



HOOP POINTS

August 2022

Issue No.398

Neil Bennett White (23/4/43 – 20/7/22)

The Brighton Croquet Club is mourning the loss of our club member and player Neil Bennett White. Neil passed away on the 20th of July aged 79 years. He will be sadly missed by his loving wife Heather, also a croquet player, and his family.

Neil started playing Association croquet at South Terrace. He also was a member at Holdfast Bay for a time before joining Brighton.

Neil embraced Golf Croquet in the early years of its establishment as a competitive national sport.

He was selected as a team member for the inaugural GC State team competition in 2007 and represented SA again in 2012 and 2013. He was a qualified referee and coach for many years and he was extremely supportive of new players to croquet.

Neil was president of SACA from 2009 to 2011 and was instrumental in convincing SACA to bid for the world AC championships in 2012.

When the ISS was held in Adelaide for the first time in 2014 Neil was the Tournament Manager and he was also President of the ACA council from 2013 to 2015.

Neil was a member of the group established to promote U/21 participation at SACA and also supported the ACA push for the same.

He was also known for telling “Dad” jokes and his flamboyant dress sense, often wearing colourful jackets and ties.



South Australia's Golf Croquet State team



Back row L=>R: Mark Senior, Steve Condous, Dwayne McCormick, Heath Jackson (Vice-captain), Barry Haydon (Coach), Barry Jennings

Front row L=>R: Anne Woodhouse, Helen Cook, Norma Greig, Kate Logan (Captain), Virginia Arney, Karen Magee

3+ GC Singles Tournament

3 plus singles tournament was held in very cold weather but, on the whole, the croquet was very hot. Eight players from Norwood, Millswood, North Adelaide and Holdfast Bay came together to do battle. And battle it was. In the last round of the block matches, six of the eight players, were still in contention to make the finals.

The finals were contested by Robert Brown, Norma Greig, Helen Cook and Paul Wahlstedt with Norma taking final honours over Robert 2 games to 1.



*Tournament participants: Back row L=>R: Peter Webster, Robert Brown, Paul Wahlstedt and Philip Wise
Front row L=>R: Monika Curtis, Helen Cook, Norma Greig and Colleen Lane*

There were many memorable moments. Monika's little dance for joy when she defeated a low handicap player. Norma and Robert battling for 25 minutes before running the first hoop. This battle was only exceeded by their game in the finals that finished with the score at 2 – 1. Paul's brilliant jump from the boundary was as good as you will see anywhere.



Many thanks to Ansi who refereed the whole tournament. Thank you also Barry Haydon and Robert Hamshire, for refereeing.

The event was managed by Millswood Croquet Club. Thank you to the many members who stepped up to help manage the event.

Kim Millhouse

Runner up, Robert Brown and Winner Norma Greig.

Division 2 Singles

The Division 2 Singles competition for AC players with handicaps of 2.5 or more was played on July 11th and 12th. There were six entrants; Virginia Arney, Jim Curtis, Shirley Howlett, John Arney, James Temlett and Di Helier.



John Arney, Di Helier, Shirley Howlett, James Temlett, Jim Curtis, Virginia Arney

The weather was cold but dry. Tuesday morning was cold and foggy, the rain coming just as play finished in the afternoon. After the first three rounds on Monday, Shirley Howlett was undefeated. On the second day, it looked like Shirley was likely to be the winner, which she was, despite John Arney depriving her of a clean sweep and a handicap change in the last game. Di Helier improved her handicap after the first game against Virginia. She was unlucky in her match against Jim. She was on peg and 3-back when Jim hit a long roquet with minutes to spare and made a break from hoop 3 to the peg, pegging his ball out after the bell to win by one hoop. Runner-up was John Arney, with three wins and 27 net hoops, from James Temlett, with three wins and 21 net hoops.

Roger Buddle.

AC Selectors' Invitation

Inspired by recent events at the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club, six courageous ladies and six valiant gentlemen braved the wintry elements at Hutt Road, Adelaide on the 16th and 17th of July to take part in the Selectors' Invitation event for potential State Team players.

The Ladies block included Sally Harper and Tracy Sincok who were both members of the 2022 State Team that travelled to Sydney to take part in the inter-State Eire Cup competition in March. Other "potentials" were Liz Mackenzie and Di Helier as well as recent golf croquet State Player and convert to Association Croquet, Karen Magee. Tumby Bay player Karyn Speed was thrown in the deep-end but performed admirably despite her relative lack of experience.

The "Gentlemen's" block also had two players from the 2022 State Team - Mark Senior and Barry Jennings. The "Potentials" were Roger Buddle, Glen Blatchford, Philip Wise and Tumby Bay emerging talent, Garry Speed. Garry recently finished runner up in the SACroquet Hatwell (3+) event, was a convincing first in 'C' block in the Tumby Bay Tournament in May and first in Block 2 at Naracoorte in May.

Both days started under very fresh conditions and, on Saturday, play was carried on without interruption despite the odd short burst of heavy rain.

