

VICTOR HARBOR CROQUET CLUB

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From the President, Shirley Howlett

For the last few weeks I've been a little worried by the thought that our club is not as united as it should be. Perhaps it's not so, but there are reminders of how it was when I first joined the club. Back in 2013 there were more AC players than GC. A lot of members saw themselves as AC members, others as GC members, and maybe the few felt looked down on. This didn't help club unity.

The Management Committee worked hard over time to emphasise that we are all Club members, we are not defined by the code we choose to play.

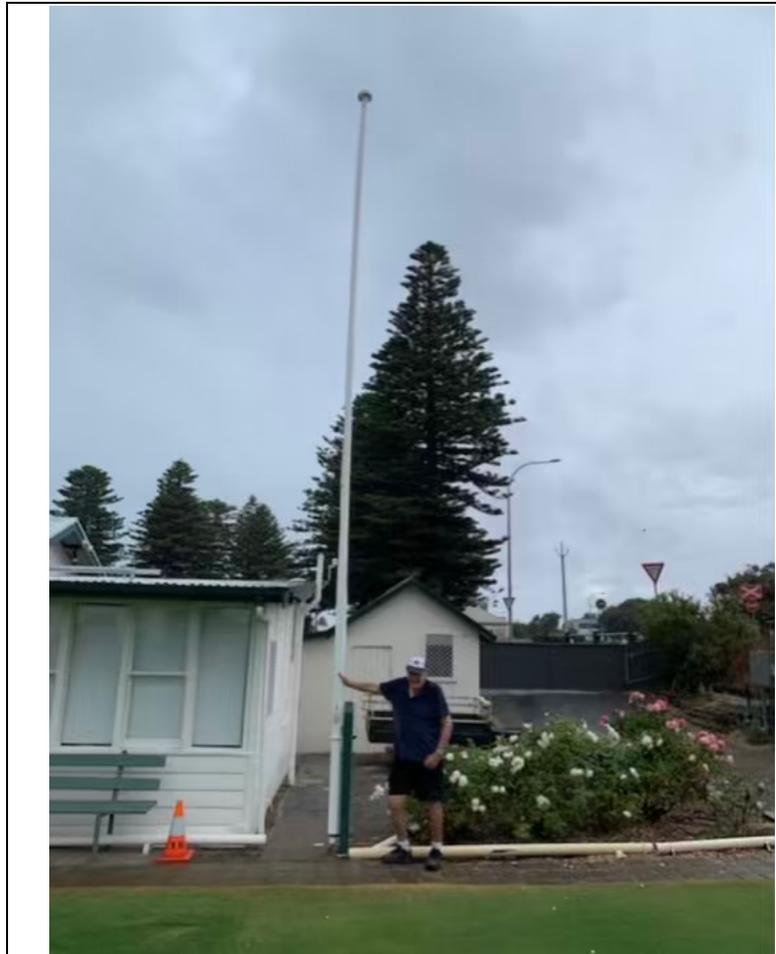
Currently numbers heavily favor GC, and on occasion negative comments are made about AC players. It would be impossible for the AC Tournament to go ahead without the help of GC players. It is appreciated.

We are all members of the Victor Harbor Croquet Club no matter what code we play. Help is needed to run each tournament. Both make a lot of money for the Club and we can then use that money to benefit members.

Please remember the club first, not code. Volunteer by baking a cake, or setting up a court or donating your lawn fees for a week. Each small contribution will help our tournaments be the most profitable yet!

Building maintenance report

The painting of the flag pole is now complete. Thanks go to Neil Franks, Mike Stratton (the sanding man), Kenny Inglis, Peter Keam and Frank Markus. The renewal of shade cloth covers to three shade shelters is underway with a temporary tarpolin on the most northerly shelter. Two other timber shade structures will have new shade cloth added very soon. The Men's toilet building external and internal patch repairs and painting is also on the to do list.....



