



HOOP POINTS

February 2023 Issue No.404

Congratulations to Eileen Ferguson on Receiving the Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia in the General Division

When asked “what attracted you to Croquet?” Eileen answered that she learnt through involvement in another organisation that Salisbury Croquet Club desperately needed some new players to prevent its imminent closure. So Eileen along with her parents and a friend started playing golf croquet which was a training game back then. After 12 months the family was introduced to AC by the one remaining member being instructed by a lady that played side style.

One of the highlights was playing in the first season of Saturday Pennants succeeding in winning the Division 3 flag when three of the four team members were still in division 4. Another highlight was being invited to dine at Government house during her time as SACA President.

Eileen has made an outstanding contribution to the sport.



At club level, Eileen has been a member of the Committee at Salisbury since 1980, the year she joined the club, and she is still President and Coach to this day. Eileen was elected a life member of the club in 2000.

At State level, Eileen was a Board member from 2002 to 2020, a past President and Vice President, AC Coaching Committee Chair and AC Coaching Co-ordinator. She has been responsible for the organisation of state and national competitions since 2009 and did a wonderful job with the Inter State Shield last September. Eileen is continuing in her support for the Copper Coast Masters Games this year.

In 2011 Eileen became a life member of SACA, and returned to the SACA Board in December 2022 as Director responsible for AC.

At a national level Eileen was Leader of the “Operations” team for 2012 AC World Championship, is an accredited AC and GC coach and AC referee. Eileen is also an AC coach presenter and assessor, and in 2020 assisted with reviewing new coaching manuals for all codes.

Eileen received the ACA Meritorious Service Award in 2010.

We can all agree that over 40 years of participating, coaching, refereeing, mentoring and just plain working hard, Eileen is thoroughly deserving of this prestigious award.

Congratulations Eileen, and thank you for your service to croquet.

SA GC Spring Open Men's Singles—Nov. 12th & 13th



Eight participants L=>R Ansi Beaumanis, Paul Ensor, Ron McBride, Glen Devison, Peter Webster, Stephen Davel, Heath Jackson, Paul Jennings.

Eight contestants converged on the Hutt Rd courts to test their skills in this two day event held on the second weekend in November. The Managing Club was Brighton C.C. Various Croquet Clubs were represented - Hyde Park, South Terrace, Millswood, Norwood and Victor Harbor.

This event marked the return to competition of Ron McBride from Victor Harbor. Usually at this time of the year the weather is mild, with possibly warm winds, blue skies and lots of sunscreen needed. However this event was subjected to cold winds, rain, thunder and lightning on Saturday. Play was interrupted several times with lightning in close proximity and rain, throughout the day. Then just after 4 PM in the courts were hit with a torrential downpour which overloaded the already saturated soil causing huge pools of water to cover large areas of all three courts. Play was abandoned for the day.

At this stage the first day's program was incomplete with one and a half rounds to play. The weather improved on Sunday with cold winds and mostly sunny skies. Everyone returned on Sunday morning for play to resume at 7.30 AM. When the round-robin session of the competition was completed, the final series playoffs started with Ron McBride playing Barry Jennings and Ansi Baumanis playing Paul Ensor.

Throughout the event the contests were brisk and tight with most games finishing before the one hour limit with many hoops scored. The grand final playoff was between Barry Jennings and Paul Ensor and was played over three games. Honours went to Barry Jennings. Ron won the playoff for third place, also played over three games.

I would like to thank the referees - Anne Woodhouse, Robert Hamshere, Kim Millhouse, David Stumm, Bernie Pfitzner and Bob Neil. I would also like to thank the management team of Ann Millhouse for all of the preparation of all the paperwork. Jill Gay and Anne Woodhouse were indispensable assisting over both days. A big cheer should go to the players who managed to play to a high standard for the small spectator crowd, in trying conditions over the two days.

Peter Woodward GC Captain, Brighton Croquet Club



Grand finalists Barry Jennings and Paul Ensor, with Barry taking out the honours.

ACA U21 Gold / Silver Medal and ACA U21 Singles and Doubles

The first ever ACA U21 Gold / Silver medal competition was held at Eildon Croquet Club on 11th and 12th January 2023. The medals (and the largest trophy I have ever seen) were contested by representatives from ACT/NSW, QLD, SA, TAS and VIC in hot, mostly sunny conditions.



SA was represented by Peter Crook [2nd from the left], and we can also claim a connection to George Walker, the Victoria representative who is an associate member at Hyde Park Croquet Club.

Peter placed 4th out of the 5 players, which was a good achievement given he was the lowest ranked player in the competition (even after a handicap adjustment after the first match).

