move beyond the "Working With Children Check" mentality, and develop and institute child safe programs and policies. Whilst this government requirement was aimed primarily at those sports that run programs targeting juniors (Australian Rules, soccer, cricket, gymnastics, etc.), croquet and other sports which don't specifically provide such junior programs have been caught in the net. Several Croquet Victoria clubs have developed child safety policies and these are being provided as templates to those clubs that want them.

### **Queensland - Valda Wintzer**

Once again time has passed very quickly in the year of 2016. The following is an outline of some planned projects which have been completed and some still ongoing:

The achievements of many planned undertakings through Grant monies have had success and the \$36,500 2017 Grant monies have been acquitted.

The revised Duty Statements for all Croquet Queensland Duty Officers is progressing, and completion is expected to be in line with the completion of the Rules and By-Laws review.

Several Come and Try Days were conducted with some success in some of the clubs with new membership. Clubs were also able to hold a Raffle on world Croquet Day with the \$100 donated from Croquet Queensland to each Club who participated as Prize Money. Assistance for Lawn Maintenance was also given to clubs through the Grant monies.

A Conference for Coaching was held at Toombul Croquet Club where Mr Peter Landrebe was the guest Speaker about what is required to be a successful Coach. He gave examples of what is expected from Coaches and verbalised his approach to the Australian Team who were successful in winning the MacRobertson Shield for the first time in 82 years, which was on show at the Special General Meeting in September.

The Grant monies has also been partially allocated to review all CAQ Policies and Procedures with completion in 2018. Grant monies also funded the director of coaching delivering the success of the ACA Coaching Program throughout Queensland.

The Interstate Golf Croquet Tournament was deemed to be extremely successful and many thanks and Congratulations go to those in all areas of preparing for and orchestrating this prestigious Tournament in all aspects from the initial organising Committee, the participating Clubs and their Volunteers, Referees, Umpires, Caterers, and ALL who played a part in the success of such a great and successful Tournament. Congratulations go to all the players who competed and the following Winning Teams.

In 2017 there was also the Roll-out of the new Golf Croquet Handicap system as well as the updated Ricochet Handicap system

An Induction workshop was held for the CAQ Board on Financial Management.

A Face-to-Face meeting was held with Australia Croquet Association Board members in September following the National Interstate Golf Croquet Tournament. This gave the CAQ Board members the opportunity to discuss topics regarding both State and National matters.

One of the disappointing aspects for the past year is that CAQ has been without Association and Golf Referees which proved to be detrimental to both codes.

I have been privileged and enjoyed the last three years as Croquet Association Queensland President and Thank everyone who has made me so very Welcome. I wish the new CAQ President Mr Don Close a Happy and Successful time as President, Croquet Association Queensland.

### **South Australia** - Eileen Ferguson

I am pleased to present this report on behalf of Croquet SA and will highlight some of our successes and challenges throughout 2017.

The year started with SACA hosting of a weekend of training for the MacRobertson Shield team in early January. This gave rise to the opportunity to not only raise some funds but also give grass roots players the chance to mingle with and chat to the squad members while enjoying a restaurant quality dinner at Hutt Rd. Congratulations to Greg Fletcher and Simon Hockey for their part in the history-making MacRobertson Shield Team. As a result of this Simon was nominated for and subsequently won the "Sport SA Country Athlete of the Year Award".

A number of South Australians competed in the two GC World Championships held at Cairnlea and some excellent results were achieved.

I was privileged to be invited to dine at Government House with His Excellency the Governor and Presidents of other State Sporting Organisations. I was informed that the Governor was particularly keen to have Croquet represented at the dinner. Croquet really has become the buzz word around our town!

Requests to hire the Hutt Rd venue for croquet parties continue to increase, particularly in the lead up to Christmas. These parties provide a moderate source of income and are an excellent opportunity to showcase the sport and keep our profile in the public eye. Clubs can also benefit from the financial incentives offered to deliver the parties and through promoting their club to the guests. With no club located at Hutt Rd. it is a continual challenge to find clubs, players, or volunteers to deliver the events when the venue is hired out, even though financial incentives are offered.

The launch of the SA Office of Recreation and Sport's new strategic plan confirmed that future funding will be for progressive well managed sports which provide innovative programmes aligned to the ORS plan. The Board continually strives to ensure we are a progressive and well managed organisation and our Hammertime programme meets the criteria of being innovative. It is a challenge to assist clubs not involved with Hammertime to overcome their psychological challenge of change to accept this programme, which has a proven track record. Last season alone there were 37 new members at clubs as a direct result of this programme.

Our Executive Director has worked hard to develop our partnerships and sponsorships, not only for mutually beneficial outcomes for Croquet SA and its members, but also to demonstrate to clubs how sustainable sponsorships actually work. The Croquet SA Foundation has also proved to be a worthwhile exercise. It provides incentives for organisations or individuals to donate and receive a tax deduction while supporting us.

Negotiations with Adelaide City Council regarding the much-needed expansion of the lawns at Hutt Road continue after being delayed by an ambitious proposal from Hockey SA encompassing a large section of Parklands adjacent to us. The process is progressing slowly and hopefully will advance more rapidly in 2018. There will be hurdles to overcome, such as the need to remove two large pine trees and obtaining funding for the project. The Council are fully aware of our need to expand and are providing assistance.

We continue to embrace social media to promote our activities, with Hammertime now having almost 1500 followers through social media, thus providing a readymade free advertising platform to publicise our clubs' events and activities.

