



North Adelaide Croquet Club

Newsletter – January-February 2022



From the Editor - Barry Elsey

Covid-19 a continuing story: are you vaxed?

At the time of writing the shadow of COVID-19 and the latest, even more infectious OMICRON variant, forced the club to review its approach to vaccination and participation in our range of activities. It was rightly decided to consult all members about what response to adopt, to shape our policy and practice in the light of feedback given. Most members wanted a clear directive, which was quickly communicated to everyone. The reasonable assumption was that all members and casual visitors to the club would be fully vaccinated or had intention to do so. This was important so that as far as possible we avoided a 'policing' approach. Except to invite everyone to show some proof of being vaccinated, on a 'one-off' basis, we wanted to base our club policy and practice on mutual trust and good will. Time will tell if the softer approach has worked.

Calling all dog owners

In keeping with the consultative approach to important club matters, the committee surveyed members' opinions about bringing dogs to the club. Most members agreed that it was okay to bring dogs to the club on condition they were properly managed and not likely to become a nuisance. This is a fair and reasonable outcome, while recognising that some members are attached to their dogs, and they should not be parted by club rules.

Calling a temporary halt to external bookings

Given the continuing COVID situation, the club has had to put on hold some other activities, notably casual hiring our facilities and volunteer support to other groups and organisations. All these measures are regarded as an interim measure. The same applies to undertaking a strategic plan for the club, which needs to wait for more certain times when long-term thinking is possible.

January golf croquet club competition

Meanwhile, no doubt the politicians would call it resilience, the club organised a very successful internal golf croquet competition for Friday evenings in January. As usual Sue applied her tact and knowledge of playing handicaps to create mixed ability pairs on what might be called 'the level playing field' principle. Well done and thank you for a wonderful effort, Sue. Thanks to everyone that played and supported a popular event, which is reported in more detail later.

In praise of key club officials

It has been observed and written about in previous newsletters, that the club relies for its smooth operation on volunteers, especially in performing important administrative tasks. Attention turns to Gayle who combines the roles of club secretary with efficiency and diplomacy as well as the keeper of our historical record. In the latter regard Gayle recently provided committee members with short and concise biographies of those individuals nominated for life membership. Gayle undertook this responsibility while recovering from knee surgery and considerable post-operative pain and discomfort. The committee has come to depend on her excellent services, which she delivers with attention to detail and good-humoured sensitivity toward the various personalities that work together for the benefit of the club. Thank you, Gayle. We look forward to your return to regular playing in competition, club days and more attendance at social events (with Bella too!).

The competitive spirit

As autumn approaches the club engages with several inter-club competitions, noted by our captains below. What is special about the approach to these regular events is the encouragement given to members to 'give it a go' and play in various formations according to personal handicap. I'm sure other members have observed how quickly relative newcomers are encouraged to play. Before long they are successfully addicted and make a difference to club performance in these friendly and intensely contested competitions throughout the year.

From the President – Kevin LePoidevin

Our Club is a happy and positive place to be thanks to the many people who work so hard to ensure things run smoothly.

The 2 captains, Roger and Sue, do a wonderful job of entering, organising and maintaining a good number of teams. Internal social competitions are very much enjoyed thanks to Club Captains' organisation.

Our bar, which is a huge asset, is managed well by Dan with help from Tamara, Peter, William and from now on Chris and Evelyn. What would we do without them!

The Management Committee consisting of Kevin, Barry, Gayle, William, Roger, Sue, Noel, Glenda and Libby is a responsible, well-functioning group who meet monthly to discuss all matters relating to the smooth administration of our Club.

Our Bar area has been brightened up with new sets of tables and chairs purchased with money from a Commonwealth Grant, thanks Sue. Thanks to Libby, Catherine, Jon, William and Kevin for assembling them all.

The Club grounds are well cared for thanks to William and many workers who help with line marking and attending working bees.

Many other people help regularly and deserve recognition for the great work they do.

Jocelyn, who keeps the noticeboards up to date, and does the banking. Peter looks after the bins and paper holders checking that they are always clean and ready for use. Mary buys the kitchen needs.

I can't mention everyone and if I tried to I would surely leave people out. Thank you to all for making our club such a pleasant, enjoyable place to be part of.

Association Croquet News – Roger Harris

NACC AC Teams 2022

AC teams have been registered for:

Weekend Pennants: Div. 2, Div. 3 and Div. 4.

To be able to field a Div. 4 team, David Sincock (Coromandel Valley) and Karen Magee (Brighton) have signed Clearance Forms to enable them to play Div. 4 for North Adelaide through this year.

Dates for North Adelaide Games 2022

Dates for the North Adelaide Games 2022 have been cleared with Di Helier (SACA Events Coordinator) and Roger Buddle (SACA AC Director), entered into the SACA Events Calendar by Peter Martyniuk (SACA Calendar Coordinator) and written into our NACC Diary.

