

Canterbury (NZ) Croquet Association Inc

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2023



In this issue:

Editorial

HALL of FAME: John Prince

Clubs' News

Celebrations

President's Report

Matters and Dates to note

Editorial

In this edition we celebrate a NZ croquet super star in John Prince, who was inducted into the World Croquet Hall of Fame in 2007.

The Hall of Fame citation is elsewhere in the newsletter.

John passed away at the age of 77 in February this year. John was a life member of the United Club and the CCA.

We also celebrate a rising star in Patrick Conolly who recently won the Don Reyland Nationals.

An abridged commentary of the tournament can be found elsewhere in the newsletter.

What do these two have in common?

John holds the MacRobertson Shield record by being the youngest player ever to compete, at the age of 17. (*My research shows that this record still stands after 60 years.*)

Patrick now holds the Don Reyland Tournament record by being the youngest player ever to win, at the age of 15.

Hall of Fame

John Prince

Born: 1945
Inducted: 2007

John Graham Prince commenced playing Croquet at the NaeNae Croquet Club situated in the Lower Hutt Hospital grounds in 1959 by sheer chance. As a 14-year old schoolboy, he had seen the game being played from the local swimming baths that overlooked the Lower Hutt Croquet Club in Riddiford Gardens. He was intrigued and, after borrowing "Croquet Today" by Maurice Reckitt from the local library, became even more fascinated. He visited the NaeNae Club near his home and was fortunate to be invited to have a game by members Melba Miller and Muriel Palmer. Shortly afterwards, Ashley Heenan was approached and agreed to coach John.

John's croquet career took off when, aged 17 and with practically no tournament experience, he made a late debut into the 1963 New Zealand MacRobertson Shield team after winning his singles and doubles matches for a North Island team against the Australian visitors. He caused something of a sensation during the third Test Match between England and New Zealand when he defeated John Solomon, then universally regarded as the best player in the world. Interestingly, Solomon had himself been selected to play in the 1950/51 MacRobertson Shield against New Zealand when aged only 18 and with a similar lack of tournament experience!

John went on to reach the semi-finals of the 1963 New Zealand Open Championship where Solomon gained his revenge but, nonetheless gained his first national title when he won the New Zealand Men's Championship, in the process of which he defeated the English Test Match players

Canterbury (NZ) Croquet Association Inc

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2023

Humphrey Hicks in the semi-finals and Bryan Lloyd-Pratt in the final.

Over the following years, John amassed an impressive number of national titles, including eight New Zealand Open Championships, ten New Zealand Men's Championships and eight victories in the senior invitation event for the "Best Ten" or "Best Eight" players. He also won eleven New Zealand Doubles Championships and the British Open Doubles Championship in 1974.

In 1969, he was appointed captain of the New Zealand MacRobertson Shield for the first time and went on to do so on four further occasions including two Shield victories in 1979 and 1986. He holds three MacRobertson Shield records, namely by being the youngest player ever to compete, by playing in nine series and the first player to play 100 matches in the event.

On 30 March 1970, at Hastings during the final of the Hawkes Bay Easter Invitation John became the first player to complete a sextuple peel in a competition.

John's contribution to croquet was not confined to playing and winning major events. He was involved in attempts to publicize Croquet, including an early television demonstration in the days of black and white TV, and wrote several newspaper articles about the national Croquet scene. He served on the New Zealand Croquet Council for several years and was involved especially with international matters, selection for international and domestic events and tournament formats and conditions. He provided illustrations for the CNZ publications "Approaching Croquet", and later wrote and illustrated "Practice with a Purpose", followed by a set of supplementary booklets. He was always keen to see that younger players and those who work were given as much opportunity to compete and so ensured the major events in New Zealand Croquet

Council tournaments were played over weekends wherever possible.



Winning the MacRobertson Shield has always been John's top priority. Throughout his career, he has been constantly on the lookout for potential team members and has provided encouragement and support to many up and coming New Zealand players. One of his most significant contributions in this regard was his skilful mentoring of a very shy youngster called Paddy Chapman who is now one of the world's top ranked players.

