



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Australian Croquet Association

A2004

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ACA 2021 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 organisation’s 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

Affiliated Members

STATE	2019			2020			2021		
	Clubs	Adult	Under 21	Clubs	Adult	Under 21	Clubs	Adult	Under 21
NSW	60	2705	7	67	2789	8	60	2649	5
VIC	91	2773	12	88	2794	25	80	2517	12
QLD	43	1440	10	41	1450	11	41	1620	19
SA	31	921	9	35	952	11	32	906	8
WA	20	737	11	22	874	8	23	1092	18
TAS	10	416	14	11	453	14	20	471	10
Sub Total		8992	63		9312	77		9255	72
Total	255	9055		255	9389		256	9327	

Meetings

Due to Covid restrictions, the Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held via Zoom on Monday 29 March.

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 one operating account.

Investments

At the end of the year ACA had two investment portfolios – BT Financial Group and MLC Share fund.

Goods and Services Tax

ACA is registered for GST.

2021 Board

Chair – Jim Nicholls

Deputy Chair – Mary Marsland

Treasurer – Kah Yang Loke

Board Member – Max Kewish

Board Member – Kerri-Ann Organ

Board Member – Alison Sharpe

Board Member – Bernie Pfitzner

Board Member – Barbara Northcott

Board Appointed Positions

Secretary – Jim Clement

Executive Officer – Rob Murray

Academy General Manager – Greg Bury

Finance Officer – Angeline Tan

Appointed Officers

Association Croquet

High Performance Manager – Peter Landrebe

National Co-Ordinator Refereeing – Mike Cohn

National Co-ordinator Coaching – Greg Bury

Golf Croquet

High Performance Manager – Martin Clarke

National Co-Ordinator Refereeing – Jim Clement

National Co-ordinator Coaching – Greg Bury

Gateball

National Co-ordinator Gateball – John Park

National Co-Ordinator Refereeing – Bruce McAlister

Ricochet

National Co-ordinator Ricochet – Lynda Davis

Under 21 Croquet

National Co-ordinator – Jacky McDonald

Handicapping

National Handicapper – Gareth Denyer

Archivist

Martin Clarke

Magazine Editor

Greg Bury

Australian Representation - WCF

WCF AC Laws Committee – Liz Fleming

WCF GC Rules Committee – John van der Touw

Management Com – Peter Landrebe

Committees**Events**

Chair - Peter Freer

Peter Tracey

Tournament

Chair – Peter Freer

Peter Tracey

AC Selection

Chair – Martin Clarke

Simon Hockey

Greg Fletcher

Peter Landrebe

GC Selection

Chair – Chris McWhirter

John Arney

Martin Clarke

Peter Landrebe

Executive Reports**CHAIR**

2021 will indeed be remembered as an historic year. The effects of Covid-19 and the uncertainty due to the lack of uniform laws and travel guidelines across the Nation affected all sports, irrespective of size or popularity. As a sporting nation we have never cancelled so many events in a calendar year.

The National Croquet and Gateball calendars were all but cancelled. In May the National GC Doubles and Singles events were successfully completed. The National Gateball Championships scheduled for September were postponed twice and is now re-scheduled for April 2022.

Despite the lack of National Events the board had an eventful year, continuing to meet via technology throughout 2021. The Annual General Meeting in March was the first AGM to be conducted via technology in the history of the organisation.

Megan Fardon and Don Close had completed 3 terms (6 years) as Directors and were ineligible for re-election. Thank you to Megan and Don for your contribution to the ACA. Jackie McDonald and Jim Nicholls were eligible for re-election, and with Geoff Crook resigning prior to AGM there were 5 vacancies to be filled. With 6 people nominating nominees voting was required.

Jim Nicholls was re-elected and we welcomed 4 new members to the board; Alison Sharpe (NSW), Barbara Northcott (QLD), Bernie Pfitzner (SA), and Kerrie-Ann Organ (NSW).

Despite not being re-elected Jackie McDonald was appointed to continue as Chair of the Under 21 Committee.

Jim Clement remained as honorary secretary to the board. As none of the Directors of the newly formed committee had the required skills or qualifications to be treasurer Jim Clement was appointed as interim treasurer.

Via our sponsor Parbery Consulting we appointed Kah Yang Loke as treasurer in May 2021. Kah Yang was the first non-affiliated person to be appointed as a director. Kah Yang is a Certified Practising Accountant with 25 years' experience in accounting and audit for National and International organisations.

Kah Yang has been instrumental in the restructure of financial reports and ensuring we continue to adopt best practice standards for our reporting and policies.

In May, Anne Mann, our Finance Officer of 6 years retired and we welcomed Angeline Tan to fulfil the role. Thankyou Anne for your contribution to Croquet.

Whilst Covid perhaps brought about the more obvious changes, various Royal Commissions into Child Abuse, Banking and Financial Regulations, and Corruption have had a significant impact on sporting organisations. This has resulted in organisations having to diligently review and adopt policies to ensure they comply with standards in line with community expectations and government regulation.

For the ACA board this included the review and or adoption of policies such as;

- Anti-doping Policy
- Work Health and Safety Requirements
- Transgender Guidelines
- Working with Children
- Child Abuse Insurance
- Director requirements
- Sports Integrity Framework
- Criteria of Postponement / Cancellation of Events

At the International level, the board has discussed and deliberated on no less than 10 WCF (World Croquet Federation) items, including:

- Mac Robertson Shield Event
- Transgender Policy
- World Championship Frequency
- Draft Rules – GC and AC
- Sports Regulations
- Ranking Regulations
- Referee Regulations

However, the focus has not all been about compliance, governance, and regulation.

The Board, via the Australian Croquet Academy, has developed and delivered several programs and resources, with plans of further expansion to assist our players, clubs and state associations in growing our sport.

The National Database and website are being reviewed with the intention of being the 'go to' place for information and resources.

Professional Facebook advertising videos have been developed to promote no less than 12 special occasion days. Clubs with Facebook pages can access these videos to club activities.

National Lighting Standards specific to mallet sports have been submitted to Standards Australia for approval and incorporation into the relevant Standard. Thank you to Wal Mils from Maitland Croquet Club for your research and technical expertise on this subject.

Greg Bury and Barbara Piggott, rolled out the National Coaching Program across Australia and re-accredited over 300 coaches. Coaches are now able to access resources and training courses via the online Learning Management System (LMS). It is envisaged the LMS will host other training programs such as refereeing and tournament management as courses are developed.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the growing number of volunteers contributing to these and many other projects, at National, State and club levels.

