



# AUSTRALIAN CROQUET ASSOCIATION

## MINUTES COUNCIL MEETING

Monday 3 September, 2012

Victorian Croquet Centre  
65 Nobel Banks Drive, Carinlea, Victoria

### **PRESENT**

President	Robyn Wallace
Senior Vice President	Greg Diprose
Vice President	Neil White
Treasurer	Tony Hall
Honorary Secretary	Stephen Thornton

### **DELEGATES**

Queensland	Doug Williams	plus Proxy
New South Wales	John Compton	Pam Gentle
Victoria	Mike Cohn	Jim Clement
Tasmania	Henry Burbury	Bob Godfrey
South Australia	Maree Skinner	Heather White
Western Australia	Michael Murphy	Craig Merrey

## 1 Welcome by President

The meeting commenced at 9.02am when the President welcomed delegates. The President took the opportunity to make the following announcements .

David Wise has been appointed National Coaching Director Association Croquet  
Mark Prater has been appointed National Director Association Croquet  
Max Murray has been appointed Chair of the Member Protection Information Officers.

As part of the introduction the President said that Agenda Item 5.1 would be discussed at the end of Item 5.

## 2 Roll Call

The President thanked the delegates for their attendance and noted that five of six State Presidents were present.

Each person introduced themselves

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

## 3 Motions (Notice of which have been given)

3A Motions to amend the constitution (special resolutions .  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority required)

3A1 Dissolution

Clause 14 of the Constitution be replaced with the following wording .

*The Association shall not be dissolved except by a Special Resolution passed by at least three quarters of the members of the Council present and voting at a Special Meeting of the Council called for that purpose and of which four months' notice has been given to each State Association.*

Jim Clement reminded the meeting that motions that are not procedural or routine, must come from the States (as per the Constitution 6.3.5)

Motion Moved                      John Compton (NSW)  
Seconded                              Maree Skinner (SA)

VOTE                                      Motion carried unanimously

ACTION ITEM: Amend Clause 14                      Assigned to Administrative Officer

3A2      International Events Fund & Hosting Events Fund

Clause 7.5 of the Constitution be amended to read .

*The Treasurer shall maintain within the books an International Fund (IF) which will be credited with levies received from the States and from which expenses will be debited for:*

*7.5.1.1 the MacRobertson Shield, Trans Tasman events, WCF World Championship events and other international events approved by the Executive Committee; and*

*7.5.1.2 hosting international events as approved by the Executive Committee.*

Motion Moved                      Michael Murphy (WA)  
Seconded                              Pam Gentle (NSW)

Discussion - Victoria spoke against the motion. The States want a guarantee that ACA will continue to pay for the hosting of ACA events. Western Australia pointed out that there are many levels of administration and it is preferable to have one account.

VOTE                                      Motion carried  
YES                                      14  
NO                                        2 (Victoria)  
ABSTAIN                              Vice President

ACTION ITEM: Amend Clause 7.5                      Assigned to Administrative Officer

3B      Motions to amend Bylaws (<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> majority required)

3B1      Eligibility for election or appointment

Clause 25.1.1 of the Bylaws be amended to read .

*All registered adult players of any affiliated State Association are eligible to be elected or appointed to any ACA office or Committee, provided that the player's permanent residence is in Australia.*

Motion Moved                      Jim Clement (VIC)  
Seconded                              Maree Skinner (SA)

VOTE                                      Motion carried unanimously

ACTION ITEM: Amend Clause 25.1.1                      Assigned to Administrative Officer

3B2      Candidates to receive a majority vote

Bylaw clauses 24.1 & 24.2 be enacted as follows .

*24.1 All Officer positions shall be filled by a majority vote of the Council delegates representing State Associations, even where there is only one nomination for a vacancy. The vote shall be by secret ballot. If the sole candidate for a vacancy does not receive a majority vote, the position remains vacant until filled as a casual vacancy.*

*24.2 All Committee positions shall be filled by a majority vote of Council members, even where the number of nominations is equal to or less than the number of vacancies. The vote shall be by secret ballot. If a nominee does not receive a majority vote, the position remains vacant until filled as a casual vacancy.*

Motion Moved	Pam Gentle (NSW)
Seconded	Doug Williams (QLD)

Discussion . John Compton asked about the process for filling a casual vacancy. This is covered in Bylaw 25.1.19

VOTE	Motion carried unanimously
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ACTION ITEM: Amend Clauses 24.1 & 24.2      Assigned to Administrative Officer

### 3B3    Selection Policies

Bylaw 26 be replaced with .

