



HOOP POINTS

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2022 SACA Life Member—Shirley Carr

Shirley began playing croquet in 1980 in her home town of Tumby Bay. It didn't take long before she was selected in the South Australian State team and remained as a member for the next 18 consecutive years.

SA were very successful in the Eire Cup during this time. The women were extremely strong and Shirley represented Australia in Trans Tasman events many times in a period where this event was only for women.

Shirley won the Australian Women's Singles in 1990, 1993 and 1997 and was runner up a number of times.

In addition Shirley won many tournaments including the Armstrong and only a couple of years ago when over 80 years of age, Shirley beat a top field to win the Victor Harbor tournament.

When Shirley was a State team member it was a pre requisite that all players were qualified referees. Shirley has not only engaged in refereeing over her career but also coaching and is recognised as a great tactician of the game.

Shirley was awarded the Australian Sports Medal for her sporting achievements.

In addition to Shirley's outstanding playing career, Shirley has volunteered her time in a number of administrative roles at Club level. Shirley was Victor Harbor Club Captain and a Committee member for 4 years, Club Secretary at Tumby Bay for 9 years and President at Tumby for 3 - a total of 16 years committed to administering the sport.

Not only an outstanding croquet player and administrator, Shirley continues to work in the club gardens at Tumby and if you ever attend the Tumby tournaments will enjoy her delicious sponge rolls.

Shirley is truly a legend of our game and thoroughly deserving of receiving honorary Life Membership.





SA State Gateball Tournament

The SA State Gateball Tournament was held from Friday 2 December 2022 to Sunday 4 December 2022, and was a testament to the flexibility, pragmatism and all round good nature of the Gateball community.

It was gratifying to see 6 teams enter the competition, with 3 local sides and 3 interstate teams from Victoria, NSW and ACT.

We started with doubles on Friday, teams on Saturday, and completion of doubles on Sunday.

This unusual schedule arose due to

some players not being available on Friday, and some team-only players who could only play on Saturday.

The President's [doubles] Trophy was contested over two blocks of six pairs, with the Brighton team having an excellent Friday to lead Block A with 4 wins from 4 games, and it was a similar story in Block B with Canberra Long Shots also winning all four of their games.

Saturday saw the arrival of the Victorian team. Kew [and co] played to their usual standard, despite being more of a composite team, and will be the first team to adorn the new Gateball Teams perpetual trophy.



Canberra placed second with 3 wins, separated from Woodville, ably supported by Ros and Maddi Crowe from Queensland, in third place by net gates. [Can I say Well done Woodville? Just did I guess.]

Sunday again brought hot weather and a tough schedule for the pairings of Philip and Peter W; and Elaine and Cheryl, who had to play all of their games on Sunday morning.

A tense finale was in store with 3 teams in each block in contention as the last round started. Philip and Peter beat Brighton 21-9 which unfortunately consigned Brighton to third place in Block A, but still a great performance from the Brighton pair in their first tournament. Elaine and Cheryl won their final Block B game but also placed third in their block, which set up semi finals between Philip and Peter versus John and Penny and Canberra Long Shots versus the Hyde Park pair. It was great to see a local doubles team make the finals and the Hyde Park pairing should be congratulated on their performance. Canberra were too strong, and the final was played between Canberra and Philip and Peter [also from Canberra]. Philip again will have his name etched onto the trophy after a 14-8 victory.

The weekend also provided an opportunity for a number of people to sit their Referee Theory exam. Congratulations to Cheryl, Peter W and Ralph for passing the level 1 Referee Theory exam.

Barry Jennings and Maddi Crowe also passed the theory exam and were assessed for the practical component, and are to be congratulated on becoming our newest Level 1 referees.