It is pleasing to note the National membership has remained steady at approximately 9,500 affiliated members despite the restrictions during the past 2 years.

Towards the end of 2021 the Board deliberated the National business plans to determine the resources and funding required to deliver programs over the next 2 – 3 years.

I would like to thank all Officer Bearers and Committee Members for their valuable volunteer work during this most difficult year.

Special thanks to Peter Landrebe who has served on the WCF Management Committee for the past 8 years.

I would like to thank my fellow board members and staff for their support, patience, robust debate and sense of humour throughout the many hours of Zoom meetings.

To the croquet and Gateball communities, we have all endured difficult times and numerous changes, I know nothing is more enjoyable than being out on the lawn and hitting balls.

May 2022 be filled with plenty of action on the lawns.

Good hitting.

Jim Nicholls
ACA Chair

Secretary's Report

The Board

Regular Board meetings were held via Zoom on the second Wednesday of each month during 2021 until April, when the newly elected Board changed to the third Wednesday of each month, to better allow for the preparation and distribution of monthly financial reports.

Additional Board meetings were held:

- in mid-March to pass a resolution accepting the audited financial reports
- in late March for the newly elected Board to appoint its Chair and Deputy Chair and to set its regular meeting days
- in early June as a face-to-face discussion meeting in Canberra to better allow the Directors to know each other
- in early July to discuss when a decision should be made regarding the 2021 GC Gold Medal, Men's & Women's Championships, and Interstate Shield, and
- in late July, to make a go/no go decision regarding the holding of the 2021 GC Gold Medal, Men's & Women's Championships, and Interstate Shield.
- In early December, to examine the possibility of any conflict of interest when an employee also holds volunteer roles.

After the March AGM the Board did not include a director prepared to take the role of Treasurer and thus decided to exercise its prerogative to appoint an appropriately qualified person, as allowed under the Constitution, s21. Accordingly, the Board, at its 19th May 2021 meeting, appointed Kah Yang Loke, a qualified accountant, for a period not exceeding two years, with the understanding that he would only be required to attend meetings, or parts thereof, that had financial implications.

Directors during the year 1st January to 31st December 2021, and their attendance at Board meetings were:

• Geoff Crook – resigned 22 nd March 2021	3/3
• Megan Fardon (Chair) - until 29 th March 2021 AGM	4/4
• Don Close (Treasurer) - until 29 th March 2021 AGM	4/4
• Jacky MacDonald - until 29 th March 2021 AGM	4/4
• Jim Nicholls (Deputy Chair until AGM, Chair from 31 st March 2021).	18/18
• Mary Marsland (Deputy Chair from 31 st March 2021)	18/18
• Max Kewish	18/18
• Barbara Northcott – from 29 th March 2021 AGM	14/14
• Alison Sharpe – from 29 th March 2021 AGM	14/14
• Kerri-Ann Organ – from 29 th March 2021 AGM	12/14
• Bernie Pfitzner - from 29 th March 2021 AGM	14/14
• Kah Yang Loke (Treasurer) – from 5 th June 2021	8/11 ¹

¹ Two meetings, held to determine whether the GC GM, M&W and ISS should go ahead had no financial implications and Kah Yang's apologies were accepted in advance.

Governance

At the request of state association Presidents, I commenced to post Board meeting agendas to the ACA website News page in September. The draft agenda is issued two weeks prior to the meeting, usually on the first Wednesday of the month, with the final(?) agenda issued seven days prior to the meeting, usually on the second Wednesday of the month. I endeavour to have Board meeting minutes posted to the website within two days of the meeting.

Sport Integrity Australia (SIA) issued the National Integrity Framework which consisted of policies covering Child Safeguarding; Competition Manipulation and Wagering; Complaints, Disputes and Discipline; Improper use of Drugs and Medicine; and Member Protection. To retain recognition by Sport Australia, Croquet Australia is obliged to accept and institute the framework, including the policies. I have been amending the policy templates to suit, with a view to gaining SIA approval of the amendments and presentation of the policies to, and adoption by, the Board early in 2022.

The following new or amended governance documents were adopted during the year:

- Appointed Officers, Committees and Working Groups Policy (Feb 21, amended Dec 21)
- Procurement Policy (Feb 21)
- National Coordinator Ricochet ToR (Feb 21)
- National Handicapper Tor (Feb 21)
- National Coordinator of U21 Croquet (Feb 21)
- National Coordinator of Gateball ToR (Feb 21)
- Public Officer ToR (Feb 21)
- U21 Croquet Committee ToR (Feb 21)
- Standing Orders (revised Mar 21)
- New Club Grant Policy (revised Mar 21)
- Use of Chemicals Policy (Apr 21, amended Jun 21)
- Tournament Regulations (amended May 21, & Jul 21)
- Adverse Playing Conditions Policy (Jun 21)
- Finance Committee ToR (Jun 21)
- Player Development Pathways Working Group ToR (Jun 21)
- Privacy Policy (Aug 21)
- AC Handicapping Regulations (amended Oct 21)
- GC Handicapping Regulations (revised Oct 21)
- Budget Committee ToR (Nov 21, amended Dec 21 to Budget Sub-committee ToR)
- Rescheduling/Cancellation of Events Policy (Dec 21)

During the year, the following letters of support were issued on behalf of the Board:

- Three (3) in support of Australian Croquet Association Academy applications
- To Central Coast Council (NSW) supporting EDSACC Croquet Club interest in hosting croquet for 2025 Australian Masters Games
- To Stephens Croquet Club (Qld) in support of grant applications for its Court Lighting Project
- To Callum Hyland in support of him travelling to Tasmania to attend the CTas AC Bronze Medal round of the Croquet Australia AC Gold Medal competition
- To ACT Sport & Recreation to support the Canberra CC grant application to upgrade and extend its clubhouse.

