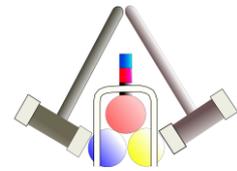


KILLARA CROQUET CLUB NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2020

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GATEBALL TO CELEBRATE AUSTRALIA DAY

How do you approach a game which is different to AC, GC and Ricochet in almost every possible way? Easy answer – you put a maestro in charge. He herds a group of Gateball novices into the semblance of two teams, explaining to them that it's the very small ball which they 'roquet' with their very small mallet, which must be picked up and placed with their striker's ball so that the 'croquet' shot can be made; that their own ball must not move as a result of that shot but it's a brilliant idea to hit an opposing team's ball off the lawn; that they must make their shots within ten seconds of the balls coming to rest following the previous shot; and bear in mind all the time that they're part of a team and whatever benefits the team must be uppermost in their minds.



The test of their understanding comes when the novices put these unfamiliar ideas into practice in a real game – like this. Looks familiar so far ...

← ... but then - 'So, I've made that 'roquet,' but which ball do I pick up?



↓ 'I know I have to put one foot on my ball, then place the other next to it. And now I'm ready to hit it, but my ball mustn't move' At last – I can go through the gate!



Despite the many slip ups made by most of the novices, the maestro had done his job well. Fay's ball, when it wasn't being knocked out of a gate, spent most of the three games stuck on the sideline because her ball was knocked out so many times, the 10 second rule was

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

THERE WON'T BE A SOCIAL EVENING IN FEBRUARY because we've only just celebrated Australia Day and there's a General Meeting on the day after it would have been scheduled.

THE NEXT SOCIAL EVENING WILL BE HELD ON 6th MARCH

The next meetings are:-

EXECUTIVE MEETING

Wednesday 5th February 1 pm

GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 8th February 12 noon

(morning play starts at 9 am)

CLUB TOURNAMENTS 2020

Closing date for entries 25th

February

NORTHSIDE FRIENDLIES
PLAQUE

Our first round match is a home fixture, against Warrawee, on 6th March

VERY ADVANCED NOTICE

Our club will host the CNSW Bronze Singles Tournament in the week of 27-30th April. Both lawns will be used for 3-4 days. (More details about exact days and times will be advised as it comes to hand, together with a request for volunteers)

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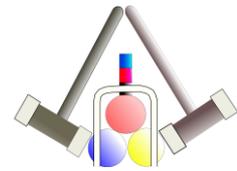
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broken too many times to count, everyone laughed and cheered a lot and, by the end of play agreed it had been well worth the challenge of having to think quite differently than they do in any other form of croquet.

Ron Buist showed his Gateball skills are the equal of all his other croquet abilities, but he was outshone by Ann who, at Gate 3, sent several opposition balls out of the lawn, then put two of her team's balls through the gate, before making that gate with her own ball.



The fun continued with our very Oz Morning Tea. Not a cucumber sandwich in sight as we tucked into damper, vegemite, cocky's joy and the inevitable lamingtons. Once again Ann Buist gave a champion's performance by daring the wear the lucky-door-prize she won.

The social and catering organisers did, as always, a wonderful job, and the maestro, proved that it is indeed possible to teach new tricks even though it takes a lot of reinforcement and patience. Thank you Greg.

KCC TOURNAMENTS 2020- ENTRIES

The lists are on the tournament corkboard for you to record your name to enter any of the Club Tournaments. The closing date for entries is Tuesday 25th February

NORTHSIDE PLAQUE TOURNAMENT

If you're interested in playing and haven't already recorded your name on the list on the tournament corkboard,

Don't delay, make Ron Bradner's day.

The first match round is on Friday, 6th March

LAWNS
Those who've been around over the holiday period know that both lawns are available for play, and are looking, and playing, very well thanks to the work done by the Council, by Ron with his trusty weed destroyer, and the very timely rain.



How lucky are we that our Clubhouse is cleaned for us once every four weeks! However it's up to us to keep it swept and tidy between the cleaners' visits and we need volunteers to do this.

Therefore there's a sheet on the whiteboard for you to indicate which month you're prepared (maybe with a friend) to take on the task of sweeping and tidying whenever you're at the Club.

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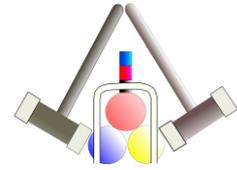
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In this second week of the Australian Tennis Championships it seems an appropriate time to blow our croquet trumpets about the role of croquet at Wimbledon by asking:-

WHO HAS WON THE MOST INDIVIDUAL WIMBLEDON CHAMPIONSHIPS? OR WHO IS THE WIMBLEDON CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS?

It's not Roger Federer, not Martina Navratilova, Serena Williams nor any of the other names associated with greatness at Wimbledon. It's Professor Bernard Neal, who has amassed an impressive 37 championships between 1963 and 2002 - in croquet.

As BBC News reported on 28th June, 2019

Tennis may now famously rule the roost at Wimbledon, in south west London, but the foundation of the world famous club began in 1868, and championships were won by mallets striking balls through hoops rather than balls being hit by racquets speeding over a net. The 'All' in the Club's name ('The All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club') has nothing to do with tennis. It comes from the Club's croquet foundations.

Players from the Wimbledon Croquet Club were intent on establishing common rules throughout the country for the game and, at the time players from all around England had different interpretations of how the game should be played.

Croquet was very popular in Victorian England because men and women could play together. Once tennis was admitted to the Club in 1877 it took just five years for the founding sport to be dropped, only to be re-instated in 1888. However, it never regained its pre-eminence. In 2004 one of its four lawns disappeared to become Court 2, so the Club now has three lawns, and even loses the use of them for about a month each year, around the time of the Tennis Championships, when they become practice courts.

Very few are privileged enough to join the croquet club. Only those who've been a member of the tennis club may join, therefore it's not surprising that there are only about 30 of the approximately 7,000 players affiliated with the Croquet Association of England who are members of the Wimbledon Croquet Club.



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