



HOOP POINTS

August 2023

Issue No.410

Order of Australia Medal Recipient—Mary Marsland

Congratulations to Norwood Club Member Mary Marsland who received an Order of Australia Medal (AM) in the recent King's Birthday Honours.

Mary's Award was for significant service to architecture.

Mary was the first female Architect appointed in 1973 to a position in the then Public Buildings Department in the State Government.

Mary's abilities, knowledge and skills were quickly recognised and over her career held a range of roles in the Architecture, Housing and Building Industry, as Chair, Deputy Chair and Board member.

Mary was President of the South Australian Chapter of the Royal Australian Institute of Architects (RAIA) and is a Life Fellow having been a Member since 1987. In the Australia Day Honours in 2005 Mary was awarded a Public Service Medal for her contribution to architecture.

Croquet has been the beneficiary of Mary's strategic skills and experience Mary has been both a Board member of Croquet Australia and Deputy Chair.

Mary has been an AC State representative, State Selector and Club Captain of Norwood over many years.

Mary has not only had an outstanding work career but continues to make numerous contributions to our wonderful game of croquet.



Lyn Parnell



AC Division 2 (for handicaps 2.5+) held 4 - 6 July



Pictured above are participants John Arney, Garry Speed (all the way from Tumby Bay), Shirley Howlett, Jim Curtis, Virginia Arney and Malcolm Kinch. Absent from pic Robert Dignum.

The winner was Jim Curtis with five from six games. Runner up Virginia Arney with 4 wins. They are pictured below with Sue Phillips (Millswood club AC Coordinator).

All players achieved some wins. Thanks to the team of helpers from Millswood for capably managing the event and to Mary who warmed some cold people with bowls of hot soup.

Claire Wilson



GC 3+ Singles 18—20 July

The three plus singles suffered a number of withdrawals this year and was left with just six participants. With such small numbers, the 3+ was a good fun, exciting tournament that ended up pretty close to handicap order.

Day one had Paul Wahlstedt leading the pack. He won 4 of his 5 games



3+ Singles participants L=>R Paul Wahlstedt, Ann Millhouse, Laura Eden, Anne Woodhouse, Ansi Baumanis, Robert Ormston



and was clubhouse leader at the turn. The second day was the second half of the double round robin. Results were very different to the first round with Ansi Baumanis and Anne Woodhouse being clubhouse leaders after both legs of the double round robin.

The forecasts suggested inclement weather for day 3 so participants were asked if they wanted to return for the final series. It was agreed that the top 4 would return to battle out the final series. Ansi emerged victorious after two “best of 3” matches.

Thanks to referees Bob Neil, Barry Haydon, Karen Magee and Geoff Creek

Kim Millhouse

100 YEARS OF CROQUET

Please come and help Port Pirie Croquet Club celebrate its 100th anniversary



Where : Port Pirie Croquet Club Mary Elie Street Port Pirie

When : Practice day Friday 29th September 2023

Competition Saturday 30th September and Sunday 1st October 2023

We will be offering Golf Croquet and Association Croquet on both days

\$20 Entry Fee. Card facilities not available

Names and handicaps to be advised by 11th September 2023

Doubles only ... Bring your Partner or we will find you one.

Lunches may be ordered Saturday and Sunday

Saturday Night will be Pizza Night \$20/person

Please advise any special dietary requirements



Taking the Croquet.

Contact Captain : Pat Norton 0417 839 295

President : Sandra Arbon 0407 291 004



The Side Stroke.



Will Paul Handle the Responsibility of the Mischievous Mascots?

A little-known tradition of the S.A. G.C. state team was captured in the photo below. An important part of the state team's tradition, centres around the care, safety, entertainment and general wellbeing of the S.A. mascots Sam and the junior mascot SamSon.

This heavy responsibility is traditionally undertaken by the junior member of the state team. The picture shows last year's junior member, Stephen Condous, presenting Sam and SamSon to this year's junior member, Paul Ensor.

Now Paul has been presented with the mascots, he will be responsible for keeping them entertained and most importantly, keeping them safe from the other teams during the InterState Shield.



