



2020

ANNUAL

REPORT

CROQUET AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIAN CROQUET ASSOCIATION

A2004

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ACA 2020 AUSTRALIAN CROQUET ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT

Introduction

The Australian Croquet Association (ACA) became incorporated in the ACT on Monday 10 February, 1992 – Incorporation Number is AO2004. ACA also trades as Croquet Australia and is recognised by Sport Australia (SA) as a National Sporting Organisation (NSO). The organisations main objective is to operate as the peak body for the administration of all Mallet Sports 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 Sport Australia’s Constitution Template; Mandatory Sports 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 ACT)
- Croquet Association Queensland Incorporated
- South Australian Croquet Association Incorporated
- Tasmanian Croquet Association Incorporated
- The Victorian Croquet Association Incorporated
- The Western Australian Croquet Association Incorporated

Affiliated Members

STATE	2018			2019			2020		
	Clubs	Adult	Under 21	Clubs	Adult	Under 21	Clubs	Adult	Under 21
NSW	60	2705	7	60	2705	7	67	2789	8
VIC	91	2773	12	91	2773	12	88	2794	25
QLD	43	1440	10	43	1440	10	41	1450	11
SA	32	921	9	31	921	9	35	952	11
WA	20	737	11	20	737	11	22	874	8
TAS	9	395	13	10	416	14	11	453	14
Sub Total		8971	62		8992	63		9312	77
Total	255	9033		255	9055		264	9389	

Meetings

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held in Brisbane on Monday 23 March, the day following the conclusion of the 2020 Eire Cup.

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 from 1 January to 31 December.

Banking

The ACA has two accounts – Operating Account to receive income and Treasurer's Accounts 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 four term deposits.

Goods and Services Tax

Australian Croquet Association is registered for GST.

2020 Board

Chair – Megan Fardon

Deputy Chair – Jim Nicholls

Treasurer – Don Close

Board Member – Jacky McDonald

Board Member – Mary Marsland

Board Member – Max Kewish

Board Member – Geoff Crook

Board Appointed Positions:

Secretary – Jim Clement

Executive Officer – Rob Murray

Appointed Officers

Association Croquet

High Performance Manager – Peter Landrebe
National Co-Ordinator Refereeing – Mike Cohn
National Co-ordinator Coaching – Greg Bury

Gateball

National Co-ordinator Gateball – John Park

Under 21 Croquet

National Co-ordinator – Jacky McDonald

Archivist

Martin Clarke

Australian Representation

WCF AC Laws Committee – Liz Fleming
WCF GC Rules Committee – Bernie Pfitzner
WCF Management Committee – Peter Landrebe

Golf Croquet

High Performance Manager – Martin Clarke
National Co-Ordinator Refereeing – Jim Clement
National Co-ordinator Coaching – Greg Bury

Ricochet

National Co-ordinator Ricochet – Lynda Davis

Handicapping

National Handicapper – Gareth Denyer

Magazine Editor

Greg Bury

Committees

Events

Chair - Peter Freer
Peter Tracey

AC Selection

Chair – Martin Clarke
Simon Hockey
Greg Fletcher
Peter Landrebe

Tournament

Chair – Peter Freer
Peter Tracey

GC Selection

Chair – Chris McWhirter
John Arney
Martin Clarke
Peter Landrebe

Executive Reports

Chair: *Megan Fardon*

The first official ACA event was the Under 21 Golf Croquet Tournament played in Geraldton. This event was attended by the Under 21 Coach, Terry Ericson and Under 21 Co-ordinator Jacky MacDonald with both flying over to the west coast of Australia with most of the field of competitors. Thank you to the Geraldton Croquet Club for hosting a well-run and enjoyable event.

The GC President's Eights were held at Cairnlea at the end of January with a good turnout and four eights competing.

Then Cairnlea hosted the World Croquet Federation AC Championships. This was a well-run event with a young field of competitors. Reg Bamford from South Africa came through and bet Matthew Essick from the United States of America. Many of us watched all the action via the live streaming service organised for the event. Thank you to the organising committee for this well managed event and the Victorian Croquet Centre for the use of its facilities, they are world class.

