

VICTOR HARBOR CROQUET CLUB

NEWSLETTER July 2026



VOLUME 32

ISSUE 7



From the President, Shirley Howlett

Our Annual General Meeting is set down for Thursday August 20th at 10.30. At the AGM vacant club positions for the Management Committee will be filled (we hope!)

A small notice board inside the club rooms displays the available positions. Nearby are forms which club members can use to nominate people willing to stand.

Please discuss options with other members. Don't be shy if you are interested in taking on a position yourself. Approach someone to nominate or second you. You can read the job descriptions in the Club folders which are easy to find on the right side of the office doorway.

As a side note I have one year to go in my current term as President. At this stage I will not seek reelection after that so please give some thought to this for the future.

A club meeting will follow the AGM. At this meeting we elect members to fill our various club positions eg fundraising, maintenance etc.

Remember that we need a quorum on the day so put this in your diary now.

We try to run the AGM as efficiently as possible. Reports will be emailed to members beforehand so that you there are no surprises!

An added bonus is that delicious home made soup will be available for lunch after the meeting (at minimal cost).

Building maintenance report

The renewal of shade cloth covers to three of the five shade shelters was done on Thursday 18th June with thanks to Neil Franks, Mike Stratton (Rose garden pruning), Ronnie McNab, Helen McQueen, Philip McQueen, and Frank Markus. The cracked glass window pane adjacent the kitchen entrance door was replaced with a new pane of safety glass. New cupboard sliding doors were installed thanks to Neil Franks opposite the kitchen Oven. The Men's toilet building external and internal patch repairs and painting, are on the to do list when the weather improves.

Golf Croquet Report

A VHCC 5+ Pennants team continues to compete in this tough category with a win in the match vs Hyde Park Croquet Club on 4th July the team of Kenny Inglis, Janeen Coleman, Ronnie McNab & Frank Markus winning 3 games to 2 and a draw. On 14th July vs Millswood Kenny Inglis, Neil Franks (his first Pennants' match), Shirley Howlett and Frank Markus won 5 games to 1. Big congratulations to Neil for a stirring performance!



GC Pennants 5+ team 04/07/26 – Ronnie McNab, Kenny Inglis, Janeen Coleman & Frank Markus



GC Pennants 5+ team 11/07/26 – Kenny Inglis, Shirley Howlett, Frank Markus & Neil Franks.

Frank Markus GC Coordinator

Association Croquet Report

The most important news from AC for this month is that Kate Logan won the Maslin Brooch event which is conducted by Croquet SA. This event is for women with a handicap of 6 or greater. Kate competed against players with a lot more experience, but her skill level was excellent for her to win all her games. Fantastic effort.

The Croquet SA Division 2 competition has just finished with Shirley and Steve Templeton both competing. There were 10 participants with 3 games played each day. This was a lot of croquet, starting at 8.30am and generally finishing around 5pm. The winner was Virginia Arney of Norwood club with Malcolm Kinch of Kadina the runner up. Both Shirley and Steve had 5 wins each.

Steve also travelled to Swan Hill, Victoria for their winter tournament conducted at the end of June. Days were sunny but the mornings were very cold and the courts dewy. Only 2 days of play and in Steve's division there were only 2 games per day. Steve only managed one win with Phil DeAraugo of Bendigo club the winner. There were 19 participants overall. Swan Hill club plays on lawn tennis courts that were very fast but

a bit bumpy in places due to covered holes where the tennis nets are set in the ground. The format was different in that after game one morning tea was set and after game two players stopped for lunch.

Please note that AC is changing to winter time at start of June ie. arrive at 1 pm for 1.15 start. Finish at 4pm

Birds around the Club Grounds

More native birds that frequent the Club Grounds.



Two pairs of Red Rumped Parrots have been seen recently on the edge of court 3



Four or five pairs of Red Rumped Parrots on court 3 a few days later.