Join in the fun at the Australian Masters Games OCTOBER 7th – 14th 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 to 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 or 0412 884 499



Golf Croquet Doubles

12-5 on October 7
9-5 on October 8
9-3 on October 9

Golf Croquet Singles

9-3 on October 9
12-5 on October 10
9-5 on October 11

Association Croquet Singles

12-5 on October 10
9-5 on October 11
9-5 on October 12

Association Croquet Doubles

9-5 on October 13
12-4 on October 14

Keith Croquet News

We recently held a celebration under the guise it was a member's birthday and to present our Golf Croquet trophy for 2023 Club competition to Ted Martin. Then to their great surprise Ted and Claire Martin were presented with Life Membership by our Patroness and life member Pam Cameron. Pam gave a summary of their contribution and commitment to our club.

Claire joined the club in 2006 and a few months later Ted was sitting in his car watching when he was persuaded to try a game as they were a player short. He has never looked back, quickly mastering the games of Golf, Aussie and Association Croquet. Claire mainly plays Golf and Aussie. They have attended many Gala days in the region from Mt Gambier to Murray Bridge with enjoyment and success. They have both held various positions on our committee for many years.

Ted has voluntarily maintained our Croquet Club and grounds ever since his arrival at the club, mowing, watering, weeding, line marking, planting shrubs and generally keeping the courts and grounds in great condition. He also does repairs, painting, etc. to our humble facility. He has made mallet holder racks and a trolley for transporting hoops and balls..

Claire has forever been by Ted's side helping him. They are always first to arrive on play day, setting up the hoops, and Claire has the day's competition organised by the time the players arrive. She has been captain for many years and is a great promoter of the sport. She asks nearly everyone she meets if they would like a game! She is responsible for three new members joining our club in the last 12 months. They are young and are injecting new enthusiasm into our club.



Newly awarded Life Members, Ted and Claire Martin

A couple of weeks prior to this day we celebrated Pam Cameron's 90th Birthday. Pam is our Patroness and life member. She played the first game held in Keith 36 years ago and has been playing ever since. She has also excelled in playing Golf, Aussie and Association Croquet.

We hold two club competitions each year, Golf and Aussie. In 2022 Pam won both Trophies. With our new members and more interested in joining at the beginning of next season, we look forward to regaining our enthusiasm to further our competition in the future.

Jo Rayson

Patroness and Life Member, Pam Cameron

What to Consider When Purchasing a Mallet—A Player’s Perspective

I have only been playing since 2015 but in that time I have owned four mallets.

I started with a George Wood mallet (NZ made) which at the time cost around \$300. That was a wooden headed mallet with carbon fibre shaft and stainless steel ends weighing in at 3 lbs.

I then progressed to a PFC mallet (NSW produced) which was aluminium head, carbon fibre shaft and weighing 2lb 14ozs. My third mallet is a Dave Trimmer (produced in England) mallet which is carbon fibre and kevlar round head with brass ends and carbon fibre shaft which I had made to match the PFC with the idea that I would use the PFC for GC & the Trimmer for AC. I have given that mallet to my partner who is very happy with it and I now use an identical Trimmer but with a composite face.

I have not used my PFC since I bought my first Trimmer. The PFC has a stiffer shaft and I struggled with it for AC as I found it harder on my joints and I find I can get much better 2 ball shots with the Trimmer. One drawback with a Trimmer is the rather long waiting time as it will be several months.

So, what would I recommend when deciding to buy your first mallet?

My first thought is always, buy the best you can afford! That is not to say the most expensive mallet is necessarily the best. The best for you may not suit someone else.

Most clubs would have a range of club mallets and I would encourage beginners to try as many of them as possible. Fellow club members may have other different mallets and I'm sure they would willingly make them available for any beginner to try.

When you find something that suits you and feels good to play with, then you can start looking around for a second hand one the same, or simply buy a new one made to your specifications.

There are many choices in mallets, so let's start with the handle. I have used a round profile, an oval one and an octagonal one. The octagonal one is really rectangular with the corners rounded off, but there are also square handles. Personally I like either oval or rectangular as there is less chance of the mallet twisting in your hands if you are slightly off line with your hit. If you decide on square I would encourage trying it with the square forming a diamond against the head. Ie not with the sides of the square parallel to the head as I find that will put the points of the square comfortably into the hand. That being said - that would only be the case if using a Solomon grip.

