

# North Adelaide Croquet Club

## Newsletter September – October 2022

NORTH ADELAIDE  
CROQUET CLUB INC.



### From the Editors - Barry Elsey & Gayle Searle

We continue with the significance of club events, in quite inclement weather, with the club hosting top-flight players over a week of national and inter-state golf croquet competition. The standard of play was outstanding, showing such commitment to the exacting demands of constant training, alongside the self-discipline, dedication and determination to play above ordinary club and local competition level. All credit to our visitors, and our home-grown Norma in her SA state team kit, for playing through long hours frequented by squally winds and showers.

Behind the playing, from early morning through to sunset, club members demonstrated extraordinary goodwill, confidence and competence to support the event. It was a remarkable response and many members banded together to raise an army of volunteers covering all the requirements of players, SACA regulation and administration.

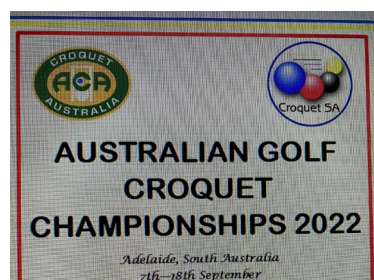
Reflecting a little more about what the club gained from the experience hosting the event, it must be noted that it came at the cost of members not having access to our enviable courts for ten days. If it were not for the voluntary effort the event would have been unsustainable commercially, for we freely gave our time, labour, endless food supplies and much more.

What the club undoubtedly gained was the voluntary effort itself, which showed off enormous capability, competence, and confidence in playing host to the event. As a club we can all take pride in good work delivered to the satisfaction of everyone involved.

The lynchpin was the venue management team; Gayle with mastery of a great deal of demands from players concerning their games, the record keeping and data entry of results and regular contact with SACA. The planning was impeccable and the running sheet a model of detailed preparation. With it came contingency management too, which Gayle dealt with in her usual diplomatic way, supported by the indefatigable Kay as a soothing influence. Gayle reflects on her experience in the newsletter.

Other teams performed exceptionally well, that is, the kitchen and catering team, along with the supply chain co-ordinated by Karen, the courts team led by William, the Badger and Mallet under Dan, the Friday wine down team managed by Lynn (dealing with two inter-state teams from Tasmania and WA), and Dan, up before the birds to raise the flags (and lay-out the hoops), and again at sunset to lower them. More than 30 club members volunteered, a remarkable contribution.

Barry



After several preparatory meetings with Tournament Managers, Venue Managers, Catering & Grounds Managers and Hoop Setters the event finally got underway on 7<sup>th</sup> September. North Adelaide Croquet Club was one of 7

Croquet Clubs who hosted play during the Championships. North Adelaide Croquet Club, with 4 courts and the best in Adelaide were given the Open Men's Singles to host and the Interstate Shield events.

This was an enormous effort for all concerned at NACC and many people must be thanked for volunteering their time and skills to make it the success it was.

**Hoop Setters :** William, Jon, Chris, Peter, Noel & Russell (AC) these men were at the Club at **6.00am** often in the dark setting hoops for the day's play. Then had to stay around throughout the day for any assistance with hoop setting during games together with packing up hoops at the end of the day.

**Kitchen Caterers :** Karen (manager every day) with helpers Jane, Libby, Marianne, Sylvia, Dee, Ann, Eleanor, Tina, Pam, Flavia, Barbara(AC), Elizabeth, Lyn(AC), Kelly & Jocelyn ( shopping & money management)

**Bar Support :** Dan manager -helpers Evelyn, Peter, Chris & William.

**Venue Manager Gayle & Assistants-** Kay, Barry & Robin ( my lifesavers)

**Flag manager :** Dan with extra appreciation to Dan who arrived at **5.00am** in the mornings to open up clubrooms and bring out hoops and equipment ready for the hoop setters. This was not expected but so typical of the amazing support and engagement that Dan gives to North Adelaide Croquet Club. **Huge thank you to Dan.**

**Rose Garden upkeep-** Sandra

As **Venue Manager** I was very anxious at the beginning of each day that everything would go smoothly and especially nervous on the first couple of days. It soon became obvious to all concerned that we were a 'well-oiled machine' as each group organised everything so well. Visiting players were very impressed with our Clubrooms, courts, hoop setters, catering options and organisation and expressed their appreciation at the end of each day.

We were very lucky to have great support with **Referees** Stewart Kingsborough, Robert Weaver, David Stumm, Carolyn Fraser, Kim Millhouse, Bernie Pfitzner and two extra national referees who assisted during Men's Singles Championships.

