



HOOP POINTS

April 2024 Issue No.416



Happy Campers, Back row: John Arney (team manager), Mark Kobelt, David Short, Dwayne McCormick (captain), Tim O'leary
Front row: Shirley Howlett (vice captain), Robyn Short, Virginia Arney, Shirlene McBride

2024 Eire Cup— AC Interstate Shield

This year's Eire cup was contested in Tasmania. The croquet lawns were presented beautifully and I estimate an average speed of 10.5 to 11 seconds. Croquet Tasmania did an excellent job in organising the whole event. They certainly made it easy to organise our team, even though we were at split venues. The format for the Eire Cup is 4 mixed double games followed by 4 ranked singles then reversed singles for both the men and women. A total of 20 games per test. Well, what a year for SA. After a fantastic effort from the team, we came 2nd.

On day 1, we played Queensland. Starting with doubles, we won all four games. It goes to show how important a good start is as the Queensland women came back strong winning 3 from 4 games. The SA men played well winning all 4 singles. Again the Queensland women played well winning 3 from 4 singles. The second round of men's singles was much more even with the score at 2 all. At the end of the day, we won the test 12 games to 8. Day 2 against WA, saw another great start from the team. We won all our doubles. The team was a bit more settled and it showed in our final scores. We had a convincing victory of 16 games to 4.

Day 3. We were up against Victoria. The strongest team on paper. After the doubles, we were 3-1 down. The first round of singles was a tough battle. Our women only won 1 from 4 but the men rallied and won 3 from 4. Going into the last round of singles the score was 7-5 to the Vics. With 8 singles to go, we certainly gave ourselves a chance. At the end of the day, the Vics kept their 2 game lead to defeat SA 11-9. Again the result showed how important the doubles are.



2024 Eire Cup (Cont.)

Day 4. Another tough day, this time against NSW. After the doubles the score was 2 games each. The NSW women played very strong winning 3 from 4 singles and our men evened the ledger by winning 3 from 4. So after the doubles and first round of singles the score was tied at 6 games apiece. The SA women fought well and won 2 from 4 singles. It was really tight.

The men's games were tough. Playing on bowls courts that were 80% dirt. It could have gone either way but we managed to get 3 from 4 games to win the day 11 games to 9.

Day 5. Mathematically, we still had a chance to win the Eire Cup. We needed NSW to thrash the Vics, and for us to thrash Tasmania. The Tassies came out strong and won 3 from 4 doubles. Our backs were against the wall. The Vics had a good lead on NSW so we were fighting for the silver medal. Our women fought hard and won 3 from 4 and our men followed

also winning 3 from 4. In the last round of singles we could not relax. We needed to win the day to secure second place. The men played well and won 3 from 4 followed by a strong performance from the women to also win 3 from 4.

Second Place and silver was ours.

I am very proud of our team, especially the way everyone supported each other. As the Captain, I could not have asked more from a great bunch of people, who stayed positive and fought every battle with gusto and respect.

Maybe next year SA, maybe next year .

The final results.....

Dwayne McCormick

AC Captain

Australia - Eire Cup (AC)	Tests			Games		Hoops		
	Wins	Losses	Draws	Wins	Losses	For	Against	Net
Victoria	5	0	0	74	26	1,978	1,148	830
South Australia	4	1	0	61	39	1,632	1,432	200
New South Wales	3	2	0	54	46	1,666	1,353	313
Tasmania	2	3	0	38	62	1,395	1,653	-258
Western Australia	1	4	0	37	63	1,139	1,661	-522
Queensland	0	5	0	36	64	1,152	1,715	-563



The team enjoying the presentation dinner.

Farewell Cynthia Durbridge

Cynthia Durbridge Life Member of SACA and the Victor Harbor Croquet Club passed away on the 9th of March. She was one month short of her 93rd birthday.

Croquet was a huge part of Cynthia's life. She first became a member at Victor Harbor in 1976 and continued on until her death.

In that time she held many positions and carried out all duties conscientiously.

She was still AC Coordinator, a member of the Finance Committee and Assistant Bar Manager.

Cynthia represented SA in the Eire Cup for six consecutive years from 1996 to 2002. In five of those years SA won gold.

Cynthia also served as SACA Treasurer and was a qualified referee. She was always interested in what was happening in croquet. She loved visiting country tournaments and chatting to past players.

We will miss her at Victor Harbor, not just because of her contribution to AC croquet, but because of her smile and cheerful, can-do approach to life.

Shirley Howlett



Gateball News – March 2024

Trish and I have been busy over the last month or so, playing Gateball in Thailand and at Cairnlea.

