

Canterbury (NZ) Croquet Association Inc

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2025



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Editorial

Apologies. There is no Presidents report or Editorial in this edition. Thank you to those who have contributed to club news.

Clubs' News

Barrington Croquet Club

Greetings from Barrington Park Croquet Club. We have had a busy and enjoyable time since the last newsletter.

We enjoyed a Christmas Dinner catered for at our club rooms, no one needed to bring anything or do anything other than set up the room to look Christmassy – how fortunate are we to have everything on hand. We have also enjoyed BBQ's, sausage sizzles, lunch out at the Richmond Club and our next outing is lunch at the Tai Tapu Hotel, thanks to our sociable team of organizers.

Recently we have completed the club champs – great fun and very competitive. Such a good fun way to learn other players strategies and styles – there has been lots of practicing jump shots, stop shots etc. as we all come to appreciate how they can change a game.

Ten club members competed in the Singles and ten in the Doubles. The competition was tight with one pair of doubles making 7 hoops in one game and three pair of doubles each making 6 hoops in their game. Our single games were very close and even with counting hoops made and games won it still needed a playoff to determine the winner. We are grateful to Ryman Healthcare who were our sponsors for this championship.

Our corporate events are going very well, with a couple more booked before the end of the season. Willing helpers and keen players, a recipe for a successful social event and a good fundraiser for the club. We have had many compliments for those using our facilities and who knows that may be where croquet gains some new players.

Our club continues to grow, and we often end up playing second colors to accommodate everyone. We have good turnouts on Saturdays and Mondays and recently have added an informal session on a Wednesday which is proving very popular.

Jan Whitburn

Elmwood Croquet Club

We ended the year on a high note with a Christmas lunch crowned by an exceptionally Large ham and a great meal. Very busy with club championships at present and always having great turnouts on club day.

Our new players have attended fun days and are thoroughly enjoying them, always have come back humming. Again had a very successful Waitangi Day challenge day. Have now begun planning for our 100th next February. the best news is that the council have agreed to rid us of the pesky plum tree at our entrance, no more slipping on plums and stones on the lawn.

Jenny Tait



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Fendalton Park Croquet Club

Fendalton Club held a very successful "Summer with the Neighbours" on a Thursday evening in late January. It was a lovely sunny evening and perfect to be outside. The club has hosted this event for several years but this year proved much more popular than previous years. We had 40 visitors attend to find out more about croquet and try it out. Our lawns were full as club members helped the visitors. After a bit of guidance, the level of play improved remarkably and some showed amazing promise.

After playing for some time, we adjourned to the clubhouse where everyone could socialise and enjoy the BBQ and salads provided by the club. This event was made possible with a subsidy received from the City Council and a donation from Fendalton New World.



Grace Leitch

Holmes Park Croquet Club

In December a number of us attended the funeral of a valued club member and friend, Vivienne. She died unexpectedly following surgery. This was a shock to us all.

We have five teams entered in Atkins. We also have a club competition (Sheila Walker) taking place now over several days to accommodate all entrants. It is great to have members involved in

competitive play and to see the improvement in their game.



On Waitangi Day morning we had a wonderful turnout of club members for a working bee, followed by a BBQ lunch. We were going to play croquet in the afternoon but everyone was somewhat tired after the hard morning's work, so we called it a day. That evening it was discovered one of our working team tested positive for covid. Yes, it is still around!!

We are working behind the scenes for our Fun Day on Wednesday, 26 February. We hope for an enjoyable day.

The lawns are due for coring and associated work on 5 April. There will be no winter play this year.

Jean Busch

Hornby Croquet Club

Since the beginning of the year the Hornby Croquet Club has replaced the old toilets and put in new ones. We have also installed a dishwasher. These should help our clubroom to be more comfortable and hygienic.

Hornby has two teams playing Advantage Croquet in the Atkins competition.

Alan and Jude Belcher participated in the Grand Masters competition at Cashmere.

They enjoyed the day with delicious food and they felt that they were made to feel very special. Well done Cashmere club and CCA members for running this special event.

Four Hornby players are enjoying playing in the Maud Trainor competition at United club. Our Club Championships are played in late February and March.

