

HOOP POINTS

Remembering Bill Lawson

Bill was born in Broken Hill. He completed his senior schooling at Adelaide High then lived at St Marks College while doing his degree. After his retirement from E&WS he took up croquet. He had lessons at Millswood with the coach of the SA State Team aka Jane Lewis. It was a case of one perfectionist finding another. Happily, they got on well and another croquet enthusiast was born.

When I visited Adelaide relatives he knew, Bill would collect me on his beloved motorbike, hand me a helmet and off we'd go to croquet with me as pillion passenger. I moved here in 2006 and Bill and I were in the Norwood club for several years and then in the Millswood club. I learned to appreciate the remarkable man he was - as you do when you play sport together and work on committees together.

At Norwood on Saturdays back then, the day was all AC split into two sessions - Singles and Doubles. A group of us familiar with GC would play that game for fun in the lunch break. GC was emerging in Australia as an alternative mallet sport. The famous Colin Pickering from North Adelaide Club saw GC as the future of Croquet. The SACA GC Coordinating Committee gradually came in to existence (and we were coopted into the group) bringing a whole lot of work with it. Eventually I became the Coordinator and Bill was the Secretary. He built up the first data base of well over 200 GC players to get information out before this became commonplace. We worked together amicably for several years. With the rest of our team on the committee we promoted the sport both in the city and in the state to advance the development of the game. Pennant teams were formed and many competitions began to be promoted at SACA headquarters in at Hutt Road. Eventually there was parity between the two codes and now GC is the predominant game.

Vale Bill. You are already much missed within the croquet fraternity and friends.

Claire Wilson - Millswood Club

Some notes from Jane Lewis OAM

Over twenty-five years ago, April 2000, to be precise, Bill Lawson entered the seventy-eight-year-old Millswood Croquet Club asking if he could learn to play croquet. As clubs in South Australia at that time only played Association Croquet, that is the game he meant.

He was welcomed with open arms (surprise, surprise!) and was directed to me to be his coach. I had been playing croquet for about sixteen years and had gained some recognition as a "new-age" coach.

He introduced himself as a "self-funded retiree" and as he was in his early sixties, I guess he had recently retired, but I never asked from what. Well brought up me. He was a good "student" and we got along very well. Bill often venting his frustrations at the stock markets where he had invested his dollars and the way the old ladies of the club were too set in their ways. A frustration that saw him leave the club for a number of years. But he was to return. Still adamant that there was only his way, but definitely more mellow.

While he was sojourning at Norwood CC, I suggested to the then coaching committee, that he should be asked to write a Golf Croquet Coaching Manual.



GC State Team 2024

Having been captain or coach of the GC State team for the last 6 years I believe I am in a perfect position to comment on the state of our team now and into the future. Yes, we only managed 4th position in the most recent Inter-State Shield (ISS) but it could have so easily been better. Yes, we had to battle hard to win our matches against Queensland & Tasmania. And yes, the future is positive.

This year SA blooded 4 players new to the team - if they keep developing their skills (and tactics). Problem is the other teams seem to continually improve so making quantum changes isn't enough. The new players all earned their place in the team, and it is hoped that they will do so again next year.

The following is a short statement from each of the newbies about their experience:

Sue Davel: As part of the State Squad, I made the decision very early on to travel to Queensland to participate in the Nationals irrespective of gaining a spot on the team or not. So, to actually get a chance to play in the ISS was for me a fantastic opportunity. I loved it! The opportunity to play good, indeed very good players who to me were a complete unknown was so refreshing. Our local pool of players is, by other sporting standards, very small so the chance to play in a greater pool was really enjoyable. The days were long, the games, very long. I was not prepared for the intensity of a 5 day competition at that level. I have come away from the competition with great memories and lots of lessons learnt. The team was so supportive and I enjoyed every moment of it.



