

CROQUET AUSTRALIA

*Minutes of the 58th Annual General Meeting
Held at Forrest Park Croquet Club, 66 Harold Street,
Mt Lawley, Western Australia
On Monday April 2nd 2007 at 1.30pm*

Present:

President	Mr Gary Fox
Secretary	Ms Maree Skinner
Treasurer	Mr Tony Hall

Delegates:

NSW	Mrs Jacky McDonald	Mr Geof McDonald
SA	Ms Creina Dawson	Mr Greg Rowberry
QLD	Ms Judy Fowler	Ms Cynthia Tacey
WA	Mr Doug Hall	Ms Kay Chynoweth
VIC	Mr George Latham	Mrs Anna Miller
TAS	Mrs Kate Fox	Ms Kay Swan

Apologies: Mr Stephen Meatheringham (Senior Vice-President), Ms Rosemary News (Vice – President).

Observers: Mr John Fransen, Mr Max Murray, Mrs Jean Murray, Mr Richard Chapman, Mr Brian Hadley, Mr Eric Miller, Mr Owen Edwards.

Agenda Item 1 – Opening

The President, Mr Gary Fox, welcomed the attendees to the meeting and thanked WA for providing the venue for the meeting and the lunch and refreshments. Gary mentioned that Kay Swan was representing Graham Denehey as a Tasmanian Delegate. Gary also mentioned that he and Rosemary News had withdrawn their nominations for President and Vice-President respectively. Gary made the point that the AGM was the most important meeting of the year; important for the development of Australian Croquet and as an occasion for the Executive to report to Council and to receive the States' feedback.

Agenda Item 2 – Roll Call

The President, Treasurer, Secretary and all Delegates were present.

Agenda Item 3 -Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes of the 57th Annual General Meeting held at Sport SA Military Road. West Beach SA on Friday 31st March 2006 at 1-00pm

Motion

That the Minutes of the 57th Annual General Meeting held at Sport SA, Military Road West Beach SA, on Friday 31st March 2006 be accepted as a true record.

Moved	Judy Fowler (QLD)		
Seconded	George Latham (VIC)		
	Carried- yes	Defeated	Deferred

Voting

Carried unanimously	Yes		
Queensland		Western Australia	
New South Wales		President	
Victoria		S/Vice President	
Tasmania		Treasurer	
South Australia		Vice President	

Agenda Item 4 – Business Arising from the Previous Minutes

Business arising from the Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting

1. Page 4 of the minutes: Motion for Action Plan.

“That the Executive in association with the appointed officers prepare and draft an Annual Action Plan for ratification at the AGM. For the 2006/2007 year, the first such report shall be sent to the States by the end of October 2006 for consideration.”

- 4.1 An email was sent to the States on 4th December 2006 advising that due to the MacRobertson Shield Commitments, the tasks have not been started and will be progressed within the next six months.
- 4.2 Gary Fox added that at the present time the ACA is under-resourced.

Agenda Item 5 – Correspondence

The Secretary reported that correspondence had been dealt with during the year. Correspondence is available for perusal in electronic format upon request.

Agenda Item 6(a) - Executive Report

The Executive Report has previously been circulated. Gary summarised some of the topics in the document.

- 6.1 The Magazine will continue to be published and will be reviewed on an annual basis. The Executive have agreed to run the publication with a small subsidy. A new Editor is required and Max Murray had agreed to take on the responsibility of managing the publication. A recent survey revealed that it was generally perceived that the magazine was aimed at elite players. There is a need to define the market. Golf Croquet will also be featured in the new format.
- 6.2 The Member Protection Policy requires amendment according to the new template issued by the Australian Sports Commission. Child Protection issues feature in the new policy framework. The policy is being amended at the present time and will be adopted and circulated to the States once approved.
- 6.3 The Appeal against Selection in the MacRobertson Shield was a transparent and successful process. The decision of the panel was delivered promptly following the hearing and the document was made public. Gary commended the Appeal Panel, Peter Landrebe as Chair of Selectors and the Appellant, Ken Bald.
- 6.4 An amended draft of the Anti-Doping policy has been submitted to the Australian Sports Anti -Doping Authority for approval. Testing only applies to an International Test group. The WCF has failed to establish a testing Policy at this point in time. The policy must be updated to maintain croquet's accreditation as a sport with the Australian Sports Commission.
- 6.5 The MacRobertson Shield was considered to be 'the best ever'. Gary complimented all who contributed to its success.
- 6.6 The "A" series will be reviewed.
- 6.7 The appointment of a part-time administrative assistant to work for ACA was made in January this year for a trial period of six months.
- 6.8 ACA Logo – several entries were submitted to the Executive. We wish to thank those people for their entries; however, we will seek professional assistance to create a new Logo for Croquet Australia.

