

Canterbury (NZ) Croquet Association Inc

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2022



Following the Maude Trainor competition, Marion Bishop shared this photograph.

In this issue:

Editorial

Presidents Report

Clubs' News

Matters and Dates to note

Editorial

Something a little different this quarter.

Several members have shared photographs. Thanks to Alan Belcher for this backyard shot.



The question is! Its Blues shot next and Blue and Red are touching. Blue plays firmly putting all three balls through the hoop. Can Blue score the point?

In the absence of a referee, you are the referee. What would your call be?

In the game Red has tried to come through from the back of the hoop but got jawed in the process. Black, on the playing side, then tried to rush its partner ball Blue and run it through the hoop but Blue also jawed ending up against Red. Yellow, being blocked by Black, decided to try a jump shot and ended up sitting on the Red and Blue balls. As all three balls are now touching, Blue plays a crisp stop shot head on in an attempt to run Blue through. Blue is successful and runs the hoop. As a result of Blue's shot all three balls end up on the non- playing side. Did Blue score a point?



and article about Myrtle Ritchie.



MYRTLE RITCHIE

Myrtle Ritchie recently celebrated her 100th Birthday. She was a member of the South Brighton Club and has personally written about her croquet career.

"My sister and I joined Georgetown Croquet Club in Invercargill in 1979. I went through the grades and then sat my umpire's badge, then the

Canterbury (NZ) Croquet Association Inc

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2022

referees and senior referees and eventually I was appointed Southland referee.

In those days we played inter-club matches and played against Otago one year in Invercargill and the next in Dunedin. A friend and I used to go to Dunedin tournaments each year. I was invited to go to Blenheim to play for the A grade badge. I represented Southland in a tournament in Christchurch and met Maud Trainor.

I moved to Christchurch and as I knew Maud, I joined South Brighton Club. Maud and I both managed tournaments locally and I refereed MacRobertson shield matches both locally and in Wellington.

I was appointed New Zealand Referee and sent exam papers to senior referees in clubs all over New Zealand who had players wishing to become a referee or Senior referee.

Sadly, the earthquake ruined South Brighton lawns so I decided to retire from croquet."

And finally Judy Cleine sent these photos and article about Billy the Kid after watching a documentary on the history channel.



"Somewhere in the wilds of America whilst on the run from the law, Billy the Kid, some of his fellow outlaws and one of his girlfriends had a go at playing croquet.

Billy, nonchalantly leaning on his mallet, is second from the left in the photo below which was discovered in a junk shop, bought for the princely price of \$2 and later sold for \$5 million! One of the ways the photo was verified was by comparing Billy's known height - 5ft 8 inches - with the standard 36 inch Jacques mallet he is leaning against in the photo.

Given the number of balls clustered around the peg (5?) I suspect everyone was offside. At the same time very impressed that the court seems to have corner flags."

This is the final newsletter for the 2021-22 season. Croquet has survived through the uncertainty of this time. Thank you to the clubs who have sent in news throughout the season. I will take my editor's hat off for the winter and look forward to resuming in the spring.

Presidents Report

As I write this report, there is autumn weather and a sense of change in the seasons. There are also changes on the world front and back home here in New Zealand. However I am grateful that we are still able to play croquet, and keep some normality in our lives. And as A E Gill writes in his book "The complete guide to Croquet": "... provided the opponent plays the same way, both sides can have fun, and stretch themselves. I think that no matter how seriously you take a game, you should never lose sight of the fact that you should also enjoy it. And croquet **can** be pure enjoyment...".



Canterbury (NZ) Croquet Association Inc

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2022

So whether you are a competitive player, or just a social player, may you continue have lots of enjoyment of the game.

A number of Club Fun Days had to be cancelled with a consequent loss of income, but CCA tournaments have been able to proceed. Thanks must go to managers, referees and players for the GC 3+ tournament, the completion of the GC Grades, the AC Open Singles, the AC Grades, the GC Doubles Handicap, the GC Open tournaments, Agnes Dick and the Atkins competition. Congratulations go to Josh Winter on winning the GC National competition as well as the CCA GC Open singles and the GC Open Doubles with Patrick Connolly and representing Canterbury at the Don Reyland Finals in Morrinsville. My thanks go to Tim and Gay as the Tournament committee for the many hours they have volunteered to get CCA tournaments and competitions up and running.

