

National Selection Update

August 2008

Stephen Meatheringham (Chair)

Trans-Tasman (TT)

The TT team was selected in June. I would like to thank all the selectors for the substantial amount of work that they put in deliberating on, and discussing, players.

The selection of the TT (and MacRobertson) Shield teams is substantially more complex than individual world championships. The extra two factors are team compatibility and doubles. Doubles is somewhat further complicated in the TT as they are “mixed” doubles.

In the TT one third of matches in each test are doubles. When considering doubles results the selectors noted that there were very few doubles results from the previous 24 months available for analysis. Players should note that if they wish to be considered for team selection where doubles form an important percentage of matches then they need to get as many results as possible by entering appropriate tournaments.

An interesting fact regarding analysis of doubles results was the quite significant drop in peeling percentages for players compared with singles results.

12th WCF World Association Croquet Championship

The 2008 Eights will be held at the Victorian Croquet Centre (VCC) from 3-6 October and the National Championships at the same venue from 22-30 November. Selectors will be present watching play with a view to collecting information on players who may be considered for selection for the 12th WCF World Association Croquet Championship (Florida, 9-17 May 2009).

At this time we have no indication how many places Australia will be allocated. The WCF web site indicates that allocations will be made in late 2008 and so it is not possible to give an exact time-frame for the selection process for this event. This will be communicated to players once we are informed.

In order to access a more significant number of results for players' selectors will look at results as far back as the 2006 Australian Open Singles (7-12 November 2006). Results from the previous 12 months will be given more weight and significance.

New Zealand Scholarships

To assist the selectors with the junior scholarships states were asked for input on players they believe would be appropriate names to put forward for consideration. These names are now being considered by the selectors and it is hoped that an announcement will be possible at the conclusion of the President's Eights on 6 October 2008.

3rd WCF Women's World Golf Croquet Championship

Australia will be hosting the 3rd WCF Women's World Golf Croquet Championship (21-29 November 2009) at the VCC. While that event is still a long way off the selectors ask players who are hopeful of gaining selection for that event to consider their tournament schedule with a view to placing as many results as possible before the selectors in the lead up to selection.

Referee Status

The Selection Policy states (item 6.2.6):

A Player's Refereeing qualifications may be considered as part of the overall player's performance.

The selectors noted that not all TT squad members were qualified referees. Accreditation as a referee in Golf Croquet or Association Croquet, as appropriate, is seen as a plus when looking at players. All hopeful players should ensure they are qualified referees.

Other Player Issues

The selectors would ask players to note with special attention section 6.3 in the Selection Policy which states:

6.3 Other Player Issues

6.3.1 The Selectors will evaluate players against the following criteria:

- *attitude to officials, tournament managers, referees, team managers, team coaches and other players,*
- *compatibility with, and support of, squad/team members,*
- *willingness to assist the team coach in developing a working relationship with the team to promote a responsible attitude, commitment, trust, competence, respect, safety, honesty, professionalism, equity and sportsmanship among team members,*
- *consideration as a good ambassador for the sport, Croquet Australia and the Country,*
- *adherence to National Squad training protocols as specified in writing by the national squad/team coach (including mental skills, tactical skills, physical skills, nutrition guidelines and appropriate fitness levels),*
- *physical fitness covering strength, flexibility and endurance as assessed by the national squad/team coach,*

6.3.2 Any issues that arise concerning a player's performance under this heading will only be taken into account where those issues arose within the last 2 years, unless the player concerned has been advised by the selectors of issues that go back beyond this timeframe.

Players should understand that their play alone will not be a guarantee of future national selection. Their attitude towards officials and fellow players will be watched. Indiscretions and perceived problems will be communicated back to players at the conclusion of tournaments and made use of in line with the ACA Selection Policy (Sections 6.3, 6.4 and 6.7).