



APPENDIX 2

AUSTRALIAN CROQUET ASSOCIATION

65th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AGENDA ITEM 4.2 and 4.3 – REPORTS

Monday 24 March, 2014 at 08:30

Brisbane International, Windsor, Brisbane

REPORTS Committees and Appointed Officers

Monday 24 March, 2014

4.2 Committees

4.2.1 Tournament Committee

The following topics have been discussed in the past 12 months:

- ACA Hoops for ACA Events
- TM Competing in ACA Events
- Review of various Event Descriptions & Entry Forms
- Format and Draw for various ACA Events, including:
 - AC Mens/Womens
 - AC Patron's
 - GC Open's
 - GC Mens/Womens
 - AC Handicap
 - GC Handicap
 - AC Open's
- GC Interstate Shield winner determination
- Amendment to TRegs
- GC Trans Tasman
- MacRobertson Shield Regulations
- CG ISS Time Limits
- Consideration of Redraws following Player Withdrawals
- GC Gold Medal Triple Round Robin format vs Bo3
- Adding ACA TM to the TC for specific event
- Withdrawals from Double Round Robin events
- GC Ten's change to Eight's and Bo3
- GC WC Knockout Seeding Methods
- AC ISC change to Mixed Doubles
- Super Advanced for top AC Eight Only
- AC Pres Eight to start earlier and include playoffs
- Rules regarding introduction of Bo5's

Many thanks to the other TC members, Tim Murphy (resigned May 2013), KevinBeard, Terry Ericson and Peter Landrebe (appointed May 2013).

Trevor Bassett
Chair of Tournament Committee
January 2014

4.2.2 Laws Committee
No report submitted

4.2.3 Member Protection Committee
No report submitted

4.2.4 AC Selection Committee

Committee Members;
Elizabeth Fleming (elected AGM 2013)
Kevin Beard (previous TT Captain)
Bruce Fleming (HPM)
Robert Fletcher & Peter Landrebe (appointed post AGM)

It must be noted that the Chair did not, and has not, receive any hand---over material or information from the previous Chair upon taking office in March 2013.

Immediately following the selection of the MacRobertson Shield Team in June Kevin Beard stood down from the Selection Committee and was replaced as per ACA Policy by the incoming MacRobertson Shield Captain Ian Dumergue. The Committee expressed their appreciation for the work carried out by Kevin during his period in office on the selection committee. Peter Landrebe also resigned at that time and in August the ACA appointed Claire Bassett as his replacement.

Suggestions for improvement from SC Minutes 7.10.13

Selection Process --- The ACA consider supplying the SC with a pro---forma letter to be completed by the SC and sent to all unsuccessful candidates of future International Team selections.

President's Eights --- There is a need to request Expressions of Interest for future President's Eight's invitations immediately after the Interstate Cup/Men's & Women's Event. *(This initial step has now already been updated by ACA).*

One month later the SC to select the invitees in accordance with the World Ranking List as of that date.

The Women's Eight be open for tender to all States and played at a different date on the playing calendar. The benefits derived from this would be:

- The three Open Eights would return to the originally intended single banked format.
- More women may be encouraged to enter this prestigious event if it were held in other States.
- The move to a separate date would not prevent those Women who are eligible to play in the Open Eights from doing so, thereby lifting the profile of the Women's Eight event by having it available to all our highly ranked women.

Seeding Events

A more workable agreement process needs to be put in place between the SC and TC with regard to when ranking list data is to be extracted; seeding agreement within the SC takes place and the handover to the TC in order for the draw process to commence. The SC clearly needs a couple of days at least to agree on the seeding selections before it can possibly be passed to the TC. Therefore, the SC needs to be given a definite instruction. Is the SC to extract the ranking list on the day the event closes, or on the day on which the ACA secretary delivers the entry list to the SC? *Remembering there will always be a continuous flow of event data being uploaded to the World Ranking List it can never be positively assured that a particular event will be included at the specific time and date ranking lists are extracted it will always be possible that any one event may fall outside the extraction date.* It has been implied that the seeding should be as at the time of draw but this is clearly unworkable as it does not allow for exchange either within the SC members or for handover on a given morning for a specific draw date/time indicated the

TC.

This ought to be a simple matter of co-operation between two committee groups but experience now indicates that this matter must be codified for all future incoming committee members.

Elizabeth Fleming
Chair AC Selection Committee
14 December 2013

4.2.5 GC Selection Committee

Firstly, as Chairperson of this committee I would like to thank retiring selector Gordon Matthews for his diligence and input over his years as a selector. I would also like to thank Anne, Kevin and Bruce for their input over the last 12 months. In particular I would like to thank Anne for keeping me and the Selection Team on the ball.