Motion

That the Executive Report be accepted.

Moved	Doug Hall (WA)		
Seconded	Jacky McDonald (NSW)		
	Carried - yes	Defeated	Deferred

Voting

Carried unanimously	yes		
Queensland		Western Australia	
New South Wales		President	
Victoria		S/Vice President	
Tasmania		Treasurer	
South Australia		Vice President	

Agenda Item 6 (b) - Committee Reports

Committee Reports have previously been circulated

Motion

That the Committee Reports be accepted.

Moved	Doug Hall (WA)		
Seconded	Jacky McDonald (NSW)		
	Carried - yes	Defeated	Deferred

Voting

Carried unanimously	yes		
Queensland		Western Australia	
New South Wales		President	
Victoria		S/Vice President	
Tasmania		Treasurer	
South Australia		Vice President	

Agenda Item 6(c) - State Reports

State Reports have previously been circulated

Motion

That the State Reports be accepted.

Moved	Doug Hall (WA)		
Seconded	Jacky McDonald (NSW)		
	Carried -yes	Defeated	Deferred

Voting

Carried unanimously	yes		
Queensland		Western Australia	
New South Wales		President	
Victoria		S/Vice President	
Tasmania		Treasurer	
South Australia		Vice President	

Note: The Treasurers Report will be considered under Item 10 - Finances

Business arising from reports

- 6.9 Greg Rowberry stated that the membership figures supplied for SA may be incorrect, he felt sure that the Golf Croquet Players may have been left out.

Tony Hall moved a motion, seconded Greg Rowberry; that the budget be altered in respect of the amended figures to be supplied by SA.

Carried Unanimously.

- 6.10 Doug Hall questioned the lack of funding from the Australian Sports commission. Gary clarified the position and reported that the Executive would be looking at funding from sources that supported aging and health.
- 6.11 Concern was expressed over dialogue published on certain internet sites ('flaming'). ACA discourages team members from participating in this activity; executives and committee members are not permitted to participate in such discussions.
- 6.12 Tony Hall noted that there was no report from the Equipment Officer, Shirley Hallinan and outlined the duties of the position. The Equipment is stored in a cupboard at the VCC and will not be moved from that venue except for International Events.

Agenda Item 7 - Elections

Executive Committee

The following nominations have been received within the requisite constitutional timeframes.

President	Gary Fox (TAS)
Secretary	Maree Skinner (SA)
Treasurer	Tony Hall (NSW)
Vice President	Stephen Meatheringham (NSW)
Vice President	Rosemary News (NSW)

The following nominations have been withdrawn:

President	Gary Fox (TAS)
Vice President	Rosemary News (NSW)

Accordingly the nominated officers (save and except for Gary Fox and Rosemary News) are duly elected.

Nominations were called for the position of President.

WA nominated John Fransen (NSW). Tasmania seconded the nomination. **Carried unanimously.**

Nominations were called for the position of Vice President.

Victoria nominated Max Murray (NSW). Tasmania seconded the motion. **Carried unanimously.**

Accordingly, John Fransen is elected as President and Max Murray is elected as Vice President.

Selection Committee – 3 positions

The election of the Selection Committee is deferred until consideration by Council of proposals to amend the ACA Handbook at this meeting. If the amendments are agreed to by Council the Selection Committee will comprise three members, two of whom will be elected at this Council meeting; the third member will be the most recently appointed Australian Team Captain of the MacRobertson Shield or Trans Tasman teams.

