



HOOP POINTS

November 2022

Issue No.401

SA AC Open Men's and Women's Championships

Twelve AC players from the Coobowie, Coromandel Valley, Crystal Brook, Hyde Park, Norwood and Victor Harbor clubs contested the SA Open Men's and SA Open Women's Championships held over the October long weekend. After a cold and very wet August the October long weekend brought warmth and sunshine providing excellent playing conditions. The soup and sandwiches, which were provided by Norwood Croquet Club for purchase as a fundraiser for the State Team, were much appreciated by the players.

Play was at the high standard expected with many of the SA state squad members in the fields. Simon Hockey won the Men's Championship with 4 wins, while three players were in contention for runner-up on three wins, with David Short second on net hoops from Tim O'Leary and Mark Senior. The Women's Championship was keenly contested with three players on four wins, and the overall winner was not apparent until the final shot of the final game; Shirley Howlett won the Women's Championship by a single hoop from Shirlene McBride, with Tracey Sincock in third place.

Joan Kelly, Norwood Croquet Club



Back Row (L to R): David Short, Simon Hockey, Fiona Hockey, Marga Podnieks, Mark Senior, Shirley Howlett. Front Row (L to R): Tracey Sincock, Liz Mackenzie, Barry Jennings, Shirlene McBride.

Spring Singles Tournament for 5+ handicaps

The 2 day Spring Singles for 5+ handicaps was held at Hutt Road on 27th September and 4th October.

A small field of 8 players vied for a top four position during the round robin phase resulting in Russell Agardi securing the top four spot joined by Susan Dunsby, Peter Willis and Ibrahim Farran for the final playoffs.

The one hour semi finals saw Russell and Peter progress though to a best of 3 game final that resulted in Russell winning the tournament by 2 games to 1.

The tournament was played in good spirit and to a high standard despite very challenging conditions on the second day with high winds and persistent rain.

Thank you to volunteers from South Terrace who managed the event and a referee team of Julianne Jago, Anne Woodhouse, Karen Magee, Barry Jennings, Kim Millhouse and Bob Neil who helped make this a very successful event.

Paul Ensor
South Terrace Club



Peter and Russell with their respective certificates.

Brighton Dawson Challenge 2022

The Brighton Dawson Challenge, named after Creina Dawson, a Life Member of the Brighton Croquet Club and a WCF Hall of Famer, was held on 1-2 October.

After the atrocious weather of the Nationals, we were very pleased to have some good weather. This meant more spectators to watch some very good croquet. The games were all close and no one could assume they would beat anyone else.

The highlight of the event was watching David Maunder, a Brighton member who only started playing this year. You could see him improving as the tournament progressed. He finished 4th in the round robin, but then went on to win his semi-final and then the Final! A very good croquet player in the making.

The runner up was David Magee, also from Brighton, who played very well and was only beaten by one hoop.

Anne Woodhouse
Event Manager



Winner of the Brighton Dawson Challenge, David Maunder and David Magee, runner up.

Fun Day of Golf Croquet: Kadina v Hyde Park

On Tuesday 11th October 12 players from Hyde Park travelled to Kadina for a friendly day of competition. While many would argue that 'friendly competition' is an oxymoron the consensus was that everyone had a very enjoyable day and as they say in the classics 'Croquet was the winner'.

The day was organised by Linda Kinch (Kadina) and Barry Haydon (Hyde Park) following a coaching clinic Barry assisted with back in July. Hyde Park were expected to win the competition given their greater golf croquet experience. It might be against the rules, but some Hyde Park members freely offered advice on both tactics and technique during play.

For many Kadina players it was the first time they had played against another club and they are greatly encouraged to do it again. We played 3 rounds of Club against Club and then for the 4th we partnered up with the opposition and this worked really well despite the extra banter that ensued.

Linda says: For many of our players it was daunting to be playing their first match and I want to thank Barry Haydon and the Hyde Park members for the very friendly and relaxed spirit they brought to the event. Thank you to everyone who helped with the catering and thank you Barry for coming up with the idea and for running the comp. Congratulations to Hyde Park for winning the event (14 to 4) – all of their players were presented with a Cherry Ripe, not just for winning on the day but as a way of saying thank you for making the trip.

Barry says: Thank you to Kadina for your hospitality. We all had a truly enjoyable day and despite a strong wind we were very relieved that the rain went away. You have a great facility with quality lawns although judging by the length of the queue at times another toilet or two could well be useful. We all look forward to coming back at some stage. In the meantime, we will start planning for your trip to Hyde Park early in the new year – hope you can all make it!

