

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



## *Croquet Chronicles*

May 2024

### Message from our Vice President

Recently Gayle sent out an email, notifying members of a Special General Meeting to be held on Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>. This meeting is for the purpose of allowing members to vote on the proposed additions and changes that I and through agreement, the committee have identified as being necessary to update the Constitution and By-laws of the club.

The 3 main changes are;

- 1) Introduce a new membership option to try and accommodate people that are working or semi-retired and can't attend the club days regularly. This is an attempt to try and attract new members while not disadvantaging existing full members. The new arrangement will require some extra work from committee members to manage and to a degree some honesty from those taking up the new option.
- 2) Introduce a new role of Complaints Officer. The person filling this role would be tasked with handling all disputes and grievances, taking this task for a large part away from the committee. A policy document has been produced to guide the person in this role as to the definitions of what constitutes behaviours that can lead to disputes and grievances and lays out the steps to be taken to address these if and when they arise.
- 3) Address changes being introduced by the Tax Office in regards to how Not For Profit clubs are to maintain their NFP status.

Other changes are just a matter of taking this opportunity to add clarity to points already included in the documents e.g. clearly stipulating the playing and voting rights of the various membership categories.

I strongly urge you to make yourself a cup of your favoured brew and sit back and enjoy the experience of reading through documents (copies of which were attached to Gayle's email). Before you start complaining about how much work this would entail, think about how much effort, researching and writing in these changes has taken place. The main purpose of getting you all to take the time and read through them is to hopefully ensure there is no glaring mistakes that have been overlooked. Nobody is perfect.

At the SGM each of the changes will need to be voted on with a separate motion. This can be a short process if attendees have done their part by reading through and seeking clarification prior to the meeting. Not by turning up on the day and requiring an explanation on each point. I'm willing to spend time with any member who wishes to discuss the changes, to enable a better understanding of their purpose.

## AC News

### AC Hatwell Gold Medal

The South Australian Association Croquet Hatwell Gold Medal for handicap 3+ players was held at Hutt Road under perfect playing conditions on Tuesday 2nd to Thursday 4th April 2024.

A good field of 9 players took part, 5 from the Norwood Croquet Club.

The event was won convincingly by North Adelaide's Russell Kopp who proved to be a class above the remainder of the group, winning all 8 of his matches by an average margin of 10 hoops. Norwood member, Virginia Arney, was runner-up with 6 wins. Congratulations Russell on a job well done.



## Golf Croquet News

Our 24+ team has won through to the finals for the Autumn pennants competition. The final to be played against South Terrace on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May. Congratulations to all that have played in this team.

Earlier this year our intrepid traveller Robin went off to New Zealand to compete in their Masters Games croquet. Robin managed to collect a Silver Medal in the GC singles competition and then partnering with Rob a player from Wellington in New Zealand they managed to lift the Gold Medal in the GC doubles competition. All in all a very fruitful trip for Robin.

Do you intend returning to compete in future Masters Games, Robin? "You bet cha".

There were 94 in GC Singles (12 blocks of 7 or 8 players in evenly grouped handicaps) and 47 pairs in GC Doubles.





**Under the Hat** is our star of the week Brian lining up for a crucial jump shot. Having the misfortune of being lumbered with your editor as a partner and watching as I missed a straight-forward roquet, we watched Tess roll her blue into the jaws of the hoop. I assigned Brian the task of a straight-forward jump shot and headed off down to the other end of the lawn. Before I turned around Karen called out that Brian had successfully completed his task. I had full confidence in you Brian, and may you enjoy many more successful jump shots.

P.S. We won't share with the readers what happened when you tried to repeat the shot.

## Social Events

### *High Tea*

Our Social Committee decided to challenge themselves and hold a High Tea event at the club. Despite all the trials, once again, they delivered a very successful event with many satisfied attendees. Further details and pics latter in the newsletter.



## News from the 'Badger and Mallet'

The last few months have been quieter for the Bar team, after a hectic Christmas and summer period. Sausage Sizzle Saturdays have now resumed, and Sunday afternoon openings have recommenced for the cooler months. Come along for a game of Croquet from 2pm on 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, and if a suitable Bar team member is available, the bar will open for a social drink around 4pm.

The recent High Tea event drank us out of House Bubbles, but I'm pleased to say we have restocked! Monthly Sausage Sizzles, social events and Sunday openings will keep the team in practice until external bookings come in again.

I am looking for another person or two to join the team, which will spread the workload when we get busy again. So if anyone is willing, please see me about obtaining (quite easily) your RSA certificate and we would love to welcome you.

I will be overseas for 6 weeks during June and July, during which time Peter Swalling will be Bar Manager - Thanks Peter.

🍷 Cheers 🍷 Karen

## Club News

Last month we had the very sad news of the passing of one of our long-standing members, Kath Di Pasquale. I always found Kath, to be a loveable larrikin with a sharp wit.



