



August 2023 Monthly Report from the Committee

- **Croquet NSW GC Bronze Brooch**

Congratulations Tony Croft for winning the CNSW Golf Croquet Bronze Brooch.

During the 3 day competition Tony played 14 games, each with a time limit of 1 hour 15 minutes. The quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals were best of 3 games – what a test of stamina! Tony's name will now go on an honour board that has not been added to for years. During the competition Tony's handicap triggered from 10 to 8.



- **New Golf Croquet Referee**



Congratulations Chris Cox for becoming our latest golf croquet referee. Thank you Trevor Thornton for preparing Chris for this exam. The testing is very thorough, starting with a rigorous Open Book test on the rules. The next stage is Lawncraft, followed by the practical testing on the court and then further oral questions on the rules.

Referees are very valued and important members of our club. Please contact Trevor or Bridget if you are willing to prepare to become a referee. Current golf croquet referees are Chris Cox, Jill Drury, Bridget Earle, John Hincks and Trevor Thornton.

- **Playing in local carnivals**

For many years groups of club members have enjoyed playing in carnivals run by other clubs. The camaraderie and competitive play can lead to long term friendships within our croquet family.

All events are listed on the Croquet NSW website under CNSW events or club events.

Places in the carnivals are usually taken up very quickly. Our GC carnival is often filled up within a couple of weeks of the flyer being posted.

This week Tony Croft, Jill Drury and Robyn Clarke played in the CNSW GC Bronze Brooch Championship in Taree.

- **Noticeboard**

Please check the noticeboard for messages. Before locking the clubhouse door, **please put the noticeboard inside and sign the locking up sheet before locking up**. Please check the noticeboard for messages from the President, entry to competitions and social events and general club information.



- **67th Annual Association Croquet Carnival**

The carnival was held from Monday 24 to Friday 28 July. It went very well, with no rain! A new initiative was making it a cashless carnival, using a square reader and EFTPOS cards to pay for lunch orders and raffle tickets.

We are grateful to the members who made donations for the raffles and brought in cakes and slices.

- **Croquet NSW AC Silver Brooch Tournament**

The tournament is scheduled to be held from Monday 28 to Wednesday 30 August. It is possible, due to lack of entries, that it may be cancelled on 18 August.



- **President's Message**

I hope you have been enjoying playing croquet. Port Macquarie has given us some beautiful winter summer days. Eric and I have just returned from two weeks in New Zealand. As beautiful as it was, I was glad that I wasn't outside playing croquet.

It's annual carnival season for both association and golf croquet. Both carnivals are so popular that they are booked out well in advance. The association carnival I have heard was a great success and I thank Sue Moss the manager and Bridget Earle the secretary for making sure that this was so. I also thank vice-president John Hincks for stepping in for me to officially welcome the 34 players to the carnival and Port Macquarie.

The players in these two carnivals primarily come from clubs across NSW. There are 1 or 2 vacant spots left for our own members to play in each of the carnivals. Any member can nominate to play. Selection is made by the carnival committee following a given criteria. The association carnival is over 5 days and the golf carnival over 3 days. This means that on those days there is no general play for our own club members. Although this can be disappointing personally, I ask that members see the positive of running these 2 carnivals. As well as giving croquet players from various places the opportunity to participate in a carnival in beautiful Port Macquarie, the carnivals are our main revenue making for the year. Over \$2000 is raised from these 2 events.

The golf carnival is to be held on Wednesday 6, Thursday 7 and Friday 8 September. As manager of the carnival this year I ask for your support. I will endeavour to approach you personally to see how you can assist. Please consider the following areas.

- Slices, cakes, muffins, savouries for over the 3 days
- Assisting Donna Sinclair and Tracey Croft in the kitchen (3 people each day)
- Soup for Friday night dinner and presentation (4 soup makers)
- Donation of wine or chocolates for raffles
- Organising of raffles (1 person each day)
- Assisting Pam Weimers with recording of results (1 person each day)

I thank you in anticipation. Jill Drury

- **Port Macquarie Golf Croquet Carnival - Wednesday 6 to Friday 8 September**

Jill Drury is the Manager for this carnival. Your help is needed in many areas. Sheets will be placed on the noticeboard on the verandah for:

- **expressions of interest for playing in the carnival**
- **providing cakes, slices and biscuits for the 3 days**
- **helping in the kitchen for short spells throughout the carnival**
- **volunteering to referee or be a scorer/timekeeper.**
- **donations for Raffles at the Golf Croquet Carnival**

The gold box has been placed on a table inside the clubhouse again. You are asked to bring **red and white wines and chocolates**. You may buy tickets before the carnival. Thank you for the many items that have been donated already.



