



APPENDIX 3

AUSTRALIAN CROQUET ASSOCIATION

65th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

AGENDA ITEM 4.5 – REPORTS

Monday 24 March, 2014 at 08:30

Brisbane International, Windsor, Brisbane

REPORTS States

Monday 24 March, 2014

4.5 Reports from the States

4.5.1 Queensland

For the third year running the year has begun, rain, rain and more rain. Unfortunately a few clubs were flooded and much hard work required to bring activities back to normal. Thankfully no major structural damage. All is well now.

Croquet Queensland presented 20 various events through all mallet sports during the year and the participation rate was very encouraging. The State Doubles and Singles championships were held at Bundaberg (an area affected by floods), the first time in a quite a number of years the event held outside of Brisbane. (Yes it was again won by a Mexican "southerner")

All clubs throughout Qld staged many various competitions and players from all over travelled far and wide to enjoy the play and social interaction. A new competitive/ fun tournament was introduced by one club, with over \$500 prize money. This was a fast combination game, 40mins association, straight into 40mins ricochet, then golf croquet. Many top Qld players entered and people are putting names down for 2014. We are always looking at ways to entice participation and enjoyment

Members of the executive made regular trips to the various regions (clubs in the region invited) where hoop setting and refereeing were discussed. The major purpose was to introduce "the Club Book". A compilation of club details and personnel, various forms required for administration, which are now available on the web, tips and assistance in obtaining and retaining members and media information and assistance. This is a book any club member has access to for assistance.

We are also close to finalising the Club/CAQ management program for our club computers.

Unfortunately Qld did not enjoy much success during the interstate series at association or golf, but a pleasing achievement was Tom Komene (a player for approx. 30 months) winning the silver medal at the Golf Gold Medal event.

Congratulation from all Qld for the success of Robert Fletcher in the World Championships and the Australians in the Trans Tasman series 2013.

Mallet Sports are progressing steadily throughout Qld ,although a drop in membership is a problem, as possibly for all states. Qld has put in place a few new ideas for development and promotion and I trust we achieve the results we have planned for.

CAQ was fortunate after a lot of hard work to obtain a grant for 2014-2016 to the value of \$90,000. This will assist enormously our plans for progress.

CAQ wish all States and players, the ACA and all administrators every success for 2014 and enjoyment in their participation.

Thanks All.

Doug Williams.

President
Croquet Association Queensland.

4.5.2 New South Wales

NSW did not retain the Eire Cup nor regain the Interstate Shield but NSW players did enjoy success over 2013. Rosemary Landrebe, Alison Sharpe and Claire Bassett were an important part of a dominant AC Trans Tasman Team that won a second successive Trans Tasman but this time on New Zealand lawns.

NSW players won two National Championships. Alix Verge defeated Alison Sharpe in the final of the Association Croquet Australian Women's Championship while John Levick defeated mate Ron Johnstone in the final of the Golf Croquet Australian Open Championship. John almost won the double but had to settle for runner up in the doubles pairing Judy Wembridge.

In the ACA Eights Jim Nicholls won the second 8 from Peter Landrebe, while Alan Honey won the third 8 from Alison Sharpe.

CNSW membership again grew in 2013 by 53 to 2938 – approximately 2% growth which is consistent with the past 5 years. Membership has exceeded 3 000 for short periods both in 2012 and 2013 but not when club memberships are renewed. Some interesting breakdowns are female 2017; male 921 and Country Membership almost triple City Membership. This is not entirely surprising as there are 48 Country Clubs and 19 City Clubs. Our largest club has 130 members and there are 3 clubs larger than 100.

CNSW continues dialogue with Marrickville Council about leases and facilities. Continuing on the agenda are the SHED, modern clubrooms and the fourth lawn. This has been a recurring theme over many years – more than 6, but we remain optimistic.

John Compton
President, NSW

4.5.3 Victoria

Croquet Victoria had an exceptional year competitively in 2013. In particular,

- Robert Fletcher won the WCF World Association Croquet Championship in London in August 2013. In doing so, he was the first Australian to win an open World

Championship, the youngest ever winner of a World Croquet Championship, the first new champion in over ten years, and the only person to win a World Croquet Championship without losing a single game.

