

For the WCC members, a new year instigates more subtle changes to the traditional operational and procedural processes in line with the changes and demands of today's modern members and the society we live in .

Today, such traditions must provide value beyond simple nostalgia. If traditional procedures exist simply because they remind people of the past and it has been the ways of the past - but really provides no other value, then they are ripe for change . Don't get me wrong, the memories of the way things were done are still there and such traditions of yesteryear always make great conversation.

I am no longer surprised when I see fellow seniors being motivated by change, very comfortable in using laptops as they tap and go throughout the day, using their computer or phone to buy tickets to the rugby for their grandchildren ,

As previously mentioned, our challenge in 2014 is to change our direction from recruitment to increasing participation on the lawn by encouraging our members involvement and develop a culture of learning and advancement for players to improve their game and enjoyment of the sport of croquet. With one lawn and some sixty members, 42 affiliated, we are a small club in size carrying a large membership that has a self-propelling ability to keep on growing if not checked.

Based on affiliation numbers within Croquet NSW we are one of fourteen clubs having one lawn. Membership-wise we are positioned 37 out of a total of 70 clubs in NSW/ACT.

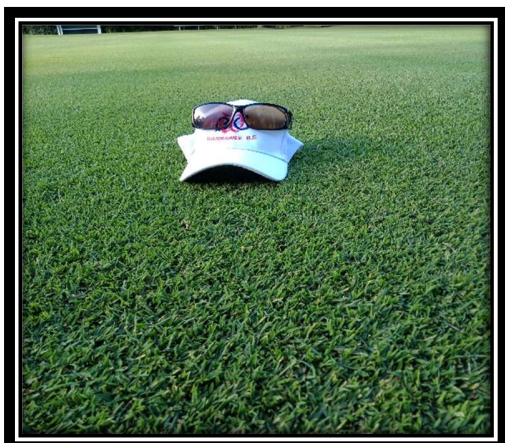
To support participation our Club Captain is about to submitting to the committee for their consideration two initiatives, one to quicken social playing time for the Friday and Saturday players, The second initiative is to increase the number of Pennant teams. These initiatives are mentioned briefly in the Club Captains report.

Lawn renovation :



As advised , the Croquet lawn was taken out for renovation on the 2/1/24 and is scheduled to be back in play on Saturday the 17th of February. A loss of valuable playing time, but necessary to meet the increased demand and playing traffic for the year ahead.

A lot of the invisible work had been done to date, spraying pesticides and herbicides for weeds and bugs, dropping the cut height at every mow to make it easier to scarify and brush. Unfortunately, the recent bout of rain has attracted pests and unwanted growth resulting in a respray , a second scarify and brushing.



The hot weather forecast for next week will allow for some eight tons of topsoil to be rubbed in followed by the implementation of a fertilizing and watering program to establish fresh soft grass within days.

Another week will see the grass established and begins to close-up, at which point in time the greenkeepers will hand-sharpen the cylinder mower blades and begin the process of consistent mowing and rolling the lawn to a point it is true and flat, revealing a carpet of lawn with that Queensland blue couch look about it, ready for some serious croquet.

This year the edge of the lawn has been widened by another meter allowing for the lawn boundary markings to be moved to three positions during the year in an effort to reduce the wear around the hoops,

Dates for your Diary:

Lawn Open Day 17th February.

Join us for a game and a traditional spider.

AC Bronze Singles - Elsie Wall Trophy .

Entries Mon 19 Feb - Fri 1 Mar.

Play Mon 4 March - Sun 31 March

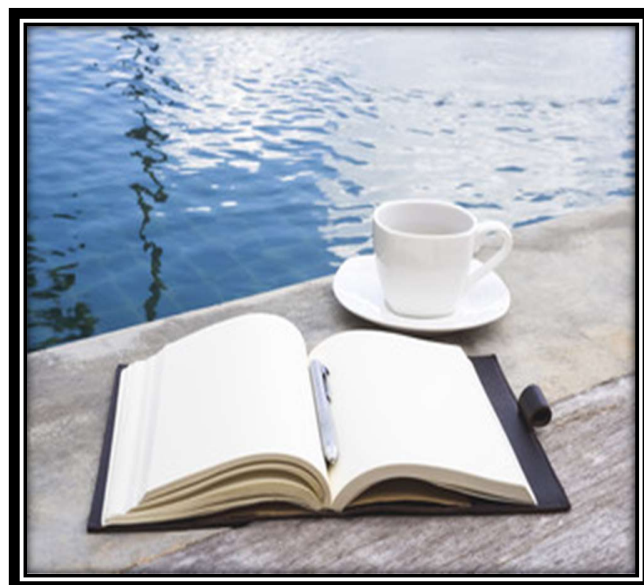
GC Club Handicap Doubles Competition

Entries Mon 18 Mar - Fri 29 Mar

Play Mon 1 April - Sun 28 April

GC City Metro Division 3 Pennants

The Croquet NSW website is showing that the Pennants Comp starts on July 1, 2024.



