



# HOOP POINTS

March 2023

Issue No.405

## Association Croquet Women's World Championship held in Christchurch

The Association Croquet Women's Championship was held in Christchurch in January.

Forty women from New Zealand, Australia, England, Scotland, Ireland and USA took part. The oldest competitor, an 83 year old from NZ showed she was still a force to be reckoned with by qualifying for the knock-out round of sixteen.



Virginia Arney and I were the only two South Australians to play. This was the third time Virginia had been to the World's, having played in Melbourne in 2012 and Nottingham in 2015. I was new to it all but thoroughly enjoyed myself.

We played games at three different clubs, United, Cashmere and St James. Members at each club welcomed us and made us feel at home.

Competition was fierce, especially with tight hoops and fast lawns. I was delighted to qualify for the last 16 but was eliminated quickly by Gabrielle Higgins from England, the eventual runner up. Virginia just missed out on qualifying but went on to perform well in the Plate.



The final was won by Debbie Lines from England.

If you play any of the mallet sports and have the opportunity to go to a World competition, do it! It's fabulous meeting and playing against people from other countries.

Shirley Howlett



## Perfect example of the unique opportunity croquet provides for all ages

As we all know, croquet is a unique sport where men and women can play against each other on an equal footing, but did you know it also bridges the age divide too?

On Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023, the GC 24+ pennant pitted Millswood against West Lakes/ Woodville, and possibly the greatest player age difference ever seen in competition, with 18 year old Peter Crook playing as part of a doubles team against 91 year old Grant Lawrence, a difference of 73 years!

Peter was impressed with Grant's touch commenting that Grant always put his ball exactly where it was needed no matter how far away he started. Peter also noted Grant's incredible consistency with roquets. Grant was happy to play against the youngster and was impressed with the spirit and respect shown by Peter.

I can't think of any other competitive sport where such a match up would be possible and is testament to the unusual opportunities and diversity our wonderful game promotes.

For those of you wondering about the result, experience won the day with Grant and Jill beating Greg and Peter 6-4.

Geoff Crook

Woodville Croquet Club





## Norwood Association Croquet (AC) Tournament

Thirty four croquet enthusiasts from all around the State braved heatwave conditions to compete in the Norwood Association Croquet (AC) Tournament between Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> of February. The temperature during the doubles on Day 1 topped out at around 34 degrees and all games were completed according to schedule however the forecast of 39 degrees for the first day of the singles required a rescheduling of afternoon games to either the night session or to a vacant spot later in the week. Fortunately, a cool change came through the next day and all games were finished as planned.

The event comprised 4 seeded blocks of 8 players with each block playing a round robin. A high-quality field took part including most of the members of the South Australian AC State Team who treated the event as their final practice session before heading off to the Interstate Eire Cup championships in Melbourne in March. Block 1 also included recent Australian Team members Simon Hockey (Crystal Brook) and Dwayne McCormick (Norwood). Unfortunately, Simon was forced to withdraw mid-way in the tournament due to injury and the playoff between the top ranked players failed to materialize. Dwayne emerged as the winner in Block 1 with 6 wins from his seven games, including 3 triple peels and a sextuple peel. David Short (Norwood) was second with 5 wins.



Other Block winners and runners up were:

- Barry Jennings (Hyde Park) from Garry Speed (Tumby Bay) in Singles Block 2,
  - Malcolm Kinch (Kadina) from James Temlett (Hyde Park) in Singles Block 3,
  - Kate Logan (Victor Harbor) from Roger Harris (North Adelaide) in Singles Block 4,
  - David Short and Ron McBride (Victor Harbor) from Dwayne McCormick and Helena Panasewycz (Cooks River NSW) in Doubles Block 1,
  - Virginia Arney (Norwood) and Shirlene McBride (Victor Harbor) from Glen Blatchford (Norwood) and James Temlett in Doubles Block 2,
  - Robert Dignum (Norwood) and Linda Kinch (Kadina) from Joan Kelly (Norwood) and Liz Mackenzie in Doubles Block 3, and
  - Roger Harris and Kate Logan from Karyn Speed (Tumby Bay) and Julianne Jago (South Terrace) in Doubles Block 4.
- Full results are available on [croquetcores.com](http://croquetcores.com).