4th Thailand Open Masters Games – Chiang Mai, 24-28 February 2024

We travelled to Chiang Mai, Thailand to compete in the Open Masters Games at the end of February. We were joined by four players from Queensland, National Co-ordinator Ros Crowe, Julia, Rob and Donna.

We entered the teams ("classic"), triples and doubles competitions, held over 4 days.

The teams competition was held on the first day and we faced two Thai teams and a team from Hong Kong in our block. We had narrow wins against both Thai teams and lost by 1 point to Hong Kong, and ended up winning our block.



Gateball News – March 2024 (Cont.)

We faced Ghost Ball gateball club from Indonesia next and unfortunately lost by two points in a closely fought match. The final was contested by two teams from South Korea. Our team was very happy to make it out of the block in what were challenging, hot and humid conditions.

That was to be the highlight of the tournament, as we won only one triples game and no doubles games. The Triples final was an amazing game with some exceptional play. The South Korean team held all their balls off for several rounds but finished strongly, however the Thai team held on to win.

Despite the results, we had a thoroughly enjoyable time and I can recommend this tournament to anyone that wants a flavour of overseas gateball competition.

We may not have won any prizes on the field but we certainly were the most photographed team, appeared on the local news and also met the local Sports Minister.

Huge thanks to Jung and Bom who made sure everything ran smoothly and provided the warmest of welcomes.

Victorian State Gateball Competition

The weekend of 23-24 March saw three South Australians head to Melbourne, not for the Grand Prix, but for the Victorian State Gateball competition. Trish and I were joined by Peter W from Brighton. Our team was completed by Tim and Jasmine from Brunswick.

Five very strong teams competed, and unfortunately we didn't win any games, although we had our chances and the games were very close. Congratulations to the NSW team who won the event with 4 wins.

On Sunday the Doubles event was contested, with 11 pairs split over two blocks. Again Trish and I had some tough games which we narrowly lost, ending up with one win, but net gates of 1.

Peter W fared significantly better, playing with Philip from Kew, and winning all four of their block games. They also won their semi-final and narrowly lost in the final. Well done Peter.

The tournament also provided some much needed referee practice and the opportunity to run a strategy workshop on Saturday.

It was an excellent event and one I look forward to every year.

Geoff Crook
SA Gateball Coordinator





SACA AC Handicap Doubles

The SACA AC Handicap Doubles combined handicap 12 and over competition was held at Hutt Road on March 20 and 21.

This is an advanced play event, modified such that only the higher handicapped player in a pair may take any bisques in order to assist player development. As the field was small, the competition was played in a double round robin format.

Players were pleased that temperatures were mild after a few weeks of hot weather beforehand.

The clear winners were Julie Barry from Millswood paired with James Temlett from Norwood (pictured), and the runners-up were Liz Mackenzie paired with Julian Hafner, both from Norwood. The players were very appreciative of the lasagne provided for lunch on the second day; thanks to Louise Temlett!

Joan Kelly (AC Events Coordinator)

Moonta Croquet Club Centenary Celebration

On Sunday December 3rd 52 people attended a lunch for the centenary celebration of the Moonta Croquet Club. We were pleased to have member for Narrunga Mr. Frazer Ellis attend, along with SA Croquet representative Ansi Baumanis, NYPCA President Malcolm Kinch and past President of SA Croquet Eileen Ferguson.

President Sharon Pedler welcomed all that attended before a roast lunch, catered by the Moonta Memorial Bowling Club members, was enjoyed by all. Many past and current players enjoyed an afternoon of reflection of years gone by, catching up with old friends and stories remembered, helped along by a large collection of photo's playing in the background.

President Sharon Pedler then gave a small speech on the history of the club before remembering Life Member and past President Noreen Hatcher who was a great player and supporter of the club but sadly passed just short of our Centenary Celebration. A glass of red and a red hat was duly placed at the table in remembrance of Noreen, Sharon then asked our Patron and Life Member Barbara Bagshaw to cut our 100-year celebration cake. Fresh fruit and cake were served to guests by the Moonta Croquet Club members.



Moonta Croquet Club would like to thank all that attended and the Moonta Memorial Bowling Club for the use of facilities, their members who catered and their bar staff.

Victor Harbor AC Tournament

The annual AC Tournament was held recently. Despite a few late withdrawals (older people and their injuries!) we managed to fill all 32 places. Many thanks to James Temlett for heroically stepping in at the last moment!

Mark Kobelt (Tumby Bay) triumphed in group 1, undefeated in all his games but including a close shave against Roger Buddle. Greg Rowberry from Norwood was runner up.

Terry Catling (Tumby Bay) showed excellent form in group 2, losing one game to runner up James Temlett from Norwood.

