

VICTOR HARBOR CROQUET CLUB

NEWSLETTER January 2026



VOLUME 32

ISSUE 1



From the President, Shirley Howlett

The first four months of 2026 will be a testing time for our club. The AC tournament (Sunday March 1st to Friday 6th March) begins our busiest time of year. We have a full field of 32 players including 6 from interstate.

Then follows the GC tournament capably organised by Kate Logan held on (21st March to 25th March).

Both of these tournaments require a lot of workers and there will soon be sheets to be filled in by members to indicate what sandwich making shift they can work, or what cakes they can make, or court setters/ dismantlers etc.

Please try to make time to volunteer in whatever way suits your talent!

Of course during tournaments members are going to be unable to play, but it would be great if everyone gave the equivalent time in working. Please ask if you're unsure about what needs to be done.

I would also like to remind members to pay the annual subscription fee. It's unfortunate that we have to pay so soon after the last quarter, but CroquetSA changing to the calendar year has made it this way.

Some good news is that thanks to Janeen the Club received \$1500 from the government for equipment. New sets of balls will be purchased and used in tournaments. Consequently the current tournament balls will become available for club play.

Building maintenance report

The next two projects to be done are the painting of the flag pole and fitting new shade cloth to three shade shelters – programmed to be done in the first three months of 2026. 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 continue to be very well attended with the first day in January 2026 having 33 members wishing to play. Thankfully enough members are willing to sit out some games and play games 2 & 3 or 1 & 3.

We're in the summer period now and this means some days will be too hot – causing a cancellation. I will notify members via email late afternoon whether play will be cancelled or shortened. Alternatively members can check the Bureau of Metrology 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). Also see the hot weather policy towards the end of this Newsletter.

Future/Current Golf Croquet events

A VHCC 5+ Pennants team will play 14 games at Hutt Road this year (same as in 2025). There are 8 teams entered in 2026 – being North Adelaide, Norwood, Millswood, Victor Harbor, Glenunga, Hyde Park, Woodville & Brighton. The matches are scheduled to start on 17/02/25. A total of 14 games in a double round robin series will be played. Final game on 22/11/26.

The GC Club championship games are causing some difficulties with the format causing some players to withdraw and others unhappy generally. I'm not sure what to do with them and may abandon them for the 2025 year in preference for a more widely accepted format at the end of 2026 (from October). TBN

The VHCC Golf Croquet Tournament will be played from 21/03/26 to 25/03/26 with entries opened on 01/01/26.

The SA Masters Games will run from 16th – 20th 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 Court Maintenance

AC pennants commence at the end of January and VHCC will run at least one team.

A call out for an additional volunteer to take on a proxy role with Line Marking and Court perimeter lawn mowing. This is currently done by Stephen Templeton and Dennis Blowes – an additional line marking volunteer is needed – please contact Stephen if you think you can paint a straight line with the line marking machine.

From Stephen Templeton AC Coordinator/Lawn Maintenance



Club 2025 Xmas party :

This year the Club Xmas party was held in the Clubrooms on 9/12/25 with outside catering preparing a Turkey/Roast Pork and vegetables lunch with tremendous Xmas decorations abound by Joan Thompson and Rhonda Westcott – raffles run and it seemed a very good time was had by members.

Club Mallets- The use of club mallets are for the use of new learners, visitors and those club members who have not yet bought a mallet. One of the considerations is maintenance. All mallets have been refreshed with new varnish courtesy Peter Willis and Neil Cheshire – great thanks for your expertise.

There will be some mallets reserved for learners and visitors and are not for general use. There will also be some mallets available for purchase. Depending on the ease of use for you personally, they could need some alteration such as longer handles.

And there will be some mallets for use by club members, who do not yet have a mallet, for a contribution of \$1 per session, payable into the labeled container, set beside the Green Fees container on the desk. These mallets will be kept in shed 1. If you are interested in purchasing a club mallet, catch up with Kate Logan who will show you the selection and talk about customizing it for your use.

SA Masters Games

	<p>Victor Harbor Council has won the rights to hold the SA Masters Games from April 16th to 20th 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.</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. Anyone who hasn't received an email with their invoice for 2026 fees please contact Janeen Coleman on 0411 838 333.

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. Volunteers are called to be at the event – please contact Helen McQueen if you are interested to assist.

TO ALL OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS, THANK YOU

Our Major Sponsors: 'See Optometry' and Morgan Investments

Allira Florist, Beach House Café
Bleasdale Wines, Bunnings
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	Janeen Coleman	
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 - Mark Goldsmith (Chair)	+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	F. Markus, J. Coleman, D. Coleman, B. Pfitzner
HANDICAPPER	Bernie Pfitzner	
HANDICAP COMMITTEE	GC Handicapper Bernie 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. Wescott J. Thompson, J. Coleman, D. Coleman. Pres & Sec ex officio	
FACILITIES REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE 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 Kate Logan Dennis Blowes	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, Frank 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.

CONTINUED WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Janet Nisted, Karen Edwards, Von Lewis, June
Lewis, Paul Beasley & Peter Keam