Linda Kinch and Barry Haydon



Players are: L=> R

John Lydeamore, Malcolm Kinch, Dougie Francis, Abby Key, David Rowe, Weina Si, Stephen Condous, Michael Vincent, Julie Arthur, Rosie Vincent, Helen Crosby, Pam Bussenschutt, Barry Haydon, Di Paull, Geoff Webber, Linda Kinch, Marie Smith, David Chapman, Jenny Haydon, Dean Rodda, Sandy Shorne, Caroline Chapman, Robyn Rowe.

S.A. Spring Women's Open Singles 2022

The first day of competition was played in a friendly but highly competitive spirit.

All players played well despite a heavy shower and a two hour power outage adding to the drama.

Day two conducted with untimed games in overcast conditions was also an example of great neck and neck play culminating in a well deserved win for Kate Logan (Victor Harbor) with Virginia Arney (Norwood) a worthy runner up.

Thankyou to the host team from Holdfast Bay Croquet Club - Margaret ,Roger, Jān, Paul and Colin. Also thank you to the terrific referees - Carolyn Cooper, Bob Neil and Kim Millhouse.

Colin Broom
President H.B.C.C.



Above: Runner up Virginia Arney, Colin Broom and Winner Kate Logan



Left: Participants in the SA Women's Open Singles: Laura Eden, Bernie Pfitzner, Norma Greig, Kate Logan, Virginia Arney and Anne Woodhouse

Thank you to Lyn Parnell, Outgoing President of Croquet SA

The Board would like to thank outgoing President Lyn Parnell for all her hard work and dedication during the last 2 years. Throughout her term of office, she has performed her duties in an extremely professional manner and has always been very supportive of all the other board members and officers. She has been a very approachable and accessible President, who is willing and happy to listen to different points of view and discuss issues fully. I personally would like to thank her for giving me the opportunity to be a 'voice' for the Country Clubs. Lyn assures us that she is happy to continue with some involvement in upcoming projects but is ready to step back from the 'driving' role.



Lyn, we all wish you well for the future and once again thank you for everything you have done for SACA.

Linda Kinch (Vice President)

Multi Mallet Cross Training is the Way To Go

A recent analysis of data from Queensland revealed that 80% of that state's Gateballers also play another code. The South Australian Coordinator believes that in his state that figure is 100% and it is surmised that this is the case in all the states where Gateball numbers are smaller. So what is it that makes so many of us multi mallet enthusiasts?

Some examples of well and lesser known players have agreed to have their mallet sports stories published. They illustrate the pleasure and benefits gained from playing a range of mallet sports. We can even extol the virtue of playing several games as *cross training* - a proven approach to improving performance in someone's main game!

In 2017, Julia Tai did not play mallets sports. Her family from Taiwan were planning to visit Australia and told her they wanted to play Gateball. As a result, Julia joined Southport Croquet Club. Since then, Gateball has become a family affair and Julia, her father and son Ethan all played together in the 2019 Australian Gateball Championships in Melbourne. The family featured in a radio interview for the [ABC's 'Sporty' program](#) along with other Gateball families.

Since that time, Julia and son Ethan have ventured into other codes too. In 2018, Julia started playing Ricochet and has participated in pennants events and Division 4 competition. In 2019, she played Golf and has played in Division 3 competitions. By 2020, she was ready to try Association and played in a Bribie Island Competition, as well as winning the Southport Shield for Association.

Linda Davies of Bribie Island came to Gateball as the fourth code in her repertoire of mallets sports. Linda began playing Golf at Bribie Island in 2008 and has made the Queensland State team on three occasions. She has made an appearance at the Worlds in New Zealand. Linda also plays Ricochet and Association. For 7 years she was the State and National Coordinator for Ricochet. She started playing Gateball about 6 years ago and was recently a member of the winning team in the 2022 Queensland State Championships. Linda's commitment to all 4 codes of mallet sports is demonstrated not only by having been Qld State Coaching Coordinator and a coach and trainer for all codes but also being a referee. She is already qualified as a referee for Golf, Ricochet and Association and is currently working at her Gateball qualification. What an amazing commitment to the full array of mallet sports!

Karen McGee of South Australia tells us she has been playing Golf Croquet since 2012. This year saw her selection for South Australia in the Interstate Shield for the 8th time. During that period she has had a few state coaches with lots of tips and advice, but one memorable comment was, "What will I be doing this year to improve from last year?". That led her to Gateball in 2019, which focuses her strokes for roquetting and gives her lots of fun. Gateball certainly keeps her mind in tune, having to make quick decisions to lead to success. Karen believes that the short games keep a player on their toes and involved.