*The Selection policies for Association and Golf Croquet and for Gateball shall be determined from time to time by the Executive Committee and shall be published on the Association's website.*

Motion Moved	Jim Clement (VIC)
Seconded	Doug Williams (QLD)

Discussion . It was noted that currently there is no Bylaw 26 and that the Bylaw number had been mistyped and that this motion refers to Bylaw 22.6

VOTE	Motion carried unanimously
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ACTION ITEM: Amend 22.6      Assigned to Administrative Officer

### 3B4    Selection Policy

Clause 27.5.2 be amended as follows .

*The Selection policies approved by the Executive shall be published by the ACA and forwarded to State Member Associations. The Policy will be effective one month from the date it is forwarded to Member States.*

Motion Moved	Jim Clement (VIC)
Seconded	John Compton (NSW)

VOTE

Motion carried unanimously

ACTION ITEM: Amend Clause 27.5.2      Assigned to Administrative Officer

3B5      Use of Local Tournament Referees at ACA Events

Bylaw 28.5.4 be amended by appending .

*it is important that local referees be given experience by appointment as TR to ACA tournaments;*

Motion Moved

Jim Clement (VIC)

Seconded

Craig Merrey (WA)

Discussion . it was noted that the proposed amendment should be appended to Bylaw 28.5.8 not to 28.5.4.

Jim Clement noted that Motion 3B6 should be considered before Motion 3B5. This was agreed.

3B6      National Directors of Refereeing to recommend Tournament Referees

Bylaw 28.5.8 be amended to read .

*recommend to the Executive Committee (the Committee of Management for events controlled by the ACA) the appointment of TRs at international tournaments held in Australia and at all ACA events.*

Motion Moved

Jim Clement (VIC)

Seconded

Mike Cohn (VIC)

Discussion . Robyn Wallace commented that National Directors of Refereeing should be officiating at International events subject to approval by the WCF i.e. be appointed as the Tournament Referee.

Tony Hall said that the TReg should be amended rather than the Bylaw.

Maree Skinner raised as to what happens at International Events that have nothing to do with the WCF. Answer is in the amendment to 28.5.8 See 3B5.

VOTE

Motion failed

YES      11

NO      1

ABSTAIN      Senior Vice President  
Vice President  
Honorary Secretary  
President Queensland

3B5      Use of Local Tournament Referees at ACA Events

Bylaw 28.5.8 be amended by appending .

*it is important that local referees be given experience by appointment as TR to ACA tournaments;*

Motion Moved  
Seconded

Jim Clement (VIC)  
Maree Skinner (SA)

VOTE

Motion carried unanimously

ACTION ITEM: Amend Clause 28.5.8      Assigned to Administrative Officer

It will now read

*be the Tournament Referee (TR) at International events held in Australia or appoint same and appoint the TR at all ACA events, it is important that local referees be given experience by appointment as TR to ACA tournaments.*

### 3B7 ACA Tournament Committee

Bylaw 28.8 be deleted and that Bylaw 27.2 be amended to read .

#### *Tournament Committee*

##### *27.2.1 The Committee shall:*

- 1. be known as the Tournament Committee;*
- 2. consist of four members;*
- 3. liaise with the Events Committee to determine the most appropriate format for a given ACA event;*
- 4. conduct the draw for ACA events in a timely manner;*
- 5. provide informed advice to the ACA Executive on all matters concerning ACA tournaments;*
- 6. assist the Tournament Manager to provide rulings at ACA events, if an issue arises that is not covered in the tournament regulations or where the regulations require clarification.*

Motion Moved  
Seconded

Maree Skinner (SA)  
John Compton (NSW)

Discussion . Pam Gentle raised an issue with the wording of 27.2.3 querying why the Tournament Committee should liaise with the Events Committee to determine formats for an ACA event. Greg Diprose said that it should be the Tournament Committee to determine the way an event can be run and the format of the event.

