



HOOP POINTS

December 2022

Issue No.402

SA AC ACA BRONZE MEDAL

Less than two weeks after South Australia's Dwayne McCormick finished 3rd against inter-State Bronze medallists in the covid-delayed 2022 Australian Croquet Association's Association Croquet Gold and Silver medal event at Cairnlea in Victoria, eight invited players assembled at Hutt Road to determine who would be our representative for 2023.

Saturday and Sunday the 5th and 6th of November provided some perfect playing conditions with good lawns and sunny skies. Players were selected for the event based on their availability and their national ranking when selected in early October. The players were Simon Hockey (currently ranked No. 1 in South Australia, No. 3 nationally and No. 9 in the world), Harley Watts (4, 13, 69), Tim O'Leary (5, 21, 88), David Short (6, 23, 93), Murray Baum (9, 49, 207), Barry Jennings (12, 63, 277) and Roger Buddle (13, 66, 294). Greg Rowberry filled in for Mark Senior who withdrew prior to the event due to illness.

Simon was the outstanding favourite at the start but, perhaps due to travel requirements and lack of match play, was not at his peak on Day 1 and

struggled against lower ranked players and, in a major upset, lost to Barry Jennings. Day 2 started with David Short undefeated (4 wins) and Simon, Harley and Tim each on 3 wins. Simon had found form and completed two triple peels and had almost completed a 3rd when a lawn imperfection caught him at one back and he eventually went down 25-26 to Harley. The end result was 5 wins each to Simon, Harley and Tim with Tim taking out the medal with a superior net hoop advantage.

Full results can be viewed at <https://croquetscores.com/2022/ac/sa-aca-bronze-medal/block>.

Norwood Croquet Club was the managing club and special thanks are due to AC Events Coordinator, Joan Kelly, for pre-event planning, Mary Marsland, who provided and prepared food and snacks for players and fellow selector and former SACA President, Lyn Parnell who assisted with catering and event management and the donation of a bottle of champagne to the event winner, Tim O'Leary. Thanks also to James Temlett, Di Helier and others who assisted with refereeing.

Tim will now join inter-State Bronze Medallists to fight out the Gold and Silver medals at Cairnlea in early March 2023, immediately preceding the Australian Men's and Women's Singles Championships and the AC Eire Cup inter-State teams competition.

Greg Rowberry
AC Captain Norwood



AC Division 3 Singles

The five competitors in the AC Div. 3 Singles had to battle wind, heavy down pours of rain and hail, as well as each other during the first day. Given these conditions the players returned on the second day in remarkably good humour to continue play. However, they were greeted with saturated courts and it looked like play might have to be abandoned.

Court 1 was least effected with flooding in corner 4, so after most of the water was cleared, double banked play started using one lawn.



The five players involved in this year's Div 3 Singles.



David Pinnock showed his class by winning all his games and there was a two-way tussle for runner up with Greg Wilson edging out Joan Kelly with a better net hoop average. Stephen Templeton and Liz Mackenzie both played positive croquet with fine disposition.

Philip Hadley – Event Manager

David Pinnock and Liz Mackenzie in action.

Greg Wilson congratulating David Pinnock for the win.



Terang Gateball Championship 2022

It's taken some time, but life – and gateball – in Victoria is finding it's old rhythms again. One of the best parts of gateball in Victoria is the tradition that on the weekend before the Melbourne Cup, the friendliest and most hospitable tournament in all of gateball is held in the delightful town of Terang.

Terang itself is between Colac and Warrnambool, around two-and-a-half hours West of Melbourne. The Terang Croquet Club is just off the main road, sitting slightly downhill from the beautiful avenue which serves as the main thoroughfare of the town.

This year four teams competed in the teams contest (two from Terang, a composite South Australian team and Kew). The South Australian team was made up of members from Woodville and Mt Gambier (with an extra player from Kew for good measure).

The contest continued despite some heavy rain on the Saturday, with slightly soggy socks a small price to pay for some excellent gateball and truly extraordinary afternoon tea (another tradition of which Terang should be justly proud).

The rain didn't affect play too much, despite the odd puddle on the field. Terang has some areas with mild flooding, but nothing like the difficulties being experienced further north in Victoria. Our thoughts are with those in and around Shepparton, and the other parts of the state more seriously afflicted.

Kew did not have all of the players who have been representing the club at recent championships and debuted two new players: Iain and Ingrid. Nevertheless, they were still a strong team and went through the teams competition undefeated, duly winning the title. The South Australian team placed second. But for a most out-of-character sparking foul in the game against Kew the positions could easily have been the other way around.

For the doubles competition on Sunday, the sun was shining and the need for sunscreen replaced the need for raincoats. The pairing of Kerry Seipolt and Elaine Coverdale proved the strongest winning all five of their games. In second place were Geoff and Trish from Woodville, who only just managed to edge out Catherine and Eric on points differential.

Congratulations and thanks to Heather and the whole Terang Croquet club for another wonderful visit.