Golf Croquet Report

Club match days are very well attended with Wednesdays and Saturdays usually oversubscribed. Third colours were trailed in January and this does work at allowing more members to play at the same time, although the third colours need to switch hoops as required to avoid the other playing teams (please don't hold them up) and patience is required for all players on the court. Also, a fourth game is available so arrive before 10.45am to play games 3 & 4 to ensure you play two games.

We're in the summer period now and this means some days will be too hot – causing a cancellation. Helen McQueen or I will notify members via email late afternoon whether play will be cancelled or shortened the following day. Alternatively members can check the Bureau of Meteorology website at 4.00pm to see the Victor Harbor estimated maximum for the following day (this is the measure used to guide play times for the next day). When the forecast is 34 to 36 we will start the Golf Croquet session at 8.00am – so be there at 7.45am to prepare for play. Also see the hot weather policy towards the end of this Newsletter.

Future/Current Golf Croquet events

A VHCC 5+ Pennants team will play their first Pennant match vs Woodville on 21/02 (likely to be cancelled due to hot weather). The team for the first two games is Kenny Inglis, Peter Willis, Ronnie McNab and myself – Frank Markus. The next match is vs Millswood on 14/03.

The VHCC Golf Croquet Tournament will be played from 21/03/26 to 25/03/26 with entries opened on 01/01/26. The 32 places available were filled in the first few days with reserves in place in case players drop out.

The SA Masters Games will run from 16th – 19th April and feature only Golf Croquet – singles and doubles. Entries are now open and Club members are able to enter too.

Frank Markus GC Coordinator

Association Croquet Report

Andy Lang has won the VH Division 3 event for 2025. This has been a protracted process with getting the players together. As there were only 2 entries (for a variety of reasons) Andy and Mark Goldsmith played a best of three format. Both games were very tight, especially the second one that I had the pleasure of watching. Ten minutes before the bell Andy was well in front and Mark got in. During Mark's last turn the bell went and he continued with his turn going to the peg and pegging out. After a break of 9 he was one in front of Andy and only leaving 3 balls on the court. Andy commenced his last turn after the bell with the balls well separated, but Mark had given Andy contact which Andy gratefully took. With great composure Andy made the next 2 hoops to take out the game. Both players made wonderful breaks showing great concentration and skill.

The Div. 2 event is also completed with Don Driver taking the title this year. As there were only 3 players it was played in a round robin format. Each of the three contestants Don, Shirley and Steve managed to win a game. So, it came down to hoop differences with Don winning by one hoop over Shirley, and Shirley by one hoop over Steve.

We have also played our first pennant game with Shirley and Steve winning one game out of the 4 games on the day. We will improve from here. The next pennants game is on the 28th of February.

Editor's note: The Annual Victor Harbor Association Croquet tournament will run from Sunday 1st March until Friday 6th March (Lawns closed for regular club play). The lawns will also be closed to coaching on Friday 27th February to allow for final lawn preparations – however normal club play will occur on Saturday 28th February.

Court Maintenance

As all players will have noticed, the courts have really responded to the care and attention provided over the last couple of months.

A variety of treatments, fertilizers and the recent grooming have really boosted a response from the couch grass. The courts have a variety of grasses, including a couple of different types of couch, hence the occasional colour differences. The other grasses we control are Poa and crabgrass. Why? Because these two have different growth habits and because of this they can produce a bumpy court and the bumps aren't always favourable.

Another factor that affects the care of the courts is the VH winds as the spray application of treatment can only happen below 10kph to avoid spray drift. The irrigation system is most effective below 20kph. Balancing these activities is difficult and a lot of it happens outside of normal work hours.

Simon attends to the courts and equipment as needed, which occasionally means early or late in the day and also on Sundays. We thank him for this. The courts are ready for our tournament season.

Steve and Bridie



A photograph of the courts looking out from the Pavillion.

Club 2025 Xmas party

Generally the members were happy with the Xmas party lunch with some members disappointed in the catering. An equal number of members prefer the party to be at the Clubrooms and an outside venue. It would seem by that evaluation the 2026 lunch will be held at an outside venue.