It was agreed to delete the ~~to determine the most appropriate format for a given ACA event;~~ from 27.2.3

VOTE

Motion carried unanimously

ACTION ITEM: Delete Bylaw 28.8      Assigned to Administrative Officer

ACTION ITEM: Amend Bylaw 27.2      Assigned to Administrative Officer

It will now read

- 27.2.1 *The Committee shall:*
1. *be known as the Tournament Committee;*
  2. *consist of four members;*
  3. *liaise with the Events Committee;*
  4. *conduct the draw for ACA events in a timely manner;*
  5. *provide informed advice to the ACA Executive on all matters concerning ACA tournaments;*
  6. *assist the Tournament Manager to provide rulings at ACA events, if an issue arises that is not covered in the tournament regulations or where the regulations require clarification.*

3B8 Events Committee

New Bylaw 27.10 be introduced .

27.10 *Events Committee*

27.10.1 *The Committee shall:*

1. *be known as the Events Committee;*
2. *consist of four members;*
3. *agree, in conjunction with the ACA Executive, a schedule for all national tournaments, 3-5 years ahead;*
4. *negotiate with appropriate States and Clubs to implement this schedule;*
5. *advertise all events then finalise their programmes in consultation with the Selection and Tournament Committees;*
6. *review individual events after they are held, and in conjunction with the ACA Executive review the overall annual programme of national tournaments.*

Motion Moved  
Seconded

Doug Williams (QLD)  
John Compton (NSW)

VOTE

Motion carried unanimously

ACTION ITEM: Add Clause 27.10

Assigned to Administrative Officer

3C Other Motions (Simply majority required)

3C1 Affiliation Fees for 2013

Subject to Council approving Motion 3A3, it is moved that the 2013 Affiliation Fees and Levies approved at the 2012 AGM be amended as follows .

Affiliation Fees \$16.00  
International Fund Levy \$7.00  
Total \$23.00

Motion Moved  
Seconded

Michael Murphy (WA)  
Pam Gentle (NSW)

VOTE

Motion carried unanimously

#### **4 Reports**

Reports as listed and any others as required.

**4.1 Report/briefing on WCF Inaugural AC Women's World Championship (verbal Jim Clement)**

- The planning is going well.
- Tournament Referee is in place
- Job description has been completed for the Hoop setting team
- Appeals committee has been confirmed
- Afternoon tea will be held at 5pm on Saturday 20 October followed by the tournament dinner.

**4.2 Report/briefing on WCF GC Teams World Championship (verbal)**

- The Treasurer reported that all was going well
- The accommodation had been organised

**4.3 Report/briefing on Coaching and Refereeing badges and manuals (verbal ACA Treasurer)**

- The Treasurer spoke about changes to the way in which coaching and refereeing manuals and badges will be distributed. Manuals and badges will be available from the respective National Director on the provision of names of recipients at no charge.

#### **5 Discussion Items**

**5.1 Active After-School Programme (ACA President)**  
Item 5.1 discussed at the end of Item 5.

**5.2 Interstate Shield Proposal Golf Croquet (QLD)**  
Queensland put forward a discussion paper proposing a change to the current format of the Interstate Shield.

**Discussion**

- Pam Gentle spoke against the proposal as the current format of 2 games is enjoyable and very competitive.
- John Compton said that with the current format play can go into the evening and if the proposal is adopted there will be an increase in waiting times between games and travelling time would have to be added if a venue had less than four courts. This will limit the number of venues that can host the tournament and will make the stronger States stronger.
- Michael Murphy said that there is balance to the level of play and the current format should be maintained.
- Jim Clement made the point that during this year's ISS there were at least three nights where games finished after 8pm. The drawback could be waiting for hours between games and not all clubs have lights.



