

# Canterbury (NZ) Croquet Association Inc



NEWSLETTER APRIL 2026

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## Editorial

Your Editor, suffering from insomnia recently considered taking Magnesium. Before taking any supplements, it is important to check out the side effects. In this case maybe sleep deprivation might have been preferable.

Side effects of magnesium:

- **Gastrointestinal Distress**
- **Low Blood Pressure**
- **Flushing or Fatigue**
- **Irregular Heartbeat**
- **Respiratory Distress**
- **Muscle Weakness/Paralysis**
- **Mental Confusion:**

Keep safe and healthy over the winter, and keep a look out for those side effects.

## Editor

## CCA Presidents Report

Another busy and successful season comes to an end with most Clubs taking a break over the winter months. Maybe we will be lucky and get the summer we missed out on.

CCA events were well supported overall and it was a special time for Edgeware Club and their players winning the Atkins Trophy.

Thanks to all Clubs for the support they willingly give to CCA – without you all and availability of Clubrooms our events, coaching, meetings and roadshow visits would not occur.

Requests to Clubs have been sent regarding hosting events for 2026 – 2027 season.

Gay Jones

President

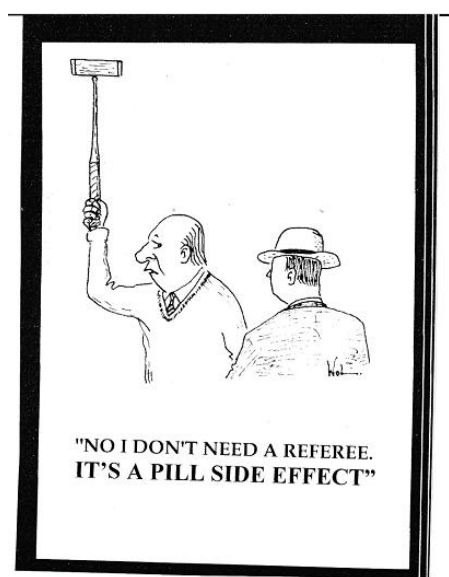
## Club News

### *Akaroa Croquet Club*

Akaroa Members have enjoyed a good Summer season of play but we have encountered some adverse weather which has resulted in a number of cancellations and postponements.

Recent high winds took a good portion of our boundary fence down and caused a water fountain on Lawn 2.

Freedom Campers are currently getting an excellent view of play while we wait for the CCC to replace the fence.



CCA Club Magazine March 1999.

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Our Lawns have been in excellent condition throughout the season and have been scarified recently.

We have had good Player representation from our members at various Canterbury competitions and have 3 Members playing in the CCA "Team of 4" competition.

There have also been some good results from participation in A C Matches.

Our Club Championship matches have been held with the Handicap doubles being played in the Advantage format.

This proved very successful and was well received by all participants.

Cashmere Club hosted an excellent day for our Members in the annual Rosebowl Competition.

The rain held off and everyone thoroughly enjoyed 4 games of croquet, excellent food and congenial play.

It was a very well organised day and concluded with the Cashmere Club retaining the Trophy.

Unfortunately, the annual Challenge between Aorangi and Akaroa has been cancelled due to low Player numbers able to travel to Timaru.

The Clubs playing season winds up soon but we are looking forward to playing some social games over the winter on the new All Weather Courts that the new Sports complex offers.

**Maryjane Berry**

### **Barrington Croquet Club**

As I write this article it seems hard to believe that Barrington Park Croquet Club is having their closing day tomorrow 11<sup>th</sup> April. It has been such an enjoyable and busy season but gone in a flash. Our club is in good heart, having gained 5 new members this season, and all of them learning fast and playing great

games of croquet. This year we are planning on playing outdoors as long as the weather and the lawns allow –this is a double bonus for us because we will also offer indoor croquet for those who want to do so, an added way to socialize with our members and learn and improve our strategies. We will finish the summer season with a BBQ after play tomorrow.

Our lawns have been well utilized this season, with a good number of members turning up on days other than club days, for coaching, extra games to improve skills etc., the second colors were used most days. It is great seeing players encouraging each other, enjoying a cuppa together after play and all contributing with packing up the lawns. Many hands make light work!!!

Two of the highlights would have to have been the Inter Club and BCC Championships. The inter club had some close games and players are enthusiastic to play again next year. The BCC Championships were great fun, and full of surprises – some good, some not so good – but isn't that the name of the game. We had 7 pairs in the doubles and 9 single players, hopefully there will be even more participants next summer. All those taking part really appreciated the efforts of our Club Captain, Lyn Dawson and our Treasurer Robert Whitla who ensured everything ran smoothly.