North Adelaide Games AC Swiss Handicap Singles: 16-18 November 2022

North Adelaide Games AC Invitational Singles: 26-27 November 2022

Golf Croquet News – Sue Le Poidevin

As 2021 ended we had some celebrations. The 9+ Spring Pennant Competition, played on Thursday nights at home and away venues, saw a number of players play competitively for the 1st time. ***Congratulations to Karen Tierney, Jon Kirwan, Dee Marsh, Tina Nikou and Eleanor Barnard.*** They all showed great improvement in play and in confidence as well.



North Adelaide Strikers

North Adelaide Nines



Chris Dalzell supported the Nines.

Sue Le Poidevin and Jim Carter supported the Strikers.

On **Saturday 18/12/21** SACA held the 2021 Pennant presentation at our clubrooms. We were awarded 2 Pennants and a trophy. Congratulations to the winning teams.

North Adelaide Red 24+ Team



**6+ White Spring Pennant Team
(absent Barry Elsey**

An **Association Croquet Trophy** was also presented to the **Division 2 Sunday Funday Team**. Congratulations! **AC Director, Roger Buddle**, presented the trophy. Absent is Chris Birdsey.



Life Membership Awards

Prior to the Christmas Lunch on Saturday 11/12/21 the club's inaugural Life Membership Awards were given to five very worthy recipients. Unfortunately, **Colin Pickering's** award had to be given posthumously however **Shuna Pickering** was able to receive his award along with her own. **Congratulations to Kay Seary, Iain Fraser, John Riches, Shuna and Colin Pickering.** They are all very deserving recipients from whom our current club members have all reaped the benefits of the commendable contributions from these members to the North Adelaide Croquet Club.

Kay Seary



Kay has demonstrated exceptional service over more than 30 years in both Prospect and North Adelaide Croquet Clubs in roles of President, Secretary, Player, Coach and Club Captain. Kay has successfully represented the Club as a player in state, national and international competitions. An avid A/C player, Kay has been an exemplary leader in her many roles, is a highly respected member of NACC and has always been willing to help club members in many ways, especially in coaching. Kay was involved with management committees as Secretary and President during planning for the amalgamation of Fitzroy Croquet Club and Prospect Croquet Club, a significant task

and achievement with the new formation of North Adelaide Croquet Club. Kay remained Secretary of NACC until 2014. She was Club Captain in 2016 & 2017 and together with maintaining her involvement with NACC, Kay was also Secretary for SACA for a number of years. Kay has played successfully in many AC state, national and international competitions between 1995 & 2012. Kay is a highly valued member of our Club who continues to enjoy playing social AC at NACC and supports the Club whenever she can.
Congratulations Kay.

John Riches



John has been a member of NACC for 16 years having joined the Club in 2005. Prior to this John had established himself as a very proficient Croquet Player since beginning to play the game in Port Pirie in 1978. John has successfully played in State and National level competitions and in 1995 was ranked no. 2 in Australia. His love of the game has been evidenced in the significant work he has done through coaching at club level and State Teams. He has contributed to re-writing AC Coaching Courses

and manuals and published booklets on various aspects of AC. John has been very supportive of

NACC players through coaching and encouragement especially for new players. His extensive knowledge and expertise is highly regarded and his significant contribution to the sport is highly valued.

Congratulations John.

Colin Pickering

Colin began playing croquet in 1973 at Fitzroy Croquet Club. As an avid sportsman he was a very quick learner who thoroughly enjoyed this game at which he went on to become a Champion, playing in State, National and International competition representing Australia on many occasions. At club level he was always keen to encourage new members by providing assistance and encouragement through coaching. He was involved with administration of the Club as President 2007-2009. Some of his significant achievements include the following; Between 1977 & 2000 Colin won nine State Singles and Open State Singles Championships, represented SA thirteen times in Eire Cup team, winning each time. He was winner of Vic Open Singles Championship twice. Nationally, he represented Australia five times in MacRobertson Shield Competition and Trans-Tasman Competitions, Aust. Open Singles Champion three times and Aust. Doubles champion and Men's Singles Champion 1998. Colin represented Aus. at World Croquet Federation Championships five times and played in numerous invitational events in America and France. At his peak Colin's AC ranking was 12th in the world. In 2000 Colin resigned from International competition but continued to play the game he loved at his local Club which became North Adelaide when Fitzroy Club amalgamated with Prospect Club. In 2000 Colin was awarded the Australian Sports Medal and Life Membership of Croquet SA. Colin has contributed enormously to the game of Croquet through outstanding playing achievements but also through significant involvement within the Club that he played for. He is truly an iconic player who sadly is no longer with us.

