



HOOP POINTS

December 2023

Issue No 413

SA AC CB Sharp Gold Medal

Our archival history tells us that a gold medal for Association Croquet ("The SA Gold No. 1) was first awarded in 1941. In 1954, following a donation of £80 (over \$3000 in today's money) from Mrs C. B. Sharp, a member of the Kensington Gardens Croquet Club and a foundation member of the then South Australian Croquet Association, the event was renamed as the C. B. Sharp Gold Medal. The event has since been held annually as one of the more significant events on the SA croquet calendar. The winner is awarded a certificate at the time of the event and presented the gold medal at Presentation Day.



This year's C. B. Sharp Gold Medal was held at Hutt Road over two delightful Spring days on 28/29 October and involved a strong field of 12 players split into 2 blocks of 6 with play-offs in mini blocks of 4 for all minor places. This required all players to play 4 games of up to 2.5 hours on each day, so, while the top players managed to peg out all their games and finish play on Day 2 by 4:30 pm, the lower ranked players were still struggling to finish their final game at 7:30 pm. The top two players in each block of 6 - Edward Wilson and Tim O'Leary from the Red Block and Dwayne McCormick and Mark Kobelt from the Blue Block then played each other in a mini round robin. This was a closely fought competition amongst the top contenders for State Team honours with Dwayne going through undefeated followed by Edward (2 wins) and Tim (1 win). Similar mini blocks were held for the remaining 8 players. Full results can be seen on Croquet Scores at <https://croquetscores.com/2023/ac/sa-cb-sharp-gold-medal>

Thanks to hoop-setters, referees, AC Events Coordinator Joan Kelly and Di Helier for score-keeping as well as refereeing.

Photos

1. C. B. Sharp Gold Medal 2009 won by Roger Buddle.

(Photo: <https://www.sacroquet.com.au/home/history/medal-history/>)

2. C. B. Sharp Gold Medal 20223 winner Dwayne McCormick receiving his winners certificate from Tournament Manager, Greg Rowberry. (Photo: Joan Kelly)

Greg Rowberry
AC Captain, Norwood Croquet Club
Tournament Manager



Thank You to Linda Kinch

As past President and someone who encouraged Linda to be a member of the SACA Board, I would like to thank her for the contribution she has made in her role as Vice President. Linda advised prior to the last AGM that she would not continue as a Board member. During Linda's two-year term, she visited all the country clubs and regularly wrote articles about her visits.

She provided valuable feedback to the SACA Board on the challenges facing country clubs, highlighting in particular their declining and aging membership, the difficulties they were experiencing in attracting new members and the increasing costs to maintain clubrooms and lawns. Linda often attended gala days and made time to meet with Club Presidents and Committees over lunch or afternoon tea. Linda (accompanied by husband Malcolm) travelled from Kadina to all SACA meetings and still competed as often as she could in competitions. Linda continues to be involved in the Kadina Croquet Club and devotes time to her music and band commitments.

Although her happy and positive personality will be missed, the work and inroads Linda made to connecting country clubs to the croquet family is much appreciated and will hopefully continue.



Lyn Parnell

Peter to Represent SA in The Under 21 Australian Championships

Peter Crook from Woodville will be representing South Australia in the Australian Under 21 Golf Croquet Championship to be held at Maitland Croquet Club, Saturday 13 to Monday 15 January 2024 and the U21 Gold and Silver Medals 11-12 January 2024.

The U21 Gold medal winner will receive a discounted airfare to New Zealand and accommodation for the NZ under 21 Championships to be held on 29 March-2 April 2024.

Peter is being coached by Barry Haydon, Hyde Park and we wish him well.

Trish Fazackerley



AC Coaching

Congratulations to David Sincock (Hyde Park) and Hanne Damgaard (Norwood) who have earned Achievement Pins at the Tumby Bay Tournament. Hanne has earned a B5 pin and David a B9 pin. Well done for reaching these break-making milestones.

Eileen Ferguson OAM
AC Director

SA AC Men's and Women's Open Singles 2023

The cream of South Australian Association Croquet players gathered at Hutt Road on 30th September to 2nd October to compete in the prestigious SA AC Men's and Women's Open Singles Championships. The event, managed by the Norwood Croquet Club attracted a strong field in the Men's event with 10 of the 15 top ranked players in the State taking part. The Women's field was disappointing with only 5 of the State's top 12 women.