Barrington had the pleasure of hosting residents from Lady Wigram Retirement Village for a morning of croquet. These players were all top-level players who have contributed much to Canterbury Croquet over many years, so it was a real privilege to have them come along to our club. They are still fantastic players and very enthusiastic, the heavy dew and cooler temperatures did not deter them in the slightest – fortunately as the morning progressed so did the conditions.

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At the moment we have a team of hardworking members preparing for our centenary later this year. There have been raffles to help with funds and jam for sale – every bit helps, as well as lots of planning as to what will happen to celebrate.

## **BARRINGTON PARK CROQUET CLUB Centenary Celebrations**

**For all those past members we welcome you to come along for a social day of celebrating a very proud tradition of Croquet.**

**Happening on:**

**Sunday 13<sup>TH</sup> September 2026**

**Barrington Park Croquet Club Rooms**

**Starting at 10.00am**

**An introduction including a Guest Speaker**

**A Catered Lunch**

**Catch up with past members**

**Historical Photo Display**

**Fun game of Croquet**



**Registrations to be received by  
Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>  
August 2026  
RSVP To: Maureen**

**Ph: 021=2011567**

Barrington CC are planning a social luncheon at one of the local Indian Restaurants on Sunday – a grand way to close the Summer season and launch into the Winter season.

***Jan Whitburn***

## ***Broadfield Croquet Club***

We held our first Club Championship Singles and Doubles this year. It was, in some cases, the first opportunity for new players to experience competition play.

Broadfield also entered 3 teams in the Atkins Trophy and 4 players who participated in the CCA Mixed Teams competition.

Our club days have been well supported with 30+ players most days. Twilight was also well supported throughout the summer. We are now playing winter hours, with club days in the afternoon and twilight now finished until daylight saving starts again.

The CCA Advantage Doubles Tournament was held at Broadfield on 29 March. The weather was freezing as can be seen by those rugged up in the photo. However, the day went well with some really good Croquet played.



We were very pleased to host Broadfield School years 7 & 8 students at the end of the year. They absolutely loved it and have

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booked another slot for this year. Some very keen future players!



We ended last year with a fabulous Christmas Lunch held at Anthea Jamieson's home.

The weather for once played ball.



On the business side of things, our AGM is scheduled for Saturday 9th May. We continue with our fundraising with a Quiz night booked in June and catering for functions in July and September.

We are still working through the lease with the Council. Progress is being made, but nothing as yet signed.

**Mary Dewar**

## **Cashmere Croquet Club**

Sadly, the end of the season is nigh. We will be holding our Prize Giving on Saturday April 11<sup>th</sup>, which will also signify the closing of our lawns, as on Monday April 13<sup>th</sup> all three of our lawns will be cored. We will also be carrying out additional autumn renovation work during that week. It is hoped that we can open one lawn for casual play in early/mid May, but that will only be for a few weeks until we close the lawns completely for July and most of August.

It has been a mixed season as regards the weather. The photo below shows our number one lawn, after a prolonged period of heavy rain on February 17<sup>th</sup>. What happened to the long hot summer we were forecast?



Due to this sort of weather, our annual Rosebowl fixture against Akaroa had to be postponed. However, we were able to play it eventually on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Cashmere snook a close win to retain the Rosebowl.

We had a break from tradition with our Club Championships this year. Instead of letting competitors arrange their own games over a number of weeks, we chose to devote a single weekend to most of the grades. There

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were some very close games, and even closer outcomes, but the eventual winners were:-

Premier Grade (-6 to 2)	Levi Franks
Senior Grade (3 to 5)	James Corrigan
Intermediate Grade (6 to 8)	Max Morrison
Primary Grade (9 to 14)	Philippa Lemon
Handicap Singles	Levi Franks
Handicap Doubles	Patrick Conolly and Isaac Conolly

Congratulations to all concerned. Hopefully, that long hot summer will arrive next year!

**Ken Lomax**

*CCA Prize Giving*



**Cashmere Croquet Club award winners** – Left to right Janet Scott, Isaac Conolly, Owen Evans, Geoff Price, Alex Millar, Alison Lowe, Levi Franks. (Derek Kinley missed the photo opportunity!) Cheers Ken

## **Edgeware Croquet Club**

Our small numbers do not mean we have a small achievement within our region.

Three titles have come to our club including the prestigious Atkins competition.

*CCA Prize Giving*



**Edgeware Croquet Club award winners** – Left to right: Stu Rich, Sue Stott, Nigel Ellis

We were to have moved next door to where the bowling club had been but despite the Council offering full support for the move including new lawns that were like a billiard table, they withdrew their offer suggesting the costs to the rate payers would have been too great.

