



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

The end of 2022 allows for reflection about the NACC, in what might be regarded as a post-COVID recovery from the restrictions and absurdities of 'one-size-fits-all' management imposed by SA Health bureaucrats. I shall never forget Sue sanitising croquet balls and the rest as the club responded to the endless instructions in a responsible way. By comparison 2022 was normal. Four observations characterise the spirit and form of the club in healthier times.

First, a fitting end to the competitive nature of the club was to attend the SACA presentation day for the year celebrating numerous events in which many club members actively participated, some earning recognition for successful outcomes. I admire the way club members are encouraged to participate in various competitions and supported by captains and other team members. The club spirit encourages many members to have a go, win or lose.

Second, the club continues to keep faith with the social aspect of membership. This takes place through an active program of regular wine-downs, twice monthly Sunday social croquet (which often welcomes many newcomers), and other seasonal events such as the Melbourne Cup and Xmas lunch and celebratory occasions for special birthdays. The club excelled in hosting the national and inter-state events in a cool and wet early September, supported by most club members one way or another. Well done all those volunteers. We cannot thrive without a strong voluntary spirit.

Third, the club is very well managed by a dedicated and competent committee and continues to attract some community funding and through our many activities maintain a healthy bank balance. This is evident in recognition by Prospect Council and other funding bodies, and significantly SACA who increasingly depend upon our capabilities to support major events.

Four, the club membership is very good at keeping a caring concern for the health and well-being of members that experience health problems and other tribulations. To that end the club has created and maintains a good sense of belonging to a friendly and supportive community. Our friendly and welcoming reputation plays a big part in attracting new members, which we need, to keep the club energetic and forward looking.

Happy croquet playing and club membership for the years ahead. **Barry**

Another year is ending and what a busy year it has been. The Committee is most grateful for the significant contribution to the NACC by the event /club hire management coordinator, Robin Golding. She has fielded many calls and managed several outside bookings of our clubrooms with great patience, tolerance and commitment. As a result, the club has gained significant financial rewards. Many thanks to you Robin.

As a way to spread the load of organising our own social club events, The Social Activities Group was formed this year under the coordination of Barry Elsey. This has been quite successful as it enabled coordinated discussions, communication, management and planning ideas for our many events which are such an important part of membership at the North Adelaide Club. Many thanks to all members of this group for the fun events you have presented for members to enjoy.

The Management Committee would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year. Take care of yourselves over the break, stay safe and well and we look forward to returning for another year of Croquet in 2023.

**Gayle**

# Association Croquet News – Roger Harris

## AC Weekend Pennants 2022

The Pennants for this year have now drawn to a close. I'm delighted to announce that NACC has won very convincingly the Division 3, captained by Roger Harris. Our other two teams – Division 2 (5<sup>th</sup>), captained by Kevin Le Poidevin, and Division 4 (4<sup>th</sup>), captained by Barbara Stanley – strived valiantly all year but were not as successful.

Our Division 3 team will be awarded their winning flag at the SACA Presentations hosted at our NACC Clubrooms this coming Sunday (12 December). The team comprised: Lyn Booth (9 games), Kevin Le Poidevin (9 games), Ray Walter (9 games), Roger Harris (7 games), Janet Willshire (7 games), Barbara Stanley (2 games) and Catherine Bawden (1 game), with David Sincock (4 games) from Coromandel Valley Club filling in whenever required.

## Colin Pickering North Adelaide Games

These annual Games, held in November each year, comprise two main tournaments:

1. **Invitation Singles**, where our Club invites a limited number of top male and female players to compete in a Round Robin competition over a weekend (and sometimes the preceding Friday evening). Entry fees allow for prizes for the Winner and Runner-Up in each of the Men's and Women's competitions, and the Men's and Women's winners names are added to a shield hanging in the NACC clubroom.
2. **Swiss Singles**, scheduled over three days, where players of any handicap can nominate to enter, and compete in four games against others around the same handicap. With handicaps weighted accordingly, every player has a fair chance of winning this event. Again, prizes are presented, this time for the Championship Winner and Runner-Up as well as for the Handicap Winner and Runner-Up.

This year, we were very fortunate that largely fine weather greeted the players for each event! The tournaments were played in excellent spirit and some very fine croquet was on show for many interested onlookers.

### Invitation Singles results

This tournament was conducted on 25-27 November. Nine men and six women participated – seven from country clubs. The men's tournament was exciting with the results hanging in the balance until the end and winners decided by net hoops which were very close. Three won 6 games (and three won 5 games)! The three with 6 wins, in order, were Tim O'Leary (Coobowie, +69 nett hoops), David Short (Norwood, +67 nett hoops) and Mark Senior (Hyde Park, +65 nett hoops). In the women's tournament, Robyn Short (Coobowie) was the winner with 5 wins (+63 nett hoops), while the runner-up was Di Helier (Norwood) with 3 wins, and third was Shirley Howlett (Victor Harbor) with 2 wins.

### Swiss Singles results

In this event held on 16-18 November, 20 players over a range of handicaps (from 1 to 18) participated, six from country clubs. In the **Championship**, the winner was Kevin Le Poidevin (North Adelaide) who was the only player to win all 4 games, while the Runner-up was Barry Jennings (Hyde Park) with 3 wins. In the **Handicap**, the winner was Greg Rowberry (Norwood) and the runner-up Tracey Sincock (Hyde Park). Other players with 3 wins included Rhonda Habner (Tumby Bay), Liz Mackenzie (Norwood) and Barry Jennings (Hyde Park).