Talking about the first match, this was probably the highlight of the tournament for us, with Peter winning the first game against eventual winner Curtis Mead, and narrowly losing the second game 6-7, after having first shot at hoop 13. Experience showed, and Curtis won the final game in the best of three 7-5, although at the cost of an eye watering 14 index points over the three games.

The ACA U21 Doubles competition was played on Friday and Saturday, with Curtis Mead and Ethan Gumbrell taking out the tournament, winning all of their games.

Sunday and Monday saw the ACA U21 Singles competition being contested, with top seed Addison Matthews winning all 9 of his games to become the latest U21 singles champion. Ethan Gumbrell placed second with 7 wins and Curtis Mead third with 6 wins.

Peter ended on 4 wins but narrowly lost two games 6-7, so again a good performance from him.

The competition has provided Peter with renewed interest in croquet, so hopefully we will see him in a few more competitions. A big thank you to Barry Haydon for his support and coaching to get Peter to a competitive standard in a few short weeks.

Geoff Crook
Woodville Croquet Club

President's GC Trophy

The competition began on Thursday 26th January, Australia Day with a round of doubles followed by 5 rounds of singles.

Because of impending heat on Friday, all doubles games in the competition were reduced from 1hr to 45minutes. Further it was agreed to start earlier (8.30) on Friday and play only two doubles rounds.

On Saturday, the observers were in awe following a Barry Jennings's jumpshot from several metres, scoring the hoop on the third bounce. Unfortunately, there is no video replay available! Then, about 1.30pm, the rains arrived, though they were quite gentle.



Winners of the doubles,
Bernie Pfitzner and John Arney.



Runners up, Anne Woodhouse and Steve Condous

At the end of Saturday's play, Mark Senior was just in the lead with 7 wins. Hot on his heels with 6 wins were Barry Haydon, Barry Jennings and Steve Condous. All set for an exciting ending on Sunday!

Until the last round on Sunday, it was unclear who the winner would be with four players extremely close. In the event, Steve Condous won with Barry Jennings coming in a close second, just pipping out Barry Haydon.

Certificates were presented to the winning doubles pair, Bernie Pfitzner and John Arney, and the runners up, Anne Woodhouse and Steve Condous, by President Graham Thomas and Eileen Ferguson, OAM.

Finally the certificate as President's Trophy runner up was presented to Barry Jennings and the President's Trophy itself to Stephen Condous. Congratulations to all.

In his acceptance speech, Barry spoke very positively about Glenunga's inclusion of cake or scones each day.

Managing the event was pleasurable with all players contributing to the smooth running of the competition, and playing with good temper and humour.

Chris Dawson -
Manager, Glenunga CC

Hyde Park players, Barry Haydon, Barry Jennings, Steve Condous and Mark Senior who all were extremely close at the end of the President's Trophy.



Meet the SACA Board Members

Graeme Thomas

Around 15 years ago I was struggling on the tennis courts at Unley Park when Barry Haydon suggested I hop the fence and come and try Croquet. The move was the start of a long and enjoyable relationship with Hyde Park Croquet Club, it's members and the game of those coloured balls. When I started, we had less than 30 members in the club but now we have around 80 – it has been quite a transformation.



I started playing GC and that has become my love. I competed in several national championships and was honoured to be a referee at the World Championships at Cairnlea in 2017 where I was one of the team responsible for the final. They tried to teach me AC but I couldn't handle the sitting down bit. I enjoyed Gateball at Hyde Park and played in 2 national championships, surprisingly representing Woodville Croquet Club as Hyde Park at that stage was not big enough to field a team.

My journey in life started with me growing up in Glynde where I resided until marrying. I was never much good at sports (and academics for that matter) and only really started playing tennis with some former school mates when I was at Uni. I played competition tennis for 20-30 years before jumping the fence and taking up croquet.

I have an active interest in Aussie Rules and was a volunteer trainer with the Norwood Football Club before joining the Adelaide Football Club in 1997 as a trainer and more recently as a drink steward (we preferred to be called hydration engineers).

I started working for the Australian Bureau of Statistics in 1972 until I decided what career path I would follow. I retired after 35 years with ABS including 3 years working in Canberra.

My admin career in croquet started as club captain at Hyde Park before taking on the role of Golf Croquet Event Coordinator thanks to some arm-twisting by Heather White. I then gravitated to the role of GC Director when Heather stepped down which led to a place on the Croquet SA Board. I spent 4-5 years on the Board. During this time I also spent 2 years as an ACA Board member and for six months was administrator of ACA (usually a full time role) pending the replacement of the regular administrator. Becoming President of Croquet SA is one more step up and I am pleased to have been encouraged and supported by several other new (or returning) Board members.