Membership wise we continue to attract new players to our sport, bringing with them welcome enthusiasm.

Awareness also continues with corporate tournaments being played on several occasions, all involved enjoying the game and atmosphere it produces, we are probably raising awareness of the game for the benefit of all our clubs.

**Jan Cooney**

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## **Elmwood Croquet Club**

This year has been a celebration year at Elmwood as we celebrated our 100th year with a garden party. We set up outside under our veranda with tables set up with the best china cups and saucers set up on beautiful embroidered tablecloths. We had a well polished shiny tea service to serve tea or coffee from. Why a garden party? Well food apparently played an important part in the club life. We have gone from home baking ,cream cakes etc to just bought biscuits. Bridge afternoon tea was strictly controlled by sandwiches,scones and one piece of cake.

Current and past members joined us for a very relaxed sunny afternoon . Sunday, current members enjoyed a luncheon at the Commodore hotel .

We published a small booklet of the history of the gathering interesting bits of history gleaned from old minutes both amusing and informative. Lots of fund raising for the war effort was raised by dedicated bridge players . Fifteen tins of goodies were made up to be sent to the members family overseas.

Croquet is often a family game . Our first life member of the club's granddaughter has joined us and has begun playing with the young at Cashmere.



The 1926 photo of the original members look rather cold but keen, keeping warm with their fox furs, compared to our current members looking very casual.

Elmwood has had a good competitive year, with many new players playing interclub. With support from our senior players they have benefited from the experience. This led onto our own very successful club championships with more players participating. It was a good season and we look forward to the next. Meantime we will play on fine days but get underway with indoor croquet to keep our skills up.

Just a small quote I found. "Life is a game of croquet you just need to keep your head down and aim "

**Jenny Tait**

## **Fendalton Park Croquet Club**

Fourteen of our members went on a croquet tour of Tasmania in March. They played croquet at 7 clubs and all clubs were very welcoming. We hope to see reciprocal visits from some of those clubs in the coming years. On the days that they didn't play croquet, they went sightseeing and they



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found Launceston and Hobart great to visit. They all seemed to have a wonderful trip and had lots of fun.

We have been busy with internal club competitions which have just about been completed. March has also been very popular with corporate functions. Most years we host corporate functions in the lead up to Christmas so this has been an unusual but very welcome change.

As we wind down for our season closure on 18<sup>th</sup> April we had a members "Fun Day" that involved various croquet games and a "Silly Hat" competition. We are also preparing for our clubs 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary dinner in June.



**Grace Leitch**

## **Holmes Park Croquet Club**

Another season has come to an end and the lawns are about to receive some annual treatment. However, they will only be out of action for a week or two and play will continue through the winter. Credit must go to Tim Slack who cares for the lawns - they played well all season, particularly for those who prefer a faster surface.

A quarter of our club membership played in CCA competitions over 13 different events. Tim again led the way, being runner-up in both the Interclub Open Singles and, partnered with Leon Busch, the GC Twilight competition. Other club members were part of the runner-up team in the GC Teams event, brought home the Bev Stechmann Trophy for the second year in a row and made the final eight in Atkins.

Club members have turned up trumps again, running a very successful Fun Day and keeping the grounds and equipment in tip-top order. What started as a need to repaint the hoop trolleys ended up as a complete rebuild, through the enthusiasm and skill of one of our members.

Closing Day was recently held in cool conditions, but it was great to see the lawns full and the warmth, laughter and camaraderie among our members. Marie Cowan, who joined our club in 1984, played two games and is testament to the long-term affinity members have to the club.

**Jean Busch**

## **Hornby Croquet Club**

Socially and competitively, this season, our Horny Croquet Club has participated in events with enthusiasm and skills too!

Several members completed The Maud Trainor competition at United. The Atkins

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proved exciting with two teams qualifying on the finals day, the third team not far behind. Annette Wilson and Alan Belcher competed in the Team of Three competition which the CCA organized.

In another CCA event, the CCA Advantage Doubles, Sarah Polson played with Derek Kinley from Cashmere, winning this event.



Most of our members enjoyed a bus trip and social games with the Geraldine Club. We're a very honest crowd as in our Would I Lie To You game on the bus, nobody could lie. Stories were TRULY fantastic.

The club is in good heart with lawns in the best condition we've seen them and a wi-fi system installed alongside an Irrigation Controller System thanks to Graham Hutcheson's initiative.

We are looking forward to our Bring A Friend Day. New members would be very welcome.