Group 3 winner Geoffrey Wheaton (Norwood) also won all but one of his games.

Runner up was Joan Kelly also from Norwood.

Group 4 was won by a local, Kate Logan who won all 7 games. Karyn Speed from Tumby Bay finished second.

All in all we had a great tournament. The weather was pretty good, the raffles consoled some people and we had a lovely club meal courtesy of member Helen Chesterfield.

My thanks to all the players and our club members who carried out even unpleasant tasks with a smile.

Shirley Howlett (Tournament Manager)



Drone image of the VHCC AC Tournament, courtesy of Bridie O'Reilly



New Accredited GC Coaches

Congratulations to **Ken Nunan** from **Brighton**, **Jacquelin Story**, and **Sandra Shorne** from **Kadina** on successfully completing training and demonstrating their expertise in various skills related to the game. They are now accredited **Golf Croquet Level 1 coaches**. Barry Haydon ran the session with assistance from Laura Eden.

1. Skills Covered in Golf Croquet Level 1:

- Grips
- Stalking
- Stance and Swing
- Routines
- Single Ball Stroke
- How to run a Hoop
- Blocking
- Jawing a Ball
- Decision-Making Process

Repetition and practice are key to honing these skills.

Keep up the great work and may you all continue to contribute to the growth and development of Golf Croquet here in South Australia and beyond.



2. 2024 Golf Croquet Coaching

If you would be interested in becoming an accredited coach, speak with your club GC captains and complete an application for coach training. Completed forms can be emailed to Laura Eden, SA GC Coaching Coordinator (sydlau.le@gmail.com)

3. 2024 Golf Croquet Coaching Dates

The next GC Level 1 course date is Wednesday 19th June 13.30pm to 3.30pm at Hutt Road.

Further GC planned coaching sessions at Hutt Road for 2024 are:

- **19th June** GC Level 2 Coaching course (prerequisite must have held GC Level 1 accreditation for 1 year) 9am to 12 noon.
- **17th July** GC coaches recall for all accredited GC coaches 9am to 12 noon.
- **27th November** Coach the coach's session for all accredited GC coaches 9am to 12 noon.

Laura Eden
SA GC Coaching Coordinator

Jake's Croquet Story

It all started with a teenager frequently riding his bike slowly, stopping and watching croquet play at the 2023 SA Masters Games held at Kadina. Club members involved in education recognised Jake, a student from Kadina Memorial School and invited him in to watch. From this Jake attended and watched many sessions in play, he was intrigued in the game and its equipment.

Jake was born with Tetrasomy 9p, a very rare chromosomal imbalance, which has impacted on his general development. He is very social, keen to connect with others, has good sporting skills but finds it challenging to connect all aspects of a sporting game. Given his interest, contact was made with the school resulting in two mainstream disability classes, with the guidance of keen club members, participating in an extended program to learn and play croquet.

Jake has thrived playing Golf Croquet. With each shot his playing partner can gently remind him of fundamentals like feet placement and shot selection which has enabled him to authentically participate and improve his skills.

Jake has now left school, has a part time volunteer position at Community Sports Centre and is excited to play croquet with a small group of members on Monday morning practice sessions.

He has his own mallet and cover now, which he loves to show others, is ready the night before and awake early, waiting to ride his bike to the club. He's become an avid weather watcher, checking frequently that it won't be too hot and he will be able to play. After playing he calls his family to share news of the game.

Jake is one of 22 students that participated in the pilot project that started in July 2023 to introduce croquet to the special needs Kapyong Unit. Each student has a story to tell, and each student within their own capacity benefited from the project. The photo below shows a very happy bunch of students, teachers and club members and Jake's excitement shines through in his smile.

The Kadina Croquet Club continues to support and nurture inclusion in sport and the students still come out to play as part of the school PE curriculum.



**Submitted by
Sub Commit-
tee Kapyong
Project**



West Lakes Croquet Club

The Club was established after a founding member, John Hazeal, was driving past Hawkesbury Reserve one day and noticed a billboard showing the site of a community club, including a diagram with a rectangular piece marked croquet. He and a few other interested people had voiced concern over the lack of croquet facilities in the local area and consequently, after seeing the proposed Community Club, he called a meeting at his home on 24 July 1984 to propose the formation of West Lakes Croquet Club (WLCC). WLCC became affiliated with the West Lakes Community and Sporting Club, today known as Club West Lakes. For the first two years games were played on the Alberton Croquet Club lawns. There was a 12 month delay in planting the West Lakes lawns, but after a lot of hard work, including interminable weeding, the greens were opened by Kevin Hamilton MP on the 30th November 1986.