With three positions currently vacant on the board it has been increasingly difficult to administer fair and timely governance with current Board members stretched to capacity. Lack of volunteers is the biggest challenge we continue to face. We have struggled to fill many vacant positions within the organisation and currently do not see the situation improving. Few people step forward to say "I can do that", but many have an excuse as to why they can't. The task of finding enthusiastic, forward thinking people to assist with the running of Croquet SA gets more onerous each year. Hopefully the tide will turn in 2018 as we celebrate the centenary of our establishment as an Association.

### ***Western Australia*** - Megan Fardon

Croquetwest membership numbers have declined. With the change of government in the recent state elections there has been a restructuring of government departments. After a little time of flux when department heads were settled in and liaisons assigned, Croquetwest continued to maintain its presence as a sport of significance within the Western Australian community.

The process of gaining grant monies is a task of annual reviews, submissions and evaluations all undertaken by efficient management committee treasurers, past and present. Thank you to Janine McHardy and Michael Murphy. In addition to our annual grant we have applied for monies to fund a women's coaching weekend. As getting women involved in playing and administering sport is an ideal of the department.

Last year I reported on the decision by Croquetwest Management committee to undertake the process of constructing a membership database and we have been utilising the services of Foretix a WA based firm. Janine McHardy has been implementing the program with the first two phases completed.

The Associations Act review process is with the established working group and it is getting closer to a model that will cover all the aspects of croquet and the clubs gathered into the consortium. We await the results of this review. Well done to the clubs which have undertaken their own reviews and had their new constitutions accepted by the Department of Commerce.

During the continual process of reviewing our strategic plan the area of risk management came under consideration. After much deliberation it was determined that there are three areas that need mitigating strategy drawn up: Volunteers, Coaching and Club viability. This is a work in progress.

Club Presidents were invited to a President's Meeting in Bunbury at Moorabinda in May. This was well attended and discussion followed along the lines of different levels of membership, Croquetwest resources, a demonstration of the database and an update on the Association Act review. From the Presidents Meeting a lot of discussion ensued re the value of different levels of membership and this has driven the Management Committee to seek direction from the Croquet community as to the path the committee should take. This has led to the motions that were put forward and passed at the AGM.

Similarly, special thanks go to the Croquetwest Management Committee. As always each has contributed greatly and without hesitation to the many tasks they have been assigned.

### ***Tasmania*** - Bob Godfrey

In 2017 the State hosted the Eire Cup series of events. The Women's AC event was held at the Northern Tasmanian Croquet Centre at St. Leonards in Launceston. The local members had spent \$10,000 on court preparation during 2016, but much of this work was undone when the Council provided watering systems broke down over the Christmas/New Year holiday, and only 6 of the 8 courts were able to be used during the event. The men's AC event and the Eire Cup itself were held around the 4 Hobart clubs. The Sandy Bay and New Town clubs needed to add an extra temporary court to their 3 home courts, while the two court venues at Eastern Shore and Kingston were combined as a split venue.

The need to travel between venues, and the need to establish temporary venues presented challenges, but as usual, Ian Smith's organizing committee did the State proud as hosts of the events.

In October 2017 the newly established Latrobe Club hosted the croquet events which were part of the Australian Masters Games. The clubs experience in hosting this event augers well for their ability to hold other statewide and even National events in the future.

In January 2018 the Sandy Bay club hosted the ACA under-21 Golf Croquet event, and the State held its inaugural under-12 event in conjunction with the national events. Peter Tracey has worked hard to build up the numbers at this level, and to get 9 Tasmanian players who took part in the under-21 events, and 4 local players, one as young as 8, played in the under-12 event. The conduct of players during the event, coupled with their obvious tactical knowledge was a testament to good coaching.

The AC Selectors have put a lot of effort into development squads this year, including the north, where there has in recent years been a decline in the number and overall standard of AC play. Ian Bassett has done a lot of work with special coaching days in both codes in the north and AC several times in the south. We have seen standards improving, which also is reflected by improving Eire Cup performances by the Tassie AC team. The National Director of Coaching visited and ran refresher courses for those interested in maintaining, or gaining coaching accreditation.

In refereeing; the role(s) of Director of Refereeing has been very successfully split into two, one for GC and one for AC, easing the work load. We have two new qualified and accredited AC referees in the south after much hard work and one new GC referee in the north. Regular refresher courses have been run with very good participation along with tutoring courses for those seeking referee qualifications and plans are in hand to re-accredit existing GC referees during 2018.

At the club level the St. Helens club have a new clubroom building to go with their two courts. The Devonport club are planning to relocate and lay out two courts at the Devonport Country Club. The nearby Latrobe club has four courts operational.

The Northern Tasmanian Croquet Centre has benefited from reducing their courts from 8 to the original plan of 6. When used for a recent Tasmanian Championship they were judged to be in the best condition for several years. The Hobart clubs continue to prosper, though it is recognized that with only 2 or 3 courts each there is a need for expansion if the State is to host National events on a par with the other states. The Eastern Shore club is in early discussion with its local council exploring relocation moves to a 4 court venue.

Early in 2017 Croquet Tasmania's new Website was up and running. It had been designed and built by John Anderson of [Forte Web Design](#) Hobart. All the detail from the previous amateur-built site was migrated seamlessly and our users had no problems with the new version. The site is now managed by CT Web Manager, Sally Liggins, who has found it very easy to keep it updated with the weekly changes to player handicaps, pennant results etc. as well as the less changeable information re club and officer details.

Two clubs have now taken on the responsibility of keeping their own news up-to-date and the rest can send photos and news to the Web-Manager for immediate inclusion. It is hoped that some of them will also become more independent over the next year.

