

Canterbury (NZ) Croquet Association Inc

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2023



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Editorial

The weather over the last few months has not served croquet well. Last Friday some of us played in sleet and hail.

Think of our poor greenkeepers mowing lawns, setting hoops, marking the lawns. The season is starting, interclub and tournaments must go on. Mother Nature has no sympathy.

And then there are the mumblings, "grass too long, hoops too tight, lawns too slow, lawns too fast."

"Did you see that hoop on Lawn 3"

Consider the plight of this greenkeeper as you spare a thought for our own this season.

Croquet club greenkeeper has hands full picking up other people's rubbish



Collecting other people's rubbish has become a repetitive daily chore for the retired dairy factory employee before he gets down to the real business of maintaining greens at the Tasman Croquet Club.

The club shares its

boundary with a popular car park at Mt Bryan Domain, known as Pig Out Point, which overlooks the city's Coastal Walkway.

He said he picked up on average two to three buckets of rubbish from the car parking area each morning. "I have to do it otherwise it blows into the croquet club and onto the greens, and out to the walkway and into the sea."

A fortnight ago, in a bizarre turn of events, he was assaulted by someone who mistook him for littering.

"I'd come down to mow the greens and was picking up rubbish to put in a pile when I was suddenly put in a headlock," the 82-year-old said. Police are investigating the assault, he added. *Stuff 2020*

Celebrations:

Following the CNZ AGM, Canterbury featured in the annual awards celebration.

Most Improved GC Player: Levi Franks.

Club Participation Award:

1st : Cashmere Croquet Club

3rd : Fendalton Park Croquet Club

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Clubs' News

Akaroa Croquet Club

The Akaroa Croquet Club had a successful opening day 16th September with a large turnout of members enjoying a shared lunch and great games of croquet. Since opening day the weather gods haven't been kind with cold wet windy days. We had 14 players attend the South Island Masters in Blenheim, with various medals won over the tournament. We look forward to more settled weather and more time on the lawns.

Carol Masefield

Barrington Park Croquet Club



Our big news is that we at Barrington Park have become the proud owners of a Protrim 760 Battery Electric Mower, complete with extra bits. As with any new addition to a family (in this case Barrington Park Croquet Club) there was a lot of research and preparation before the delivery date. Thanks to everyone involved, we look forward to many years of beautiful lawns and satisfactory results from our new mower.

As well as having a thoroughly enjoyable indoor season we have also enjoyed a mid-year luncheon at Riccarton House. This function was well attended by members and their partners, which is a great way to meet the other halves. Towards the end of the winter we visited St James croquet club and enjoyed a fun afternoon with them, this is an

annual indoor event eagerly attended by both clubs.



Opening day in early September saw a good turnout of members and since then we have had new people join us - a great start to a new season.

At the moment we have two teams entered in the interclub competition, another great way to meet fellow croquet players, hone our skills and visit other clubs.

It is always good to appreciate the many activities that contribute to the running of a happy and successful club. On a more somber note we presently have a member very seriously ill in hospital, and the amount of support and care offered has been amazing. We at Barrington are very fortunate to have a willing and hardworking core of people for which we are very grateful. Barrington Park Croquet Club is a great club to belong to.

Jan Whitburn

Courage Croquet Club

Courage is slowly growing its numbers with a happy group adjourning for coffee to the Norwester Cafe on a Wednesday and Bunkos on a Sunday.

The lawns are well covered and the buildings stood up to the Gail N/W winds on Saturday 14th October when neighbours paling fences were flattened, even new ones broken off at ground level.

One member is enthusiastically joining in other clubs fun days.

Jack Chisnall

Fendalton Park Croquet Club

Fendalton has teams in each grade of the GC Interclub this year, with some members competing for the first time. We have also been busy with Club handicap singles and doubles competitions which are nearing completion.

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We held a very successful sausage sizzle over Labour weekend with the proceeds going towards the purchase of a much needed replacement mower.