SA Masters Games

	<p>Victor Harbor Council has won the rights to hold the SA Masters Games from April 16th to 19th 2026. Croquet is a Masters' sport and the Club has put up its hand to run matches on all four days. Only Golf Croquet will be played with games on all four days (singles in the morning and doubles in the afternoon). Frank Markus will be the director of the competition with support kindly being offered by SACA member Eileen Ferguson who has been involved with past Masters events. Entries are now open with entries including from VHCC members. 25 entries so far at 17/02/26</p>
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Treasurers Message

Anyone with any ideas and plans to run a fund raising event please put your suggestion in the box to let the committee know.

Other Stuff

A reminder to members to **walk around the courts before and after your games**. This avoids holding up play on Courts (if walking in front of players about to hit off) and also reduces the wear on the lawn surface.

Members should wear a name badge during games. These are available from Tonkins Sports Store on Ocean Street in VH at minimal cost.

The Zonta Club of Victor Harbor has invited the VHCC to be a stall participant at a Women's Expo to be held at Grosvenor Gardens in Victor Harbor on March 15th 11.00am to 2.00pm. Kate Logan has volunteered to staff the stall and Volunteers are called to assist her – please contact Helen McQueen if you are able to assist.

TO ALL OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS, THANK YOU

Our Major Sponsors: 'See Optometry' and Morgan Investments

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Café Primo, Coles Supermarket
Drakes, Kev's Quality Meats, Nino's
Middleton Pharmacy, National Pharmacies
Whalers Seaside Dining, Raw Bulk Wholefoods
Wohlers ,Yilki General Store, Simplicity Funerals
Woolworths, Swann's Harbor Pharmacy, Victor Central Shoe Repairs
The Pirates Chest, Colorful Inclusions

D5. DRESS CODE

The Victor Harbor Croquet Club recognises that the wearing of appropriate attire for Club play gives croquet credibility as a serious sport. It also enhances the team spirit when Club teams are engaged in competition.

Accordingly, the following Code, devised by the Victor Harbor Croquet Club, applies to all Club members.

Club members are expected to adhere to the following dress standard when playing on Club days or in team competitions.

Dress Code Policy

- Members must wear flat- soled enclosed shoes.
- Members should dress in neat casual attire appropriate for playing croquet.
- If representing the VHCC in competitions, members are encouraged to wear the club uniform i.e. royal blue top, vest or jacket, plus white, navy or beige trousers or shorts. Club tops with monogram can be ordered at Totally Workwear.
- Players are encouraged to be sun smart and wear a hat/visor, sunglasses and sunscreen.

For matches played on non-Club days, coaching sessions and practice sessions the above dress standards are not required. Members are expected to be neatly dressed and wear flat-soled shoes on these occasions.

Club monogrammed Polo Shirts, Jackets, and Vests are available from Totally Workwear at Lincoln Park- off Waterport Road. A selection of Caps and Hats are available for purchase from the club.

HOT WEATHER PLAY POLICY

If the forecast temperature for Victor Harbor only the BOM website at 4.00pm the day before:

	32° or less	33° & 34°	35° & 36°	37° or more
AM <i>Morning</i>	PLAY	PLAY- finish by 12.30 pm	PLAY - finish by 10 am	NO PLAY LAWNS CLOSED
PM <i>Afternoon</i>	PLAY	↓ NO PLAY After 12.30 am LAWNS CLOSED	↓ NO PLAY After 10 am LAWNS CLOSED	↓ NO PLAY LAWNS CLOSED

All club members will be advised of the decision to play or not by 7.30pm the evening before club play.

THE POLICY APPLIES TO: all persons engaging in or supporting on court activities:
Club play, social play, practice, coaching, competitions and events.

Editor's note

If the weather is above a certain temperature, play will be limited or cancelled. This includes **any day** with club play, social games and coaching or practice. There may be an email message from the Golf Croquet Coordinator or the Secretary but all members should take note of the forecast temperature from the BOM website for Victor Harbor at 4.00pm on the day prior to play and follow the above policy.