At this stage of the year a Coronavirus was starting to emerge from China. The states sent their respective AC teams to Brisbane to contest the Gold Medal, Men's and Women's Singles and the Eire cup. The Coronavirus was starting to affect international travel and Australia and the states were closing their borders. Airlines were under duress as players scrambled to return home and into isolation. The virus was now known as Covid 19. The Eire Cup was completed with a bolstered Tasmanian Team. Thank you to Queensland for providing the extra players.

The AGM which followed was a very distanced, 4 square metres per person gathering. The election saw two new members join the Board, Max Kewish (WA), Geoff Crook (SA) and Mary Marsland (SA) to a full board term. Mary had filled casual vacancies over the last two years. Mike Cohn did not stand for re-election after two terms. I must thank Mike for his guidance and support as the Deputy Chair to the board. Jim Clement remains as honorary secretary to the board.

The discussion Forum after the AGM was brief and the main topic was the new coaching program and its delivery by the Coaching Co-ordinator Greg Bury. Greg also introduced the idea of forming a Croquet Academy to provide a resource of valuable information of all things croquet and maintain the high regard for Australian Croquet around the world.

The consequence of Australia going into lockdown with no sport to be played was huge. I want to thank all the clubs that went about the process of securing their facilities and notifying all their players. Subsequently the reverse process when it was safe liaising with health departments and local councils to instigate Covid Safe Plans for the return to croquet. It was a great effort well done.

The new Board met weekly as it considered directions from the World Croquet Federation and how to maintain the sport in these uncertain times. The safety of our communities was of utmost importance and our first priority. The economic duress that the community was feeling was then given consideration and the board resolved to half its affiliation fees for the next year.

It was during this time of anxiety, uncertainty and economic stress the Board was informed of the “moth balling” of the Victorian Croquet Centre at Cairnlea and the retrenchment of staff. The board awaits operational submissions so it can consider how to provide resources or underwrite the future of Cairnlea’s operations.

The Board reviewed the ACA Strategic Plan and put some new initiatives in place. The Board formalised its Publicity Group, it backed the formation of the Australian Croquet Academy and appointed a General Manager to run the Academy, Greg Bury. The new online Gazette was launched with the first issue was out before Christmas. This is a quarterly publication.

During this time of working from home our Executive Officer, Rob Murray was busy negotiating with our previous website managers as we transitioned to another more capable website. This is now up and running and we look forward to hosting an ACA event to use the online entry and payment system. The Honorary Secretary, Jim Clement has been driving the board through a diligent review and governance process to keep us operating to the high level recommended by SportAUS.

I would like to thank the croquet community for allowing me the honour of being on your board and acting as Chair during my last two terms. It has been a most valuable experience. I highly recommend offering your services to this great sport of Croquet by nominating to be a board member.

I would like to thank all Officer Bearers and Committee Members for their valuable volunteer work during this most difficult year. I would like to extend my good wishes to all croquet players, may 2021 be a better year.

Secretary: *Jim Clement*

The Board aims to meet monthly, currently on the second Wednesday of each month as this is convenient for the current members, with other meetings as necessary.

During 2020, the Board held 12 regular, monthly meetings, as well as 4 extra meetings in April and May to ensure that it was abreast of the Covid-19 epidemic, as it might affect croquet throughout Australia. It also held other extra meetings to consider specific items which may have taken up too much time in a monthly meeting.

Altogether, the Board met 20 times during the year - this figure does not include General Meetings, at which Directors have neither the right to debate, unless invited, nor to vote.

Directors during the year and their attendance at Board meetings were:

Megan Fardon (Chair)	20/20
Jim Nicholls (Deputy Chair)	19/20
Don Close (Treasurer)	17/20
Mike Cohn – until 22 March 20	1/2
Jacky MacDonald	18/20
Mary Marsland	19/20
Geoff Crook – from 23 March 20	17/18
Max Kewish - from 23 March 20	17/18



Officers' attendance at Board meetings was:

Jim Clement (Secretary)	20/20
Rob Murray (Executive Officer)	17/20

With the Board membership being drawn from all over Australia, meetings had been routinely held via Skype, usually with two or three face to face meetings in conjunction with major tournaments, but the rapid introduction and development of other online meeting platforms due mainly to Covid-19, saw the Board meetings migrate, first to GoToMeeting and then to Zoom.