The GC Selectors had a reasonably quiet 2013. We seeded ACA Open Competitions including the ISS teams. We selected two players for ACA Scholarships Janine McHardy (WA) and Tom Komene (Qld) as well as players to compete in the GC Open World Championships played in Cairo.

Our most important selections however were for the Trans Tasman GC Training Squad. The Inaugural GC TT will be held in New Zealand in 2015. After much deliberation sixteen players 8 women, 8 men were chosen – see ACA webpage. Selectors will be observing and analysing results from National and State Competitions including the ISS as well as observing Squad Training over 2014/15 to ensure that Australia competes with its strongest possible team. This squad will be fine-tuned during the first half of 2015 to the Trans Tasman Team of 4 women and 4 men plus reserves.

2014 appears to be a busier year for selectors with the Women's World Championships and the Over 50's World Championships both set down for Cairo later in the year. The U21 Worlds and the Open World Championships are set down for New Zealand early in 2015. Expressions of interest will be sought by selectors during 2014 for each event. They will be announced on the website with closing dates.

John Compton

GC Selection Committee, Chairperson.

4.2.5 AC Coaching Committee

No report Submitted

4.2.6 GC Coaching Committee

No report Submitted

4.2.7 International Committee

No report Submitted

4.2.8 AC Refereeing Committee

The NRC comprising the SDR's from each State communicates on a regular basis via email and met on the 5th October 2013 at Cairnlea, Melbourne. The Minutes of that meeting have been circulated via the ACA Secretary along with the Action Items. An update of the **Action Item document is attached**. Stephen Thornton Hon. Secretary was in attendance as an observer though did have a considerable input into our discussions --- it was an informative meeting on both sides.

The committee received and authorized the new examinations for Umpires, Referees and Re---accrediting referees. This completed the suite of new examinations. Our grateful thanks to Graeme Roberts and the NZCC for their collaboration and allowing the NTP access to their own examination paperwork in order to set in place a recognizable reciprocal agreement of Australian and New Zealand Referee/Umpire standardized qualifications.

A draft of the new DVD and companion manual produced by the NTP, which is a progressive training project lead by James Temlett and Liz Fleming, was shown to the NRC and authorized as a suitable project covering the requirements of all SDR's. James has worked closely and collaboratively with Bob Kroeger of the USA in order to produce original film and camera work for the project. Wherever possible we have used Australian referees during demonstrations on the video and in photographic artwork shown in the companion booklet/manual. Thanks must also go to Jan Sage for her work on the NTP and to Brian Foley. Although Brian was a late inclusion to the NTP, only joining us on 5th October 2013, he has offered the very necessary assistance of proof reading some later material.

The original suggestion from the NTP was that all this material should be available, obviously for sale in hard copy and disc format (budget permitting) but also as downloadable material via a link to James Temlett's current South Terrace web page. As this material is dynamic by nature James felt initial setup via his site, allowing only password protected access for SDR's and linked from the ACA web pages, was the best course of action. That would have allowed accurate, fast and controlled additions and changes to the material ensuring currency and quality control by the NTP. However, Stephen Thornton suggested that may not be the most appropriate course of action and that ACA ought to supply space on their own site directly. Stephen did however see that there may be an issue with the age of the current ACA site and it's current capability to handle our project. This is a huge area of concern to the NTP as it is felt this project is a unique e---tool, which will enable ACA to comply with the standards required by the Australian Sports Commission authorizing our accreditation programme in that it opens up access to everyone across the entire country at the click of a mouse. The NRC and NTP sincerely hope some form of resolution can be agreed a.s.a.p.

Elizabeth Fleming
Chair National Refereeing Committee & NTP

**AC REFEREE/UMPIRE/EXAMINING REFEREE
COMPARISON STATISTICS --- STATE & NATIONAL 2013**

	Exam Refs	Ord Refs	Umpires	Total
NSW	11	63 70 39	46 60 46	120
QLD	14	19 19 115	13 200	144
SA	3			88
TAS	4			36
VIC	9			220
WA	3			18
National	44	397	185	626

	% of Total Officials		
	Exam Refs	Ord Refs	Umpires
NSW	9.2	52.5	38.3
QLD	9.7	48.6	41.7
SA	3.4	44.3	52.3
TAS	11.1	52.8	36.1
VIC	4.1	86.8	9.1
WA	16.7	83.3	0.0
National	7.0	63.4	29.6