Sunday morning was more serious with lakes formed on Lawn 1 and very mushy conditions on Lawns 1 and 2. Play commenced a little late on Sunday to allow time to squeegee Lawn 1 and was halted briefly for more squeegeeing after another mid-morning shower. Fortunately, the rain eased after this and all games were played out.

The final result was a convincing win to Sally Harper who went undefeated (5 wins) in the Ladies event. Runner-up was Liz Mackenzie (3 wins, +19 hoops) from Di Helier (3 wins, -1 hoop), Tracey Sincok (2 wins) and Karen Magee and Karyn Speed, each with one win.

A similar situation in the Gentlemen's event with Barry Jennings surviving some close games to go undefeated. Mark Senior was runner-up with 3 wins (+25 hoops) from Glen Blatchford (3 wins, -19 hoops), Roger Buddle (2 wins), Garry Speed (2 wins) and Philip Wise.

All in all, a memorable and sociable event, played in good spirits that entertained a small band of enthusiastic spectators.

Greg Rowberry Chair of Selectors



The length some players will go in order to play croquet!!

Barry Jennings finding some relief for his sore back.

Kadina Croquet Club Celebrates reaching 70 Members

Outgoing President, Linda Kinch, is delighted that the KCC has reached a membership of 70. I think the success of the club is its diversity of members who all come together to socialise, play croquet and get fit both physically and mentally. We are of course an active and competitive croquet club.

On Sat 16th July, we welcomed four Golf Croquet coaches from Adelaide to instruct our members on the new rules and the best tactics to employ when playing GC which everyone enjoyed. Our club is often described as 'A Happy Place' and after 6 years at the helm, I'm very pleased and satisfied with that description.

70th member Dolly Glazbrook with Linda Kinch.



Fun Time for All

Ansi Baumanis (GC Director), along with Anne Woodhouse (GC joint Referee coordinator and State team member) organised a session on the new GC rules for the players at Kadina and Moonta Croquet Clubs on the 16th and 17th of July. It was also thought that a GC coaching session would be advantageous for members of both clubs so Barry Haydon (GC State Coach) and Heath Jackson (GC State Team Vice-Captain) provided the expertise for this part of each day.



Moonta members work on improving their game



Kadina players in fun mode at the end of their session

A team of four people was greatly appreciated by all Club members who attended, while the hospitality and enthusiasm from both clubs was in turn appreciated by the presenters. And somehow the weather remained fairly fine for most of the time despite the forecast. Thanks to Linda Kinch (Kadina) & Robyn Sparrow (Moonta) for organising things from their end.

All presenters said that would be happy to return to conduct Part II at some stage

If any other Clubs also wish to have something similar they should contact either Ansi at ansib@adam.com.au or Mick Reidy (GC Coaching Coordinator).

GC Doubles Individual 9+ 29th & 30th June

The mornings were cold but we did get to the mid-teens during the days play. 11 teams took part in the competition with a few last-minute changes to pairings.

After the first day's play there were two clear front runners with a few teams hot on their tails. The second day's play would be quite interesting after having a close look at the draw.

On the second day the field narrowed and the winner would be decided by the result of the last game of the day. The eventual winners were Marianne Maycock and Robin Golding (South Terrace/North Adelaide). with 8 wins out of 10 games. Laura Eden and Linda Stone (Tea Tree Gully) came in a close second with seven wins out of 10 games.

I think that the many players who took part learnt a lot from playing in this competition.

Many thanks to Barry Haydon, Barry Jennings, Karen Magee and Anne Woodhouse who volunteered their time to referee this event. The event was managed by volunteers from the Hyde Park Croquet Club.

Peter Martyniuk
Hyde Park Croquet Club

*Winners: Marianne Maycock and
Robin Golding*



*Runners up: Laura Eden and
Linda Stone*

Hyde Park / Alfred James AC Invitational

This event was held at the Hyde Park Club on 8th – 10th July 2022. It was a great opportunity to see some of the best players in the country show their skills.

It was organised brilliantly by Heather Bajcarz and she did an incredible amount of hands-on work as well, in particular making sure the urn was on first thing and overseeing the catering. Given the nature of the event she needed lots of helpers on all fronts not just from Hyde Park.

The standard of play was extremely high, although there were times when unexpected breakdowns occurred. There were many 20+ yard roquets hit and the hoop running (on some tight and firm hoops) was special to watch. Despite a couple of unfortunate withdrawals there were sufficient skills from the remaining players to amaze the spectators. (Special thanks to Jim Curtis & Greg Rowberry for filling in at the last moment.)

At Hyde Park we are used to players hitting their balls across the tennis courts (and vice versa) or even down the street but were not used to boules from the Petanque pistes bouncing across the front lawn with a Petanquer in hot pursuit as happened during play on Saturday!

Although the temperature was on the low side the weather was great – with the sun frequently peeping through the light clouds.

The players enjoyed the hospitality of Hyde Park especially the Friday night dinner and lunches on all 3 days.

At the end of competition, the results were:

Winner of the 3rd group – Rosie Landrebe (Cammeray, NSW)

Winner of the 2nd group – David Short (Norwood, SA)

Overall runner up – Trevor Bassett (Cooks River, NSW)

Overall winner – Peter Landrebe (Cammeray, NSW)

Barry Haydon

12 enthusiastic players on the first morning of the competition.