During the year the Board established a Publicity Committee, with one of its objectives to publish a periodic online newsletter; the first edition being published in December 2020.

Recognising the impact of Covid-19 restrictions on club finances, the Board provided a 50% rebate on 2020 member affiliation fees.

The Board continued to improve its governance documentation by approving policies, position descriptions and terms of reference for various positions and committees.

A new website was commissioned during the year, coming online late December with more material to be added in 2021.

It also resolved to adopt Greg Bury's proposal for an online Croquet Academy, providing seed money and then employing Greg in a part time position as the Academy General Manager, with the aim to make the Academy self-supporting through sponsorship &/or grants.

During the year the development of the new coaching accreditation program continued with the pilot course being conducted at Bribie Island Croquet Club late in the year. The program will be rolled out in all states during 2021.

Contact has been made with Standards Australia to amend the current Sports Lighting Standard AS2560 by adding a Specific Application for Outdoors Croquet Courts. This will not be progressed for at least 12 months as the current review cycle had just concluded. However, there may be the possibility of a Technical paper which could be used as a specification, pending the issue of a revised Australia Standard.

State Association Reports



Queensland: *Willy Silk*

2020 was a very disruptive year for croquet. Once Covid 19 hit Management, clubs, competitions were locked down.

Queensland was lucky to host all National Association events in March, including the dinner at the end of the competition with limited guests. Some Tasmanian players left early before lockdown and restrictions were put into place, and Queensland players filled in the gaps in their team. Zoom meetings were the go until June, when competitions re-commenced. CAQ helped clubs with money for lawn maintenance. So far we have not lost any clubs to Covid. Players were very keen to compete and entries for all competitions increased and events were well run under the Covid restrictions.

CAQ will hold its AGM on the 23rd of February. The President, Don Close, will be stepping down as his term will end. Queensland looks forward to a better year for clubs.



Victoria: *Sarina Cevaal-Hewitt*

Before the impact of COVID-19 was really felt, in April 2020, the Croquet Victoria Council decided it was necessary for our financial survival to make our staff redundant and to mothball the Victorian Croquet Centre. The mothballing coincided with the COVID-19 lockdown, and with volunteer support it has been possible to reopen the VCC. Events returned to VCC in November 2020.

A sub-committee has now been established to oversee activity at the VCC. Once a full year's program of events has been completed, it will be possible for Croquet Victoria to make an informed decision on practical options for its future. This is not expected to happen before late 2022.

A Finance sub-committee has also been established to focus on the conduct of our financial affairs.

Together, the staff redundancies, volunteer management of the VCC, and the success of our COVID-19 Survival Grant submission achieved a surplus for the year 2020-2021. Our draft budget for 2021-2022 also projects a small surplus. On current costings, this should be sustainable into the future.

From the beginning of the lockdowns, Croquet Victoria has actively kept in touch with clubs. COVID-19 has affected them, and overall our membership has dropped. Whilst some clubs have highlighted the ability to social distance when playing croquet and thus been able to welcome new members who no longer wish to play other sports, we are still below our March 2020 total.

Stay-at-home restrictions have seen us move away from face-to-face meetings for Council, Committee of Management and Sub-Committees/Working Groups to meetings conducted online, many members have actually welcomed the reduction in travel. Many clubs have also had positive experiences of using online and social media to connect with their members.

COVID-19 also made it impracticable to implement and deliver many of the activities planned for the final year of our 2015 - 2020 Strategic Plan. A particular disappointment was the cancellation of our Player Development Project (funded by a State Government grant); we hope it will be possible to repurpose the funds for this and start the project in mid-2021.

We agreed that it would be helpful to insert a Recovery Year before launching a new strategic plan. The details of the Recovery Year are now being worked through. An early success has been the engagement of our Association Croquet and Golf Croquet referees in Refereeing Workshops facilitated by the relevant State Coordinator.

We are looking forward to the impact of the new coaching system and opportunities for junior croquet in 2021.



Tasmania: *Leigh Herington*

The State Executive has had an extremely quiet year. Almost all meetings have been via Zoom. Many events have been cancelled and Croquet in Tasmania is really only just returning to normal.