• *About this website: Translations powered by Google. Contact WCF with any queries.*

Copyright © 2021-2023 World Croquet Federation

Clubs' News

Holmes Park Croquet Club

Four of our new to croquet played in the Atkins tournament and did extremely well. Tony Bilish and Brent Cowan won the Atkins cup, and Hugh Catto and Dot Gorst won the Atkins plate. We also had a team playing in the Div 3 Interclub tournament.

We are nearly finished our club tournament.

We had a very successful fun day on 8th March, despite rain trying to spoil the day. We had 28 participants, all who commented on the day, especially the way the games were run with no delay. We had 3 skill games which were enjoyed by all. But the fun came at raffle time. Several of our members did a great job of procuring raffle prizes in Bush Inn and Prebbleton/Lincoln. Tickets were sought after, with a second raffle book needed to be dug up. A Cashmere player won a \$50 TAB ticket, telling everyone if she won she would put it all on her nephew's horse – would you believe it came in first!

Our club provided a wonderful spread of morning and afternoon tea. The theme of the day was "cards" and Tim Slack stole the show in his "Joker" outfit. Kevin Hickman Village sponsored our fun day for which we are very grateful.

Janet Slack

Canterbury (NZ) Croquet Association Inc

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2023

Cashmere Croquet Club

Responding to last minute invitations from Holmes Park, a Cashmere contingent swelled the ranks at their Fun Day on March 8. The costume theme was black white and red, with cards involved somewhere along the line. You can see that Tim Slack's Joker outfit was bound to be a winner.

Holmes Park are famous for their hospitality, and they had also done an astounding job sourcing a long list of prizes



CCA OPEN DOUBLES, SUNDAY MARCH 12

Marriage at First Sight (sort of)

Cashmere hosted this event, in which Gay was the only Cashmere entrant.

The tournament manager was Cheryl Morrall (centre), seen here with the eventual winners Geoff Price (United and St Martins) and Helen Webber (Hornby.)



Cheryl was especially pleased by this result as she had paired up the two players from different clubs, and insisted it was a match made in heaven! **Lyn McKinnon**



Fendalton Park Croquet Club

FENDALTON PARK CELEBRATION

What started to be a celebration for our 65th anniversary – due to Covid intervening, ended up being just a celebration – which was a great fun afternoon with delicious food from Country Feasts and no dishes! **Marion Bishop**



FPCC Trophy Winners for the season.

St Martins Club

St Martins Croquet Club congratulates their Secretary (Abridged)

(Dr) Jan Wright on becoming a Dame Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to the State & to the Environment, in the New Years Honours list.

For 10 years Jan was the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment. Since she was 16 years old, Jan has cared about the impact on the natural world from the modern world, studying at Lincoln, Berkeley and Harvard.

Canterbury (NZ) Croquet Association Inc

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2023

Currently Jan chairs the Te Manahuna Aoraki conservation project.

Our Bev Stechmann Tournament was again fully booked, being a great success despite it having to be postponed to a later date, due to a torrential rainstorm.

Winners were Bruce Wayman & Reid Caldwell from the Rangiora Croquet Club.

Our Club's Double H/C competition has been retitled "The Judy Cleine Tournament" in recognition of the club's long-term coach who passed away August 2023. The winners this season were Linda Kay & Jan Wright.

The committee has decided that to help players understand their games better that playing after 3pm on Saturdays will be a time for practising handicap play – both the clips & advantage systems.

Our closing day will be Saturday 15 April with the option of playing after this date until the weather put's us off our lawns.

Over the winter months, June to August our club has a Board Games & Cards, Saturday afternoon in the Club rooms 2pm till 4.30pm, where all are welcome. A small Koha is asked to cover costs.

Max Joines

St Martins G. C. Croquet Club has invited Fendalton Park G.C. Croquet Club, to join them for the Annual Janet & John Tournament on Saturday 29th April 2023.



Janet and John

Elaine Smith from St Martins has provided this background to the challenge.