It is sad that I have to report that one of our club members died on 2nd February.

Elaine Fenton died after being ill for a short while. Many of our club members went to her funeral at the Oakland Chapel. Elaine came to us from playing bowls. She brought several friends with her. We will miss her friendly personality.

Annette Wilson

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Kaiapoi Croquet Club

Perseverance is the name of the game when it comes to getting our clubhouse – the former St Paul's Tennis Club pavilion from Papanui on to our new site at the Community Hub. We hope to have Laings move it from its current site in April. We are grateful to the Waimakariri District Council who are backing our efforts and will provide \$25,000 towards the costly gravel raft that is needed for the clubhouse foundations and Geoff Russell, our 'project manager' President, is working on the final budget for the relocation. A gentle warning to any clubs considering a similar project: do not attempt it unless you have someone like Geoff Russell, who has the skills and who is prepared to work on it pretty much full time – and a committee and group of members with similar degrees of commitment.

We kicked off our fundraising for the year on the 16th of February with a Car Boot Sale at the park-and-ride car park in Kaiapoi. Hard work on signage and advertising brought in more than forty vendors and the Club made more than \$2,200.00 from sale of sites and the donated goods on our own stall. Chris Taiaroa and Rosie Hill, along with other helpers, manned our stall - and, heroically, refrained from eating the walnut brownies or the coconut biscuits.



We are now looking forward to moving to our new site – which may happen at the end of this

season, or possibly at the beginning of the next. And in the meantime, there will be lots more fundraising!



Alison Holcroft

Rangiora Croquet Club

Our lawns are looking and playing well, due to the attentions of our lawns group who have spent a lot of time and effort to keep them playing so well - with very warm temperatures in early December and the not so warm temperatures since Christmas!

Rangiora had three teams who reached the Division 3 Interclub quarter finals. Two advanced to the semi's. One team, Colin & Marg Ackroyd, Adrienne McPherson and Lyn Turner, made it through to the finals and although we lost on the day to United – well done United – we were well chuffed with our efforts to get that far.... wait for next year!!

Division 1 – Terry Green and Neville Turner won this competition – well done.

Our last day for organised club play just prior to Christmas was followed by a shared afternoon team and this was enjoyed by nearly our full membership. The turn out required half lawns to accommodate everyone for play.

Over the Christmas/New Year period we have welcomed players from around New Zealand to play on our lawns.

The Social Group have organised a Family Fun Day and BBQ for club members families on 26 January, as well as other activities coming up, including a club members only fun day.

Our formal Fun Day will be held on 12 Feb with a Valentines day theme – entries are open now.

The Club is in good heart with 62 members. Organised play starts again on 11 January.

We were lucky to have Logan McCorkindale offer coaching lessons prior to Christmas, and a good number of members attended this.

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Look what you missed at our Fun Day.



We wish all clubs well for the rest of the season.

Colin Ackroyd



St James Club

St James has been busy over the last couple of months. We ran a very happy and successful FunDay on 29 January. We had lovely weather, good food, lots of laughs and some amazing croquet shots – intended and un-intended. We fielded a very small field of AC players who enjoyed themselves and appeared to some GC players as demented when seen running all over the lawn. Special thanks must go to Janine Hansen for all her hard work that is done prior to the day and of course, on the day and to the St James members who came along to help.

Club Trophies – these are moving along in the background – competing with members time along side their commitments to CCA competitions and of course, other Fundays that are still happening. Our assorted CCA competitions – teams and individuals - have seen St James teams/people achieve a first and couple of runner up positions. Although not always winners we have thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and learnt a lot. We have been happy with the successes that we have had and look forward to next year, especially the revamped AC interclub which we hope will allow us to enter more teams.

Our current project for which the Club has been fundraising for – DRAINAGE – is now underway. End of January the stormwater line from outside the fence through the park to St James Avenue has been completed. A very slick and quick operation that happened over one day! The next part is the line running parallel to the fence from the Club House end to the Main Gate by our machine shed. This is a more involved part of the project and work on it is going to commence last week of March which necessitates our lawns being closed and this will happen on 23 March after which the lawns will undergo their seasonal work ready for 2025/2026 season.