Nominations

Mr Stephen Meatheringham NSW

Additionally, a nomination has been received after the constitutional time frames from Mr Peter Landrebe (NSW)

Nominations may be made from the floor to contest the remaining positions on the Committee, in which case an election will be held at the meeting.

The Amendments to the Handbook having been dealt with, the elections for the Selection Committee proceeded.

The effects of the Amendments to the Selection Policy on this election of the Selection Committee are as follows:

“The Selection Committee will consist of **four members** one of whom will be the most recently appointed Australian Captain of the Australian MacRobertson Shield or Trans Tasman Team. Three members of the Committee will be elected at the Annual General Meeting of Council and must have specific recent skills appropriate to the duties of the Selection Committee.”

Council agreed that Stephen Meatheringham's nomination was valid. (Moved NSW, seconded WA; carried unanimously).

Accordingly, nominations for the two remaining positions on the Committee were called for.

Additional Nominations

Name	Nominator	Seconded
Peter Landrebe	NSW	TAS
Alan Sands	WA	VIC
Harley Watts	SA	No Seconder (Nomination lapsed)

Voting

Carried unanimously	yes
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Elected

Name	State	Comments
Mr Stephen Meatheringham	NSW	Automatically elected
Mr Peter Landrebe	NSW	Elected
Mr Alan Sands	WA	Elected

Laws Committee – 3 positions

Nominations within the constitutional timeframe:

Mr John Riches (SA)
Ms Nell Haas (QLD)

Mr George Karoly (Vic) was nominated from the floor and there being no other nominations, is duly elected.

Name	State	Elected
Mr John Riches	SA	Already Elected
Ms Nell Haas	QLD	Already Elected
Mr George Karoly	VIC	Elected

Agenda Item 8 - Appointments

No appointments are required to be made by Council.

Events Manager	this position is under review
National Coaching Director	Mrs Jane Lewis
National Director of Refereeing	Mr Owen Edwards
National Director Gateball	Mr Keith McLeod (Until a replacement is appointed)
Magazine Editor	Ms Claire Gorton
Magazine Subscriptions Manager	Mrs Judith Evans
National Golf Croquet Director	vacant
National Schools Coaching Director	vacant
Equipment Officer	Mrs Shirley Hallinan
Librarian/Archivist	Mrs Brenda Roberts
Insurance Officer	this position is under review
National Handicapper	Mr Ray Howell

Matters arising from Appointments.

- 8.1 Ray Howell will be the Chair of the Handicapping Committee. It was suggested that there should be two representatives from each State (Association Croquet and Golf Croquet) on the Handicapping Committee.
- 8.2 The Events Manager, Insurance Officer and Secretary's positions will be amalgamated.
- 8.3 Max Murray will take on the management of the Magazine; a new Editor is required as Claire Gorton is retiring from the position.

Agenda Item 9 - Alterations to the Handbook

Submitted by Executive

It is moved that the following amendments be made to the ACA Handbook

BY-LAW 27.5 SELECTION COMMITTEE,

Delete Section 27.5 and replace with:

“27.5 Selection Committee

27.5.1

- .1 The Committee shall be known as the Selection Committee;
 - .2 The Committee shall consist of **four** members one of whom will be the most recently appointed Australian Captain of the Australian MacRobertson Shield or Trans-Tasman Team.
 - .3 **Three** members of the Committee will be elected at the Annual General Meeting of Council and must have specific recent skills appropriate to the duties of the Selection Committee;
 - .4 The Committee shall comprise ex-officio members:
 - .4.1 the President who shall not necessarily be required to attend Committee meetings and shall not have a vote thereat; and
 - .4.2 the Australian Team Coach who shall be consulted on all relevant Committee discussions but shall have no vote thereat;
 - 5 Any member of the Committee will stand aside from the Committee's deliberations if the Committee is considering either the Committee member or the Committee's member's close friends and family for selection. The President shall have sole discretion in determining this issue.
 - .6 The Committee shall report to Council at the AGM and other occasions as required through the Chairperson or nominee;
 - .7 The Committee shall be solely responsible for the selection of:
 - .7.1 players and any reserves, if necessary, for international and national events or squads in terms of the selection policy approved by the Executive;
 - .7.2 seeded players for any Australian event;
- 27.5.2 The Selection Policy approved by the Executive shall be published by the ACA Secretary and forwarded to members of the Association. The Selection Policy will be effective one month from the date it is forwarded to members. Any changes to the Selection Policy, approved by the Executive, will be effective one month from the date of notification to members.
- 27.5.3 The ACA Secretary shall ensure that the selectors have been provided with details of events for which selections are required and, where possible, the results of relevant events.
- 27.5.4 The Chairman of Selectors, on behalf of the Selection Committee shall advise the ACA Secretary the names of players selected, in terms of By Law 27.5.1.7. The ACA Secretary shall advise the players concerned, or delegate another person to do so.”