Laura Eden is from the Tea Tree Gully club and has been playing Croquet for 3 years: I have been in the State training squad for 2 years and this year I was selected in the GC State Team to play in the ISS on the Sunshine Coast. I loved the experience in testing myself against other State players and representing SA. I got to experience more of the days, as we were up very early in the mornings 😊 My record for both singles and doubles (partnering Barry Jennings) was 50% win ratio. I am now working towards improving my skills to give myself the best chance of being selected for the 2025 team and improving on this year's results to help SA bring a trophy home.

Dave Maunder has been playing at the Brighton club: In my two years of exposure to croquet, I found the Interstate Shield to be yet another brand/style of golf croquet to experience. Having three hours to complete two matches instead of our regular 45-60 minute matches at home, I found that a combination of patience, perseverance and minimising risk were the keys to success in this event for myself. By applying these elements to my game, I was able to walk away from the event with a positive win/loss ratio.



Mark Senior: Although I have played croquet for South Australia a number of times in the past this campaign in the Sunshine Coast was my first time playing in the Golf Croquet State Team. The 5 days of ISS competition is mentally and physically challenging but the comradery, team spirit and the injection of humour at the right moments certainly helped me navigate this demanding week.

If you had been there to witness the team performance you would have seen that we were not very far off the mark this year. I believe that team members have returned from QLD knowing what skills we need to improve on and the standard required to win this trophy in coming years.

Representing the State is a real honour and I'm sure everyone in the team does their best to repay the confidence shown in them.

For the ISS all teams play 200 games (40 games for each of 5 days) and you need to be at your best, physically and mentally. In addition, during September at the Sunshine Coast we needed to add be at your alert best as early mornings with a lot of travel were the norm. Each player could play 3 matches (each best of 2 games) over the day. Each match could well take 3 hours each so it could be a very tiring day. Of the 200 games played we won 95 and lost 105. Of the 105 lost, 24 went to the 13th – it was close. If only! For the record we actually won 25 of the 13th hoop contested.



Barry Haydon

You're Never Too Young to Learn Croquet!

Following the successful partnership between Kadina Croquet Club and Kadina Memorial School with a group of secondary school students in 2023, the teacher of a Year 3/4 class approached the club to arrange for introduction to croquet sessions for her class of 7-9 year olds.

Led by the club's two accredited golf croquet coaches, Jacqui and Sandy, and supported by club volunteers and school staff, the class had four sessions where they learnt basic skills, put those skills into practice with fun activities, and played golf croquet games.

These sessions were fun for both students and adults, with the adults being very impressed with the ease with which the children mastered the basic skills and embraced the competitive aspects of the game. The final session, where the children invited a family member to join in, was also very enjoyable.

Mrs Junggeburgt's class later wrote about the experience.

'Over the past 4 weeks at 2-3pm on Wednesdays we walked over to the Kadina Croquet Club to learn croquet. I had no idea what croquet was! I had never even heard of the word. Never heard of the equipment. Never knew it existed. Before the first lesson I thought I wouldn't have a lot of fun but once I went, I really enjoyed myself.

On the first week our class learnt how to use the mallet, how to stalk the ball, do long shots, the best shots to hit from (like the shadow), primary and secondary ball colours and safety rules.

We played all different sorts of games like trying to get your ball in the hula hoop. I think that helped me a lot with my aim. My favourite was when you have a team-mate and another team and you hit the ball with the mallet into the hoop.

The second lesson we were all getting pretty good at croquet but still had room for improvement.

The third lesson we were learning how to play a proper game of croquet. The aim of the game is to get your ball through the hoop but at the same time stop your opponent from getting through the hoop.

On Wednesday 28th August, our last session, we got to choose someone to come with us - I chose my Nana. It was really fun to teach them how to play croquet and play against other people. We had a lot of amazing shots and had so much fun.

The people that helped us were Sandy, Judy, Jacqui and Mrs Terrett. They were kind, helpful and selfless. We were extremely thankful for them teaching us.

At the start I thought croquet would be boring but in the end it was lots of fun.

