VICTOR HARBOR CROQUET CLUB

NEWSLETTER September 2026

VOLUME 32 ISSUE 9



From the President, Shirley Howlett

On Friday the AGM of CroquetSA was held. Perhaps I'm biased (being a Board member) but I believe our parent body is attempting to progress the sport of croquet. It's not an easy task , especially overcoming the widespread belief that croquet is for old people. Have you ever asked someone if they're interested in playing and they reply "I'm not that old yet!"

It's not just for old people but you can still play as you age!! 😊 There has been discussion about getting a catchy slogan so give it some thought. Maybe Victor Harbor can lead the way! A post from Bowls SA popped up on Facebook this morning. It was advertising school holiday programs for students, both competitive and social. Good idea? Should we offer something in the Christmas holidays? Even if young people don't join now it can sow a seed for later on.

Sally Harper (now vice president of CroquetSA) has been working hard to promote our sport, with an emphasis on using social media to reach untapped audiences.

Don't forget to turn up for your shift at the Bunnings Sausage Sizzle. I'm an apology as the South Australian Open is being held on the long weekend. Thank you to all organising the BBQ, and/or doing a shift (or two), Bridie O'Reilly, Steve Templeton, Janis Jenkins, Phil McQueen, Helen McQueen, Frank Markus, Yvette Nicholls, Von Lewis, Glenys Williams, Jackie Goldsmit, Mark Goldsmith, Malcolm Feder, Anne Fawkner.

Another topic to think about is club cleaning. It does not appear to be a good economic decision to extend the professional cleaning. Perhaps a club member is interested in a paid position?

Somehow we need to ensure the club rooms are well maintained. The Management Committee does not want to further increase our annual subscription. The cost of further professional cleaning was more than the $20 extra approved in our club meeting. Please give thought to this.

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, are nest on the to do list.



The refreshed shade structure court 1 & 2



The refreshed shade structure court 2 & 3



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 again. Paint to the roof sheeting & wall to follow.

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 next match is vs Woodville on Saturday 17/10/26 at Hutt Road SA Croquet Centre starting at 2.30pm .

Frank Markus GC Coordinator

Association Croquet Report

Well, here we are in the final throes of winter. It's at this time of the year that the AC group organise their club competitions. These are:
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.

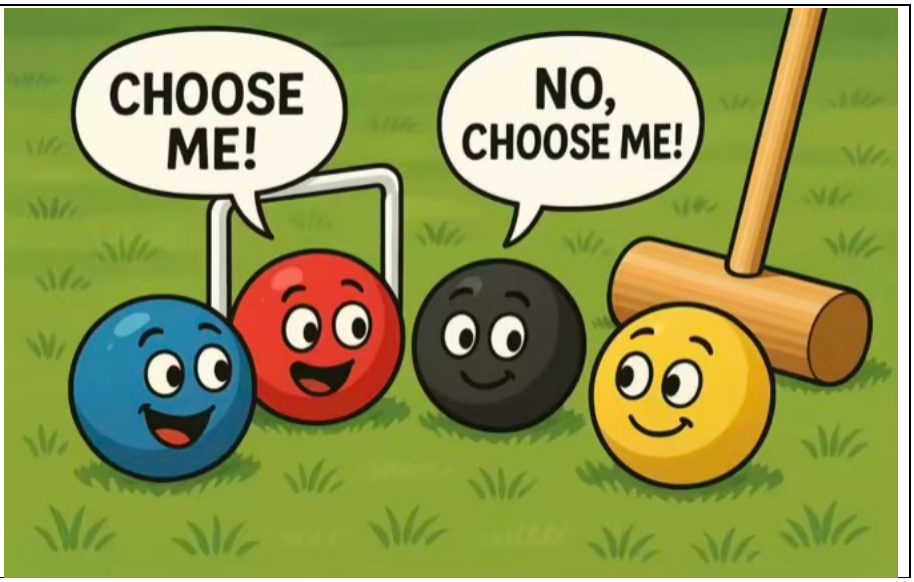
Steve Templeton: AC Coordinator

Lawn Court Report

As some of you may have noticed the lawns are a bit greener. Simon has worked his sorcery and with some wonderful nutrients the grass has responded. This really helps for a good playing surface. For those who play at other clubs you will notice the difference. Later this year, probably in November, there will be the annual major work that all lawns need. This year the courts will be scarified, hollow cored and top dressed. This is when the couch grass will respond well and grow quickly. We get contractors in to do the specialised work but there will be a call to assist with other chores around this time. Enjoy your games.

Steve Templeton: Lawn manager

Balls for sale!



The well used VHCC Croquet Balls are for sale at $100 a set of Four – there are four sets on offer and please talk to Frank Markus (ph 0421 700 076) on purchasing a set of four or just two balls? Two sets of the used balls are available to Club Members to borrow from time to time to practice at home.



Don Driver focussing on his next shot playing Association Croquet at the VHCC



Association Croquet player Eva Pukk lining up another shot on the greens VHCC.



Jackie Goldsmith lining up a Rocquet during an AC game.



Rhonda Westcott playing another super sharp winning shot on court 2 with the Stream Ranger train in the background



Mary Bradley, Kate Logan, Janeen Coleman and Wendy Wang waiting cheerfully for the third game!

Calendar of upcoming events

1. VHCC Golf Croquet Gala day October 16th held at Victor Harbor
2. VHCC Xmas lunch at the Crown Hotel Thursday 17th December 12.00 midday. Payment details will be provided to members mid October.

ASSOCIATION CROQUET

OCT 3 -5 Open Championship
OCT 14 Tumby Bay Doubles
OCT 15 -19 Tumby Bay Singles
OCT 24 - 25 CB Sharpe Medal
OCT 27 - 29 Alternative Stroke H/C Doubles
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

OCT 7 Brighton Gala Day
OCT 9 Glenunga Gala Day
OCT 10 Weekend Pennants
OCT 12, 19, 26 Spring Aggregate 24+
OCT 13 Spring Singles 12+
OCT 16 Victor Harbor Gala Day
OCT 17 Weekend Pennants
OCT 24 - 25 Brighton Dawson
OCT 29 Mount Barker 125 Anniversary Celebration (Note: revised date)
OCT 30 Development Squad
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 22, 28 Weekend Pennants
NOV 27 Development Squad
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 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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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	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	
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	Don Driver	Assistant. Steve Templeton
RSA- Qualified. Responsible Persons	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	Steve Templeton	
KITCHEN MANAGER	Joan Thompson	Purchase supplies: TBC

Note: The President is ex officio at all meetings