Congratulations Colin : award presented posthumously

Shuna Pickering



Shuna played initially for Fitzroy Croquet Club no doubt with the encouragement of her husband Colin. She involved herself with the administration quite soon and was Secretary In 1976 followed by President in 2001 & 2002. Shuna was on the Club committee for approximately thirty years in Fitzroy CC and NACC. Shuna has been a valued member of NACC for over 20 years and engaged herself in many fundraising trading tables both within the Club and for outside events. She has coached members at the Club both in AC and GC for many years together with actively supporting and

organising the many functions that are typically part of being a member of a sports club. Shuna and Colin maintained fabulous historical records of the NACC during their time with us and have produced wonderful photo albums depicting the various events of the Club over the past 20 years. Shuna is to be acknowledged for her significant work in all areas of the NACC.

Congratulations. Shuna.

Iain Fraser

Iain was a founder member of Prospect Croquet Club when Fitzroy Croquet Club amalgamated with Prospect to become North Adelaide Croquet Club in 2002. Iain served as the first President of the new Club for two terms and was a co-sponsor of the inaugural North Adelaide Croquet Games. Iain is an AC player who, while on management committee, supported the upgrading of the lawns to a standard that interstate AC players have praised. Our lawns remain the envy of many other clubs as this high standard of maintenance has continued with subsequent lawns groundsmen. Iain was proud to ensure the ground was dressed and the flags halyards were correctly flown. Iain supported all fundraising efforts at the club with the Prospect Fair, sausage sizzles, recycling cans & bottles. Iain is a certified Coach for AC and regularly invited people to come & try croquet encouraging them to consider taking up the game he loves to play. AC achievements included; 2001 Div 4 Champion 2004 Div 3 Men's Champion of Champions 2004 Handicap champion. Unfortunately, an accident injury prevented Iain from competing in any further competitions but he has continued to play AC socially at the Club. Iain has been a loyal member of NACC, and acknowledges the strong fellowship which has always been and continues to be an important aspect of North Adelaide Croquet Club. Congratulations. Iain.



PEOPLE'S CHOICE Lottery

WOULD YOU LIKE TO WIN !!!

a Toyota Kluger GX AWD Hybrid,

or a Toyota Corolla Ascent Hybrid Hatch

or a grand home package worth \$25,330

or one of the forty splendid prizes on offer!

AND SUPPORT THE CLUB?

If so, buy a ticket in the **People's Choice Community Lottery** (a lottery run each year to help local sporting clubs, charities, volunteer groups and not-for-profit community organisations to raise funds).

'Don't wait! Ticket sales close on the 24th February.

Prizes will be drawn on the 3rd March'

Tickets are only \$2

100% of every ticket sold through our club will be returned to us for our fund raising.

Tickets can be bought, on line individually or in larger bundles, (search online for **People's Choice Community Lottery** and follow the prompts to **Buy Tickets**. NACC is listed under **Sporting Groups**).

If you prefer we can buy the tickets online for you. Please see Jocelyn to arrange this.

Please buy some tickets to support our club and.....remember to gamble responsibly!

Jocelyn Swalling

Summer Internal Competition

Over the four Friday nights in January our club held an internal competition. There were no SACA Pennant games at that time and it filled a void. Handicap Score Cards were not used so it gave players a chance to relax and focus on the enjoyment of the sport that we all love.

A total of twenty-nine players competed, some for all four games, and some who filled in. Many thanks, to all competitors, for their enthusiasm and sportsmanlike behaviour. Special thanks to those people who filled in at the last minute so that the games could go ahead.

We were lucky with the weather, only having to start after 7pm on 1 hot night. Thank You to **William and Peter** for opening the bar. We shared supper at the conclusion of the last game.



The eventual winner was **Wendy Carter**. Well done Wendy! **Barry Elsey** came a close 2nd.



Sue Le Poidevin

The NACC Trading Table

When I first joined our club *Shuna and Colin Pickering* were running the Trading Table. They asked for help as it was getting a bit too much for them and that is when I joined in to help. Gradually they pulled back and I took over. Many people have assisted me since then, especially *Tamara, Libby, Barbara, Elizabeth, Shirley, Ann, Wendy and Jim*. Profits go to the club and we generally get between \$1,000 and \$2,000 per year. All donations are gratefully received. If you have an excess of fruit, bulbs, seeds, plants, homemade jams etc these can all be sold with proceeds going to the club. *Elizabeth* often brings home grown items such as Parsley, Sunflower seedlings etc. I try to turn around stock to keep things interesting. After remaining unsold for a few months, I take items to the Salvos and RSPCA.

We are ***desperately in need of new items*** to freshen the table. If you have new, unwanted Christmas gifts or good quality clothing, home items, unopened toiletries or ornaments etc. please place them in the pale blue laundry hamper next to the table. I will price them and display them for our eager bargain hunters.

Sue Le Poidevin