I would love it if there were croquet lessons every Friday for the elderly and the young. It would also be great if we could have lessons in the holidays or our families could come and play.'

Compiled by Judy van Galen and Debbie Terrett



Queensland State Gateball Championships 2024

This event was run over three days - August 9th to 11th 2024 at the Rockhampton Mallet Sports Club in Rockhampton.

Rockhampton is a moderately large regional city in Central Queensland situated some forty kilometres from the coastal town of Yeppoon. The population in the 2021 census was 79,200 people. It sits on latitude 23.375 degrees just slightly north of the Tropic of Capricorn. The main industries are agriculture (particularly cattle) and tourism, and include mining and transport. In fact there are seven large statues of various breeds of beef cattle scattered around the city.

The Rockhampton Mallet Sports Club is situated in a lovely treed / grasslands recreational area in the west part of Rockhampton, next to the golf course, the Zoo and the Botanical Gardens. It has four full size croquet courts and caters for Gateball, Golf and Association Croquet and Ricochet.

The first day and a half of play featured the teams event with a total of eight teams - from S.E. Queensland, Canberra and a composite team from S.A., Victoria and Hazelbrook (NSW).

The event was a round-robin event and was fiercely contested with many close results.

The Team called Brighton (Peter Woodward), Hazelbrook (Gilon Smith), Hyde Park (Peter Martyniuk), Kew (Philip Brown), Woodville (Geoff Crook & Trish Fazackerly) was ultimately able to win all seven games in the program to take out the Teams Trophy. Moreton Bay Green came second. Results are available on the Gateball Scores website.

The Doubles event had eighteen entries and the group was split into two round-robin blocks of play. Crystal Carling & Kaelen Sweatman (Moreton Bay Club) dominated their group (eight wins from eight games, net hoops 94) and were undefeated.

In the other group Philip Brown (Kew) & Gilon Smith (Hazelbrook) finished in a tight group on six wins just ahead of four other pairs on five wins.



Team - Peter Woodward, Peter Martyniuk, Gilon Smith, Philip Brown, Geoff Crook, Trish Fazackerly



The Grand Final was an exciting contest between these two pairs, with Crystal and Kaelen coming home strongly in the end to win an exciting game, 12 - 7.

This event was perfect in many ways, great location, great weather , very well run with all games played in good spirits. Interestingly, the winners were by far the youngest players attending the event.

Peter Woodward

Doubles - Runner-up (from left) Philip Brown & Gilon Smith , Winners Crystal Carling & Kaelen Sweatman



Ted Farley, President of South Tce CC along with Susan Dunsby and tournament winner Philip Colebatch

GC Spring Singles 5+ Tournament

This 5+ tournament managed by the South Terrace Croquet Club was played under bright sunny skies on the 10th and 17th September.

All games were played in a competitive but friendly manner with the first day belonging to Susan Dunsby from Brighton who lead the field having won 4 of her 5 games. Just behind her with three wins but a game in hand was Karen Tierney from North Adelaide.

Day two saw a turn around with Philip Colebatch from Norwood winning all of his games to sit one game behind Susan going into the final round. Fittingly this was against Susan. Philip needed to win this final game to draw level on 6 games. He did this to take out the tournament by virtue of having scored more hoops than Susan who was runner up.

Just behind, having won 5 games was Karen Tierney in third place. In fourth place, also with 5 games but fewer hoops, was Robin Golding.

Considerable thanks go to Ansi Baumanis, David Stumm, Graham Thomas and Kevin LePoidevin who volunteered to act as referees for this tournament and did a great job.

Paul Ensor



2024 SACA 9+ Singles

The 9+ Singles was played on Thursday 12th & 19th of September, with 9 players participating.

Day one presented a beautiful sunny day which brought out 9 eager participants with some excellent croquet played and some very close results. By day's end, Gail Searle from North Adelaide was holding a slender lead on net hoops.

Day 2 got under way in threatening weather which fortunately produced no rain. Again, the standard of play was particularly good and produced some very close results. At the end of the day Sara Kendrick (Aldinga) and Gayle Searle (North Adelaide) were tied at 5 wins ,+10 hoops difference.