A big thank you to Gary Maher for his outstanding organisation over the three days. Thanks also to Barry Haydon for facilitating a late venue change, Peter Martyniuk for his support during the event, and Ros Crowe for stepping in when I overslept! Thanks to Ros, John and Penny for doing referee assessments. Finally, thanks to the unsung heroes that helped out in other ways during the event, and the competitors for playing in such a good spirit and making the tournament great fun. Hope to see you next year!

Geoff Crook—SA Gateball Coordinator



Vale Bryan Dawson

Bryan was a skilled craftsman and, before purchasing the croquet equipment manufacturing business from Bill Smith in the early 1980's had followed in the footsteps of his father and learned the value of being a perfectionist as a wood turner, cabinet maker and furniture restorer – skills he continued to practice until very late in life. He had not previously been a croquet player and, initially, took up the game in order to promote his business.

Both Bryan and Colin Pickering were two of my early mentors at the Mt Barker Croquet Club in the 1990's and I regularly played doubles with Bryan. He was an entertaining instructor and always had a witty or cheeky comment. Some of the more memorable ones were “go smack it in the guts,” or “try it, and you'll never die wondering.”

Well Bryan tried it. With the same meticulous approach that he applied to his wood craft he practiced regularly – mostly by going out and repeatedly hitting roquets. He advanced quickly through the croquet ranks with one of his first significant victories being the 1987 ME Hatwell Gold. The following year he competed in the Australian Open and, in 1990, commenced a run of 16 straight years as a member of the South Australian Inter-State Eire Cup team. During this period he also won numerous State events including the ACA Bronze Medal in 2006, the President's Trophy (3 times) and the SA Open in 2001 and 2004. He, along with several other long-serving State Team members was awarded Player Life Membership in the early 2000's.

No doubt, the highlight of Bryan's playing career was his selection in the Australian MacRobertson Shield Team that played at Christchurch, New Zealand in 2000 against teams from England, New Zealand and the USA. One of his proudest achievements was defeating the highly ranked Englishman, Stephen Mulliner, in a best-of-3 match in that event.

But Bryan's greatest contribution to the international game of croquet (and to the success of his business) was his development of the ubiquitous Dawson Ball. The World Croquet Federation acknowledged this contribution in 2019 when he was nominated to the WCF Hall of Fame. The WCF website states:

At his Adelaide workshop he undertook years of painstaking research in the precise mix of plastics and colours required for the cold moulding process that would produce a croquet ball that met the specifications reliably by being perfectly round, robust enough to withstand years of vigorous use and almost entirely resilient to temperature changes”

I recall visiting Bryan's workshop in the early 2000's where he showed me the metal master ball that he had hand-crafted as the mould for every single Dawson ball that had been made. Each spike on the mould was exactly positioned to provide the milling pattern that all croquet players have become familiar with. The creation of this master ball had taken years of trial and error and attention to detail. I was also staggered by the finishing process which involved placing the newly moulded the balls, no more than half a dozen at a time, into a very small, normal looking kitchen oven to cure. After curing they were removed from the mould and individually hand-trimmed to ensure no ridges where the two halves of the balls were joined – an exacting process requiring skill and great patience when you consider the scale at which these balls were now being distributed around the world.

Bryan was a character – entertaining, ever cheerful, and supportive. He loved his toys – his Ford F350 “Fifth Wheeler” with hitch installation to tow his 5 Star caravan – a true measure of his business success. After retiring and selling the ball manufacturing business in 2017 he travelled regularly to the Riverland and South East to visit family and old friends. He continued to make croquet equipment and renovate furniture as a favour for friends and family and produced an unbelievable collection of powerful and beautifully produced crossbows.

He will be remembered well by the croquet fraternity.

Greg Rowberry



Millswood Celebrates 100 years of Croquet

On Sunday November 27th Millswood croquet club celebrated its 100 years of croquet.

On September 29th, 1922, a general meeting was held at the Goodwood institute by 12 enterprising women and the Millswood croquet club was formed. Subscriptions were 35 shillings per year.

In 1924 Rule 3 was adopted which said the membership was to be exclusively for ladies. It was not until 1968 rule 3 was amended allowing men to join.