Soon after the Earthquakes of September 2010 and February 2011 several Sumner croquet players including John Dove and his wife Adrienne Pavelka joined St Martins Croquet Club because their lawns were covered with rocks

instead of grass and they were not going to be restored.



The following season John became Vice President of St Martins Croquet Club. Fendalton Park invited St Martins in the winter to play as our lawns were flooded and closed for the winter. This is when it was decided we should have an annual event on a free Sunday; it would be held at Fendalton. With it being winter we would start at Mid-day. It would consist of 3 games followed by a Happy Time.

St Martins would supply the Trophy hence Fred was brought in from the garden by Adrienne and he went thru a complete paint over. It was then decided that Fred would be presented to the losing Team this was John and Adrienne idea.

Unfortunately John died in June 2014 and we changed the day to "John Dove Memorial Fred Trophy Day".

When it was St Martins turn to organize the event we looked like the local travelling catering company, had to go slowly over the Railway line with the soup.

Janet Lilley became our Club President in 2013 and it decided to continue Fred Trophy Day alternating and if it was not possible to play we would hold a quiz afternoon.

Janet became ill and died in July 2017 and that is how "Janet & John Trophy" evolved. I then had to go and look for a pretty Girl Gnome, I can tell you girl gnomes were not in fashion in 2017-2018 eventually one was found and Adrienne P came to the rescue and did the complete makeover. The girl gnome became Janet and went to the winning team.

Hornby Croquet Club

Hornby players have had a very successful season. Four members played in the Maud Trainor competition at United. Karin Taemmler from Hornby won the competition by winning all 8 of her games. Well done Karin.

Helen Webber from Hornby and Geoff Price from United won the CCA Open Doubles competition. A great achievement considering their difficult opponents.

Herman Zegerman was 4th in the CCA Primary Grades Competition. He played at Cashmere in the round robin and then played at Barrington for the playoffs. Great work Herman.

Canterbury (NZ) Croquet Association Inc

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2023

Hornby had 3 teams in the Atkins Competition

Two of the teams were playing in the final 8 at the end of the round robin games. Unfortunately the 2 Hornby teams played against each other in the first playoff game. Alan Belcher and Graham Hutchison eventually played off in the Plate final. A Holmes Park team won the Plate so Alan and Graham were runner up.

Robin Brooker and Maurice Barnes played in the Atkins final. Unfortunately they were beaten in the final by another Holmes Park team so they were runner up in the Atkins competition as well.

Hornby have had their Club Championship competitions.

In the Primary Grade, 9 to 16 handicap, Karin Taemmler was the winner.

In the Intermediate Grade, 6 to 8 handicap, Annette Wilson won.

In the Premier Grade, 0 to 5 handicap, Helen Webber won.

Many of our players have changed their handicaps through playing in these competitions.

We have run 2 corporate events recently.

Some Summerset, Wigram, residents came to play croquet one morning and enjoyed a morning tea. Workers from Design Windows came after work to play croquet. They enjoyed their game and then had pizza delivered for their tea.

The competition season is now over but we will continue to play during the winter as long as the weather is fine and the lawns are not getting too worn out.



Karin Taemmler winning the Maud Trainor.

Annette Wilson



St James Park Croquet Club

This has been a busy time for St James Park with both a postponed Fun Day and competition play both within the Club and outside. Thank you to everyone who braved unpleasant conditions and parking difficulties to attend our Fun Day and to those who were unable to attend but made donations nevertheless. We do appreciate your support.

It has been good to see a new generation of players, both AC and GC, step up to have their names on Club trophies and the Honours Board. The generation gap that we inadvertently allowed to develop is being bridged. Congratulations to Alice Spittle who won the 18-24 Silver Badge in the CCA AC Grades and to Graeme Johnston and Patsy Clegg who were 2nd and 3rd in the CCA GC Primary Grades.

Our outdoor season ends on 22 April and the indoor season starts a fortnight later. We welcome any outsiders who would like to visit, view and test out the small (but warm) form of the game.



Graeme (left) and Patsy (right) with Grades winner Steve Stokes and manager Gay Jones.