	% of Total Players			Total Players
	Exam Refs	Ord Refs	Umpires	
NSW	0.4	2.1	1.6	2931
QLD	1.1	5.3	4.5	1331
SA	0.3	3.8	4.5	1023
TAS	1.1	5.1	3.5	371
VIC	0.4	7.5	0.8	2558
WA	0.5	2.3	0.0	664
National	0.5	4.5	2.1	8878

ACTION ITEMS
N RC MEETING 5.10.13

ITEM #	NDR	ACTION TAKEN	DATE COMPLETED
4. 4 (8.4 (3))	Accreditation Policy Amendment	Draft working copy of policy doc. to be sent to: NDR.GC, ACA office.	GM --- 9.10.13 ACA---
8.2 (1)	NTP project motions	Request ACA provide protected NTP project section on website – via authorized Minutes	13.10.13
8.2 (2)	NTP project motions	Contact Qld/SA requesting feedback – via authorized Minutes	09.10.13
8.4 (1)	ACA obligations to NRC via website	Current SDR Contact details to ACA & S. Thornton	13.10.13
8.4 (2)	ACA obligations to NRC via website	Version 2.2 Ref. Manual to ACA & S. Thornton	13.10.13
8.4 (3)	ACA obligations to NRC via website	Draft working copy of Accreditation Policy for reference purposes to be sent to S. Thornton	13.10.13
	SDR		
8.3	Examination Papers	SDR's to review sending feedback to NTP by 30/11/13	Close date passed with no feedback

4.2.9 GC Refereeing Committee

Referenced in the NDR GC report

4.2.10 Magazine Committee

No report Submitted

4.2.11 Events Committee

This report has been written against the objectives set out in the Handbook.

The Committee shall:

- 1) be known as the Events Committee;
- 2) consist of four members
 - initially Peter Freer, Greg Diprose & Neil White
 - Marty Clarke was coopted after the 2013 AGM, and his appointment was ratified by ACA Executive on 22/5/13
 - recruitment to the Committee is an issue going forward, since several vacancies are expected after this AGM and Peter Freer will complete his maximum period on the Committee at the 2015 AGM
- 3) agree, in conjunction with the ACA Executive, a schedule for all national tournaments, 3-5 years ahead
 - currently 2014-2015 is sorted (after some confusion about dates for both the Women's & Over 50s GC World Champs)
 - currently working with Susan Linge on finalising 2015-2016, and will then tackle the following 3 years (rough dates done).
- 4) negotiate with appropriate States and Clubs to implement this schedule
 - 2014-2015 is sorted, but 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 well, although longer lead times for coming events would be helpful for players wanting to book accommodation well in advance.
 - Programs are now effectively provided mainly as soft copy on the ACA website, 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.
 - 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.
- 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 Freer
Events Committee

4.3 Appointed Officers

4.3.1 High Performance Manager

Association Croquet Trans-Tasman Series

The Association Croquet Trans-Tasman team was selected after the President's Eights in October 2012.

The team was

Kevin Beard (Captain)

Rosemary Graham

Alison Sharpe

Tricia Devlin

Clare Bassett

Robert Fletcher

Stephen Forster

Malcolm Fletcher

Reserves

Charlotte Morgan

Jannine Hawker

Ian Dumergue

Greg Fletcher

Team practices were organised at Cairnlea on 15th and 16th December 2012 and 12th and 13th January 2013.

The Trans-Tasman Series was played in Nelson New Zealand from 4th February to 9th February 2013 and resulted in a three test to nil victory to Australia. A separate report for this event was prepared and submitted to the Executive on the 18th February 2013.

Association Croquet International Squad.

The Association Croquet International Squad was reduced to nine players after the Australian Championships in March 2013. The reduced Squad formed the basis of the MacRobertson Shield Team and reserves.

The Squad members were:

Robert Fletcher

Harley Watts

Ian Dumergue

Ken Bald

Kevin Beard

Malcolm Fletcher

Peter Landrebe

Simon Hockey

Stephen Forster

Simon Hockey became unavailable and two new players, Greg Fletcher and Tim O'Leary were added to the squad by the AC Selection Committee.

Squad activities in 2013.

The Association Croquet International Squad met on the weekend of 18th and 19th May, and after the Patrons Trophy in June. These were primarily tactical discussion sessions during which all the latest aspects of competitive croquet were discussed. The discussion topics are listed below.