Rationale

It was apparent during the selection processes for the Trans-Tasman and MacRobertson Shield teams that the level of expertise required by the selectors to fully implement the approved

Selection policy is significant. It was fortunate that we had a majority of members on the Selection Committee with exposure to this level of play.

It is now no longer prudent to have elected to the Committee people without this level of skill.

An appeal lodged against the selection of the MacRobertson Shield team was upheld on limited grounds and the issue referred back to the Selection Committee. The Committee considered the issue and confirmed that the team selected would remain unchanged. The Appeal decision was

36. *This appeal succeeds on the ground that the Selection Committee should have, but did not, adequately consider the relative strengths of likely doubles pairings.*
37. *Accordingly, we refer the selection back to the Selection Committee for reconsideration of that issue under paragraph 9.9 of the Policy.*
38. *The Panel expresses no view as to whether the Selection Committee's reconsideration of this issue will or should alter the overall balance of the many factors that it has properly taken into account.*
39. *The Panel wishes to acknowledge the diligent and transparent approach that the Selection Committee has taken. We have seen no evidence of any bias or lack of objectivity, and the one area in which we have allowed this appeal is a limited one.*

The issue of the doubles pairings and the reason for the appeal being upheld in a limited way is difficult to address. Team doubles pairings and order of play is a matter for the Team Captain to resolve and this can be, and is, changed during events. The MacRobertson Shield recently held demonstrates this. The Selectors may assume some pairings will be played and may select players based on known strengths in pairings and may discount known pairings assuming that players selected will perform better than known pairings. More definitive input is required from a Team Captain to achieve a better outcome.

The inclusion of the Team Captain is one option; another is to provide for formal discussions with the team captain once appointed. The Team Captain is appointed by the Executive, on a recommendation from the Selection Committee. The appointment of the Team Captain is usually made at the same time as the team is announced, or shortly thereafter. It is probable that the Team Captain may not have been appointed under current arrangements while the team selection process is under way.

The appointment of the Team Captain earlier in the process is an option. Another option is to recognise that the most recently appointed Team captain has an appropriate level of skill to assist in the selection process of players that may form satisfactory doubles pairings. Informal discussions are not satisfactory as they are difficult to bring into a formalised selection process and are better held when all or most of the Selection Committee are present. This would add greater cost to the process.

The inclusion of the most recently appointed Team Captain on the Selection Committee is the preferred option. This would provide for either the Captain of the previous team to be included on the Committee or, should another appointment for the current team be made, this new appointee would automatically assume the position on the Selection Committee.

The proposed amendments would allow the appointment of senior players to the Committee. This occurs in England and New Zealand and is necessary to bring to the Committee the level of expertise that is necessary to best select International teams. This level of expertise includes

advanced tactics, detailed understanding of multiple peeling breaks ranging from the simple triple options to advance peeling options on opponents and responses to these tactics; a detailed understanding of the psychological aspect of the game at this level and the ability to properly analyse the data available on contenders match results and the potential opponents results.

There are only a small number of people with these skills and the proposed reduction in the size of the Committee reflects this.

Additionally, members of the Selection Committee would be required to stand aside from the selection processes where they or close friends or family were being considered for selection. The President, an ex-officio member of the Committee, would have sole discretion in determination of this issue.

Ex-officio members of the Committee would continue to include the President and Australian Team Coach, if one is appointed.