Canterbury (NZ) Croquet Association Inc

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2023



Alice Spittle being congratulated by Tony O'Donnell

Margaret Lane

Elmwood Croquet Club

Coming to the end of the season with play outside to finish and our indoor season ready to go. Club champs just about completed which this year was completed all except one or two people.

This season we have Rangi Ruru girls coming to play under their time out scheme.

There are six classes involved with each group coming twice.

It's just not time out they have to evaluate the sessions on what they get out of it, ie participation, skills, playing as a team etc. They all enjoy it. Often these girls are not sporty. Some see the element of physics and angles during play. The noise level gets higher as they achieve and lots of high fives.

One of our older members has passed away this season. Jill Loughnan began play in 1981 and was well known in croquet circles. She had not played for the last few years but ran our mah jong groups. Her knowledge of the club, the lawn maintenance and history is sadly missed.

Jenny Tait

United Croquet Club

Another excellent season of croquet. Members who took part in the various competitions certainly enjoyed them. Two of the United GC teams made it through to the Atkins finals – one to play for the trophy and one for the plate.

The Committee has been investigating replacement signs to make the entrance to the Club clear and easy to find. United Club is located within the North Hagley Park Trust and in order to fit with the other members of the Trust (tennis, pétanque, rugby) CCC Parks will have their signs team prepare a plan which works for all – at no cost to the clubs. We are now just waiting to hear from them.

A successful Visitors' Day was held in March – another good way to meet players from other clubs and also those people who are interested in trying croquet.

GC club competitions for doubles and singles play are almost complete at time of writing.

A suggestion box has been running for a few months. It's great to see these suggestions, some of which have been implemented.

Our AC players enjoyed success in the CCA Grades and Silver Badge with John Hernshaw runner up in the Grades (0-3.5 grade) and winner of the Silver Badge. Tony O'Donnell was runner up in the 4-9 grade.

Corporate events are a major fundraising for United and this year we were lucky to host 21 events. I believe we already have some bookings for next season!

Two of our lawns are being renovated and are currently out of play. United has winter play for club members so the renovation will hopefully not cause too much disruption.

The AGM is being held Saturday 20 May. Closing day is scheduled for Saturday 29 April, having been preceded by our autumn working bee on Saturday 15 April. Opening Day will be on Saturday 2 September.

Judy Derby

Canterbury (NZ) Croquet Association Inc

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2023



Celebrations:

Patrick Conolly of Canterbury wins the Don Reyland Stars

Patrick Conolly (Canterbury) asserted himself as one of the most in-form young players in the country in a brilliant showing to win the 2023 Don Reyland Gold Star and trophy. The 21st Don Reyland Stars, and the first since the honorary's passing, was held at Rangatira CC in Dannevirke from 17-19 March. 16 players, with handicaps ranging from 0-12, all competed in best of 13 matches for the national Open Singles GC Handicap.

Friday would see Doug Cowie (Auckland), Mark Huttley (Wellington) and **Patrick Conolly** coming out of the first day with five wins out of five.

Cowie and **Conolly** continued their form into Saturday, winning their first three matches of the day. However, in the early afternoon, Huttley got a crucial 7-5 win over **Patrick Conolly**, while Cowie won his 9th straight game against Amy Gust. The three leaders all won their final match of the day to set up an exciting Sunday.

The opening round on Sunday would prove to be massive, with **Patrick Conolly** beating overnight leader Doug Cowie 7-6. In the 2nd last round of matches, Doug Cowie lost for only the second time of the week, 7-5 to Ricky Clement (South Taranaki), while **Conolly** won 7-5 against Barry Patchett, putting one hand on the trophy. However, **Patrick** knew that a victory would be needed in the final round as Doug had the better net hoops despite being a win behind.

Conolly was

able to show composure beyond his years, becoming the youngest ever winner of the Don Reyland Gold Star, after beating Kay Scrivener (South Canterbury) 7-4 in his final match. Doug Cowie secured the Silver Star, with a win over John Kane and finishing the week with an impressive 13 wins.

