



HOOP POINTS



GC State Team Compete in The Australian Championships in Newcastle Region

The Australian Golf Croquet championships consist of three events. The Croquet Australia Gold Medal, played by each state's champion, the Australian Singles divided into men's and women's singles championships and the Interstate Shield (ISS).

This year Barry Haydon represented SA in the gold medal. He played against some of Australia's best golf croquet players including eventual winner and second place, Gary Phipps of WA and Addison Matthews of QLD

The Australian Singles Championships is played in the four days preceding the Interstate Shield. The Men's was won by Chris McWhirter of WA from Gary Phipps of WA. The Women's was won by Alison Sharpe of NSW from Robyn Dart of WA.

It is hard to imagine how gruelling the Interstate Shield is for players. Five days of starting warmup at 7.15 am, often after an hour's travel to arrive at the venue. Three, two game matches against top opposition. Each match is limited to 3 hours so you may be playing for 9 hours a day with little breaks. The ISS is a physically and mentally tough event.

SA's first test was against WA. They boast Gary Phips, Chris McWhirter and Robyn Dart in their ranks. This year they were just a little too strong for SA however we had some sterling performances from doubles pair Virginia Arney and Barry Haydon, then some strong performances in the singles from Karen Magee. Laura Eden won player of the day.

Our second match can only be described as chaotic. Initially travelling 80km to EDSACC to find a flooded croquet lawn, we had to return a further 80km to share a venue. The program was reduced but still rigorous. We were playing a team including Alison Sharpe, Rosie Landrebe and Ethan Gumbrell along with a very strong remainder of the team. Player of the day went to Virginia Arney after taking a game off Alison Sharpe and earning 17 index points in the process.

After games against the top ranked teams, Queensland proved a little easier. Karen Magee and Barry Haydon both dominated their singles opponents. Ansi and Norma won the doubles of the day against a team including Addison Mathews. Stephen Condous took a game from Addison in the singles, no mean feat.

In the test against Tasmania, we finally were back to a full program with lawns returning to normal after too much rain. SA won with 22 games to 18 after some sterling performances by the entire team. Stephen Condous won player of the day however both teams watched closely as Laura and Norma battled their opponents to get South Australia over the line.

Our final match was against Victoria. Originally scheduled for Maitland, we were bundled 80 km away to EDSACC. Tired after four gruelling days and getting up too early, Victoria was victorious. Virginia Arney won player of the day and by unanimous decision, Norma and Ansi were declared doubles team of the tournament.

It was a privilege and a pleasure to coach and manage the 2025 State Team. While we ended the tournament in fourth place, the entire team gave their all. The “no I in team” philosophy pervaded the tournament as well as the months of preparation. I repeat, it was a pleasure to coach this group of elite golf croquet players.

Kim Millhouse
Coach



The team at Maccas on the second day after a frozen trip down to EDSACC only to be told to wait around till 10.00 am when they would decide what to do with us.

Men's AC Selectors Invitation

This event was to be played at Hutt Road at the end of July. However heavy rain rendered the courts unplayable and it was rescheduled for September 13/14th at Norwood.

The AC State Selection Committee invite players to this event who are "fringe" state players or players who may not have made a state team, or included in the state squad, but show potential to improve and commitment to the game.

6 men participated. Greg Rowberry, Murray Baum, Glen Blatchford, Barry Jennings, Bill Kidd and Steve Templeton. David Wise was to have played but was a late withdrawal due to an injury. Steve Templeton kindly agreed to take his spot. The weather was perfect and the event was played in good spirits. Thank you to Norwood Club for allowing the event at your venue.



Greg Rowberry was the Winner and Barry Jennings Runner up (pictured above) Greg felt slightly guilty as in his last match against Murray Baum, Murray was leading but due to a back injury, had to forfeit giving the win to Greg. "Them's the breaks" as the saying goes.

