

Canterbury (NZ) Croquet Association Inc



NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2026

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Editorial

The recent updated CCA contact list resulted in multiple amendments to my Address book and caused me to reflect on the many changes of Officers in clubs as this new season starts.

It is not only the Officers who are helping your clubs tick over, but all those in the background who are lending a hand. Even helping out with the smallest tasks can make a real difference to an organisation.



Here are a few things that volunteering can do for you.

Volunteering gives you an opportunity to practice and develop your social skills.

The social contact aspect of helping and working with others can have a profound effect on your overall psychological well-being.

Through volunteer work, you may overcome the personal challenges of leaving your comfort zone and doing something new with people you may not know.

The training and hands-on experience you gain while volunteering can help you learn new skills.

You may be able to find your purpose through volunteering and becoming part of something greater than yourself.

If you are doing your bit, thank you. If you can put your hand up next time your community will appreciate and value your contribution.



Editor

CCA Presidents Report

CCA have been fortunate to secure three sponsors this season - thanks to Geoff Price, Terminator Mallets (Mike McClure) and Bupa Villages and Aged Care.

We are currently looking at the cost of Advantage Target cards which will be displayed near the start corner to indicate the number of hoops required by each player / team. The CCA Regional and CNZ National Don Reyland Memorial Stars will be played under the new guidelines this season.

The winter months were once again busy with sorting venues for all the CCA Tournaments and liaising with other Associations to avoid clashes of events. As in past years no Interclub is scheduled during the week of the popular Masters event at Timaru - good luck to all our members heading south to compete in the games.

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The 2026 - 2027 Interclub season is underway with games scheduled to play on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. CCA would like to acknowledge and thank all Clubs who have presented lawns to a high standard for both AC and GC and a morning cup of tea - always welcome on a cold day.

The division 4, New to Croquet players has been popular again this season - thanks to Barrington for providing your Club for the first 3 weeks of coaching

CCA Tournaments commenced with a field of 6 players for the AC Open Singles (3 & 4 Oct) which will be followed by the new GC 1+ Singles Tournament. We are encouraged by the entries for this 2 day event, also a first for the GC events. Also this month is the AC Handicap Singles.

Clubs are encouraged to print CCA posters for Club notice boards including tournaments, Club fundays and events for other Associations. This is a great reminder for your members and visitors alike as we seem to get inundated with advertising information and potentially overlook the croquet information.

Reminder to all Clubs to ensure the CNZ database is up to date with all registered members as the first round of levies is due for payment at the end of October. CCA Treasurer, Sue Bonfield has been in touch with updated levy information, Club invoices and payment information at the end of October.

My thanks to the Executive members, referees, coaches, managers of CCA Tournaments and the Tournament Committee for your contributions thus far this season.

Gay Jones, CCA President



GC Advantage Target Scores.

The more eagle eyed amongst you may have noticed from the 2026127 Yearbook that the format for playing Advantage Croquet has changed slightly.

It has changed to Target Scores and the important things to remember are that **there is no change whatsoever to the number of hoops either you or your opponent will be required to score** compared to the previous Starting Scores version, **nor is there any change to the way you play the game.**

The change is that instead of starting at (for example) +1 or -2 and finishing the game when you get to 7, with Target Scores both you and your opponent start at 0 and (using the same example as above) you would finish when you get to 6 or 9.

As well as doing away with having to deal with any negative numbers, it also does away with the requirement of putting any extra pegs on the centre peg and the Advantage peg.

Instead, number indicators should be positioned near corner 4 (where you start) so that players, spectators, managers and

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referees can easily see what the situation is for each game on a lawn.

In trials that have been carried out here in NZ, England and Australia, getting rid of the negative numbers proved very popular, and once a few games had been played was easier to understand and use.

The revised Target Score tables and the Scoring Fraction Percentage tables are all available in the Yearbook, but if you want to receive a package with the tables and the How To Play document, please send me an email at icbadvantage@gmail.com.

John Borner

Club News

Barrington Croquet Club

This year for the first time when the weather was good, we enjoyed outdoor play in winter on 2 out of the 3 lawns. Otherwise a small group played indoor croquet during the off season. We have 32 members and bought some new mallets. The season started on August 29th which was a lovely day. We also had a wonderful centenary celebration of our club on Sunday 13th September. The hard working committee made it a very special occasion and the weather was wonderful for friendly outdoor croquet. Several previous members came along. It was lovely to have Gay Jones present.



We also had the Hon Dr. Megan Woods as guest speaker. She spoke on the history of the area and it was very encouraging in what we are doing for the community.