VHCC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE and OFFICIAL POSITIONS 2025-26		
PUBLIC OFFICER	Russell Parkes	
PRESIDENT	Shirley Howlett	
VICE PRESIDENT	Neil Franks	
TREASURER	Vacant	
SECRETARY	Helen McQueen	
A.C. CO-ORDINATOR	Steve Templeton	
G.C. CO-ORDINATOR	Frank Markus	
COMMITTEE Member	Bridie O'Reilly	
COMMITTEE Member	Jackie Goldsmith	
COMMITTEE Member	Kate Logan	
CROQUET SA Delegate	Bernie Pfitzner	
ASSOCIATION CROQUET		
REFEREES/UMPIRES	Mark Goldsmith, Shirley Howlett, Brenda Brown	
COACHES	Shirley Howlett	Mark Goldsmith
HANDICAPPER	Mark Goldsmith	
HANDICAP COMMITTEE	AC Handicapper - M. Goldsmith	+AC Co-ord & one other
MATCH COMMITTEE	AC Co-ord (chair)	+Coach: Shirley Howlett & one other
AC TOURNAMENT MANAGER	Shirley Howlett	Assistant: Bridie O'Reilly
GOLF CROQUET		
REFEREES/UMPIRES	Bernie Pfitzner/Frank Markus	
COACHES	Kate Logan B. Pfitzner S. Howlett	F. Markus, J. Coleman, D. Coleman,
HANDICAPPER	Bernie Pfitzner	
HANDICAP COMMITTEE	GC Handicapper B. Pfitzner (Chair)	+ GC Co-ord & one other
MATCH COMMITTEE	GC Co-ord. (Chair)	+Coach. Kate Logan & one other
GC TOURNAMENT MANAGER	Kate Logan	
COMMITTEES		
FINANCE	Chair: Treasurer Janeen Coleman	H. McQueen, F. Markus, N. Franks
FUNDRAISING.	Chair. R. Westcott J. Thompson, J. Coleman, D. Coleman.	
FACILITIES & MTCE Committee	Neil Franks, Frank Markus and Steve Templeton	
OTHER POSITIONS		
WEBSITE	Janis Jenkins, Bernie Pfitzner	
NEWSLETTER	F. Markus, President & Secretary	
HISTORIAN		
LAWN MAINTENANCE GREEN KEEPER: Contractor LINE MARKING HOOP MOVEMENT SURROUNDS: Mowing	Bridie O'Reilly & Steve Templeton Simon Kluske Steve Templeton Dennis Blowes Kate Logan Frank Markus Dennis Blowes Frank Markus	Committee rep
GRANTS	Janis Jenkins	Bernie Pfitzner
MEMBER PROTECTION	Bernie Pfitzner	
PUBLICITY	Facebook: Jackie Goldsmith	
SPONSORSHIP & SIGNAGE	Bernie Pfitzner	
FIRST AID CERT	S. Howlett, R. Westcott, C. Horner, N. Cheshire, P. Willis, A-M. Murphy, E. Morgan	
BAR MANAGER RSA- Qualified. Responsible Persons	Don Driver	Assistant. R Westcott
	D. Driver, R. Westcott, J. Coleman, S. Templeton, B. O'Reilly, M. Goldsmith All approved current committee members.	
STAR CLUB: Officer/rep	Bernie Pfitzner	
CHILD SAFE OFFICER	Bernie Pfitzner	
WORKING WITH CHILDREN	Bernie Pfitzner, Kate Logan, Shirley Howlett, Janeen Coleman, F. Markus	
GOOD SPORTS: Contact	Helen McQueen	
RULE BOOKS: Sales	GC Bernie Pfitzner	AC Shirley Howlett
CLUB CAPS & HATS: Sales	Bernie Pfitzner	
SOFT DRINKS: Stock/Sales	Rhonda Westcott	
KITCHEN MANAGER	Joan Thompson	Purchase supplies: Heather Martin

Note: The President is ex officio at all meetings