

# VICTOR HARBOR CROQUET CLUB

## NEWSLETTER April 2026



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*From the President, Shirley Howlett*

Well another month has rolled on and another successful Tournament at VHCC is over, with the SA Masters event. A big shout out to Mark and Jackie Goldsmith who without asking offered to pick up the dinner preparation role so that the competitors and volunteers had a Clubhouse dinner on one night during the event. This is a particularly beneficial function that allows the option of all the key players to sit together in the Clubrooms enjoying a shared meal and a drink.

World Croquet day will be celebrated on Saturday May 9<sup>th</sup> so if possible make sure you come along to play (or watch) in either the Golf Croquet and or the Association Croquet sessions on this day, taking a moment to acknowledge the many many former and current members who play, volunteer, coach, referee, administrate, build, maintain, garden and mostly really enjoy being a member of a Croquet Club.

### **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. Jackie and Mark Goldsmith are driving some clubroom internal works (a bar, a dishwasher! and a handbasin) with funding generously provided by Victor Harbor Rotary Club. The Men's toilet building external and internal patch repairs and painting, are 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 9.45am to play games 2, 3 & 4 or 10.45am to play games 3 & 4 to ensure you play three/two games.

## **Future/Current Golf Croquet events**

A VHCC 5+ Pennants team continues to compete in this tough category with the team of Kenny Inglis, Wendy Wang, Ronnie McNab and Janis Jenkins unsuccessful vs North Adelaide on 11/04. The next match is vs Brighton Croquet Club on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 11.30am start time at the Hutt Road Croquet Centre.

The SA Masters VHCC Golf Croquet Tournament was held from 16/04/26 to 19/04/26. A report on the event is on page 3 of this Newsletter.

Frank Markus GC Coordinator

## **Association Croquet Report**

A bit of Association Croquet history for your reading today. In Australia, Association Croquet traces its origins to the late 19th century, during a broader wave of British cultural influence across the colonies. The game itself had been codified in England in the 1860s, particularly through the work of the All England Croquet Club (now better known as the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club), and it quickly spread through the Empire.

Croquet arrived in Australia by the 1870s, initially played as a social lawn game among the colonial middle and upper classes. Early clubs formed in major cities such as Melbourne and Sydney, often linked to bowling or tennis clubs. As the sport developed, players sought more formal and competitive structures, leading to the adoption of “association croquet” rules—essentially the standardised English version of the game.

By the early 20th century, croquet in Australia had become more organised, with state associations forming to govern play and competitions. This culminated in the establishment of the Australian Croquet Council in 1914, providing a unified national framework and aligning Australian play with international standards.

Today, association croquet remains one of the sport’s premier formats in Australia, valued for its strategic depth and precision. Clubs such as those in regional areas—including Victor Harbor (that commenced playing at the current Bridge Street Lawn bowling greens in 1923 and moved to the current location in 1947)—continue a tradition that stretches back more than 140 years, blending competitive play with the strong social spirit that first brought croquet to Australian lawns.

Steve Templeton  
AC Coordinator

## Victor Harbor GC SA Masters Tournament 2026

VHCC organised an event in the SA Masters Games – Golf Croquet in Singles and Doubles. The event ran from 16<sup>th</sup> April until 19<sup>th</sup> April and was a great success. 34 players lined up from around the state and Victoria (Port Lincoln and Mildura) and six VHCC players. Thanks to Eileen Ferguson for assisting Frank Markus in the administration and management of the event.

Also thanks to all the Club volunteers especially Helen McQueen, Janeen Coleman & Kate Logan (Kitchen Managers) and Rhonda Westcott (Support everything); Mark and Jackie Goldsmith, Dennis Blowes, Helen Chesterfield (delicious roast Lamb), Helen McQueen a second time for preparing the salads for the Friday night dinner and the sandwich makers +++ for making the event a success.

A big thank you to Norwood Croquet Club for allowing Victor Harbor CC to use their Croquet flag sign.



Thank you Norwood Croquet Club for the use of your CROQUET flag.



Eileen Ferguson, Mark Goldsmith and Don Driver before the opening ceremony Competitor March



The SA Masters Competitor march had a few Croquet players and volunteers – thank you Martin Kennett from Port Lincoln, Mark Goldsmith, Jackie Goldsmith, Wendy Wang and Kenny Inglis.