Also, we borrowed 3 terminator mallets to try out this month. We have a ladder competition in the club to which members can join in if they wish.

There is one team playing interclub as several players cannot join in this year due to

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family circumstances. We hope to have more in competition next year. We look forward to some wonderful outdoor games over the summer.

In August some members enjoyed a lovely meal out at the Golden Mile Restaurant, Prebbleton

Janet Lockyer

Broadfield

During the winter we have continued playing and have enjoyed the presence of members from other clubs.

Our lease with the Selwyn District Council was finally been signed off at the September Council meeting. It has taken 18 months, but we are thrilled with the outcome. Our relationship with the Council has remained strong throughout the process.

We have continued to raise money through catering and our quiz night. Our catering jobs have been at the Lincoln Bridge Club, the Barrington Croquet Club's centennial lunch, a club member's 80th birthday and the Botanical Expo at Lincoln.

In July our annual Club Advantage Doubles competition took place. The winners, Brent Cowan and Glenys Ivory, were the inaugural recipients of the Croy Trophy, donated by Errol and Maggie Croy.



Croy Trophy

The opening day for the season was held on 19th September. Bev Le Poidevin ran the first hoop for the season.



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The members enjoy croquet and afternoon tea.

Elaine Vallendar

Cashmere Croquet Club

Our Opening Day on Saturday August 22nd saw a very healthy turn out of members. Although you wouldn't call it warm, at least it was a fine day. As is our tradition, our Patron, Jack Jordan played the first ball to rapturous applause. Two hours of play was followed by a "bring a plate" afternoon tea.

Our membership has remained constant for the last couple of years at around 70.

Inevitably each year we lose one or two members, but they are replaced by new members joining the club. It is very pleasing that roughly 50% of our membership play competitive croquet, either in CCA Interclub competitions or external tournaments. This year we have seven GC interclub teams, two in Division 1, two in Division two and three in Division 3. In addition, we have seven members playing in the Interclub Singles and a couple of AC teams.

Keeping both the competitive players and the social players happy is not an easy task. This year we have increased our number of Club

Days from three to four, with the competitive players getting a day to themselves. This allows for singles games on full size lawns, which is good preparation for Interclub competitions.

Obviously, our members have been closely following Levi's progress on his Croquet OE.



He has been very successful, winning the NSW Open, the Australian Open, the British Open, and the Czeck Open. Most recently he was runner up in the Camino de Santiago International in Spain, which earned him significant prize money. His next tournament will be the World Championships in Egypt, where he will be joined by another club member, Josh Winter. We are very proud to have two Cashmere members who have gained entry to the eighty strong field.

Ken Lomax

Elmwood Croquet Club

Elmwood had its opening day on Sunday 6th September which was a cold wet day after a glorious weather day on Saturday. We postponed our competition and enjoyed our lunch instead. Our club captain asked some of our members about their lives before croquet. We have some very interesting people amongst us.

During winter we continued to play, as we had some great weather over winter but kept two lawns out for maintenance. So now we

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are all go for summer .

Our interclub teams are all set to go including teams in all divisions and one AC player joining St James in the Johnson.

During September we had year 13 pupils from St Andrew's come and play as part of PE. They were all keen and enjoyed the game, even turning up early. The last group all came in fancy dress. Great costumes — - sailors, bunnies, Cossacks, beercans and many other characters. The costume had to begin with a letter of their name and we found Where's Wally. Unfortunately we are unable to provide photos of the them but we have at least 34 playing at once.

Sunday of Show weekend we have our Muriel Foster tournament. It's a doubles tournament with silver wear to win. This tournament was the first GC competition to be played in Christchurch named after one of our members. So do come along and play as we look forward to having a great day.



Century of Croquet at Elmwood

Jenny Tait

Fendalton Park Croquet Club

The autumn saw major renovations on all the lawns leaving them unplayable for May. They recovered well and play soon resumed on small lawns. Play continued through the winter, when the weather permitted, between 20 and 24 hardy members turned up at each session.



July saw our clubs 75th Anniversary celebrations when we had afternoon tea, a quiz and then dinner. The clubhouse was decorated for the celebrations.



The new season is now well underway with inhouse and CCA competitions in full swing. Vilna is busy coaching new members so that they can get up to play asap.

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Most club days see all 5 lawns full with first and second colours. The problems come when we get more than 40 members turning up to play. A good problem to have but a nightmare for our Club Captains

Mike Dawson

Holmes Park Croquet Club

Our off-season was a great opportunity to catch up with friends and enjoy some social time together. We celebrated with a Mid-Winter Christmas Dinner at the Merin Brewery & Bar in Avonhead. Despite the winter weather, the evening was well attended, with everyone enjoying good food, a glass of wine and plenty of conversation.