Please note: this motion was amended by agreement, to the effect that the Selection Committee will consist of four members (three in the original motion) and that three would be elected by council (two in the original motion).

Moved	TAS		
Seconded	VIC		
	Carried yes	Defeated	Deferred

Voting

Carried unanimously	Yes		
Queensland		Western Australia	
New South Wales		President	
Victoria		S/Vice President	
Tasmania		Treasurer	
South Australia		Vice President	

CONDITION 52.2 AB MORRISON ENCOURAGEMENT AWARD

Delete Section 52.2.2 and replace with

52.2.2 To be eligible for this award a player must have a grade less than 1700 on the Australian Ranking list at the closing date for entries. The Australian ranking grade used to determine the award may be varied by the Executive and published prior to the event.

The AB Morrison Award has been determined by the use of Handicap. Before the National Handicapping System (NHS), State Handicaps were used. The issues about the use of a handicap as a measure have not changed.

Players who would be eligible in 2006 had the amendment been in operation were:

Player Name		Handicap	Grade	State
Taylor	Nerida	4	1676	NSW
Verge	Alix	4.5	1642	NSW
Gentle	Pam	3.5	1636	NSW
Hartley	Neil	3	1625	NSW
Wilson	Chris	4	1615	NSW
Edwards	Ken	3.5	1597	NSW
Hughes	Michael	6	1530	NSW
Prins	Martyn	7	1529	NSW
Bailey	Ian	3.5	1525	NSW
Walsh	Alan	6	1521	NSW
Howes	Stephen	4.5	1454	NSW

There are significant differences between players with similar grade and their handicap.

The only consistent measure to determine level of ability is the use of the Australian Rankings which include major competition games.

Moved	VIC		
Seconded	TAS		
	Carried - yes	Defeated	Deferred

Voting

Carried unanimously	yes		
Queensland		Western Australia	
New South Wales		President	
Victoria		S/Vice President	
Tasmania		Treasurer	
South Australia		Vice President	

REGULATION 5 SUPERVISING REFEREE

Delete Regulation 5(h) and renumber remaining sections (h) to (j)

Currently Regulation 5(h) allows a Supervising Referee to impose a 45 second and a one minute time limit between strokes/turns in singles and doubles games respectively. This time limit has been rarely used, does not work and the effect of it is contrary to the Law 49 (a) Expedition in Play.

The Official Rulings on the Laws of Croquet say:

49.3.1 A nine-hoop break with a leave consists of 70 strokes and can generally be completed in 12 to 25 minutes, giving an average time per stroke of between 10 and 20 seconds. In practice, a referee is unlikely to take action until the average duration rises to 30 seconds per stroke and should also be influenced by the tactical difficulties and lawn conditions

that the striker faces. It may be argued that players differ greatly in their natural rhythms and that croquet is a game intended to be played with care. Nonetheless, if a time-limit is in operation, the adversary is entitled to consideration. It is also worthy of note that some extraordinary accelerations in the pace of play have been seen in apparently slow players when a slender lead has become a deficit.

A 12 hoop break may take 90 strokes and take around 40 minutes.

Under the 45 second rule these breaks may take double the time and the referee is unable to interfere in the game as each stroke/turn is less than 45 seconds.

The Regulation serves no purpose, is contrary to the spirit of the laws of the game and should be removed.

Moved	QLD		
Seconded	VIC		
	Carried yes	Defeated	Deferred

Voting

Carried unanimously			
Queensland	yes	Western Australia	yes
New South Wales	yes	President	yes
Victoria	no	S/Vice President	n/a
Tasmania	yes	Treasurer	yes
South Australia	no	Vice President	n/a

Australian Medal Events

Proposals to formalise arrangements agreed to by Council at its meeting in Hobart in 2005 will be submitted to Council as a postal vote following this meeting.

New South Wales has submitted the following Notices of Motion

Motion 1

That as from 2008 the Australia Championships be divided as follows.