The Women's Selectors Invitation was also cancelled but not rescheduled as all the women who were entered in that event, competed the follow month in the President's Trophy, details of which were covered in the last edition of Hoops.

Lyn Parnell

TerminatorTM
mallets

SA SPRING SINGLES 5+ 2025

The SA Spring Singles 5+ was played at Hutt Road on Tuesday 9th and Tuesday 16th September with 10 participants representing Brighton (2), Coromandel Valley (1), Hyde Park (2), North Adelaide (3), Norwood (1) and Victor Harbor (1).

Day 1 included 5 games for all players in mild weather conditions, making for a full day of fun and competition. Susan Dunsby and Frank Markus were joint leaders with 4 wins each.

There were 4 games played on the final day. The day 1 leaders were both challenged early and it became a hotly contested competition. There were some amazing jump shots and long roquets at critical times for some players and Mark Stevens even had to contend with the resident magpie which seemed to dare him to claim right of way. Charles Seja, with his power hitting style, won the party trick award when he played an extremely long roquet to put both balls through on hoop 6 followed by a missed roquet at hoop 8 which cleanly ran hoop 6 again.

Despite the challengers Frank played steadily throughout the day and won the event clearly with a win in his last game to give him a 7-2 result for the tournament. Hilary Thomas finished strongly. She won all four games on day 2 and finished in second place with a net hoops advantage over Susan Dunsby and Mark Stevens who also recorded 6 wins and 3 losses.

The referees who gave their time to make this event possible were Geoff Creek, David Stumm and Kevin Le Poidevin. Thank you. A number of other people were on hand to “save the day” when needed with data entry. Bev Pinchbeck and Meg Lamont from TTG also gave their time to support the management of the tournament. Thank you.

Well done to all entrants for the spirit in which you all competed and congratulations for your achievements.

Geoff Miller

TTGCC



Philip Colebatch, Susan Dunsby, Philip Burford, Julie Weaver, Hilary Thomas, Gayle Searle, Charles Seja, Mark Stevens, Frank Markus and Stephen Taplin





SACA 2025 AC Division 3 Singles

While the players enjoyed perfect weather for this event, they were disappointed in the condition of the SACA courts, which were below the usual high standard and had almost invisible boundary lines. The matches were all played in fine spirit and resulted in Lyn Parnell (Norwood) and Jeff Zweck (Coromandel Valley) both finishing with four wins with Lyn winning OA by a 12 hoop margin. Jeff Brigham (Norwood) distinguished himself by being the only player to Peg Out a game.

Philip Hadley

Managers - Hyde Park



Gill Roberts



David Sincock



Jeff Brigham



Kevin LePoidevin

Croquet South Australia Board Report

We welcome Shirleen McBride to the Board for the next year.

The Feasibility Study for the 4th lawn is underway. Mark Band has presented the results of the survey to the Board: 170 responses with most people in favor of the need for a 4th lawn. He set out the options for the location, and board members will respond with for and against opinions for each possibility. We have a long way to go in the hope of getting a positive response from the Adelaide City Council and The Park Lands Authority and then we need to apply for Grants to fund the project. We do have Mark's professional help along the journey.

We have had 2 water leaks: a mains water pipe costing over \$1K. and an irrigation leak. The drainage of lawn1 is complete, costing \$8.5K for which we have a Smarty Grant. This will be acquitted soon.

We have an Adelaide City Council inspection soon as we are lease holders and are responsible for all maintenance.

We had huge water bills in both mains water and recycled irrigation water.

We have developed a policy for the use of Google Groups and this will be published on our website. This is important because Google Groups is an important mode of conveying information to our Croquet Community. It is not a forum for discussion. To respond to articles we need to respond to the person and not the group.