- What makes a successful Mac Team Player
- What makes a successful Mac Team
- Targeted playing standards
- Individual one on one session with the HPM
- Doubles play – (what works, what does not work)
- Mistake minimisation – (playing conditions, whole game tactics, ball movement, hoop control)
- Mental approach- (state of mind, fatigue, focus, challenge v threat)
- Practice techniques.
- Openings
- POP tactics and leaves
- Peeling finishes after POP (NZ TPO)
- Pegged out game tactics (1 ball pegged out, wiring, trap leaves, shooting v defence) (2 balls pegged out, NZ TPO v TPO).
- Other (QP, SXP?)

Australian MacRobertson Shield Team

The Australian MacRobertson Shield Team to go to New Zealand in December was selected in June 2013 following the Patrons Trophy. The players selected were:

Ian Dumergue (Captain)

Robert Fletcher

Stephen Forster

Ken Bald

Malcolm Fletcher

Tim O'Leary

Reserves

Kevin Beard

Greg Fletcher

The selected team was subject to two appeals by players who failed to make the initial six person team. The appeals and subsequent review by the Selection Committee and Executive Committee took three months to complete which seemed to be an unreasonable amount of time. Subsequently there was no change to the team but the time delay disrupted the team and delayed preparation. I suggest that time lines be applied to the appeals process to avoid this disruption in the future.

All eight players, six team players plus two reserves, were invited to a practice session following the Association Croquet Eights at Cairnlea in October and three weekend practice sessions prior to going to New Zealand. The first of the weekend sessions was in Adelaide at Norwood and South Terrace on Saturday and Sunday 19th and 20th October. The second was at Cairnlea on the Saturday and Sunday 2nd and 3rd November and the third was at Belmont Croquet Club in Geelong on Saturday and Sunday 14th and 15th December.

The first week-end concentrated principally on doubles and the pairings were established. Two rounds of singles were also played. The opportunity was taken for tactical discussions and also team management and team building discussions were held.

The second week-end reinforced the doubles and attempted to give the players hard match-play practice in both doubles and singles. Further team management discussions were held.

During the third practice a mini-test was held after dividing the eight players into two four person teams. During this weekend the new Quadway Hoops were available for the team to practice with. These hoops were used during the MacRobertson Shield competition.

MacRobertson Shield competition

The MacRobertson shield was won by New Zealand. England was second and Australia third and USA fourth. This will be the subject of a separate report.

Golf Croquet Trans-Tasman Squad

The GC Selection committee selected a training squad to prepare for the inaugural Golf Croquet Trans-Tasman series at the end of 2015. The squad was announced on 14th October 2013.

The squad is:

Kevin Beard (VIC), Martin Clarke (WA), Terry Ericson (QLD), Lester Hughes (VIC), Peter Landrebe (NSW), Chris McWhirter,(WA) Kim Reynolds (WA), John van der Touw (VIC) and Fleur Brockway (WA), Kathleen Colclough (QLD), Tricia Devlin (VIC), Wendy Dickson (VIC), Rosemary Landrebe (NSW), Anna Miller (VIC), Anne Quinn (VIC), Judy Wembridge (VIC).

To this point in time the squad has not met but it is expected that this will occur from time to time during the rest of 2014 and during 2015.

Overview

HPM activities have been measured to ensure that activities have gained the maximum benefit for money spent. Suitable opportunities following the Patrons and the Eights have been utilised to get players together at minimum cost. A pre-planned syllabus of activities has been utilised to ensure all aspects of the modern game are reviewed and discussed during squad sessions.

During squad and team practices, where ever possible, billets and airport pick-ups have been arranged to cut down costs.

Squads

It is my belief that squad practices and team practices serve very different purposes and it is better that the two activities are not combined.

Squads are sessions for coaching and knowledge building and are extremely important to develop our players. Having squad sessions should ensure that, after teams are selected, team practices are not given over to coaching sessions.

Team practices are to ensure that the members of the team will be ready to play from day one of the event and will be in form, fit and confident and ideally take the form of hard match play.

Tournaments

I think our tournament calendar is excellent and should provide adequate levels of competition when both National and State tournaments are considered. I think the Patrons Trophy is an example of the type of tournament we need to have to develop our players. To improve the entry numbers in the Patrons I think it needs to be played during the summer rather than in the middle of winter.

Our tournaments provide the development opportunities for all our newer and developing players plus provide the backbone of the sport for all players. Open tournaments provide the best opportunity to develop players for the future and tournament formats need to be well considered.

Continuance in the ACA High Performance Manager role.

During my tenure as ACA High Performance Manager I have been subjected to malicious and unjustified criticism. The Executive Committee has been aware of this situation and has done nothing to ensure that this type of behaviour is removed from our sport. This situation has resulted in poor relationships within the sport and stress for me and other appointed officers.