With an Irish grip the square would probably work OK being parallel to the head.

When deciding how long a handle to get I would recommend a handle that, when the mallet is rested on the ground, the handle comes to at least your elbow.

Heads most commonly used are square but round heads are also available and I prefer the latter.

A standard head will be 11" but can be either longer or shorter but most players appear to use 11" . Weights of mallets will vary anywhere from just over 2 lbs to in excess of 4lb. Some AC players prefer a heavier mallet because of the 2 ball shots but personally I find 2lb 14 oz suits me.



So, in summary, new mallets that I am aware of will range from around \$200-\$300 up to \$1200-1300 and can be all wood, a combination of wood, metal & carbon fibre/kevlar or metal and carbon fibre.

I like the carbon fibre shafts for feel and although I have seen one break, they are more robust than wooden shafts.

Barry Jennings



Port Lincoln Croquet Club—What a Difference a Year Makes

On a recent visit to Port Lincoln I took the opportunity to visit the croquet club and assist Linda Kinch in her articles about country clubs “one year on”.

The first thing I noticed on entering the clubroom was the magnificent display of perpetual trophies. Like many clubs Port Lincoln has a long and proud history. There are numerous stories of how and why people started playing croquet and of their great achievements in the sport. I also noticed the Office Bearers Board where you can see the significant contributions made in helping run the club. Some names appearing again and again over many years.

| YEAR | PRESIDENT | SECRETARY | TREASURER |
|---------|----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1928-29 | Mrs. A. MELLOR | Mrs. A. ELLERSHAU | Mrs. E. BEAUMONT |
| 1929-30 | | | M. BRANDT |
| 1930-31 | | M. HANNAH | A. TAYLOR |
| 1931-32 | | C. BARTLETT | |
| 1932-33 | | | |
| 1933-34 | | MISS R. THOMAS | |
| 1934-35 | | | |
| 1935-36 | | | |
| 1936-37 | | | F. DAYFORD |
| 1937-38 | A. HOPPING | | W. TAYLOR |
| 1938-39 | F. MART | Mrs. A.C. WHITE | |
| 1939-40 | A. MELLOR | F. MART | |
| 1940-41 | E. WHITE | | |
| 1941-42 | A. MELLOR | | A. MABNER |
| 1942-43 | | | |
| 1943-44 | F. MART | M. LIDDLE | J. WINCHESTER |
| 1944-45 | A. MELLOR | | |
| 1945-46 | E. FOX | M. FISHER | |
| 1946-47 | T. AVELING | | F. IVES |
| 1947-48 | | | |
| 1948-49 | | W.A. DUNN | |

The main message I got from my visit was the club has a long and strong history and is currently in a phase of building up numbers to create a happy place to go as a local (or as a visitor) for fun, exercise and fellowship. They are doing this by networking and personal invitations to come along to try without any pressure to have to join as members. Consequently they have strong numbers of attendees on their social playing sessions (Tuesday, Thursday and Sundays). Mostly Golf Croquet is played with an occasional fun game of Aussie. The Thursday morning teas are also a real draw card where Barb Moller provides a sumptuous range of sweet cakes and treats. Last time Linda visited Port Lincoln , they spoke of how the club had just lost their ride on mower in a shed fire. After much toing and froing (both literally on the push mower and with the insurance company), they now fortunately have a new ride on. The lawns were good and the view is fabulous.

Fundraising events have been on hold since the dreaded virus but Port Lincoln club have some new sponsors' signs around the perimeter of the grounds. Local businesses pay an annual fee to the

club for this advertising. They are hoping to add more signs in order to maintain their finances. I was made to feel very welcome by the local members, initially by Vice President, Marj Pretty whose name appears on the Office Bearer Board and on several trophies. Club Captain Martin Kennett, coordinated the games using a lucky dip system where we pulled out a coloured disc which indicated both ball and lawn. Martin has been instrumental in coaching newcomers and in maintaining the grounds. In mentioning some club member names inevitably I will miss many others who probably deserve mention. So my recommendation is that if you are ever in the area, drop in to have a game and you will find out for yourself what a welcoming, well run and happy club it is.

