VICTOR HARBOR CROQUET CLUB

NEWSLETTER October 2026

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From the President, Shirley Howlett

Recently Mark and Jackie Goldsmith and I travelled to Tumby Bay for their annual Association Croquet tournament. Once upon a time there were many AC tournaments in country South Australia. Towns such as Pt Augusta, Whyalla and Jamestown had well attended tournaments. Players were often billeted, making it cheaper and welcoming. These tournaments ended before I started playing. In my time Naracoorte ,Pt Lincoln and Murray Bridge have ended their AC tournaments too.
Tumby Bay is relying on a small number of members to run their tournaments. The kitchen relied largely upon 3 women over 80. Amazingly almost all of the courtside food was still home made.
It was a great week and both winners and losers enjoyed themselves. Thank you to every Tumby member!
I'm crossing my fingers and hoping that Tumby Bay can continue to host AC players next year.

VH members please remember to help with court renovations if you are physically able !



A photograph of the Tumby Bay Croquet Club Lawns.

Golf Croquet Report

A VHCC 5+ Pennants team continues to compete in this tough category with a loss to North Adelaide on the 19th September by only one hoop – a very good performance especially as North Adelaide are currently on the top of the 5+ Pennants' ladder. The team consists of Kenny Inglis, Wendy Wang, Dennis Blowes, Peter Willis, Janis Jenkins, Janeen Coleman, Neil Franks, Ron McNab & Frank Markus. A match against Brighton on 27/09/26 went the way of Victor Harbor with the end score 4 games won to VHCC and 2 games lost – well done Wendy, Kenny, Janeen and Frank.

The match is vs Woodville on Saturday 17/10/26 at Hutt Road SA Croquet Centre was also won by Victor Harbor with 5 games won and a draw – well done Wendy, Kenny, Neil Franks and Frank.

Frank Markus GC Coordinator



The happy 5+ GC VHCC Pennant Team of Wendy Wang, Kenny Ingliis, Neil Franks and Frank Markus 17/10/26

Association Croquet Report

The Welch/Rose Handicap Doubles event, where the players with a high handicap are paired with a low handicap partner. The pairings then work towards a middle region till all pairings are fixed. The handicaps are calculated and the number of bisques (i.e. extra turns) are allocated. Only the player with the highest handicap can use the bisques.
The event is named after two past club members Susan Welch and Ruth Rose, who left a small sum to be used for a prize for the winner. There are also the Singles handicap event and the Divisional competitions. Good luck to all players.

Steve Templeton: AC Coordinator

Lawn Court Report

November is the month the Green Keeper carries out major lawn maintenance.

- On Sunday the 8th of November Simon will be scarifying the courts.
- Monday the 9th the courts are closed as all the debris will be collected. Volunteers are requested to help with this commencing at 9am. Even if you can only spend an hour or so it all helps. The work is physical, raking and transporting the collected debris to the trailers.
- Tuesday the 10th, courts are closed for follow up treatment.

- Coring: the second part of the treatment will happen on Tuesday the 17th of November. Professional contractors are engaged to do this as specialised equipment is needed.
- The courts will be top dressed this year as well. If all goes well it will all happen in one day but expect that the courts may be closed on Wednesday 18th.