I have decided that I can no longer continue in the HPM role. My health has suffered long term impairment following an attack of Ramsey Hunt Syndrome in 2012. Specialist medical advice is that I should not continue, therefore my carriage of the HPM role will cease after the AGM in March 2014. Bruce Fleming, ACA High Performance Manager.
21st January 2014.

4.3.2 National Director Association Croquet

No report submitted

4.3.3 National Director Golf Croquet

It is a great pleasure to present my report as National Director of Golf Croquet

This year ACA held the following national events:

- First President's Ten won by Lester Hughes
- Second President's Ten won by Peter Nicholson
- Women's President's Ten won by Anna Miller
- National Open Singles Championship won by John Levick
- National Open Doubles Championship won by Wendy Dickson and Anne Quinn
- Gold Medal won by Chris Mc Whirter
- Men's Singles Championship won by Chris McWhirter
- Women's Singles Championship won by Wendy Dickson
- Interstate Shield won by Victoria

From listening to the players at last year's President Tens we have now changed the format to a President Eights, with three Eights and a Women's Eights. This is to be played for the first time in a few weeks. I think another change would be to play the three eights at a different time to the Women's eights. The top six women are playing in the top three eights which leaves the Women's eights not as strong as it should be for a national event. An inaugural Trans Tasman squad has been selected with their first training session to be held after the President Eights. The Trans Tasman is scheduled to be played November 2015.

Finally I would like to thank everyone who has supported and promoted the game.

Anne Quinn
National Director Golf Croquet

4.3.4 National Director of Gateball

Gateball has continued to expand in 2013. In October, Victoria hosted to biennial Australian Gateball Championship, which attracted teams from Indonesia and China.

States

The usual state championships were held this year: Queensland (Southport), Victoria (Cairnlea) and New South Wales (Canberra). Other intrastate events were also held, including a new event hosted by Newcastle National Park.

Promotion was strong in NSW, Queensland and Victoria. Queensland continues as the largest gateball-playing state with inter-regional and local competitions held. If other states are interested in taking up gateball, I am happy to provide advice and support.

Australian Gateball Championship

In October, the Australian Gateball Championships was held in Cairnlea. A separate report on this event prepared by event manager, Maxine Maclachlan, is attached.

World Gateball Championship 2014

The 2014 event will be held in Japan. As with past years, we are expecting participation from Australian players. This is the first time the Australian Championship is being used as a selection trial for the World Championship. Selections have now been finalised. Australia will also be supplying referees for the first time.

Gateball in schools

A number of gateballers in Queensland and NSW have been running gateball sessions for primary school students as part of the Active Afterschool Communities Program. The sessions often involve playing simplified games which gradually introduce students to gateball.

World Gateball Championship 2018

Australia is considering bidding to host the 2018 Gateball World Championship on the Gold Coast at around the same time as the Commonwealth Games. Hosting the event would be a huge undertaking, and a committee has been set up in Queensland to look at the feasibility of bidding to host the event. The committee will provide a recommendation to CAQ (through the Queensland gateball director), which will be forwarded to the ACA (through myself) for consideration.

Website and social media

The website (www.gateball.com.au) has been completely refreshed. The new interface makes it easier for people to post events and information themselves without having to go through the webmaster. We have also established a Facebook page to provide quick updates on gateball matters.

Gilon Smith

National Director of Gateball

31 December 2013

See Appendix One – Australian Gateball Championship Report

4.3.5 National Refereeing Director Association Croquet

In my Report last year I indicated that the exclusion and non co-operation was the general approach and attitude displayed throughout all major events held under the auspices of the ACA. I am deeply saddened to say that has not changed and the support needed from the Executive to ensure improvement in this area has not been forthcoming and remains a major area of concern.

This is due in part to the lack of flow through from the NDR to the Executive, as there is no one person assigned to oversee AC refereeing matters on the committee thereby allowing much needed support to become lost and the capacity for quick reaction to resolve issues being rendered almost impossible.

Please refer to the NRC Report and most importantly to the accompanying Action Item Document.

The On---line Officiating Certificate is starting to gain with almost all Examining Referees now holding the certificate and numbers increasing amongst the re---accrediting referees and umpires. It has also been widely advertised that all re---accrediting officiators have until 2017 to undertake the certificate. It is hoped to eventually add a face---to---face day course to the current on---line certificate.