Board liaison with its appointed officers and committees is formalised and during the year was:

Committee	Director Liaison
Tournament Committees	Megan Fardon /Jim Nicholls
Events Committee	Megan Fardon /Jim Nicholls
AC Selection Committee	Megan Fardon /Mary Marsland
GC Selection Committee	Megan Fardon /Kerri-Ann Organ
Publicity Committee	Max Kewish
Appointed Officer	Director Liaison
High Performance Manager AC	Jim Nicholls
High Performance Manager GC	Don Close/Max Kewish
National Co-ordinator Coaching	Don Close/Jim Nicholls
National Coordinator Refereeing – AC	Geoff Crook /Mary Marsland
National Coordinator Refereeing – GC	Geoff Crook /Bernie Pfitzner
National Coordinator Under 21 Croquet	Jacky McDonald /Alison Sharpe
National Coordinator Gateball	Jim Nicholls /Barbara Northcott
National Coordinator Ricochet	Jacky McDonald /Barbara Northcott
National Handicapper	Mary Marsland
Archivist	Max Kewish
Representative – WCF GCRC	Megan Fardon /Jim Nicholls
Representative – WCF ACLC	Mary Marsden

Jim Clement
ACA Secretary



Firstly, I would like to thank the ACA Board for my recent full-time appointment as the General Manager of the Australian Croquet Academy. The Academy can now allocate more time on the priorities and put some solid plans in place for our future.



The Australian Croquet Academy will continue to focus on providing all associations, clubs, officials, players, coaches, referees and our volunteers the service and support they need to perform at their best.

The priorities are rolling out the national database/website and delivering the 6 National Programs:

- Youth Training
- Recruitment and Retention
- Pathways and Development
- Grants and Partnerships
- Publicity and Marketing
- Communications

A Development Plan for all National Projects has been created and will be communicated to all states shortly.

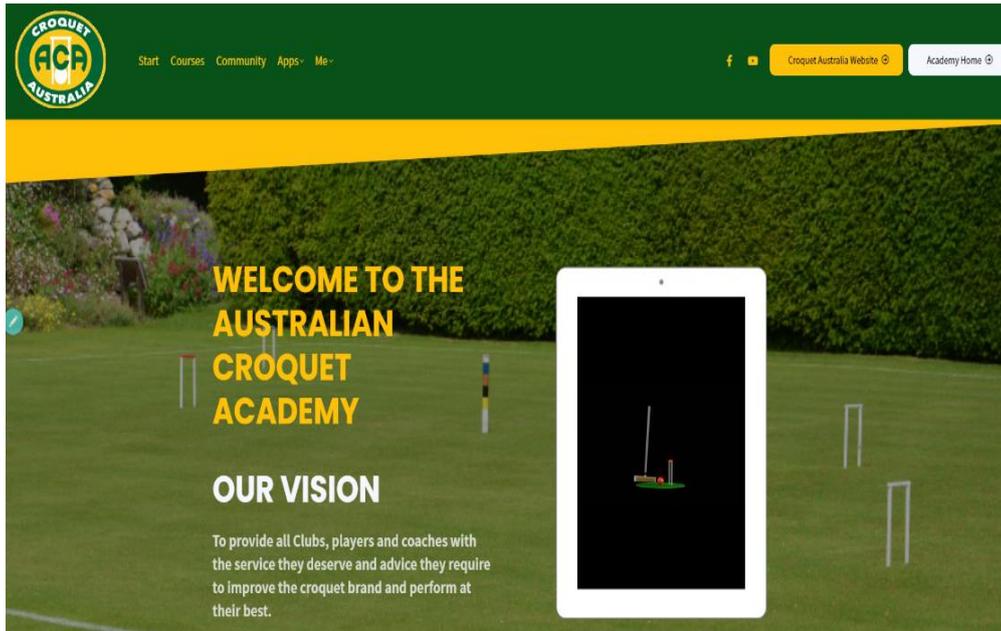
The National Database

The National Database has been built and is ready for testing. All State Associations have nominated users who will provide recommendations for improvement. When this task is completed, it will then be ready for the National rollout.

The National Website

A lot of work has already been completed with Plans for the NSW State Association to test its functionality. When ready the new website will then go LIVE.

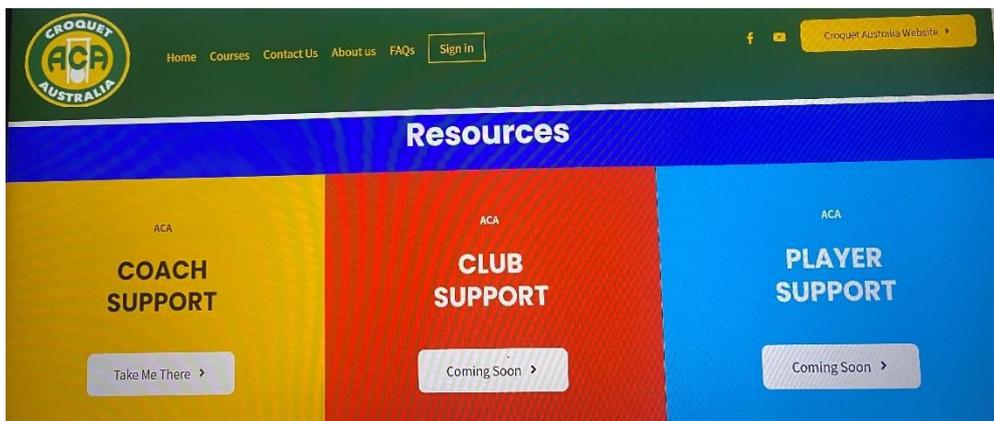
Learning Management Systems



The first Learning Management System was rolled out for coaches. Our plan is to first update this version with additional interactive activities and then look at all additional topics that can be developed. Some of these additional LMS topics will cater for:

- Referees
- Club Positions (President)
- Volunteer roles (How to manage a tournament)

Club Support, Coach Support and Player Support



The Academy is currently working on three major Resources (Coach Support, Club Support and Player Support) that will be available on the national website.

Some of the tools available will included:

- Club position descriptions.
- Player profiles.
- Promotional videos.
- How to apply to become a coach.
- How to use social media.
- Grants to apply for.
- Our history.
- Events calendar and how to enter.

Over time it will become a one stop shop of information and tools for everyone to use.

Player and Volunteer profiles



There should be an accurate record of our players history and our volunteers service achievements. Gary Phipps has done some amazing work gathering this information to live on the national website. A player can participate by completing the links below:

Croquet Profile - <https://forms.gle/XJi39yxR2z3xsRVP9>

Volunteer Profile <https://forms.gle/VUjqxX5EeaXXeK2K6>

Club Support Media Pack



A number of clubs have now received and are already using their Club Support Social Media Packs. They include customised promotional videos, handouts with QR codes and social media banners. To make ordering easier Gary Phipps also created the booking form link below:

Online expression of interest and online Booking Form link

<https://forms.gle/GXyCoz5QTaZbbotq9>

What is in the club Support Social Media Pack?