Cheryl and Owen, together with John Yarrall have put in a number of hours to improve the CCA website. I would recommend that clubs encourage their members to be part of the automatic notification group (Follow blog by email), so that members are alerted to up to date news items. Especially results from the CCA tournaments. All that is required is: *Follow Blog via Email* at the bottom of the opening screen and then: *Enter your email address to follow this blog and receive notifications of new posts by email.*

I note that in the CNZ newsletter the Inclusion Project is under way. I look forward to having some of that input here in Canterbury, as one of the largest Associations in New Zealand. Contact has been made with the CNZ Inclusion Officer and plans are underway for some activity in this area in the new season.

More news from CNZ is the increase in levies for CNZ. At the last AGM the motion was passed to adjust the CNZ levy by CPI each year based on the December quarter figures. CCA will not be increasing their levies for the new season. Clubs have been alerted to update their membership on the CNZ database and to complete end of season levy returns. In an earlier newsletter I have

highlighted reasons why levies to CCA and to CNZ are important.



Further news from CNZ is that the CNZ Third 16 GC Invitations scheduled for 18 – 20 November will be held in Canterbury and hosted by Fendalton Park Croquet Club. In early March 2022, the WCF approved the adoption of the 6th Edition of GC Rules. These will come into effect immediately for all WCF events and will come into effect in New Zealand from **1st June 2022**. Therefore keep an eye open for CCA workshops for training in the new rules. New GC rule books should also be available with yearbook orders later in the year.

The secretary seminar was a very successful and productive morning - so thank you Marion for initiating this event. Thanks must go to Maria for organizing a most enjoyable Advantage Croquet day and run by Gay and Cheryl at Elmwood Club. It was encouraging to see so many players taking up the opportunity to get their heads around this approach to handicap play. CCA will be considering running our handicap GC tournaments under Advantage Croquet format.

Note that the CCA Closing Day is on Sunday 10 April at Fendalton Park CC starting with croquet at 1.00pm and afternoon tea with prize-giving at 3.00pm. Please ensure that teams and players who will be receiving trophies and/or badges are able to attend.

I am very grateful for a committee that is working so hard and putting in so much voluntary time for the good of CCA. Nominations for the CCA committee will open soon - please consider if you could be part of it.

And as we weather the Omicron storm, and come out the other side, I am reminded again of some comments as we came out of lockdown.

The response of Bishop Victoria shortly after the Christchurch Earthquakes when she was asked how does one build resilience. She

Canterbury (NZ) Croquet Association Inc

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2022

said: Give thanks to God; Do something for someone else; Look on something beautiful each day.

Phyllis Diller said, "A smile is a curve that sets everything straight."

And, from Laura Kelly Fanucci

"When this is over, may we never again take for granted: A handshake with a stranger; Full shelves at the store; Conversations with neighbors; A crowded theatre; Friday night out; The taste of communion; A routine check-up; The school rush each morning; Coffee with a friend; The stadium roaring, Each deep breath; A boring Tuesday; Life itself.

When this ends, may we find that we have become more like the people we wanted to be; we were called to be; we hoped to be: and may we stay that way - better for each other because of the worst"

Vilna Gough-Jones

President CCA

Clubs' News

Fendalton Park Croquet Club

Club Championships, our Annual Perwick Greenkeepers' Round Robin Trophy, and the Drawn Teams Event have kept the Club busy and vibrant in the second half of the season. A new initiative this year is a Grandparents Tournament whereby a grandparent and grandchild will team up for a Sunday afternoon tournament before closing day.

The CCA Handicap Doubles and the Atkins Final held at Fendalton attracted a lot of interest from spectators, both croquet players and those out for a Sunday afternoon walk. Some superb croquet was on display.

Marion Bishop

Holmes Park Croquet Club

Holmes Park cancelled its fun day because of Covid. A booking to hire our rooms was likewise cancelled. Two big fundraisers. We welcomed to the club several new players who have picked up the game very well. We plan on playing through the winter months. Our club competitions are nearly finished with exciting finishes.