The ACA Accreditation and Re---accreditation Policy document has been ratified. However, the accepted amended copy still does not appear on the ACA web site and has added to the considerable confusion surrounding its implementation. **The Association Croquet Re---accreditation policy is not 'a points based' system** – this message has been addressed in both local and National magazines yet still appear to be confused. The Referee/Umpire Activity Record Card has been readily accepted and has helped progress the update of our national database of accredited officiators.

ACA has expressed a desire to give local referees the opportunity to undertake the responsibility of TR during ACA events. As almost all ACA events are held in Melbourne I see this as an issue that must be addressed if we are not to slip into a situation where the only truly experienced [AC.TR](#), or for that matter ordinary referees, will be based in Melbourne. Both SA and QLD requesting I, as NDR, take on the role of TR during the major ACA events held within their states evidence this.

It has been suggested that ACA sponsor a qualified Referee to officiate at a major ACA event in a similar way that players have a sponsorship program to a National Open Championship. I fully support such a program as both an incentive to upgrade personal officiating standards and elevate every State's refereeing opportunity to become familiar with high grade national event officiating.

I am of the belief that it is crucial to the success of our refereeing acceptance during events and success of our accreditation programme, that the ACA show much stronger support of the NDR, appointed TR's and officiators during all their events.

Elizabeth Fleming
NDR

4.3.6 National Refereeing Director Golf Croquet

2013 was a steady but not frantic year for me as ACA NDR GC, the details of which I have summarized below.

TR Appointments:

I was TR at the President's 10s in February and again in May at the Open singles and Doubles, this time as a late replacement for Bill Keddie. Bev Smith did an excellent job as TR for the Gold Medal, Men's and Women's Singles and the ISS in late August and early September. As the Doubles and Singles were held at my club, Headland-Buderim on the Sunshine Coast in November, again I took on the role of TR.

GCRS AT ACA events:

From a refereeing perspective all events went relatively smoothly, but with the usual problem of being the recruitment of sufficient numbers of GCRs in Melbourne and the Sunshine Coast.

I understand that Bev Smith was satisfied with the response she got from referees in the Hunter Valley region.

The perennial problems in getting GCRs to officiate remain the same, namely:

- Many of them are playing in the events concerned.

- Being unavailable due to age and health problems or family commitments.

- Not being prepared to travel.

- Dissatisfaction with the expenses arrangements.

The duration of some of the tournaments, one which lasts 9 days and another spread out over 12 days.

When I have been able to get individual referees to officiate it is commonly for only a day or two at a time.

Courses conducted:

Personally I conducted two GCR Pre-assessment courses. One at Noosa and the other Bundaberg. Both courses were well attended and resulted in some new GCRs. Other successful courses were conducted by various SDRsGC and others. These courses are on going and are resulting in a steady number of new referees.

GCR Statistics:

It is difficult to keep an accurate data base of ACA registered GCRs due to the poor feed back, from some states, to my half yearly request for an update on total numbers, new registrations and those who have either died or no longer consider themselves active referees. On 31st December 2013 my data base contained the names of 381 ACA registered GCRs.

National GCR Committee Meeting:

In August, during the GC Gold Medal, I chaired the NGCR Committee meeting at National Park CC, Newcastle. All SDRs were present or represented by an appropriate person. ACA Chairman Robyn Wallace also attended this very successful meeting at which a wide range of topics was covered. A copy of the minutes was sent to ACA. The four main discussion topics at the meeting related to the Accreditation and Reaccreditation programs for ACA Referees and Umpires, the formulation of a National Training Program for ACA GCRs, the problems pertaining to the recruitment of GCRs to officiate at ACA events and the format for a new ACA GCR Activity Log. The new Activity Log card has been posted on the ACA web site

Publications:

Throughout 2013 I spent a good deal of time revising the ACA GCR Manual 2008. The document is now known as the ACA GCR Handbook 2014 and has been sent to ACA for posting on its web site. Thanks go to Owen Edwards, author of the 2008 edition, for the help, constructive criticism and support he gave me during the revision. Thanks also to my wife, Judith, for her patience, proof reading and assistance as a scribe/recorder for much of the data accumulated in the sections relating to double taps.

Due to the changes to the GC rules more work was required in revising Parts 1 and 3 of the GCR Assessment papers. This revision has been completed.

During the year the NDR AC, Liz Fleming, and I reviewed the Accreditation/Reaccreditation Programs for Referee and Umpires. Several recommended amendments to the document were sent to and accepted by ACA.

General:

There was and still is a constant inflow, mostly by email, of questions and queries about the GC rules, old and new. I have responded to all to the best of my ability. On the basis that there has been no negative feedback, I can only assume that my replies have been accepted. These questions and situations are a constant source of material for me to add to my ever growing pool of resource material for training purposes. They have also kept me on my toes, ensuring I am keeping abreast as best I can.

