

**N. A. C. C.**



## *Croquet Chronicles*

November 2023

### **AC News**

#### **North Adelaide Games 2023**

In delightful weather, the 21<sup>st</sup> North Adelaide Games were successfully held recently, starting on Saturday 11 November and fortunately narrowly missing that 'stinker' of a day the day before of 40 degrees! Games of Association Croquet (AC) were played in excellent spirits and those who came to the event witnessed wonderful croquet on display.

#### **Invitation Singles results**

This tournament was conducted on 11-12 November. Eight men and six women participated, some of the very best AC players in South Australia - six from country clubs. The **men's tournament** was very exciting with the results hanging in the balance until the end. The top two players both finished with the same number of wins (6, the only two players to have that many wins) and remarkably the same number of net hoops (104)! This result was unprecedented! As one might expect, in our consulting of wiser heads than ours as to how a winner and runner-up could be decided, there were a good many suggested solutions! Some of those solutions were semi-rational, others humorous and still others impractical given the time in the afternoon. In the end after much deliberation, the tournament managers made the decision that both should be declared joint winners, would share half of the combined winner and runner-up prize money and would have both of their names inscribed on the North Adelaide Games Shield that hangs proudly in our clubrooms stretching back to 2002. The two winners were Dwayne McCormick (Norwood) and David Short (Norwood), with Harley Watts (Moonta) third (5 wins and 27 net hoops). In the **women's tournament**, again the result was not known until the last game was completed, which Shirlene McBride (Victor Harbor) won and thereby edged ahead (with 4 wins, 14 net hoops) of two other colleagues (both on 3 wins). The Runner-up was Mary Bishop (Coobowie, 3 wins, 24 net hoops), while Virginia Arney (Norwood, 3 wins, 12 net hoops) was third.

#### **Swiss Singles results**

In this event held on 15-16 November, 10 players over a range of handicaps (from 0 to 18) participated, from five Clubs. The participants played four games, and five players finished with three wins each: Greg Rowberry, Barry Jennings, Russell Kopp, Liz Mackenzie and Julie Barry. In the *Championship Singles*, the first two positions were separated by only two net hoops. The winner was Barry Jennings (Hyde Park) with 33 net hoops, while Greg Rowberry (Norwood) was the Runner-up with 31 net hoops.

In the *Handicap Singles*, where the players' handicaps are weighted so that everyone has a chance of winning, the winner was Julie Barry (Millswood), with the Runner-up being Russell Kopp (North

Adelaide). Congratulations Russell; our only other North Adelaide entrant, Norma Greig, also played very well and finished very creditably.

We congratulate all these worthy winners – Dwayne, David, Shirlene, Mary, Barry, Greg, Julie and Russell.

This tournament would not have been possible without the valuable help of many people.

My sincere thanks to all participating players who made the Games such a success once again, and to all those North Adelaide Croquet Club members who helped to feed players, provide excellent playing surfaces, set up the courts each day and ensure the Games ran smoothly, including but not limited to:

**Food** – Barbara in particular, and also Norma Greig, ably assisted by an army of helpers who assisted at the venue at various times and/or came to the clubrooms to wash cups/dishes and to stock the table over the four days with delectable sustenance that kept players and tournament managers (as well as spectators) very happy and contented!

**Courts and hoop setting** – William, Russell and Kevin, and any other of the grounds team, for preparing excellent surfaces that looked immaculate throughout the playing days and received many compliments from the players.

**IT** – Janet, for assisting me to keep scores up-to-date on croquetscores.com and to lend much-needed moral support in the decision-making on the winner(s) of the Men’s Singles!

**Bar** – Karen, for opening and staffing the bar on the Sunday afternoon at Presentation time.

**Finances** – Noel for handling those entry payments that were made online.

And any others I may have missed, but you will know who you are – my 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**

### North Adelaide Games 20023



Those present at the end of the Swiss Singles,  
Thursday afternoon, 16/11/23



Winners and Runners-Up in the Swiss Singles:  
 Greg Rowberry, Barry Jennings, Julie Barry, Russell Kopp



Winners and Runners-Up in the Invitation Singles:  
 David Short, Mary Bishop, Shirlene McBride, Dwayne McCormick

21/10 North Adelaide Red played Hyde Park in Div. 3 A/C Weekend Pennants going down 17 hoops to 15. North Adelaide had Robert Kelly and Evelyn filling in. Ray Walter being the standout, scoring 11 hoops to the oppositions 5.