- Victoria contributed five players (Robert Fletcher, Stephen Forster, Kevin Beard, Malcolm Fletcher and Tricia Devlin) to the successful Australian Trans-Tasman AC team in February.
- Victoria won the Eire Cup (the AC interstate competition) in March.
- Victoria won the WCF Shield (the GC interstate competition) in August/September.
- Victorian contributed four players (Robert Fletcher, Stephen Forster, Ken Bald and Malcolm Fletcher) to the Australian team competing for the MacRobertson Shield.

Other elite players had great successes.

Shirley Hallinan was appointed a Life Member of Croquet Victoria for her services to croquet over many years as coach, mentor, referee, administrator and caterer.

Arrangements for the operation of the Victorian Croquet Centre changed towards a paid service model, away from a volunteer model, with external caterers providing meals, and contractors for line marking and garden maintenance. The courts continue to be kept by a contract greenkeeper, the centre kept very clean by our Caretakers, and our employee Administrator, Sandra Kastanaras, continues to be an asset for the Association.

Overall, membership increases slowly, largely in GC. A concern is that we are not attracting sufficient younger players, and that some clubs are not promoting AC. Our strategic plan refers to these problems, but it is necessary to achieve better results.

Another concern is that participation in tournaments across appears to be falling. This seems to apply particularly to non-elite players. A sub-committee is looking into the issue.

Over 50 Level 0 GC Coaches were accredited.

VCA has commenced the process of reviewing its constitution and governance model. While a minimalist change to the constitution was adopted during 2013 to meet changes in the Victorian legislation, the current constitution and governance model have essentially been in place since 2004. It is time for fresh ideas.

Mike Cohn
President, VCA

4.5.4 Tasmania

The last year will be memorable for several happenings in Tasmania.

1. A Strategic Plan was adopted in January which will be a working plan adaptable to be allied to an ACA Strategic Plan when that eventuates. Some parts of the Plan are already being worked with Promotions committees working in tandem at each end of the State, and a Committee researching ways the game can be planted in the school system as a regular part of a

school's physical education programme, and at least one Club instigating plans to increase its own membership through promotion and coaching work.

2. The State Competition and Tournaments calendar has filled considerably with "side by side" tournaments for both Association and Golf croquet. The winter period will be further used for competition play particularly for Egyptian and Wheeler type play as a change from the norm.
3. The St Leonards club has instigated an Easter Carnival for both forms of the game and will be a five day drawcard, particularly for interstate visitors wishing to play a little croquet during a trip to Tassie.
4. The State's "young gun" State team member Callum Hyland won an ACA junior scholarship which enabled him to compete in the New Zealand open tournament. He acquitted himself well and has learned quite a bit by his own admission. That experience will not only benefit Callum, but he will demonstrate and pass on to others the gains he has received. He was successful in winning the Tasmanian Open crown this year.
5. State player membership is maintaining at a level with just over 370 members but an increase is a necessity as this figure could be the top of a bell curve, and we particularly need players wishing to try and to adopt to playing Association croquet.
6. Our Executive values role of CroquetScores in the croquet infrastructure and sent a payment of \$300 to Tim Murphy in appreciation. We will revisit this support next year.

Henry Burbury
President, Croquet Tasmania
21 February 2014

4.5.5 South Australia

The year 2013 – 2014 has been a period of change and development for Croquet SA.

The present Croquet SA Board comprises a group of really hard working people who have committed to putting in the hard yards in the interest of improving the governance, communication and promotion of the sport. This is being achieved in cooperation with our dedicated committees and with the valuable support of our member clubs.

Our Executive Director, Cathy Leske and Sport Development Officer Sally Harper have consulted with professionals and have initiated and invigorated a number of programs to gain publicity and promote the sport. Croquet SA has leapt into public awareness in 2013/14.

We are also very appreciative of the support we have received from The Office of Recreation and Sport, Sport SA, The Adelaide City Council, Good Sports and the creators of The Royal Croquet Club venue.

We perceived the development of our new constitution to be a priority. A workshop was convened for representatives of clubs to discuss the first draft developed by our skilled

Treasurer using a template and the governance principles advocated by the ASC. The Constitution was passed at our AGM in September.

Croquet SA recognised the need to open the lines of communication between Croquet SA and the country clubs in SA. Sally Harper (Sport Development Officer) and I travelled to Naracoorte, Whyalla and Snowtown to meet with representatives of all clubs in the various regions. We gained valuable insight into the concerns and problems the clubs in the country are facing and have begun to implement some coach and referee training and will be offering practical help to them in the promotion of croquet and to develop partnerships to support each other. We are also looking at encouraging city clubs to mentor country clubs.