Competition entrants are able to enter events by completing a form on-line. Their details are then automatically forwarded to the relevant tournament manager. (Entrants still have to pay by direct debit though. "Paypal" is still in the future!)

Forte Web Design has continued to provide technical support, regular back-ups, advice and occasional but very prompt help when we need it.

In the State Executive this has been a transition year, with the current Executive concentrating on tidying up processes and procedures, and on succession planning. The AGM due in May 2018 sees many Executive retirements, including the President, Treasurer and Assistant Secretary.

# Committee Reports

## **Events Committee - Peter Freer**

The Committee consists of four members with three positions currently filled. The members are Peter Freer, Bob Godfrey and Peter Tracey. Recruitment to the Committee is an issue going forward and Peter Freer will shortly complete his maximum period.

In conjunction with the ACA Board, a schedule for all national tournaments, 3-5 years ahead was developed. Currently 2018 is sorted (except for the proposed B Level National AC Champ) and the Committee is working with States on finalising CY2019 and beyond (rough dates done). However, the Committee need to do a "root & branch" review of all ACA events, both current & possible, against a set of criteria setting out what these events are to achieve.

Negotiations with appropriate States and Clubs to implement this schedule for 2018 is sorted, but negotiations are required for subsequent years

The Committee will advertise all events then finalise their programmes in consultation with the Selection and Tournament Committees. This is working, although longer lead times for coming events would be helpful for players wanting to book accommodation well in advance. Programs are now effectively provided mainly as soft copy on the ACA website, in conjunction with croquetscores. Since these provide players with details of their blocks/KO draw as soon as the draws are finalised. The hard copy Program is still being produced, but without results grids or other information that is far better provided via croquetscores. We aim to review need for hard copy of Programs in future.

Other issues include the need to extend the effective lead times & liaison with Tournament Committees in each State to ensure that their preparation for each event is timely, and to head off issues before they become urgent/critical. Reviews of individual events after they are held, and in conjunction with the ACA Executive review of the overall annual programme of national tournaments needs to be stepped up, both re individual events (eg chase & consider after action reviews by/with Tournament Managers, and issues raised at player's meetings at each event) and how to better schedule the national events (in the context of international events, and cascading of Australian events down through State & Club levels). Peter Tracey has taken on using survey monkey in lieu of Players' Meetings at each event, but results are mixed and this needs to be reviewed.

## **Tournament Committee - Trevor Bassett**

The Tournament Committee has discussed following topics in the past 12 months:

- Review of various Event Descriptions & Entry Forms.
- Format and Draw for various ACA Events, including:
  - GC Eights
  - AC Mens/Womens
  - AC Patron's
  - GC Open's
  - GC Mens/Womens
  - AC Handicap
  - GC Handicap
  - AC Eights
  - AC Open's
- Proposed Amendment to TRegs
  - 15.6 Hoops (width)
  - The creation of separate AC & GC Tournament Committees
- Discussions / Responding to queries regarding:
  - 2018 AC Trans Tasman considerations
  - Approved hoops to be used for National events and hoop certification
  - Suitable footwear
  - Issues concerning the AC Women's 8's
  - Ongoing format of AC President's 8's, AC Open Singles, etc
  - Managers reports from various National titles
  - Consideration of results of player surveys

Many thanks to the other TC members, Kevin Beard and Terry Ericson.

## **Golf Croquet Selection Committee - Terry Ericson**

Activity started with ranking Golf Players for the ACA Golf President's 8s event.

Selectors were involved in the ACA Doubles Championships and the ACA Singles entries, ACA Australia Men's Open Championships and ACA Australia Women's Championships. Selectors were also involved in recommending candidates for the 2018 ACA Golf Croquet and the 2018 ACA U21 Golf Croquet Scholarships.

Our recent activity has centred around Golf players' expressions of interest for the ACA Golf President's 8s 2018 event.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank John Compton who in the past has tirelessly worked as a Golf Selector and Chair of Golf Selectors as he has stepped down from these Official positions. His time, thoughtfulness and efforts are appreciated and acknowledged.

Special continued gratitude is directed towards Anne Quinn and Chris McWhirter who remain present and active as ACA Golf Selectors and we publicly welcome Pete Landrebe and Ron McBride as newly appointed ACA Golf Selectors.

## **Gateball - John Park**

Gateball's highlight for 2017 was the Australian Gateball Championships hosted by the EDSACC club on behalf of CNSW. With almost 150 participants the event is a large one and, once again, attracted teams from overseas. Sadly, visa problems lead to last minute withdrawals by a team from China and one from Indonesia. The final was contested between a team from Zheng Bang, Jianxi, China and Team Unicorn from Busan in South Korea. The Koreans were the winners and having previously knocked out the highest achieving Australian team, Redcliffe Roses, in the semifinals. Ipswich and the Sydney based Epstars also reached the finals stage.

Attempts to encourage gateball in other states has met with success in SA and WA. An ACA funded visit by young Queenlander, David Hughes, was well received in SA and contributed to the depth of understanding of the game in that State. Woodville's creditable performance at the Nationals, a second club adding gateball sessions to its club repertoire and Geoff Crook becoming the state's first Gateball referee were all signs of progress. Western Australia's East Fremantle club have been supported with a set of ACA equipment and have instituted regular playing sessions. Gateball players from Melbourne were ready to visit Tasmania this year but the state concluded that their focus was on other codes and, in the absence of a sponsor, the proposed promotion was cancelled.

