



HOOP POINTS

September 2022

Issue No.399

Crystal Brook Association Croquet Gala Day

What a spectacular day it was in Crystal Brook on 21st Aug. The sunshine was such a tonic to everyone and layer upon layer of clothing was shed during the day. The sunscreen was madly searched for in Croquet cases that hadn't been opened for a very long time and also meeting up with 'old' AC friends was really great! Members of the club plus a few 'ring ins' provided morning tea with cake (of course) and for lunch there was a selection of hot casseroles and rice followed by very classy looking desserts. There was a raffle, Lucky Squares, a door prize and players who were the first through the hoop had to fight over the chocolate bar of their choice.

There were 2 divisions and each division played on both lawns. The winners of Div 1 were Simon Hockey (Crystal Brook) and John Lydeamore (Kadina) and winners of Div 2 were Sandy Rodsted (Kadina) and Lynne Thompson (Moonta). The Yorke Peninsula was very well represented and also players from Pt Pirie came across for the day. Two players from Victor Harbor were impressed by the neat and pretty town and the lovely well kept gardens and magnificent trees.

It is during these friendly competitions that new players 'cut their teeth' and the opportunity to be given advice on rules and playing by one of Australia's top players, namely Simon Hockey was an added bonus for many of us. Well done Crystal Brook for putting on such a great day and let's hope there will be many more of these happy events added to the calendar during the year.

Linda Kinch



Standing L to R : Robyn Sparrow, Sharon Pedler, Linda Kinch, Deb McPharlin, Lew James, Sandy Rodsted, Malcolm Kinch, Erica Young, Barry Hutchinson, Di Helier, Simon Hockey, Roger Buddle
Kneeling : Lynne Thompson, Mary Bishop, Fiona Hockey, John Lydeamore

Brighton Armstrong Challenge 2022

What great croquet we've had at Brighton Croquet Club in the last 4 days!

We had a top field including top players in the state and members of the State Team for both the Women's and Men's events of the Brighton Armstrong Challenge held on 4 to 7 August. The "Armstrong" is open to everyone and we had two 7 handicappers also enter (with trepidation) but they did so well they were both 6 handicappers by the end of the tournament!

The women's event was fairly even, with results of games very hard to predict. However, having said that, the top two ranked players, Kate Logan from Victor Harbor and Karen Magee from Brighton ended up contesting the final. Kate began well by surging ahead and beating Karen 7-1 in the first game of three. But Karen is never down for long and came back to eventually win the next two games and win the Women's Tournament for the third time.



The men's event was blessed with better weather and they took advantage of it. Once again the top two ranked players, Dwayne McCormick from Norwood and Stephen Condous from Hyde Park, contested the final with Dwayne promising a "show". Well he certainly delivered to win the second game and the match. He was two hoops down with very little time to go. He ran hoop nine then tried to run hoop ten from one end to the other with both of his balls. He was successful with his second attempt. Now at 5 all time was no longer a factor. He then finished the game off by doing a spectacular in-off from the boundary, hitting his own ball, bouncing in the air and then through the hoop!

The spectators certainly got their money's worth over all four days of play.

The Brighton Armstrong Challenge, established in 2015, is named after Tom and Jean Armstrong, a couple who had a huge impact on croquet, not only at the Brighton Croquet Club but throughout South Australia and Australia. They introduced thousands of people to croquet and trained many State Team and international players.



Queensland State Gateball Competition

This year I attended my first Queensland State Gateball competition at Southport Croquet Club on the Gold Coast. The teams event was held on Friday 12 and Saturday 13 August 2022, with the doubles event following on 14 and 15 August.

I played with Canberra in the team's event which was contested in a round-robin format between 9 teams. After close of play on Friday, Canberra topped the leader board with 5 wins from 5 games, and as it turned out needing only one win on Saturday to take out the trophy. Unfortunately, the weather turned on Saturday, and we lost all 3 games and finished in 3rd place behind the local Grey Shirts team from Moreton Bay, and the MACS from NSW.

Sunday ushered in sunshine and perfect Gateball conditions. My doubles partner was Jenny from the winning MACS team, and we entered our first game in high spirits. We lost 18-9, but undaunted won most of the rest of our games that day to end up with 4 wins and 2 losses, in contention with 3 other teams in our block. Our two games on Monday were both against tough opponents – Canberra and the Wanderers [runners up in last year's NSW State doubles comp]. We managed to win both games and top our block. After winning our semi-final, we were up against Southport pair Lee and Julia, who beat us on countback in our block game, by scoring Agari on the last turn.



Our opponents had an unfortunate start, putting their first three balls out of play, which allowed us to control the game, although we again had a scare on the last turn. Lightning didn't strike twice and we emerged victorious.

The tournament was very well organised and played in a good spirit and I would like to thank all involved.