- a. **Gold Medal and Eire Cup**
- b. **Men's Singles, Women's singles, Open Doubles and Open Singles.**

NSW Rationale: The Golf Medal and the Eire Cup competitions are strictly State based competitions i.e. to determine the best state in the case of the Eire Cup and in the case of the Gold Medal it is determine the gold Medal for the whole of Australia and has restricted access. . The Australian Singles and Doubles titles on the other hand are for the individual and therefore should stand alone. It is totally ridiculous because of the costs in travelling that these individual titles have been split in two. Players now have to make a choice on which one they will enter with

the result that one of these competitions will be devalued. It is very doubtful that players from South Australia and Western Australia will come over for two tournaments nor will players from the Eastern States travel to the West for the same reason. They will in effect go to the closest due to costs.

The Gold Medal and Eire Cup competitions should be rotated around the States as is presently done.

The Men's and Women's Singles, the Open Singles and Doubles could be held at the new headquarters in Victoria unless any state prefers to conduct them in their turn. If this were done then some form of travel compensation would have to be looked into because it would always be that the players from the Queensland and W.A would be paying the most to attend whilst those in Victoria would hardly have to travel.

Executive Response

The Executive does not support the motion.

The proposal does not take into account the decisions made at the Plenary session in 2006 or any of the rationale for the split of the events initially.

The Plenary Session in 2006 supported a paper submitted by the Executive that outlined the future directions of competitive croquet at National and International level. This paper supported the continuation of the existing split in national events for Association Croquet. Additionally it was clear that National events are designed to be played by the best players in Australia and that some players have to make choices as they do with all the events that they compete in.

The one area of improvement to existing events is the expansion of the Doubles Championship of Australia. The current event is still below international standard. Centralisation of the Open and Doubles Championship of Australia at the VCA will allow this to be improved in 2007. It is proposed to play the event as blocks of 8 with the last eight pairs playing best of three matches. This will increase the event time by half a day and play will commence at midday on the Friday.

The timing of the events is now 9 days for both. To maintain the existing formats would see the NSW proposal extend the Open and events held in conjunction with that event to 13/14 days and reduce the Interstate Cup event to a 5 day event for most (and an additional 3 days for those 6 players involved in the Gold Medal). State Team players can play in the Mens and Womens before the Interstate Cup event now and the NSW proposal would see no play for these players before that event. The only option available to reduce the 13/14 days required to conduct these events is to reduce the standard to below international standard.

The proposals contained in the second and third paragraphs are already provided for and were agreed at the Plenary Session held in conjunction with the Council Meeting in 2006.

Travel compensation is not practical and there is no method that would provide the funds for this without a significant increase in entry fees to match the amount of travel compensation provided. Experience with the Presidents Eights and previous discussions on this indicate the degree of complexity of the arrangements and the degree of difficulty of attempting to do this on a larger scale. It would be impractical to go down this path.

Moved	NSW		
Seconded	No Secunder – Motion lapsed		
	Carried	Defeated	Deferred

Voting

Carried unanimously			
Queensland		Western Australia	
New South Wales		President	
Victoria		S/Vice President	
Tasmania		Treasurer	
South Australia		Vice President	

Motion 2. (NSW)

That if more entries are received than are required for the Men's, Women's Singles and the Open singles and Doubles then a qualifying tournament be held in the week prior to the commencement date for at least four places in the main draw.

NSW Rationale It is common knowledge that the A.C.A. is endeavouring to make the Australian championships a tournament of the highest world standing and this is as it should be.

However this should not be to the detriment of the lesser players who make up the majority of the games players. The aim of all Croquet Associations is to encourage play and so to limit entries to the elite players only denies the very people who should be aspiring to the higher level the opportunity to participate at the highest level while they are improving their game.

Both the current President and the Immediate Past President have been very clear in their stated intentions to encourage play at all levels and these restrictions fly in the face of those intentions.

By conducting a Qualifying Event it means that both aims can be achieved and the club players will at least know that there is a chance to play with the best and that the sport is not elitist. The winner(s) can progress to the main draw and the losers will have had their shot at glory and if needs be can be included in the Plate.

Executive Response

Preliminary events are held when the need arises in each State. The motion is redundant.

Moved	NSW		
Seconded	No Seconder – Motion lapsed		
	Carried	Defeated	Deferred

Queensland has submitted the following Notice of Motion

That the ACA abide by the constitutional objects, 2.2 to advance and promote the game of croquet and related sports of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Queensland Rationale.