Covid 19 has not hit Tasmania like other states but has kept players off the lawns for many months. The fallout is still there with members very slowly returning to pre Covid activities. Clubs now religiously clean all surfaces and ensure all mandatory requirements are met.

The TCA and particularly northern clubs are looking forward to the rescheduled GC Nationals in 2021 and hope all has settled sufficiently to enable States to feel comfortable to send teams to Tasmania. With AC Men's, Ladies and Opens being just run and won it was great to see support from mainland players in all events.

We support the ACA with their endeavours to advance croquet with Coach Training via the Croquet Academy. Greg Bury had to reschedule his January visit until March due to border restrictions and quarantining arrangements. His personal efforts on trying to lift croquet and its players must be commended and supported by all States and the ACA executive.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members who continue to assist around their clubs and make it possible for all to enjoy playing croquet.



New South Wales: *Kate McLoughlin*

In a year of many changes and challenges, Croquet NSW has developed a new Strategic Plan, and has focussed on updating its constitution and other processes, with particular focus on ensuring compliance with Office of Sport, Health Department and local Councils. There has also been a review of our financial health and putting into place an easy, transparent system that means we can see “where we are” at any time. We have been connecting with clubs and advocating, successfully, for funding support. The decision to reduce CNSW affiliation fees, and ACA’s 50% fee rebate, together with a grant from the NSW Office of Sport has assisted clubs in coping with loss of revenue and amenity during the COVID-19 restrictions.

Keeping members informed of the COVID-19 updates and making decisions about needing to cancel or hold modified Tournaments has been a major focus. The AC Eire Cup held in Brisbane in March where NSW won the Event, was one of the last major competitions. Earlier in March, the AC World Championships were held at Cairnlea with 12 NSW players competing. We were disappointed at the cancellation of this year’s Eire Cup in Sydney but look forward to welcoming our interstate competitors in 2022. This year we were able to reinstate our relationship with our Patron, Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC, Governor of NSW.

Many clubs have used this time as an opportunity to undertake [safely] club and lawn renovations and other developments, with Nelson Bay, Dubbo and Maitland as stand out examples of working together to access grants and undertake substantial works for the benefit of their clubs. Cooks River Croquet Club in conjunction with Croquet New South Wales has upgraded its facilities at Tempe, creating four top class lawns, ready for the inaugural Eastern Seaboard AC Tournament in March.

COVID-19 has affected our planned initiative to hold workshops for club members around the State. Transferring this initiative to an online platform has proved a popular way of sharing knowledge about coaching, tournaments and lawn maintenance. Further sessions are planned for 2022.

Monthly electronic newsletters have been issued over the last year, with an emphasis on keeping members informed about Board activities and providing a channel of communication about Club activities and competitions. And our Golden Mallet Award for 2020 for a volunteer nominated by Clubs around the State has been awarded to Lorraine Hatfield from Sutherland Croquet Club. A tribute that represents the outstanding contribution made by our volunteers at all levels around the state, who runs clubs, coach members, administer tournaments, referee games, provide catering, look after lawns and much more!



Western Australia: Max Kewish

Croquetwest had a full complement on the Management Committee. At the Croquetwest AGM, held in September 2020, three new members were welcomed onto the Management Committee. They included, David Hunt (replacing Michael Murphy retiring Treasurer), Carol Osborne and Christine Bunny. Megan Fardon (retiring president) was replaced by Max Kewish as President.

Caryll Marshall, Secretary, presented Megan Fardon and Michael Murphy with a presentation in recognition of services to croquet during the last ten years. Michael and Megan have been a great source of continuity, a valuable reserve of knowledge and great lateral thinkers. The Management Committee meetings, during the last twelve months, took up new technology and held meetings via Zoom because of the COVID-10 Pandemic. Croquetwest membership numbers have increased by 15% and there have been three new croquet clubs affiliated with Croquetwest. Another two new clubs will commence within the next two months. (At Sport Hubs)

The 14/40 Road Show, by Max and Caryll, produced two new clubs in late 2020. Croquetwest is working with other sporting bodies creating Sport Hubs. This has been a wonderful opportunity to increase the exposure of the sport of croquet and an opportunity of increasing croquet into more clubs.