Court 3 will be available for play during the carnival – just book online.

- **Return to Pre-Covid Practices**

Moving out of the covid restrictions, we would like to have more socialising between members. For the first sessions on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays we will try:

- to put on the urn, set up the trays and empty the dishwasher
- to put your name tag on the table on the verandah
- to sit inside the clubhouse, as you did pre-covid
- notices will be given inside the clubhouse by the person in charge
- the draw will be made inside the clubhouse
- the bell will be rung at 10:30am to call people in for morning tea
- if anyone wishes to continue playing they can register to play at 11:00am
- put on the dishwasher.

The committee also plan to organise barbecues from time to time.



- **Association Croquet Open Handicap Competition**

The 7 player round robin for this competition has finally been completed. Two players each had 5 wins but Tim-Woolford Smith had net score higher than Sue Moss. Congratulations, Tim.

- **Mid North Coast Croquet Council (MNCCC)**

Dates of the District Championships

Ricochet - Thursday 28 September at Gloucester

Association croquet – Wednesday 4 October at Taree

Golf croquet – Sunday 15 October at Port Macquarie.

Players for the championships are determined by the captains and will be announced shortly.

- **Golf Croquet Singles Play**

Following a request for Singles play, the committee has decided to dedicate 1:00 to 3:00pm on Fridays for Singles play. 8 places will be available to book on Courts 1 and 2.

- **More Golf Croquet Competitions for 2023**

After the Golf Croquet Carnival the following golf croquet events will be scheduled.

1. Open Championship
2. Handicap Doubles
3. Handicap Singles
4. Advantage GC Handicap Singles First-to-10-Points (19 point game).

- **Divisional Championships in AC, GC and Ricochet**

Players may enter the Championship handicap division in which they lie. As well as these Championships there will be Open Championships in all 3 codes of croquet.

AC: Div.1 (-3 to 4.5); Div. 2 (5 to 8); Div. 3 (9 to 12); Div. 4 (14 to 20).

GC: Div.1 (4 and below); Div. 2 (5 to 8); Div 3 (9 and above)

RC: Div 1 (-3 to 3.5), Div 2 (4 to 9); Div 3 (10 to 14).



- **Another Visit from Willing and Able**

Tony Croft and Bridget Earle had an enjoyable time playing golf croquet with a group from Willing and Able. The group enjoys this interlude of activity between morning tea and a barbecue lunch.



- **Grounds committee report**

The grounds committee has worked hard and achieved good results. They have continued to mark lines, roll the courts, move the hoops regularly and perform maintenance tasks when needed. Our weeder, Jill Sargeant, is away for a couple of months – help with weeding would be appreciated.

A hoop setting notice has been put on both noticeboards – please read carefully.

- **Club website**

Tim has created an excellent website for our club. It is easy to navigate and has much information for club members.

Visit it on portmacquarietroquet.com.au

- **Club Booking System - Top-up facility**

Don't forget to use the Top-Up facility after you have transferred or deposited money for green fees into the club's bank account. Thank you all for keeping abreast of the changes.

- **Please register to play whenever you go to the lawns**

This essential for insurance purposes. If only one person is registered on a lawn for a session this is interpreted as practice and there is no lawn fee.

- **Committee Minutes**

The minutes of meetings are kept in a folder in the third drawer of the filing cabinet. They may be read in the clubhouse.

- If you have any concerns or suggestions please put them **in writing to the: President (president@portmacquarietroquet.com.au) and Secretary (secretary@portmacquarietroquet.com.au)**. These will then be taken to the next committee meeting.

- **Purchasing Croquet Socks**

Many people have asked about how to buy croquet socks.

John Hincks will organise this by putting up a notice asking you to indicate the size and style that you wish to purchase.

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- **The Westport Club**

We are very grateful for the support given by The Westport Club and encourage all of our members to become Social Members of the Club, at minimal cost. Recently we have been given Westport vouchers to include in our raffle prizes.

- **Protecting our Plover**

We have a very special relationship with our plovers – 2 eggs were there today.



Bridget Earle (Secretary)