Included in the strategic plan 2005/7 Corporate Goals- is the aim to promote all associate mallet sports. In the key performance Area 3. Participation 3.3 strategies "to promote Gateball as complementary game to croquet."

Participation numbers are growing with children playing in regional and club team events. There are councils supporting inner school competitions in partnership with school sports departments. Most participants play multiple racket sports thus keeping small clubs viable.

As Australian Gateball Promotions (registered business name owned ACA) is recognised by the World Gateball Union. It must follow that ACA will continue to own and support the game of Gateball.

Executive Response

Gateball was discussed at the last Executive Meeting and the Executive agreed that issues about the racket sport would be discussed with the Director of Gateball. These include the selection of teams to represent Australia and the application made for the use of the Coat of Arms.

The Executive also discussed the continuation of support for Gateball within the suite of racket sports supported by the ACA. There were a number of opposing views put and in the end the Executive agreed that the status quo should continue. A consequence of this is that there are no notices of motion to change the status quo.

The position of Gateball should remain under review. It is not part of the World Croquet Federation suite of racket sports as it has its own International Federation and Australia is the only croquet association that is involved in it.

These issues will be discussed with the Director of Gateball in the review of all positions and should take place in the New Year.

The office bearers of Australian Gateball Promotions are the office bearers of the ACA. Effectively the Executive of both organisations is the same.

Executive Comments

The Executive does not support this proposal. Please refer to the Plenary Session paper which covers this issue.

Moved	QLD
Seconded	No Seconder – Motion lapsed

Agenda Item 10 - Finances

Finances

Treasurer's Report

- 10.1 Tony summarised his Treasurer's report.
- 10.2 Tony presented the Croquet Australia Investment Policy.

**QLD moved that the Croquet Australia Investment Policy be approved.
Seconded TAS.
Carried unanimously.**

- 10.3 The magazine will continue to require a small subsidy (expected increased subscriptions should cover the cost). Recommend an Advertising manager be appointed (an Editor is also required).
- 10.4 EFT is now saving time for Executives.
- 10.5 Jacky McDonald suggested that ACA Bank Account details be included on Entry Forms – agreed and noted.
- 10.6 Tony went on to summarise the Budget and other financial documents.
- 10.7 Amendments were made to figures under the heading of 'Budget 2007'. An amended budget incorporating all the following changes is attached.
 - 10.7.1** Under Income the Affiliation Fees and Tours Travel Levies were to be amended in accordance with changed SA figures (see minute 6.9 above).
[Secretarial Note: The changes are from \$31,772 to \$32,308 and from \$31,411 to \$31,941 respectively, all after GST is deducted.]
 - 10.7.2** Under Expenditure an amount of **nil** was amended to **\$3,000** for WCF AC, GC /TT/MacR for the WCF Women's GC Championship in Ireland in September 2007.
[Secretarial Note: An additional \$500 has now been added to allow for shirts and entry fees.]
 - 10.7.3** The amount of **\$8,000** was amended to **\$10,000** for Admin Assistant.
[Secretarial Note: The category of Admin Assistant has now been divided into Admin Assistant (for the period 1 Jan to 30 Jun 07) at \$4000 and Executive Director (1 Jul to 31 Dec 07) at \$13,000. See minute 10.16 below.]
 - 10.7.4** **[Secretarial Note:** Refinements since the AGM have lead to the following amendments in Income:
 - IS Cup, Mens & Womens decreased to \$4020 from \$5000.
 - Golf Croquet IS and Open increased to \$3780 from \$ 2000 (entrants increased to 48 from 32).
 - Total becomes \$140325.]
 - 10.7.5** **[Secretarial Note:** Refinements since the AGM have lead to the following amendments in Expenditure:
 - IS Cup, Mens & Womens decreased to \$3850 from \$5000.
 - Golf Croquet IS and Open increased to \$3430 from \$2000.
 - Trans-Tasman A increased to \$3127 from \$3051.
 - Honoraria increased to \$10325 from \$10075.
 - Council increased to \$6650 from \$4000. (More expensive travel to WA than expected.)
 - Total becomes \$136,832 and excess of Income over Expenditure becomes \$3,493.]
 - [Secretarial Note:** Amendments to the International Events Fund have been made consequent to changes in Income and Expenditure.]
- 10.8 Council agreed to amend the Draft Schedule of Fees, payments and Honoraria – 2007. Accommodation for Council Meeting was incorrectly stated as \$210 for Delegates for two nights (**amended to \$220**) and incorrectly stated as \$315 for Executive for three nights