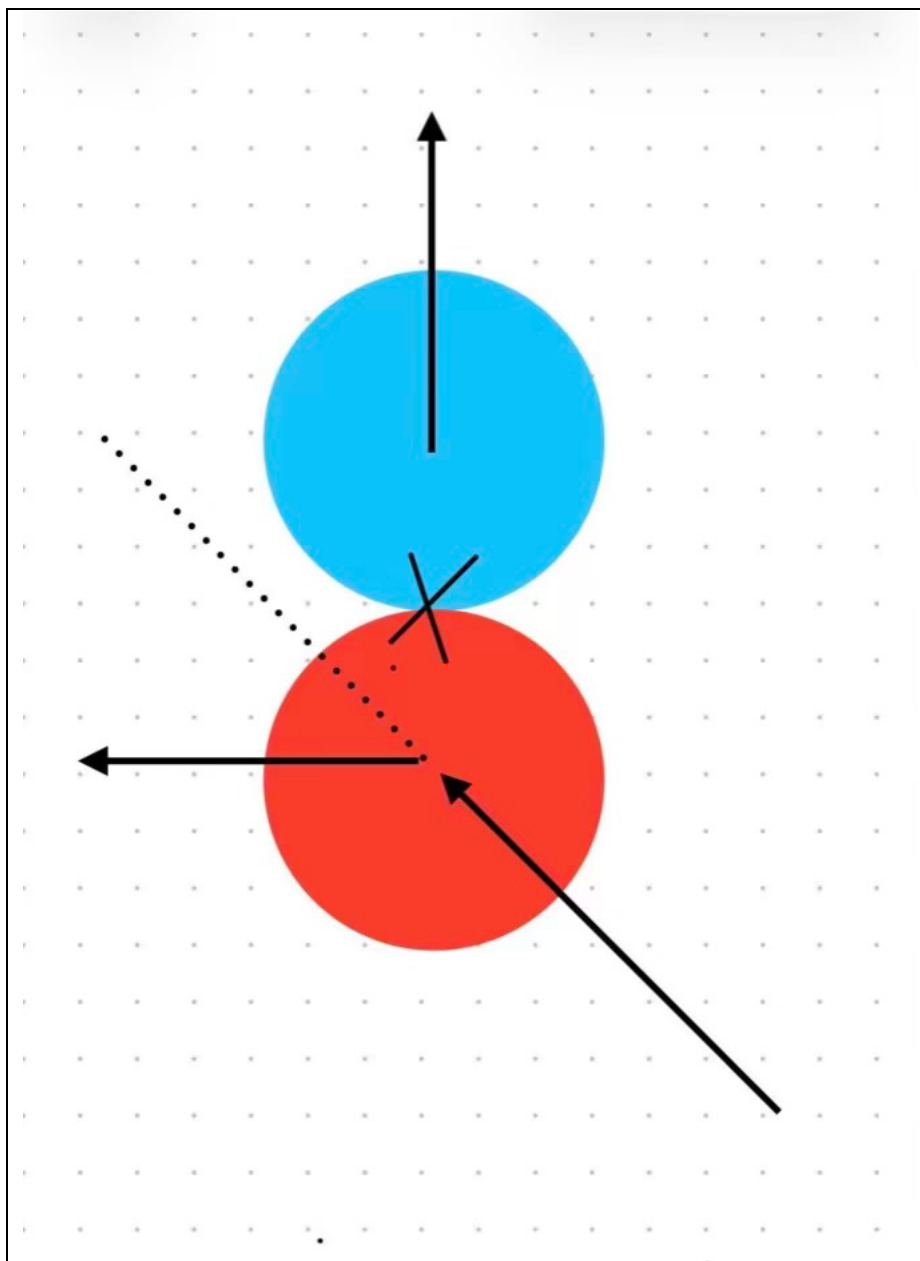


A pair of Galahs on Court two and a crested Pigeon.



A Willie Wagtail – often seen in pairs.