A feature of the event was the appearance of top-ranked golf croquet (GC) players in the Block 4 doubles and singles. It is a promising sign for croquet in South Australia with more players seeking to diversify their croquet skills and make the transition from GC to AC. It may also lead to the identification of new talent that will threaten to take a spot in the South Australian AC (Eire Cup) team.

As well as the players themselves, many people contributed to making the event a success. Particular thanks to:

Treasurer Helen Cook who managed the finances and assisted in many other areas,  
Ansi Baumanis and Colleen Lane who donated a major prize for the raffle and cooked the BBQ on Saturday night,  
Janet Richards who looked after the kitchen and catering arrangements,  
Murray Baum, Philip Colebatch and Glen Blatchford for daily hoop-setting,  
James Temlett for coordinating referees,  
Norwood President, Philip Bateman for Presidential responsibilities and for who liaising with the Maryatville hotel regarding the Thursday night hotel meal and in securing sponsorship vouchers,  
Bob Neil for setting up the computer system for recording and displaying event results, and  
Many other club members who contributed to the raffle hamper and prizes and in providing assistance to catering arrangements.

Greg Rowberry—Norwood Croquet Club



Jeff and Bill looking rightly pleased with their achievements.

## The Importance of Strategic Thinking

The 3 day SA Bronze Medal Tournament for 9+ handicaps was held at Hutt Road from 11 to 13 February. There were 7 participants from different clubs.

Jeff Zweck took an early lead from day one, winning all of his 5 games. Bill Chapman closed in on day two after Jeff lost a game to Gayle Searle.

Day three saw both Jeff and Bill play off against each other with Jeff winning to secure the tournament comfortably, having won 11 of his 12 games. Bill did well to end up as a clear runner up.

Jeff provided a good illustration to opponents (and others watching) of the importance of strategic thinking to provide an advantage when playing closely matched opponents. He also reduced his handicap from 12 at the start to end the tournament with a 10 handicap.

The tournament was managed by members of South Terrace and played in extremely good spirit. Sincere thanks to Julianne Jago, Graham Thomas, Bob Neill, Ansi Baumanis, Kim Millhouse and Anne Woodhouse for volunteering to referee this tournament.

Paul Ensor

## Croquet is Alive and Well at Aldinga

The Aldinga Bay Croquet Club held its Annual Jim Grindrod Trophy (handicap club championship) over two days in February. The entries were near maximum, making it difficult to fit into the two days. The first day was Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>.. a stinker of a day. Hats off to the valiant competitors who not only battled each other but near heat exhaustion. Fortunately no one had to play more than two games. There was only one retirement but Sheila and Karin were definitely disadvantaged and that was unfortunate.

We trialled the use of the new Advantage System for our handicapping. Once the players were used to the concept it was a lot easier for them to manage. Because our players vary only between 8 and 12 most of the Advantage points made little difference. We suspect there would be a more noticeable difference with wider handicap differences. The outstanding performances on day 1 were Sara, David and Violet with 2 wins each.

Play continued on Friday 17<sup>th</sup>. It was much cooler and both the competitors and the onlookers enjoyed the sunshine and the cool breeze.. The winners of each group, Bill, David, Ken and Sara played off for the placings. David eventually overcame Sara in a corker of a match to take out the trophy. Well done David.

A treat for us all was that Jim was on hand to present the trophy. Play was followed by a barbeque and every one relaxed, chatted and enjoyed each others company.

Carolyn Cooper



## Millswood Classic—final result came down to the last hoop in the last game

The Millswood classic (formerly the Millswood Night Tournament) was played in early January 2023. While this event is often beset by hot or stormy January weather, this year we were blessed with perfect weather conditions on lovely lawns.

10 teams entered the Millswood Classic this year, and with covid and other disasters we played a single round robin to determine the winner.

One of the nice things about the Millswood Classic is there was always someone ready to step up. We had one player who lost three partners to covid and other accidents before settling on their eventual fourth partner.

This year the classic was played on Wednesday nights. With AC pennant matches being played other nights we decided to spread the event out over several weeks to accommodate as many croquet players as possible. Games were played in great spirit. A lovely atmosphere to play croquet.