The event was also marred, particularly for the women, by the heavy condition of the courts which had been scarified and heavily watered only days before. Otherwise, the event was held in excellent conditions with warm, sunny days. The women clearly struggled with the condition of the lawns with no peg-outs, a top (winning) score of 17 and an average final score of 10-7. Excessively negative tactics may also have been a factor. State Team stalwart Shirley Howlett ultimately prevailed in a tight result over 2023 Australian GC Women's Runner-up, Virginia Arney.

The Men's event saw some high-quality, precision play, particularly by the overall winner Edward Wilson who completed six triple peels while winning 8 of his 9 games – his only loss being to runner-up Dwayne McCormick who also won 8 games and completed three triples. After the event Edward commented that he was using the event as a warm-up for the Australian Croquet Association's Association Croquet President's Eights competition which was to be held the following week at Cairnlea in Victoria (where he ultimately finished second to Australian Champion and world number-one-ranked player, Robert Fletcher). Many thanks to Ansi Baumanis who moved all the hoop holes after the scarifying in the days before the event, to SACA AC Events Coordinator and Roger Buddle who provided event scheduling and documentation and to James Temlett who took on the role of Tournament Referee with support from Brenda Brown, Joan Kelly and Di Helier.

Greg Rowberry
AC Captain, Norwood Croquet Club
Tournament Manager



SA 2023 AC Open Women's Singles
Champion Shirley Howlett with Runner-
up, Virginia Arney.
(Photo: Mark Senior)

SA 2023 AC Men's Singles Champion Edward
Wilson receiving his medal for being runner-up
at the ACA
President's Eights competition at Cairnlea, Victo-
ria on 9th October 2023. Others in the photo are
ACA
President Jim Nicholls and Eights Tournament
Manager, Kevin Beard. (Photo: Kerri-Ann Organ)



S.A. Women's GC Open Spring Singles 2023

By consultation between players, event managers and croquet S.A. board members the format of the women's singles competition was condensed into a one day match due to the forecast unplayable hot weather promised for the second day.

Skill, tactics, strategy, good luck, bad luck and everything in between were on show in an excellent day of high quality croquet.

Neck and neck high scoring games were the order of the day with several games being decided on hoop thirteen producing terrific viewing for spectators.



The runner up position was in contention to the very last game and was finally secured by Kate Logan and a remarkable days play from Virginia Arney who won a magnificent six out of six games saw her become the 2023 champion.

Thanks go to all our volunteer referees Bernie Pfitzner, Carolyn Cooper, Bob Neil, Barry Haydon, Geoff Creek, Barry Jennings, Kim Millhouse, Graeme Thomas and Jān Sala computer scoring wiz.

Colin Broom.

Croquet Manager.

Holdfast Bay Croquet Club.



2023 GC Open Spring Singles champion Virginia Arney and Runner-up Kate Logan being presented with certificates by Event Manager, Colin Broom.

S.A. 2023 Men's GC Spring Singles

This event was held at Hutt Road courts on Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th of November

Brighton was the managing club.

People may remember the incredible storm occurring on the November weekend in 2022 when this event was last held. We dealt with rain and lightning, flooding in some areas. Very strong winds struck Adelaide causing trees to drop large branches or blow over blocking roads and affecting power lines. Power failure and blackouts lasted for days after in some areas

This year was different - the weather was most pleasant. Play on the first day was organised in two groups of seven players playing a round robin program. On Sunday the players played further games in groups depending on performance on Saturday. The group was split into three groups.

The Plate Competition - for those who didn't make the quarter finals.

David Maunder (Brighton) finished runner-up to Barry Haydon (Hyde Park)of Hyde Park.

The Bowl Competition - for those who lost their quarter final This was won by Stephen Condous (Hyde Park).

The finalists - the semi finals and finals were then played as a 'best of three' one hour matches.

Semi finals - Robert Fletcher (Ballarat Alexandra) defeated Edward Wilson (Millswood) and Barry Jennings (Hyde Park) defeated Greg Fletcher (Ballarat Alexandra).

In the playoff for third spot Edward Wilson beat Greg Fletcher.

The Grand Final was played between Barry Jennings and Robert Fletcher with Robert Fletcher winning 7-2,7-5 in a very tough, tight match.

I would like to thank Robert and Greg Fletcher who made the interstate trip to play in the event and also Simon Hockey who made the trip from the mid-north of S.A.

