

CROQUET AUSTRALIA

*Minutes of the 59th Annual General Meeting
Held at Sports House, Corner Caxton and Castlemaine Streets
Milton QLD 4064
On Friday April 4th 2008 at 1.30pm*

Present:

President	John Fransen
Senior Vice President	Stephen Meatheringham
Vice President	Max Murray
Executive Director / Secretary	Maree Skinner
Treasurer	Tony Hall

Delegates:

NSW	Jacky McDonald	Geof McDonald
SA	Norma Amey	Doug Amey
QLD	Elizabeth Fleming	Valda Wintzer
WA	Doug Hall	Brian Hadley
VIC	Val Brown	George Latham
TAS	Graham Denehey	Gwen Denehey

Apologies: Nil

Observers: Chris Pont, Jean Murray, Lowen Clarke, Bruce Mitchell.

Scrutineers: Eric Miller, Trevor Bassett

Agenda Item 1 – Opening

The President, John Fransen, welcomed the attendees to the meeting and asked the Delegates to introduce themselves.

Agenda Item 2 – Roll Call

The President, Senior Vice President, Vice President, Treasurer, Executive Director / Secretary and all Delegates were present.

Agenda Item 3 -Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Minutes of the 58th Annual General Meeting held at Forrest Park Croquet Club, 66 Harold Street Mt Lawley WA on Monday 2nd April 2007 at 1-30pm

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Motion

That the Minutes of the 58th Annual General Meeting held at Forrest Park Croquet Club, 66 Harold Street Mt Lawley WA be accepted as a true record.

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 4 – Business Arising from the Previous Minutes

1. Page 2 of the minutes: Motion for Action Plan (from 2006 and 2007).

“That the Executive in association with the appointed officers prepare and draft an Annual Action Plan for ratification at the AGM.”

Jacky McDonald inquired as to whether the action plan had been produced. The Executive response was that it had not been done as there had been too many other things to deal with.

Agenda Item 5 – Correspondence

The Executive Director 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.

Motion

That the Executive Report be accepted.

Moved	Graham Denehey (TAS)		
Seconded	Val Brown (VIC)		
	Carried - yes	Defeated	Deferred

Voting

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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	George Latham (VIC)		
Seconded	Gwen Denehey (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	

Agenda Item 6(c) - State Reports

State Reports have previously been circulated. Doug Hall (WA) apologised as a report had not been supplied from WA.

Motion

That the State Reports be accepted.

Moved	Doug Hall (WA)		
Seconded	Norma Amey (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	

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

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Business arising from reports

Nil.

Agenda Item 7 - Elections

Executive Committee

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

President	Two nominations withdrawn
Senior Vice President	Stephen Meatheringham (NSW)
Vice President	Max Murray (NSW), Bruce Fleming (QLD)
Treasurer	Tony Hall
Secretary / Executive Director	Maree Skinner (SA)

The following nominations have been withdrawn:

President	John Fransen (NSW), Bruce Mitchell (QLD)
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Accordingly the nominated officers (save and except for the positions of President and Vice President) are duly elected.

Nominations were called for the position of President.

Val Brown (VIC) nominated **Max Murray** and Graham Denehey (Tas) seconded the nomination. Elizabeth Fleming (QLD) nominated **Bruce Mitchell** and Jacky McDonald seconded the nomination.

The Secret Ballot process was explained and scrutineers Eric Miller and Trevor Bassett conducted the Ballot.

Max Murray was declared the successful nominee for the position of **President**.

Bruce Fleming was duly elected to the position of **Vice President** following the election of Max Murray to the position of President and his consequential withdrawal of his nomination for Vice President.

Selection Committee – 3 positions

Nominations

Stephen Meatheringham	(NSW)
Alan Sands	(WA)
Anna Miller	(VIC)

Elected

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Name	State	Comments
Stephen Meatheringham	NSW	Automatically elected
Alan Sands	WA	Automatically Elected
Anna Miller	VIC	Automatically Elected

Laws Committee – 3 positions

Nominations within the constitutional timeframe:

Nell Haas	(QLD)
George Karoly	(VIC)
Ken Hopkins	(VIC)

Name	State	Elected
Nell Haas	QLD	Automatically Elected
George Karoly	VIC	Automatically Elected
Ken Hopkins	VIC	Automatically Elected

Agenda Item 8 - Appointments

No appointments are required to be made by Council.