CNZ website (abridged)



Patrick with runner-up Doug Cowie

Terminator Mallets U21 Championship

The Terminator Mallets U21 GC Championship was held at the Waireka Croquet Club in Ashburton over the Easter weekend. This year's tournament saw a significant increase in entries including a number of new players.

The doubles event saw 10 pairings compete in a single round robin, with the top four pairs qualifying for the best of three knockout. **Joel Steele** (Hawkes Bay) and **Levi Franks**

Canterbury (NZ) Croquet Association Inc

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2023

(Canterbury) finished top of the block with nine wins from nine. **James Duggan** and **Josh Winter** (both Canterbury) qualified for the other semi-final.

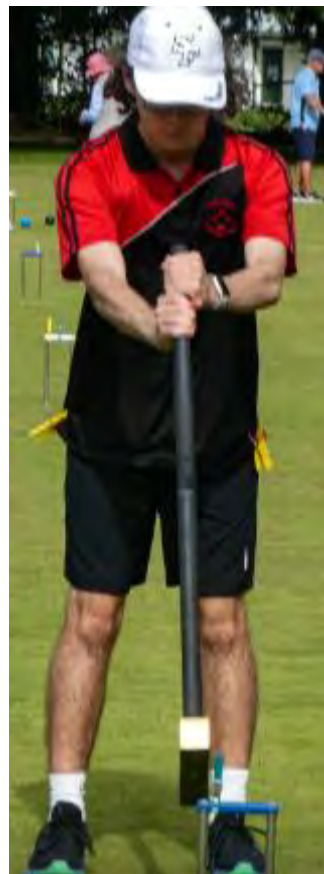
In the final **Duggan/Winter** won the first game 7:6 before **Steele/Franks** took control in game 2 winning 7:2. It was match on in game three going to hoop thirteen with either pair one hoop from the title. **Steele/Franks** held their nerve and managed to run the last hoop and win the title.

In the singles we saw 24 players competing in two sections of twelve played as a single round robin. The top four players in each section qualified for the Main knockout.

The quarterfinals saw **Levi Franks**, **James Duggan** (both Canterbury), and Nathan Bullen and Joel Steele prevailing, resulting in **Franks** having to play fellow Cashmere Croquet Club member **Duggan**. The two North Island players faced each other in the other semi-final. As fate would have it the two doubles winners emerged victorious to face each other in the final with the chance to add the singles title to their doubles title. **Franks** got off to a strong start winning the first two games in the best of five final 7:4 and 7:5 respectively before Steele took game three 7:6. This triggered renewed focus from **Franks** determined to avoid a fifth game, dominating the fourth game winning 7:1 and claiming the singles title.

CNZ Website (abridged)

Levi Franks
competing at
U21 Champs.



CCA Prizegiving

The CCA Prize-giving was held on Sunday 16 April at Fendalton Park Croquet Club. With fine weather, a crowd of over fifty including award winners and supporters enjoyed the opportunity to have a game of GC, including those who play AC, before the presentations. This year we were not able to provide AC due to 2 lawns being closed for maintenance. The 4 Canterbury players who recently had success at the U21 and Don Reyland played in a demonstration game.

The history of Golf Croquet in Canterbury was shared by Ray and Beryl Atkins who then presented the Atkins Trophies. Other presenters were:

Margaret Lane, many years involved with AC and presented the AC Silver Badges

James Duggan, presented the Johnson Memorial Trophy

Canterbury (NZ) Croquet Association Inc

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2023

Josh Winer, a winner of multiple Most Improved Awards, presented these to the AC and GC recipients

Janet Scott, who is responsible for having all the trophies engraved and certificates ready for the day presented the Millennium Cup.

A wonderful afternoon tea followed and a time for photos to be taken.

The CCA would like to thank all Clubs for their support this season and we look forward to some more great croquet from September.

AC Interclub

Winner: United: Steve Costigan and Betty Hall

Runner-Up: Rangiora: Alister and Hilda Newey

GC Interclub

Division 1: Cashmere: Owen Evans & Gay Jones

R/Up: United: Bruce McLay & Steve Ballinger

Division 2: United: Louis Inglewood, Betty Inglewood, Denise McLoughlin, Geoff Price.