A special thanks must go to the referees who volunteered their time to help with this event – Kim Millhouse, Graeme Thomas, Bob Neil, Anne Woodhouse, Bernie Pfitzner and David Stumm

A big thank must go to Ken Nunan for organising court and player rosters, various sections of the program and internet entry of all results.

It was a great tournament, played well in good spirits with powerful displays of stroke making and tactics keeping the audience enthralled.

Peter Woodward
GC Captain Brighton Croquet Club





ACA AC Bronze Medal

The winner of the ACA AC Bronze Medal will represent South Australia in Hobart from 5 – 7 March 2023. Winners from each State will play for the ACA AC Gold & Silver Medals. Eight players fought to earn a place in the final: Edward Wilson, Dwayne McCormick, Harley Watts, Mark Kobelt, Mark Senior, Greg Rowberry, Roger Buddle and Barry Jennings. Edward and Dwayne had a topsy-turvy final game with Edward being the winner on 7 wins. Dwayne was runner-up on hoops from Harley. Thank you to James Temlett and Murray Baum for refereeing.

Di Helier
AC Selection Sub-Committee

[Edward Wilson \(Millswood\) and Dwayne McCormick \(Norwood\)](#)

AC Alternate Stroke Handicap Doubles

The SA AC Handicap Doubles event was held at Hutt Rd between October 31 to November 2. Seven pairs competed in the event and it was pleasing to see a number of GC players who have recently taken up AC. Going into the final round, Shirley Howlett with Bridie O’Rielly and Kate Logan with Joan Kelly had won 4 games each and were playing each other to determine the winner. After a close match Shirley and Bridie were the victors, winning by 3 hoops. Congratulations to them and the runners up.

Jackie Ward



Norwood Members enjoy a High Tea with an Alice in Wonderland Theme



At Norwood, like most clubs, we're always looking to grow the club. We've had various 'come and try's, it's always difficult to know what will work, who will come, and will they join? At this time of year, like other clubs, we have lots of booked Christmas parties and see these events as giving people a positive taste of croquet, an investment in the future. A former member, Helena, who owned 'Wickedly Delicious Patisserie – Melbourne' has always wanted to try a High Tea with an Alice theme, as a different take on a come and try. As a dummy run, and a thank you to the many members who help with all the booked outside events, Helena cooked amazing delicacies and we all dressed up and had fun. We're now working on how we can market this and use it as a 'come and try' vehicle and attract a different group to experience croquet.



Sally Harper
Secretary - Norwood
Croquet Club



Port Pirie C.C. Centenary Celebrations

30th September – 1st October 2023

Port Pirie Club celebrated its milestone 100th birthday on the Labour Day long weekend 2023. A two day competition was planned involving both Association and Golf players. Thirty players from all over SA ventured to Port Pirie to participate. Along with the Club's two artificial lawns the club arranged for the Council to set up two lawns on the oval behind the clubrooms. The lawns on the oval proved 'challenging' for the players as did the unseasonably hot weather on Saturday. The last round of GC games on Saturday were postponed until early Sunday morning, when the cold change had moved in and the players needed their winter woollies again. Players also had to contend with losing an hour's sleep with Day-light Savings starting overnight Saturday.



New Life Members

A pizza tea was arranged for Saturday evening and the medals were presented at the end of play on Sunday. A highlight of the evening meal was the induction of four long time members as Life Members by local MP the Honourable Geoff Brock. Surprised inductees Sandra Arbon, Pat Norton, Judy Nayda and Mervin Nayda were all presented with Life Member badges and certificates and then were tasked with cutting the celebration cake.

Association Croquet results:

1st Adrian & Mary Bishop (Coobowie) 2nd Erica Young & Wilma Hendry (Crystal Brook)

Encouragement award Deb McPharlin & Lynne Thompson (Moonta)

Golf Croquet results:

1st Martin Kennett & Lyn Best (Port Lincoln) 2nd Liz Huxley & Heather Martin (Norwood & Victor Harbor)

Encouragement award Keryl Kiel & Ray Walter (Murray Bridge & Port Pirie).

The Club is very appreciative of the support received from the Port Pirie Regional Council, Geoff Brock MP, local businesses and of course the club members who all contributed to make the weekend a success.

Congratulations Port Pirie Club on reaching your Centenary and giving all who attended a weekend to remember.