- 1 x Club Branded Croquet Promotional Video (35 secs in length) – View Example [HERE](#)
- 1 x Club Branded "Come and Try Croquet" Video (15 secs in length) - View Example [HERE](#)
- 1 x Club personalised "Expression of Interest" online booking (for new player enquires and venue bookings) - View Example [HERE](#)
- 1 x Club personalised – QR Code based marketing flyer with unique QR Code, that links to the expression of interest form. View Example [HERE](#)
- 2 X Banner Images for use on social media for ‘[Come and Try Croquet](#)’ and ‘[Book a Venue](#)’.

John from KDM has done a magnificent job creating the promotional videos. Samples of his work include:

Book your croquet venue Today

<https://youtu.be/bY3I-UcWwzs>

Come And Try Croquet Today

<https://youtu.be/L1y-r7C8C08>

Original long promotional video version

<https://youtu.be/h6r5MhTMoEA>

The Australian Croquet Academy Donation App

A huge thank you to everyone who have donated to the Academy. It is greatly appreciated. This money will be used to help deliver the National Projects.

Below is our current tally:

AUSTRALIAN CROQUET ASSOCIATION

Aust Croquet Academy RAISED \$12,503 : <https://asf.org.au/donate/the-australian-croquet-club-outdoor-lighting-survey>

The below questionnaire link has been developed by Wal Mills and Gary Phipps to:

1. Help improve and sign off an Australian Standard for outdoor croquet lights.
2. Assist clubs wishing to apply for a grant so they can have the best information.
3. Provide the information needed to sign off an Australian Standard for Lighting.

Clubs were asked to complete this link: <https://forms.gle/wXQ2nef7qpYSjB2N7>

My special thanks to everyone who did it.

Please contact Wal Mills for any further enquiries in regards to outdoor lighting.

Microsoft savings



Croquet Clubs are eligible for Microsoft not-for-profit pricing across a range of leading products.

Utilise the power of Microsoft 365 with 10 free premium licenses - These licenses allow access to Microsoft Office, Microsoft Teams, One-Drive and Outlook (usually \$27 per license per month).

For more information on how your club can save money on IT, click on the link below.

<https://forms.gle/6pLEMgdH1eq153eW8>

special thanks to Gary Phipps for creating the request form.

Letter of Support



One of the many requirements when applying for a grant is to have a letter of support. To assist Associations and Clubs in this process a request form has been developed. Its purpose is to provide the ACA secretary with the following information:

Name and outline of the project.

Major justifications contained in the project.

Any areas of Strategic Plans (at club, state or national level) that the project addresses.

Grant title and title of grant authority.

To receive your Letter of Support from the ACA simply click on the link below.

<https://forms.gle/ZXdaPdQVbNkoRZXT8>

special thanks to Gary Phipps for creating the request form.

Academy Facebook



Has now been launched and will be used as a tool for communicating important messages and good news stories.

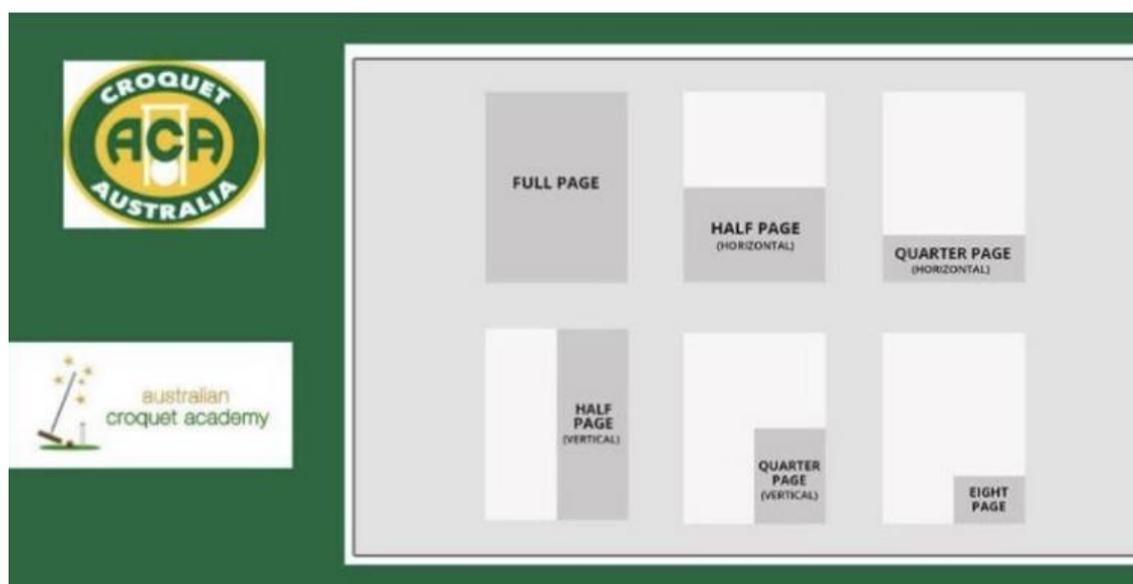
Australian Croquet Online magazine

The first edition of the online magazine was released in December 2020. Since then, we have had 3 more editions.

Autumn 2021, Spring 2022 and Summer 2022.

Click on the link below and go to news and media on the Australian website to read all about it.
<https://croquet-australia.com.au/>

Paid Advertising



We now have professional/paid advertising in the online magazine.
To have your advert included simply click the link in the Summer 2022 edition.

Special Thanks

There are a number of Academy Advisors who continue to help and assist when needed. I would like to give a special mention to Gary Phipps, Peter Freer, Leigh Herington, Gareth Denyer and Francesca de Wytt for the many hours you have all contributed. John Hayes has also been instrumental behind the scenes and will continue to work on many exciting projects in the future.

Summary

It is an honour and a privilege to be the General Manager of the Australian Croquet Academy. In the last 12 months we have seen a number of initiatives identified and implemented. Over the next 12 months there will be a lot of change that will set us ALL up for success in the future. This can only be achieved if everyone is focussed on the common goals and are working together.

My job is to provide service and support to all Associations, Clubs and their members. The workload is huge. However, I believe and I am confident that the Academy will make a huge difference in the short and long term. I look forward to helping everyone become the best they can and seeing or talking to you soon.