She took up Association Croquet as something else to help her Golf Croquet improve. Covid was instrumental in this, in that she couldn't travel for the Interstate Shield and was looking for something else. Luckily, she has her own personal coach in this and has had some success. She tells us the long games do concern her, but alternate stroke handicap doubles and playing 14 point games is a way for her to overcome this as a beginner. She enjoys playing 3 codes.



Peter Freer discovered Croquet in 1981, when his work team hired a lawn at the Canberra Croquet Club, and he has been a member ever since – now 41 years and a Life Member there. After retiring from work in October 2008, he took up serious competition; playing Association, Golf Croquet, Ricochet and Gateball. Peter particularly enjoys the team aspects of Gateball, and plays in Doubles, Triples and Teams at regional, State and Australian level - plus a World Gateball Championship in Brazil, as part of a Canberra team. Peter stresses that his interest in GB has been fuelled by the strong and enthusiastic GB base at Canberra CC, led by Glen and Kristina Whitehead and NSW GB Coordinator Judy Tier. Peter is a keen referee and coach in all 4 codes, and notes the crossover in terms of stroking balls, running hoops/gates and tactical/positional play. Peter is married to Kate McLoughlin and they have two (adult) daughters, and a very busy one year-old grandson.

David Pryor of Victoria is the newest of our multi mallet sports players. He tells us that the very first day he arrived for a hit at Kew Croquet Club, he was greeted by a very friendly group, who invited him to join them in a game called Gateball. He now regularly plays Gateball as well as Association and Golf Croquet - all are played both competitively and socially. He says that each code complements the others; at the same time, skills learnt in one code are also helpful across all.

He has found experienced players of all codes to be remarkably supportive, offering coaching and encouraging him to compete, even when his skills development had a very long way to go! Of Kew's two courts, one is line marked for Gateball (in blue) as well as Croquet, and timeslots across the week have been amicably allocated to the various codes.

In 2015 Barry Jennings was the greenkeeper at Meningie Bowling Club, SA. He was charged with preparing the old bowling green for the croquet club. He was persuaded to pick up a mallet and so started his croquet journey. When Barry Haydon came to give a coaching session about 6 months later, he posed the question of how far he could go in the sport and how he could get there. The offer to play at Hyde Park saw him travel to Adelaide regularly, stopping off at Murray Bridge to play on his way back to Meningie. He eventually moved to Adelaide and once he started competing at a higher level, soon realised that his toughest opposition all played AC so, when offered a chance of a 1 on 1 session with Eileen Ferguson as part of the country week carnival, he jumped at the opportunity. That was about 2017.

The next year he was introduced to Gateball by John and Penny Park and has been playing all 3 codes ever since.

His week usually involves GC on 4 or 5 days. AC on 3 days and Gateball 1 or 2 days.

People often ask which code he enjoys most and tells us he really doesn't have a preference as each require both similar and very different skills Each code compliments the others.

He has travelled through many parts of the country competing in all codes and to NZ to play AC and GC, he competed in the world championship of AC in 2020 and has played Gateball in China. He has been in the GC state team each year since 2017 and last year made the AC state team.

He enjoy the tactical challenges of GC, the finesse required to excel in AC and the precise touch required while trying to think at a million miles an hour in Gateball.

Most of all, I enjoy the comradery in all codes.

The ACA is the umbrella organisation for all our mallet sports. The sum is clearly greater than the parts. Any game, isolated from the others, loses.

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Gateball Australia name is the ACA's registered trading name for its Gateball operations.

New GC Coaches in Training

A number of new GC coaches now exist. They participated in training led by Barry Haydon, Robert Weaver and David Wise on 25th October at SACA Headquarters. The training has been developed by Greg Bury (Qld, head of the Australia Croquet Academy) and is based on Level 1 coaches being able to teach newcomers to the club about the game while level 2 coaches should be able to assist established club players. [Some of those present have completed their formal training but need to satisfy some of the other criteria before being classified as level2.]



If others would like to undertake the course next time it is conducted, they should contact Barry Haydon (bandjhaydon@gmail.com) or make contact with the GC Committee. Barry is also able to organise coaching clinics for individual clubs if your club doesn't have a coach.