Janet Slack

Hornby Croquet Club



Hornby players have had a very busy and successful time playing at home and at other croquet clubs.

On Sunday 20th February Helen Webber and Nigel Grondin were Runner Up at the CCA Handicap Doubles at Fendalton.

Congratulations to you both.

On Saturday 12th March Helen and Nigel played in the CCA Open Doubles at St Martins. They didn't have any success this time but it was great that you played.

Helen played in the Open singles on Sunday as well.

Hornby had 3 players in the Maud Trainor competition at United. They enjoyed the relaxed play.

Alan Belcher has organised our Club Championship competitions.

Our Junior Club Championship was played in 2 groups over 2 days.

Mary Dewar was the winner of one group and Liz Cross was the winner of the other group. Mary and Liz played off against each other and Mary Dewar is our Junior Champion and Liz Cross is the Runner Up.

Our Intermediate Club Championship was decided on Nett Hoops. The winner is Annette Wilson and Marilyn Purvis is the Runner up.

Our Primary Club Championship was also decided by Nett Hoops. The winner is Helen Webber and the Runner Up is Chris Wood.

Hornby had 3 teams playing in the Atkins Competition.

Alan Belcher and John Dewar were 9th at the end of the rounds. They just missed out on playing in the final games.

Helen Webber and Wendy Berkett finished 2nd at the end of the rounds.

On Saturday 26th March, at Fendalton, Helen Webber and Wendy Berkett played in the Atkins final which they won in a 19 point game.

Helen and Wendy had family and club members watching their great game.

We are all proud of your win.

Canterbury (NZ) Croquet Association Inc

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2022



"I always have to have a project".

The club had a working bee recently. Urgent repairs were carried out on lawn one – the worst affected from the winter floods



Helen Webber and Wendy Berkett. Atkins Trophy winners.

Seven Hornby club members went to Elmwood Croquet Club to play Advantage Croquet. It was quite a challenge to know that I had to make 9 hoops but my opponent only had to make 7 hoops to win. I am sure we will try it at our club. Thanks to Gay and Maria for organising this event.

Annette Wilson

Kaiapoi Croquet Club



We now have TWO flash trolleys in the clubs colours.

Many thanks to club member Dave who has said



New signage has been installed – organised by club member Dave. Prospective new members will now be able to find us.

Canterbury (NZ) Croquet Association Inc

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2022



Four members of the club recently attended the Kaiapoi Garden Club Centennial Garden Party. Guests could play croquet or the other old fashioned lawn games on offer. The guests dressed in “flapper” style. We had bow ties and nice hats – more or less – with our club shirts.

Rangiora Croquet Club

Club competitions are almost finished. Very proud to report that Peter Parkinson and Alister Newey along with two members at United won the South Island tournament at Waireka CC. Well done Canterbury. We had a lovely visit from the Men’s Club from Ryman’s who were very keen to learn Croquet. It’s a vicious game not what we thought at all said some. Great day great company and a lovely afternoon tea. Finally the youth programme has been very successful and the Club’s thanks go to Howard Pettigrew. It’s rewarding to have young people playing.

Carol Kidd

St James Club

“Carpe diem” has been the Club’s motto during the past three months, or is it “Make hay while the sun shines”? A neighbour’s broken pipe flooded half our lawns for all of February and, before and after the flood, the spectre of Omicron has hovered. We are now dry underfoot, but are using the Clubhouse minimally while we enjoy one another’s company in the outdoors.

At the end of January, we hosted the CCA Open AC tournament, won by Josh Winter, coincidentally (or is it?) the great grandson of former St James President and key member, Lorna Rhodes. Unfortunately our

waterlogged lawns forced the cancellation of our Fun Day and the relocation of one of our Atkins mornings. But they were dry enough for our annual weekend Senior/Junior AC competition, won this year by Graham Button and Jean Mehrtens.

It has been a delight to welcome four new members, two playing AC and two GC, since January. Their enthusiasm infects and inspires us all.

Margaret Lane

United Croquet Club

The GC Maud Trainor competition was held on the four Fridays in February. Winner John Yarrall, second Ken Lowe. Three players were on the same number of wins with final placing by strength of opponents. Geoff Price third, Judy Derby fourth, and Betty Inglewood fifth. Our thanks to Tony O’Donnell for his management of the tournament.