On a count back, **the winner was Sara Kendrick** courtesy of her win over Gayle in their individual match.

Runner-up was Gayle Searle.

Congratulations, though, to all players, for the standard of play and the spirit in which the games were played.

A special thank you to the referees, David Stumm, Barry Haydon, Bob Neill. John Arney, Kevin LePoidevin, and Barry Jennings, for giving their time & expertise to help make the event a success.

David Rowe

Event Manager

[Winner Sara Kendrick with Runner up Gayle Searle and event manger David Rowe](#)

The Latest on the Laslett Cup

Our Laslett Cup has only three months to go and each month results in really close games. We were lucky in August and dodged a lot of the bad weather and were able to play most competition days.

Once again we had a play off this month between Virginia Hill and Shirley Laslett with Virginia coming out the winner.

Our courts are looking like a carpet of green with our grounds volunteers working tirelessly over the past months. We have our Gala Day coming up in November and will be hosting teams from SA and Western Victoria, a great success last year and looking forward to an even bigger day in November.

Recently we have had three new members joining us but we would love to have even more. We play all year round but spring and summer are always looked forward to. We love to see players coming to visit from other clubs so if your coming through Mount Gambier please come and visit you will be very welcome.

Jan Vitagliano



[Mount Gambier CC President Virginia Hill with Shirley Laslett](#)

Does Your Club Want to Grow?

So, your club does want to grow – you do want more players. It is possible.

Reflecting on the motivations to play in the previous article, what motivated you to play? I heard of another motivation the other day; someone was inspired to play after reading Alice in Wonderland as a child. A long way from interest to actualising that desire!

I really need to hear your comments and thoughts about this topic.

What has been your experience? What helped? What were the hiccups? Email me: sallykharper47@gmail.com

I'm sure we can learn from one another.

Of course, you can get new members if you develop a system and follow it through. Start by following up participants after a 'come and try' or any event at your club. These events give people an experience of the game, you can see they've had fun and enjoyed themselves. It would be great if they came back. We need to provide the opportunity for them to experience more. How can we build on that interest and make it a desire to know more?

- To follow them up you need their contact details, their email address. At each event set up a free raffle with a small prize e.g. voucher from a local coffee shop/ hardware store/bottle of wine/ 4 free lessons for 2 etc, it doesn't need to be expensive. Essentially, you need their name and email on the entry form.
- Draw the raffle at the event, if not email them all (bcc) with the winner later.
- Collate those email addresses and save them. Use an email marketing platform, this ensures you are compliant with elements of the Privacy Act 1988 and the Spam Act 2003. Mailchimp offers a free plan for up to 500 subscribers, there's also Mailerlite.
- So now you're developing a list of interested people who can easily unsubscribe if they don't want your emails. Anyone who emails the club should be added to your email list - they've shown an interest.
- Use this list to advertise events that are design to give them another good experience. Develop several functions each year, fun days, comps between local businesses, grandparent days etc. fun events where you can consolidate their interest. You could invite them to hold their Christmas function at your club, or a birthday or anniversary etc. At these events have another free raffle to collect email addresses. If you give a demonstration at a country fair, school fete, local event likewise have a free raffle and upload the info to email marketing platform.
- You've got their attention and their interest and now need to develop that into action. The action could be this year or 10 years, hence, be patient. You've given them a positive fun experience and challenged their preconceived ideas about croquet.

Country clubs are at an advantage; doesn't everyone know everyone in the country?

Wouldn't the community know the croquet club exists?

Maybe you don't need to develop an email list but use the local newspaper, churches, supermarket etc to advertise events at the club. Several fun events each year will help build an appreciation of what the sport can offer.

This process is called the marketing funnel which has 4 steps:

1. Gain their attention – 2. Develop their interest- 3. Enhance their desire 4. Action joining a club.

Yes, we're selling croquet, but in the nicest possible way!