As with previous Millswood Classic events, the result came down to the last hoop in the last game. David Maunder made a 3-yard jump on the 13th to win the match and the tournament with partner Barbara Bertram. If he hadn't made the jump or if he had put the opposition through the Millswood Classic would have been won by Helen Cook and Colleen Lane.

In keeping with tradition, the Millswood members provided a very nice supper on each of the nights. The closing night was celebrated with a party atmosphere in the new club house.

I would like to thank the members of Millswood Croquet Club for supporting the event this year. As a result of covid, car accidents and other unexpected calamities I had to find a number of replacements. All it took was one telephone call, whoever I called jumped at the chance to help. It makes organising an event like the Millswood Classic a lot easier when you've got such willing assistance. Many thanks must also go to those members who helped provide the suppers. I would personally like to thank the participants. The event was played in a very competitive but very friendly manner.

Kim Millhouse

Millswood Croquet Club



Tournament winners, Barbara Bertram (Millswood) and David Maunder (Brighton)



## GC ACA (Australian Croquet Association) President's Eights

This event was held in Cairnlea, Victoria Friday 10<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February. Players had to put in an expression of interest to be considered for play in the event. An unprecedented number of people did so. As a result, instead of 4 eights, 6 eights were played this year.

The first 3 eights are Open and all players with low rankings are included. South Australia was represented by Barry Jennings (Hyde Park) in the Second Eight, where he came second. Barry Haydon (Hyde Park) and Karen Magee (Brighton) were in the Third Eight and won a several tight matches each.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Eight was reserved for women only and Kate Logan (Victor Harbor) was in this eight and she did well also winning several matches and in fact won the match between herself and the eventual winner of that eight.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Eight was the next level of men and South Australia was not represented in it. The final eight was the next level of women and Bernie Pfitzner (Victor Harbor) played well enough to come second.

Games are basically untimed and the best of 3 games make up a match. The weather was good and the days were very long as players were evenly matched. The full list of results is on Croquet Scores.

Karen Magee



## Meet the SACA Board Members: Jane Horton

Jane is rather new to the sport of croquet only starting about 9 months ago. She attended a 'Come n Try' session at the Mt Barker club. The strategic aspect of playing Golf Croquet is what she enjoys.

Jane grew up in Darwin and enjoys other sports such as swimming and sailing. She is married and has two grown up children.

Jane worked for the Not for Profit sector including being CEO for Cancer Care Centre and a volunteer manager at the Hutt Street Centre. Her role on the Management Board is that of being a Director, where she will utilise her skills and knowledge of Governance, Policy and Procedures and Management.



When not playing croquet Jane also enjoys travelling and playing the ukulele.

## What a Difference a Year Can Make (continued from February's newsletter)

Continuing on our trip to Portland, we spent a very pleasant morning catching up with friends at the NARACOOORTE CC. Although there are no new members to report, the existing players are still very active and enjoy playing AC Pen-nants against Millicent and Penola. They play Doubles in the morning and Singles in the afternoon which is very sensible given the distances travelled. With the increasing cost of fuel, one of the players has bought a Hybrid Car and is really noticing a difference when filling up. The financial element of travelling around to play is a real consideration for many people and car pooling is definitely the answer.

AC is the mainstay at this club but they also play Aussie, GC and a new one for me: Toronto Rules!! I'm going to get the details of that as it sounds very interesting. Everyone here works hard to put on an annual AC Tournament and I look forward to catching up with them again in May. We also enjoyed a very nice lunch at the Kincaig Hotel before continuing our trip to Victoria.

Our next stop was Mt GAMBIER: It was good that we visited on their playing morning. We had our meeting before going out to play GC. They have developed a Strategic Plan for the next 3 years and have received advice from the local Recreation and Sport Development Officer with this. It is good to have an overview of goals and projects as it's always easier to work towards something specific.

They have had the local school students come and play Gateball and are keen to develop this game. They also want to receive coaching in GC and want to encourage their keen members to become coaches themselves.

The 'Mount' is 400 kms away from Adelaide and needs to be a bit self sufficient. They visited Portland in mid Dec and had a great time. They are looking forward to a return match in SA.