I have been married to Dianne for over 30 years now and have one daughter, Samantha. Outside of croquet, I have several other interests. The one taking most time is my membership of the DECCA Model Train Group where I am currently the secretary. I am also a volunteer for the SA Genealogy and Heraldry Society doing monitoring work on their website usage.

In 2023 for the first time in over 15 years I will not be a volunteer with the Adelaide Football Club. In the end, something had to give for me to have time to be your President.

Golf Croquet Coaching Opportunity and 2 Day Test

January 12 -15 saw Marty Clarke, Australian High-Performance coach come to South Australia to work with players from all levels, to pass on some tips and strategies.

Millswood was the first stop on Thursday afternoon where 25 players had a mixture of discussions inside their new air-conditioned Clubhouse, and on lawn basic stroke analysis. He also had set up 3 courts for the players with different scenarios, what should/could happen in the situation before them. These scenarios lead to lively discussions. Further demonstrations of faults, what to do in wrong ball play and off-side balls.

Friday morning was at Brighton, basically repeating the session from Thursday to the 22 players there. Friday afternoon Martin worked with some members of the State Squad, analysing data from previous Interstate Shields, and where to go to from here. The players did several drills and recorded results, Barry Haydon performed the best and won the prestigious Number 1.

Saturday and Sunday involved several players in Test Matches.



The teams were Kate's Kangaroo's and Karen's Koala's. The aim here was for Marty to look for some up and coming players for potential inclusions in State and National squads.

Saturday's play was severely affected by the hot weather, but Sunday went according to plan.

The results are posted on croquet scores but overall, the Koala's scraped in with the win.

Those involved in the activities gained valuable knowledge and we thank Marty for making the effort to come to South Australia.

Karen Magee



Winners of the prestigious Number 1

Day 2 Sue Davel and Peter Webster, Barry Haydon from the State Squad and David Magee on Day 1

GC Director's Trophy 21st –23rd January

This event was held at the Hutt Road Croquet Courts from Saturday Jan. 21st through to Monday Jan. 23rd.

The weather was a little warm - high 20s -with slight winds but otherwise reasonably good. The crowd of spectators was small.

Twelve players were involved in both a doubles round robin competition and a singles round robin competition over these three days.

These players represented the following clubs - Millswood, Brighton, North Adelaide, Hyde Park and Norwood Croquet Clubs.



Twelve participants of the Director's Cup L=> R

David Maunder, Ibrahim Farran, Doug Francis, Colleen Lane, Laura Eden, Annie Millhouse, Jill Millhouse, Russell Agardi, Claire Blunt, Ann Millhouse, Mark Stevens, Geoff Houghton.



The doubles were played at the start of each day - two matches on the Saturday and Sunday and a final match on the Monday.

Dougie Francis (Hyde Park) and Colleen Lane (Norwood) led the field from the first day, and were able to hold on to their lead easily to take the doubles event with four wins.

Left. Runners up of the Doubles, Annie Millhouse and Ibrahim Farran (Millswood) and Winners from the doubles of the Director's Cup, Colleen Lane (Norwood) and Dougie Francis (Hyde Park)

GC Director's Trophy (cont.)



The singles were one hour matches played following the doubles each day - four matches played on Saturday and Sunday and the last three matches played on Monday.

The leader board was tight and crowded at the top. Four players played strong tactical games through the event - Russell Agardi (Millswood), David Maunder (Brighton), Laura Eden (North Adelaide) and last year's winner Dougie Francis (Hyde Park) and all finished on eight wins from eleven games.

These players were followed by Annie Millhouse and Geoff Houghton (both from Millswood) with seven wins.

The eventual winner was determined during the last round of matches

Russell Agardi took the trophy with a 'Net Hoop' score of seventeen, followed by David Maunder on sixteen. Laura Eden took third place a further one hoop behind with fifteen and Dougie Francis with eleven was fourth.



Special thanks must go to the players for making this a great tournament, the referees - Barry Haydon, Kim Millhouse, Ansi Baumanis, Anne Woodhouse, Barry Jennings and Karen Magee for their commitment and the Brighton management team - Ken Nunan, Jill Gay and Peter Woodward.

Peter Woodward - Golf Croquet Club Captain, Brighton



GC Director, Ansi Beumanis and Winner of the Trophy, Russell Agardi (Millswood)



Runner up David Maunder (Brighton) and winner of the Director's Cup Russell Agardi (Millswood)

High Performance Croquet Coaching Session

On Friday 13th January 2023, several members of the Holdfast Bay Croquet Club attended the Brighton Croquet Club for a Croquet High Performance Coaching Session.

