



HOOP POINTS

Issue 379 December 2020

A Monthly Newsletter from Croquet SA



FROM THE PRESIDENT

As your new President it is an understatement to say that the past month has been an intense learning curve, particularly taking over from someone as experienced as Eileen Ferguson.

For the first time in many years we have full representation on the Board. A new group of individuals who are committed to working together to achieve better and improved outcomes for croquet across the State. I have quickly come to accept that it is not possible to be all things for all people. However, I will endeavour to do my best to lead the new Board and ensure adherence to good governance principles and act in the best interests of the croquet community.

Absorbing background information on initiatives and projects that are in progress is a challenge in any transition. It has been made more difficult by the absence of the Executive Director who is on sick leave till the 29th January. Currently, Di Helier and Joan Kelly have kindly volunteered to attend the office on a part time basis, checking phones, collecting mail and assisting the Board as necessary. *As from Monday 4th of January Shirlene McBride will be providing administration to SACA two days per week Monday and Thursday.* I am delighted that people have stepped forward to be both on committees and take over the role of retiring officers. To all new volunteers a big "thank you".

Covid-19 may still interrupt us from time to time in 2021, but we need to ensure we all comply with the rules stipulated by the government. It may prevent us playing at our Club or in competitions but our health and well being, and that of the broader community are more important than missing a game of croquet.

In closing, I would like to wish you and your family a very happy Christmas and I hope that 2021 is a safe and healthy New Year for us all.

Lyn Parnell, SACA President



EIRE CUP 2021

After much deliberation the Association Croquet Eire Cup Competition will be held during March in Sydney, NSW.

The South Australian AC State Team has been selected, congratulations to these players;

Harley Watts (Captain) Dwayne McCormick, Mark Kobelt and David Short (nt reserve Mark Senior)

Robyn Short, Shirlene McBride, Shirley Howlett and Diana Helier (nt reserve Tracey Sincock).

MANY THANKS to *Barbara Gordon*

for her 20 years of service to the Newsletter

Barbara began by assisting Dulcie Freeman as her typist back in the days of using a manual typewriter which is what SACA had. Computers have transformed the production through various formats from placing individual hard copies in club lockers to now available to all members via googlegroups.

All the Croquet Community wish Barbara a happy & healthy retirement

be active.

GC SA Gold Medal 9-11 October 2020

Ten players competed in the SA Gold Medal at SACA. The weather was good, the quality of the croquet even better. A round robin event on the first two days was followed by the finals on day three.

Congratulations to Bernie Pfitzner from Victor Harbor for winning the Gold Medal, and to the runner up, **Heath Jackson** from Hyde Park.

A special thanks to Anne Woodhouse who refereed throughout the tournament, to Graeme Thomas who also contributed many hours refereeing and to Ansi Baumanis who was on deck for all of the tournament as event manager/referee. Finally, thanks as usual to Karen Magee for organising the event.

Bob Neil Norwood Croquet Club

GC Women's and Men's Open Spring Singles.

As expected, the standard of play was reasonably high. The women packing a wallop, but in a more refined way and the men coming out with all guns blazing! Millswood Croquet Club managed these very interesting and entertaining competitions.

Once again wonderful hoop running and powerful jump shots and direct "smack on the nose" roquets. The parklands echoing with the whack of croquet balls in the early mornings. Wonderful!

The competition started with a round-robin, one-hour games, with the best four moving into a round-robin, best of 3 one-hour games, while the rest of the field continued with their one-hour round-robin competition.



The end result after two days was: **Kate Logan** (Victor Harbor) from **Bernie Pfitzner** (Victor Harbor), then Karen Magee (Brighton) and Norma Greig (N. Adelaide). Julieanne Jago rounding out the other play-off.

For the men? **Barry Jennings** (Hyde Park) from **Heath Jackson** (Hyde Park), then John Arney (Norwood) and Barry Haydon (Hyde Park). Kim Millhouse (Millswood) rounding out the other play-off.

Grateful thanks to all of the wonderful referees. It couldn't be done without you. *Thankyou Millswood members for all of your assistance.*

Jane Lewis – Event Manager.



GC 12+ Singles—12 November

The SA Singles12+ was held on a day that was perfect for croquet. The tournament was well contested with some stand out performances.

Barbara Dietrich, from Holdfast Bay was undefeated all day by displaying a steady standard of stroke and some good tactics. She defeated **Lesley Burford** from Tea Tree Gully in the playoff for the title.

Another stand out performer was Virginia Brown from Millswood who lapsed in the one game her husband didn't watch (tch tch Robert).

Also worth mentioning were the debut performances by Elizabeth Freda from North Adelaide and John Wotherspoon from South Terrace. Look out for them to be mentioned in dispatches in the future.

