

VICTOR HARBOR CROQUET CLUB

NEWSLETTER March 2026



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From the President, Shirley Howlett

The AC tournament is over for another year. It was a great success. The lawns were excellent, the weather was good after the first drizzly day, and the competitors enjoyed themselves.

It was great to get very positive feedback from first time visitors from Western Australia. They were impressed by the friendliness of our club members, loved the location and promised to return.

Mark Kobelt from Tumby Bay won the first division singles for the third time. He lost one game only, to runner up Murray Baum from Norwood.

The full results can be found later in the newsletter.

Many thanks to all of the club members who helped during the week. Bridie worked particularly hard, doing the draw and all associated paperwork, and entering results. Thank you Bridie !

Thanks to the lawn team (Simon, Steve and Bridie) for lots of preparation as well as during the tournament.

Joan and helpers did a great job catering each day. Jackie and friend Kathy Cornish from Norwood coordinated the club dinner efficiently. A big thank you to Helen Chesterfield for her generosity in both donating the main course and making dessert.

Thank you to Rhonda for coming every day from dawn to dark, preparing and selling raffle tickets and keeping every visitor happy.

Thank you to Brenda, Mark and Steve for refereeing and with Frank early morning hoop setting.

There is also a core group of members who always show up regularly to help at club functions, Kate, Bernie, Janis, Patricia, Helen McQ, Don for the Bar.

Thank you to See Optometry for their generosity in providing prize money and new optometrist Leela for presenting awards.

Thanks also to the many businesses in VH and surrounds who gave generously for our raffles.

And now for the next tournament! We can do it!!

Building maintenance report

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.

Future/Current Golf Croquet events

A VHCC 5+ Pennants team played their first Pennant match vs Millswood on 14/03. The team was Kenny Inglis, Wendy Wang, Ronnie McNab and myself – Frank Markus. We lost 2 games to 3 with one a draw. The next match is vs North Adelaide on 11/04. The team for that match is currently, Kenny Inglis, Wendy Wang, Ronnie McNab and Janis Jenkins.

The VHCC Golf Croquet Tournament was held from 21/03/26 to 25/03/26. A report on the event is on page 5 of this Newsletter.

The SA Masters Games will run from 16th – 19th April and feature only Golf Croquet – singles and doubles. Entries are now open and VHCC members are encouraged to enter too. At the moment there are 33 entries – entries close 4.00pm 6/04/26.

Frank Markus GC Coordinator

Association Croquet Report

Well after a successful AC tournament in VH five of our members went to Norwood for their annual AC tournament.

Unfortunately Kate and Bridie only had time to play the doubles day due to other commitments.

Results: Shirley Howlett won Division 2, Steve Templeton won Division.3 and Mark Goldsmith won Division 4. And to top it off Shirley and Mary Maryland (Norwood), and Kate Logan and Liz Mackenzie (Norwood) won their division in the doubles.

What a great result for VH Croquet.

Division 1 was won by Simon Hockey of Crystal Brook. The standard was exceptionally high as Simon is ranked 10th in the world and his opponent was Dwayne McCormick ranked 29th.

Some points of interest are, the hoops set at 3 11/16" (as they are at VH) were a lot more difficult to run as indicated by many low scores. All divisions were rotated across all courts ie. no favouritism.

In one of Shirley's games, the only one she lost, her opponent, Megan Reynolds from WA made a faultless break of 12. Good croquet.

In one of Steve's games with one minute to play and Steve 1 hoop behind he managed to peel both of his balls through hoop 5 and then retreated to the corners after the bell to win by one. Too close!

Norwood has a bbq for their dinner that was popular and well attended and is a good fundraiser.

Steve Templeton
AC Coordinator

Victor Harbor AC Tournament 2026

The annual VHCC AC tournament is over for 2026. Thanks to all Club volunteers especially Shirley Howlett (Tournament director), Joan Thompson (Kitchen Manager) and Rhonda Westcott (Support everything) and the sandwich makers +++ for making the event a success.

	
Mark Kobelt from Tumby Bay (winner of tournament)	Mark Kobelt



Megan Reynolds from WA



Jim Curtis from Aldinga

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.

VHCC GC Tournament March 2026

The annual Victor Harbor Golf Croquet Tournament was held on 21/03/26 to 25/03/26 in warm to hot weather. The event was ably managed by Kate Logan and Bernie Pfitzner with extraordinary assistance by Joan Thompson, Rhonda Westcott, Helen McQueen, Patricia Marsland, Jackie Goldsmith, Philip Dale, Janeen Coleman, David Coleman, Neil Cheshire, Frank Markus, Dennis Blowes, Steve Templeton, Simon Kluske (green Keeper). Also thanks to the major sponsors Cannaccord Genuity Financial Ltd.

The high low competition was won by Heather Martin & Dean Rodda with Wayne Faithful & Shirley Howlett runners up. The open singles winner was Penny Morrison-McGill and runner up Greg Rowberry. Division two singles winner was Kenny Inglis and runner up Kevin Young with the division three singles winner Helen Rodda and Linda Kinch runner up. In the doubles the open winners were Penny Morrison-McGill and Mary Tabrah with the runners up Greg Rowberry and Philip Colebatch. In Division two doubles the winners were Heather Lees and Shirley Howlett and runners up Frank Markus and Kevin Young and division three doubles winners were Colleen Page and Stuart Page and runners up Karen Davidson and John Priller.



Heather Lees and Penny Morrison-McGill



Kenny Inglis and Kevin Young



Helen Rodda and Linda Kinch



Mary Tabrah Penny M Greg Rowberry and Philip Colebatch



Shirley Howlett Heather Lees Frank Markus and Kevin Young



Stuart Page Colleen Page Karen Davidson and John Priller

SA Masters Games



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 encouraged from VHCC members. 33 entries so far at 26/03/26

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

Allira Florist, Beach House Café
Bleasdale Wines, Bunnings
Café Primo, Coles Supermarket
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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

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