Our celebration on Sunday was a grand affair as we also had the opening of our new clubhouse.

The theme was 1922 garden party, and the grounds were decorated with 300 meters of bunting in the ball colours, and many tubs of flowers in the colours of our club, Blue and yellow.

Some of our members dressed up in the 1920's style of clothing.



A group of women from the Victoria Association came in Edwardian costume lead by Merran Walsh which added to the colour of the festivities.

Our president Stewart Kingsborough introduced Jayne Stinson the Member for Badcoe who cut the ribbon to the new club house and assisted by Michael Hewison the Mayor for Unley cut the cake.

Jayne and Michael presented a bouquet to each of the members who joined the club in the last century, Jane Sharley 1980, Jane Lewis 1983, Lois Wilson 1996, Barbara Gordon 1999. All these women have contributed greatly to the advance of croquet and our club.

A demonstration of croquet was played with Kim Millhouse involving Jayne Stinson, Michael Hewison and several of our neighbours that came to enjoy the festivities as well.



We now look forward to the next 100 years.

Virginia Brown
Millswood CC



Colin Pickering North Adelaide Games 2022 results



These annual Games, held in November each year, comprise two main tournaments. One is the **Invitation Singles**, where the North Adelaide Croquet Club invites a limited number of top male and female players to compete in a Round Robin competition over a weekend (and sometimes the preceding Friday evening). Entry fees allow for prizes for the Winner and Runner-Up in each of the Men's and Women's competitions, and the Men's and Women's winners names are added to a shield hanging in the NACC club-room. The second is the **Swiss Singles**, scheduled over three days, where players of any handicap can nominate to enter, and compete in four games against others around the same handicap. With handicaps weighted accordingly, every player has a fair chance of winning this event. Again, prizes are presented, this time for the Championship Winner and Runner-Up as well as for the Handicap Winner and Runner-Up.

This year, we were very fortunate that largely fine weather greeted the players for each event! The tournaments were played in excellent spirit and some very fine croquet was on show for many interested onlookers.

Invitation Singles

This tournament was conducted on 25-27 November. Nine men and six women participated – seven from country clubs. The men's tournament was exciting with the results hanging in the balance until the end and winners decided by net hoops which were very close. Three won 6 games (and three won 5 games)! The three with 6 wins, in order, were Tim O'Leary (Coobowie, +69 net hoops), David Short (Norwood, +67 net hoops) and Mark Senior (Hyde Park, +65 net hoops). In the women's tournament, Robyn Short (Coobowie) was the winner with 5 wins (+63 net hoops), while the runner-up was Di Helier (Norwood) with 3 wins, and third was Shirley Howlett (Victor Harbor) with 2 wins.

Swiss Singles

In this event held on 16-18 November, 20 players over a range of handicaps (from 1 to 18) participated, six from country clubs. In the **Championship**, the winner was Kevin Le Poidevin (North Adelaide) who was the only player to win all 4 games, while the Runner-up was Barry Jennings (Hyde Park) with 3 wins. In the **Handicap**, the winner was Greg Rowberry (Norwood) and the runner-up Tracey Sincock (Hyde Park). Other players with 3 wins included Rhonda Habner (Tumby Bay), Liz Mackenzie (Norwood) and Barry Jennings (Hyde Park).

We congratulate all these worthy winners – Tim, David, Robyn, Di, Kevin, Barry, Greg and Tracey. My sincere thanks to all participating players who made the tournaments such a success, and to all those North Adelaide Croquet Club members, who helped to feed players, provide excellent playing surfaces, set hoops each day and ensure the Games ran smoothly. We greatly look forward to conducting the North Adelaide Games again in November next year.