Early March was the time of the year when we met with our liaison staff at the DLGSC to go over the census figures we provide, and a review of our progress is discussed. Croquetwest came away with a positive scorecard.

In February 2021 Croquetwest was successful in being awarded a \$30,000 Sport Development Fund Grant *'to deliver programs, services, and policies to help them to stabilise operations and build capacity.'* Croquetwest aims to employ a Marketing Consultant for 4 months, who will provide expert advice and guidance and support into establishing a successful campaign. The emphasis of the grant was on Participation, Development, and Image.

To achieve these Croquetwest will need to:

- Improve/enhance the Image and raise the profile of croquet.
- Optimise Croquetwest performance by specific plans.
- To enhance the capacity and capability of Croquetwest and grow membership and increase participation.
- Improve areas of development/participation identified in the AOPA assessment and the revised Croquet Strategic Plan 2021-2024.

With the help of Curtin University, Croquetwest have produced and adopted the new Croquetwest Marketing Plan 2021-2024. Many thanks to the staff at Curtin University who provided Croquetwest with the opportunity to produce a marketing plan and members of the Marketing Sub-Committee. We are incredibly lucky that we play a sport which naturally is COVID-19 Safe. All sport was off limits and all croquet clubs were closed for a short time in WA.

I wish a huge thank you to all those who safely secured each club, clubhouse and the liaised with each Local Council they were located within.

Croquetwest:

- Decided not to send a team to the Eire Cup due to the uncertainty of travel and safety of the players.
- Secretary is keeping croquet members informed in the monthly newsletter and a touch of light humour. This has been well received by all members.
- Has adopted the Fortix Database, after a trial period, providing detailed information for Croquetwest. Thanks to Janine McHardy who held instruction sessions for all club secretaries.
- Is working hard seeking sponsorships and grants with some success at State and Club level.

With the COVID-19 uncertainty the World Croquet Federation have pushed their Tournament Calendar out one full year. Croquetwest, on behalf of the ACA, have been successful in bidding to host the WCF GC Over 50's World Championship in Bunbury. This has been moved from October 2022 to October 2023.

The Trophy Day Presentation has been deferred to 2021 for events of 2020/21 and 2019/20. The Australian Masters Games Festival has been awarded to Perth this year. Croquetwest is involved and already there many members enrolled to play.

***Spring into something that's easy to play,
Enjoying good health while playing Croquet.***



South Australia – Lyn Parnell

COVID-19 resulted in not only the cancellation of events at Club level, but also tournaments that would normally be played at the Hutt Road Headquarters. Revenue was therefore down, and the hiring of our facility was also affected. Fortunately, South Australia was less affected than most states and once Clubs opened and events and matches resumed, players were very keen to compete and enter competitions.

At the Annual General Meeting held in October 2020, several new Directors were appointed to the Board, including myself as the new President, Roger Buddle as the AC Director and Heath Jackson as the GC Director. Ron McBride was subsequently appointed Treasurer following the resignation of Lorraine Smith. The new Board looks forward to the challenges ahead and has placed a high priority on reviewing all our current procedures and policies to ensure compliance with best practice and adherence to good governance. Parbery Consulting have been engaged to assist SACA in the review of our policies.

The Board has established several sub committees, one of interest to our country clubs is a sub-committee to investigate the viability of adding a Casual Membership tier to the membership categories of Croquet SA. Discussion with the Adelaide City Council in respect to our lease and the viability of adding a fourth lawn to the Hutt Road venue is also being pursued.

The recent visit to South Australia by Greg Bury to conduct Coach Training was well received. SACA fully supports ACA in the establishment of the Coaching Academy and the high-quality coaching manuals provided to those who undertook the course.

Having additional coaches now accredited will hopefully lead to coaching being offered to more country clubs within the State, something that has been identified as a need for some time.

Committee Reports

Events: *Peter Freer*

Below is a report from the Events Committee against the objectivities set out in the ACA Handbook 27.10 for the ACA Events Committee.

