President's Report for 2008 / 09

The last twelve months have been busy with a number of matters taking up an inordinate amount of time. Some of the more important issues dealt with are addressed below.

Review of the ACA Constitution

This review got under way early in the year and the initial draft was basically undertaken by me. We had formed a subcommittee of three: Peter Tavender from ACT, Eric Miller from Victoria and Brian Hadley from WA.   A draft of the revised constitution was circulated to the committee and some input was received. The ACA Executive Director, Maree Skinner also provided some input in the time available.

Unfortunately because of the pressures of other activities (see below) the review of the constitution stalled but is high on the priority list for the future.

Events Manager

Following the last AGM I accepted the role of Events Manager partly in an attempt to ease the workload on the Executive Director (ED) and partly to fill a perceived gap in our Tournament Management ranks. It was agreed that the duties of Events Manager would be shared between the ED and I as the workload was far more than the ED could manage alone given other duties.

I attended all the events as Events Manager and assisted in the planning of events. This proved to be a time consuming task and proved not altogether necessary for the ACA to be so closely involved. Generally the States running the event had the tournament management well provided for. It became apparent during the course of the year that the Events Manager's position needed careful review.

The ACA has now agreed that the duties of the event manager be assigned to an Event's Committee and the various duties be allocated to individuals within that committee. At the time of preparing this report further discussion is proposed on this topic for the next Executive Committee meeting to be held prior to the AGM.

WCF World Women's Golf Croquet Championship

Planning for this event continues. A committee from VCA and ACA has been formed and is now holding monthly meetings. The emphasis at this time is seeking sponsorship and in particular a major sponsor.

There has been only limited success so far in obtaining sponsors and this aspect will receive a lot of attention in the coming months. One estimate of cost to run the event is about $35,000.

Meritorious service to croquet.

The ACA has decided that it would award a medal annually for meritorious service to croquet. The proposal is for the states to make submissions to the ACA regarding suitable nominees for the award. There will be one award per year beginning in 2009. The ACA will have a medallion designed for presentation to the annual awardee.

Australian Women's Golf Croquet Championship

Work is well underway in the planning for the Australian Women's Golf Croquet Championship to be held at the Victorian Croquet Centre on 1-4 May 2009. Players with a handicap of 0–7 may enter the Championship. Entry forms are available from the State Association or the Croquet Australia website. Entries close on 17 April 2009.

Magazine.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate those involved in the production of the magazine this year. We have turned around a substantial deficit to a more manageable position.

Referee Accreditation

Work has been in progress for some time to achieve recognition by the Australian Sports Commission of our referee accreditation process. Over the past year some progress on this matter has been achieved and drafts programs have been produced. Thanks to Owen Edwards and Stephen Meatheringham. We hope to finalise this matter

Thanks.

My thanks to the very hard working members of the executive committee. The committee is small and the amount of work is large but somehow it gets done. The members are dedicated to the croquet world and their dedication is appreciated.
I give special thanks to Stephen Meatheringham who has been on the executive committee for three years and during that time has made significant contributions to the work of the committee.

Max Murray
President.