Winners are grinners



Cake Cutting Life Members

Eileen Ferguson
AC Director

Mount Gambier visit

On Tuesday 14th November I walked into the Mount Gambier club to be very warmly welcomed. I was greeted by an enthusiastic band of club members. After the obligatory welcome cuppa we decamped to the lawns for some hard work honing skills and considering tactical options. After a brief stop for lunch we adjourned to the lawns again for some more practice and games. In due course time was called and we all retreated to the clubrooms for some social chit chat and drinks and nibbles. The atmosphere was welcoming and inclusive. Wednesday saw me return and assist the club with final preparations for their forthcoming Gala Day on Sunday 19th November. After completing the draw and reviewing the last minute preparations a few members and I took to the lawns for some instruction in the art of Ricochet. All too soon it was time to leave ready for the return to Adelaide. Thanks to Mount Gambier club members for the warm welcome and the great country hospitality. I look forward to returning again soon.



Eileen Ferguson

Mount Gambier Croquet Cub Gala Day

Mount Gambier croquet club has had a busy month. Eileen Ferguson from Adelaide conducted coaching classes over two days on various forms of the game. Thus helping to prepare for gala day. Recently Mount Gambier croquet club hosted players from Portland, Naracoorte, Millicent and Casterton at our first gala day in many years. The event was sponsored by Bendigo Bank. We had perfect weather and the courts were in fantastic condition. This showcased great competition between the clubs and everyone played in great spirit. Play started in the morning and continued throughout the day with 5 rounds of croquet. Followed by a wonderful afternoon tea. All clubs representatives thanked our club for a great day and everyone agreed that we all needed to host and participate in more similar competitions in the near future. Mount Gambier club President Virginia Hill thanked all the visiting clubs for taking part and invited everyone back to play anytime. Judy Brodie club captain announced the winners of the competition and presented the prizes.



Janet Rivett from Portland was overall winner. Chris Hankin from Mount Gambier was second. James Wombwell from Casterton was 3rd. Cath Staude from Millicent was 4th. The Croquet Club is about to begin summer season competition playing for the Laslett cup.

Anyone is welcome to join us for a come and try day. Phone Virginia Hill if you're interested 0468959567.

North Adelaide Games 2023

In delightful weather, the 21st North Adelaide Games were successfully held recently, starting on Saturday 11 November and fortunately narrowly missing that 'stinker' of a day the day before of 40 degrees! Games of Association Croquet (AC) were played in excellent spirits and those who came to the event witnessed wonderful croquet on display.

Invitation Singles results

This tournament was conducted on 11-12 November. Eight men and six women participated, some of the very best AC players in South Australia, including six from country clubs.

The **men's tournament** was very exciting, with the results hanging in the balance until the end. The top two players both finished with the same number of wins (6, the only two players to have that many wins) and quite remarkably, exactly the same number of net hoops (104) after two days' play! This result was unprecedented! As one might expect, in our consulting of wiser heads than ours as to how a winner and runner-up could be decided, there were a good many suggested solutions! Some were semi-rational, others humorous and still others impractical given the time in the afternoon. In the end after much deliberation, the tournament managers made the decision that both should be declared joint winners, would share the combined winner and runner-up prize money and would have both of their names inscribed on the North Adelaide Games Shield that hangs proudly in the North Adelaide clubrooms stretching as far back as 2002. The two winners were Dwayne McCormick (Norwood) and David Short (Norwood), with Harley Watts (Moonta) third (5 wins and 27 net hoops).

In the **women's tournament**, again the result was not known until the last game was completed, which Shirlene McBride (Victor Harbor) won and thereby edged ahead (with 4 wins, 14 net hoops) of two other colleagues (both on 3 wins). The Runner-up was Mary Bishop (Coobowie, 3 wins, 24 net hoops), while Virginia Arney (Norwood, 3 wins, 12 net hoops) was third.



Those present at the end of the Swiss Singles, Thursday afternoon, 16/11/23



Winners and Runners-Up in the Invitation Singles:

David Short, Mary Bishop, Shirlene McBride, Dwayne McCormick

North Adelaide Games 2023 (cont.)

Swiss Singles results

In this event held on 15-16 November, 10 players over a range of handicaps (from 0 to 18) participated, from five Clubs. The participants played four games, and five players finished with three wins each: Greg Rowberry, Barry Jennings, Russell Kopp, Liz Mackenzie and Julie Barry.