From the Captain's table :



Club Captain Goals for period to 30/6/2024.

Subject to discussion and agreement by the WCC committee, I am keen to introduce the following initiatives to support growth in participation during 2014:

- Introduce a time focus perspective on all social games of Golf Croquet.
- Establish two teams of five players each, to compete in the 2014 - Division 3 Pennants season.

Interesting feedback from pennant level players who visit our club is on the time taken by some of our members to assess, consult, decide, and execute their shot and the impact this has on the time to complete their game.

This initiative adopts a 2-fold strategy:

Firstly, Introduce and promote a Time limit per game rule.

Secondly, introduce and promote a "Time limit to play your stroke rule. Similar to the time limit rules applicable in Pennant and State/District competitions.

Our new social members have developed the base skills and have the capacity to adopt to 'time focus' play.

The second initiative to establish two Pennant sides, requires strategies to assess:

- Selecting our ten best and willing Pennant Players
- Establish pre-season training sessions and /or considering engaging a paid professional coach to prepare the players for the rigours of Pennant play & tactics.
- Establish outside referees for home games.

Stay tuned for the outcome.

Scott- Club Captain

Club uniform :



As in all clubs a team shirt can help promote unity, build cohesiveness among members and make members feel like they belong.

In competition, when members step out wearing a team shirt, they shed their separate identities and transform into one single unit. This unity and cohesiveness are crucial to a team's success.

We are about to place an order for 45 club shirts. The purchase cost will be the production cost plus \$5- for GST, Postage / handling.

To pre-order or to purchase a club shirt please contact Beth Marnane - Club Secretary

WCC Office/Kitchen renovation:

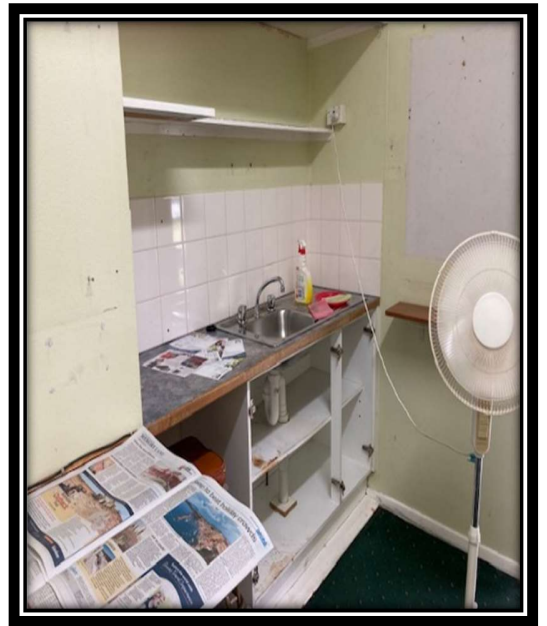
Our grateful thanks to Paul Dewar, Marilyn Pryor, Scott Marnane and Malcolm Kirby for taking time out to renovate the office while the club is closed during the lawn renovation. Paul and Marilyn instigated the project, our parent club funded the project.

Paul and Marilyn picked up the kaboodle flat packs from Bunnings and assembled the cabinets, Scott and Marilyn gave the room a fresh coat of paint.

Next came Malcolm Kirby- Master builder and President of the Warrawee Men's Bowling Club to install the Cabinets and new benchtop and arranged for the electricals to be realigned.

The final touch is engaging our sponsor Mr. Nice Plumbing to reconnect the sink.

A well planned and executed reno, Thanks guys from all of us. Greatly appreciated.



(I don't do ladders)



(A painter that wears Nikies must be good)



That's all from the Croquet hut till next time. Enjoy the holiday with your family and friends, and we will see you in two weeks on a croquet lawn that is recognised as one of the best lawns in Sydney.

Peter

President - Warrawee Croquet Club.

" Croquet the thought sport. "