North Adelaide White took on Norwood with Norwood running out winners 29 hoops to 21. This match saw Laura make her A/C debut.

## Golf Croquet News

Jim Carter has stepped up into the role of Golf Croquet Captain.

19<sup>th</sup> October saw North Adelaide Nines in the 9+ Pennants up against Tea Tree Gully at home and in a close fought match ran out eventual winners 5 games all, 50 hoops to 46

On 2<sup>nd</sup> November North Adelaide Nines took on Norwood in the 9+ Pennants competition and came out winners 8 games to 2 and 67 hoops to 47 with Gayle (9) and Claire (14) both reducing their handicaps.

6<sup>th</sup> November: In the 24+ Pennants competition the two North Adelaide teams after finishing 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> played off in the final. North Adelaide Red led by Kevin LePoidevin running out winners against North Adelaide White led by Noel Spooner. The final score being 4 games to 2, 29 hoops to 24.



All Players that represented North Adelaide Croquet Club in the recent 24+ Competition.



North Adelaide 12+ Team following the last game of their season.

A great season from 4 clubs, all well supported by coaches and referees on each court. Rule compliance really improved and matches were a good standard. Kevin.



In both the Spring 24+ and 9+ competitions our teams finished 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>. This shows that the efforts of our coaches are starting to bear fruit. So, congratulations to North Adelaide Red in the 24+ and the Strikers 9+ team.

**I call on all team captains to send through their scoresheets for inclusion in our newsletters.**

## Social Events

### News from the 'Badger and Mallet'

I took over as manager of the club bar in July, after 10 years of hard work by Dan. It has been a steep learning curve, but I have felt very supported by all club members and the hard working bar team of Peter, William, Chris, Evelyn and Lynn. In recent weeks Mary and Eleanor have obtained their RSA certification and joined the team, which will help spread the workload.

Several changes have occurred, starting with a massive clean-up by Lynn, myself, Chris, Evelyn and Jon.

Peter is now buying most of the alcohol, which is a great help.

Prices have been increased slightly for club members and significantly for functions and this has been well received.

A trial of more 'up-market' wines has proved very successful, so we now stock house and higher priced red and whites. These are selling at \$4 and \$8 for members and \$6 and \$9 - \$10 at functions.

As I write this, the function 'season' has started and we have several more booked through November and December. These are a good way to make money for our club and the bar is a significant player in this. Thanks to all of the bar team!



### **Christmas Lunch**

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December

Windmill Hotel, \$43 to be paid to Noel.

## Club News

### MELBOURNE CUP LUNCH

Happily, despite some last minute changes to the planned event, "against all odds" the day was a great success!

As always, a team of willing helpers put their time and talents to good use organizing, decorating, shopping and serving. Their efforts provided Club Members & Friends with a festive atmosphere, creative table settings and a generous lunch which included wonderful home-made slices (from the kitchens of our club's best bakers).

Many thanks for the décor & dining go to Mary, Jane, Libby, Ann, Eleanor, Pam Miller, Barbara and Jocelyn.

The clean-up team, headed by Jon, returned the clubrooms to ship-shape order. Thankyou.

This year's Cup Sweep was ably organized and run by Mary, who also ensured the Melbourne Cup was visible as a live broadcast ... correct channel, correct time and decent picture quality. Bravo.

For a new challenge, Laura convened the Inaugural Fisk/Croquet Competition which expands the range of games for mallets. The experts say we should all engage in new activities to keep our brains healthy, so thankyou Laura.

Karen and Peter kept us all well hydrated & sociable though their jolly service at the bar. 3 Cheers. The Hat parade was kindly organized by Barbara and won by Jane (for Best Hat) with her own flamboyant creation, and Peter (for Most Novel Hat) horsing around with his new ears. And most importantly, on top of the individual sweep winnings & prizes, we all win with another great social gathering at NACC.

