

## Hall of Fame

A remit was presented at the 2008 AGM by Nancy McDonald seeking recognition of the contribution made by the late Mrs Jean Jarden to croquet not only in New Zealand but also in England and to be recognised by the Sports Hall of Fame. Remit passed.

In 2014 the mover contacted a well known Wellington Sports journalist, Joseph Romanos for guidance as how to achieve recognition of Jean Jarden's success.

His first question was "Does your sport have a Hall of Fame" this was an essential move by CNZ for national recognition. Mr Romanos was on the Executive of the Wellington Hall of Fame and knew of Jean Jarden's achievements.

Consequently CNZ introduced their own Hall of Fame at the 2015 AGM and 15 legends of the sport made up the inaugural list of inductee. Seven were from the Wellington Association: Ashley Heenan, John Prince, Jean Jarden, Graeme Roberts, Keith Iazard, Charles Jones, Paul Skinley.

In June 2017 Jean Jarden's name was inducted in the Wellington Sports Hall of Fame , located in the Netball Arena Kilbirnie. Her plaque is directly across the aisle from her son, All Black Ron Jarden.

## **2018**

The Association Croquet World Championship was held 3 -11 February, 2018.

Headquarters        Kelburn Municipal Croquet Club

Other venues        Wellington Municipal Club, Paraparaumu Club, Plimmerton Club, Waikanae Club

Tournament Manager        Brian Boutel

Tournament Referee        Graeme Roberts

Players came from:

Australia

Canada

England

Scotland

Wales

Spain

Sweden

Latvia

South Africa

United States of America

New Zealand

The winner was Paddy Chapman a NZer who lives in England.

## **2019**

### **Waimarie Croquet Club**

The croquet club over its 97 years of existence made its third and final move on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 to Walter Nash Park, 110a Reynolds Street, Taita, Lower Hutt.

The official open was attended by the Mayor Ray Wallace, Croquet NZ President Annie Henry, Executive Director Jake Inwood, WCA President Alison Robinson and representatives from Association clubs.

Club History: Their first site was two separate lawns at the Recreational Grounds, Myrtle Street sharing facilities with the cricket club. Later the club was given two lawns together and the use of an old tin hockey shed on the present site of the grandstand in the grounds.

The first committee meeting was elected at a meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> November, 1922 and the initial opening held on 5<sup>th</sup> December.

In 1925, lawns were made available in Riddiford Park and a small pavilion built on to the Riddiford Baths.

Around 1951, the club was forced by the Hutt Council to move again as the park area was required for a road and a library!

A property next to Melling Bridge and owned by Sir David Ewen would take four full sized lawns and he offered his land as a reserve with a proviso that some of it be used for croquet lawns for Waimarie for all time. This offer was accepted by the club members and the club was opened on Ewen Park in September 1952.

The club was notified in Mid 2005 by the Greater Wellington Regional Council that by about 2015-17 they would need to vacate Ewen Park because of the need to upgrade the stopbanks to better protect Hutt City from flooding. The GWRC and the Hutt City Council promised technical help and substantial sums of money but the club still had to raise \$250,000.00. Fund raising commenced in earnest. Many delays extended the date of the transfer. After looking at 23 suggested sites, it was agreed that the defunct Taita Bowling Club in Walter Nash Park would be suitable and at the Hutt City Council's request they shared the existing clubhouse with the Hutt Valley Darts Association.

## **Renaming of the Club**

In 2018 the club members voted to embrace a change of name by including the community it was based in. It was officially registered as the Waimarie Hutt Valley Croquet Club Inc.

For many years 'Waimarie' was believed to mean 'peaceful waters' and time has proven it is not. Current Maori dictionaries do not support this translation, instead offering 'good fortune' or 'good luck'.

## **Croquet NZ Awards 2019**

At the 2019 Annual General Meeting dinner held at the Brentwood Hotel, Kilbirnie, Wellington on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October, the following Awards were presented;

CNZ life member:	Paul Skinley	(Wellington Club)
Hall of Fame Induction:	Toby Garrison	(Wellington Club)
CNZ Most Improved AC Singles Player:	Robbie Spooner	(Wellington Club)
CNZ Contribution to Croquet Award:	Paul Skinley	(Wellington Club)

## **Other 2019 Highlights**

Arthur Ross Memorial National Handicap Singles: Played at the Kelburn Municipal Club on March 15<sup>th</sup> 2019. The winner of the event was 16 year old Rongotai College student Robbie Spooner (Wellington Club).

The CNZ Croquet Association Gold Cup Invitation was held by the Wairarapa Croquet Association on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019. The winner of the event was Robbie Spooner (Wellington Club).

The CNZ Don Reynolds Stars Tournament was held by the Thames Valley Croquet Association on March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The Gold Star winner was Robbie Spooner (Wellington Club).

## **2020**

Arthur Ross Memorial National Handicap Singles held at Leith Croquet Club, Dunedin. The winner of the event was Matthew Spooner (Wellington Club). Matthew is the father of last year's winner, Robbie.

Don Reyland Stars Trophy (GC) played at the Rose gardens Croquet Club in Palmerston North, 14-15 March. 16 Associations entered a player, making it the largest field for some years. The winner of the event was a 'new to croquet' player, Colin Menzies (Kelburn Club). Colin is from Australia and his partner has a posting at the Australian High Commission.

Roger Murfitt Trophy Invitation (AC) played at the Petone Club 18-22 March, 2020. The winner of the event was a 'new to croquet' player Ali'I Posimani (Wellington Club). Ali'I is a 17 year old student at Rongatai College.

## **Wellington Municipal Croquet Club turns 100**

Months of planning came together on the weekend of 14-15 March with events enjoyed by 80 past and current members and guests. Celebrations included a rapid-fire golf croquet tournament, cocktail party, plaque unveiling and casual Sunday lunch. The weather was perfect with brilliant sunshine.

The Celebration began with 24 pairs playing a 'hurry hoops' fun competition over four 15 minute rounds. Normal golf croquet rules were suspended so players could run as many hoops as possible. Competition was fierce but the games were played in a great spirit.

Winners: Robbie Spooner and Judy Kerr, running 20 hoops.

Runners up: Linda Strang and Nancy McDonald (WCA Life Member), running 16 hoops.