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We thank the Croquet community and their families for supporting our fund raising events to achieve this.

We thank all clubs for another enjoyable outdoor season and competitions and will look forward to welcoming everybody back to "flood-free" lawns!!!! 2025/2026 – ***Enjoy the rest of the season!***

Patsy Clegg

St Martins Club

The annual Judy Cleine Handicap Tournament was held at the club on 12th January. As has been the case most of the summer, the weather was indeed a mixed bag. The morning was cold and a bit wet. Players were well rugged up but ready for anything! The afternoon saw much better conditions with the sun finally coming out.

The 26 players who took part all agreed it was a fun day and everyone enjoyed catching up with other players in a friendly but competitive tournament. The play on the greens was excellent with only 6 points between first and third.

As usual there was a lot of talk over morning and afternoon tea and during lunch. These events are not just about the croquet!

When the scores were tallied at the end of the day, the winners were Tineke Fernhout and Marina Brennan.



Followed closely by Lynette Robson and Jocelyn Partridge.



And in third place, Lyn Ringrose and Peter Entwistle.



Ali Moore

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Broadfield Club

As yet, the lawns have not been handed over to us from the Council, as there are still some areas that the Contractors are working on to get them to the standard required for handover. However, we have been very fortunate that Ready Lawn has allowed us to set up an area for 3 full sized lawns that hasn't interfered with the work still being done. We have been using these lawns since December and can see the improvement in them since then. We have a good turnout of members on Club Days and are really enjoying playing on the lawns even though the length of the grass still requires some harder hitting than what would normally be expected!

Our two Interclub teams represented Broadfield well and ended up around the middle of the fields in both Div 2 & Div 3. We also have two teams playing in the Atkins at the moment.

We continue to fundraise, and were invited back to the Duvauchelle A & P Show this year as the caterers for the 100 officials. This is a really good fundraiser for us. We have a Quiz Night organised for 3 March at the Good Home in Prebbleton, which we have sell out numbers for.

At this stage we haven't advertised for any new Members, as until the handover and the 6 lawns are set, we can't really fit any more in on the current playing area.

The photos show a typical morning tea stop at "Our Clubhouse" on Club Day, a few of our keen helpers on our latest Working Bee and play on our lawns.



Mary Dewar

United Club

Our Christmas function was held on Saturday 14 December and as always members enjoyed a wonderful lunch of ham on the bone, salads and dessert.

We have continued to welcome new and returning members with four being confirmed at our February committee meeting.

Twilight GC singles play continues on a Monday nights and has been enjoyed by a regular group of our players. This will stop on 31 March (aligning with when daylight saving ceases).

We have hosted a good number of corporate events with a number still to run. It's great to see that some are groups who have been to UCC previously. Closing date for bookings for events is 6 April (end of daylight saving).

In addition, we had a group of 41 year 5-6 students from St Michael's Church School visit for an hour on 14 February and a further group of 39 year 7-8 students will visit us on Friday 14 March. They were a delight to host and thoroughly enjoyed their time with us. Excellent too that staff who accompanied them were able to see what croquet is all about!



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Players who entered tournaments this season in both AC and GC have enjoyed success. Of special note is Jenny Clarke who attended the 107th NZ Open Championship held at Mount Maunganui on 17-24 January 2025. Jenny was the winner of the NZ Open Singles titles and is the first woman in 59 years to have won this title. An amazing achievement she adds to her extensive list. Congratulations Jenny!

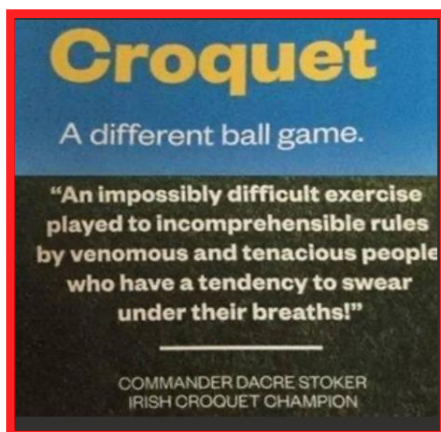
Regular monthly social events during the season of afternoon tea and after-play drinks have been well attended by members and are an enjoyable social time.