Congratulations to All

Contributed by Ann Gill

The inaugural NACC Melbourne Cup Fiskers Championship was held. Team A & Team B fought a closeish game. The object was to get to 51 points to win. NACC kindly offered a bottle of bubbly to the winning team.

Cheers

Laura



Winners team B receiving prize from the Bar Manager.







## A Message from our Vice President

I think you've heard enough from me for a while.

I'm going in for a knee replacement next week and will be out of circulation for a time. If you wish to discuss anything I'll be contactable by phone.

## From the Coaches

Your GC coaches are Noel Spooner, Jim Carter, Norma Grieg and Laura Eden.

Coaching is available to all members and we are fortunate to have the opportunity to improve our game.

### 1. Striking the ball

The following things are important for almost any shot, whether you are attempting to run a hoop, hit another ball away or just place your ball in a favourable position:

- Correct body alignment
- Swinging the mallet in a straight line
- Keeping your eye on the ball
- Following through

**Correct body alignment.** Your body should be aligned so that if you swing your arms and mallet loosely, like a pendulum, the line of swing of the mallet is through both the striker ball and your target. The best way to align your body correctly is to “stalk the ball”, i.e. approach the striker ball from a few yards away and along a line such that the ball is directly between you and your target. If you like, you can check your alignment by casting over the ball, i.e. by doing a few of the loose pendulum-like swings described above, making sure you don't accidentally hit your ball in the process.

**Swinging the mallet in a straight line.** Whilst keeping your eyes focussed on the ball, start with a smooth backswing that takes the mallet head directly away from the target. This is not easy to do. There is a common tendency to pull the mallet to one side at the start of the backswing and then swing it around in an arc. Keeping the elbows in can help maintain a straight backswing.

The further you want to hit the ball, the bigger the backswing should be. Let gravity do most of the work. A smooth stroke where the weight of the mallet provides most of the force will help you keep the mallet in a straight line throughout the entire stroke. Using too much muscle power or being too jerky will push the mallet off line.

**Keeping your eye on the ball.** This is very important. Looking directly at the point you want to hit will make it much more likely that you will hit that point with the centre of the face of the mallet. Keep looking at that point until well after the ball is no longer there. If you look up to see where the ball has gone, your shoulders will actually start to move before you've struck the ball and this will cause you to miss hit the ball. So, keep your eyes on the ball, keep your head down and your shoulders still. It's hardest to keep your eye on the ball when you are doing a crucial shot, but if you want to succeed, you must not look up. It has even been said that you should not *see* your ball going through a hoop, you should *hear* it going through.

**Following through.** A good follow through helps to insure that the mallet maintains the correct line. Reach forward with the arms to keep the mallet head parallel to the ground for longer.

For any GC rule clarifications talk to David Stumm.

## Who would have thought there was so much to Balls?

### Championship Ball Specification

(Imperial measurements are definitive; metric equivalents are given for convenience.)

#### (a) Diameter

- The maximum diameter of a ball must not exceed  $3 \frac{21}{32}$  inches (92.9 mm) and the minimum diameter must not be less than  $3 \frac{19}{32}$  inches (91.3 mm).
- The maximum and minimum diameters of a ball must not differ by more than  $\frac{1}{32}$  inch (0.8 mm).
- The maximum and minimum diameters of balls in a set must not differ by more than  $\frac{3}{64}$  inch (1.2 mm).

#### (b) Resilience

- When dropped from a height of 60 inches (1524 mm) from the bottom of the ball onto a steel plate 1 inch (25.4 mm) thick and set rigidly in concrete, a ball must rebound to a height from the bottom of the ball of not less than 31 inches (787 mm) and not more than 37 inches (940 mm).
- The rebound height is the average of eighteen measurements: each ball is dropped three times onto each of the two poles and four nodes in the milling pattern.
- The rebound heights of a set of balls to be used together must not differ by more than 2 inches (50.8 mm).

#### (c) Milling

- All balls must be milled with an identical pattern.
- The pattern must consist of two orthogonal sets of grooves and the width of the grooves must be less than the width of the upstands left after grooving.