In the **Championship Singles**, the first two positions were separated by only two net hoops. The winner was Barry Jennings (Hyde Park) with 33 net hoops, while Greg Rowberry (Norwood) was the Runner-up with 31 net hoops.

In the **Handicap Singles**, where the players' handicaps are weighted so that everyone has a chance of winning, the winner was Julie Barry (Millswood), with the Runner-up being Russell Kopp (North Adelaide).

We congratulate all of these worthy winners – Dwayne, David, Shirlene, Mary, Barry, Greg, Julie and Russell.



Winners and Runners-Up in the Swiss Singles:
Greg Rowberry, Barry Jennings, Julie Barry, Russell Kopp (with Tournament Manager, Roger Harris)

This tournament would not have been possible without the valuable help of many people. My sincere thanks to all participating players who made the Games such a success once again, and to all those North Adelaide members who helped to feed players, provide excellent playing surfaces, set the courts each day and ensure the Games ran smoothly, including but not limited to:

Food – Barbara Stanley in particular, and also Norma Greig, ably assisted by an army of helpers who assisted at the venue at various times and/or came to the clubrooms to wash cups/dishes and to stock the table over the four days with delectable sustenance that kept players and tournament managers (as well as spectators) happy and contented!

Courts and hoop setting – William Pennino, Russell Kopp and Kevin Le Poidevin, and any other of the grounds team, for preparing excellent surfaces that looked immaculate throughout the playing days and received many compliments from the players.

Technology – Janet Willshire, for assisting me to keep scores up-to-date on croquetscores.com as well as lending moral support in the decision-making on the winner(s) of the Men's Singles!

Bar – Karen Tierney, for opening and staffing the bar on the Sunday afternoon.

Finances – Noel Spooner for handling entry payments that were made online.

And any others I may have missed, but you will know who you are – my grateful thanks for helping to run a very successful Games in which all participants love competing in great spirit and with superb croquet skills. For spectators, it was a pleasure to watch!

Roger Harris

AC Captain, North Adelaide Croquet Club

Barry Jennings moves into the Top 10 GC players in Australia



Barry receiving the Shield from representatives of the World Croquet Federation and of all participants at the opening ceremony.

The World Over 50's Golf Croquet World Championship was held in Bunbury WA in October. Players from Egypt, USA, Canada, England, Sweden, Norway, New Zealand, Spain, Switzerland and Australia competed in round robin matches of best of 3 untimed games, the longest of which went for 6 hours.

The top 32 progressed to the knockouts and the remainder contested the plate. First round knockout losers contested the Bowl and second round losers contested the Shield.

The only South Australian representative was Barry Jennings from Hyde Park who won the Shield and moved into the top ten in Australia for the first time.

World number 3 Ahmed ElMahdy won the event defeating Jenny Clarke from New Zealand.

The games were held at Moorabinda Croquet Club and Bunbury Tennis Club. Congratulations must go to Tournament Referee Jim Clement and particularly to all the other volunteers, mostly from Moorabinda Croquet Club, who ensured a well run tournament with a wonderful atmosphere throughout.

Lorraine Smith

Golf Croquet Referee Course 2024

A Golf Croquet Referee Course will be conducted in the early part of 2024 to enable interested players to gain accreditation. This will be a service to your club as it will allow access to competent players with a sound working knowledge of the rules of the game and can adjudicate in club matches, championships and tournaments plus bring experience from state level competition and maybe higher.

It is an aim that all clubs should have at least 1 accredited referee.

The course in Adelaide will be available to all SACA members and the first sessions will be held on Tuesday 13th and 27th February from 7:00 to 9:30pm at Hutt Road. Further sessions will be negotiated.

The Referee Sub Committee will be contacting country clubs to try and provide courses in country centres to work towards its aim.

Entry prerequisites

Completed the ASC 'The Community Officiating General Principles' online course

Must be over 16 years of age, have a valid ACA ID, at least 1 year experience playing Golf Croquet and hold a valid handicap

Accreditation Process sequence

Part 1 Australian Sports Commission (ASC The Community Officiating General Principles)

Golf Croquet Referees Open Book – Home Exam

Assessment of Practical Techniques

Assessment of Knowledge and Understanding of the GC rules.

For further information or to register for the program,

please contact John Arney on 0433 015 440 or vjarney@gmail.com

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