(**amended to \$330**). [Secretarial Note: Honoraria relating to Secretary, Events Manager and Minutes Secretary have been deleted from the attached approved schedule. See minutes 10.13 and 10.16 below.]

QLD moved that the amendments to the Draft Budget be approved.

Seconded SA.

Carried Unanimously

- 10.9 It was agreed that the Executive would contact Deniliquin within one month to negotiate costs of hosting the Golf croquet Handicap Events.
- 10.10 Tony pointed out that Selection and Handicapping Committee expenses should not have been included in 'National Events' in the Income and Expenses part of the accounts. This is explained in the handout entitled 'Expansion of "National Events"'.

Motion: That the Treasurers Report, the Financial Accounts for 2006 and the Schedule of Entry Fees and Prizes for ACA Events, 2007 be accepted and that the Amended Budget for 2007 and the Amended Schedule of Fees, Charges and Honoraria, be approved.

Moved	VIC		
Seconded	SA		
	Carried yes	Defeated	Deferred

Voting

Carried unanimously	yes		
Queensland		Western Australia	
New South Wales		President	
Victoria		S/Vice President	
Tasmania		Treasurer	
South Australia		Vice President	

10.11 Gary addressed the issue of having a paid part-time administrator appointed to Croquet Australia. Volunteers can no longer be expected to carry out the work, there is just too much to do in a voluntary capacity. The Executive proposes that Maree Skinner be appointed as a part-time Executive Director taking in the duties of Secretary, Insurance officer and Events Manager.

10.12 The position will be filled on a trial basis and the Executive Director will be fully accountable and will report to the Executive.

10.13 The position will have to be funded from existing honoraria and the funds budgeted for an administrative assistant plus a small amount from ACA funds.

10.14 The long term aim is to fund the position from Grants.

10.15 Greg Rowberry asked if the Australian Sports Commission would fund the position. Gary replied that ASC does not fund administrative positions for National Sporting Bodies.

10.16 The meeting was in agreement with the appointment of Maree Skinner as part-time Executive Director on a trial basis, that the budget be amended appropriately and that it would be acceptable to draw on our reserves for this purpose until affiliation fee increases took effect.

Doug Hall (WA) moved: That the affiliation fees be raised to \$5.40 per annum per member from next year.
Seconded TAS.
Carried unanimously.

Agenda Item 11 – Players Meeting Recommendations.

Not received.

Agenda Item 12 – Australian Croquet Championships arrangements for 2008 and 2009.

12.1 QLD will host the Interstate Cup the Gold medal Event and the Men's and Women's Singles Championship in 2008:

- Gold Medal – March 26, 27, 28
- Men's and Women's Singles - March 29,30,31 and April 1
- Interstate Cup April 2,3,4,5,6

12.2.1 States were requested to advise the ACA Secretary within a month, if it is their intent to enter a team in the Golf Croquet Interstate Event in September in the Hunter Valley.

12.2.2 The Australian Open Championships will be held at the Victorian Croquet Centre in 2008.

Other Business

Tony Hall advised the meeting that he has organised a reprint of the Rules of Association Croquet. The publication is available to the States at a cost of \$4. Copies may be purchased through the Equipment officer.

Tony also advised that the Golf Croquet Rules would be issued for public comment very soon.

Gary invited President, John Fransen and Vice-President, Max Murray to the Executive table and handed the meeting over to John. John thanked Gary for his contribution to Croquet Australia, particularly in the last 12 months as President. Gary will work with the Executive closely over the next 12 months as Immediate Past President to update policies and procedures.

John commented that it would be difficult to replace Gary as President.

The meeting closed at 3.05pm.