Marty Clarke, Australian Croquet Association High Performance Coach from Western Australia conducted the session.



The Clinic was of three hours duration and covered many aspects, from striking the ball to jump shots, tactics, correct ball play and offside rules, faults and penalties.

The Clinic was attended by 24 players from various clubs in South Australia and proved to be very informative.

Thanks Marty for imparting some of your knowledge of the game to us all.

Roger Zeuner
Holdfast Bay Croquet Club.



What a Difference a Year Can Make!

Malcolm and I decided to head off to Portland to do their AC Tournament and that was a great opportunity to revisit some of the croquet clubs in the South East.

We started with MURRAY BRIDGE. This club has increased its membership to around 20 and 5 of them came from the U3A group. Not only did this club provide a delegate for the recent SGM, 4 of their members came as observers which shows that they do have a real interest in how things are being done and also care about the future. There are now two men from the club looking after the lawns and they will be madly getting things in shape for May when the club will be celebrating its 110th Anniversary. Keep an eye out for the details and write the date in your diary. The council are planning to renovate their toilets and I would say that things are definitely 'on the up' for this excellent club. Well done to everyone.



The next stop was KEITH. Once again, there has been an increase in membership with 3 young women joining. This was the result of an advert which was placed on the noticeboard in Drakes. These ladies drop their children off at school and then play croquet, certainly beats doing housework! The club has also altered its playing schedule to accommodate these new members, a bit of flexibility can make all the difference.



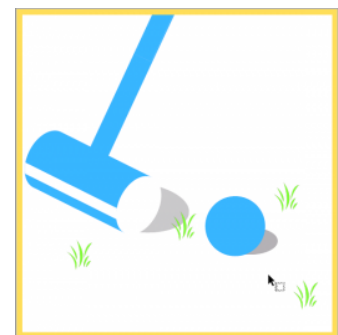
Photo courtesy of the Border Chronicle.

We were greeted by 8 of the members, all dressed in their club colours and we enjoyed afternoon tea in the club shelter. They said that they really enjoyed reading Hoop Points and felt more included with SACA and are very pleased with their Delegate, Roger Buddle who keeps in touch with them. It's very refreshing to see long established members prepared to alter things to attract and keep new members and let's hope some more of the young mums and maybe also dads give croquet a 'go'.

Guess where we went next?

BORDERTOWN. I was very sad to hear that a stalwart of this lovely club, Merv Dungey, has passed away. His wife, Heather, is in a nursing home and struggling with her loss. This small club hosted the croquet competition in last year's Tatiara Masters Games and should be congratulated for that. We met up with the regular Thursday night Aussie Croquet group and then went to the Roadhouse for fish n chips but due to a shortage of potatoes only had fish. Some of us chose curry instead. It really would be excellent if these evening players became members of the club but where there are some players, there is hope!

Unfortunately, due to the time of year and medical appointments, we were unable to visit Millicent or Penola. We'll hopefully catch up with them en route to Naracoorte in May. I will report on Naracoorte, Mt Gambier and Mt Barker in the March issue of Hoop Points.



Linda Kinch

UP COMING EVENTS.....

Golf Croquet

FEB	4	Pennants
FEB	6, 20, 27	Aggregate 24+
FEB	11-13	SA Bronze Medal
FEB	26	Pennants
MAR	1, 8, 15, 22, 29	12+ Pennants
MAR	5	5+ Pennants
MAR	6, 20, 27	Aggregate 24+
MAR	11—13	Silver Medal
MAR	14	Autumn Singles 9+
MAR	16	Autumn Singles 9+
MAR	18	Pennants
MAR	29—31st	Victor Harbor Tournament

Association Croquet

FEB	15—19	Norwood AC Tournament Contact Greg Rowberry
FEB	25	Pennants
FEB	26—Mar 3	Victor Harbor Tournament Contact Shirley Howlett
FEB	25	AC Weekend Pennants commence
MAR	4	Pennants
MAR	8—10	ACA Gold/ Silver Medals (Cairnlea, Victoria)
MAR	11—14	ACA Women's/ Men's Singles (Cairnlea, Victoria)
MAR	15—18	ACA Eire Cup (Cairnlea, Victoria)
MAR	21-23	AC Handicap Doubles (12+ combined) Enter via SACA Web site
MAR	25	Pennants
APR	19—23	Masters Games for AC and GC players to be played in Kadina Contact Eileen Ferguson

[Please refer to the SACA website Calendar for more details on events.](#)



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