We participated in the 360 degree review of our sport conducted on behalf of the Office of Recreation and Sport. This gave us valuable insight into the areas that needed improvement and has assisted us to make plans to develop various aspects of the governance and delivery of the sport. The survey indicated that we needed to be involved in social media. We now have a Facebook page for croquet SA and one for our night-time croquet promotion Hammer Time and we have a Twitter Account. We have set up a group on Google Groups expressly for the dissemination of information between Croquet SA and clubs and for clubs to promote their events and information.

We needed a new Strategic/Business and Marketing Plan to address the major changes we envisaged for Croquet SA. We received funding from the Office of Recreation and Sport to engage a professional facilitator to help us with this task. A Workshop was held in mid-November 2013 to start the process and at present the Strategic Plan and Operations Plan are awaiting final approval.

Planning is well underway for the hosting of the ACA GC Championships in September. We are all looking forward to the event.

We are gradually improving the Hutt Road facility to make it more attractive to prospective hirers/participants in promotions and for the enjoyment of our members. We recently obtained a grant for a dishwasher for the kitchen. We have purchased various items of furniture and a new BBQ and are planning further improvements.

We had the very good fortune to be approached by a young entrepreneur late last year with a view to participating in a venue that would have a croquet lawn as its focus. The venue named 'The Royal Croquet Club', situated in Victoria Square in the middle of the city encompassed a small croquet lawn surrounded by bars, eateries and live entertainment. The first instance of the RCC was during the Ashes Test in Adelaide in December and was very successful. Venue management then continued the concept to the Fringe Festival (February-March for 3 weeks) and Croquet SA participated again. This event has brought us unprecedented publicity and has taken the sport out into the community. Various clubs and individual players participated in come and try sessions at the venue and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

On the advice of a professional marketing company, we decided to launch our pilot night croquet program 'Hammer Time' off the back of the RCC. The pilot programme is an initiative of our Executive Director and she has worked numerous hours outside her paid time to organise the program. The Pilot is called Hammer Time. We are offering four

consecutive Friday nights of croquet and entertainment targeted primarily at the 20 – 40 age group and families. We have had good coverage in the media for the program.

Our Sport Development Officer has presented croquet to university students at Orientation Week and we have a group of students interested in playing croquet and possibly forming a club.

We intend to roll-out a state-wide sunset croquet programme in November of this year.

Maree Skinner
President Croquet SA

4.5.6 Western Australia

With the introduction of the new GC rules Croquetwest made the decision to adopt the ACA GC handicap card system. Despite some people feeling that it will be the end of the world as we know it, the transition has been painless.

In the last 12 months we have held two President's meetings - one in the city, the other in the country (Bunbury). These meetings allowed member clubs to let the Management Committee know what they liked and what they would like to see changed in the administration of our sport.

A wide range of matters were raised and I am pleased to say that we have addressed a lot of the issues and are working on others.

Those who attended the meetings appreciated the opportunity to let their concerns be aired.

While the overall number of entries in competitions has increased, we are concerned that our membership has remained at the same level.

Croquet does not have a high profile in the community and that that needs addressing. Universities have an untapped source of potential players who could be the next generation of croquet players so we are hoping to have some of our young guns play demonstration GC matches at our universities – yes, we will also ask some more senior players to attend these sessions to show that croquet is a game for all, but the emphasis will be on the younger players.

We are grateful for the support the Department of Sport and Recreation continues to give us with an annual grant as well as giving financial assistance to clubs who are installing lights.

We have run two Tournament Manager courses – again, one in the city and one in Bunbury and as a result now have a number of newly well trained people who are willing TM's .

Our current project is to increase the number of referees in both codes.

Croquetwest's 2013-2016 Strategic Plan has been revised and is currently in draft form awaiting the outcome of the ACA Strategic Plan.

We also conducted a full risk assessment of all our operations. A number of risks were identified and we have put the wheels in motion to address those risks.

We are currently putting a team together to review our Constitution.

Please bear with me while I acknowledge our State team and squad players.

These people not only give their time to attend practices and compete locally and nationally, but they also give their time coaching, refereeing and managing events and running referee and tournament managers courses. They also hold positions on their club committees, on Croquetwest sub committees and the Management committee. Their commitment to croquet is very valuable and highly valued.

Thank you

Merryl Garrod
Croquetwest President