National Coordinator, John Park, attended a WGU meeting in Tokyo in August. A significant proportion of the fare on a budget airline was paid for by the WGU and represents considerable support from the international body. Rules are due to be revised for 2019 and when the minutes of the meeting are available the proposed changes will be discussed with Australian gateballers. Two international referees, Bruce McAlister and Keith McCleod were reaccredited by the WGU.

Gateball is in the process of aligning its refereeing approaches with those of other codes. The online course and reaccreditation processes have been in place for two years. More referees are needed especially in areas of growth ie NSW, SA and eventually WA. Gateball referees are listed on [www.gateball.com.au](http://www.gateball.com.au) and will be updated when data is received from Queensland.

The rollout of the level 1 coaching endorsement for gateball has been slow. Queensland was the first state to train gateball coaches and a small number are being accredited in NSW. Training gateball coaches in areas new to the game needs to be a priority. Higher level coaching materials were trialled at the 2018 Nationals and gateball looks forward to higher level endorsements being introduced.

Gateball Australia's website continues to be well used and is a much-valued tool in keeping Australia's small number of players in touch with the game. Over the past 12 months 42 stories have been posted, almost all Australian competitions and some international events are listed and Gateball Australia's processes are also detailed.

In 2018 Gateball Australia looks forward to supporting further growth in the game especially in WA and SA, continued roll out and development of new coaching processes and bringing refereeing processes closer into line

with other codes. Australian participation in the 2018 WGU Championships in Brazil in October has the challenge of moving beyond the pool games to the finals stages of the competition. The date for the next Australian Gateball championships in Victoria has also been set for the 29th November to 1st December 2019.

Using smaller and lighter equipment, gateball players believe their game and equipment offer a unique opportunity to introduce mallet sports to younger age groups. Gateball players have watched the growth of the Sporting Schools program, would be keen to participate and urge the ACA to request the ASC to join the program.

## Coordinator Reports

### Under 21 Coordinator - Jacky McDonald

There has been one face to face meeting and three skype meetings of State Directors U21 Croquet during the year. The main topics of discussion have been ways and means of promoting croquet to younger players. South Australia has conducted school and vacation activities, Western Australia conducted a very successful Siblings Competition, Victoria has one club actively promoting junior players but few have affiliated, Tasmania has conducted school activities while New South Wales has had vacation activities for juniors, a state Junior Singles Championship and several clubs have been involved with school sport activities.

It is a pity that school activities don't seem to evolve into membership but maybe that might come in the future.

The World Under 21 Golf Croquet Championships were held at Cairnlea in February and Australia had six entrants. The competition was dominated by the New Zealand competitors but the Australian players acquitted themselves well. Edward Wilson (South Australia) finished in third place. Edward, Charlie Sharpe, Jack Williams and Jamie Gumbrell were all accepted into the main draw which followed the Under 21 competition.

This year Charlie, Jamie, Anthony Dask and Lana Sexton were all completing their final year of school and that had to come first. I hope to see them more involved next year. Edward has been successful in Association competitions in South Australia, Charlie competed in the New Zealand Under 21 Championships and came fourth in the Doubles and the Singles. Anthony and Jack have been involved in Victorian competitions.

The next Under 21 Australian Championships will be held in Hobart Tasmania from the 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018. There are nine entries in the Singles and the inaugural Doubles competition had four entries at the last count. Croquet Tasmania is also conducting a competition for Under 12 competitors which will be run at the same time. Arrangements are already under way for the 2019 Championships which will be held in Adelaide from the 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> January. I hope to see all states represented. Planning is also under way for Terry Ericson (U21 Coach) and myself to visit each state to promote croquet for juniors.

### Under 21 Squad – Terry Ericson

Please keep in mind that once the WCF U21 Competition in Melbourne was concluded, my official role took a backward step as it was decided to keep in contact with the Under 21 participants with more of a monitoring function. 2017 activities are listed below:

There was an ACA U21 Squad training at Cairnlea, Victoria on Friday January 20 and Saturday January 21. The focus was on final competitive readiness, match fitness and event expectation for both U21 Participants and Guardians.

**Charlie Sharpe**, New South Wales, placed sixth within the WCF U21 initial block play. Charlie went on to win only one of his four games in the WCF U21 flexible Swiss Plate event. Charlie gained experience by playing in the WCF Open Gold Competition within the initial block and Plate sections. He has continued to engage with competitive Golf Croquet within his State of New South Wales and he has also entered the 2018 New Zealand U21 competition. Charlie partnered Lachlan Hughes and they came second within their initial block play. The pair continued their fight in the Doubles Knockout to the semi-final. Charlie and Lachlan were placed fourth in the New Zealand U21 Doubles competition. Charlie also played within the Singles where he came second within his initial block. He also was successful up to and including the semi-final stage of the Singles Knockout. Charlie was placed third in the 2017 New Zealand U21 Golf competition.

**Jamie Gumbrell**, New South Wales, placed fifth within the WCF U21 initial block play. He went on to win 4 out of his 5 games in the WCF U21 flexible Swiss Plate event. Jamie gained experience by playing in the WCF Open Gold Competition within the initial block and Plate sections. Jamie went on to win 2 matches within his initial block play of the Open WCF Golf Championships. Jamie Gumbrell played on the Gold Coast in Mallet Sports on the Broadwater Golf Croquet Doubles with George Nicoll. He also played in the Singles where he placed second within his initial block play, eventually ending up third with block cross over play. A fractured collar bone has limited Jamie's competitive exposure towards the last half of this year.