The Committee shall:

- 1) be known as the Events Committee;**
- 2) consist of four members;**
 - Currently Peter Freer & Peter Tracey.
 - Recruitment to the Committee is an issue - no-one has recently expressed interest, despite various approaches.
 - Peter Freer has exceeded his maximum period (10 years instead of 4). A position description was drafted and advertised, but Events has seen nothing further.
- 3) agree, in conjunction with the ACA Board, a schedule for all national tournaments, 3-5 years ahead;**
 - currently CY 2021 is underway, but subject to covid-19 travel restrictions
 - currently working with States on finalising CY2022 and beyond (rough dates done)
 - Events helped ACA initiate a “root & branch” review of all ACA events, both current & possible, against a set of criteria setting out what these events are to achieve. Events’ discussion starter was circulated in Dec 2019 and a few responses received 2020. Review has been delayed due to covid-19.
- 4) negotiate with appropriate States and Clubs to implement this schedule;**
 - CY 2022 is still being sorted, due to WCF events being deferred 12 months, and other negotiations are required for subsequent years.
- 5) 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.
 - On-line entry via the ACA website has been problematic – hopefully the new website will fix this. Still need entry closing date). Recording entries on CS is working well – reassures players that their entry is done, and allows organisers to track how entries are going.

- Programs are now effectively provided mainly as soft copy on the ACA or host State websites, in conjunction with croquet scores, 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 croquet scores. 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. The Appendices in ACA Tournament Regulations needs to be updated (along with the TRegs itself)

6) review individual events after they are held, and in conjunction with the ACA Executive review 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 been using survey monkey in lieu of Player’s Meetings at each event, but results are mixed. Now trialling fillable pdfs

Note that Events remit does not (officially) extend to international events being held in Australia. I assume the Board is directly responsible, following the demise of the International Events Committee, but clearly Events needs to be involved since those events affect the scheduling of Australian events. I raised this with Callum Hyland, as part of the review of the ACA Tournament Regulations in 2018 - there has been a fair bit of, & still is, confusion over the Aust bids for future World Champs and Events is still often not keep apprised re these events.

Under 21: Jacky McDonald

The 2020 Australian Under 21 Championships were held in Geraldton WA on the 18th – 20th January. This was the fifth Singles Championship and the third Doubles Championship. There were eight competitors in the singles and four pairs in the doubles. Competitors were from four states – Victoria, New South Wales, Tasmania and Western Australia.

RESULTS				
		Player	Club	State
Singles	Winner	Jamie Gumbrell	Canberra	NSW
	Runner Up	Felix Gelman White	Williamstown	VIC
Division 2	Winner	Darcy de Vries	Geraldton	WA
	Runner Up	James Wombell	Casterton	VIC
Doubles	Winner	Jamie Gumbrell & Ethan Gumbrell	Canberra	NSW
	Runner Up	Darcy de Vries & Kaleb Chapman	Geraldton	WA

A coaching session for all competitors was conducted by Terry Ericson prior to the event. My sincere thanks to Terry and to the members of Geraldton Croquet Club for all their efforts.

During the year there have been four Skype meetings – 24 February, 27 April, 17th August and 29th October. Minutes of all meetings have been forwarded to the Croquet Australia Board. The State GC Directors are as follows: - QLD Terry Ericson, VIC Nancy Hatherell / Kate Patrick, NSW Jacky McDonald, TAS Peter Tracy, SA Barry Haydon and WA Kay Chynoweth. The main topics of discussion have been ways and means of promoting croquet to younger player.

GC HPM: *Martin Clarke*

With the ongoing Covid-19 uncertainty there hasn't been a lot happening with Golf Croquet High Performance programs.

I have liaised briefly with Egypt and South Africa re potential matches to replace the Trans-Tasman, no great interest from Egypt, a little from South Africa but again covid cloud will see no progress for some time.

I have been in touch with junior players at Casterton and as a result three younger players have been added to the Western Australian Golf Croquet squads.

I am writing an occasional piece for the new gazette.

AC National Refereeing Coordinator: *Mike Cohn*

It has been a quiet year for AC Refereeing due the COVID-19 pandemic. All national events were cancelled after the running of the Eire Cup in March 2020.