This process cost time not money and should become part of the fabric of your club's management.

Imagine if most clubs developed an active mailing list, in a few years we could have several hundred interested people who are developing into members.

What sorts of fun events are you doing or thinking of doing at your club?

Please email me your thoughts, concerns, successes and more importantly insights gained when your club has had an event: sallykharper47@gmail.com

GOLF CROQUET FUN DAY at the KADINA CC

Well someone up above must truly love Croquet because on 17th September, we had wall to wall sunshine and actual Heat for our GC Fun Day. There were 40 players all shedding various outer layers as the day went on and the words "I'm feeling very hot in this jumper" were words that we all thought we'd never hear again!

It was a really good fun day, although the vast majority taking part were Kadina members, there were 5 from Crystal Brook and 1 from Wallaroo and Moonta. We did record whether we won or lost each game but there were no prizes at the end because the whole point of the Event was to give 'social' players a chance to experience timed games and adhere to the rules and etiquette of the game.

There was abroad cross section of abilities and we were very grateful to Ron and Shirlene Mc Bride who were most generous with their advice and encouragement throughout the 4 games. The general feeling was that we all learned a great deal whilst enjoying ourselves and nobody had to sell their sheep stations! This is the second time we've held such an event and with making it a BYO lunch, a minimum of work is required, however a big 'Thank you' to Malcolm Kinch who did the draw and ran the day with military precision.

Linda Kinch



Turning on the New Lights at Norwood.

Our local MP Cressida O'Hanlon did the honours cutting the ribbon to turn on our new lights.

We replaced the old mercury globes that had been there for decades for 30 new led type lights.

They now comply with the National standard for lighting croquet courts and are amazing.

It wasn't cheap we got a grant for just under ½ the cost \$13000 and dipped into the coffers for the rest.

If you're interested our lighting designer was Chris Cornish – clflighting@gmail.com

Come play croquet under our lights.

Norwood Croquet Club



UPCOMING EVENTS.....

Golf Croquet

OCT 1	Under 21 Championship
OCT 4	Norwood Gala Day
OCT 12 - 13	Brighton Dawson Challenge
OCT 14	Aggregate 24+ Pennants
OCT 16	North Adelaide Gala Day
OCT 16,23	12+ Spring Singles
OCT 19,20	Weekend Pennants
OCT 21	Mt Barker Gala Day
OCT 21	Aggregate 24+ Pennants
OCT 23	Spring Singles 12+ enter via SACA website
OCT 25	Glenunga Gala Day Contact gregsyv@bigpond.net.au
OCT 28	Aggregate 24+ Pennants
NOV 1	Holdfast Bay Gala Day
NOV 4,11	Aggregate 24+ Pennants
NOV 6	Tea Tree Gully Gala Day RSVP by 25th Oct foxyaysh@bigpond.com
NOV 7-8	Women's Open Spring Singles enter via SACA website
NOV 9 -10	Men's Open Spring Singles enter via SACA website
NOV 10	Mt Gambier Gala Day
NOV 17	Weekend Pennants
NOV 18,25	Aggregate 24+ Pennants
DEC 2	Aggregate 24+ Pennants
DEC 7-8	19 Point Hoop Tournament enter via SACA website



Association Croquet

OCT 5	Weekend Pennants
OCT 6—7	Women's Open Singles enter via SACA website
OCT 12—13	Men's Open Singles enter via SACA website
OCT 13	Tumby Bay Gala Day - Come and Try, Centenary celebration Contact Karyn Speed at speedgk@bigpond.com
OCT 16 - 21	Tumby Bay Tournament Contact Karyn Speed at speedgk@bigpond.com
OCT 26-27	CB Sharp Gold Medal enter via SACA website
OCT 29—31	Alternate Stroke Handicap Doubles enter via SACA website
NOV 3—4	ACA SA Bronze Medal By Invitation
NOV 9 - 10	North Adelaide Games By Invitation
NOV 13 - 15	North Adelaide Swiss Games Contact Roger Harris at roger.harris@unisa.edu.au
NOV 16, 23,24	Weekend Pennants



