

## **ACA President's Report for 2009/10**

The last twelve months have seen a number of changes to the operation of the ACA and the recent introduction of some additional personnel to help with the very heavy workload of ACA Executive members.

### **Constitution and Insurance Officer**

Despite my efforts I have been unable to make any progress with the review of the Australian Croquet Association Constitution. Other ongoing day to day matters prevented this happening. I had always seen this task as having a high priority and consequently I approached Jim Saunders from Victoria if he would be prepared to assist in the task. At about the same time we were advised that Bruce Fleming would not be available to take on the task of Insurance Officer for 2010/11.

I am delighted to report that Jim agreed to take on both these tasks and is now well on the way with both.

### **Assistant to the Treasurer**

Tony Hall has for some time now been conscious of the fact that he really needed an understudy who would be familiar with the workings of the ACA finances and be able to deputise for him if needed. We are pleased to welcome Jim Clements to our group who has agreed to take on that task and is well into the mysteries of MYOB.

### **Events Management**

In my last report I advised that the Executive Committee was considering alternatives to the then method of events management where a member of the executive undertook this task. I proposed for consideration that the task be passed to a small committee.

The task has since been undertaken by Steve Jones from Qld as Chair and Peter Freer from ACT. The Executive Director is still responsible for receiving entries and co-ordinating and distributing the draw to the players.

The arrangement has worked well and events for 2009 were managed in this way. Hopefully we will be able to get another person to assist and to make it a four person committee.

### **WCF World Women's Golf Croquet Championship**

This event was an outstanding success. The total numbers of participants finished up at 56 although a much lesser number was proposed initially which lead to some early criticism. Of this number Australia was well represented with 22 entrants. The result is well known and we congratulate Alix Verge for winning the event and Anne Quinn for winning the Plate. Both outstanding performances.

I am confident that the event will stand Australia in good stead in future years. Our golf croquet players performed extremely well against a world class field and I'm sure gained a lot from the experience.

Although the event was not a success financially it was huge success from all other points of view. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all our entrants for great performances.

### **Handicap Events**

As you are probably aware our AC Handicap Event at Rich River has been struggling over the past few years. There has also been some difficulty in continuing to conduct the GC Handicap Event at Deniliquin. As a consequence the Executive Committee has decided that for 2010 the AC event will be held in Tasmania on 25-31 October and the GC event will be held in WA on 9-13 October.

### **ACA Meritorious Service Award**

This award introduced this year, was awarded to Mrs Wilma Bath from Victoria for 2010. Some extracts from the recommendation from her club say:

"Mrs Wilma Bath has served Croquet both locally and throughout the State of Victoria for the past 58 years. She has been a member of the Drysdale Croquet Club since its inception in 1951 and has held the

positions of President, Secretary and Treasurer on numerous occasions. Wilma is currently the President of the Club.

Wilma Bath has been a Delegate, President and Treasurer of the Geelong Croquet Association and a Delegate to the Victorian Croquet Association”

The executive considered Mrs Bath to be a worthy recipient of the inaugural Meritorious Service Award.

### Magazine

The magazine continues to be a very high quality document. However, we really do need more subscribers and State Offices are asked to use every endeavour to promote the publication. One way of doing this is to ensure that your office is a subscriber.

It is the only croquet document by which we have the opportunity to contact all croquet players in Australia.

### Thanks

I take this opportunity to express our regrets at the death of Nell Hass. Nell has been heavily involved in the administration of croquet and was well known for her efforts in the field of AC Laws. We will miss her contributions.

We will also miss the services of Owen Edwards and Chris Pont who have advised that they will not be available for nominations to the National Refereeing Director position and the National Golf Croquet Director positions respectively. Thanks Owen and Chris for jobs well done.

I also express my congratulations and thanks to the very hard working team on the Executive Committee. The members of the committee are dedicated to croquet and this reflects both in the quality and quantity of the work which is produced from such a small team.

*Max Murray*  
*President*