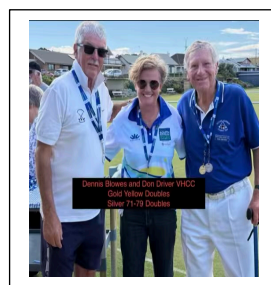


Dennis Blowes, Wendy Wang and Kenny Inglis

## SA Masters winners in each division and age group are:

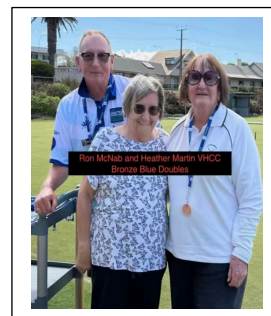
### Division one Doubles

Gold Medal - Don Driver & Dennis Blowes  
Silver Medal - Robin Golding & Janet Nisted.  
Bronze Medal - Ken Inglis & Wendy Wang seen  
Pictured with Leah Cassidy CEO Sport SA



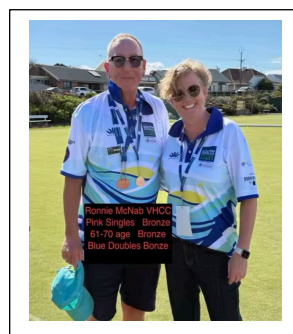
### Division two Doubles

Gold Medal - Sara Kendrick & Anne Wedding  
Silver Medal - Lyle McAvaney & Rodney Rivers  
Bronze Medal - Heather Martin & Ronnie McNab seen  
Pictured with Eileen Ferguson (Event organiser).



### Division one Singles

Gold Medal - Martin Kennett  
Silver Medal - Robin Golding  
Bronze Medal - Ronnie McNab



### Division two Singles

Gold Medal - Janet Nisted  
Silver Medal - John Powell  
Bronze Medal - Charles Seja



### Division three Singles

Gold Medal - Rodney Rivers  
Silver Medal - Lyn Morgan  
Bronze Medal - Anne Wedding

### Doubles Over 80

Gold Medal - Anne Potter & Yvonne Rossiter  
Silver Medal - Keryl Kiel & Lynette Reilly

### Doubles 71-79

Gold Medal - Lyle McAvaney & Rodney Rivers  
Silver Medal - Don Driver & Dennis Blowes  
Bronze Medal - Robin Golding & Janet Nisted

Doubles 61-70

Gold Medal - Ken Inglis & Wendy Wang

Silver Medal - Martin Kennett & Terry Trudgen

Bronze Medal - David Rhode & Ros Rhode



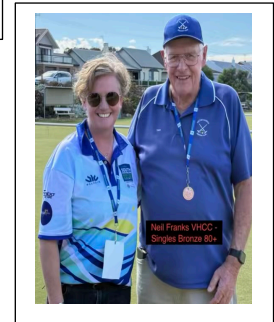
Singles 80 +

Gold Medal - Robin Golding

Silver Medal - John Powell

Bronze Medal - Neil Franks seen pictured with Leah

Cassidy CEO Sport SA



Singles 71-80

Gold Medal - Rodney Rivers

Silver Medal - Charles Seja

Bronze Medal - Lynn Morgan

Singles 61-70

Gold Medal - Martin Kennett

Silver Medal - Janet Nisted

Bronze Medal - Ronnie McNab

Singles u60

Gold Medal - Phil Hensman



Ronnie McNab and Sara Kendrick



Kenny Inglis and Don Driver



Eileen Ferguson and Keith Ferguson



Heather Martin and Wendy Wang



Neil Franks focussing



Neil Franks jumping!! He got it!!

## Court Maintenance

A few of the players with 20 years experience playing at Victor Harbor Croquet Club have mentioned the lawns are looking and playing the best they have in 20 years. Well done to the Club's greenkeeper and lawn maintenance volunteers, Simon Kluske, Stephen Templeton, Bridie O'Reilly, Dennis Blowes.

## 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

Golf Croquet play times Monday, Wednesday, Saturday first game starts at 9.00am (arrive by 8.45am to play in the first game) – AC play times Monday, Wednesday, Saturday play starts at 1.30pm (arrive by 1.15pm) – weather permitting.

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 Victor Harbor at minimal cost.

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### ***TO ALL OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS, THANK YOU***

***Our Major Sponsors: 'See Optometry' and Morgan Investments***

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Wohlers, Yilki General Store, Simplicity Funerals  
Woolworths, Swann's Harbor Pharmacy, Victor Central Shoe Repairs  
The Pirates Chest, Colorful Inclusions

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

Note: The President is ex officio at all meetings