Philip Brown



Meningie GC Croquet Coaching Clinic.



It was Pageant Day 12th November 2022 and to be expected the weather changed to a winter type storm, plenty of rain, lightning and thunder. However, that did not deter the twenty members of the Meningie Croquet Club from turning out for the first Croquet Coaching Clinic in about five years.

Roger Zeuner a level one coach, from the Holdfast Bay Croquet

Club, and his wife Gloria, conducted the coaching which was held on the synthetic court at the Meningie Bowling Club. Between the showers, members were exposed to a number of croquet drills, with an overview of the croquet rules including faults, wrong ball play, running hoops, casting and stop shots.

A beautiful morning tea was enjoyed by all with plenty of banter about what members had learned during the morning session. After morning tea some more drills and off side rules explained. Finally a game



of closest to the peg was played by all, with the winner taking the chocolates. We were lucky the rain was kind to us, but after lunch the heavens opened up.

The Club Captain, Rob Smith and his wife Miriam invited us to lunch at their new home, which was greatly appreciated and was delicious, thanks Miriam and Rob. Members were enthusiastic and there were many positive comments about the coaching and how they can utilise this coaching to improve their game in future.

I wish to thank the members of the Meningie Croquet Club for their hospitality on the day. Meningie Croquet Club play every Monday and Saturday morning. Croquet players are very welcome to enjoy their hospitality when travelling to Meningie.



Roger Zeuner

SA AC Alternate Stroke Handicap Doubles:

Players from the Aldinga Bay, Brighton, Hyde Park, Millswood, Norwood, Victor Harbor and Woodville clubs gathered at Hutt Road for the AC Alternate Stroke Handicap Doubles Competition from the 8th to the 10th of October. The alternate stroke doubles format is an excellent opportunity for players who are new to AC tournaments to be mentored by established players, and it was exciting to see four new entrants to AC events. These were Kate Logan with Shirley Howlett, Geoff Crook with Mary Marsland, Trish Fazackerley with Marga Podnieks, and Peter Webster with James Temlett, who translated their gateball and GC skills to the AC game with excellent effect.

Games were played in generous spirit, and all pairs were competitive, with four pairs with a chance to win the tournament before the final session began. The winners were Geoff Crook and Mary Marsland on 6 wins, from three pairs on 5 wins, with Barry Jennings and Peter Woodward the runners up on net hoops from Shirley Howlett and Kate Logan and Di Helier and Joan Kelly.

Joan Kelly, Tournament Manager.



AC Alternate Stroke Handicap Doubles:

L to R. Peter Webster, Joan Kelly, James Temlett, Roger Buddle, Peter Woodward, Di Helier, Geoff Crook, Steve Templeton, Jim Curtis, Glen Blatchford, Trish Fazackerley, Kate Logan, Marga Podnieks, Shirley Howlett, Barry Jennings, Greg Wilson, Lyn Parnell, Mary Marsland.



VICTOR HARBOR CROQUET CLUB

I am very familiar with this lovely club, as my husband and I look forward to our annual break away at Victor Harbor to play in their very popular and usually oversubscribed AC Tournament held at the end of February - beginning of March. The VHCC committee could write a manual on how to run a croquet tournament. Everything from the lunches, snacks, drinks and raffles are extremely well organised and everyone has their particular duties to perform which make for a very streamlined event. We're hoping to do their GC tournament sometime in the future and I have no doubt that that will be just as pleasurable.

The lawns are truly magnificent although the hoops, for some of us, do seem to be particularly narrow! As well as GC and AC, once a month they team up and play Aussie which is great for bringing everybody together and working towards the common goal of having a vibrant and successful club. There are some extremely good players at VH whose help and advice are on hand for new members to tap into.

Despite the club's windy position near the seafront, the sunken lawns and clubhouse are really quite sheltered and on a hot day, the far side of the lawns can be roasting and sun screen is most definitely recommended. The lovely geraniums also enjoy being out of the wind and many a cutting is taken as a little souvenir of happy days playing croquet at Victor.

There are many different cafes and restaurants in this holiday town but the AC Club Night during the tournament is always very well attended and after a few drinks and all the 'near miss' roquets have been mulled over, everyone enjoys a good old 'sing song' usually accompanied by 1 or 2 ukuleles. Just as soon as we've arrived and greeted everyone as old friends, it's time to say goodbye and a lot of hugging and 'see 'ya next year' brings the week to an end.

I don't need to try too hard to sell this historic and vibrant town and I hope all the residents are aware

of this special club where gentle exercise and friendship are simply waiting to greet them. When in the shops, the shopkeepers recognize the blue jacket and white trousers and say OMG is it that time of year again? To which I say, it sure is and have you given croquet a 'go' yet and if not why not! But no matter what month of the year it is, I would highly recommend a visit to the Victor Harbor Croquet Club .