Gateball

NOV 29-30	SA President's Trophy
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COLIN PICKERING
NORTH ADELAIDE GAMES 2024
AC Swiss Handicap Singles



PRE-DRAWN SWISS SINGLES (All handicaps welcome)

Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14 November 2024
(and perhaps Friday 15 November depending on numbers)

Likely commencement times: 9.00am, 11.40am and 2.20pm
(For those who cannot play during the daytime,
alternative arrangements may be negotiated.)

2½ hour matches – time after the bell.

4 games to be played.

Cost \$35

Preferred payment: North Adelaide Croquet Club Inc.

BSB: 105068 Account: 041359040

Reference: your surname and ID number

Light refreshments will be provided (no meals).

Please notify any playing restrictions, and we will try to accommodate them.

Prizes given (value depending on number of entries) for Winner and Runner-up.

Please respond if playing with your name, phone, email, ID number, handicap and index by:

Wednesday 30 October 2024

to: roger.harris@unisa.edu.au

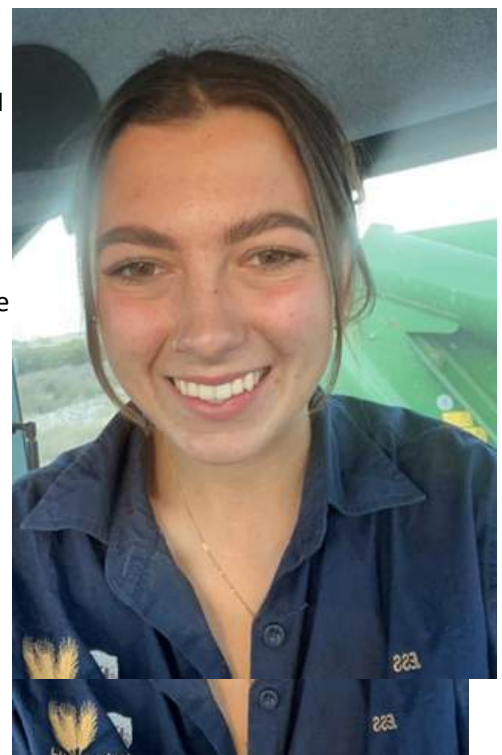
SACA's New Administrator

Hello to the members of SA croquet! My name is Jessica Pulford, and I have recently undertaken the position of Administrator for SA croquet.

I came to Adelaide in 2022 from Hobart to start my tertiary studies. I am currently completing a Bachelor of Science with a focus on conservation biology. I took a break from my studies in 2023 to pursue an opportunity working on a broadacre crop farm on the Southern Yorke Peninsula.

I previously have had limited exposure to croquet; however, I am eager to learn about the different codes and to practice my form. I hope that over the next few weeks I will be visiting some of the clubs around the city, introducing myself formally to the members of SA croquet and with a bit of luck have started playing croquet!

Jessica Pulford.



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Further Notes from Claire Wilson Regarding Bill Lawson

Bill ran classes through the WEA which attracted new members. He assiduously developed work sheets, booklets and other aids to assist players. Students from Marryatville High School participated in regular sessions and visits to other schools as well as clubs that showed interest were introduced to the game. GC increased the membership of many clubs and saved them from closure.

Bill's methodology ensured all players improved their games under his tuition and he willingly shared his expertise. His experience and analytical mind set made him the ideal person to compile the first of the Golf Croquet Coaching Manuals in Australia. He assembled them himself and sold them at cost plus postage. Word reached interstate clubs and a second edition was underway with updates. For quite a long time it was the only booklet available.