Greg Bury
General Manager
The Australian Croquet Academy

National Ricochet Coordinator

Most of our work this year has been online or phone calls due to the travel restrictions. Requalify referees nationally.

The committee has started working on the referee manual, but this is not complete.

I have been liaising with Brian Wainman in England who has been developing a Bisquetng Calculator, this is now complete with Ricochet included. This is on the WCF web page & ACA web page Link <https://chc.eu.pythonanywhere.com>

I recommended Richard Hughes to the NSW Board for the position of NSW Ricochet Coordinator this application was successful.

Richard & Margaret Rose Thompson have been members of my committee for my 3 years in office. We have worked well together. Ricochet is growing fast in NSW due to their efforts. I would like to Thank Richard & Margaret Rose for their help, support and guidance in the promotion of Ricochet and the work on Ricochet Rules that are now being used in number of countries around the world.

I sadly will not be reapplying for the position of National Ricochet Coordinator for 2023. Due to family reasons.

I would like to Thank the ACA Board for giving me the opportunity to work in this position and the help and support given to me.

I wish the new NRC an enjoyable experience and will give any support or assistance if needed.

Regards
Lynda Davis
NCR

Gateball National Coordinator

In common with other mallet sports, Gateball has faced challenges as a result of the pandemic. The impact has been variable across the country. In 2019, 20 Gateball competitions in Australia were recorded on Gateball Scores. 10 of those took place in Queensland and 10 in other states which also included the Australian Championships held at Cairnlea. In contrast, 17 competitions were held during 2021 but 11 were held in Queensland and only 6 in other states. There were 48 appearances of teams at GB events in Qld in 2021 which was marginally down from 51 in 2019. In other states 26 appearances by teams diminished to 17 in 2021. The impact of the 2019, 20 pandemics across different states is reflected by these numbers.

Opportunities to promote GB in WA and Tasmania have also been thwarted by the pandemic. In 2019, a four-team competition was held in WA. Some funding was provided by the ACA to support a visit from a previous national coordinator of GB. Plans to provide further support have been thwarted although ACA loan equipment is still being held in that state for future use. Similarly, an initiative by a Qld player to establish GB in a club in Tasmania, where he is also a member, have been held up because on each occasion, when a visit to Tasmania has seemed possible, border closures have interfered. Again, ACA loan equipment was sent to Tasmania and will hopefully be used during 2022.

Visits to clubs to promote GB have been a challenge and as a result Gateball Australia has encouraged the production of Gateball Information Pamphlets and YouTube videos which are shared through links from gateball.com.au.

The biggest casualty of 2021 was our inability to hold the Australian Gateball Championships at the Gold Coast Performance Centre which had been booked in 2019. A grant to subsidise the use of the centre is conditional on about 66 people per day attending the event now to be held from the 1-3rd April 2022. An open doubles event will be added to the AGC. In its first iteration this event has to be fitted into the 3 days booked at the Gold Coast Performance Centre and, as a result will have an abbreviated format which can be modified for future AGCs. A grant of \$11000 obtained from the Australia Korea Foundation was unable to be expended and the project has been postponed Venues have been determined for the 2023 and 2025 Australian Championships.

Gateball Australia has continued to maintain an informal email based steering committee with representatives from each state. A google group is used through which the National Coordinator seeks guidance on some of the more strategic decisions about the game that need to be made.

Gateball.com.au continues to serve a useful function for the Gateball community. 30 stories were posted and other resources shared through the website which compares with 33 stories posted in the previous year.

Until mid-2021, refereeing was the responsibility of the National Coordinator of GB. In early 2021 the GB Refereeing Committee made some adjustments to existing processes which included some additional requirements for those players accrediting and reaccrediting as Level 1 and as International Referees. In mid-2021, the ACA Board approved a request to appoint a National Coordinator of Refereeing, Gateball. Bruce McAlister is undertaking that role and has submitted his own report for the second half of 2021.

Decisions of the meeting held in early 2021 included: For club events, clubs can decide to use either rotational or relational doubles and triples, additional requirements were deemed necessary for accreditation of International and Level 1 referees, sign off of reaccreditation cards were to be completed by members of a players own club, the committee acknowledged that it was divided over the issue of the use of laser pointers but recognised that this issue needed to be revisited in the future and a model video exam had been prepared and was distributed to members of the referee committee for comment,. A proposal to have an assistant tournament referee was not supported, Referee identification armbands previously distributed were identified as adequate. It was noted that a response from the WGU supported the Referee Committee interpretation around the issue of pointing with a stick. Gateball coaching was interrupted by the Covid outbreak and did not allow accreditation to be rolled out as far as would have been liked. The existing materials have been reviewed by the GB community and some feedback noted.

Gateball has established the improvements it deems necessary for the next version.

John Park

National Coordinator Gateball

National Coaching Coordinator

A lot of time and money has been invested into coaching over the last 12 months and I do appreciate all the support given by the Australian Croquet Board.

The National Tour



A National Tour was completed to train coaches and Presenters in every State. My special thanks to all the State Coaching/Directors/Coordinators for all the work they completed behind the scenes and the following clubs for allowing us to use your facilities.

QUEENSLAND

Headland Buderim (2 days)

Nambour (1 day)

Bribie Island (2 days)

Stephens (1 day)

Southport (2 days)

Windsor (2 days)

Bundaberg (1 day)

Maryborough (1 day)

NEW SOUTH WALES

Newcastle (4 days)

Queanbeyan (1 day)

Goodwin Retirement village (1.5 days)

Canberra (1.5 days)

TASMANIA

Kingston (4 days)

Northern Tasmanian centre (3 days)

VICTORIA

Victorian Croquet centre (5 days)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Forest Park (4 days)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Hutt Road Headquarters (4 days)

After the tour was completed, there were nationally:

146 Level 1 Golf Croquet

140 Level 2 Golf Croquet

28 Level 3 Golf Croquet

112 Level 1 Association

107 Level 2 Association

27 Level 3 Association

8 Level 4 Association

19 Level 1 Ricochet

13 Level 2 Ricochet

11 Level 1 Gateball

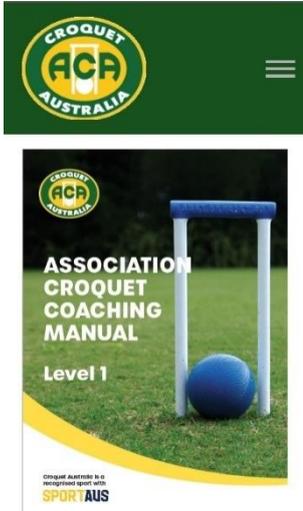
27 Presenter / Assessors

Improve your game sessions

An Improve your game session catering for Golf, Ricochet and Association were conducted in every state with over **427** participants attending.