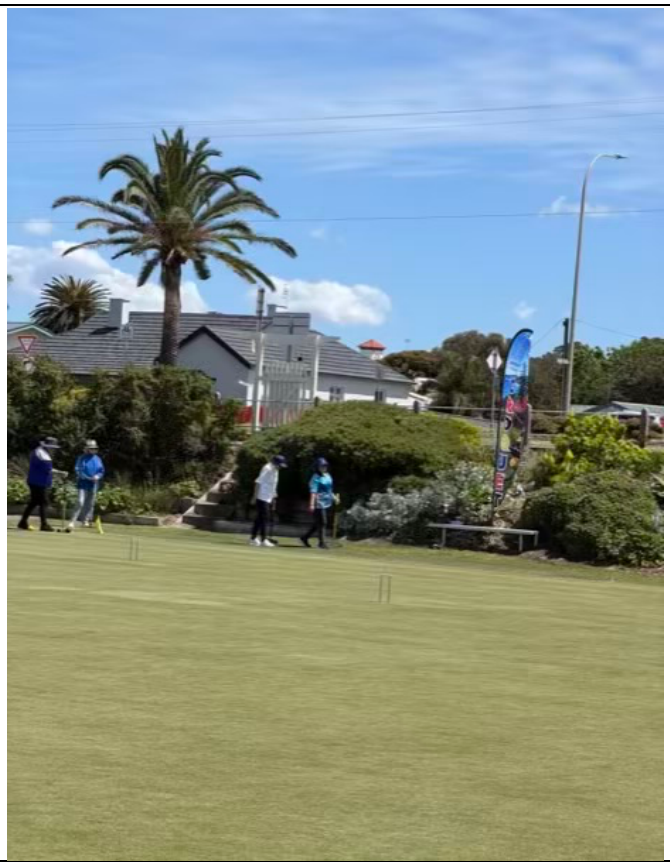
Steve Templeton: Lawn manager

Victor Harbor Annual Golf Croquet Gala Day

The Victor Harbor annual Golf Croquet tournament was held on Friday 16/10/26 in glorious weather conditions. The lawns were in magnificient condition with all players commenting on the excellent running surface. Many many volunteers pulled together to deliver a fine tournament for mostly non Victor Harbor croquet club members attending from Millswood, Aldinga, Holdfast Bay, Woodville, Brighton, Aldinga and Murray Bridge. Rhonda Westcott cheerfully greeted the players and provided beverages at the end of the day as well as many other jobs during the day. Janis Jenkins provided immeasurable support before and during the event. Joan Thompson and Janeen Coleman were the kitchen wizards whipping up a super lunch, morning and afternoon teas. Gourment cakes/biscuit were baked and donated by Janis Jenkins, Patricia Marsland, Denise Gillings, Joan Thompson, Mary Bradley, Ronnie McNab, Anne Fawkner, Merilyn Franks (delicious sausage rolls). Thank you! Other volunteers on the day were Kate Logan, Bernie Pfitzner, Steve Templeton.

The competition involved four games of doubles across three lawns, double backed, 45 minute durations. The winner was Monica Brown from Millswood Croquet Club with all four games won and 24 hoops in total and the runner up was Sara Kendrick from Aldinga Croquet Club with four games won and 21 hoops. A special mention needs to be made to Lorraine McIntyre from the Brighton Croquet Club who retired after three games and would have been the likely runner up had she played on.

For those who missed out – there's always next year have a go at winning – to be held at around the same time in October 2027!



A view across court one to the playing doubles in the VHCC Gala day 2026



A view across court two to the playing doubles in the VHCC Gala day 2026



A view across court three to the playing doubles in the VHCC Gala day 2026



Sara Kendrick and Monica Brown the runner up and winner of the VHCC Gala day 2026

Building maintenance report

Neil Franks and his team of member volunteers have stained the bare timber shade structures on the western side of courts one two and three – and fitted new shade cloth. They look a treat and will provide more shaded areas to players during the summer. Work on the maintenance of the Men's toilet building have begun with the joint between the two roof pitches sealed against water penetration/barge boards painted etc. Job well done thus far! The external and internal walls' patch repairs and painting have started.



Southern façade barge board painted, walls & doors yet to be done.



The junction between the two roof pitches has been sheeted to make the roof watertight.



The Club's new Croquet Sign courtesy of member fundraising and Mark & Jackie Goldsmith's organisation skills.

Calendar of upcoming events

1. VHCC Xmas lunch at the Crown Hotel Thursday 17th December 12.00 midday. Payment details will be provided to members early November.

ASSOCIATION CROQUET

NOV 11 - 14 Swiss Handicap Singles at North Adelaide Centenary Games
NOV 15 - 16 Invitation Singles - North Adelaide Centenary Games
NOV 21 Weekend Pennants
DEC 12 -13 State Team
DEC 19 Development Squad

GOLF CROQUET

NOV 2, 16, 23, 30 Spring Aggregate 24+
NOV5 - 6 Women's Open
NOV 7 -9 Men's Open
NOV 9 Coromandel Valley Gala Day
NOV 11- 14 Singles at North Adelaide Centenary Games
NOV 14 Weekend Pennants
NOV 18 Women's Encouragement Group
NOV 26 Level 1 and 2 Coaching Course
NOV 27 Development Squad
NOV 28 Weekend Pennants
DEC 5 19 Hoop Tournament
DEC 7 Spring Aggregate 24+

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 - 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 court lawn surface.

Members attempting jump shots should be mindful of damaging the lawn (please don't – practice first on the sidelines on Court Three only during practice days held on Fridays). Please let Frank Markus or another committee member know of any damage done during a game as they will be able to make repairs.

When wishing to practice outside normal play times or Friday Morning's, please ring or text Steve Templeton on 0499 754 016 to ensure the lawn's are free for practice and generally use Court three.

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

Courts are closed Sunday 8/11/26; Monday 9/11/26 & Tuesday 10/11/26 for lawn maintenance.

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See Optometry - Generous Sponsors of the Annual VHCC AC Tournament – please give them a chance to deal with your optical needs

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PRESIDENT	Shirley Howlett	
VICE PRESIDENT	Neil Franks	
TREASURER	Mark Goldsmith	
SECRETARY	Helen McQueen	
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G.C. CO-ORDINATOR	Frank Markus	
COMMITTEE Member	Mary Bradley	
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 M. Goldsmith	
FACILITIES & MTCE Committee	Neil Franks, Frank Markus and Steve Templeton, Patricia Marsland	
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	Jackie Goldsmith & Janis Jenkins	Bernie Pfitzner
MEMBER PROTECTION	Bernie Pfitzner	
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	All approved current committee members.	
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CHILD SAFE OFFICER	Bernie Pfitzner	
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CLUB CAPS & HATS: Sales	Bernie Pfitzner	
SOFT DRINKS: Stock/Sales	Steve Templeton	
KITCHEN MANAGER	Joan Thompson	Purchase supplies: TBC

Note: The President is ex officio at all meetings