**Jack Williams**, Victoria, placed third within the WCF U21 initial block play. He went on to win only one of his two games in the WCF U21 flexible Swiss Plate event. Jack is now heavily involved with work as his studies are completed.

**Lana Sexton**, New South Wales, placed last within the WCF U21 initial block play. Lana played in the U21 Playoffs for the Qualifier however she was unfortunately defeated. She went on to win only one of her four games in the WCF U21 flexible Swiss Plate event. Lana has committed herself to her studies and she has not engaged with competitive play since the World Championships.

**Anthony Dask**, Victoria, placed fifth within the WCF U21 initial block play. He went on to win four out of eight games in the WCF U21 flexible Swiss Plate event. Anthony is still playing at his club and he has renewed enthusiasm for Association and he has recently qualified as an Association Referee. He remains keen to continue to play Golf Croquet.

**Edward Wilson**, South Australia, placed first within the WCF U21 initial block play. He was successful up to the semi-final stage. Edward went on to win all 9 matches within his initial block play of the Open WCF Golf Championship. Unfortunately Edward was knocked out within the first round of the Championship ladder. He was successful in making it to the semi-finals in the Bowl. Edward has attained tremendous success with Association and has been named as Reserve for the TransTasman Association Croquet Team event.

#### **Archivist - Martin Clarke**

No requests for information have come through to me for some time now.

However I can say that the project on the recovery of WA history has reached a point that the historical results have been circulated to the clubs in WA in hard copy and to Croquetwest as a USB.

From time to time I attempt to dig up some more information on ongoing projects for both Chris Williams and Croquet Queensland.

Also I see that the Association Croquet program for the recent Open events is starting to list the runners-up for these events, I have a complete copy of these.

For the record I also have the ACA's collection of historical gazettes (pre 1984 ) in my possession, I will keep these until I feel I have exhausted the information trail.

#### **National Coordinator of Referees – Association Croquet – Mike Cohn**

While the number of active referees and umpires appears quite healthy, a large proportion only officiate in club and regional activities; many such "referees" do not have current accreditation. It is often difficult to reach the desired number of referees for State and National events. However, we have been able to get by. New referees are being trained and examined (with some states more successful than others), with some being very quickly blooded at the State level; while the experience is useful, some poor decisions result.

The conduct of the Gold Cup, Men's and Women's Championships, and the Eire Cup requires current experience among the referees of the host state, in this year's case Tasmania. The state provided referees for all events. I assumed the role of Tournament Referee for the five days of the Eire Cup. There were also two referees from other states; this is to be encouraged, especially for referees from the state next hosting the tournament. More ACA events are held at the Victorian Croquet Centre, Cairnlea, than at other site. Referees have come from Victoria, with the exception of Authorised Player Referees who help by undertaking simple tasks when assigned referees are busy. Referees from other states would be welcome to gain experience (including perhaps in the role of Tournament Referee) and to assist in the overall tasks.

A meeting of State Coordinators was held at the Victorian Croquet Centre prior to the Australian Open in November 2017. It was originally scheduled to be held prior to the President's Eights in October, but several states apologised for that date. This was disappointing. The meeting was attended by two State Coordinators, one



stand-in who was playing in the Eights and the Australian Representative on the International Laws Committee (Liz Fleming). Liz represented Queensland where there is currently no state coordinator of AC refereeing. The National Coordinator Refereeing Golf Croquet (Jim Clement) was invited, but could not attend the changed date due to Tournament Referee requirements at the Australian Handicap Golf Croquet tournament in Deniliquin. The key activity to be addressed is the formation of a Technical Panel to develop new standardised training materials for referees.

The above paragraph highlights an issue. States are having difficulty in sourcing a suitable state coordinator of refereeing. Furthermore, there is an apparent lack of commitment to any role or standardisation outside their state. There have been instances where referees have been given a certificate of qualification with a state logo; the referee qualification is an ACA qualification.

I thank the Coordinators and the Referees who have assisted in our major events.

### **National Coordinator of Referees – Golf Croquet – Jim Clement**

Formal meetings of the State Coordinators/Directors of GC Referees were not held in 2017. However a face to face meeting is to be held in February 2018, prior to the President's GC Eights.

My activities over the year have been:

- as a member of the ACA GC Rules Committee, chaired by Gordon Matthews, in reviewing the Rules and helping to hammer out the Australian position for the next edition (due 2018);
- coordinating with Mike Cohn, National Coordinator of Referees – AC to ensure that as much as possible standards are the same for referees of both codes;
- in conjunction with Mike, meeting with John Park, to see if Gateball referees can be accredited under the same basic system used for AC & GC referees, but still be acceptable to the WGU;
- attending a referee refresher course in Adelaide, to see how SACA handles this important part of maintaining a referee's accreditation.

One interesting point came to light during the WCF GC WC in February/March. Australia adopts the WCF GC Rules *in toto*; but apparently other countries did not. There were several occasions when an elite player told a referee that "We don't use that rule in .....!"

It was also interesting to see the acceptance of the Australian referees' method of rolling a ball over lawn damage to ascertain whether or not the damage constituted a fault; it appeared that this was not a common method in the UK, NZ, or Egypt.

### **National Handicapper – Rob McAdam**

Unlike most recent years this year has been quite busy from a handicapping viewpoint. Early in the year a new GC Handicap system was introduced and I believe that it has been relatively well accepted.

Initially there was a rush of queries, but these have quietened down. The main issue still garnishing some comment is the design of the new Handicap Card and insert. It seems to have been accepted with little comment in some states, but in others there does appear to be some issue. In my view it has allowed many more games to be included on the card so it removes the need for constant card reissue.

