

Eastern Regional Croquet Association (EMCA) History

In 1998 George Latham, Victorian Croquet Association (VCA) President, initiated changes to the Constitution and regionalisation of the metropolitan clubs to remove the inequalities of voting rights and fees that existed between country and metropolitan regions.

By 2000 the Metropolitan clubs had been zoned into four regions and the Eastern Metropolitan Regional Croquet Association (EMRCA) established. In 2003 Burden Park (formerly Springvale) joined the original group of Glenferrie Hill (later MCC Croquet Section), Ivanhoe Park, Kew, Lilydale, Ringwood and the newly formed Monash Croquet Club. A committee composed of a President from each club incorporated the Association. To ensure a quorum, an extra club representative was added and meetings were conducted bimonthly, prior to VCA Council meetings. Although the maximum term for presidency was extended in 2013 to three years, in practice the presidency is usually rotated between the clubs each year.

In 2005, the move to Cairnlea meant further changes to the Constitution and "Regional" was dropped. EMRCA became EMCA.

Successive Committees have worked fairly well as a voice for the Clubs. In 2002 decisions were made on proposals to increase affiliation fees to \$50 to finance renovations to Headquarters or sell it, and to make Malletsports, the Victorian Croquet Association's magazine, compulsory. Later issues were construction difficulties at Cairnlea, VCA financial management, and tribunal disputes. More player-focussed topics were reimbursement of travel expenses for delegates, player privacy and health status, and the Adverse Conditions Policy. In 2014, with the new Model Rules, modification of the Constitution was again required.

The annual "Grin and Bear It Cup" challenge, now in its 14th year, remains the only social event run by EMCA, although November 2014 will see a trial social EMCA Golf Croquet doubles day.

In 2009 EMCA donated \$200 for a flagpole for the Women 's World Federation Golf Croquet Championship. In the same year the Victorian Regional Golf Croquet Championship was won and then narrowly lost in 2010.

There has been a 50% increase in EMCA membership between 2001/02 and 2014/15. It now stands at 327. The list is long of dedicated members who have supported VCA events as managers, referees and caterers and/or served in other official capacities. Since its inception EMCA has had, as well as its regional director, a member on the governing bodies of VCA. EMCA has been a constructive and active region, contributing to policy setting and innovation. The region, as the intermediary between clubs and Council, promotes exchanging ideas and passing on information, and is a great plus for croquet.

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