Maud Trainor participants

The AC Carol Hayward competition played on Tuesdays in February, and the final round played on Tuesday 8 March. Winner Bruce McLay (83%), runner up Sue Stott (83%) and third was Alister Newey (67%). Our thanks to John Yarrall for his management of the tournament.

Canterbury (NZ) Croquet Association Inc

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2022

Thank you to Margaret Stoddart Retirement Village for their sponsorship of both tournaments.



Bruce McLay with John Yarrall

CNZ AC Women's Invitation – won by Jenny Clark

AC Veteran's Tournament – won by Steve Costigan

CCA AC Grades and Silver Badge – Steve Costigan won 4-9 and Betty Hall won 18-24

Jim Hopley has qualified for an AC Bronze merit award.

Work is being undertaken on our lawns 5 and 6 and these lawns are closed for play from Thursday 24 March until early May. Our outdoor seating has all been repainted and new benches purchased. Mallet stands were made for the club by the Lincoln Men's Shed. During the season an excellent number of Corporate Events were held at United and at one point some bookings were referred on to other clubs due to United being booked out. A new BBQ has been purchased and this is well used by the corporate events and the club. A successful GC Visitors' Day was held on Thursday 3 March, with a good number of players from other clubs taking part. This was very well organised by our GC captain, Heather Ponder.

We are holding a working bee on 9 April, closing day is on 30 April and our AGM is being held on Saturday 21 May. Thanks to

all those at United who have

contributed to an enjoyable season of croquet.



Judy Derby

Akaroa Club

We started the year flaunting our French persona as Akaroa Club de Croquet, and dressing up in French casual style, to welcome players to our Fevrier Fun Day. The soft music, marquee, and bunting in bleu, blanc et rouge, set the scene for a fabulous day in a style we intend to repeat. Who could resist the croissants, le competition et le comradery. Many thanks to Baileys Real Estate who sponsored us for this event, and to everyone who took part in making it such a success.

A few days later club members met to take on players from the Cashmere club to compete in our annual 'Rose Bowl Challenge'. We were delighted to win back the trophy, with a convincing score of 11 games to 5. C'est magnifique.

Early March saw in house teams of 4 with a combined handicap of 36, play in a new club tournament for the "Emma Bain Trophy". Players from every grade were involved, and a strong spirit amongst team members soon became evident. The successful team were Dave McMillan, Graham Jones, Jude Hemsley and Sue Craw. But everyone else was close behind....

This year we had three teams playing in the CCA's Atkins competition. We were delighted to have had both Akaroa 1, Carolyn Smith and Ian Bain, and Akaroa 2, Maria Narbey and Graham Jones, in the play off for 'The Plate'.

We were able to have multiple teams in each on the Interclub grades this year, but it was our Division 3 team of Graham Jones, Ian and Mandy Bain, Rosalie Shuttleworth, Sue Craw and Ruth Atkin, that performed really well. They became runners up in their division

Canterbury (NZ) Croquet Association Inc

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2022

after a close and exciting competition that went to the wire. A big shout out to all our players, with a special mention to those in the intermediate and juniour grades. A preparedness to play fairly and competitively has resulted in excellent Club Championship competition.

We are now looking forward to our annual tournament with Timaru in April, before hanging up our mallets for the season.



Au revoir,

Elizabeth Bain

Merci beaucoup from l'editrice.

Cashmere Club

Croquet for the season is rapidly coming to a close for the summer season. Cashmere has enjoyed a successful year playing socially at the Club and out playing competitive games in Canterbury and beyond.

Covid regulations reduced the numbers coming to Club days earlier in the season however as the season progressed we welcomed back more members.

Our Club competitions are completed with many new members this year participating including our next group of juniors.

Cashmere Club has their closing day on Saturday 9th and this also sees our two lower lawns closed for maintenance. It is our intention to have a winter season on the top lawn if the weather is kind.

Thanks to all Club members for another great season.