#### (d) Weight

- The weight of balls must be within the range  $15 \frac{3}{4}$  ounces (446.5 g) to  $16 \frac{1}{4}$  ounces (460.7 g).

### 3 Ageing of Balls

Ideally, sets of balls should be tested when new and at annual intervals thereafter, but in clubs with several similar sets of balls it is likely to be difficult to keep track of a particular set. Dawson 2000 International Balls have been rebound tested annually at the Cheltenham Club for several years. The balls are in frequent use and have shown no significant change in rebound to date. Dawson 2000 International Balls had unchanged resilience after 2 years use.

Modern cast polyurethane balls may retain a satisfactory appearance even when performance in the resilience test has deteriorated. It is also noteworthy that relatively small blemishes on the ball surface have been observed to affect the direction of rebound in the bounce test. Regular inspection and monitoring of performance is recommended.

#### 4 Colour of Balls

Colours of first and second colour sets of balls with Approval in 2005 have been measured and assessed for visibility and distinguishability. Recommended ranges have been forwarded to makers and a copy of the definitive document is archived in the office.

#### Dawson Balls update

- by Croquet Australia
- February 28, 2023

The original Dawson ball recipe went out of production following changes to Australian product regulations which banned one of the substances used. Testing continues to recreate a recipe that meets the specification. The WCF have been advised that there has been some success. Final testing is underway so we hope production might start again soon.

#### **Victorian Croquet Association Inc**

9<sup>th</sup> November 19, 2023

Dawson Balls Accredited!

The WCF have approved the latest edition of Dawson balls for competition play.

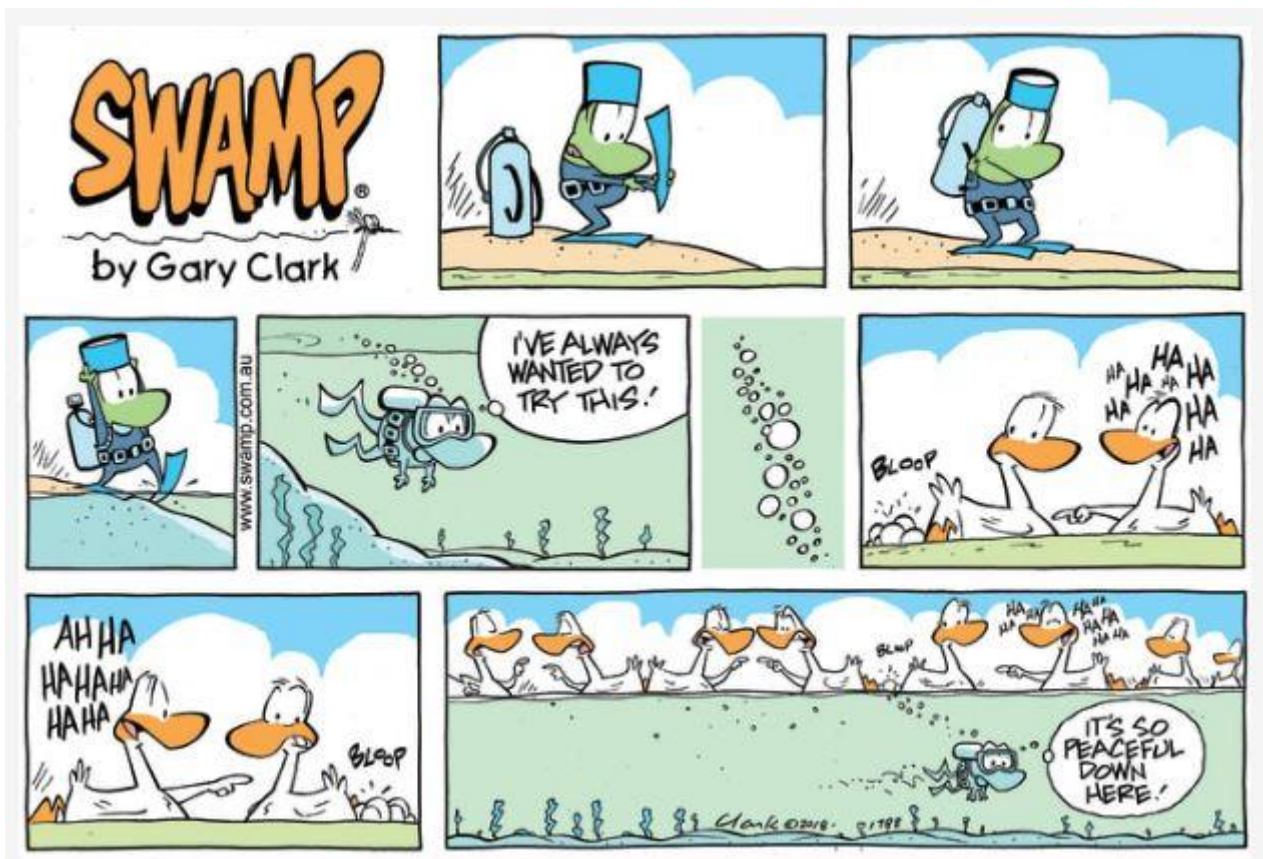
It will take some time to purchase the ingredients and to commence production. We will be advised when sufficient balls will be available for orders to be filled.

