



# AUSTRALIAN CROQUET ASSOCIATION

## MINUTES COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 2 September, 2013

Maitland Park Bowling Club  
Maitland, NSW

### **PRESENT**

President	Robyn Wallace
Senior Vice President	Greg Diprose
Vice President	Neil White
Treasurer	Jim Clement
Honorary Secretary	Stephen Thornton

### **DELEGATES**

Tasmania	Henry Burbury	Bob Godfrey
New South Wales	John Compton	Pam Gentle
Queensland	Doug Williams	plus proxy
Victoria	Mike Cohn	Jim Saunders
South Australia	Maree Skinner	Heather White
Western Australia	not represented	

### **OBSERVER**

Nerida Taylor

Australian Croquet Association

**MINUTES COUNCIL MEETING**

Monday 2 September, 2013

**1 Welcome by the President**

Robyn Wallace welcomed everyone and noted in particular the number of State Presidents in attendance.

Robyn took the opportunity to update the meeting about the MacRobertson Shield Team – ACA had received two appeals and as required by the Selection Policy formed an Appeals Tribunal. One appeal has been passed back to the AC Selection Committee for consideration.

**2 Roll Call**

ACA President	Robyn Wallace
ACA Senior Vice President	Greg Diprose
ACA Vice President	Neil White
ACA Treasurer	Jim Clement
ACA Honorary Secretary	Stephen Thornton
President Croquet Tasmania	Henry Burbury
Vice President, Croquet Tasmania	Bob Godfrey
President Croquet New South Wales	John Compton
Secretary, Croquet New South Wales	Pam Gentle
President, Croquet South Australia	Maree Skinner
Representative, Croquet South Australia	Heather White
President, Croquet Victoria	Mike Cohn
Ordinary Member, Croquet Victoria	Jim Saunders
President, Croquet Queensland	Doug Williams
ACA Administrative Officer	Susan Linge

**3 Adoption of Minutes**

The Minutes of the 64<sup>th</sup> AGM held on Monday 25 March, 2013 cannot be adopted at this Council meeting.

However, as the NDRAC had been in contact with the Administrative Officer to say that the minutes of the AGM do not accurately reflect her comment in Item 12.2 (ACA Regulations – page 19), it was agreed that the minutes could be amended accordingly.

Moved	Victoria (Mike Cohn)
Seconded	Victoria (Jim Saunders)

VOTE                      Unanimous

Robyn Wallace reminded the meeting that the Executive cannot move and/or second a motion, what can and can't be moved under standing orders and advised that if anyone dissented against the Chair, there is no need for a seconder and the President would vacate the chair and hand over to the Honorary Secretary until the matter was resolved.

**8 Topics for Discussion**

[GC Men's and Women's Singles Championship]

Leading up to Item 8, there was a discussion about the format of the GC Men's and Women's Singles Championships which had taken place the week before. Concern was expressed that

the format was changed from what had been published at the time of receiving entries. Players were expecting a single round robin but the Men played best of three.

Nerida Taylor said that the format for the Men's and Women's should have been the same. Doug Williams replied that the Men had more entries than the Women and if it had been the other way around, the Women would have played best of three.

#### 8.3(a) Tournament Conditions President's Tens – Increase Players from 30 to 32

Jim Clement commented that previously it had been difficult to find ten women (this occurred prior to the GC Selection Committee seeking expressions of interest). The proposed format to increase the number of players by two and increase the blocks to three Opens of Eight and One Women's Eight is easier and beneficial to Women players.

Pam Gentle said that she would prefer the competition to be held over four days.

There was general support for the President's Tens to now become the President's GC Eights with three Opens of Eights and One Women's Eight.

ACTION ITEM – Administrative Officer to send the change of format to the Tournament, Events and GC Selection Committees.

#### 8.3(b) Tournament Conditions President's Tens – Expressions of Interest

For the 2013 President's Tens the GC Selection Committee sought expressions of interest from Players and from an administrative point of view this was extremely efficient and considerably less time consuming in comparison to the process undertaken for the President's Eights (AC).

[Process of selecting players for the President's Eights (AC)]

The closing date for Players to respond to their invitation to play in the President's Eights was only three days away and still over 40% of players had not replied as to whether or not they were accepting or declining a place in the competition.