- Doug Williams reiterated that Greg Bury is always looking for ways to improve the game and the proposal was in response to a request to put forward ideas for discussion at this meeting. He went on to say that Greg's format could be used to better the players but the two game format is the best way.
- Bob Godfrey said that in Tasmania there is a reluctance to be Players 1 and 2 as they are more likely to lose their sixteen games; Players 3 and 4 have a better chance.
- Craig Merrey asked where mixed doubles are played and Greg Diprose replied by saying that he would like to encourage more mixed doubles.
- Pam Gentle said that she doesn't want mixed doubles.
- Robyn Wallace asked for a straw poll .

STRAW POLL                      Single sex games . 6 show of hands  
    Keep mixed doubles . 8 show of hands

- Maree Skinner doesn't agree with the proposal and put forward her suggestion .  
    2 games of mixed doubles  
    2 games of men's doubles  
    2 games of women's doubles  
    2 games 1 v 1  
    2 games 2 v 2  
    2 games 3 v 3  
    2 games 4 v 4  
    Each player would only play 6 games per day

STRAW POLL                      Unanimous to keep the status quo

FOLLOW UP . Greg Diprose to take this up with the Tournament Committee. A motion maybe likely for the AGM

### 5.3 Gold Medal Representatives (QLD)

If the Bronze Medallist (Golf/Association) is not available to play in the Gold Medal event then the runner-up is then entitled to play. If the runner-up is not available to play then the third place-getter should be entitled to play. Currently a lot of Players are not taking part in the Bronze Medal because they are unavailable to play in the Gold. This change will strengthen the Bronze Medal event in each State.

#### Discussion

- Comment was made that the Bronze Medal can be nominated by the State . this is a TReg and can be changed easily, however the Gold Medal has to remain a prestige event.
- Heather White said that some people were concerned about the length of the tournament and were unable to commit.

STRAW POLL                      12 against i.e. the third place-getter is not entitled to play in the Gold Medal

- 5.4 Reward for winning the Australian Championship (QLD)  
The winner of the Golf/Association Australian Open Singles to be sponsored to compete in the New Zealand Open Singles Event.

- Robyn asked if there was any support for this idea.

STRAW POLL                      South Australia and Queensland were in favour

- 5.5 Professional Equipment (QLD)  
The ACA to invest in developing more professional equipment for Golf Croquet instead of using clothes pegs (Association clips made longer?)

- Clothes pegs are being used at a State level but ACA events use different clips which have better visibility.

FOLLOW UP . ACA to investigate using more professional equipment for GC scoring (e.g. clips not clothes pegs).

- 5.6 Clarification on Level 3 Coaches (QLD)  
Queensland needs Level 3 AC Coaches Their appropriately qualified coaches are willing and able to fulfil Level 3 requirements but the 5 days is too long a period and not necessary. Is there a more commonsense approach??

- Matter to be referred to National Director Coaching Association Croquet.

FOLLOW UP . Administrative Officer to check with President Croquet Queensland to see if the matter has been referred to the NDCAC.

- 5.7 Gifts to winners of Plate, Y, Z and W Events (ACA Treasurer)  
In ACA Tournaments there are consolation events and the winners have been presented with a gift which has without exception been a bottle of wine. For a number of reasons giving bottles of wines is not appropriate and it is intended to award certificates to winners.

- It was agreed that certificates be awarded to winners as well as an ACA badge and the suggestion was made that it could be a small badge that can be worn on a cap rather than a badge (to wear on a jacket).

FOLLOW UP . Administrative Officer to investigate the cost of hat-pin badges, devise template for Certificates to be sent to Tournament Managers.

- 5.8 Gold Medal Format for Golf Croquet (QLD)  
The Australian GC Gold and Silver Medal event is a three day seeded round robin event played under similar conditions to the GC Bronze Medal competition except there will be a triple round robin of single-game matches. Currently it is or was a best of three round robin. Last year every day was completed around lunchtime, more games need to be played especially for Players who travelled from interstate.

- It was agreed that the three day seeded round robin format remain.

- 5.9 Trans Tasman Series for Golf Croquet (QLD)

If cost is an issue then start small and select 2 men and 2 women or 4 Players.

- Greg Diprose said that cost was not an issue and there will be a Trans Tasman every two years. The Trans Tasman in 2015 will be GC, (hosted by New Zealand), AC in 2017 and GC in 2019.
- Greg noted that the next Eire Cup will be held in Adelaide in March.