## GC Rules Quiz

The Red ball is in the jaws of the hoop and in contact with a hoop upright. The Yellow ball is in contact with the Red ball. The Yellow ball is played promoting the Red ball through the hoop. The hoop point is claimed; however, the owners of Blue and Black balls call you on as a referee and claim that because the Yellow ball was in contact with both the mallet and the Red ball at the same time a crush Fault must have occurred.

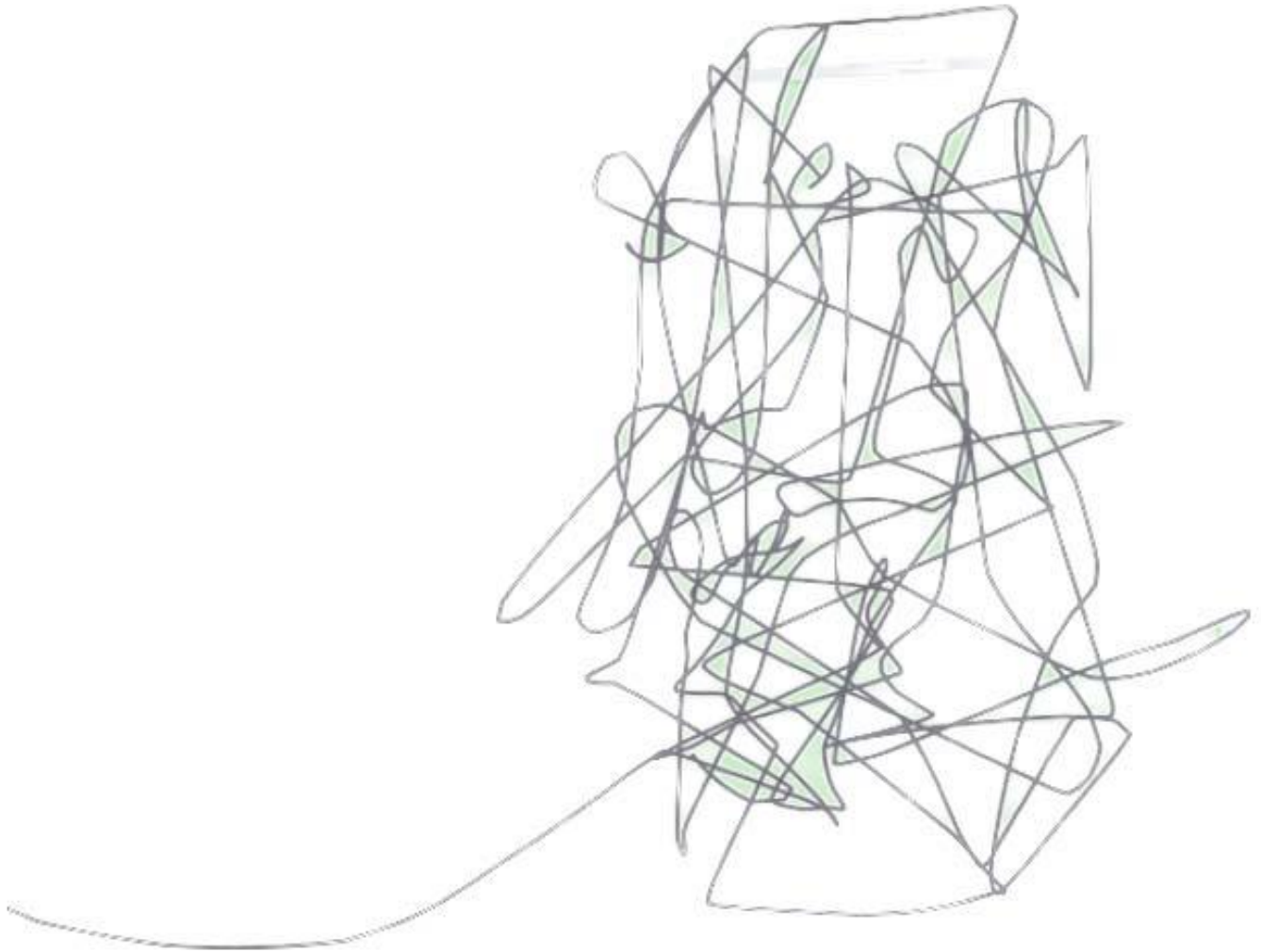
1. This was not a crush Fault as crushes cannot be transmitted from one ball to another.
2. As an inactive referee you are unable to give any advice.
3. This was a crush Fault.
4. As you did not see the stroke you cannot express an opinion.

