N.A.C.C.

Croquet Chronicles

SUMMER EDITION

Welcome to all our readers for the last edition of the Club newsletter for 2025.

While the weather has been very unpredictable for the past couple of months, we are now into Summer and the purple Wisteria has been replaced with the glorious purple of Jacarandas in the streets around the Club and across Adelaide.

Christmas is just around the corner and the club is in the midst of a very busy calendar of functions for the Festive Season. In addition to our own club social events, Robin has secured a host of lucrative bookings for the club facilities, both on & off the lawns. Along with Karen and her tireless Bar Team, there are many generous club members who give their time behind the scenes to make it all happen and we thank them for enabling the Club to remain financially viable with modest fees.

As most of you are already aware, from January next, the Club will be operating on a calendar year, rather than a financial year and Membership Fees will be adjusted to suit. Thankyou to our Executive for managing the Club with a mission to enable fees to remain affordable. Members will be kept informed, as always, and thankyou to Marianne for her diligence in that regard.

Our Club had its' future under threat in the early part of 2025 and that uncertainty was very worrying for members, but it is wonderful to finish the

year with an assurance from Prospect Council, that the Club will be secure in its' current location, albeit with a different layout and new clubrooms. 3 cheers for Gayle and other determined members for this happy outcome,

Best Wishes for a Safe & Happy Festive Season,
Cheers, Ann

A Word from our President

Dear Members,
After a relatively quiet time regarding the PLP developments from the Croquet Club's point of view there are now further updates happening. The Croquet Club is approved to remain in the precinct, with three full competition size courts and new Clubrooms. Many thanks to everyone who assisted in this successful drive for inclusion however now there begins the discussions re designs and allocated provision of facilities. I will be continuing to represent the Club's interests in many meetings which will be occurring from now on, together with ensuring a presence at all Council meetings where applicable to our cause.

It has been most gratifying to see some new players at the Club on Tuesday and Saturday mornings. We are always happy to welcome new players to enjoy our fun sport and social connections. To this end I remind members that, to keep our Club running, we need to maintain player numbers and interest in the community. Please continue to consider friends, relatives or associates to whom you may introduce the pleasure of playing Croquet at NACC. We are in an ideal position for promotions of companies, so Sponsorship offers to follow up with would also give our Club a huge boost. Great introductory pamphlets are available at the Clubrooms. Maybe pick up a couple when next there and consider asking a business interest near you for their consideration to sponsor NACC.

As Spring is now upon us and weather conditions are more comfortable it would be very good to see all our courts regularly filled with eight players each during Club sessions. William is working hard to get the greens up to their best performance levels and as always, we are most grateful for all his work. Don't forget to offer a helping hand for any extra jobs he may need help with. Working bees will be coming up as the Club needs a good 'Spring Clean'.

I continue to look forward to and enjoy seeing everyone's happy faces at Club mornings and social events. Croquet is wonderful!

Regards,
Gayle Searle (President)

Harris History Hub

> *"In English amusements as in French studies, there is a bifurcation. Each sex has its own pastimes founded on instinct and suited to its natural capacities. But between these extremes are others which are suited to both sexes.* ***Croquet is the best attempt which has yet been made to provide a game in which the two sexes can join, depending on dexterity rather than strength."***

Thus proclaimed *The Saturday Review of Politics, Literature and Science* (1864), which rarely wrote about sport! The Review continued with the implications of this realisation at that time:

> *"If there is one terror which haunts the British materfamilias and her daughters more than any other, it is asking people to what they call nothing. Croquet supplies that indispensable something which will justify an invitation.* ***Neighbours are asked to croquet, as they are asked to luncheon or a picnic.*** *We English need every possible aid to sociability. Anything which tends to thaw the coating of starch which overlies our real kindliness is deserving of encouragement."*

And as croquet grew and increasingly allowed women to do their own thing, and men and women to mix together outdoors, the game began to graduate from garden parties to clubs, becoming more organised. The game spread to Australia, where wealthy colonists established courts in their gardens or on their pastoral leases. When Dr Schomburgk was designing the Adelaide Botanic Garden in 1874, he included two croquet courts in his design. The South Australian Cricket Association also set up two croquet courts behind the main grandstand at Adelaide Oval.[1]

Interstate games started in 1949 with teams of four players, mainly women in the early days, but as more men played, they dominated selection. The Australian Croquet Association deemed in 1982 that teams be four men and four women.

In South Australia, croquet has certainly grown beyond its garden party image and is now a sport for all ages and all skill levels to enjoy.

Roger Harris
North Adelaide Croquet Club

DON'T FORGET … Centenary of Prospect (North Adelaide) Croquet Club in March 2026.
If you have any ideas or suggestions for promoting & celebrating this milestone in our Club's history, please chat to Roger or any Committee member.

North Adelaide Games 2025

The 23rd North Adelaide Games in November 2025 included GC as well as AC, the first time both codes have participated since November 2017. We wanted to bring the two codes together as the Prospect Club heads towards its Centenary next March (following the amalgamation of Prospect and Fitzroy clubs in 2002).