Level 1 graduates L=> R Peter Webster (Millswood), Stephen Davel, Sue Davel (Millswood), Robert Hamshere (Coromandel Valley), Ansi Baumanis (Norwood), Jill Colley (Brighton), Barry Haydon (Presenter, Hyde Park), Marlene Salmon (Brighton), Leah O'Neil (Mt Gambier), Robert O'Neil (Mt Gambier), (Geoffrey Miller (Tea Tree Gully), Peter Woodward (Brighton)



Level 2 trainees L=> R Marlene Salmon (Brighton), Jill Colley (Brighton), David Wise (Presenter, Norwood), Ansi Baumanis (Norwood), Peter Webster (Valley), Geoffrey Miller (Tea Tree Gully), Peter Webster (Millswood), Robert Hamshere (Coromandel Brighton), Barry Haydon (Presenter, Hyde Park)

Port Lincoln Croquet Club

I had hoped to visit the Pt Lincoln CC during the Tumby Bay Tournament but the timing didn't work out. Fortunately, I spoke with Marj Pretty, President of the Port Lincoln Croquet Club, during a free session at Tumby and it was good to be able to have a chat with her.

As is the case with many croquet clubs, the main game played nowadays at Pt Lincoln is GC along with some Aussie. A few members still play AC and play a very clever and tactical game. My husband and I have attended the Pt Lincoln annual AC Tournament several times and enjoyed their kind hospitality and the keen competition.

Recently the club has had a bit of bad luck with the shed burning down and the ride on mower being ruined and they are awaiting the arrival of the replacement.

Pt Lincoln is a nice drive from Adelaide with a variety of pleasant trips possible around the area, it is quite a large town and makes a good central hub to stay at while exploring the Eyre Peninsula.

The Croquet Club has nice lawns to play on and has a great view to look over. They frequently get tourists calling into the club for a social game which the members also enjoy and a good time is had by everyone.

Next time you're over in the west of the State, spare some time to have a game at the Pt Lincoln Croquet Club and catch up with the friendly members.

Linda Kinch



Di Helier (Victor Harbor) and Marj Pretty receiving their prizes at the AC Tournament held in Port Lincoln before Covid struck!

Tumby Bay Croquet Club

What a gem of a place Tumby Bay is! The people are so friendly and the Bakery is just far too good to be healthy and on top of this, there is the Tumby Bay Croquet Club. The location of this club is spectacular with its direct sea front position and its bustling pavement with locals and holiday makers alike looking on at the game of croquet albeit with a quizzical expression on their faces. I offered to explain what was happening once and was told quite emphatically that their life expectancy wasn't long enough to get the gist of it!

There used to be a drab grey brick wall beside the pavement but that has all gone now and been replaced with an attractive white picket fence. The very hard working members of this club fundraised tirelessly with \$1000 donated by the Bendigo Bank, \$250 from SACA and the very successful Devonshire Teas at the Colour Tumby Weekend added much needed funds towards this project.

The next little job to be done is to pave the area between the grass courts and the new fence. The local suppliers also were most generous and I'm sure will be again. There are little shelters dotted around all perimeters of the 3 lawns and they also were given a lick of paint in time for the extremely popular Annual AC Tournament held in May.

You can't always guarantee good calm weather at Tumby but you can be certain that you won't lose weight during the 5 days of competition. The hard working ladies are constantly plying everyone with delicious home baking, fresh sandwiches, soup and the desserts alone make the trip well worth the effort.

It is very apparent that the members all work together for the benefit of their enthusiastic and successful club which is fantastic. Association Croquet is the predominant code played here which nowadays is a little unusual but they are extremely lucky to have some first rate and indeed ex AC State Players as members and mentors to the up and coming players.

Tumby Bay is very well represented in Tournaments around the State and the success that they enjoy is, in no small measure, due to the generosity of time and the quality of training that is provided. Everyone I know looks forward to the annual break away to this very special place and are greeted like old friends by the members and also the hoteliers and shopkeepers. If you haven't been to Tumby I strongly recommend making the trip and catching up with the Croquet Fraternity which is growing all the time.

Linda Kinch



L to R

Karyn Speed, Margaret James, Francis Boylan, Ros Harrowfield, Shirley Carr, Marlene Poole, Rhonda Habner, Rob Habner, Garry Speed proudly standing in front of the new picket fence.

UP COMING EVENTS.....