The card is not yet available on the ACA website for local reprint but I understand that this will be rectified early in the new year. I understand that remaining stocks of the original print run (arranged and paid for by ACA) has now been distributed to states. It was an ACA concern that if the form appeared on the website too soon that the supplies they held may be 'wasted'.

Some handicapping material which was available from the old website has disappeared in the transition to the new website and I plan to arrange for all necessary material (and no 'old' out of date material) to be available on the ACA website by early in the new year.

I think that it would then be an appropriate time for my role to be passed on to someone new. The role is not onerous with little activity except at times of major change to systems (such as the GC changes early in the review period). Perhaps it is not even necessary for this position to continue, with the ACA co-opting people to fill the role as and when a need for change is identified.

## International Laws Committee – Elizabeth Fleming

As of the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2017 it was agreed that the ILC will be adopted into the WCF administration with the same terms of reference as the WCF GCRC and become known as the WCF ACLC.

There are five members (5) the usual 'Big 4' the Australian Croquet Association, Croquet New Zealand, United States Croquet Association, the Croquet Association and one (1) WCF Management Committee member who shall be a non-voting member; currently Stephen Mulliner. Members will serve one term of four (4) years commencing 1<sup>st</sup> January and expiring on 31<sup>st</sup> December. They may be re-appointed once to serve a maximum of two (2) consecutive terms. It is noted that whilst the GC Rules Committee is mentioned on the WCF website the AC Laws Committee is not as yet.

As I had been appointed as TR for the MacRobertson Shield event to be held at Mission Hills, Palm Spring 18<sup>th</sup> April to 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017 I felt it an ideal opportunity to not only invite authorized referees from each of the four countries but to request a face-to-face meeting of the WCF.ACLC during the event whilst utilizing their visit to bolster the authorized referee numbers. The meeting took place on Sunday 23 April attended by: Ian Vincent (Chairman), Brian Boutel (GCRC), Jeff Hill (GCRC), Stephen Mulliner (ACLC.WCF.MC and Minutes Secretary), Graeme Roberts, Martin Selman and myself Liz Fleming. Jeff and Brian were invited to share their views as GCRC members as were to discuss the possible alignments between the two codes.

I am of the opinion that more was achieved in this one face-to-face meeting than has been achieved in many, many months of email communication. I therefore respectfully request that consideration be given to ensuring one such meeting take place each year during a major international event nominated by the WCF.MC.

A draft of the intended amendments to the GC Rules was reviewed with occasional robust debate.

Minutes of the meeting are available through the ACA.

Key issues covered -

- *Use of high-speed photography*
- *Tolerance of Court Settings*
- *Ball contacting both uprights*
- *Fault and Jam in one stroke (Referee Notes)*

I have personally been questioned on paragraph 51 of the Refereeing Notes at both major world events and most recently at the MacRobertson Shield player event prior to the start of the first Test. It is

*51. If the striker's ball bounces out of the jaws of the hoop and back onto the striker's mallet, a replay is not to be permitted even if the clearance is found to be too small when tested. (In general, a hoop that is too tight will tend to grab the ball in a good hoop attempt, not throw the ball back towards the striker.) An attempted peel where the croqueted ball bounces out of the hoop back onto the striker's mallet is also to be ruled a fault, notwithstanding the final part of ORLC 53.2 (which otherwise may give the striker the opportunity to replay a poor peel attempt). If the striker plays an aggressive hoop stroke to run a hoop hard from close in and you judge that a fault was committed but you cannot be confident that it occurred as a consequence of the ball being held up by contacting both wires as described above, a replay is not to be permitted – the fault stands.*

It is my very ardent view that the above statement is unacceptable. Players who have seen fit to bring this issue to Player Meeting Question Time obviously have viewed it as unacceptable. I have discussed the issue with Australian referees, State Directors and the National Co-ordinator and we all are of the opinion that this is not within the spirit of the laws surrounding the inability of a legal sized ball to pass through a legal hoop. Whilst a re-write of this paragraph was recommended at the April meeting I regret that this has not been achieved prior to the WCF AC World Championships NZ 2018.

*It is my recommendation that all States ensure a representative attend the annual meeting held at Cairnlea, Melbourne prior the President's Eights to meet with the National Co-ordinator and Australian member of the WCF.ACLC in order that ACA and Australian players have a voice which is heard by the International Laws/Rules Committees and comes from a place of consultation and solidarity not merely personal view point.*

# Major Events in 2017

## MacRobertson Shield

### Australia breaks an 82 year sporting drought

Early on Thursday morning the third of May, Australia emphatically won croquet's most coveted prize – the MacRobertson Shield.

The tournament is named after Australian Sir MacPherson Robertson, philanthropist, entrepreneur and founder of confectionary company MacRobertson's. The first ever 'test' was between England and Australia in 1925 and Robertson presented England, the champions, with a shield which became known as the MacRobertson Shield. Australia last won the Shield in 1935.

It is fought over between the four major croquet nations – England, New Zealand, United States of America and Australia. The competition is gruelling – seventeen days, 3 five-day tests and 21 matches. In all 63 matches are played in a combination of doubles pairings and singles.

Australia's team was Ian Dumergue, Captain, Stephen Forster, Simon Hockey, Robert Fletcher (currently number one in the world and former world champion), Malcolm Fletcher and Greg Fletcher; three brothers make up half the team. Team Manager was Peter Landrebe. Play began on Tuesday 18 April against England at Rancho Mirage in California. Australia was the victor – 12 matches to 9. The second test was against New Zealand and the result was 14 matches to 7 in our favour.