AC Invitation Singles

Seven men played in the Invitation Singles on the weekend of 15-16 November. After six games, Ed Wilson (Millswood) was the clear winner with six wins (all with a score of 26 and three triple peels), while David Short (Norwood) and Mark Senior (Hyde Park) finished on four wins – David was the runner-up with superior net hoops.

In the Women's Invitation Singles, a late withdrawal reduced the number to five, then another player had to withdraw for health reasons the day before. Unfortunately, Tracey Sincock also had to pull out with an injury after playing the first day, leaving only three to compete on the last day. With a quick reshuffle of the draw, Joan Kelly (Norwood) and Judy Lipsett (Salisbury) played in the semi-final, which Joan won, then Shirley Howlett (Victor Harbor) played Joan in the final, with Shirley the winner and Joan the runner-up.

AC Swiss Singles

In this event over three days, Tuesday 11 to Thursday 13 November, 17 players competed from seven clubs and on handicaps ranging from zero to 20. In the Championship section, Greg Rowberry (Norwood) was the winner, with Julie Barry (Millswood) the runner-up. In the Handicap section, where players' handicaps are weighted to give all handicaps a chance of winning, Karen Magee (Brighton) was the winner (119 'handicap hoops'), with Norma Greig (North Adelaide) the runner-up (114 'handicap hoops').

GC Singles

The GC Open and 8+ Singles were played on Wednesday 12 and Thursday 13 November. Only four players registered for each of these GC events, but we hope the word will spread and more will participate next year. The GC Open was won by Barry Jennings (Hyde Park), with Philip Colebatch (Norwood) the runner-up. In the 8+ competition, Phil Burford (North Adelaide) was the winner and Lynn Hughes (North Adelaide) was the runner-up.

Congratulations to all these worthy winners.

As AC tournament manager, together with Jim Carter for the GC component, our sincere thanks go to all participants in our Games this year, and to all helpers who assisted throughout the events – those who fed and watered players (Barbara Stanley and helpers); ensured lawns were manicured (William Pennino) and hoops were excellently set (Russell Kopp); refereed (James Temlett, Kevin Le Poidevin, Jim Carter, and occasionally on the last day, Mary Marsland); organised the raffle and snapped photographs (Janet Willshire); staffed the bar after each event (Karen Tierney, William

Pennino); as well as any others I may have neglected to mention. My grateful appreciation for helping to run again a successful North Adelaide Games, which have been a feature of the SA croquet calendar every year since 2002.

Roger Harris

AC Captain, North Adelaide Croquet Club

North Adelaide Games 2025

Invitation Singles

Winners:
Shirley Howlett and Ed Wilson

North Adelaide Games 2025
Swiss Singles - Championship
Winner: Greg Rowberry
Runner-up: Julie Barry

North Adelaide Games 2025
Swiss Singles - Handicap
Winner: Karen Magee
Runner-up: Norma Greig

Congratulations to all the happy GC victors!

Well done Lyn and Phil

Jim with Phil Colebatch

Jim with Barry Jennings

Don't forget to buy your club Christmas Raffle tickets before the draw at on Friday evening at "Christmas Drinks" …. 3 Tickets for $5

Great prizes and they might be the solution for last minute gifts on Christmas Day … just an idea !

Keeping the Club busy and Croquet in the public eye …

Robin and her SEDA College buddies (after having introduced them to some Croquet etiquette)

A big thankyou to Robin for encouraging & managing bookings from outside groups, who pay to use the Club facilities.

The whole SEDA College clan enjoying the Croquet experience and potentially becoming ambassadors for the Club

The Stars of the Catering Crew have done it again …

Bravo Libby, Barbara, Eleanore, Jane and their marvellous kitchen catering crew, for serving a splendid Melbourne Cup Lunch to members and friends.

Beauty everywhere with Blooms and Bookies on hand ….
followed by a Millinery parade of enthusiatic punters.

What a social lot we are …

Libby has been steering that Social Ship for an admirably long shift and has now called time but not before organising and supplying her own 80th birthday lunch to celebrate with members, and, as her catering swan song, the Christmas lunch her family subsidised.

These events are all part of the friendship and connection enjoyed by us as members of NACC and I look forward to seeing Libby become a passenger.

Libby's month long "Festival of Libby" featured many happy celebrations

A jolly Christmas Lunch at the Windsor Hotel

Don’t miss “Christmas Drinks ... Bring a Plate”on 19th

3 Cheers, Bravo and Well Done N.A.C.C. !!!

The Club collected a swag of Pennants and Medals at the recent SACA Pennants Presentation lunch.

Great Results for 2025

Congratulations

Dear Santa,
We would like a Treasurer and a Secretary for Christmas. Any colour or size would be fine.

Thankyou from NACC xx

Dear readers,
as Editor of the Newsletter,
I'd like to wish you
Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year

3 CHEERS and see you at the
Badger & Mallet, Ann

WINDMILL HOTEL

94 Main North Rd, Prospect
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Thankyou to Our Sponsors

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