Talking Croquet Technical



Why players commonly cut (or angle clear) balls too straight. Playing red, to make blue move in the direction of the arrow (and red deflect at 90 degrees to blue) the impact point is X, and the correct aiming line (dotted) is offset from the correct striking point, due to the round shape/width of the striker ball. Simple geometry, when playing ball to ball it can seem like X should be the aiming point, but that would make blue go off much straighter than desired. Try it out at coaching/practice on a Friday morning to get it perfect!

Calendar of upcoming events

1. U3A group learning Aussie Croquet from Friday July 31st for 6 weeks (subject to numbers/interest) after regular Coaching 10.00am to midday.
2. VHCC AGM and soup/bread at minimal fee after August 20th 10.30am
3. Golf Croquet State Squad training at VHCC Sunday August 23rd with Coaching available to VHCC members 12.00 midday until 12.45pm
4. VHCC Golf Croquet Gala day October 16th held at Victor Harbor

ASSOCIATION CROQUET

JULY 7 - 9 Div 2 Singles

JULY 12 Weekend Pennants

JULY 18 Weekend Pennants

JULY 25 - 26 Selectors' Invitational

AUG 1 Weekend Pennants

AUG 15 Weekend Pennants

AUG 22- 23 President's Trophy

AUG 30 Port Pirie Gala Day Entries close August 22. Contact S McBride.

skmcbride55@gmail.com; or text 0427 259 750

SEPT 13 - 14 Div 3 Singles

SEPT 20 Development Squad

SEPT 22 - 24 Div 4 Singles

SEPT 26 Weekend Pennants

GOLF CROQUET

JULY 4 Weekend Pennants

JULY 11 Weekend Pennants

JULY 17 Development Squad

JULY 19 Weekend Pennants - catch up games

JULY 21 - 23 Singles 3+

JULY 29 Women's Encouragement Group

AUG 2 Weekend Pennants

AUG 8 Weekend Pennants (5+ VHCC vs Norwood at 11.30am)

AUG 11 Doubles Combined 20+

AUG 13 - 16 Brighton Armstrong Challenge

AUG 21 Development Squad

AUG 29 - 31 Open Doubles

SEPT 8 & 15 Spring Singles 5+

SEPT 10 & 17 Spring Singles 9+

SEPT 19 Weekend Pennants (5+ VHCC vs North Adelaide at 11.30am)

SEPT 21 Mt Barker Gala Day

SEPT 25 Development Squad

SEPT 27 Weekend Pennants (5+ VHCC vs Brighton at 2.30pm)

SEPT 30 Women's Encouragement Group

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.

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Other Stuff

Golf Croquet play times Monday, Wednesday, Saturday first game of four starts at 9.00am (arrive by 8.45am to play in the first game) – AC play times commencing in June - Monday, Wednesday, Saturday play starts at 1.15pm (arrive by 1.00pm) – 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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Whalers Seaside Dining, Raw Bulk Wholefoods,

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Simplicity Funerals, Woolworths,

Swann's Harbor Pharmacy, Victor Central Shoe Repairs,
The Pirates Seafood Chest, Colorful Inclusions,

Nankivell Conveyancing, Ouwens Casserly Real Estate,
TIMCO Mitre 10 Port Elliot, Café Primo

VHCC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE and OFFICIAL POSITIONS 2025-26		
PUBLIC OFFICER	Russell Parkes	
PRESIDENT	Shirley Howlett	
VICE PRESIDENT	Neil Franks	
TREASURER	Mark Goldsmith	
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 SADelegate	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/Kate Logan	
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 Mark Goldsmith	H. McQueen, F. Markus, N. Franks
FUNDRAISING.	Chair. Bernie Pfitzner, R. Wescott J. Thompson.	
FACILITIES & MTCE Committee	Neil Franks, Frank Markus and Steve Templeton	
OTHER POSITIONS		
WEBSITE	Janis Jenkins, Bernie Pfitzner	
NEWSLETTER	F Markus, President & Secretary	
HISTORIAN	Vacant	
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, S. Howlett, J. Coleman, F. Markus, R. Westcott	
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