



## AUSTRALIAN CROQUET ASSOCIATION

[www.croquet-australia.com.au](http://www.croquet-australia.com.au)

### CLIPS — EXECUTIVE NEWS

As we edge closer to the GC Interstate Shield/ GC Gold Medal/and Men's and Women's Championships the Executive Committee has been aware of the need to clarify a number of issues which require formal resolutions by the ACA Council. Hence we have advised States that the Council meeting (on 15<sup>th</sup> Sept) to be held in conjunction with these Adelaide events will be preceded by a Special Council Meeting which will have the power to make changes to our Constitution (Handbook).

The main item on the Agenda will be consideration of and the proposed adoption of the Strategic Plan which gives direction and paves the way for the future of Croquet in Australia. The Strategic Planning Working Group comprised a representative of each State body and has performed an enormous amount of work in framing this Plan, and Executive have expressed their appreciation of this important work.

I urge all interested players to follow up with your State representatives on the ACA Council to acquaint yourselves with the issues to be debated, some of which are explained in the Executive Minutes which are posted on the ACA website.

#### Golf Croquet Handicap Cards

Following the introduction of a method of using handicap cards for GC doubles competitions there has been some discussion re the use of Handicap cards for GC and queries as to the need to use cards for ALL events. Executive committee members deliberated on what constitutes a game that is eligible for handicapping, and consulted with the National GC Handicapper. It decided that it is impractical to apply the Automatic Handicapping System outlined in the Appendix to *The Rules of Golf Croquet* November, 2013 to ALL games played as there are many occasions when social or club play is just that....a social hit with no intention to impose changes to one's index. Gala Days and Club Social Days are ideal opportunities for newer players to gain experience and on many occasions, although a winner is declared at the end of the day, this can be determined by a varied number of methods and not necessarily games or net hoops. To insist on the use of Handicap Cards for all games would also tend to deter players from experimenting with different strokes/tactics.

Where it is intended that Handicap Cards are NOT to be used in Social Play, this should be explained in the flyer/promotion for the event and persons entering will be aware of this.

#### Scholarships

The ACA Selection Policy provides for the ACA to award scholarships (including Junior Scholarships) annually to promising players to assist them to attend nominated tournaments with the aim of extending their experience and development as players. We recently corresponded with all States (and posted advice on the ACA Web) seeking nominations for

consideration in this year's round. Nominations close on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August and I urge players to contact their State officers or their club to obtain more information.

### Appointed Officers

You will be aware that, as a National Sporting Organisation, we have numerous volunteers filling positions in ACA to assist with the running of the sport and development of its players. Each of these Appointed Officer positions has been an annual appointment following each AGM in March. Executive has been concerned that this process restricts the organisation in planning for the ensuing year as a newly Appointed Officer (AO) will require some time to come up to speed in his/her portfolio and will then have less than 12 months to put their plans in place.

We are proposing at the Adelaide Special Council Meeting to seek agreement to change this process so that AO's will be appointed in the latter part of each year and have an opportunity to prepare their plans and work with the ACA Treasurer on their proposed budgets before assuming their portfolio in January.

### ACA Website

The Executive Committee is instituting a review of the Website and at its September meeting Council will consider the scope and process of such a review. With the increasing use of and accessibility to computers it is timely to consider our communication with members and the wider public. From October last year to June this year there have been more than 50,000 uses of our web site. With this level of access it is imperative that we continuously review how we present our sport and ensure that our Web content is relevant and easy to access. If you have an interest in this aspect of our operations and would be interested in participating on a review group or have any (helpful!!) suggestions, please contact the Administrative Officer at [admin@croquet-australia.com.au](mailto:admin@croquet-australia.com.au) and we will ensure that your interest is flagged as the review is undertaken.

### ACA Office

The ACA office in Canberra's Sports House has come under review with a change in the management of this complex. A new facility has been built on the University of Canberra's campus to house the tenants of ACT Sports House. Executive has agreed that the ACA's office will be re-located from the current building to the new facility, Sports Commons, for a twelve month trial. Our Administrative Officer, Susan Linge, is negotiating for a special "bundle" covering ACA's telecommunications needs as part of this agreement.

### GC Interstate Shield

The GC Tournaments to be held in Adelaide from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Sept will be hosted at a number of Adelaide clubs as well as at SACA in the city. The Men's and Women's Nationals have each attracted 32 entrants and a great tournament is assured.

Don't forget there are numerous tournaments throughout the year and spectators are very welcome to enjoy these. Why not plan your holidays around one of the following:

October 21-26 Launceston, Tasmania – Association Croquet Handicap Tournament

November 3-7 Deniliquin, NSW – Golf Croquet Handicap Tournament

November 15-23 Cairnlea, Vic – Association Croquet Open Doubles and Singles Championship.

And of course there are many local events in each state and details of these are found in the ACA's *Croquet Australia* magazine.

Cheers

Neil White  
PRESIDENT, ACA