We congratulate all these worthy winners – Tim, David, Robyn, Di, Kevin, Barry, Greg and Tracey. My sincere thanks to all participating players who made the tournaments such a success, and to all those North Adelaide Croquet Club members, who helped to feed players, provide excellent playing surfaces, set hoops each day and ensure the Games ran smoothly, including but not limited to:

**Food** – Barbara in particular, and also Norma Greig, ably assisted by Sue and accompanied by an army of helpers who formed somewhat of a 'congo line' of contributors every day, stocking the table over the five days and one evening of the two tournaments.

**Courts** – William and his grounds team for preparing excellent surfaces that looked immaculate throughout the playing days.

**Setting hoops** – William and Kevin for setting the hoops for the Invitation Singles at the correct width.

**Setting up the courts each morning** – Russell, Kevin and Norma.

**IT** – Janet for helping to set up the tournaments on the internet and for assisting me to keep scores up-to-date on croquetscores.com.

**Bar** – Dan, a huge thank you for staffing the bar on the two Presentation evenings.

And any others I have missed out, but you will know who you are – grateful thanks for helping to run a very successful Games in which all participants love competing in great spirit and with superb croquet skills. For spectators, it was a pleasure to watch!

**Roger Harris**

**AC Captain, North Adelaide Croquet Club**



**Tim O'leary – Men's Winner**



**Robyn Short – Women's Winner**



**David Short – Men's Runner-up**

### **Introducing .....Tina Nikou**

Tina Nikou has kindly taken on the role of **First Aid Officer for our club**. Tina managed the First Aid at a large metropolitan primary school for many years prior to her retirement. She was trained in Senior First aid and managed many complex situations. Our club has paid for her to continue to be trained in Senior First Aid. Tina has made sure that the battery in the Defibrillator is current and organised for club members to have a session on how to use it. She has restocked the First Aid Kit so that it is up to date. Thank You Tina!



**Congratulations to Kevin Le Poidevin for being nominated by the NACC Management Committee for a Prospect Council's Citizen of the Year Award.**



Kevin is a quiet achiever, behind the scenes but always there to lend a hand when it is needed. He is the club's Prospect Council liaison person, lobbying and enabling facilities tasks to be carried out. He supports the Grounds person, William, and is equally happy in the lead or working under the direction of other club members. Kevin saw the need for the club to have a Qualified Referee and went about the time-consuming work to become qualified.

He has previously been involved in coaching a great many players however constant back pain has limited this now.

He was instrumental in managing Handicap Singles for the club and is a vital part of the team which runs Gala Days.

Kevin is our SACA Delegate and attends all meetings. He was instrumental in arranging for the SACA Presentation to be held at our club, bringing in much needed revenue. Kevin plays both AC and GC and enjoys 24+ where he is keen to support less experienced players. *Kevin is a passionate advocate for our community and willingly picks up, and drops home, any members who need help with transport. He is hard working and is very keen to promote our club in the wider community.*



**Welcome to our new members in 2022**

**Ron Donato, Flavia Martini, Laura Eden, Maryanne Maycock & Phil Burford.**

**We are delighted to have you all as members of our North Adelaide Croquet Club and trust that you will enjoy rewarding and memorable moments in both playing croquet and participating in the many and various social activities of the Club.**

**The SACA Award Presentation held at NACC Sunday 11/12/22**

A lot of work went into preparing food, setting up and cooking the BBQ prior to the event starting at 11am. Our volunteers were there bright and early and Jon and Jim cooked for 90 minutes to have everything ready. It was a great day thanks to the generous time given by volunteers. As a club we were delighted to win 3 Pennants this year. (We would like to win even more in 2023!!) Congratulations to everyone who has participated this year and enjoyed their Croquet.



**CONGRATULATIONS to the following teams and individuals.**

**The Division 3 AC Team**

**(absent Barbara Stanley and Lyn Booth)**



**The 9+ Nines Spring Pennant Team**

**Norma Greig winner of the 3+ singles**



**Marianne Maycock & Robin Golding  
winners of 9+ Doubles**



**The 24+ Red Spring Pennant Team**

The 2022 State Team of which Norma is a member.



**Sue Le Poidevin** Golf Croquet Captain

## Notes from the Badger and Mallet



Dan has been literally run off his feet of late with a significant number of events where the bar has provided liquid refreshments to the many visitors and members. He is taking a well-earned holiday and leaving the country briefly as he and Tamara enjoy a cruising holiday. Many thanks Dan for the significant number of hours you volunteer to keep

our bar well stocked and running smoothly. Thanks also to the team of assistants who have been there to serve as well.

There's always time for a chat or a new joke from Dan when you wander up to the Badge & Mallet for a little light refreshment or one of Dan's *special treats!* We look forward to what's in store for next year!

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

*Gayle*

On Dan's  
behalf

**Christmas Luncheon**

Our annual Christmas Luncheon was held on Saturday December 10<sup>th</sup> 12.00pm at the NACC Clubrooms. Thanks to Lynne Hughes who booked caterers for a lovely lunch which was enjoyed by all. The



clubrooms were beautifully decorated and tables set with lovely Christmas decorations too.

Not only did we have traditional Christmas food and drinks, we also had to test our knowledge in a **table quiz** which Lyn had organised.

Some tricky questions that really had us thinking. Together with that, **pass the parcel** brought an opportunity to maybe unwrap the last level of wrapping for a surprise gift.

It's always wonderful to see those members who are no longer playing but still friends of the club, attend and enjoy being together with us all on occasions like the Christmas luncheon and this year was no exception.







Best wishes to everyone. Stay safe and healthy over the break. Enjoy precious times with family, friends and neighbours. Find some happiness in every day.

Organised Croquet returns **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023.**

See you in 2023.

Gayle Searle