It was also great to see our lawns being put to good use over the winter, with CCA and club members enjoying a game whenever the weather allowed.

Then, before we knew it, it was time to get the new season underway! Opening Day was held on Saturday, 5 September, with life member Janet Reece having the honour of running the first hoop. The sun was shining, the green was looking good, and there was a great turnout of members keen to get back on the lawns. Croquet was followed, as always, by afternoon tea and a well-earned beverage — a very enjoyable way to start the new season!

We have one team entered in Inter-Club this season, with one of our newer members joining the team. Everyone is looking forward to some good competition, meeting up with other clubs and, of course, enjoying the croquet along the way. Our first club competition of the season will be the Club Doubles on Sunday, 19 October. We are looking forward to some quality matches, plenty of friendly rivalry and an enjoyable day on the lawns.

Here's to another great season of croquet!

Jean Busch

Hornby Croquet Club



The 2026-2027 croquet season sees our new Club Captain, Graham Hutchison, sorting out the play for the day. Alan Belcher has semi-retired after nine years and remains as Handicapper. Pauline Hutchison, is our new President with other stalwart club members continuing to support the club.

We have welcomed some new keen members and are steadily building up numbers again.

The club is in good heart, our lawns being the best they have been in years and we are looking forward to the coming season with both competitive and social players enjoying club support and facilities.

We have interclub entries in Division 1 and 2 with some players going to the Master's Games.

Our Fun Day is on September 30th, and we look forward to hosting other clubs.

Nga mihi

Jude Belcher

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Kaiapoi Croquet Club

***“Spring is sprung, the grass is riz,
I wonder where the birdies is?
The bird is on the wing!
But that’s absurd the wing is on the
bird...”***

Lines from the anonymously written ditty regularly recited by the late Spike Milligan sums up the most recent weather and the hopes of warmer days.

It has been heartening to see good numbers of members and visitors playing croquet when the weather is fine.

Whilst we celebrate 121 years of being a club, the 4th September, saw us enjoy our **1st Birthday Party**, we have been at our new premises for a year – although the celebrations for this event was very informal, we did mark the occasion with balloons, chocolates and a cake. Cheryl and Geoff can be seen below preparing to cut the cake.



Work on the **‘final little projects’** continue. The outside BBQ area with BBQ, beautiful sturdy benches and table is now complete.



The practice lawn near the BBQ area, is being readied for planting and the new soil bunker to the right of the water tank near the back gate, has also been completed.



Work on the garden area continues. We are thankful to our wonderful teams, who respectively take care of the garden area, weeding, planting etc and to the lawn maintenance team for their hard work on the lawns.

The Interclub competitions have begun, good luck to you all!

We look forward to seeing you at Kaiapoi.

Suze Connolly

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St James Club

2026 – 2027 Season is underway. St James held its opening day on Saturday 5 September. It was a lovely sunny day and GC players got their new season underway on the lawns at 10.30am, drinks and shared luncheon following then after “the dishes were done”..

Diana Howes and Beryl Hart officially started play for the season by hitting a ball each from each end of the lawn... well and truly opening the season. AC players then invaded the lawns for their turn of play. It was great to be back even if there was some ropey play.



During the winter the roof of the Club House sprung a leak... from being a major catastrophe, it ended up being a minor problem with a quick, easy and efficient fix... good liaison with the Club, Insurance Company and Contractors. We are now fixed and we are safe from being rained on.

InterClub Teams – this is certainly a busy time for our Club Captains Wendy Robison and Sally Mene. A great effort by the two ladies has seen teams selected, entered, draw plus conditions sent to all teams. St James has six teams entered in the Johnson (AC), five in the Interclub (AC) and three Interclub GC Div 3 and two GC Div 2. A great number!!!

Fund raising is always at to the fore... nice to necessary projects through to just having the funding available for machinery repairs, major lawn work, etc.... the list can go on as most Clubs know. The Committee has been identifying fund raising events for the season and aligning them against prioritised projects. No small task so there should be some interesting if not fun events coming up.



On 12 September St James held a Community Open Day. The weather was beautiful and many came to have a go... all 4 lawns were double banked. A follow up email was sent to all who attended inviting them to return for a second or third session as well as listing playing opportunities during the week. There have been a number of people booking times to come back and have another go – saying they enjoyed the introduction and are looking forward to more croquet

Patsy Clegg



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St Martins Club

The official croquet year may just be getting started but at St Martins Croquet Club the off season is almost as busy as the on season.