(This can happen if the photo arrives upside down. Editor)

Grace Leitch

Holmes Park Croquet Club

The day was warm and sunny on our opening day. Errol was asked to run the first ball through the hoop while the sausages were sizzling on the BBQ. This was followed by a feast that included salads and cheeses and of course a tableful of delicious cakes and sweets. It was hard leaving all this to go outside, but we did and had a few good games.

On 8 September a few of us attended the CCA coaching at Hornby. It is always good being reminded of codes of conduct and etiquette on the lawn, also about entering tournaments and Advantage play, some of which was new to many of us. Thanks to Vilna and Gay for making the effort to keep us on track.

Tim, our club captain, gave us a hands-on coaching

morning on Saturday the 16th with more explanation on faults and crushes, followed by specific games for practice. It was well attended and appreciated despite the very windy and cold day. We even continued to play in the afternoon. We had members play in an AC tournament and two teams in interclub, we also joined in the CCA GC Handicap Singles in Fendalton and Cashmere. That was the Sunday the heavens opened and a deluge fell on Cashmere (and maybe elsewhere), the lawns turned to puddles and the balls refused to roll. We've held our club doubles competition and are looking forward to our handicap singles next month. Since daylight saving we resumed our twilight games on Tuesdays.

We'd like to acknowledge and thank our long serving greens keeper, John Reece who has recently decided to retire, for all the work behind the scenes that he had done over many years so our greens remain in the great condition they are now. We wish John a happy retirement.

Some of our members are currently out of action, and we're in the process of advertising for new members. Should you happen to have more demand than your capacity we'd be happy to see them directed our way ☺. Enjoy a colourful spring.

Suzanne Nesbitt

Hornby Croquet Club



Players at Hornby Fun Day



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The Hornby Croquet Club Fun Day was postponed from Wednesday 27th September to Sunday 1st October. The weather on the Wednesday was predicted to be very wet and cold. Sunday 1st October was a much nicer day but unfortunately only 16 players could come on the Sunday. All the players that did come enjoyed themselves and most people won at least one raffle prize.

Thank you to the club members for providing the food and prizes for our Fun Day.

SI Masters Games in Blenheim.

13 players and 3 supporters from Hornby went to the SI Masters Games on Monday 16th to 18th October. Hornby players won 4 medals in the singles and 3 pairs won medals in the doubles. It was a great time to socialize in the evenings and during the day. It was wet on the Tuesday but fortunately we only had to play 3 games on that day.

Hornby players are continuing to play in Interclub games and the Open Singles competition.

Some players are going to the Fun Days put on by other clubs.

One player is participating in the CCA Primary Grades Competition.

Hopefully the weather will be more settled once we get into November so that we can enjoy good club games and competition games.

Annette Wilson

Kaiapoi Croquet Club

Things are moving – literally. On the last Thursday in September, after months of negotiation we signed the Sale and Purchase and Lease agreements with Waimakariri District Council.

The following Monday the contractors, a local Kaiapoi firm, Ongrade Drainage and Excavation, started work on the new site at the corner of Courtney Drive and Charters St.



Above: Jenn Benden, the Project Manager, Geoff Russell (Club President), Johanne Hilton Allen and Ian Hobbs sign the documents.

Work has progressed speedily and a fortnight later the Club's lawn keeper, Noel Bain, met with sports turf specialist, Mike Robbins, Martin McGregor (Senior Adviser, Community and Recreation, Waimakariri District Council) and representatives from Ongrade and Freeman Irrigation to inspect the work so far.



Above: Noel Bain the Kaiapoi Club's lawn keeper (left: carrying a croquet hoop) discusses progress with Mike Robbins, Martin McGregor and staff from Ongrade and Freeman Irrigation.

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Noel was happy with the work done. You may wonder why he is carrying a croquet hoop. He took it along to demonstrate why the topsoil cover for the river run needed to be at least 20 cm deep.