Events Manager	Max Murray
National Coaching Director	John Riches
National Director of Refereeing	Mr Owen Edwards
National Director Gateball	Gilon Smith
Magazine Editor	Carolyn Ribone
Magazine Subscriptions Manager	Judith Evans
National Golf Croquet Director	Chris Pont
Equipment Officer/Sales Officer	**Shirley Hallinan
Librarian/Archivist	Brenda Roberts
Insurance Officer	*Maree Skinner
National Handicapper	Stephen Meatheringham
ILC Representative	Max Hooper
WCF GC Rules Committee Representative	**Tony Hall
Australian Coaching Consultant	**Steve Jones

*Secretarial note: An executive meeting held on Sunday 6th April determined a redistribution of some duties. The National Insurance Policies will be administered by the Vice President, Bruce Fleming with the assistance of Immediate Past President, John Fransen.

** Secretarial note. The positions of Sales Officer, ILC Representative, WCF GC Rules Committee Representative and Coaching Consultant were not mentioned at the meeting but have been added for the sake of completeness.

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Agenda Item 9 - Alterations to the Handbook

Submitted by Executive

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

Part C Conditions – Condition 56

Delete Condition 56 and replace with:

56 AUSTRALIAN MEDAL COMPETITION

Preamble

An event, the Australian Bronze Medal Event (previously known as the Australian Gold and Silver Medals event until 2005 and the Bronze Medal event until 2004 and as the ACA Gold Medal until 2000), shall be played for in each state. The winner of this event shall be expected to play in the Australian Gold and Silver Medal event at the annual Australian Championships (held at the time of the Men's and Women's Singles events and the Interstate Cup) at which the winner will receive the Australian Gold Medal and the second placed player will receive the Australian Silver Medal. The six state winners will be presented with their Australian Bronze Medals at this time.

- 56.1 Each state shall select between six (6) and ten (10) players to compete in the Bronze Medal event held by that State. States shall select the best available players to play in the events. In order to determine the best available players State Associations shall consider the results of the following types of events played under Association Rules in which their affiliated players have participated:
- (i) International Championship Events played in any country that include open events, invitational events and representational events
 - (ii) Australian Croquet Championships that include Australian Open events and Interstate Cup.
 - (iii) State Championships
 - (iv) Regional Championship Events deemed by the State Association to be significant to their State

All of the above shall be considered and no one event shall be regarded as a pre-requisite to selection. A prime factor in selection shall be a player's world ranking that is derived from the results in all the events mentioned above.

- 56.2 A seeded draw shall be used and the latest Australian Ranking list (as derived from the World Ranking List) at the time of the draw shall be used to seed players. The seeded draws for the various numbers of entries is as follows.

The seeded draw for 6 players:

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Round 1	3 v 5	1 v 6	2 v 4
Round 2	1 v 4	2 v 5	3 v 6
Round 3	4 v 6	2 v 3	1 v 5
Round 4	2 v 6	4 v 5	1 v 3
Round 5	1 v 2	3 v 4	5 v 6

The seeded draw for 8 players is as follows. This can also be used for 7 players.

Round 1	1 v 8	4 v 5	3 v 6	2 v 7
Round 2	4 v 6	1 v 7	2 v 8	3 v 5
Round 3	2 v 5	4 v 8	3 v 7	1 v 6
Round 4	3 v 8	2 v 6	1 v 5	4 v 7
Round 5	1 v 4	5 v 8	6 v 7	2 v 3
Round 6	5 v 7	1 v 3	2 v 4	6 v 8
Round 7	1 v 2	5 v 6	7 v 8	3 v 4

The seeded draw for 10 players is as follows. This can also be used for 9 players.

Round 1	1 v 10	5 v 6	4 v 7	3 v 8	2 v 9
Round 2	2 v 8	1 v 9	5 v 10	4 v 6	3 v 7
Round 3	3 v 6	2 v 7	1 v 8	9 v 10	4 v 5
Round 4	4 v 10	3 v 5	2 v 6	1 v 7	8 v 9
Round 5	7 v 8	4 v 9	3 v 10	2 v 5	1 v 6
Round 6	1 v 5	6 v 7	4 v 8	3 v 9	2 v 10
Round 7	2 v 3	1 v 4	5 v 9	7 v 10	6 v 8
Round 8	6 v 10	2 v 4	1 v 3	5 v 8	7 v 9
Round 9	6 v 9	8 v 10	5 v 7	1 v 2	3 v 4

Each player shall play each other player once in a single-life game.