*Correct answer (Oxford croquet) is at the end of this newsletter.*



# Trivia

Puzzle -



What does the above image represent?

*Answer later in the Newsletter*

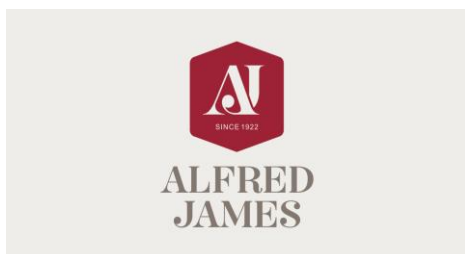
## General News

Good news! We got the Prospect Council Community grant that Sue applied for. This grant was for the installation of a 3<sup>rd</sup> air-conditioner. Kevin has contacted the installer and it will be installed shortly.

## Maintenance

William continues to work with the new contractors to sort out what steps are required to improve our lawns. The new contractor informs me that he walks just under 8kms when he mows the 4 lawns.

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## Quiz Answers

Answer: This was not a crush Fault as crushes cannot be transmitted from one ball to another. ([Rule 11.2.6](#))

### Explanation

If there is no active referee, an inactive referee can ensure play is lawfully continued, but only if players are unable to deal with the issue. (Ref Regs 4.1). By playing Yellow ball into the Red ball, which was in contact with a hoop, the Red ball gets compressed between the Yellow ball and the hoop. However, this is NOT a crush Fault. Yellow ball was touching Red ball so they could be played without generating a crush Fault. While arguably Red was physically squeezed between the Yellow ball and the hoop, as 'crushes cannot be transmitted' between Yellow ball to Red ball, it is NOT a Fault. Note If Yellow had not been in contact with Red at the start of the stroke then a Crush could have taken place. The other potential Fault would be Maintains Contact, Rule 11.2.5,

if the presence of the Red ball delayed the departure of the Yellow ball from the mallet, making it into an unlawful push stroke.

## Puzzle Answer

Map of walking .87 kms whilst playing Golf Croquet on Lawn 1. – as mapped by Strava.

Contributed by Ray Walter

## Committee

President	Vacant
Vice-President	Chris Dalzell
Secretary	Gayle Searle
Treasurer	Noel Spooner
Grounds Manager	William Pennino
AC Captain	Roger Harris
GC Captain	Jim Carter
AC Floor Member	Ray Walter
GC Floor Manager	Karen Tierney
Minutes Secretary (non-voting)	Glenda Kelly





Please send your newsletter contributions to Chris Dalzell  
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or

alternately to

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