Meanwhile back at the Club the focus is on fundraising for the equipment shed and eventually a club house. We are making a series of applications to various funding organizations and the Club now has a 'Give-a-Little' page. We are also putting the work in ourselves! Club Captain, Tony Connolly, organized three very successful fun days over the winter season as well as a number of 'events' for other sports clubs and businesses and other members have organized a quiz, sold tickets for the Down-by-the-River concerts etc. There will be a bingo session at the Kaikanui Tavern in Kaiapoi on Sunday, 26 November, and the Club is organizing a car boot sale in the Park-and-Ride carpark in Kaiapoi on 3 December. (Yes, we will be selling things ourselves and would be happy to come and pick up any surplus objects croquet players would like to see the back of.)

Alison Holcroft

St James Croquet Club

This outdoor season at St James has had its obstacles. Like everyone else we have been hit by excessive wind and water but our Opening Day on 2nd September was a lovely fine day. Our GC members played in the morning, then we all joined together for drinks and a shared lunch which was followed by our AC members playing in the afternoon. We hope we are now through the worst of the up and down spring weather and summer will be much calmer. Plans are underway to improve our drainage situation which involves some fundraising by the club and club members are stepping up well to help us achieve our goals. We would like to thank those other clubs that have joined in our recent pie selling and hope you are suitably rewarded when eating your pies.

We are also progressing nicely in the competition area in both GC and AC, having 3 competitive GC Interclub teams, 4 AC Interclub teams and 5.5 Johnston teams. Our membership is sitting around 50 so do the CCA give an award for enthusiasm? Club days continue to be enjoyed by both competitive and social players all learning from each other and helping to integrate our new members into the club. On Fridays we play AC starting at 1pm. An invitation is extended to AC players from other Clubs to join us for a Friday afternoon of informal play along with encouraging advice given and received which need not necessarily be about croquet!

Denise Renaud

Cashmere Croquet Club



From Cashmere Croquet Club: A challenge to you all:

A PRETTY GOOD TEAM, WE RECKON

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Is there anyone out there who can beat this trio of dedicated players for a combined total age of 273 years? We're not opening up the speculation for any grand prize, you have to decide for yourself how the years tally may be reached. But Vonnie Alexander, Jack Jordan and Jill Strange of Cashmere Croquet Club have the Longevity Stakes all wrapped up, we think.

You could put your money on any of them for being vibrant, contributing Energiser Bunnies on the club scene. Feisty Vonnie has had a distinguished career as a writer and educator, gentleman Jack has been a stalwart Toyota man during long years in the workshop making it all work for his staff and customers, and gentle Jill still retains the sense of humour and quirkiness, and great eye for any hooping opportunity, that has made her a star at Cashmere for many years. We just love our record-breaking Seniors, may they go on hooping forever!

Lyn McKinnon



Lyn has put the challenge out there. Can another club beat this? Editor

Rangiora Croquet Club

The highlight of the first part of the 2023/24 outdoor season has been hosting the CCA AC Singles held at the end of September. We welcomed eight players including from as far afield as Blenheim and South Canterbury. It was very disappointing that the weather let us down so badly. Saturday was horrible and lawns 2 and 3 were unplayable which meant

that players had to double-bank on lawns 1 and 4.

Sunday's weather was more friendly, and we were able to use all our lawns.

We congratulate Ron Ereckson on his success in winning the tournament and Helene McNab who organised the event and was runner up. The plate event was won by Leo van Oosten'



Rangiora's gazebo providing shelter for lawns 2 and 3

United Croquet Club

A successful working bee was held just prior to opening day, followed by an equally successful Opening Day on 2 September. Our new mower arrived!! And has been put to good use with our lawns in top condition for

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the season. Lawn three is marked out so it can be used as a half lawn should the need arise on club days as United continues to welcome new players.

Advantage play is proving popular with our GC members. This is being used regularly on a Wednesday club day.

Our AC players are well underway with CCA competitions. United has two teams of two entered in both the Johnson and CCA AC interclub with some successful results in both competitions.

Planning is already underway for the NZ AC Open Championship which is being held at United on 20-27 January 2024.