**Jude Belcher**

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## Kaiapoi Croquet Club

Our big project is almost complete! The lawns are settling down, the shelters (sourced from Christchurch City Council) are in position and providing some welcome shelter from the easterly, and things are happening in the southwest corner. A concrete slab has been laid to west of the clubhouse, a hedge has been planted to provide shelter from the southerly, the practice lawn has been laid and will be sown in the spring. To come: a lean to shed for the trailer and a heavy Vehicle Access Slab for the western gate. We are enormously grateful for support from local businesses and tradies. We could not have done it without them.

Meanwhile our members have been hard at work with fundraising activities. A car boot sale in February, a firewood raffle, a fun day sponsored by The Sterling, and our Easter Raffle raised more than \$5000 – close to \$100 per member. Their efforts have been supplemented by a generous grant from the Kiwi Gaming Foundation of \$6670 to cover the costs of the Heavy Vehicle Access slab. The Club has much to be thankful for!



**Alison Holcroft**

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## St James Croquet Club

After rushing around to prepare copy for the last newsletter, I decided to obtain a small notebook – which I duly did – and record various activities, events etc as they happened. That bit did not happen. So..... to begin..... the second half of the season has disappeared at an alarmingly fast speed.

Fund raising events – Quiz Night, Fun Day, Sausage Sizzle and Corporate Hosting have all been successful and added to our coffers– the events being led by Pauline Knaggs, Anne Barron, Cathrine Boyle and Marguaritte Rogers with lots of input from Club members and families. These monies have been of great help to the Club.

Grounds – the monies spent on addressing surplus water events especially on our No1 lawn have been well spent. We are noticing that heavy rain events are having minimal effect. Surplus water is disappearing within hours of the rain stopping and soggy lawns drying out allowing play within some cases, a few hours later. We have had several maintenance issues with our ride-on mower – we have prepared for the worst and have been thankful when the invoice has arrived to find we have not had to sell the family silver or mortgage the Club House. Our Grounds Team led by John Doyle has done an excellent job during the season. Work on the grounds – the gardens and our perennial favourite THE HEDGE – have been dealt to by members and recruited family and friends.



*Image compliments of the Editor.*

Competitions – hopefully the numbers of St James players entering the various events – both GC and AC – we have not worn out our welcome. All events have been enjoyed.... keenly played even if the odds in some cases have been high. We have enjoyed playing at various clubs and against other players at all levels. There has been success, loss but always it is hoped – the chance to learn - be it play or rules. Our Club competitions are completing – like most years we are encouraged to get them underway as soon as, but as per usual the last games are being played over the next week. Special mention to our joint Club Captains – Denise Renaud and Sally Mene. The ladies have worked very hard together to produce a great programme of events which have been most successful.

Preparation is underway for closing day – which will be Saturday 18 April. There are mixed feelings – sad that the end of the outdoor playing season has arrived and competitions are no more. Envy of those clubs able to play outdoors but then hey..... we set up our indoor lawns and away we go. It is for St James a great way for AC players to try and hone their strategy, GC to practise jumping out of the way of flying balls but more importantly the social interaction – especially when it is cold. During this time John Doyle's team swings into action preparing lawns for the next season which we are all waiting for.

## Patsy Clegg

### St Martins Croquet Club

The highlight at St Martins Club over the past 3 months was, once again, hosting the Bev Stechmann Tournament. Finding a good weather day this summer has been difficult but 11th February obliged and 32 players took to the greens to play some close, competitive games. In the end the winners

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were Leon and Jean Busch from Holmes Park. And if you think you have heard those names before, you would be right! They won the tournament last year also!



But who is Bev Stechmann? The tournament was inaugurated in 1993 by the then Committee of the Canterbury Croquet Centre (St Martins) to remember the work of the late Bev Stechmann and all the original committee who by total commitment raised in the vicinity of \$50,000 to restore the St Martins greens to their present standard. We owe them a huge vote of thanks.



And, as happens every year Brent Stechmann (son of Bev) and his wife were on hand to present the trophy, a silver salver. The sponsor for the event this year was Rymans and all participants received a shopping bag.

And now as the season comes to an end our focus moves to the winter programme. If playing cards is your thing, every Saturday afternoon you can join others at the club rooms for a game of Rummy. Lots of fun and not too competitive!

Then, once a month a member of the club is asked to present a talk about their life, their career or some other interest that they have. If you think you know everything about someone, you can be very surprised when they get up and tell their story! Lots of fun, a few laughs and some very interesting facts. All designed to keep us entertained until the new season begins later in the year.

## ***Ali Moore***

### **United Croquet Club**

At United we have had a busy season with a number of Group Events and our members have been very supportive with their time in supporting these. It's particularly pleasing to see a number of groups returning for a second or even third visit.