- 56.3 The games shall be un-timed; however the Tournament Manager may impose a time limit in terms of ACA Regulations for Tournaments.
- 56.4 Any competitor forfeiting a game shall be scratched from the competition and all scores for and against shall be deleted from all results.
- 56.5 The winner and other positions in each block shall be determined in accordance with the ACA Regulations for Tournaments.
- 56.6 Each State may select the dates on which the event shall take place but the event shall be completed prior to the closing date for Interstate Cup entries. Results shall be sent to the ACA Secretary.
- 56.7 The entrance fee shall be determined by the Executive and advised to Council. Half of such fee will be retained by the State, and half will be sent to the ACA.
- 56.8 Hoops for this event shall be set with an internal width, at half ball height, of 3 11/16 inches with an upward tolerance of 1/32 of an inch.
- 56.9 The winners of the Australian Bronze Medal from each of the six states shall be expected to play in a double round robin event held annually at the time and location of the first half of the Australian Championships. The winner of this event will receive the Australian Gold Medal and the second placed player will receive the Australian Silver Medal. This double round robin event will be played under similar conditions as the Bronze Medal competition.
- 56.10 The Australian Gold Medal event will be played over three days in conjunction with the Interstate Cup event. Conditions 56.3 to 56.5 above and the following conditions apply to the event:
- (1). it shall be an unseeded event and order of play shall be drawn for.
 - (2). it will be played as a double round robin event with games played in the first round to be given priority in completion before the commencement of second round games.

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- (3) players will toss a coin to determine the choice of the lead in terms of Law 8(a) for games in the first round. For second round games between the same opponents the loser of the toss in the first round game shall be deemed to have won the toss for the second round game.

Rationale

At the Council meeting in Hobart in 2005 the Council approved the re-introduction of the play-offs for the Gold and Silver Medals. It was agreed at that Council meeting that the event would be held in 2006. The Notice of Motion to re-introduce the event was not presented in a way which amended the Conditions of the event contained in the ACA Handbook and this was not included on the agenda for the last Council meeting. Therefore this motion is submitted to the States for agreement.

Moved	Graham Denehey (TAS)		
Seconded	Doug Hall (WA)		
	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	

Part B - Section 27 Committees

Section 27.5 Selection Committee

Insert new clause 27.5.1.8

27.5.1.8 The Executive Committee shall appoint two people who have recent Golf Croquet specific skills to assist the Chairman of selectors to select players for all relevant Golf Croquet Events at such times as may be required.

Rationale:

At the recent Executive meeting on 12 November 2007 the selection of players for Golf Croquet Events was discussed. A number of players have suggested that the Selection Committee would benefit from the assistance of players with significant knowledge and skills specific to Golf Croquet. Therefore this motion is submitted to the States.

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Moved	George Latham (VIC)		
Seconded	Val Brown (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	

Part C Conditions – Condition 51.14

In accordance with Clause 13.5 of the Handbook (by which amendments to Regulations may be agreed by a simple motion at a meeting or by written agreement of all six member Associations) it is proposed that Regulation 51.14 is amended.

It reads: "After the toss players are permitted a five minute warm up with the balls to be used in that game and on the court to be used. In a best of three contest a warm up is to be allowed prior to each game."

It is proposed that it read: "After the toss players are permitted a five minute warm up with the balls to be used in that match and on the court to be used."

Rationale: It is unusual for practice to be allowed by players during a match. Players should be familiar with a court after playing on it and additional warm ups waste time and are not needed. Warm ups are not permitted in other countries during a match and Australian players should become familiar with world-wide practices if they are to be successful. Additionally, the current regulation fails to address best of five matches.

Moved	Doug Hall (WA)		
Seconded	George Latham (VIC)		
	Carried yes	Defeated	Deferred

Voting

Carried unanimously	No		
Queensland	No	Western Australia	Yes
New South Wales	No	President	Yes
Victoria	Yes	S/Vice President	Yes
Tasmania	Yes	Treasurer	Yes
South Australia	Yes	Vice President	Yes

Part C Conditions – Condition 51.15

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In accordance with Clause 13.5 of the Handbook (by which amendments to Regulations may be agreed by a simple motion at a meeting or by written agreement of all six member Associations) it is proposed that Regulation 51.15 is amended.