A group of GC players attended the recent South Island Masters held in Blenheim with successful medal winners in both the singles and doubles. Congratulations to Lena Metcalf and Carol Pilbrough (Silver medal, singles); Jill Smithies and Geoff Price (Gold medal, singles) and Jill and Alistair Smithies (Silver, 2nd equal doubles) and Lena Metcalf and Heather Ponder (Bronze doubles). Congratulations also to other players who attended and were successful in winning medals. An excellent 3 days in Blenheim.

On Monday 23 October United is hosting a group of 23 from an Australian cruise. This should be a lot of fun, with a relaxed format planned.

A reminder if you come to United that there may be some pressure on parking. This is due to renovation of the HSOB Clubrooms which while good progress is being made, there may still be some disruptions over the next few months, particularly around parking. Generally during the week parking is available in the Botanical Gardens carpark.

Happy croquet everyone.

Judy Derby



CCA NEEDS YOU!

There was a successful initiative a couple of years ago to get new GC referees within CCA, but we are now in the situation where we may soon have only half a dozen or so readily available qualified referees.

Consequently, we need to have another drive to get new referees involved in the game. Ideally, we should be looking at least one qualified referee per club and it shouldn't take much for any player to hone their knowledge to enable them to pass the referees assessment and become qualified.

There are inevitably those gnarly situations that need a closer look at the rule book and the intention is to run a few sessions early in December to prepare people for assessment in the New Year. These will address topics such as wrong ball, faults, interference, offside etc as well as dealing with particular subjects that those attending may want to raise.

You will be surprised by how much you do actually know already so please have a think about it and contact me if you have any further questions and/or you want to put your name down to become a referee.

Even if you don't initially want to become a referee, you would be more than welcome to come to the sessions to "sharpen up" your knowledge.

So that we can plan the sessions, could you please contact me by 25th November.

Whilst I am principally a GC player and referee, I am also aware that there is a similar shortage of Umpires in the AC world so we should also be looking to have more of these as well. Again, if anyone is interested in becoming an AC Umpire, get in touch with me and we will see what arrangements can be made to get you qualified.

John Borner (CCA Referee)

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Association Croquet Grades Tournament

**Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th November 2023 at
8:30am**

Manager: Tony O'Donnell
Email: evonne_tony@hotmail.com

Headquarters: United Croquet Club, North Hagley Park.
Christchurch

Entries: To Manager by **Wednesday 15th
November 2023**, including handicap, email
and phone contacts

Entry Fee: \$25 – Online Banking Payment by
Wednesday 15th November 2023
CCA Bank A/C 03 0866 0354301 00
Particulars: NAME. Reference: ACGRADES

Conditions: Less than 4 players in a Grade – players
compete for Silver Badge

Silver Badge: CCA players only, 4 grades 0 to 3.5 / 4 to 9
/ 10 to 16 / 18 to 24

Golf Croquet Grades Tournament Premier -6 – 2 / Senior 3 – 5 / Intermediate 6 – 8

Sunday 12th November 2023 at 8:30am

Manager: Cheryl Morrall Ph: (03) 349 7226
Mobile: 027 629 7868
Email: cheryl.morrall@xtra.co.nz

Headquarters: St Martins Croquet Club, Gamblins Road,
Christchurch

Other venue:
Cashmere Croquet Club, 3A Valley Road,
Cashmere

Entry fees: To Manager by **Friday 3rd November 2023**,
including handicap, email and phone contacts

Entry Fee: \$15 – Online Banking Payment by **Friday 3rd
November 2023**
CCA Bank A/C 03 0866 0354301 00
Particulars: NAME. Reference: GCGRADES

Silver Badge: CCA players only

Matters and Dates to Note

- The next Executive meeting is at 3.00pm
on Monday 6 November.
- CCA website is croquetcanterbury.com
- Please send any material for the next
newsletter to Cheryl at
cheryl.morrall@xtra.co.nz by **25th
January 2024** for publishing end of
January.
- *Newsletters are published end August end
October end January then March/April*

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