It was agreed that both President's Eights Tournaments (AC and GC) should be administered the same way and the AC Selection Committee should adopt a similar approach as the GC Selection Committee and seek expressions of interests. The Tournament Regulations to be amended accordingly.

Moved	New South Wales (Pam Gentle)
Seconded	Queensland (Doug Williams)

VOTE	Unanimous
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ACTION ITEM – Administrative Office to amend the Tournament Regulations accordingly.

ACTION ITEM – Administrative Office to write informing the Chair of the AC Selection Committee of Council's decision.

Nerida Taylor suggested that the closing dates for expressions of interest be included on the Tournament Schedule.

## 4 Business Arising from the AGM

There were two attachments, the first listed the items arising from the AGM held on Monday 25 March, 2013 and the second listed the amendments to the Handbook that were agreed to at the AGM.

## Attachment 1

The meeting reviewed each of the Action Items. Many of the Action Items had been completed but some were still outstanding.

### 4.1. Action Items arising from AGM held on Monday 25 March, 2013

ACTION ITEM – Executive to discuss awards for Plate, Y, Z, W events.

ONGOING – Matter discussed at Executive Skype meeting held on Wednesday 26 July. Administrative Officer has compiled several suggestions with costings to give as gift to accompany the certificate.

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### 7.4 Appointed Officer Reports

#### 7.4a High Performance Manager – See Appendix 2A Minutes AGM

ACTION ITEM – Executive to discuss the following issues raised by the HPM:

- the setting up of a Golf Croquet Squad;
- provision of squad training for 'our leading lady players' [in respect of AC].

ONGOING – Ongoing. Discussions are underway to hold a meeting/workshop to formulate development plans for the future of Golf Croquet

ACTION ITEM – Executive to forward the following comment to the Tournament Committee;

- format of the Australian Open Doubles in Brisbane (held in Nov 2012) failed the minimum standard test in that there were no semi-finals played in spite of there being plenty of time available to do so. We need to define minimum standards for our events and only deviate from the standard if it's not possible to comply with it.

ONGOING – Greg Diprose is pursuing this with both Tournament and Events Committees

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#### 7.4c National Director of Gateball – See Appendix 2C Minutes AGM

COMMENT – Australia is considering bidding to host the 2018 Gateball World Championship which could coincide with the Commonwealth Games.

ACTION ITEM – Administrative Officer to add this to the 2018 draft Tournament Schedule.

#### COMPLETED

Even though this item had been completed, Doug Williams took the opportunity to update the meeting.

At this stage there is no funding to support either the event or developing a bid. The Administrative Officer, said that she had been contacted by Jim Northcote who wants to make a presentation to the Executive. Doug asked that he be kept informed as this is an Event which firstly needs the support of Croquet Queensland.

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#### 7.4d National Director Refereeing Association Croquet – See Appendix 2D Minutes AGM

RECOMMENDATION – 'the ACA administration act upon, listen more carefully to, and be more inclusive of the recommendations of the NRC in the decision making

process *prior to* amending direction and documentation which directly affects referee duties, equipment and refereeing administration’.

ACTION ITEM – Executive to approve the ACA Accreditation and Re-Accreditation Policy Document.

COMPLETED

[GC Refereeing Committee Meeting]

Reference was made to the meeting that was held on Thursday 29 August with the National Director of Refereeing Golf Croquet and State Directors. A new activity card was presented and approved which will be placed on the website.

ACTION ITEM – Administrative Officer to place the revised Referee Activity Card on the ACA website.

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7.4e National Director Refereeing Golf Croquet – See Appendix 2E Minutes AGM

ACTION ITEM – Executive to discuss reimbursement of or contribution towards travel expenses for referees. (NB See Reference to 7.3c)

ONGOING – Matter discussed at Executive Skype meeting held on Wednesday 26 July.

Jim Clement reiterated that an amount of \$7.00 is to be paid to referees. For future tournaments Jim will estimate the amount likely to be paid to the referees and will pay in advance to the Tournament Referee for distribution.