We had a very well attended mid winter lunch at the Richmond Club which is now a tradition and enjoyed by everyone. In addition we have had 4 talks at the clubhouse by members, each followed by a morning tea. We have been entertained with stories of the fascinating lives that other people lead. Another tradition is playing card games which several members participate in. All these activities have raised funds that will be used for various work around the club house.

Some work however, requires a bigger injection of funds. We were delighted to receive a grant from Pub Charity to assist with the restoration of our historic shelter. This shelter was built by the club members shortly after the club opened in 1945. With the grant we have now been able to replace the cedar shingles roof and the shelter has been repainted in Resenes Heritage Colours - Soft Apple. The result is fantastic and a fitting tribute to those who started our club more than 80 years ago.



At Opening Day on Saturday 5 September, the weather was fine and we celebrated with a BBQ under the supervision of our resident expert, Peter Entwistle. Betty Wallace, a long standing club member struck the first ball under the close supervision of our Grounds Manager, Hans van den Bus. And then club members took to the lawns, delighted to be back after the winter break.



Ali Moore

United Croquet Club

We are fortunate at United to be able play during winter and had a good number of members regularly turning up on club days. On other days there were a few members who frequently took the opportunity to practice and their skills have improved from this. Our lawn team did a great job in giving us a good surface to play on when there was little grass growth.

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As always, prior to opening day we held a Working Bee. Thanks to the members who worked hard to have the gardens and clubrooms etc in top condition ready for Opening Day. Following this we had a BBQ lunch and played croquet.

Opening Day was held on Saturday 5 September and we were lucky to have excellent weather, given how changeable it had been. Members provided a finger food lunch with the Club providing refreshments. Our Patron, Roger Murfitt, ran the opening hoop. We then had a very enjoyable afternoon playing 2-stroke which is always a lot of fun. Players quickly realised a slightly different strategy is needed!

Members have been taking part in the coaching arranged by our Club Coach. Denise provides an amazing, full programme of coaching and this is certainly appreciated by all those attending.

There is good attendance on Club Days and we have recently enjoyed hosting visiting players from outside Christchurch.

United has teams entered in all the interclub grades and we wish them well. They will enjoy playing at the different clubs, meeting new people and seeing different styles of play.

Hosting group events is our main fundraiser and bookings are steadily coming in. Hosting a social group and introducing them to croquet on a warm evening is a lovely way to promote our sport.

In line with the information provided by CCA, we have arranged a No Smoking/No Vaping sign to be erected as you enter the Club area.

A reminder to players visiting United – we have parking beside the Clubhouse and also

on your left just as you enter our parking area. The bollard can be removed to access this parking.

Judy Derby



This newsletter is a collaborative publication containing contributions from multiple clubs. While striving to achieve accuracy CCA, assumes no responsibility for errors or omissions.

The Editor

AC Interprovincial Result Canterbury vs South Canterbury



Basil the Ram returned to Christchurch.

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The annual AC Interprovincial was held at Waireka Croquet Club in Ashburton on Sunday 20 September. Canterbury were looking for a repeat and the chance to bring Basil the Ram back to Christchurch. A team of 10 travelled down the highway on a cool morning hoping for warm weather, unfortunately a cold wind prevailed throughout the day with the sun not providing any warmth. South Canterbury provided two players for Canterbury to even up team numbers. Games were played as doubles with an experienced player guiding an inexperienced player over 2 hours. After 3 rounds and some closely fought games Audrey who managed the tournament alongside Raylene gave the results and put the red and black scarf on Basil – Canterbury winners over South canterbury by 20+ hoops. Thanks to Waireka for a great day and to the players from South Canterbury who proudly wore red and black for the day.

Gay Jones



Canterbury Team

Coming Events

GC 1+ Singles Tournament

- **Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th October 2026 at 8:30am**

AC Handicap Singles Tournament

- **Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th October 2026 at 8:30am**

GC Open Doubles & Singles Tournament

- **Saturday 28th (Doubles) & Sunday 29th (Singles) November 2026 at 8:30am**

GC Advantage Singles Tournament

- **Sunday 6th December 2026 at 8:30am**

CNZ Terminator Mallets U21 GC Championships

Held by Canterbury Croquet Association

- **Saturday 12th to Wed 16th December**

Matters and Dates to Note

- 1 The next Executive meeting is at 3.00 on Monday November 2nd
2. CCA website is croquetcanterbury.com
3. Newsletters are published early October, mid December, then April following Closing Day. Previous newsletters are available on CCA

CCA sponsors

Geoff Price



TerminatorTM
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