



Newsletter

Brighton Croquet Club Inc. Stopford Rd Hove 5048 www.brightoncroquetsa.com

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

From the Brighton Croquet Club President, February 2025

Dear Members

We are looking forward to another busy year with our social croquet, pennants, tournaments and social events and fundraisers.

Pennant competitions have begun and are being approached with great enthusiasm. It is especially good to see some newer members joining in to play competitively.

We have started up Tuesday evenings Come and Try again but this is by arrangement, so we know if someone is intending to visit the club.

Unfortunately, last Tuesday evening two of our members had their credit cards and an access card stolen from their wallets by a "visitor" who came to the club requesting that a taxi be called for him. The main door was wedged open, and he entered easily. While a taxi was being called, he helped himself. You will be aware from a recent email that the door will be locked at all times in future. All members have been issued with access cards and will need to bring them when visiting the club. Thank you to Ken for attending so promptly and disabling the stolen access cards.

We have a few groups coming soon to play croquet and enjoy a bbq on a Friday evening while the weather is fine. Apart from the exposure the club gets from these events they also contribute significantly to our budget.

Two Gala Days are planned for this year and once dates are confirmed we will notify everyone. One Gala Day will be the usual format – open to people from other croquet clubs. The other will be an "in-house" Gala Day for our own members to take part in. This will give people an idea of what is involved when playing at other clubs' Gala Days and should be a lot of fun as well as friendly competition.

We are having a Wine Fundraiser again within a few weeks. If you are interested in purchasing any of this quality and well-priced wine, please contact me and I will provide you with a list of the available wines to order. Remember, for each bottle purchased the club receives \$3.00.

A Garage Sale, open to the public, is planned for early May which will be our major fundraiser for this year. It would be great if members could save and donate items for sale such as household items, clothes, plants etc. Confirmation of the exact date and when donations can be brought to the club will be advised closer to the time. Thea has brought cardboard boxes to the club for members to collect and use when packing items. We would appreciate donations of items for a baked goods table and also any healthy plants which can be propagated between now and early May. A sausage sizzle will also be available on the day, and we will seek volunteers to assist with this.

Wendy Williamson, President

Australia – President's GC Eights

An annual event on the Croquet Australia Calendar is the President's Eights. There are 5 groups of Eights, where players are ranked due to their World Croquet Federation Ranking.

The First Eight was held in Tasmania in January and Edward Wilson from Millswood won it. The remaining 4 groups of Eights played at Cairnlea in Victoria from 7th to 9th February.

David Maunder (Brighton) and Mick Reidy (Hyde Park) played in the 2nd Eight. Dave was ranked 6th in this block.

Dave played extremely well, winning all his best of three game matches - in fact over the 2 days he only lost one game - to the player that was initially ranked the strongest.

You could say, he really didn't get his money worth, playing only 2 games in 6 of the matches.

Congratulations Dave, on an outstanding achievement!

Karen Magee



SA Bronze Medal



The South Australian GC Bronze Medal was held at SACA, Hutt Road 8th and 9th February. Helen Shaw and Deb Parsons entered this as their first Individual Event. The event was open to Handicaps of 9+. Deb, handicap of 11 was ranked 5th in a field of 9 and Helen with her handicap of 14 was placed 9th.

The ladies had a huge learning curve, having to play 8 games of 45-minute singles over the 2 days. Both did extremely well, having many close games.

Deb wound up winning 4 games and Helen 2.

Brighton members also supported this event, which was very well managed by North Adelaide by supplying referees. Anne Woodhouse and I both assisted.

It was also great to have Brighton spectators there, Carmel, Thea and Lorraine supported our club members.

Karen Magee

Brighton Open Autumn Pennant Team 2025

Brighton has entered an Open team in the SACA Autumn Pennants.

This team plays in a home and away competition.

Thursday 13th February was the first match and Brighton beat North Adelaide 7 games to 3 at North Adelaide. The team was David Magee, Anne Woodhouse, Sue Davel and Susan Dunsby.

We have six players who rotate throughout the weeks. Dave Maunder is also a member of our team (not photographed here).

We play at Brighton, 7pm on the following Thursdays: 27th February v Millswood, 6th March v Norwood, 13th March v North Adelaide, 10th April v Hyde Park Knights and 24th April v Hyde Park Diggers.

We would love it if you came to support us and see some doubles and singles games being played at this level.

Cheers, Karen Magee



Susan Dunsby, Karen Magee, David Magee, Sue Davel, Anne Woodhouse. (Dave Maunder absent for photo)

Brighton Croquet Club

2025 Doubles Tournament

This event will be a paired high/low handicap single round, round-robin event played in a relaxed tournament style played throughout 2025.

The doubles pairs will be determined using handicap rankings. This pairing will be fixed for the event.

All entrants, based on handicap and index score, will be paired – highest with lowest, second highest with second lowest etc. etc.

Entrants' names will be placed on a typical tournament grid.

The players will arrange their own games – on Tuesdays and Thursday mornings by using the 'player board' to co-ordinate playing through the list of opponents. Alternatively, play may be arranged at other times, that suits the pairings.

This event will run from February to December.

Each game is 45 minutes, walk off on the bell and 'draws' may occur and count.

All results must be sent to Peter Woodward – 0434 045 948 or email woodward.pj@gmail.com

At the time of nomination, entrants are requested to give their name, Handicap and Index Score to Peter Woodward.

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR MEMBERS

Care of Hoop Holes

The hoop hole is intended to hold the hoop firmly in position and when first used they were extremely solid. If the hoop became loose during play as a result of being hit in attempts to run the hoop, then they were tightened by hammering in a bit further. We alternate between north and south holes to avoid “rabbit runs” and rest the hoop holes.

Putting hoops in and out of the holes inevitably causes wear of the hole and many hoops were loose. Grass cuttings are used to try and tighten up the holes, but this has resulted in these falling to the bottom of the hole and becoming extremely hard as the hoop is hammered in. It is so hard that the plugs we use to cover the unused hoop holes have been bent and/or driven in so hard that the plastic caps have come free leaving the shaft stuck in the hoop hole. These can be very difficult to remove.

I have drilled the hoop holes so that the plugs can be inserted and removed easily, and the holes have been refurbished to minimise movement. So, the key things for members are:

- Treat the holes with care. Do not wobble the hoops to remove them.
- Don't use your foot or mallet to try and hit the hoop in further.
- If you can't pull them straight out use the lifters on the equipment trolleys.
- Use pea straw or Sphagnum Moss to put in the hoop holes to tighten a loose hoop or refer that hoop to me.
- Do not use lawn clippings.

Howard Wood

Vice President Brighton Croquet Club



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