Linda Kinch



L - R
Volunteers Rhonda Westcott
and Anne Fawcner relaxing
after a busy week at the Vic-
tor Harbor Croquet Club



Association Croquet Tournament, Wednesday 15th to Sunday 19th February 2023

Entries limited to 32 and close on Tuesday, 31st January

Norwood Croquet Club invites you to participate in our block format tournament. We aim to attract a variety of players from both country and city clubs. Blocks will be arranged in handicap order with 4 blocks of 8 with similar handicaps. A limited number of billets will be available for country players.

Play will be held during the day and evenings, with 3 sessions on Wednesday, up to, 5 sessions on Thursday to Saturday and 3 sessions on Sunday.

DOUBLES (Drawn Partners) **4 Blocks of 4 pairs.** Time limit 2.5 hours with turn after the bell. All 3 games to be played on Wednesday 15th February starting at 8am, 10:45am and 2:00pm

SINGLES **4 Blocks of 8** Time Limit 2.5 hours with turn after the bell. Session times 8:00am, 10:45am, 1:30pm, 4:15pm and 7:00pm with all players playing 7 games over the 4 days, Thursday to Sunday.

ENTRY FEE \$60 - (\$20 doubles, \$40 Singles) **must accompany official entry form.** Cancellation fee of \$5.00. Preference given to players entering both Doubles and Singles.

Pre-ordered lunches available daily

Optional hotel meal on at own cost on Thursday night (venue TBA)

BBQ/Meal at the Club on Saturday 18th February (\$20)

Afternoon tea and presentation of prizes at approximately 4:30 pm on Sunday 19th February

FOR AN ENTRY FORM, CONTACT:

Tournament Manager Greg Rowberry

Email: Rowberry.greg@gmail.com Mobile 0401 990 665

Snake-in-the-grass croquet????

In early November an unwelcome visitor (but magnificent specimen in my opinion) was seen at Hutt Road. It arrived from under the hedge near Lawn 3 and was quickly chased away by Lyn Parnell and Barry Jennings.

Photos courtesy of Lyn Parnell



UP COMING EVENTS.....

Golf Croquet

DEC	5	Aggregate 24+
DEC	6—8	19 Hoop Tournament—Hutt Road.
JAN	9-10	Millswood Classic
JAN	16-17	Millswood Classic
JAN	21—23	Director's Trophy 5+ Enter via Croquet SA Website
JAN	23—24	Millswood Classic
JAN	26—29	President's Trophy Enter via Croquet SA Website
JAN	30—31	Millswood Classic
FEB	4	Pennants
FEB	6, 20, 27	Aggregate 24+
FEB	11-13	SA Bronze Medal



Presentation Day
North Adelaide
Sunday 11th December
11am.

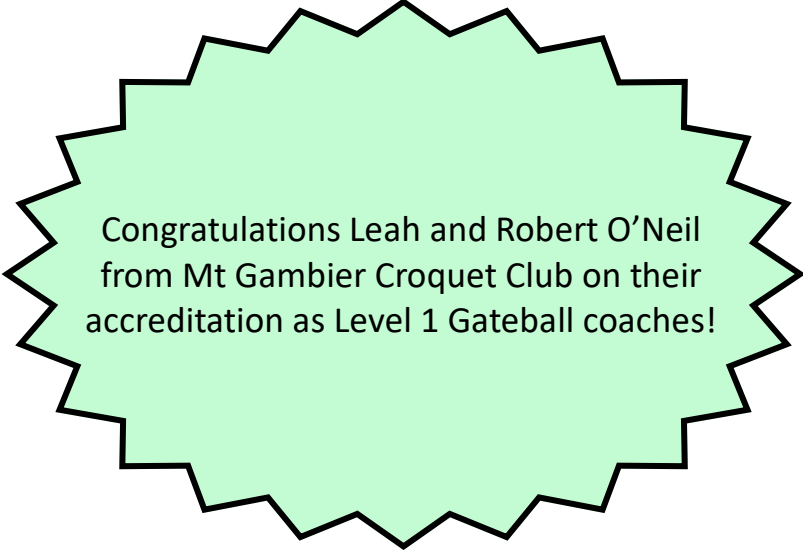
Association Croquet

JAN	16	Open and Div 3 Night Doubles commence Contact Lorraine Smith
JAN	17	Div2 and Div4 Night Doubles Commence " "
FEB	15—19	Norwood Tournament Contact Greg Rowberry
FEB	24	Marty Clarke training
FEB	25—26	SA v Aus - Brighton
FEB	26—28	Victor Harbor Tournament Contact Shirley Howlett
FEB	25	Pennants

Gateball

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



Congratulations Leah and Robert O'Neil
from Mt Gambier Croquet Club on their
accreditation as Level 1 Gateball coaches!

MANAGEMENT BOARD		
PRESIDENT	Ansi Baumanis	0421 289 844 president@sacroquet.com.au
VICE PRESIDENT	Linda Kinch	0447 736 828 vicepresident@sacroquet.com.au
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REFEREEING		
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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		gccoaching@sacroquet.com.au
EVENTS	Karen Magee	0404 174 177 gcevents@sacroquet.com.au
SELECTION		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**