I wish to thank ACA for the opportunity of presenting this annual report and for my appointment as NDR GC for 2013 and I express my availability for re-appointment in 2014.

Gordon Matthews
NDR GC

4.3.7 National Coaching Director of Association Croquet

It is my pleasure to report on the activities of Coaching Association Croquet over the last year and to discuss the disappointments that are still with us in trying to carry out these duties.

The State Directors of Coaching are to be thanked for continuing their roles and flying the flag in their local areas, coaching players and reaccrediting coaches. They have travelled many kilometres and maintained wonderful enthusiasm. David Reid in QLD has put in much time and effort as has Eric Ayling in WA. Barbara Piggot in NSW has also covered vast distances and exhibited great energy. Jenny Parrot in Tasmania and Adrian Masterman-Smith in Victoria are doing a good job in difficult circumstances. Special mention needs to go to Stephen Forster for teaching the greatest number of coaches last year and David Reid again has contributed many wonderful ideas as has Greg Whymark in discussing our coaching manuals. Unfortunately SA still remains without a State Director and coaching committee due to the SA Board not having resolved its differences with the most experienced coaching committee in the country. Thanks to Eileen Ferguson for holding the fort.

I am disappointed that our relationship with the Australian Sports Commission is still a difficult one with poor communication, unfriendly access to their database and unreasonable demands being made by professional curriculum writers who are outsourced to review the reaccreditation of our coaching manuals. They seem to forget that we are amateurs and volunteer coaches not paid professionals! Our Level 3 course is approved for a further 4 years and the level 1 and 2 courses have been reviewed and presented for reaccreditation but need further tinkering and reformatting to satisfy the demands of trendy new reviewers.

After 2 years working in this role, I have really enjoyed the coaching side of things but when you combine the ongoing course writing, the excessive workload has become too much and it is beyond me to continue. I wish my replacement the best of luck not only in coaching, in-servicing and supporting coaches around Australia but satisfying the unreasonable demands of specialist and professional curriculum reviewers employed by the ASC and also those within the Australian Croquet Association.

Thank you

DavidAWise
David Wise
Retiring NCD AC

4.3.8 National Coaching Director of Golf Croquet

No report Submitted

4.3.9 National Director of Schools Croquet

(Note report is eight pages in length and is a separate document)

4.3.10 Official Representative of the International Laws Committee

No report Submitted

4.3.11 National Handicapper

In my report last year I noted that Queensland were operating a separate AC Handicapping system to the NHS. I was pleased to read in the minutes of the AGM that the meeting 'decreed that there be one card across the country using the Australian Handicap System' as this confirmed the original intent of the National System to replace state based systems.

It is therefore disappointing to note that the Croquet Queensland website still refers to the Queensland card rather than the NHS.

WA are trialling a system which provide bonus index points to competition winners. They will complete a review of the trial in about 12 months time. State and Club Handicappers do have the right to make manual changes to handicaps and in my view this proposal merely formalises one aspect of their considerations, although I do see anomalies particularly where state level players are concerned. I await the result of this trial with interest.

Late last year the WCF adopted new Laws for Golf Croquet which included handicapping guidelines. The ACA formally adopted the new Laws for Golf Croquet in their entirety.

The key changes as they related to handicaps were:

- no loss of index points for players on handicaps 10 and above. This acknowledges that those handicaps are for newer players only
- doubles matches included for handicapping purposes for the first time.

In response to these changes the GC Handicapping Regulations were amended and a new card introduced. Thanks goes to Tony Hall, who brought the pending changes to my notice and provided me with a copy of the draft proposed laws; Susan Linge at the ACA Office who formatted the proposed new card and got it on the website in a timely manner; also to Peter Freer who pointed out some minor errors in the first draft and Brenda Evans of the Jamberoo Club in NSW who has made some well considered suggestions for possible improvements which could be made to the card.

Rob McAdam National Handicapper
1 February 2014

4.3.12 Insurance Officer

The period under review has been significant by virtue of minimal claims activity. This has influenced favourable renewal costs.

ACA has Regional Insurance Brokers Limited (RIBL) in Brisbane acting as broker and is very pleased with the service provided. This has been especially important to your Insurance Officer, who has greatly appreciated the assistance and guidance given in the conduct of, what can be, a complex task.

The new insurance renewal date of 31 December which was instigated at the request of States has worked well. In order to finalise the renewal exercise in time for the Christmas break it has been necessary to seek declarations from the States a little earlier than previously. This appears to have not caused any difficulties.