This club is growing and is benefitting from having keen and imaginative people at the helm and I'm pleased that they keep in touch and are happy to seek advice when required.

On our way home from Portland, we stopped off at Mt BARKER: The sound of many happy croquet players chatting away during 'smoko' greeted us as we walked up the pathway to the beautiful historic clubhouse. Sure enough, the place was rocking. They had plates of biscuits and cakes which everyone was enjoying. There were 6 visitors and in the last year they have welcomed 10 new members. They have seen an increase in interest particularly since the Covid restrictions have been lifted and also the number of visitors has increased.

The committee was interested to discuss the different types of registration as well as the Weather Policy and we all decided that everyone has to decide how much or how little they do during the summer months. Just like last year I was struck by the friendly feeling that this club gives out. Being a heritage building there is no Air Con and this can affect members coming to play when it is very hot. I don't think it's such a huge problem in the Hills as it's a bit cooler there. Mt Barker is a nice spot and it's great to see this club growing.



It was a busy week for us but the croquet community is so friendly and welcoming, there are no words that can express how uplifting it is to travel 700 kms and meet friends all along the way.

Linda Kinch



## Join in the fun at the Australian Masters Games OCTOBER 7<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> 2023.

You have no accommodation costs because it's in **Adelaide**

It's a great opportunity to get to know interstate and local players.

Handicap cards will **not** be used.

There are benefits for early registration.

Enjoy Opening and Closing Ceremonies, Midweek Concert, Brekkie in the Burbs, Karaoke Night, Night

Market and Band, Beach Club Festival

Convenor: Robin Golding [robinadsl@internode.on.net](mailto:robinadsl@internode.on.net) or 0412 884 499



## VIP GOLD REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN

### CROQUET



## VIP GOLD REGISTRATIONS

### ALL GOLD REGISTERED COMPETITORS RECEIVE

- \$30 discount on AMG registration fee
- VIP Gold upgraded competitor backpack
- VIP Express Collection Lane for accreditation and competitor backpack pick up
- 19AMG collectible gold pin
- Gold Lanyard & Accreditation

### IN ADDITION, THE FIRST 10 PERCENT OF REGISTERED COMPETITORS FOR EACH SPORT WILL ALSO RECEIVE -

- Entry to exclusive VIP Gold members only pre-concert function (Mid-week concert)
- Entry to exclusive VIP Gold members only pre-concert function (Opening Ceremony)
- A bottle of premium SA wine, redeemable at the AMG Village

(APPLIES TO ALL SPORTS IRRESPECTIVE OF WHEN YOUR SPORT OPENS)



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## **UP COMING EVENTS.....**

### **Association Croquet**

MAR	1-3	Victor Harbor tournament
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 ENTRIES CLOSE:

**Tuesday, 14th MARCH, 2023**

MAR	25	Pennants
APRIL	1	Pennants
APRIL	11-13	Marryatville Silver Medal
APRIL	18-20	Hatwell Gold Medal (3+)
APRIL	29	Pennants

### **Golf Croquet**

MAR	5	Pennants
MAR	6, 20, 27	Aggregate 24+
MAR	8, 15, 22, 29	12+ Pennants (Weekend pennants played on a Wednesday!)
MAR	11—13	Silver Medal <b>Entries have closed</b>
MAR	14 & 16	Autumn Singles 9+ <b>Entries have closed</b>
MAR	18	Pennants
MAR	28	Brighton Twilight Gala <b>Contact : Lorraine McIntyre via mobile text only – 0438589494</b>
MAR	26	Funday @ Norwood
MAR/APR	29—3	Victor Harbor Tournament <b>Entries have closed</b>
APRIL	4	Doubles combined 15+ <b>Entries close March 20th</b>
APRIL	5	12+ Pennants
APRIL	6	Doubles combined 15+
APRIL	15, 30	Pennants
APRIL	17	Aggregate 24+
APRIL	22-25	SA Gold Medal <b>Enter via SACA Web site</b>

APR	19—23	Masters Games for AC and GC players to be played in Kadina Contact Eileen Ferguson
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### **Ricochet**

APRIL	15-16	Open Doubles
APRIL	17-19	Open Singles

DEC	16	<b>SACA Presentation Day</b>
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