Australia played the host country, USA in the final test. The final score was 14 to 7.

Australia has created sporting history with its win in the event – a drought of 82 years has come to an end when Australia won the third test with a day still to play.

The Shield has come home before Australia hosts the next MacRobertson Shield in 2021.

Peter Landrebe, Team Captain and Australia's High Performance Manager said "this is croquet's Olympic games and it is the team that you want to make and a player may only play in it once or twice. Australia's success has been about handling pressure and these conditions have been particularly oppressive – 41 degrees and no breeze for most of the fifteen days".

## World Croquet Federation – Golf Croquet World Championships

### Victorian Croquet Centre, Cairnlea, Victoria – 22 February to 5 March

After nine long days of competition, and a final lasting nearly six hours, Reg Bamford of South Africa is the new Golf Croquet World Champion.

The final was a long see-sawing match with great roquets and positional shots by both Reg and his opponent Ahmed Nasr of Egypt. In the end Reg was victorious 7:6, 5:7, 7:4, 3:7, 7:4.

At the presentation by WCF President Amir Ramsis, bronze medals went to Hami Erian (Egypt) and Felix Webby (NZ). The Shield was won by Duncan Dixon (NZ), beating England's John Paul Moberly, and an all-Australian Bowl final saw Greg Fletcher beat Kevin Beard. Winner of the Plate was George Coulter (NZ) with Geoff Jamieson (Australia) runner up.

See [CroquetScores](#) for detailed results of all games, and for commentary on the semi-finals and final by Jenny Clarke and Lester Hughes.

The championship was notable for the number of young players, particularly from New Zealand, several of whom did extremely well.

Congratulations to all the players, and thanks to the officials and volunteers at all the venues, Cairnlea, Williamstown, Essendon, Geelong Belmont, and Ballarat Alexandra. The event was much appreciated by the many members who came to watch throughout the week, and the final held the attention of a big crowd right to the end.

A spirited and positive event!

## World Croquet Federation – World Under 21 Championships

### Victorian Croquet Centre, Cairnlea, Victoria – 18 to 22 February

The event was contested by 28 players in 4 blocks. Australia was represented by 6 players, Anthony Dask (NSW), Jamie Gumbrell (NSW), Lana Sexton (NSW), Charlie Sharpe (NSW), Jack Williams (Vic) and Edward Wilson (SA). There were 17 players from New Zealand, 4 from Egypt and 1 from the United States. Edward Wilson went through to make the semi-finals.

In a gritty best of five final, Felix Webby (New Zealand) decisively defeated compatriot George Coulter, 7:3, 7:6, 7:5.

Lester Hughes was watching and you can read his commentary of the games on [Croquetscores](#).

Equal third place in the championship went to Edward Wilson (South Australia) and Josh Freeth (New Zealand).

Well done to all the competitors in a great tournament.

### International Team Representation

Dates	Event	Venue	Australian Team
Tuesday 18 April to Tuesday 4 May	MacRobertson Shield	Rancho Mirage, California, USA	Ian Dumergue (captain) Greg Fletcher, Malcolm Fletcher, Robert Fletcher, Stephen Forster, Simon Hockey. Peter Landrebe (Team Manager),

### WCF International Representation

Dates	Event	Venue	Participant	
18 - 22 Feb 2017	WCF Under 21's GC WC	VCC, Cairnlea, Melbourne, Australia	Anthony Dask Jamie Gumbrell Lana Sexton	Charlie Sharpe Jack Williams Ed Wilson
25 Feb – 5 March 2017	WCF GC WC	VCC, Cairnlea, Melbourne, Australia	John Arney Kevin Beard Wendy Dickson Greg Fletcher Peter Freer Jamie Gumbrell David Hanbidge Barry Haydon Gail Hopkins Terry Hopkins Lester Hughes Geoff Jamieson Peter Landrebe John Levick	Ron McBride Brett McHardy Chris McWhirter Peter Montague Peter Nicholson Anne Quinn Geoff Reilley Alison Sharpe Charlie Sharpe Lawrie Simpson John van der Touw Alix Verge Judy Wembridge Edward Wilson

## RESULTS

### Association Croquet

Dates	Venue	Event	Winner	Runner Up
Wednesday 15 to Friday 17 March	Hobart, Tasmania	Gold Medal	Stephen Forster (Gold)	Callum Hyland (Silver)
Saturday 18 to Tuesday 21 March	Launceston, Tasmania	Women's Singles	Alix Verge	Alison Sharpe
Saturday 18 to Tuesday 21 March	Hobart, Tasmania	Men's Singles	Robert Fletcher	Ian Dumergue
Wednesday 22 to Sunday 26 March	Hobart, Tasmania	Eire Cup	Victoria	New South Wales
Saturday 10 to Monday 12 June	Wynnum Croquet Club, Queensland	Patron's Trophy	Claire Bassett	Trevor Bassett
Friday 6 to Monday 9 October	Victorian Croquet Centre, Cairnlea	President's Eights – First Eight	Robert Fletcher	Stephen Forster
		Second Eight	Peter Landrebe	Stephen Richards
		Third Eight	Alan Honey	Kathleen Colclough
		Fourth Eight	Lindsay David	Gail Hopkins
Saturday 11 to Monday 14 November	Victorian Croquet Centre, Cairnlea	Open Doubles	Greg Fletcher and Edward Wilson	Robert Fletcher and Malcom Fletcher
Tuesday 15 to Sunday 19 November	Victorian Croquet Centre, Cairnlea	Open Singles	Robert Fletcher	Greg Fletcher
		AB Morrison Trophy	Bob Beattie	