Roger Harris

AC Captain, North Adelaide Croquet Club

Holdfast Bay Croquet Club Gala Day

A lot of hard work, planning and sleepless nights by Colin Broom HBCC President, came to fruition on Nov 7th. Players gathered at 9.00am for registration and morning tea. Then they moved out on to the three courts for three games of doubles prior to lunch. It was quite warm in the sun but there was plenty of iced water and sun screen on hand.



The morning session saw some very keen competition with the ladies taking the honours. Lunch was served at about 12.30pm which was a sit down BBQ and salads followed by fruit salad and gelato. It was a delicious meal and those attending congratulated the cooks for their efforts.

The afternoon session of two games saw some more keen competition with the men slightly ahead in the results. After five games of doubles everyone was keen to return to the clubrooms, air-conditioning and a nice cold drink.

Colin Broom then announced the two runners up and then the winner of the day.

Members' participation acknowledged. Well done to all who assisted on the day.

Jim Carter from the North Adelaide Club was a runaway winner on the day.



Jim Carter the Supreme Winner.

Congratulations to Jim, Well Played. For his win he received a huge basket of goodies. The door prize was drawn followed by the raffle.

There were about twenty odd prizes for the raffle which were keenly sought after by all those present.

These days are not successful unless club members give up their time to assist in preparation and presentation and we thank all members who assisted on the day or contributed to the day in some manner. A special thankyou to Colin Broom, who planned organised and ensured that all present had a wonderful and enjoyable day. THANKS COLIN. It is not an easy task but all members of the club are very appreciative of everything you do for the members and the club.

Roger Zeuner
Member Holdfast Bay Croquet Club

Tumby Bay Croquet Club Life Membership Awards

Tumby Bay life membership awards which were presented by their respective nominators on 17th December 2022. L>R Kathy Wilkins, presented by Francie Boylan, Shirley Carr presented by Michael Cabot and Robert Wilkins presented by Francie Boylan. Congratulations to these worthy recipients.



UP COMING EVENTS.....

Association Croquet

JAN	16	Div 1 and Div 3 Night Doubles commence	Contact Lorraine Smith
JAN	17	Div 2 and Div 4 Night Doubles commence	" "
FEB	15—19	Norwood AC Tournament	Contact Greg Rowberry
FEB	26—Mar 3	Victor Harbor Tournament	Contact Shirley Howlett
FEB	25	AC Weekend Pennants commence	
MAR	21-23	AC Handicap Doubles (12+ combined)	Enter via SACA Web site

Golf Croquet

JAN	9-10	Millswood Classic	
JAN	12	Marty Clarke training at Millswood	Contact Kim kimjmillhouse@gmail.com
JAN	13	Marty Clarke training at Brighton	Contact Karen Magee kmagewb@gmail.com
JAN	14 –15	Kate's Kangaroo's V Karen's Koala's Brighton 8.00am start	
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	

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

GC State Team and SACA thankyou

The GC State Team in conjunction with SACA hosted an afternoon tea at Hutt Road Tuesday November 27 to say thank you to the volunteers that assisted with the running of the ACA GC Nationals in September.

There were so many people that did multiple jobs to ensure the 3 events ran smoothly at several venues. Eileen Fergusson and Peter Martyniuk headed up the organising committee and proceeded to be hands on for the duration of the tournaments.

Karen Magee - GC Events Manager



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Special General Meeting

A Special General Meeting was attended by 29 Delegates and 2 Proxies, at the SACA clubrooms on Friday 30th December. There were also about 15 visitors.

It was great to see such a good attendance and a genuine concern for the future of croquet.

There were 5 nominees for the Board. All were duly elected. The SACA Board of Directors:

Graeme Thomas is the SACA President.

Linda Kinch will continue in her role as Vice President.

Lorraine Smith will be the Treasurer.

Eileen Ferguson will be the AC Director.

Ansi Baumanis will continue his role as GC Director.

Mark Senior and Jane Horton were elected to the Board and will begin in support roles.

The future of croquet in South Australia looks bright with the experience and expertise this group brings to the management and development of all mallet sports.