These were a huge success and there are more planned for the future.

Coaching Manuals



Have been produced for every discipline at every level. A Hub has been created at ACA headquarters for all States to pull from when required. All State Coaching Directors/Coordinators are about to review the current manuals and provide feedback for any necessary changes. It is planned to have all suggestions and recommendations reviewed and manuals updated in the coming months.

Learning Management System



John Hayes has done a magnificent job putting this all together. We are planning to update the LMS with additional interactive activities. To assist any new coaches trying to sign in a HELP BUTTON has been installed on the Academy website. This will send an Email directly to John Hayes so he can assist whenever needed.

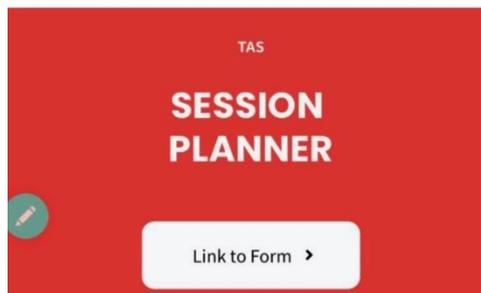
Skills and Animated videos



Over 100 professionally made videos have been produced for coaches to use for training. Some of the topics include:

- Single ball shots
- Making a hoop
- Jawing a ball
- Stun shots
- Wiring
- Bombards
- In / Off shots
- Jump shots
- Blocking
- Hoop approaches

Individual Development Plans, My Croquet Goals and Session Plans



Are now all available online or can be printed on PDF.

Coaches can now use these tools to plan their sessions and provide players with smart goals and development plans that are easy to understand and use.

Coaching Audit

A template has been produced for all State Coaching Directors/ Coordinators to Conduct an audit. This is purely designed to ensure all paperwork and systems are working effectively and provide people who are new in the role some training.

Conference calls

There will be another call scheduled within the month to review all outstanding actions from the previous zoom call.

Youth training Program



The Australian Croquet Academy is currently working on this national program with SportAus. In the coming Months all State Coaching Directors/Coordinators will be providing feedback and assisting with the sign off. This is one of the ACA Boards priorities and will be investing additional resources into this project.

Special Thanks

Firstly, a huge thank you to the Assistant National Coaching Coordinator Barb Piggott who has been there right from the start editing manuals, providing support and just getting stuff done. It is greatly appreciated. To all the State Coaching Directors/Coordinators for all your work behind the scenes and ensuring the national tour was a success. John Hayes for making an amateur sport now look professional. Rob Murray for distributing the manuals, Zach Kominar for his assistance with the manuals and Francesca de Wytt for the many hours of help and support.

Summary

We now have qualified coaches in every state with the resources and knowledge to train players correctly.

Our biggest challenge will be to have all current certified coaches active with non-qualified coaches trained.

I am extremely proud of what the team has achieved. However, there is still so much more to do.

I am looking Forward to taking what we have currently to the next level.

Kind regards,

GREG BURY

National Coaching Coordinator

National Coordinator Referee Gateball

Introduction

This report covers the activities of the National Coordinator Referee Gateball (NCRGB) for the period mid-June to January 2022. In an endeavour to cover all salient points, it will address the efforts to meet the responsibilities of the NCRGB as detailed in the National Coordinators of Referees Terms of Reference (TOR) 3. Responsibilities. I have also included some personal thoughts and viewpoints.

For information concerning the role and responsibilities of Gateball refereeing prior to my appointment is addressed in the Annual Report of the National Coordinator Gateball (NCGB).

Unfortunately, due to the restrictions on the impact of COVID the NCGB and the NCRGB have not been able to face-to-face handover, the NCGB has provided electronically what he has been able to transfer. The NCGB has been of tremendous support in assisting me in the past six months.

Responsibilities

The NCRGB's actions/activities in addressing the responsibilities can be summarised as follows:

3.1. Develop, co-ordinate, implement and review courses at all levels in accordance with the Australian Refereeing System as approved by Sport Australia.

Currently no courses to review, there is a requirement to develop referee training courses before implementation can be progressed.

3.2. Maintain liaison with the State Coordinators/Directors of Refereeing (SCR), or the persons performing that function.

I have liaised and communicated with the State Coordinators of Refereeing (SCR) Queensland or the person performing that function in New South Wales, South Australia, Victoria and a rapport and relationship has been developed. I have suggested and encouraged the respective State Gateball Coordinator to appoint and SCR for their State that do not have a dedicated SCR.

3.3. In conjunction with each SCR or the person performing that function, encourage and promote the recruitment of new referees.

This has been addressed, however the Gateball referee process and examinations have been suspended for a review to be conducted. Theory examinations and practical assessments were suspended November 2021 to allow for a thorough review of the process.

3.4. Maintain an up-to-date register of referees as supplied by each SCR.

There is a list of Gateball referees maintained on the Gateball Australia website, however there is no national register. NSW State Gateball Coordinator has provided a copy of their most recent referee register. Queensland have for a referee register however; it has not been maintained since 2018. A task in 2022, in conjunction with each SCR or the person performing that function is to develop a uniform register of Gateball referees with the required details.

3.5. Develop and arrange training activities for referees, and activities for those who may officiate at national championships or international events.

Currently nothing formal, a task for the future to be addressed.

3.6. Chair the relevant ACA Refereeing Committee:

3.7. In conjunction with the relevant Refereeing Committee:

3.7.1. Compile and distribute question papers for the Australian Referee Examinations, through SCRs.

The Gateball referee process and examinations are under review, when the review process is completed the new theory examination papers will be distributed through the SCRs or the persons performing that function.

3.7.2 Establish and implement appropriate quality control procedures covering the exams.

As part of the review for the Gateball referee process is to establish and implement appropriate quality control procedures for the exams.

3.8. Be the Tournament Referee (TR) at all international events held in Australia or recommend same for appointment by the Board.

There have not been any international events held in Australia during my period as NCRGB.

3.9. Recommend suitable person/s to the Board for appointment as the Tournament Referee at each ACA event.

The ACA Australian Gateball Championship is scheduled for 1st to 3rd April 2022 at the Gold Coast Performance Centre, Runaway Bay, this event was postponed from the original date of September 2021 due to COVID-19, the original appointed TR is still to be confirmed or another suitable TR will be recommended to the ACA Board.