The National AC Referees Committee (comprising the National and State Coordinators of AC Referees and the Australian representative on the WCF Laws AC Committee) met via Zoom in September to the review Draft of Version 7 of the AC Laws, and to initiate further stages. (WA was represented by their President, Megan Fardon, as their position is currently vacant.) The meeting endorsed the draft and recommended that the ACA Board respond positively to WCF accordingly.

Preparation of training materials commenced with the expectation that Australia will commence using the new Laws in mid-2021. Initial quotes for Law Books and books of Merged Laws and Rulings (ORLAC) were obtained.

Referees at 31 December 2020 - Active Qualification						
	International Referees	Senior Referees	Examining Referees	Ordinary Referees	Umpires	Total
NSW	1	0	12	21	28	62
QLD	2	1	3	30	3	39
SA	0	0	1	13	2	16
TAS	0	0	4	11	5	20
VIC	0	2	2	23	4	31
WA	0	1	2	11	1	15
National	3	4	24	109	43	183

GC National Refereeing Coordinator: *Jim Clement*

Little was done in the field of GC Refereeing during 2020 due mainly, of course, to Covid restrictions.

The major accomplishment was the revision of the GC Referees' Manual to reflect the changes brought about by the 5th Edition of the GC Rules. I am deeply indebted to John van der Touw, Victorian State Coordinator of GC Referees, for his work in helping update the manual, which now contains many more photos and explanatory diagrams.

The manual has also reverted to its original layout in as much as pages are once again numbered consecutively within sections, which will allow for the reissue of sections if and as necessary, without having to reissue the complete manual.

The manual was posted to the website during 2020 but somehow was later replaced by the 2015 edition, possibly as a result of the development of the new (current) website. However, the 2020 version is now back on the website.

I am currently the Australian member of a World Croquet Federation working group examining the possibilities of an online training and accreditation course. The first meeting was held in December 2020 and progress to date is slow.

Gateball National Coordinator: *John Park*

The only international competition open to Gateball Australia players in 2020 was a trip to participate in the first New Zealand Open. Gateball Australia have been keen to assist yet another attempt to establish Gateball in New Zealand and a number of players attended. Southport and Mt Gambier were winners and runners up of the team event while Philip Brown and Leah O'Brien won the doubles. A young NZ duo came second in the doubles and show us that it will not take long before the Kiwis start to challenge Australian experience.

Domestic competition was necessarily limited. NSW opened the year with a triples event at Newcastle but all other events had to be cancelled. Victoria did not hold any competitions and after two postponements, SA eventually held its President's Cup event with much reduced numbers. Queensland managed to hold its State Championships and a couple of club events but teams from the South were precluded by hotspots and state-wide lockdowns. Our foothold in WA saw the resignation of Murray Loane as State Director and Meagan Fardon agreeing to take on the challenge. Various clubs updated us through posts on the Gateball Australia website which showed that we are all keen and eager to start playing again.

Early each year Gateball Australia holds its referee committee meeting. A report is always made available on the GA website (<https://gateball.com.au/wordpress/?p=6335>) Matters discussed included reworking the Level 1 examination, the use of laser pointers, reaccreditation processes, default forfeit procedures, calling players to Start Stroking, a referee course workbook and referee armbands for competitions. Despite 2020 being a year with little activity, Queensland completed the training of several new referees. At the end of the year the committee reconvened when a referee decision was called into question and an official complaint lodged in Queensland.

Gateball Australia was disappointed that its own processes had not been fully exhausted before the complaints process was used. The referee committee issued a statement confirming that captains pointing with sticks is not appropriate. These statements are posted on our website.

A major activity for the locked down year was the production of a new coaching program for Gateball as part of a wider roll out for all codes. The ACA and National Director of Coaching Greg Bury is thanked for the effort and support. Three levels of the program will be rolled out in 2021. Gateball Australia also acknowledges the previous work of a core of players from Queensland who have coached for many years and developed ideas for Gateball Coaching. WGU materials are heavily reflected in the new documents and the work of Philip Brown, Glen Whitehead and Anthony Dask need to be acknowledged.