Jill Millhouse

Interstate Visitors to the Port Pirie Club

In April this year, Port Pirie Club was lucky enough to host some visitors to our Club. Narelle and Terry Wright from Grafton NSW were touring around South Australia and called to enquire about the possibility of a Golf Croquet game while they were here. I talked my husband Ray into coming out to have a game. We had an enjoyable morning and shared a cuppa and chat at morning tea with the rest of our club members.

Vicki Walters
Port Pirie Croquet Club Secretary

Vicki Walters, Terry and Narelle Wright from Grafton and Ray Walters.



Gala Days and Coaching Days

Golf Croquet

| | | |
|------|----|---------------------|
| SEPT | 1 | Norwood |
| SEPT | 4 | Victor Harbor |
| SEPT | 25 | Murray Bridge |
| OCT | 16 | Coromandel Valley |
| OCT | 21 | Glenunga |
| NOV | 1 | Tea Tree Gully |
| NOV | 20 | Hyde Park Centenary |

Association Croquet

| | | |
|------|----|---------------------------------|
| AUG | 27 | Crystal Brook |
| SEPT | 3 | Div 3 and 4 coaching at Norwood |
| OCT | 1 | Div 3 and 4 coaching at Norwood |
| NOV | 12 | Div 3 and 4 coaching at Norwood |



Kensington osteopathy offer a 20% discount for first visit to members of Croquet SA.
<http://www.kensingtonosteopathy.com.au/>

UP COMING EVENTS.....

Golf Croquet

| | | |
|------|----------|--|
| AUG | 3—6 | Brighton Armstrong Challenge |
| AUG | 12 | Weekend Pennants |
| AUG | 15 & 17 | Combined Doubles 20+ |
| AUG | 16 | Coach the coaches session Hutt Road |
| AUG | 22—24 | Open Doubles |
| AUG | 27 | Weekend Pennants |
| SEPT | 2/10/23 | Weekend Pennants |
| SEPT | 11/18/25 | Aggregate 24+ Pennants |
| SEPT | 12/19 | Spring Singles 5+ Enter via SACA website |
| SEPT | 14/21 | Spring Single 9+ Enter via SACA website |



Association Croquet

| | | |
|------|----------|---|
| AUG | 5 | Weekend Pennants |
| AUG | 8—10 | JF Harvey Bronze Medal (14+) Enter via SACA website |
| AUG | 19—20 | President's Trophy By invitation |
| AUG | 26 | Weekend Pennants |
| SEPT | 5—7 | Division 3 (8+) |
| SEPT | 9 | Pennants |
| SEPT | 16—17 | Division 4 (14+) |
| SEPT | 16/17 | AC State Squad Practice at Kadina |
| SEPT | 24 | Pennants |
| SEPT | 30—OCT 2 | Open Women's Singles/ Open Men's Singles Hutt Road |

Gateball

| | | |
|------|------|--------------------------|
| SEPT | 7—10 | Australian Championships |
|------|------|--------------------------|

In Aubury/Wodonga. SA is sending 1 team and 3 teams of Doubles.

MURPHY'S LAWS OF CROQUET

LAW 1

No matter how bad your last stroke was, the worst is yet to come. This law does not expire at rover hoop (or hoop 13 for Golf Croquet players), since it has the supernatural tendency to extend over the course of the tournament, summer and, eventually, a lifetime.

LAW 2

Your best game of croquet will be followed almost immediately by your worst game ever. The probability of the latter increases with the number of people you tell about the former.

LAW 3

Expensive balls are hoop-magnetic, and vice-versa. Although this cannot be proved in the laboratory, it is a known fact that the more expensive the balls or hoops, the more they are inclined to stick to the other.

LAW 4

Croquet balls never bounce back off the hoop into a hoop-running position. If one does, it is breaking a law of the universe, and should be destroyed.

LAW 5

No matter what causes a croquet player to muff a shot, the partner and all the spectators must solemnly chant "You looked up!" or invoke the wrath of the universe.

LAW 6

The higher a croquet player's handicap, the more qualified he or she deems themselves as an instructor.

("A Little Piece of Nonsense" adapted by Creina Dawson to suit the game of Croquet and further adapted by Jim Clement to be relevant to Golf Croquet)

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