Thankyou to the Referees and Aldinga Members for their help on the day



SA GC Bronze Medal 9+ Competition 2020

The SA Bronze Medal competition for GC players was held in excellent weather at Hutt Road. Playing in the competition were Chris Dawson, Susan Dunsby, Robin Golding, Sara Kendrick, Brian Lane, Kay Lane, Marianne Maycock, Anne Millhouse and Heather Wade.



For many of these players it was their first individual competitive event and they are all to be congratulated on rapidly picking up the requirements and routines of this form of competition. The first two days were run as a round robin which resulted in Chris Dawson, Anne Millhouse, Susan Dunsby and Robin Golding making the play-off for 1st to 4th. Anne Millhouse was unable to continue resulting in Sara Kendrick taking her place in that top 4 group, fortuitous for Sara as it turned out. Chris Dawson maintained a consistent performance through the tournament to take out the medal. Sara Kendrick, who had finished 5th in the Round Robin, found her form and played herself in to 2nd position ahead of Susan Dunsby and Robin Golding.

Thanks go to our referees, Karen Magee, Anne Woodhouse, Carolyn Cooper and Barry Jennings. Their diligence helps greatly in players getting to understand the application of the rules of the game.

Thanks to all the players who supported each other and played with sportsmanship throughout the competition.

BRIGHTON DAWSON CHALLENGE 2020

The Brighton Dawson Challenge, a 3+ Golf Croquet tournament in its 3rd year, was held at the Brighton Croquet Club on 23-24 October. The field of players included the winners of the previous two years, Hans Hiller from Brighton and Julianne Jago from South Terrace. There was a great spread of handicaps with three people celebrating a drop in their handicap over the weekend. Some excellent croquet with many close games was played on good courts with fine weather.

As there should be in a tournament, the final positions came down to the very last round, although the winner was determined in the round before. Phil Wise from Norwood was undefeated for the whole tournament but was finally beaten in the last match by Paul Ensor from South Terrace.

The final positions were: **1st Phil Wise**, 2nd Paul Ensor, 3rd Ansi Baumanis from Norwood.



WORLD PREMIERE AT STRATHFIELD CROQUET CLUB

The World Premiere of, *A Taste of Croquet: Croquet Evolution*, was held in the clubhouse in the Strathfield Croquet Club on the 9th October, under Covid19 conditions. It was a private showing for the members of the Strathfield Croquet Club Executive.

Croquet Evolution is a 15-minute video, created by club members Peter Hall, Bob Phillips and Ruth Bridger. It traces the evolution of croquet from just a game played by bored shepherds with sticks and stones, through to the world-wide game it now is.

It is presented with a light and humorous touch, highlighting matters such as the influence of the lawn mower on the game, the evidence that Billy the Kid was a player, the reputation for licentiousness it gained, and its appearance at the 1900 Olympics. The video concludes with a visual summary of the state of the game and an invitation to the viewer to visit a club and have some fun playing the game.

You may view the video on the Strathfield Croquet Club website at <https://www.strathfieldcroquet.com>



North Adelaide Association Croquet Invitation Event November 6th,7th,8th 2020.

We were granted a feast of high quality games from most of the state's elite players!

The weather was perfect for croquet.

Men The winner was **Dwayne McCormick** and the Runner Up was **David Short. Harley Watts** was a very close third.

The three top players were incredible to watch.



Dwayne McCormick with NACC President Kevin LePoidevin and AC Captain Roger Harris



Robyn Short with NACC President Kevin LePoidevin and AC Captain Roger Harris

The manners, court behaviour and respect were exemplary.

Dwayne has won this event 7 years in a row, overtaking Mark Prater's previous 6 years.

Women The Winner was **Robyn Short** and the Runner Up was **Liz McKenzie**. Robyn has won this competition for 5 years in a row. What an outstanding achievement!

North Adelaide Croquet Club did a great job of hosting this event.

Many club members contributed to setting up courts, donating food, running the bar and managing the event.

2020 North Adelaide AC Swiss Tournament November 5th, 6th, 12th and 13th.

Matches were highly competitive, with great spirit and enjoyment.

The winner was **Geoffrey Wheaton** with only one hoop more than runner up **Phil Bateman**.

Handicap Results Winner: **Joan Kelly** Runner Up: **Barbara Stanley**

Vale Pat O'Leary

Pat played croquet for many years and was a member of Coobowie, Edithburgh, Yorketown, Wallaroo, Port Lincoln, Penola and Naracoorte croquet clubs. In May 1994 she won the Whitelaw Cup at Country Week. While competing in Adelaide she observed others making breaks. She returned to Coobowie to practice this new found way of playing and ruffled quite a few feathers in the local clubs when she ceased playing "Aunt Emma" and took up break play.