It reads: "Apart from the warm up (Reg 51.14) players may only practise on lawns being used for the tournament after play on them is completed for the day and subject to the agreement of the Venue Manager."

It is proposed that it read: "Players may only practice on courts being used for the tournament for the day at the discretion of the Venue Manager."

Rationale: The Venue Manager should be allowed the flexibility to nominate practice times and courts as is appropriate.

The motion was amended to read:

"On courts being used for the tournament for the day, players may only practice at the discretion of the Venue Manager."

Moved	Norma Amey (SA)		
Seconded	Jacky McDonald (NSW)		
	Carried yes	Defeated	Deferred

Voting

Carried unanimously	No		
Queensland	No	Western Australia	Yes
New South Wales	Yes	President	Yes
Victoria	Yes	S/Vice President	Yes
Tasmania	Yes	Treasurer	Yes
South Australia	Yes	Vice President	Yes

New South Wales has submitted the following Notices of Motion

Motion 1: ACA – Court Hire

That CNSW propose that the Tournament Management Fee be adjusted to accommodate an increase of court hire from \$15.00 to \$25.00 per court per day.

Rationale:

Most clubs charge daily green fees, so making courts available for outside tournaments is, in the case of these clubs, a direct loss of income. This becomes particularly significant if the club members have a strong participation in Golf Croquet and commonly double-bank games. The estimated loss of income in these instances is \$24 per court per day.

It is not considered that ordinary maintenance costs should be partially recovered by an increase in court hire fees, as these would be incurred by a club anyway. It is, however, a fact that most, if not all, clubs have extra grounds costs when hosting a tournament, partly from additional

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preparation and partly from increased mowing. These extra costs cannot be fully covered but should at least be recognized by an increase in court fees.

Executive response:

The Executive position is that we support the motion to increase the lawn fees, provided such increase is offset by a corresponding increase in entry fees. The ACA has run events at a loss this year and cannot afford to keep doing so. Events must be cost neutral at the very least. As a minor example an increase of \$10 to \$25 per lawn per day would result in a \$600 increase in lawn hire fees to the ACA for the hire of 12 lawns for the Eire Cup. This would have to be balanced by an increase in entry fees of \$100 per team (a total of \$265 per team based on this year's entry fee). Similar increases would be experienced for all events and would result in a corresponding increase in entry fees.

Moved	Jacky McDonald (NSW)		
Seconded	George Latham (VIC) and Elizabeth Fleming (QLD)		
	Carried yes	Defeated	Deferred

Voting

Carried unanimously	No		
Queensland	Yes	Western Australia	abstained
New South Wales	Yes	President	Yes
Victoria	Yes	S/Vice President	Yes
Tasmania	Yes	Treasurer	No
South Australia	Yes	Vice President	Yes

Motion: 2 Referee Refreshments

That an additional Tournament Management Fee of \$5.00 per day per court be paid to cover all Referees catering including morning and afternoon teas and lunch.

Rationale:

For the sake of referees, host clubs, and event organisers there should be clarity, consistency and fairness in the subsidising of on costs for referee refreshments. Host clubs should not be out of pocket, but nor should referees. Clarity is obviously needed because lack of it leads to an absence of consistency and fairness. Different policies (if largely ad hoc arrangements were to be dignified by the word 'policies') should not be used at different tournament venues. This can be avoided quite simply by allowing a modest sum of \$5 per day per referee to be covered from ACA by host clubs. This would also avoid confusion and embarrassment.

Executive response:

There is inconsistency between the Motion and the Rationale. The Motion needs to be amended. The Executive supports a fee of \$5 per referee per day to be paid to the Host Club for referees morning/afternoon tea and lunches. The ACA and the Host State will negotiate the number of referees required at each venue. Once again the increase in cost will need to be taken into account when setting entry fees for events.

The motion was amended to read:

“That an additional Tournament Management Fee of \$5.00 per day per referee be paid to cover all Referees catering including morning and afternoon teas and lunch.”