Association Croquet

NOV	1-3	Division 3 8+ Singles
NOV	5-6	ACA Bronze Medal (Invitation only)
NOV	8-11	Alternate Stroke Handicap Doubles
NOV	13	Norwood AC Tournament Contact Joan Kelly 0418851665
NOV	16—18	North Adelaide Swiss Handicap Singles Contact Roger Harris
NOV	26 & 27	North Adelaide Games Invitation Singles Contact Roger Harris
NOV	27	Norwood AC Tournament

Golf Croquet

NOV	7	Holdfast Bay Gala Day
NOV	12 & 13	Spring Men's Open—Hutt Road
NOV	14/21/28	Aggregate 24+
NOV	17	Woodville Gala Day
NOV	26	Pennants
NOV	27	Pennants
DEC	5	Aggregate 24+
DEC	6—8	19 Hoop Tournament—Hutt Road. Entries close 8th Nov

Gateball

DEC	3—4	SA Gateball Championships—Hutt Road
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Please refer to the SACA website Calendar for more details on events.

COLIN PICKERING NORTHADELAIDE GAMES 2022 **Association Croquet Swiss Tournament**

PRE-DRAWN SWISS SINGLES (All handicaps welcome)

Wed. 16, Thurs. 17 and Fri. 18 November 2022

Likely commencement times: 8.45am, 11.20am, 1.55pm and 4.30pm
(For those who cannot play during the daytime, alternative arrangements will be negotiated.)

Players will play a total of 4 games over these three days.
2½ hour games (time after the bell).

Cost \$35 Preferred payment:
North Adelaide Croquet Club Inc. BSB: 105068 Account: 041359040
Reference: your surname and ID number

Tea/coffee/light refreshments will be provided (but no meals).

Prizes given (value depending on number of entries) for Winner and Runner-up.

For further information and application details contact:
Roger Harris: roger.harris@unisa.edu.au

MANAGEMENT BOARD		
PRESIDENT	Ansi Baumanis	0421 289 844 president@sacroquet.com.au
VICE PRESIDENT	Linda Kinch	0447 736 828 vicepresident@sacroquet.com.au
TREASURER	Geoff Crook	0444 549 976 finance@sacroquet.com.au
ASSOCIATION CROQUET DIRECTOR		
GOLF CROQUET DIRECTOR	Ansi Baumanis	0421 289 844 gcdirector@sacroquet.com.au
SPORT DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR		
ASSOCIATION CROQUET SUB COMMITTEE – COORDINATORS		
REFEREEING		
COACHING	Murray Baum	0413 488 053 accoaching@sacroquet.com.au
EVENTS	Joan Kelly	0418 851 665 acevents@sacroquet.com.au
SELECTION	Greg Rowberry	0401 990 665 acselection@sacroquet.com.au
HANDICAPPING	Roger Buddle	0409 846 344 achandicap@sacroquet.com.au
SECRETARY		acsecretary@sacroquet.com.au
GOLF CROQUET SUB COMMITTEE – COORDINATORS		
REFEREEING	John Arney	gcrefereeing@sacroquet.com.au
COACHING	Mick Reidy	0413 298 301 gccoaching@sacroquet.com.au
EVENTS	Karen Magee	0404 174 177 gcevents@sacroquet.com.au
SELECTION	Graeme Thomas	gcselection@sacroquet.com.au
HANDICAPPING	Jim Grindrod	0422 837 485 gchandicap@sacroquet.com.au
SECRETARY	Jane West	gcsecretary@sacroquet.com.au
GATEBALL		
STATE GATEBALL COORDINATOR	Geoff Crook	0444 549 976 gateball@sacroquet.com.au
OTHER OFFICEHOLDERS		
ADMINISTRATION OFFICER	Trish Fazackerley	0434 281 042 info@sacroquet.com.au
REGISTRATIONS OFFICER	Ken McHugh	0474 784 039 membership@sacroquet.com.au
WEBSITE COORDINATOR	Roger Buddle	0409 846 344 website@sacroquet.com.au
HOOP POINTS EDITOR	Jill Millhouse	0439 088 704 newsletter@sacroquet.com.au
ARCHIVIST	Vacant	-
MEMBER PROTECTION INFO.	Ansi Baumanis	0421 289 844 welfare@sacroquet.com.au
PUBLIC OFFICER	Geoff Crook	0444 549 976
CALENDAR	Peter Martyniuk	0408 277 689 calendar@sacroquet.com.au
FACILITY HIRE	Administrator	08 8271 6586 info@sacroquet.com.au
GRANTS OFFICER		

South Australian Croquet Association
Inc
PO Box 7084
Hutt St Adelaide SA 5000
Ph/Fax 08 8271 6586
Email: info@sacroquet.com.au