Interclub was enjoyed by our members with a number of our newer members taking part for the first time. This is always great to see and also great to see is some of the success United enjoyed.

We have recently completed a renovation of all our lawns – not a small job by any means! As a consequence our lawns were unavailable for members during this time and we will be resting lawns on a rotation, post renovation.

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A working bee is scheduled for Saturday 11 April – always well attended and supported by our membership, after which we have croquet and a BBQ lunch.

Closing Day will be a little later this year – Saturday 2 May – taking account of ANZAC Day. We will have our prize giving at this and enjoy a finger food lunch – contributed by our members.

AGM is to be held Saturday 16 May. This year we have some committee positions to fill plus a couple ex-committee positions. One of our members standing down from the Committee and AC Club Captain (to mention just two of his roles!) is Tony O'Donnell who has contributed to UCC for many years – earning a well-deserved retirement!

United has welcomed a number of new members during the season and this is always really great to see. The coaching programme our Club Coach, Denise McLoughlin, ran during the season was of huge benefit to our members – particularly those new to croquet. Thank you Denise!

I hope everyone had an enjoyable season of croquet and met many players from other clubs. Our thanks to CCA and the clubs who hosted the tournaments we all took part in and enjoyed.

**Judy Derby**

## CCA Prize Giving

### Golf Croquet Interclub

Div1 Winners: United 2; Steve Ballinger & Michael McLoughlin

R/Ups: Akaroa: Carolyn Smith & Graham Jones

Div 2 Winners: United 2: Judy Derby, Jane Ballinger, Jill Smithies

R/Ups: United 1: Betty Inglewood & Denise McLoughlin

## CCA Prize Giving



**United croquet Club award winners.**

## CCA Prize Giving continued

### Golf Croquet Interclub

Div 3 Winners: Cashmere 2; Alison Lowe, Alex Miller, Janet Scott, Tony Billish

R/Ups: United 1; Tony raper, Beverley Parlane, Kelvin Cordes, Fanci Kwok

Open Singles Winner: Cashmere; John Borner

R/Up: Holmes Park; Tim Slack

Twilight Winners: Cashmere; Isaac Conolly & Owen Evans

R/Ups: Tim Slack Leon Busch

### The Atkins Trophy

Winners: Edgeware: Bruce Wright, Nigel Ellis, Sue Stott

R/Ups: Rangiora 2; Neville & Lyn Turner

3rd: Kaiapoi 3; Gill Hobbs & Greg Bloomer

4<sup>th</sup> Place: Kaiapoi 2: Tony Connolly, Nicky Hepplewaite, Ian Hobbs

GC Team of Four: MADG: Mike Bunce, Annette Wilson, Derek Kinley, Geoff Russell

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## Association Croquet Interclub

Div 1 Winner: Edgeware; Sue Stott

R/Up: Cashmere; Owen Evans

Div 2 Winner: St James; John Doyle

R/Up: Rangiora; Helene Macnab

Twilight Winners: Cashmere/ Hornby;

Gaylene Jones & Sarah Polson

R/Up: Edgeware /United

Leonie Clarke & Chris Clarke

## Johnson Memorial Trophy

Winners; Cashmere/Akaroa: Geoff Price & Carolyn Smith

R/Ups; Cashmere; Joshua Winter & Tony Waters



## AWARDS

### GC Most Improved Player:

**Derek Kinley (Cashmere)**

Runner Up: Alec Astle (Fendalton)

3<sup>rd</sup>: Isaac Conolly (Cashmere)

### AC Most Improved Player:

**Levi Franks ( Cashmere)**

Runner Up; Geoff Price (Cashmere)



## AWARDS

### Golf Croquet Silver Badge:

Premier: Cashmere: Levi Franks

Senior: United: Betty Inglewood

Intermediate: United: Jill Smithies

Primary: Cashmere: Isaac Conolly

### Association Croquet Silver Badge:

Intermediate 4-9: St James: Jonathan Hart

B Grade 10-16: Edgeware: Stu Rich

C Grade 18-24: St James: Ayelen Tayagui



## TROPHY

**Club with the Highest Participation**

Winner: St James Park 140%

Runner Up: Cashmere 114%

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### Matters and Dates to Note

- 1 The next Executive meeting is at 1.00 on Monday May 4<sup>th</sup>.
- 2 CCA AGM meeting is at 10.00 on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June at Fendalton.
3. CCA website is [croquetcanterbury.com](http://croquetcanterbury.com)

*Newsletters are published early October, mid December, then April following Closing Day.*

Previous newsletters are available on CCA website.