Heather White queried reimbursement to Venue Managers but it was agreed that this was a matter for each Club.

The Tournament Manager receives reimbursement for travel and accommodation.

Robyn Wallace pointed out that there is a nexus between entry fees and reimbursement of expenses.

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7.4j National Handicapper – See Appendix 2G Minutes AGM

COMMENT – ‘The National Handicapper’s Report confirms that at a previous AGM it was agreed that there be a ‘uniform national handicapping system to replace the individual systems of each State’.

ACTION ITEM – Administrative Officer to contact President of Croquet Queensland to find their process for ensuring that there is one system in Queensland ie National Handicapping System.

COMPLETED

The issue of handicapping doubles in Golf Croquet, similar to what is occurring in New Zealand was raised but as the Rules of Golf Croquet are currently under review it would be circumspect to wait for the review to be completed by the WCF.

Jim Saunders pointed out that if handicapping of doubles is introduced then the GC Handicapping Card will need to be updated.

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## **5 Proposed Amendments to the Constitution**

Item 5 could not be discussed; insufficient notice was given and therefore these motions will be held over to the AGM scheduled for Monday 24 March, 2014.

## **6 Proposed Amendments to the By-Laws**

6.1 By-Law 27.2.2 – Tournament Manager to be ex-officio member Tournament Committee as required

There was in principle support for this motion but could not be voted on as insufficient notice was given and therefore held over to the AGM.

6.2 By-Law 27.2. – Correction to By-Law

This was agreed to as it was procedural.

ACTION ITEM Administrative Officer to amend the By-Law 27.2 accordingly.

6.3 By-Law 28.5.8 – Appointment of Tournament Referees

Item 6.3 could not be discussed; insufficient notice was given and therefore held over to the AGM.

## **8 Topics for Discussion**

8.1 Appointment of Sport Development Director

Maree Skinner introduced this topic as Croquet SA had recently been told that the South Australian Government has an expectation that state organisations should be aligned with the national body's goals and objectives. Particularly when it comes to promoting and developing the sport there needs to be a co-ordinated approach and the national body provides an overarching direction. In order to facilitate this, South Australia proposes that the ACA follow Croquet SA's lead and appoint a Sport Development Director.

Mike Cohn said that Croquet Victoria was in support of the idea and it should be done professionally but the question is where is the money coming from?

Steve Thornton said that it was a fine idea but it was putting the cart before the horse as it comes down to what is in the strategic plan and Steve asked what do you [Council] want in a strategic plan?

[Note – after Steve Thornton's comment the discussion seamlessly went onto the next topic without any outcome for 8.1]

8.2 Feedback Strategic Plan

Maree replied by saying that this is in line with the Item distributed in the agenda. Developing the sport is a critical activity and a member of the Executive should have this role assigned to them – perhaps the Vice President or Senior Vice President?

Steve Thornton said that funds are available for developing the sport from Federal agencies.

A robust discussion ensued about the process that is being proposed by the ACA to complete the strategic plan. It was observed that there seems to be a disconnect between what the States are working on and that of the ACA.

A financial plan should support the strategic plan, position descriptions for appointed officers, operational plan should be linked to the strategic plan.

Each State spoke in favour of engaging a facilitator to work on the plan as many had just gone through the experience and all reported that it was extremely positive and valuable.

A question was asked as to which States were currently working on their strategic plan -

South Australia – completion November  
Victoria – completion October  
Queensland –signed off in September  
New South Wales – No  
Tasmania – Ongoing

Steve Thornton said that he would send core points to each of the States. The comment was then made that a facilitator starts from a completely different basis; it is a shared process.

Neil White suggested that the strategic plan could be started by having a series of Skype Meetings.

Robyn Wallace proposed that Steve, who had already completed the draft strategic plan take on the role of facilitator. It was agreed that this draft plan should be sent to the States.

Robyn Wallace undertook a straw poll to find out who thought the plan should be put up on the website for comment. 10 voted in favour.

ACTION ITEM – Administrative Officer to send a list of possible dates for a Skype Meeting and a copy of the draft strategic plan to be distributed to each State.

## 9 Finance

Jim Clement reported that *Croquet Australia* – A Magazine for Followers of Mallet Sports was haemorrhaging money. The Winter issue had 240 subscribers.