Peter Landrebe pegs out in the 3rd game of the best of 3 final, with Trevor Bassett in the background. At this stage it was getting cold so most of the spectators were inside the clubroom.

Mount Gambier Croquet Club Linda Kinch

This article is longer than normal which reflects, in my opinion, the importance of this particular club in the South East of the state. I had visited the town of Mt Gambier many years ago before I started playing croquet so knew that it was the main commercial centre of the area. The croquet club has four well maintained full sized lawns alongside a very functional clubhouse with separate kitchen area.

Malcolm and I were scheduled to visit on the Wednesday but decided to seek it out the day before. It is located at the far end of a sporting complex and is not visible to the general public which doesn't help any sporting club but the signage is good and we had no trouble finding it. When we arrived, we could see some cars so we went in and there were several members playing Aussie. The President, Virginia Hill came over immediately and spoke with us as did other members and we were made most welcome despite surprising them. Virginia was full of questions as to how she could promote the club, apply for grants, attract more players and generally put the Mt Gambier CC back on the map.



*L to R: Leah O'Neil, Virginia Hill,
Pat Geraghty, Joy Kirby*

We joined in with the playing and showed them a more aggressive way of playing Aussie Croquet which they really enjoyed and I am told they have it kept up. The afternoon finished off with a glass of wine and a cheese platter. These are my kind of people!

When we returned the following day for the 'official' visit we were greeted like old friends and met more of the members. We all went out for lunch and had a very nice informal chat but all the while, Virginia was making notes! Like most croquet clubs, the lawn cutting and maintenance is being done using volunteer labour. Where would our clubs be without these dedicated and hard working members but of course time moves on and no one is getting any younger.

All clubs, not just this one, have to look ahead and plan for the future either by encouraging and helping younger members to get involved or by starting to think of the financial implications, should paid help be required even on an 'ad hoc' basis. After our visit, Virginia sent out an email to all the SE clubs inviting them to come and visit the club, informing them of the playing times and different codes on offer (Aussie, Golf and Gateball). She also said that different playing times could easily be arranged to suit visitors' plans. This area has lots to offer too and any future events, tournaments or pennants could be combined with shopping, sightseeing, dining out and generally making the most of a few days away in a large town.

I was very pleased when Virginia emailed me to say that the Millicent CC had sent them a flier for their Gala Day in March and inviting the Mt Gambier players to come. This is the sort of communication and cooperation that needs to happen in order that the game of croquet, no matter which code, builds up and thrives especially in regional areas where players have to drive long distances.

I want to thank Virginia, Leah, Pat and Joy for their warm and friendly welcome and I look forward to my next visit and hearing all about the progress that is being made. I've just been notified that 4 new members have joined in the last 2 months and that 8 players are travelling to Portland to play Aussie, Golf and Ricochet (which they have just begun playing) and that they hope to start up a regular visiting system with them every month or so.

The Mt Gambier CC is also hoping to host the 2024 Masters Games. The future looks very positive for this 'go ahead' club and as we all know success breeds success! Well done to everyone involved!

UP COMING EVENTS.....

Golf Croquet

AUGUST 4—7	Brighton Armstrong Challenge Contact annewoodhouse4@gmail.com
AUGUST 16	Combined Doubles 20+
AUGUST 23	Combined Doubles 20+
AUGUST 29	Victor Harbor Gala Day Contact Janis Jenkins janisjenkins22@gmail.com
SEPT 7—9	ACA Gold/ Silver Medals
SEPT 10—13	ACA Men's and Women's Singles
SEPT 14—18	ACA interstate Shield
SEPT 19	Spring Aggregate 24+
SEPT 20,27	Spring Single 5+
SEPT 22, 29	Spring Singles 9+
SEPT 26	Spring Aggregate 24+

Association Croquet

AUGUST 9 - 11	J F Harvey Bronze Medal 14+
AUGUST 20-21	President's Trophy (Invitation only)
AUGUST 21	Crystal Brook Croquet Club Gala Day Contact Erica Young 0429679245 Cost \$20
OCTOBER 1-3	Open Men's and Women's Singles Championship
OCTOBER 22-23	CB Sharp
NOV 1-3	Division 3 8+ Singles
NOV 5-6	ACA Bronze Medal (Invitation only)
NOV 8-11	Alternate Stroke Handicap Doubles

Please refer to the SACA website Calendar for more details on events.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - AC EVENTS COORDINATOR/S

I will be retiring at the AGM in October.

AC Events can be managed in four areas:

Special Medals, Division Singles, Doubles Weekend Pennants Night Singles Night Doubles

ASSOCIATION CROQUET MUST GO FORWARD INTO 2023

To enable this to happen a person, people or even a club or small committee need to consider managing one or more of the events. You may have ideas to change an event (Not the Special Medals or Division Singles) or introduce a new event.

Please contact me for further information: dianamh@bigpond.com

Di Helier
AC Events Coordinator
0418 840 740

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