**Tournament Managers:** The daily support I received from Peter Martynuik was fantastic and if he wasn't available Eileen Ferguson was there on the phone for any of my queries.

### **Challenges:**

The **weather** provided various challenges from very cold, to rain, to heavy rain, to sunshine! Players from WA and QLD were quite amazed at the range of temperatures that Adelaide can present in early Spring. There were still players who happily played in shorts every day however!

**Heavy rains** brought flooded courts but we were able to gain assistance from the North Adelaide Football Club through the use of two super soakers to clear the courts of the excess water. This meant that play was only interrupted by an hour on the day of very heavy rain.

**Hard hitting players** created another interesting challenge. It was not safe to park cars in carparks facing court 1 as the potential for a ball to bounce up into this area was high so cars had to be shifted. Whilst playing on court 3, one of the WA team members hit a ball across the court so hard that it bounced off the court and spun up and over the high fence into the neighbour's yard!! This has never happened before. Chris Dalzell kindly went around to the house and managed to retrieve the ball from on top of the pool cover where the ball had landed. At the same time Chris had to negotiate the backyard space carefully as there was a large Boxer dog in the yard also.

Monetary Recompense to the Club from catering and lawn usage was approximately \$3,000 which will be a great benefit for our Club.

As **Venue Manager** it was quite a challenge for 10 days, however, it proved to be a wonderful learning experience with rewards of great support, companionship and team work. I was very proud to be representing North Adelaide Croquet Club in supporting this national event.

**Gayle Searle**



South Australia State GC Team  
who competed in  
Australian GC Championships  
Adelaide September 2022





“Freddo Frog Fun Day” was held on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September as a thank you to all the Club members who had to give up their croquet times whilst the Australian Nationals GC Championships were on. Members were treated to a free sausage sizzle and chocolate coated ice cream lunch.

Each player received a Freddo Frog to start off the games with lots of energy! Those members who attended had a great day in a lovely relaxed social atmosphere.

A special thank you to Sue for organising the day and to Libby for organising the sausage sizzle.

### Association Croquet News – Roger Harris

#### Dates for North Adelaide Games 2022

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

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

### Notes from the Badger and Mallet

Dear All,

There you are thinking “I would like a nutritious yet tasty drink, that’s very low in alcohol- what possibly could I have?”

Great Northern Zero alcohol- how good is that? Just in time for summer ( should than ever return).



Just remember that the silly season starts with the Melbourne cup and rolls through to New Years, here at the BaM we will be conducting or normal Sunday Session and Wine down in November - so put the lawn mower away and join Dan and the crew for a couple of hours. December functions to follow.

I changed all my passwords to “incorrect “, so now if I forget, the computer will tell me.

*Cheers from The Badger and Mallet, your club, your bar.*

## Coming Events

Melbourne Cup Luncheon at the NACC clubrooms  
12.00 noon till 3.00pm. Sweeps and prizes for Best  
Handmade Hat & Most Comical Hat.



Watch the race live on TV. Come along and be in  
the fun. Bar open thanks to Dan & his team.



## *November Wine Down*



Our next wine down is scheduled for **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November** so put  
this date in your diary and come along and enjoy good food, drinks  
and friendship. Karen is our chef for this evening so we can expect  
something very nice. The evenings are getting warmer again so let's  
get back to enjoying a game of croquet as well during the evening.  
**Friday 18<sup>th</sup>, 5.30pm -9.00pm.** Looking forward to seeing you there.

## Christmas Luncheon

Our annual Christmas Luncheon will be held on Saturday December 10<sup>th</sup> 12.00pm at the NACC Clubrooms. If you haven't booked already please do so ASAP. Lynne Hughes has booked caterers for a



lovely lunch for this special event at the end of our year. Come along and join in the festivities with all your croquet friends.



## Social Croquet on Sundays

Now that the weather is improving don't forget that Dan graciously opens the bar every 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month 3.00pm – 5.00pm. This is an opportunity to come along to the Club on a Sunday afternoon and have a game of Croquet followed by a refreshing drink and chat. **November 6<sup>th</sup> & November 20<sup>th</sup>** are the dates to put in your calendar for next month.

Why not arrange an introduction to croquet with a group of your friends and bring them along for a fun try out? Barry is a champion at bringing lots of visitors to the Club for a fun game followed by a refreshing drinks and nibbles (self- provided) in the lounge area. Why not do the same!

**SACA Presentations Event** will be head at NACC Clubrooms on **Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup>**. The NACC will be hosting the event however the lawns will still be available if members were wishing to play.