The structure of croquet ranges from beginners, and people wanting to play purely for social reasons, through various levels to elite levels. All levels are highly valued. Croquet is a unique sport capable of catering for wide varieties of reasons for playing. Playing with friends, challenging ourselves, using thinking skills, exercising, being in the open air and sharing social functions are all credible reasons for playing. Interestingly, children really enjoy the game but sadly few children stick at the game. Our game caters for senior members of the community, keeping them meaningfully engaged. Ours is a unique and wonderful sport.

Kevin LePoidevin

Croquet Australia Appoints a New General Manager: A letter from the CEO

Hi All,

On behalf of the Board, I wish to confirm the appointment of Mr Chris Bannerman to the role of General Manager.

Chris has a long history in sport, primarily Rugby and as a Consultant for Freelance Sport Resourcing.

Further information regarding Chris will be outlined in our upcoming Newsletter however, he has advised:

"It's a privilege to be at the helm of a national sporting organisation like Croquet Australia, with the sport steeped in history yet enjoying strong participation in today's crowded sporting landscape. I look forward to working with the board of CA and major stakeholders to see the sport expand its appeal to new participants, and capitalise on its strong participation base to achieve success in the international arena."

Chris will commence on Tuesday 7th October 2025 and current CEO Sue Gliddon will depart on 3 October.

Regards

Sue Gliddon

Chief Executive Officer

Croquet Australia



AC Coaching Session at Crystal Brook

Simon Hockey conducted an AC training session for women in Crystal Brook recently.

Simon's message included....

*Do the little things well
Don't sweat the big stuff
Keep your head down
Be fluid with your strokes rather than hit hard
Always stalk the ball
Follow through with your strokes
Practice, practice, practice*



GC 9+ Singles Tournament

The SA GC 2025 9+ Singles Tournament was held at the Hutt Road Courts over two Thursdays - September 11th and 18th.

The managing club was Brighton.

Nine players converged to test their skills and stamina. The clubs represented were Millswood, North Adelaide, Norwood, Holdfast Bay, Coromandel Valley, Tea Tree Gully and Hyde Park.

This event was a straightforward round-robin program of nine rounds and no finals series.

On September 11th the skies were grey, the wind was chilly and there was no sunshine seen. The play was vigorous with many good hoops run and long roquets played. At the end of the day the players were bunched together on the leaderboard.

On September 18th the weather was very improved, with clear skies, minimal wind and plenty of sunshine to keep players and spectators warm.

At the start of the last round, two players were vying for the top spot on the leaderboard and they played their last round match in good spirits.

Ibrahim Farran beat Geoff Houghton 6-4 to take the title.

Well done Ibrahim and Geoff.

Ibrahim won seven of his eight games. Geoff led a group of four players on five wins.

Meg Lamont was the only player to beat Ibrahim.

This was a great event played with good camaraderie and spirits.

I would like to thank the referees - David Stumm, Karen Magee and Anne Woodhouse for their energy, time and skills.

I would like to thank Ken Nunan, the tournament manager for coordinating players, courts, Handicap cards and online reporting.

Peter Woodward
Brighton C.C. Captain



L=> R Runnerup, Geoff Houghton and
winner, Ibrahim Farran



Graeme Drewett, and Peter Webster, the Runner-up, with Roger Harris, Tournament Manager.

SACA AC Division 4 Singles (14+)

Five souls subjected themselves to two and a half days of AC singles play on 23-25 September 20025. This tournament was held at SACA, Hutt Road, Adelaide, managed by the North Adelaide Croquet Club. The weather was kind to us.

The final game was between Graeme Drewett (Norwood) and Peter Webster (Millswood) to decide the winner and runner-up. It was a close-fought affair throughout, with both players having their chances. Near the end of the game, with the scores one point apart, Peter found to his disappointment that hoop 4 stepped into the way of his ball as it was taking off to hoop 3, where Graeme's ball had lodged itself in the jaws. It was also Peter's hoop, so with the ball deviating far away, the hoop intervention proved costly. Graeme was then able to proceed on his merry way to win the game and the tournament (4 wins), with Peter the runner-up (3 wins). Congratulations to all the players for the friendly spirit in which the games were contested: Graeme Drewett, Peter Webster, Karen Magee (Brighton), Norma Greig (North Adelaide), and Hanne Damgaard (Norwood). Thank you to Joan Kelly (AC Coordinator) for setting up the fixture and paperwork, and to my NACC colleagues, Russell Kopp and Janet Willshire, for assisting me with the refereeing and managing tasks. It was an enjoyable tournament.