Our GC Club Champs are underway with games to be completed by mid-March. There are not many days our lawns aren't in use for games. UCC will host the AC Open at UCC on 22-23 March with three of our lawns in use for this.

The parking charges for the Botanic Gardens carparks put in place by the Council do not seem to have impacted our members nor those who are visiting UCC for tournaments. Surprisingly there is usually plenty of parks available now – except Saturday 15 February when Lexus Polo was held in the park. A common occurrence when this event is held is damage to the north-east corner of our fence by the enormous trucks negotiating a tricky bend. This happened again – although this time by one of the smaller vehicles!

Dates are in place for end of season with a working bee on 5 April, Closing Day 26 April and our AGM 17 May.

**Judy
Derby**



Celebrations

Logan McCorkindale and Levi Franks did Canterbury proud as members of the team of four representing New Zealand in the Openshaw Shield World Teams event recently held in Tasmania.



Levi had a winning smile as he walked off the lawn after defeating former world champion and American team captain Ben Rothman, 5/7 7/3 7/3 in a semi-final match.

USA eventually won the tournament with New Zealand placing fourth after a closely fought battle for a medal against Australia.

Levi has written the following for our newsletter :

Competing in the 2025 Openshaw Shield was a fantastic experience, in terms of getting to witness the highest quality croquet anywhere on earth, growing closer to my New Zealand

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teammates and making connections with a lot of awesome people from all over the world. Being the youngest member of the team it was my job to carry our mascot Kiwi with us to the croquet club each day. It was great to meet some legendary players and world champions who I could watch and learn from. Playing croquet in this high pressure team oriented environment is totally different from any croquet tournament I've played in before. It is great to have supportive teammates that have each other's backs when things don't go your way. I found the level of focus and precision that was needed to play well at this level was very exhausting to sustain, and every match, game and hoop that we won or lost was so much more important than any other competition. We were formally welcomed by the mayor of Launceston at the town hall, and then had two practice days where we got to warm up on the lawns and have a practice match against the Spanish team. Our first test match was against Australia which we lost 4-2, and I was definitely not playing my best. The next day we played England, which was a must-win test, and we stepped it up a notch and won 5-1. I personally played quite well and got some good wins in both doubles and singles. On day three we played a weaker Ireland team, as their previous results meant they could no longer make the knockout, so we had a comfortable 6-0 win. Unfortunately we lost in the semifinals to the USA over a two-day test match, which was pretty disappointing, as it only would have taken a few results to have swung our way for us to have had a chance at winning. I did pick up a pretty nice match win against the 2019 GC world champion Ben Rothman which was pretty cool. We then played Australia in a best of 9 test match for third place, and we barely lost 4-5, which again was pretty disappointing. But that's just how sport goes, I'm pretty happy with how well I played over the course of the event, and hopefully I'll be back again in four years time to have another crack at it.



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AC Open (Singles)

- Saturday 22nd and Sunday 23rd March 2025 at 8:30am

Manager:	Tim Slack Mobile: 027 505 5746 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Email: timjslack@gmail.com
Headquarters:	United Croquet Club, North Hagley Park, Christchurch
Entries:	To Manager by Wednesday 12th March 2025 , including handicap, email, phone contacts and confirmation of entry payment
Entry Fee:	\$25 – Online Banking Payment by Wednesday 12th March 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CCA Bank A/C 03-0866-0354301-00• Particulars: NAME. Reference: ACOPEN
Conditions:	Entries may be limited, double banked if necessary <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cancelled if less than 4 players

1. The next Executive meeting is at 10.00am on Monday 10 March at Fendalton.
2. Delegates meeting is at 9.30am on Saturday 12 April at Fendalton.
3. CCA Closing Day, Sunday 13 April.
4. CCA website is croquetcanterbury.com
5. Please send any material for the next newsletter to Cheryl at cheryl.morrall@xtra.co.nz by **6 April 2025**

Newsletters are published end September, mid December, end February, then March/April.