In the early years there were some hiccoughs, such as one of the lights going out during night play and the outside council watering system going off in the middle of games and spraying players. Over the years a first for a metropolitan area was established in that WLCC was permitted to use one of the bowling greens for annual city versus country competitions. Although this arrangement has lapsed it played an important part in the development of the croquet club.

The club has never been huge but had some very talented players, including Nancy Wittingham, who was President of SACA in the mid 1990s. In 1997 she again managed the State team, which won the Eire Cup (Australian Championships) for the third successive year. (At that time SA had won this event on 27 occasions since its inception in 1937).

In the early years much effort was given to fundraising, holding gala days and participating in competition. Over the years WLCC has won several pennants in SACA competitions. These days, however, our members are ageing and less are able to play in SACA competitions; some only come out occasionally for social games. Members enjoy the social connection that the club provides and the WLCC committee see the promotion of croquet as important to healthy ageing, as it provides both physical and mental stimulation.

The Club would love to be able to attract younger players (in fact players of any age), but as with many clubs this is difficult, with so many competing sports and leisure activities to attract young people. We hold social days for other community clubs in the area and have also had interest from a school that holds an annual sports' camp at West Beach. For two years boys of about 10 and 11 years of age have attended WLCC and enjoyed learning the game and showing off their quickly acquired skills. A photo below illustrates such a day.

Alison Creaser



Jackpot Joker Easter Dinner— Club Holdfast



Friday evening 22nd March 2024, about fifty members of the Croquet and Bowling Club (Club Holdfast) attended the Club for a Jackpot Joker Easter Dinner. Numbers were boosted as Terry had his family there celebrating his birthday. Happy Birthday Terry.

The fare was delicious and excellently presented by members of the Croquet Club.

Delicious pumpkin soup made by Margaret, after a catastrophe with the first batch being spoiled when the freezer at the club was turned off. Followed by lasagne and fresh garden



salads. We ended the meal with a piece of carrot cake and cream. All portions were substantial and all beautiful and delicious. The lasagne and carrot cake were purchased and this made for less work in the kitchen, which was appreciated by the helpers.

An Easter Quiz was conducted which was enjoyed by all present. Ten questions with only one table able to obtain all correct answers. Two tables were able to get nine correct answers, but there was a question mark over one of the answers. The winning table and the two other tables all received Easter eggs which were shared amongst the table.



The Jackpot Joker raffle was exciting. All wishing the winner well in picking the card worth six hundred dollars.



Unfortunately for the winner of the raffle, the jackpot card was not selected. Good luck for every one else though, as the jackpot joker prize now increases.

Gloria and Roger won two of the additional raffle prizes, two bottles of wine.

Kathy and John won the Easter Cake and Clem won some scented candles and coasters.



Special thanks to Janice for making and decorating the Easter Cake, which was very special.

Thanks also to Clem, who I am sure placed the finishing touches to the cake decorations, especially the M and M's. Thanks to all the club helpers who assisted on the night and a special thanks to Margaret for all her planning and running around to make the night such a great success.

Gloria and Roger Zeuner

UP COMING EVENTS.....

Association Croquet

APR	2—4	Hatwell Gold Medal (3+)
APR	6	Pennants
APR	15	Millswood Gala Day
APR	17—21	Norwood Tournament
APR	23—25	Marryatville Silver Medal enter via SACA website. Closing date Tuesday April 9
MAY	5	Pennants
MAY	11	Pennants
JUNE	1	Pennants
JUNE	11—13	Maslen Brooch Women's 6+ enter via SACA website. Closing date 28th May
JUNE	11—13	Lewis Badge Men's 6+ enter via SACA website. Closing date 28th May
JUNE	22	Pennants
JUNE	29	Pennants

Golf Croquet

APR	6—10	Victor Harbor Tournament Entries have closed
APR	13, 20	Weekend Pennants
APR	15	Mt Barker Gala Day
APR	16 & 18	Doubles Combined 15+ enter via SACA website.
APR	22	Aggregate 24+
APR	27—30	Gold Medal enter via SACA website.
MAY	2	Advantage Doubles enter via SACA website.
MAY	4	Advantage Singles enter via SACA website.
MAY	4 & 18	Weekend Pennants
MAY	13 & 20	Aggregate 24+
MAY	14 & 21	Autumn Singles 5+ enter via SACA website.
MAY	23—24	SA Women's Championship enter via SACA website.
MAY	25—26	SA Men's Championship enter via SACA website.
JUNE	5—6	Doubles Individual 9+ enter via SACA website.
JUNE	8—10	Doubles Combined 8+ enter via SACA website.



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