### Golf Croquet

Dates	Venue	Event	Winner	Runner Up
Friday 3 to Sunday 5 February	Victorian Croquet Centre, Cairnlea	President's Eights – First Eight	Chris McWhirter	Terry Hopkins
		Second Eight	Gail Hopkins	Ron McBride
		Third Eight	Lester Hughes	David Wise
		Women's Eight	Shirlene McBride	Patricia Watts
Saturday 6 to Tuesday 9 May	Victorian Croquet Centre, Cairnlea	Open Doubles	David Wise and John Arney	Brett McHardy & Janine McHardy
Wednesday 10 to Sunday 1 May	Victorian Croquet Centre, Cairnlea	Open Singles	Lester Hughes	Geoff Hughes
Wednesday 30 August to Friday 1 September	Venues Brisbane, Qld	Gold Medal	Chris McWhirter (Gold)	Kevin Beard (Silver)
Saturday 2 to Tuesday 5 September	Venues Brisbane, Qld	Women's Singles	Gail Hopkins	Judy Wembridge
Saturday 2 to Tuesday 5 September	Venues Brisbane, Qld	Men's Singles	Murray Tinker	Alan Sands
Wednesday 6 to Sunday 10 September	Venues Brisbane, Qld	WCF Interstate Shield	Western Australia	Victoria
Monday 6 to Tuesday 7 November	Deniliquin Croquet Club	Handicap Doubles	Peter Freer and Kate McLoughlin	Brian Rowe and Kaye Moffat
Tuesday 7 to Friday 10 November	Deniliquin Croquet Club	Handicap Singles	Andy Davis	Ron McBride

## EVENT ENTRY NUMBERS

### Association Croquet

	2015	2016		2017	
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Women's Singles	19	24	29	30	23
Men's Singles	34	40	38	33	30
Patron's Trophy	16	16	12	18	16
Open Doubles	12 pairs	12 pairs	14 pairs	12 pairs	18 pairs
Open Singles	24	24	24	24	30

### Golf Croquet

	2015	2016		2017	
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Inaugural Under 21	N/A		5		
Open Doubles	15 pairs	10 pairs	17 pairs	12 pairs	14 pairs
Open Singles	26	26	25	26	30
Women's Singles	26	26	26	26	32
Men's Singles	30	30	41	40	51
Handicap Doubles	12 pairs	12 pairs	15 pairs	12 pairs	21 pairs
Handicap Singles	17	18	26	20	35

## Treasurer's Report – Don Close

It is with pleasure that I report on the Financial Status of A.C.A. 2017 has been a consolidating year and has seen the anticipated deficit greatly reduced. The report being presented to this meeting is for 2017.

A Finance Committee was formed in 2017 and has improved the processes that ACA now use to manage the finances of the Association.

Our Auditor, Michael Pedler of Trevalsa Mill Pty Ltd., has been very helpful in guiding us to a position where we have a virtually unqualified audit for 2017. This result could not have been achieved without the dedication and commitment of our Administrative Officer, Susan Linge and Financial Assistant, Anne Mann.

Our Administrative Officer, Susan Linge, resigned in August and the Secretarial Duties for the ACA have been undertaken in a voluntary role by Director Graeme Thomas. The Board have taken advantage of this to review the duties that need to be undertaken by this position. A position was advertised in November, and to date no offer has been made to any applicant.

Administrative duties have been shared by Chair Megan Fardon, Treasurer Don Close and to some extent all the Directors in the interim. The hours offered to the Financial Assistant were increased to undertake additional office administration activities.

Our budget for 2017 anticipated a deficit of \$ 149,307.00, and we have ended 2017 with a deficit of \$26,238.65.

The reduced deficit resulted because of several factors, some of which are:

- the Trans-Tasman Event (\$35.5k) was deferred to April 2018,
- Honoraria payments were reduced,
- Event Official costs were less than budget due to availability of local volunteers.
- Budgeted Items for Marketing, Research, Publicity, Branding were commenced but had not used funds allocated in Budget.
- Webpage development also has not been commenced.
- ACA Scholarships were not allocated in time for 2017 and will be funded in 2018.

The Croquet Magazine only published one magazine in 2017 due to resignation of our Administration Officer and health issues with our Magazine Editor. The Magazine has been a significant financial burden to ACA (approx. \$3000.00 per issue), and the Board has made the decision to discontinue the publishing of the Magazine in 2018.

The final result for 2017 has again been enhanced by the performance of our investments by \$20,151.72.

These numbers do get distorted by the International Levy because the expenditure is not consistent over a four-year cycle. The International Levy expenditure in 2018 is again significantly higher than the yearly income.

The proposed Budget for 2018 is still indicating a large deficit and the projections of expenditure and membership over the next 4 years have necessitated a request to increase fees in 2019 as outlined in Agenda items 7.4, 7.5 & 7.6. A.C.A. have continued payments in 2018 for nominal support for referees at our tournaments. We are grateful for the continued support by the volunteers who give of their time and expertise on committees and tournaments thru-out the year. The 2018 budget has increased the Entry Fees to all of the ACA Events and have removed all Prizemoney from the budgets in an effort to make the cost of Events to be revenue neutral. Prizemoney for events can be offered if sponsorship of events is found. I urge you to accept these recommended measures.

The Board are of the opinion that the Financial Statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of Australian Croquet Association as at 31/12/2017 and of its performance, as represented by the results of its operations and its cash flows for the financial year ended on that date.

The Association was solvent for the full year. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable



Don Close, Treasurer