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Moved	Jacky McDonald (NSW)		
Seconded	Elizabeth Fleming (QLD)		
	Carried yes	Defeated	Deferred

Voting

Carried unanimously	No		
Queensland	Yes	Western Australia	abstained
New South Wales	Yes	President	Yes
Victoria	Yes	S/Vice President	Yes
Tasmania	Yes	Treasurer	Yes
South Australia	Yes	Vice President	Yes

Agenda Item 10 - Finances

Finances

Treasurer's Report

- 10.1 Tony presented the Treasurer's report dated 26th January 2008 already summarised at the Plenary Session.
- 10.2 The Treasurer' Report, Financial Accounts and Schedule of Entry Fees and Prizes were accepted 'nem con'.
- 10.3 **Jacky McDonald moved an amendment to the Schedule of Fees, Payments and Honoraria 2008, that an honorarium in the amount of \$1500 be inserted for the Events Manager (above and beyond expenses – clarified by Doug Hall).**

Moved	Jacky McDonald (NSW)		
Seconded	Elizabeth Fleming (QLD)		
	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	

- 10.4 **The Treasurer moved a motion that the Schedule of Fees, Payments and Honoraria 2008 be approved. (Including, an increase to \$6.40 for the Affiliation Fees in 2009). Also including the amendment inserting an Honorarium for the Events Manager.**

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Moved	Tony Hall (NSW)		
Seconded	Graham Denehey (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	

- 10.5 Doug Hall requested clarification that there would be a review of all Honoraria. This will be undertaken by the Executive.
- 10.6 Tony Hall presented the Sixth Draft Budget 2008. The figures have been amended to increase entry fees to accommodate the increase in court fees from \$15 to \$25, to include an honorarium of \$1500 for the Events Manager, to increase the amount for ND Golf croquet to \$3000, to decrease the amount for the Executive Committee to \$10,000 from \$13,000 and to correct errors in totals in the International Events Fund at the bottom of the budget. Tony undertook to provide a final budget and distribute it following the AGM (also attached to these minutes).

10.7 The Treasurer moved that the Amended Draft Budget be approved

Moved	Tony Hall (NSW)		
Seconded	Elizabeth Fleming (QLD)		
	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 11 – Tournament Regulations.

Stephen Meatheringham addressed the meeting. Inconsistencies regarding handicapping have been amended in the Tournament Regulations. The Tournament Regulations need reviewing and re-writing (with respect to laws and refereeing). Tony Hall will chair a sub-committee to review those areas and at the same time we have identified the need for separate Golf Croquet

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tournament regulations. The Executive has also requested the ACALC to write an Impasse Law for Association Croquet. The National Director of Refereeing and the ACA Laws Committee will be asked for input as an integral part of the review.

Agenda Item 12 – Players meeting Recommendations

The recommendations from the meeting at Cairnlea in November are already under consideration in the current review of Tournament Conditions and Regulations, some have already been accepted.

The minutes from the Player's Meeting in Brisbane will also receive due consideration. Players will receive feedback and a copy will be published on the ACA Website.

Agenda Item 13 – Australian Croquet Championship arrangements for 2009 and 2010.

The arrangements were discussed at the Plenary Session in conjunction with the Timetable of Events supplied.

Jacky McDonald asked if the games for the Australian Golf Croquet Championships are going to be untimed. Max Murray replied that they would be untimed. Discussion ensued in relation to timed and untimed games with particular reference to the Interstate Shield games John Eddes report on the GC Championships last year. Referees need to watch games for time wasting. There will be rules about breaks to stop players taking excessive time between games for a break.

Election of Office Bearers then took place

Other Business

Stephen Meatheringham made a statement that he would like to work closely with the states in his capacity as National Handicapper to enable a better understanding of the handicapping system, to look for any flaws and to work with QLD to try to bring them back within the National Handicap System. Elizabeth Fleming said that QLD would appreciate Stephen's cooperation and would like to discuss the situation further and would hopefully like to come back on board. Brian Hadley commented that WA was tending to move towards some of the elements within the QLD Handicapping System. Elizabeth Fleming replied that QLD was very much tending to move completely away from it.

Jacky McDonald asked for clarification regarding the appointment of the two GC advisers to the Selection Committee. These are appointed positions. (Appointed by the Executive).

Tony Hall said he would email the Budget later in the day.

The meeting closed at 2.15pm.