Gay Jones



ADVANTAGE CROQUET DAY

The Advantage Croquet Day held at Elmwood Croquet Club on Monday 28 March was well attended, a total of 36. There was a good mixture of players from clubs, Akaroa, Cashmere, Elmwood, Fendalton, Hornby, St Martins, and United. The day was relaxed, thanks to Gay's very calm influence, I believe that we can all take a leaf out of Gay's book on how to run such informative events. I have received positive feedback and a need for more of the same.

Here is one such comment:

I echo your thanks to those who were involved in the organisation of such a wonderful day of croquet - thanks to you too for your involvement.

I thoroughly enjoyed learning about and playing Advantage. I okayed in the earlier opportunity at Fendalton but there was certainly more to it today. It seemed from conversation with others that we enjoyed not having the bisques for extra turns - whether they are against you or you receive them - results in some very enjoyable games. You simply play croquet without the additional strategy of using or defending bisques. I for one would love the opportunity for further games and I guess this would eventually replace the use of bisques.

One other piece of information that Gay gave us was announcing the score when you have made a hoop. It is in the Rule Book, and we need to get into the habit of doing so.

The other thing that we need to get into the habit of is, when we are playing a 13-point game that we use 6 pegs instead of 7 and the same with a 19-point game, 9 pegs instead of 10. The NI are doing it and we can't let them get ahead of us, we need to catch up!

Maria Narby

Canterbury (NZ) Croquet Association Inc

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2022

Celebrations:

During the season many of our Canterbury players have had great success beyond Canterbury, both in AC and GC.

Masters in Blenheim - many Canterbury players returned with Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals

AC Interprovincial Sth Canterbury v Canterbury – winners and players from numerous Clubs

AC Sth Island Teams - winners, Betty Hall, Peter Parkinson, Alister Newey, Steve Costigan

AC Arthur Ross - Owen Evans representative (did not travel)

CNZ AC Invitation - Jenny Clarke (winner)

CNZ AC 0+ Invitation - Steve Costigan, John Hearnshaw (runner-up)

AC Sth Island Veterans - Steve Costigan (winner)

AC 93rd Annual Tournament, Peake Tray - Owen Evans (winner)

GC Nationals Doubles: Josh Winter and Levi Franks (winner)

GC Nationals Singles: Josh Winter (winner)
Duncan Dixon (runner-up)

GC Nationals Plate: James Duggan (winner)

CNZ 3+ Melanie Stevenson (winner)

Bruce McLay (runner-up)

CNZ Don Reyland Canterbury Rep: Josh Winter

CCA Prize giving

GC Silver badges: Josh Winter, Dave McMillan, Peter Entwistle, John Whyte

AC Silver badges: Josh Winter, Steve Costigan, Alister Newey, Betty Hall

Millennium Trophy: Cashmere Croquet Club

Cashmere:

Interclub GC Div 1 (runner-up) Div 2 (winner), Twilight Open (winner & runner-up)

The Atkins Plate GC (runner-up)

Johnson Memorial Shield AC (winner)

Rangiora:

Interclub GC Div 1 (winner)

Johnson Memorial Shield AC (runner-up)



Fendalton:

Interclub GC Div 3 (winner)

The Atkins Plate GC (winner)

United:

Interclub AC (runner-up)

The Atkins Trophy GC (runner-up)

Akaroa:

Interclub GC Div 3 (runner-up)

Kaiapoi:

Interclub GC Div 2 (runner-up)

Holmes Park:

Interclub AC (winner)

Hornby:

The Atkins Trophy GC (winner)



GC Most Improved Player: Alec Astle (winner)
John Whyte (runner-up)



AC Most Improved Player: Betty Hall (winner)
Josh Winter (runner-up)

Canterbury (NZ) Croquet Association Inc

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2022

Matters and Dates to Note

1. AGM 25th June @ Fendalton @ 10.00am.
2. The next Executive meeting is 2nd May @ Fendalton @ 9.30am.
3. CCA website is www.croquetcanterbury.com

Follow Blog via Email at the bottom of the opening screen and then: Enter your email address to follow this blog and receive notifications of new posts by email.

5. Please send any material for the next newsletter to Cheryl at cheryl.morrall@xtra.co by **20 August 2022** for publishing end August.

Newsletters are published end August end October end January then March/April



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A Message from one of our Sponsors

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