#### 5.10 Referee Accreditation (VIC)

A detailed discussion topic was submitted with the Agenda. In summary Victoria highlighted several issues with the scheme introduced by the ACA in March 2012 and subsequent recommendations made at Referee committee meetings. If these schemes are introduced without modification, Australian croquet will have seven types of referee in both forms of the game . those accredited/reaccredited by ACA and those reaccredited by each of the six states.

Victoria recommends ACA retain the responsibility for the accreditation and reaccreditation of all referees, irrespective of the level at which they officiate.

The recommendation was supported.

FOLLOW UP . Administrative Officer to forward to both National Directors of Refereeing the entire wording of Item 5.10 of the Agenda.

MEETING was suspended for brunch at 11.30am.

Three delegates left the meeting .

New South Wales  
Western Australia

John Compton  
Michael Murphy

Craig Merrey

MEETING resumed at 12.26 but prior to discussing 5.11, the opportunity was taken for the three points to be made.

- (i) Jim Clement had a proto-type of a wedge gauge and he asked if there was a level of interest in these gauges and if so, he would continue to investigate having the wedges manufactured in Australia.
- (ii) Robyn Wallace thanked Jim Clement for his reminder re 6.3.5 of the constitution. It was noted that the Executive should have the same option to move motions. This matter to be formally raised at the AGM
- (iii) Definition of a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority was raised in view of 3B6. Of 17 possible votes there were five abstentions and one against. Do the abstentions count as no votes? The clarification of a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority was deferred to the AGM.

#### 5.11 [Item 5.1] Active After-School Programmes (ACA President)

- Robyn Wallace reported on the need to develop a nationally co-ordinated programme. To date these programmes have attracted over \$91,000 in funding nationwide, and when co-ordinated nationally will form part of the ACA Strategic Plan [see report from Steve Thornton below].

#### 5.12 Reclaiming the ACA (SA)

The ACA President, Robyn Wallace's report to the 2012 AGM included reference to reclaiming the ACA

- Neil White commented as follows - The States as members of the Council should be more involved in the direction the ACA is taking and have an integral role in the areas of shared interest. There are a number of ways this could be achieved. A subcommittee consisting of a delegate from each State could be formed to meet by teleconference or Skype on a regular basis to discuss pertinent matters being considered by the ACA Executive. The delegate could invite a person with specialist knowledge to assist in the discussion (i.e. a GC or AC expert if there was a matter of formats for events or regulations being discussed).
- Neil reiterated that we need to identify where we are heading and set goals but first we need to know who we are: in order to be able to seek funding and sponsorship successfully ACA needs to have a profile. It had been agreed that ACA would survey Players and this should proceed. Neil went on to say that there were three stages requiring surveying: State, Club, Individual members.
- Heather White informed the meeting about South Australia's Star Club and confirmed that it is necessary for every sporting organisation in South Australia accessing funding to have a strategic plan and clearly defined key performance indicators.
- Jim Clement reported that Victoria had undertaken a survey of its members and offered to provide a copy of the survey to the Executive.

One delegate left the meeting .

Victoria

Jim Clement

- Steve Thornton took the opportunity to talk about his attendance at the Australian Sports Commission (ASC) workshop held in Melbourne. The meeting was to let organisations know how to access government funding. The funding is available for organisational change; coaching workshops etc
- A risk assessment is required and ACA will need to present its financial position, legal and governance structure and key performance indicators.
- This will require co-operation between the national body and the States.
- There was general consensus that a survey be undertaken.

FOLLOW UP . Administrative Officer to talk with Western Australia to see if they have any information about their membership.

FOLLOW UP . Administrative Officer to send latest Strategic Plan to Neil White

FOLLOW UP . Executive to think about increasing the communication between the Executive and State Associations.

FOLLOW UP . Executive to consider producing a monthly electronic newsletter (similar to the WCF).

As there was no other business, Robyn Wallace thanked everyone involved in the Tournament for their hard work and said that it was a wonderful event.

Robyn also thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

Meeting closed at 1325