The ACA Board has made a stand in relation to the role of officials of the Queensland based Australian Gateball Union. The actions of this body have created dissension in Queensland and through applications to join the APGU and WGU have damaged the international reputation of Gateball Australia. The applications were rejected out of hand. Rather than promoting the game, the climate and perception of disunity has been negative.

Gateballers in Australia look forward to a brighter 2021. The roll out of the coaching program, developing our toeholds in Tasmania and WA and an Australian Championships on the Gold Coast are exciting prospects for 2021.

Ricochet National Coordinator - Lynda Davis

As we are all aware the last year has been a challenge for all codes. Ricochet was able to resume in various states by the end of 2020.

In January I appointed Richard Hughes as an Examining Ricochet Referee, as NSW had no Coordinator Richard has since been asked and accepted the position as Development Officer for Ricochet in NSW

Richard has also accepted a position on my committee.

We are working on the referee manual for Ricochet and the question of Half Bisques.

The new coaching program introduced in February is going well with Ricochet Coaches qualified in several states. The Rules books are steadily being bought as members take up ricochet.

We are no further with an Interstate competition but do have several NSW & QLD players playing in each other's state's competitions.

I am not planning to travel at this stage for ricochet development interstate but will wait until restrictions are less likely to occur.

I Thank my committee and the ACA Board for the support and help this year and look forward to a more active 2021.

Archivist: *Martin Clarke*

I have three tasks going on currently. I have been writing articles for the new Gazette as well as assisting with research into the Broken Hill Croquet Club and chasing up information on the ACA Meritorious Service Award.

WCF AC Laws Committee: *Elizabeth Fleming*

I am grateful to have been appointed for a final term in office to the WCF.AC.LC as I believe the years of hard work and dedication by each of my colleagues and I in working to form ourselves into a cohesive working unit has proven to be a worthy endeavour and allowed us to produce high quality documentation for uptake by the WCF as the 7th Edition AC Laws and ORLAC.

The Laws, I believe, have reached the stage where we are tempted, or maybe it is external pressure, to make them cover ever-less plausible scenarios. Some of my colleagues and I feel a need, in future editions, to call a halt to that process, as its result is the expansion to a greater length and complexity, which has the potential to further fuel fewer players understanding of the Laws and even fewer willing to become referees. This thankfully is something for others to consider when looking toward an 8th Edition and beyond!

Purpose of the 7th Edition AC Laws

- Implement the substantive changes recommended in the Official Rulings on the 6th Edition (ORLAC);
- Introduce those changes which have been the subject of discussion throughout the croquet playing communities and agreed to be desirable;
- Work toward greater commonality of substance and language with the GC Croquet Rules;
- Inclusion of material in the main body of the Laws previously in appendices or in tournament regulations;
- Introduction of an expanded index, a glossary of terms and summary tables of rulings;
- Numerous stylistic changes as recommended in the 6th Edition ORLAC.

Alongside the 7th Edition there is an Introductory Statement and Change Log to assist in the update process. Mindful of my position on both the WCF.ACLC and the ACA.NTP.AC I have given every assistance to the National Co-ordinator with regard to preparing tutorial material for update to the 7th Edition across all States. (Power Point and accompanying questionnaire.)

Whilst the 7th Edition is almost double the size of the 6th Edition it is believed to be a much more user-friendly document and has combined to produce an edition which brings many issues a clarity and uniformity lacking in previous publications. By bringing some common tournament regulations into the body of the laws this will also ease the pressure of individual domains feeling the need, or pressure from individuals, to produce separate regulations which could cause confusion during international or even interstate-based play. (Local regulations should not override the Laws.)

Naturally the Official Commentary on Official Rulings is a commensurately large document and should be read with the text of the relevant Law to hand. To this end it is anticipated that ACA will make available the interleaved version of the combined Laws and ORLAC.

The purpose of the commentary is to explain, using examples when helpful, and draw attention to less obvious points. This in my opinion is an invaluable accompanying document and an essential document for all prospective TR's, Active Referees or those charged with preparing teams for any competitive play.

The WCF uploads all documentation relevant to the 7th Edition and ORLAC to its website enabling those who wish to download electronic copy to do so.

I highly recommend ACA make available for distribution an interleaved version of the 7th Edition and ORLAC as a separate publication from the stand-alone 7th Edition Law booklet.