

**RE: NOTICE OF MOTION FOR THE WACA AGM FROM THE BAYSWATER
CROQUET CLUB**

**“That the WACA adopts the ACA’s association handicapping system in full,
With AHS cards distributed to all registered players participating in events.”**

Input from the WACA Handicapping Subcommittee

It is important that clubs consider all aspects of the implications of this motion when deciding their position. Note that WA currently applies the system fully in regard to all handicap calculations and index movements. This has been acknowledged by the National Handicapper. WA differs only in the administration of the system.

WACA’s policy statement detailing this was distributed to every club at or after the 2008 AGM and is available on the WACA website.

- The motion refers exclusively to Association croquet. The references are to the Croquet Australia Handicapping Regulations (Association Croquet) Revised December 2008. These are available on the ACA website.

If this motion is passed at the AGM the following changes in the administration of the system will happen.

- There will cease to be a centralised record of handicaps.
- The individual cards will be the only official handicap.
- There will be no update lists on the WACA website.
- Club handicappers will need to be appointed and will be empowered to make non-automatic changes under Regs 4 & 7.
- Tournament handicappers will need to be appointed for all events and will exercise powers under Regs 4 & 9. This includes the authority to make handicap changes during an event and even during a game.
- The responsibility for the accuracy of the handicap rests with the player.
- Tournament managers will need to monitor cards before an event begins and at the end of the event. Monitoring implies sighting the card, noting the starting data, recording the final data, checking entries at the conclusion of the event and signing off the card in the event of a handicap change. (Reg 9)
- Club officials will need to monitor cards in events which qualify for inclusion and must be included under Regs 1.5 & 1.6 eg club competitions but not social games.

Comment on the above statement of facts.

The important issue is to consider and evaluate what is gained and what is lost by such a change in the administration of the handicapping system. Doing something just because other people do it is not an adequate reason.

Gains:

- Work load of maintaining the handicaps devolves from one or two people to every individual player. 2008-2009 season required approx 1750 entries for singles play. 300 doubles play items were also monitored.
- Players will become of necessity more aware of the system.

Losses:

- No public record of current handicaps available for consultation by all players and officials.
- No central record will be available to Match for doing seeding and draws for events.
- The potential for inconsistency is increased as there are no objective criteria in the Regulations to guide non-automatic changes which may be done by more than 20 people (eg Club handicappers & Tournament Handicappers) rather than by the same small group of State Handicapper and subcommittee members.
- There is the potential for arbitrary changes to a handicap during an event or even a game, which can be distressing/distracting for the player concerned and may be unfair to other players in the event. This has happened in events in the Eastern States. The player has no avenue of appeal if this occurs.
- There is the potential for inaccuracy in the record keeping if the monitoring process by club and tournament officials is not rigorous. These officials have no record source available against which to check the card data – and they do not have the time to check previous entries for accuracy.
- Tournament Managers will be confronted by the dilemma of what to do about the player who turns up to play but has “forgotten” to bring the card. Can the player be admitted? Can their memory of their index be accepted? Opponents are affected through the exchange of index points.
- The systems for Association and Golf will no longer be parallel in WA.

Opinion of the Handicapping Subcommittee

The Handicapping Subcommittee is of the view that the current centralised system is more efficient and to the benefit of all players. It has the great benefit of consistency both in the decision making on non-automatic changes and in the decisions of which events qualify for inclusion in the handicapping system.

Players who wish to monitor their own handicap can use a card – they have always been available – but the official handicap and index should remain the centralised record, which is a public record, available for consultation by all players. The current system of Updates after events has ensured that handicaps for all players in every event have been correct on the first date of play throughout this past season.

Clubs are recommended to vote **against** this motion at the AGM.

Helen Collins
Brian Hadley
Peter Hopwood
Dorothy Bull (input by email)

8 September 2009