Bill gradually let his AC game go to concentrate his energies on GC. He continued to promote the cause all his playing days. His coaching skills were legendary and continued throughout his playing days. He was alert to poor strategic choices and not afraid to share alternatives. I had to sometimes remind him in competition games when he would be advising the opponents against the strategies they were using that this was not in our best interests. The club benefited in others ways as well as coaching and competing in teams. He loved to welcome new players, to socialise, oversee their progress and enjoyed being chief organiser at the Saturday sausage sizzles. He bounced back after the spectacular fall from the motor bike avoiding a person on North Terrace and resulting in a badly broken ankle. It took a lot to slow Bill down. Music was another of Bill's great interests and loves. He was involved with a Community Radio Station for decades and spent hours each week preparing a balanced radio music album program. He loved blue grass, jazz and opera. He played musical instruments and he sang in the State Opera Choir. He was also a very good cook.

Everyone in Croquet would have a story about Bill. There will be many stories being circulated in the croquet family at this time.

When I started playing croquet almost 20 years ago Bill Lawson was the GC organiser and I eventually spent a lot of time with him working out what we as a developing club could do. Bill came and gave a series of coaching sessions at the Club and I'm sure everyone involved appreciated it. In addition, for a few years Bill & I made sure we had a hit between Christmas and New Year and I'm sure this helped me improve enough to make it to the state team. In short, I owe a lot of my personal croquet development to Bill's knowledge and thoughtful approach.

Barry Haydon - Hyde Park Club

Bill was a lovely, sincere man who engendered enthusiasm for Croquet and Golf Croquet. Probably a lot of the work he did at the time may not have been recognised by those new to the sport, but they surely benefited from his expertise and commitment to growing GC in SA. My most vivid "one on one" memory of Bill was when we were sitting in the South Parklands in, I think Dec 08 or Jan 09, working through his Golf Croquet Manual, doing a final edit and proof-reading prior to being published. He had to leave for a while to run an errand and subsequently returned with a treat of coffee and an afternoon snack. My recollections of Bill are of a thorough professional with a most welcoming personality. His experiences, collation of written materials, commitment to coaching and of course his Coaching Manual, were an excellent foundation for my period of service as GC Coaching Coordinator. I valued his support and energy which was fundamental to setting the scene for the advancement of Golf Croquet in South Australia. A quote from Bill's "Introduction to GOLF CROQUET" (Come and Try – Norwood CC November 2010) "Do play socially and for enjoyment, but also enter competitions, and in club games, play as much as possible with better players as these are the fastest ways to improve - along with practice, practice, practice!" Bill Lawson: a wonderful man.

Phil Wise - Norwood Club

Further Notes from Jane Lewis Regarding Bill Lawson

I had recently completed for the ACA, course manuals for level O, 1,2 and 3 and did not want to take on the task of yet another one. As I had worked with Bill on another literary job for Millswood, I knew he had the ability and he agreed whole heartedly and threw himself into the task. And so the famous “Golf Croquet Handbook” by Bill Lawson was introduced to the developing Golf Croquet playing fraternity.

A bit over 10 years ago, Bill came off his motor-bike (yes, that was his mode of transport, but not afterwards). Motoring down North terrace early one afternoon, a woman came out of a side street and almost collected him, she didn’t because Bill swerved to avoid her, got onto the tram-line and skidded across the road. Ouch! One badly broken ankle, shock, cuts and grazes, and ambulated to the RAH. His bike was moved off the road to safety into Christ Church courtyard. Tim Lewis and Robert Adkin were summonsed the next day to go and retrieve it. That in itself is another story!

Bill and I always sang out on the lawns, not too loudly, any old song that came into our heads. We both seemed to know all the words of songs that most other players could barely hum too. Bill had a wonderful baritone singing voice, which made for his wonderful presenter’s voice on radio. You just had to hear him to understand what I mean. Bill was an excellent clarinet player. A true “muso” and this explains his great knowledge on all things musical and particularly his expertise on Jazz. He was recognised nationally as a Jazz officiado.

Sunday working bees at Millswood always had Bill with us on the radio saying hello and to keep up the good work, adding something along the line of, “they’re probably having a glass of red by now”. Possibly some truth to that.