Geoff Crook
Woodville Croquet Club

Gateball is Gaining Momentum within the Brighton Club

Barry Jennings from Hyde Park has visited the Brighton Club on a number of occasions to assist in training and understanding the rules. The rules are totally different and require a different mind set and skill level. There is a time limit of ten seconds between shots. Quite interesting to see players scurry around the boundary to be in a position to take their next shot.

Brighton purchased the special mallets and balls etc from a Government grant. Since conception most members have purchased their own mallets and wrist timers.

Approximately \$2200 will purchase two sets of balls , 6 timers ,6 mallets and hoops etc.

We saw it as a possibility to offer our members another variance of the game.

We commenced with four interested members, this has grown to 8 to 10.

Our aim is to challenge Hyde Park for an inter club trophy.

Barry

Naracoorte Croquet Club

Linda Klinch

My husband and I know the Naracoorte CC quite well as we have taken part several times in their annual AC Tournament. It's amazing that they can continually hold such a good and popular event with quite a small number of members but I can assure you that everyone involved works their socks off for the benefit of the club.

Eugene Dunstan is the captain at the helm and runs a very orderly ship. The ladies are a great team and provide delicious homemade soup, fresh sandwiches and hot pies and pasties for all the players to enjoy. They also put on a

sumptuous meal at their 'club night' and Eugene and Carol Mulraney keep everyone busy with some brain teasers during the evening and end up with a quiz that usually has us all scratching our heads!

The weather in this area can be a bit wet and windy and the good thing about playing in the bottom division is that you get to play all your matches on the sheltered and sunny lawn near the road, the other 2 lawns are more exposed to the elements. The club is very visible from the road which certainly helps when recruiting new players. The more codes of the game of croquet that you can offer, the better your chances are of appealing to a wider demographic. The Croquet players share the clubhouse and operate under the umbrella of the Bowling Club.

They have a Charity Day when they play Bowls and the Bowlers play Croquet, which sounds fun. Like several of the clubs in the South East, they hold a Wood Raffle which brings in extra money to help pay for the lawn cutting. Naracoorte is a nice town and we went out for lunch with Eugene, Ann Barker and Dianne Arnold.

Anyone wanting a game of croquet would be made very welcome by everyone at this established club.

Penola Croquet Club

Annie Kilsby who is a stalwart of the Penola CC visits the Naracoorte CC now and again for a game of AC. This gem of a club is tucked away in this very pretty little town and has two well maintained lawns (thanks to 4 wood raffles and the Bowling Club men) and 5 good shelters in excellent condition plus, someone in the past, has made a bespoke table out of an old tree stump which is situated in a nice sheltered spot and really is a pleasant spot.

You could sense the happy times and I hear from Annie that at one time in the not too distant past this club was vibrant and buzzing. Unfortunately, Annie was away when we visited but you could feel the love that has gone into this club.

I caught up with Annie at Tumby Bay and we both were lamenting the sad fact that, with only 2 players, the club was barely viable. How quickly things can change! The Penola CC is sitting there, perfectly poised, in a popular town, waiting for someone fresh to walk in and breathe life into it once more. Let's hope this happens soon!



Eugene Dunstan, Ann Barker, LK and Dianne Arnold enjoying a nice chat over lunch.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - AC EVENTS COORDINATOR/S

AC Events can be managed in four areas:

Special Medals, Division Singles, Doubles

Weekend Pennants

Night Singles – Lorraine Smith (Millswood C.C.)

(Thank you Lorraine)

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



Virginia Arney sharing instructions with Barry Haydon on how to construct a catapult.

GC State Team Training

What to do when it is your last training session before the Interstate Shield and it is raining heavily?

A team bonding fun activity of course!

So, the SA State Squad worked with their allocated doubles partner for the day to make a catapult using marshmallows. The projectiles became mini scoring clips and each team had to attempt to launch them into a central bowl.

Norma Greig and Stephen Condous were victorious, but special mention needed to go to Bernie Pfitzner and Barry Jennings.

Karen Magee

UP COMING EVENTS.....

Association Croquet

SEPT 5	Port Pirie Gala Day
OCT—DEC	Night Singles <i>Enquiries to Lorraine Smith</i> ENTRIES CLOSE: Friday, 23rd September
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

Golf Croquet

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 25	Norwood Fun Day
SEPT 26	Spring Aggregate 24+
OCT 1-2	Brighton Dawson Challenge
OCT 17	Mt Barker Gala Day
OCT 19	Tea Tree Gully Gala Day
OCT 31	Coromandel Valley Gala Day
OCT 31	Murray Bridge Gala Day



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



Only the frogs were 'croqu-ing' on this dreary Saturday morning at Hutt Road.

Games were cancelled and now have been re-scheduled for later in the year.

Photo courtesy of Robert Hamshere

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