Kath cutting her birthday cake at the club, ably assisted by her very good friend Lynn.



Kath celebrating her ninetieth birthday at the club.

### Fond farewell to Kath Di Pasquale.

Kath will be long remembered as a longstanding club member noted for her loyalty, willingness to volunteer, reliability and dry sense of humour. We each have our own personal stories and memories of Kath. These are my reflections of a much loved and valued club member.

Kath had a quiet presence and obviously enjoyed coming to the club to play and receive liking and support from other club members. Her great friend was Lynn Hughes who was often on hand to drive Kath to and from the club. They sometimes socialised together and could be seen eating out at cafes and restaurants in the locality. Together they were great ambassadors for the caring spirit of the club. We all bore witness to her declining physical health, although her mind remained sharp and connected.

For several years, her eyesight was a problem and in typical Kath mode played on gamely. Kath and I once took each other on, with the dry macular team (Kath) versus the wet macular team (Barry). The result does not matter but the easy-going banter stays in the mind for both warmth and wit. While mildly declaiming about the confusing complications of the female mind Kath responded by saying I was not to worry as they were often confused as well. What could I say?

Kath was almost ever-present helping in the kitchen preparing food for club social events. What she lacked in croquet hoop running she made up with clinical accuracy carving chicken joints! I enjoyed her presence around the club, which often prompted good natured banter. I always sensed that Kath had good insights into the frailties of the human condition and simply got on with life regardless. She lived to a ripe old age. I recall the large family gathering for her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, comprising Irish and Italian stock and knew she was a member of a supportive network that loved her, too.

Thank you for being you, Kath.

Barry.

## High Tea

High Tea - A stunning success

The catering team held a fantastic, well attended High Tea function on Sunday 22st April. 49 attendees, mostly visitors enjoyed beautiful well-presented food, engaging conversation and a few drinks.

Mary and her team worked hard to cook, decorate and serve a fantastic spread and made about \$1000 for our club.

The team were beautifully dressed with matching 'pinnies' made by Barbara. Tables were beautifully laid out and a special thank you to Carol for supplying the flower arrangements. A very big thanks to all involved.



**The catering team who continue to spoil us club members with fabulous tasty food events.**



## Special Birthdays

This month two of our members celebrated their 80<sup>th</sup> birthdays. As neither of them were available for Saturday morning celebrations near their birthdays we had cake and candles at Tuesday session morning tea. Many thanks to Mary who made the fruit cakes.



Best wishes to both Eleanor Barnard and Jocelyn Swalling for a Happy Birthday and a fabulous year ahead.



## Maintenance

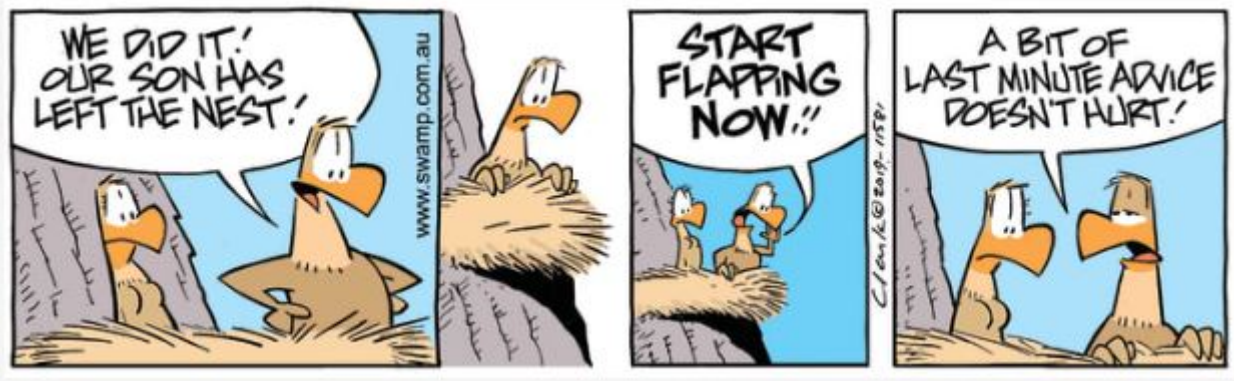


Members would have noticed the removal of the galvanised pipe frame and shade cloth from near lawn 3. This has been re-purposed into a new rail along the main entrance pathway.



This work has been undertaken largely by one member. The purpose of the work is to address the issue of balls becoming airborne when crossing the boundary of lawn 3 and to remove the deteriorating wood sleepers, while hopefully allowing an unimpeded shot from the western boundary.

The club extends a huge thank you to David in recognition of the many hours and physical labour applied to this club improvement project. Just one of the many improvements quietly undertaken by David



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