The Challenges Ahead

In this role I have thought about a few general directions, with the plan for the future which include:

- Intend to try to attend all Gateball events within Australia [not as a player though], for the purpose to view the referees in action, to identify the shortfalls, what is not being conducted correctly and what is working well, then to develop appropriate training to address the areas identified and then to educate Gateball referees in an endeavour to have them at a suitable standard.
- Continuing to align Gateball Australia referee processes with those of other codes of mallet sports and Sports Australia processes.
- Reviewing and implementing Gateball Australia referee processes and once implemented review to identify its suitability and effectiveness.
- Conducting a review of processes around International Referees.
- Develop and conduct Gateball Level 2 and Level 1 referee training course.
- Develop and conduct Gateball linesperson training course.
- Develop and conduct scoreboard person training course.
- Continuing to develop the role of the Gateball Referee Committee.
- Develop on-line referee theory exam for all levels of Gateball referees.
- Develop on-line referee practical training.
- Develop on-line referee practical assessment.

Summary

On a more personal note, I would like to thank:

- John Park for the numerous times he made himself available to give advice during the transition period.

Once again, I thank you for your support and the opportunity to participate and serve ACA.

Yours Sincerely,

Bruce McAlister
National Coordinator Referee Gateball

WCF Association Croquet Laws Committee Australian Representative

The WCF.AC.LC are delighted at the uptake and acceptance of the substantive changes incorporated into the 7th Edition of the AC Laws.

To date the committee has not received any notable requests for review or even clarification of the Laws. We credit the inclusion of the expanded index, a comprehensive glossary of terms and summary tables of rulings with this wide spread acceptance. The interleaved Commentary has also received great praise from players and referees alike.

The Committee group is looking forward to calling a halt, in future editions, to the temptation to include ever-less plausible scenarios which hopefully will place a halt to further expansion of the law's documents.

There is an expectation by some of committee members that the AC.LC will be drawn upon by the WCF to review documentation currently being produced to train and accredit new referees.

Working on the AC.LC has highlighted, to me at least, the need for a one-world approach to accreditation and training materials. With this in mind, and in light of my position on the AC.LC placing me as an ex-officio member of the ACA.AC National Technical Panel. I strongly urge the ACA to continue the very successful reciprocal agreement with our neighbours in New Zealand with regard to training and examination preparation materials. It may be some years before the WCF is in a position to offer such things to the larger domain bodies such as ours; as opposed to the smaller European Association who WCF recognize do not currently have the facilities or expert knowledge in this area to go it alone and require immediate WCF assistance in this field.

FYIO It is my understanding that the Chair of the WCF.AC.LC in his new capacity of WCF.MC member has been co-opted to work toward producing WCF referee training materials.

I look forward to continuing to work closely with Mike Cohn in his capacity as National Refereeing Co-ordinator and Chair of the AC NTP.

Liz Fleming

WCF AC Laws Committee Australian Representative

WCF Golf Croquet Laws Committee Australian Representative

Production of a draft of the 6th edition of the Golf Croquet Rules

A final draft of the Golf Croquet Rules (6th edition) was submitted to the WCF Council on 8-Feb-2022. If the new Rules are approved, it is likely that they will be ready to be implemented by mid-year.

The procedure so far. Much robust discussion by the Rules Committee by email was followed by the release of a draft on 3-Aug-2021 for review by national GC Rules Committees. This was followed by the release of another draft on 8-Nov-2021 for public consultation. Jim Clement gave coordinated responses on behalf of the ACA on 30-Sep-2021 and 14-Jan-2022, respectively, for the two consultation periods.

These documents were sent to WCF Council on 8-Feb-2022:

- WCF GC Rules 6th Edition - Final Draft.docx
- WCF GC Rules 6th Edition - Introductory Statement.docx
- WCF GC Rules 6th Edition - Comparison with 5th Edition.docx

Changes to the WCF Refereeing Regulations

Following the release of the 7th edition of the AC Laws, WCF GC Rules Committee was asked to suggest changes relating to golf croquet in the WCF Refereeing Regulations. A new version of the Regulations was released on 8-Mar-2021. Some further minor changes to the Regulations will be needed following the release of the 6th edition of the GC Rules.

John van der Touw

WCF GC Laws Committee Australian Representative

National Coordinator Refereeing Association Croquet

Year ended 31 December 2021

It has been a quiet year for AC Refereeing due the COVID-19 pandemic. All national events were cancelled.

The Seventh Edition of the AC Laws were introduced in Australia effective 1st July 2021. Training materials were prepared and introduced to senior referees in all states except Western Australia in March 2021. Thanks go to Liz Fleming (as Australian representative on the WCF AC Laws Committee) in her assistance during these stages. The State Coordinators/Directors of Refereeing AC then took such training to further referees in their state.

It is concerning that no formal training occurred in Western Australia, and that the position of State Director of Refereeing AC has been vacant throughout the year. Training via Zoom in Version 7 was offered, but the offer was not accepted.

The National AC Referees Committee (comprising the National and State Coordinators of AC Referees and the Australian representative on the WCF AC Laws Committee) met via Zoom in December; the Western Australian President attended as an observer. Normally a face-to-face meeting is held in October or November. The Zoom format was appreciated as a means of communication in difficult times.

Active Referees at 31 December 2021

	International Referees	Senior Referees	Examining Referees	Referees	Umpires	Total
NSW	0	1	11	21	28	61
QLD	2	1	3	31	3	40
SA	0	1	0	20	0	21
TAS	0	2	1	10	2	15
VIC	0	2	1	21	4	28
WA	0	1	2	11	1	15
National	2	8	18	114	38	180

Mike Cohn

National Coordinator Refereeing Association Croquet

National Coordinator Refereeing Golf Croquet

Like many other areas of Croquet Australia, the impact of Covid, with lockdowns, border closures and cancellation/deferment of events means that little was done in the national GC refereeing field during 2021.

The main activities were:

- Contribution to the WCF revision of the Rules which culminated with the issue of draft Edition 6 in February 2022, for acceptance (or otherwise) by the WCF members. My thanks to all who contributed their views on the many drafts that were circulated during 2021.
- The revision of the GC Handicapping Regulations to ensure that the document remains up to date.