Income	Subscriptions	\$2,400
	Advertising space	\$ 300
Expenditure	Printing & postage	\$4,500
		<hr/>
Loss		\$1,800

Jim cited the example of the Probus Club of Victoria which produces a monthly newsletter – tabloid-style and is funded by advertisements.

Jim suggested that ACA ceases publishing a glossy quarterly magazine and produces a monthly ‘paper’ that incorporates each State’s newsletter.

There are several advantages – the articles included in *Croquet Australia* are often ‘stale’, by having a monthly publication the news is more immediate, allows for events to be publicised and the States would be relieved of their publishing costs.

It was reinforced that each State would still be able to have their own identity and be responsible for their own content.

The meeting agreed that the idea of publishing a combined monthly newsletter should be investigated further. It was also noted that the Magazine Committee should be advised.

ACTION ITEM – Administrative Officer to advise the Magazine Committee that a review is being undertaken.

## **10 Other Business**

### **10.1 Update Scholarship Programme**

Nominations have been received and sent to the respective Selection Committees for consideration.

### **10.3 Meritorious Medal**

Nomination Forms will be distributed shortly.

### **10.3 Future Meetings**

Doug Williams said he would like to suggest that Council consider increasing the number of meetings per year – three or four a year.

The Meeting adjourned for brunch and resumed forty minutes later.

### **10.5 Clarification on the role of the ACA and its relationship with the State Associations and members**

Robyn Wallace reiterated the benefits that members receive –

- Insurance
- Entry to National Tournaments
- Opportunity to enter International Events.

Yes, the ACA does support the elite players but only a national body can do this; if there was no ACA then Australia would not be represented internationally.

Doug Williams asked if there were other ways the ACA could support the general player?

Robyn Wallace agreed that ACA has an image problem but this has to come back to the States as the Players are representing their States.

Stephen Thornton said rightfully or wrongfully the elite players do receive financial assistance but what the ACA needs to do is to work more closely with these players and ask them to be 'ambassadors'.

Heather White said that the Croquet SA Players' Agreements includes a clause requiring players to promote the sport by talking to clubs about their experiences and encouraging more players to seek a higher level of play.

Greg Diprose noted the conundrum, should ACA set a minimum standard and if a player is not at that standard they do not receive any financial support? Obviously this applies to individual tournaments not Team events but if this had been the case then many of the players who had had the opportunity to play in the Worlds in Adelaide and Women's Worlds would have been ineligible.

Nerida Taylor made the point that the budget should be attributed to the strategic plan and the plan would have a reference to international representation. Jim said that he is currently working out the monthly cash flow.

[Item without notice]

Neil White asked if he could discuss an item without notice.

He has been looking at a restructure of the Council and the Executive. It is a requirement to have a National Body but the make-up needs to change to ensure greater State



representation – Neil's proposal is for the Executive to have one member from each State plus President and Treasurer.

Neil White said that the current Executive has been having monthly Skype meetings which have been very successful. Neil would like to extend that and the new body would meet via Skype every two months with Council. Constitution will need to be amended to reflect the change ie Clause 5.1 and 25.1.2. Terms would be two years.

Henry Burbury asked if it was really necessary to make such a change and pointed out that Council would be reviewing what the Executive was doing six times a year.

Greg Diprose said that with a large executive it is harder to manage the day to day business and every item will be discussed by a mini Council.

Neil White wants more Skype meetings to augment the two face-to-face meetings.

There was a lengthy discussion about the ideal number of meetings particularly if there were bi-monthly meetings between Council and the Executive i.e. 6 per year including two face-to-face plus a monthly Executive meeting is 18 in total!

It is important to realise that with so many meetings there will be little time to actually get things done.

A final point was made that it is necessary to analyse what you want before finding the solution.

[GC Training Squad for GC Trans Tasman]

To finish the meeting the John Compton asked if it was possible for the GC Selection Committee to start considering players to be invited to join a squad of sixteen for the GC Trans Tasman.

This was agreed .

Meeting closed at approximately 1300

Next meeting is the AGM being held at 0830 on Monday 24 March, 2014