As renewal time approached the States provided numbers of clubs and registered players to be covered (not all clubs are insured through ACA). RIBL undertook a rigorous market search for the most appropriate insurance providers. The outcome was that the RIBL was able to accommodate ACA's requirements at a cost of \$31,430 compared to a total premium cost of \$31,125 for the previous 12 months. This was a most satisfactory outcome in the current insurance environment.

Renewals for the period from 31/12/2013 were:

- Business Pack for ACA
- Travel Insurance for ACA and all States
- Personal Accident & Sickness for ACA and all States
- Public & Products Liability for ACA and all States
- Directors & Officers for ACA and all States

The brief summary of the cover currently held by ACA together with a short list of other available insurances that RIBL can offer direct that is available on the ACA web site under the Governance section has been helpful to States and Clubs requiring insurance information.

In conclusion I wish to stress the importance of dealing through the Insurance Officer to RIBL on all insurance matters including claims and general enquiries. There has been a tendency for some to second guess what is covered and or not covered. This is not a prudent thing to do. Insurance advice not given by an insurance agent or broker can be fraught with danger.

Jim Saunders
ACA Insurance Officer
4 January, 2014

4.3.13 Archivist

Since taking on the role I have made two visits to Canberra and one to Melbourne to look into archival assets and queries. Only one of these trips has been claimed for as the others were attached to other events that I was attending.

Projects completed are;

Partial sorting and then filing of archival material in Canberra office.
Two projects in conjunction with Chris Williams regarding the history of the interstate cup (AC).
A list of all runners-up in ACA/ACC AC events since 1950.
Assisting Croquet Queensland with the history of their state teams.
Assisting with the finding of information on The Armstrongs of South Australia.
Assisting with the finding of information on Mary Grieve of Victoria.

Ongoing projects are;

Recovery of lost history of Western Australian croquet 1905 to 1953 (also as croquetwest archivist/historian).
Assisting Chris Williams with tracing old results and peeling data 1984 to about the mid 1990's.
Assisting Chris Williams with old doubles results for historical doubles ranking list.

Martin Clarke

4.3.14 Librarian – Position Vacant

4.3.15 Equipment Officer

No report Submitted

4.3.16 Magazine Editor

No report Submitted

4.3.17 Official Representative on the WCF Croquet Rules Committee

After almost two years November 2013 saw the completion of WCF GC RC's revision of the GC rules. Some changes were made where players and officials had raised concern about the rules but mostly the revision resulted in some rewording in an endeavour to better clarify the rules.

Major changes were made to Rule 11 (Wrong Ball) in an attempt to make application of the rule the same in singles and doubles play. Revising Rule 11 took several months for the committee to arrive at a compromise situation which is now the new rule and was, without doubt, the rule that the committee spent most time with and the most difficult rule on which to reach a compromise solution.

Before the revision commenced I canvassed around Australia for the opinion of many people especially SDRs, GCRs and GC players of all standards about how they would like Rule 11 changed to make it simpler, fairer and at the same time applicable equally for singles and doubles games. The replies were virtually unanimous. However the committee rejected, by 5 to 1, the Australian approach. England also submitted its suggested changes, which were rejected, but not 5 to 1. Basically from these two submissions the compromise was struck, resulting in Rule 11 as it is now.

Other significant changes involved the definition of '*leaving stance under control*' in Rule 13; the reintroduction of Rule 13(10); the introduction new Rule 9(j); placing a 1 minute time limit in Rule 14(a)(8) and the change to Rule 16 regarding the allocation of extra turns in handicap doubles events. Otherwise the changes were mostly rewordings to better clarify people's understanding of the rules.

The Official Rulings on the WCF GC Rules have been included in the rules where appropriate and the remainder have been deleted. No doubt a new set of Official Rulings will appear as time passes before the next revision of the rules.

During the revision period Bill Arliss (UK) resigned from the committee and was replaced by Tim King from England. Apart for this change the committee has remained intact. It has been an interesting experience being on a committee where some of the members who have never met personally were

are able to successfully communicate, exchange ideas and make decisions, keeping in mind the differing cultures and customs.

Committee Chairman Gordon Smith has summed up the difficulties the committee encountered nicely in the introductory notes where he wrote *"We have arrived at a set of rules that we believe will be acceptable to most players, without being totally acceptable to any."*

I wish to thank all those around Australia who forwarded suggestions for changes and for the opinions expressed when I contacted them for advice.

Gordon Matthews
Aust. Rep. WCF GC RC