On the international scene, the (English) Croquet Association trialled a new form of handicap play during 2021, which has been named Advantage GC. This involves the weaker player having to score fewer hoops than the stronger player to win. This means that the tactics remain the same for handicap play and level play as there are no extra strokes involved. This was also trialled around the world with what was favourable feedback which indicated that this system provided closer matches than the use of extra strokes. Clubs interested in trialling this variant can find details at <http://worldcroquet.org/advantagec/>

ACA Events Committee

The Committee shall:

- 1) be known as the Events Committee;

- 2) consist of four members

- currently Peter Freer, Peter Tracey, Gary Phipps & Peter Landrebe
 - succession planning to this Committee is an issue - no-one has recently expressed interest in becoming Chair, despite various approaches.
 - Peter Freer has exceeded his maximum period (11 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 2022 is underway, but subject to covid-19 travel restrictions
 - currently working with States on finalising the rest of 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 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. 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 had 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.

Peter Freer
Events Chair

STATE ASSOCIATIONS



2021 has been a particularly difficult year for croquet in Victoria. With long lockdowns and often up to four different sets of COVID restrictions in place throughout the state at one time. To the credit of all croquet clubs and their members no club became a 'hotspot'.

COVID restrictions have meant that the majority of Council, Committee of Management, Sub-Committees and Working Groups meetings have been held via Zoom. Referee training was delivered via Zoom during COVID restrictions and face-to-face when able.

Zoom meetings are held for Under 21 players as well as the planning group who support the State Coordinator of Under 21 Croquet. Our Under 21's have their own closed group Facebook page.

Club activities with schools are planned where possible, regrettably our planned State event had to be cancelled for 2021.

The VCC Sub-Committee continue to manage events at Victoria Croquet Centre. Thirteen events have held at the Victorian Croquet Centre in 2021.

Despite COVID restrictions Croquet Victoria was able to livestream eleven days of croquet played at the Victorian Croquet Centre. These events are still available to watch on Kayo Freebies.

<https://kayosports.com.au/search?q=croquet>

We now have fifty-one coaches certificated in the new Croquet Australia Coaching System. Once COVID restrictions eased, lead coaches were able to begin delivery of Player Development Workshops in both Association Croquet and Golf Croquet. These workshops are funded by the Sport and Recreation Together More Active Project Funding.

The Strategic Plan which will guide decision making for 2022-2026 was adopted at the December 2021 Council meeting. Pro-rata affiliation fees being considered. We are reaching out to unaffiliated clubs/community groups playing croquet within the state, offering coaching if requested.

Yours truly

Sarina Cevaal-Hewitt
Honorary Secretary
Victorian Croquet Association Inc



Covid-19 hit Tasmania like other states has kept players off the lawns for many months. Members are slowly returning to pre Covid activities. A full Schedule of Events is planned for 2022. Croquet Tasmania Events are spread around the clubs and are well supported. Referees are always in short supply.

The TCA, particularly northern clubs, was looking forward to the rescheduled GC Nationals in 2021 but again this was cancelled for the second time. This was a disappointment all round as plans were well underway.

Our members continued to build on the Coaching that was delivered by Greg Bury. The written material and the launch of on-line coaching have been taken up by clubs – most clubs having newly accredited coaches.

Our 2021 AGM saw some new faces on the Executive along with some returning members. Our Executive has continued to meet monthly via ZOOM meetings. Croquet continues to grow in Tasmania and our recent numbers have reached a new all-time high.

Sylvia Wing
President
Croquet Tas



Croquet NSW has achieved a number of goals in 2021, despite the continuing disruptions of Covid. A new constitution was drafted and was overwhelmingly agreed by Clubs. It is a revised simplified version based on the Model Constitution in Schedule 1 of the Associations Incorporation Regulation 2016. It makes clear that Croquet NSW is a collection of member Clubs, with Directors serving one-year terms, and Clubs being responsible for their own members.

At the Board Election in October 2021 the following members were elected: Steve Miles (Treasurer), Kate McLoughlin (Chair), Rik Mills (Vice Chair), David Scott (Secretary), Rosie Landrebe, Liz Friend and

Ray Chapman. It was pleasing to have three new members, and all have stepped up to be actively engaged in Board responsibilities.

Our monthly electronic newsletters continue, keeping members up to date with Board activities, tournaments, and Club activities. Coaching workshops have continued to build the number of qualified coaches.

The Eire Cup scheduled for Sydney in March 2021 was postponed until 2022, and NSW is looking forward to hosting this premiere interstate Association Croquet tournament. The Eire Cup and Men's and Women's AC Championships will play in Sydney at a range of venues: CNSW HQ (Tempe), Royal Sydney Golf Club, Cammeray, Chatswood, Eastwood, Warrewee.

The continuation of tournaments when Covid allowed was much appreciated by Clubs, and the contribution particularly of regional Clubs in holding a range of these events meant that players from across the state had opportunities for State Championship competitions. The Tournaments team ably headed by David Stanton has been hard working, flexible and resourceful in rising to the challenges of running tournaments where possible, and cancelling or postponing as required. The Board agreed to a new policy for CNSW Championship events, where 25% or more of players were unable to attend due to Covid 19 lockdown or travel constraints, they should be postponed during Covid times. In addition, we have raised fees payable to Clubs hosting events to \$50 per lawn per day.

Likewise, the funds put in by CNSW and the work done on the NSW Headquarters lawns at Mackey Park, Tempe, by Rob Elliott and Cooks River Croquet Club was much appreciated by players. This four-lawn venue offers many opportunities for high level competition and is now run directly by Croquet NSW. The local Club: Cooks River Croquet Club continues to play at the venue and manages bookings and assists in caring for the Clubhouse.

The NSW Selection Policy has been overhauled and updated: it clarifies roles and responsibilities, opens up player access to Development Squads, focusses on fair, timely communication, and removes mandatory events with a range of events to enable assessment of players' form.

Croquet NSW has been able to secure funds for Clubs to assist Clubs to recover from Covid constraints. The Club Hubs: centres of excellence around the State are currently being finalised and will assist in the growth of membership and building expertise in players and officials.

Our Golden Mallet Award for 2021 for a volunteer nominated by Clubs around the State was awarded jointly to Marion Davies from Toronto Croquet Club and Barb Piggott from Urunga Croquet Club. Both women have made outstanding contributions to the sport at the Club and State level and continue to grow participation and enjoyment in croquet.

Kate McLoughlin
Chair CNSW