R/Up: Akaroa: Carolyn Smith, Carol Masefield, Pat Pigeon, Graham Jones, (Judy McMillan, Elizabeth Bain, Kit Greig.

Division 3: United 2: Alastair Smithies, Jill Smithies, Barbara Parry, Stephen Parry.

R/Up: Hornby: Marilyn Purvis, Tom Pluck, Liz Cross, Mary Dewar.

GC Open Singles: Gay Jones

R/Up: Alister Newey

Johnson Memorial Shield: Cashmere: Joshua Winter & Tony Waters

R/Up: St James: Jonathan Hart & Kevin Tregenza

The Atkins TROPHY: Holmes Park: Tony Billish & Brent Cowan

R/Up: Hornby: Robin Brooker & Maurice Barnes

The Atkins PLATE: Holmes Park: Hugh Catto & Dot Gorst

R/Up: Hornby: Alan Belcher & Graham Hutchison



AC Silver Badge

A Grade 0-3.5: United: John Hearnshaw

Intermediate 4-9: Holmes Park: Leo Van Oosten

B Grade 10-16: Edgware: Sue Stott

C Grade 18-24: St James: Alice Spittle

GC Silver Badge

Premier -6-+2: Cashmere: James Duggan

Senior 3-5: United: Bruce McLay

Intermediate 6-8: Cashmere: Patrick Conolly

Primary 9-16: Cashmere: Steve Stokes

AC Most Improved Player:

Nominees: Sue Stott, Edgware / Betty Hall, United

Winner: Betty Hall, United with index increase of 105

GC Most Improved Player:

Nominees: Geoff Price, United / Alec Astle, Fendalton / Karin Taemmier, Hornby / Patrick Conolly, Cashmere

Winner: Patrick Conolly with index increase of 429



MIPs Patrick and Betty

Millennium Trophy: Club with the Highest Percentage of WINS in INTERCLUB Competitions.

Winner: United 60.4%

R/Up: Rangiora 60.2%

Canterbury (NZ) Croquet Association Inc

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2023

Presidents Report

What a busy second half of season this has been. However, the tournaments have now been completed, both for CCA and for CNZ and there have been some great croquet played and to watch. As I write this, the closing day for CCA is tomorrow and the winners will be acknowledged and listed elsewhere in this newsletter. Congratulations to you all.

I would like to thank all the committees in the clubs of Canterbury for their "behind the scenes" work in ensuring that clubs are run efficiently and that players are enjoying their croquet. Their often unseen work is very much appreciated. I would like to thank my executive committee for their many hours of work, to ensure that tournaments are run, that communications are made and that the Association functions efficiently. I would like to thank the many volunteers in the clubs that ensure the grounds are maintained, that the hospitality of the club is given when needed, that tournaments are managed and refereed, and for all the tasks that "just get done". Lastly I would like to thank you, the players, who make this sport possible. If we didn't have members we wouldn't have games, and croquet is a great sport!!

Sadly we have lost a club as Diamond Harbour has decided to disaffiliate from the Association. However, we have gained a club with Courage in North Canterbury and hope to welcome the Broadfields club in Selwyn in the near future.

Please consider nominating someone from your club to join the executive, as we need the voice of clubs to ensure we are on the right track....and the load is shared with more folk. If you feel you don't want to be on the committee but would like to work alongside a sub-committee, please let us know. A reminder of the AGM in June - further details will be sent out shortly.

For those clubs who will be open over winter, happy croquet playing.

Take care, keep safe and warm and see you all next spring, ready to go with Interclub and tournaments and a spring in your step

Vilna Gough-Jones



Matters and Dates to Note

1. CCA AGM , Saturday June 24th.
2. The next Executive meeting is at 9.30pm on Monday 29th May.
3. CCA website is croquetcanterbury.com
5. Please send any material for the next newsletter to Cheryl at cheryl.morrall@xtra.co.nz by **20 August 2020** for publishing end August.

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

CCA sponsors



Canterbury (NZ) Croquet Association Inc

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2023