Roger Harris

Tournament Manager, NACC

COLIN PICKERING
NORTH ADELAIDE GAMES 2025

AC - Swiss Handicap Singles

GC – Open and 8+ Singles

AC – PRE-DRAWN SWISS HANDICAP SINGLES

(All handicaps welcome)

AC spread across Tuesday 11, Wednesday 12 & Thursday 13 November 2025

Likely commencement times: 9.00am, 11.40am and 2.20pm

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

4 games @ 2½ hours – time after the bell

Entry fee: \$40

Please return the Application Form (attached):

ASAP, but at the latest by: Wednesday 29 October 2025

to: roger.harris@unisa.edu.au

GC – OPEN and 8+ SINGLES

Games will be played at the North Adelaide Croquet Club

on Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 November 2025

Single round-robin events – 45 minute games

Limited to 8 entries for each of the Open and 8+ events

Entry fee: \$15

Please return the Application Form (attached):

ASAP, but at the latest by: Wednesday 29 October 2025

to Jim Carter, wendyandjimcarter@gmail.com

BOTH AC and GC COMPONENTS

Light refreshments will be provided (no meals)

Preferred payment: EFTPOS facility

AC and GC presentations to winners on Thursday afternoon

**COLIN PICKERING
NORTH ADELAIDE GAMES 2025**

APPLICATION FORM

Please indicate which event:

- 1. AC Pre-Drawn Swiss Handicap Singles _____**
- 2. GC – Open Singles _____**
- 3. GC – 8+ Singles: _____**

1. Name:

2. Club:

3. Phone:

4. Email:

5. SACA ID Number:

6. Handicap:

7. Index:

8. Restrictions when you cannot play – dates and times:

Please return ASAP, but at the latest by **Wednesday 29 October 2025**

AC – to Roger Harris, roger.harris@unisa.edu.au

GC – to Jim Carter, wendyandjimcarter@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS.....

GOLF CROQUET

OCT 7, 14, 21, 28	Millswood Classic	
OCT 11 - 12	Brighton Dawson Challenge	Entries close 1 st Oct annewoodhouse4@gmail.com
OCT 11, 18, 19	Weekend Pennants	
OCT 13, 20, 27	Aggregate 24+	
OCT 14	Spring Singles 12+	Enter via SACA website
OCT 21 & 24	Advantage Singles Twilight Tournament	Enter via SACA website
NOV 3, 17, 24	Aggregate 24+	NOV 6 - 7 Open Spring Singles Women
NOV 8 - 10	Open Spring Singles Men	
NOV 15	Pennants	

ASSOCIATION CROQUET

OCT 4-6	Open Men's and Women's	Enter via acevents.jk@gmail.com
OCT 25 -26	CB Sharp Gold Medal	Enter via acevents.jk@gmail.com
OCT 28 - 30	AH Stroke Handicap Doubles	Enter via acevents.jk@gmail.com
OCT 15	Tumby Bay Doubles Tournament.	Contact Karyn Speed at speedgk@bigpond.com
OCT 16-20	Tumby Bay Singles Tournament.	Contact Karyn Speed at speedgk@bigpond.com
NOV 12 -13	North Adel Swiss	
NOV 12 -13	North Adel Invitation	
NOV 22	Pennants	
NOV 23	Pennants	

GATEBALL

NOV 29-30	SA Gateball Competition at Hutt Road
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GC GALA DAYS

OCT 17	Glenunga
NOV 5	Millswood
NOV 10	Coromandel Valley



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