Pat passed away on October 14th after a long illness.



101 Years old and still running hoops!!!

On Sunday 26th October **Patrick Rothery** from North Adelaide Croquet Club turned 101.

Patrick is an active member of our club, attending club sessions on Tuesdays and Saturdays and most of our social activities. He is a very popular member, always bright and cheerful. Patrick lives locally and drives his car to and from croquet sessions.



GC State Squad Training and Croquet World Records

The GC Squad had the opportunity to train at North Adelaide on Sunday 25th October. Amongst our 'serious' work, we took time out to trial one of the World Record events that will be held at North Adelaide on Sunday March 28th, 2021.

The event is the long roquet challenge. How many 35-yard roquets can be made in 3 minutes?

We discovered it to be a very aerobic and fun activity, not just for the competitor but the support people to return balls. Some members fired off as many as 30 balls in the allotted time. Others chose to hit less balls in the desire for greater accuracy.

This event will be coming to your club soon. Contact Karen kmageewb@gmail.com or any of the GC State Squad members to help you run the activity.



UPCOMING EVENTS 2020/2021

2021

FEBRUARY

12-14 **GC ACA** Golf Croquet Eights Victorian Croquet Centre, Cairnlea.
Expressions of Interest to Peter Freer pfreer@netspeed.com.au

28—5th Mar **AC Victor Harbor** tournament All handicaps; doubles & singles
Contact—S. Howlett 0431 332 194 showlett261@gmail.com

MARCH

March 28 **Guinness Book of Records**—help create croquet World Records and have fun at **North Adelaide Croquet Club**. Includes all mallet sport codes.
Contact—Karen Magee 0404 174 177, Carolyn Cooper 0427 831 642, Sally Harper 0400 294 455

March 28 **AC Victor Harbor** Gala day Cost \$20 inc. lunch
Contact—Beth Young 8552 2348 bethyoung@bigpond.com, Cynthia Durbridge 8552 3772 cyndur@dodo.com.au

APRIL

7—11 **GC Victor Harbor** Doubles and singles Contact Kate Logan 8554 3356 kate.logan@adam.com.au
15-18 **2021 MASTERS GAMES** hosted by Yorke Peninsula Copper Coast.
Website Copper Coast Information Centre 8821 2333 or visit@coppercoast.sa.gov.au

National Coaching Program

Greg Bury, General Manager, Australian Croquet Academy will be visiting Adelaide on the final leg of his presentation of the National Coaching Program. He arrives on February 24 th, 2021. The program occupies five days and incorporates a coaching conference and certification of coaches for golf croquet, association croquet, ricochet and gateball.

There is also a "How to improve Your Game" session on February 27th, which is open to everyone – GC in the morning, AC in the afternoon.

There will be more information becoming available soon. There is a video of the opening of the Croquet Academy – search for "Australian Croquet Academy Launch" on YouTube, or look for the link on the ACA website.

In the meantime, there is a document on the SACA website under Member's Information/Coaching giving a summary of prerequisites to attend the National Coaching Program.



GOOGLEGROUPS MAILING LIST—GET ON IT

Googlegroups mailing list was established for clubs to advertise their events to each other by email and for Croquet SA to share relevant information direct to you—our members. It was lovely to have a player come to me the other day to tell me how his interest in croquet has really grown now that he received all the information on events at clubs and from Croquet SA! Send an email to croquetsa@bigpond.com to join.

PARKING AT HUTT ROAD

The Adelaide City Council has agreed that Croquet SA members when using Hutt Road car park should **display their Croquet SA ID card** on the dashboard if expecting to be parked any length of time that exceeds the current parking restrictions of **5 hours Mon-Fri 8am-6pm**. Parking inspectors have been provided with a copy of the card to know what to look for.

COMPETITION ENTRY FEES—REMINDER

Clubs are now sent an invoice for entries and lawn fees. Clubs are requested to submit entries via the appropriate on-line entry form. For individual and doubles events players are also requested to complete an on-line entry and are encouraged to submit entry fees direct to Croquet SA via bank transfer.



EDITOR HOOP POINTS

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Readers/users, do you have any current items that the broader croquet community would be interested in knowing about, I would be pleased to hear from you. Please send your items, photos or visuals to me by the 1st day of the month for publication on the 5th if space is available.

REGISTRATION FEES for new players who join as the year goes on, Secretaries please note that Registration fees are reduced every quarter in January, April and July and this schedule of fees has been sent to the clubs.

If you are unsure of the fees required for any new players please contact the Registrations Officer.

RON MCBRIDE

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Croquet Australia Website www.croquet-australia.com.au for events

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