



# Newsletter

Brighton Croquet Club Inc. Stopford Rd Hove 5048 [www.brightoncroquetsa.com](http://www.brightoncroquetsa.com)

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### From the Brighton Croquet Club President, February 2024

On Wednesday 6 December we hosted the Flinders University Library Staff end of year event. There were 55 attendees who all had a try of croquet, with some playing several games on the day. They organised their own lunch from a food truck set up in the car park prior to croquet and we provided coaching, equipment and a few grazing platters for the afternoon. The day was a great success thanks to all those who helped out on the day. The group enjoyed it so much that a contingent has asked to play on a regular basis over the next few months. This is significant exposure for our Club, and we are hoping to attract other departments at Flinders to consider the same format for their 2024 end of year events. Many thanks to Jackie for organising this event which involved significant liaison with the staff.

On Tuesday 12 December we enjoyed a Christmas Lunch and fun afternoon. Everyone brought a plate to share, and the food was excellent. Thanks very much to Marlene and her helpers. Thanks also to Debbie, Carmel and others for their lovely decorating of the clubrooms. A big thankyou to Howard for his music, being Santa for the afternoon and his elf helpers, Debbie and Carmel. Thank you to Viv Murphy and Sonya Ash for making the pretty and delicious Christmas shortbreads for members.

Unfortunately, because of bad weather, we had to cancel our Friday Evening Social which was planned for 24 November. A group of 12 guests who booked to attend will now be hosted on 15 March.

We have secured Monday 27 May 2024 and Monday 30 September 2024 in the SACA Calendar for Brighton to host Gala Days. Thank you to Lorraine for organising these days.

Covid is once again a concern and members are reminded to wash or sanitise their hands and social distance as much as possible.

Howard has been busy arranging the lawn maintenance and liaising with Holdfast Council to obtain a pergola or shade to be used between the equipment sheds and court 3. Thanks Howard. We will need to contribute to this purchase, and we will also be seeking grants to assist with the cost.

Thank you to Karen Magee for her hard work organising the Tuesday evening junior players. Thank you also to David Maunder for organising fundraisers with his cricketer friends. We really appreciate this.

Graeme Thomas the head of SACA is liaising with our committee to hold a presentation and morning tea to celebrate the induction of two of Brighton Croquet Club's former members, Creina Dawson and Jean Armstrong, into the Australian Croquet Association Hall of Fame. Further information will be forthcoming when details are confirmed.

Enjoy your croquet and stay safe and well.

Wendy Williamson

President

## S.A. Gateball Championships 2023

This event was held at the S.A.C.A courts on Hutt Road over Friday December 1st to Sunday December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Players converged from Queensland, N.S.W., A.C.T., and Victoria to compete alongside local players at this annual event.

The weather was mild, warm, at times slightly humid with the very occasional short intervals of light sprinkling rain on Saturday. The courts were in very good condition, as usual. The competition consists of two sections – the Teams event and the Doubles event known as the S.A Presidents Trophy.

### The Teams Event

Five teams were entered in this event – Brighton and Hyde Park from S.A, Kew (Victoria), Canberra/N.S.W. and composite team comprising Woodville (S.A.) players, Queensland players and N.S.W. Players.

The Brighton team – photographed, was assisted by Glen Devison (South Tce. C.C.). Initially, Brighton had a slow start finding form during the day, and then went on to defeat Hyde Park and Kew – the eventual winner. The team finished equal third on games – 2 wins and 2 losses – but was pushed into fourth spot on 'gate difference'. All players played well.

There was a very exciting moment in the game against Kew when their last player amassed a great score after the full-time buzzer, achieving a tied game – 12 all. A 'tiebreaker' was played to determine the winner.

Gateball tiebreakers follow the same format as a soccer 'shoot-out'. Brighton won 4-3.

Brighton had a tight defensive challenging game against Hyde Park and after getting ahead were able to hang on and win 10-9.

### S.A Presidents Trophy – the Doubles Event

There were eleven teams entered in this event with the programming involving a full round robin roster. This was played over Friday, Saturday afternoon and Sunday.

With one round to play there were three teams sitting in front of the rest with seven wins from eight games. The eventual winners were Cheryl and Steve Kele from Rockhampton with eight wins and a very large healthy gate difference.

There were two doubles team entries from Brighton. Barry Teague and David Magee were a formidable duo and their notable scalp was the second placed team.

Glen Devison (South Tce C.C.) and Peter Woodward combined well - their notable scalp was the third placed team.

This was a fantastic tournament, held in a great venue with great competition and competitors, with near perfect weather conditions and brilliant scheduling and management from Chief Tournament Director and Tournament Referee, Geoff Crook.

**Peter Woodward Brighton Croquet Club**

## S.A. Gateball Championships 2023 Participants



## FUTURE SOCIAL EVENTS IN 2024

Thursday 22 February - social lunch for members at Juniper and Pine

Saturday 2 March - David Maunder's event

Friday 8 March - Townsend House residents social

Friday 15 March - Social evening for members and Sociable Singles Group

Monday 27 May - Gala Day at Brighton

**BRIGHTON TEAM FOR SA GATEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP 2023**



## 2024 SA G.C Directors Trophy Tournament

This event was held over three days from Friday January 19<sup>th</sup> to Sunday January 21<sup>st</sup>.

Competitors from many clubs - Hyde Park, North Adelaide, Norwood, Millswood, West Lakes Brighton met at the Hutt Road courts in the South Park Lands to test their skills.

The weather was a little challenging with a warm humid day on Friday testing the resilience of the players. On Saturday the temperature was estimated to be 35 degrees by the B.O.M.

Accordingly, play was started early and called at approximately 11 AM, in keeping with S.A.C.A. Weather Policy and general player safety concerns.

Play was recommenced on Sunday at 8 am and the weather was quite pleasant for the rest of the event.

The competition was divided into a doubles section and singles and play was a round-robin event.

### The Doubles

This section is an important part of this Tournament. While essentially a singles event with singles match play scores (only) determining the winner, doubles are still considered to be an important part of this competition with separate scoring and recognition.

Doubles pairs are chosen based on handicap differences in order to produce a fairly even group of pairs. Games are played at the start of each day's play.

With the short day of play on Saturday eventually only four rounds of doubles were played.

The combination of Susan Dunsby (Brighton) and Warwick O'Brien (Hyde Park) stood out as clear winners in front of strong group of pairs, with Geoff Houghton and Karen Tierney finishing second.

### G.C Directors Trophy – Singles

There were initially eleven players in the field competing on the first day and several players stood out – Mick Underdown, Dougie Francis, Karen Tierney and Susan Dunsby.

Unfortunately, Mick Underdown had to withdraw before the Sunday play started and fell out of contention.

Warwick O'Brien (Hyde Park), after a slow start stormed home on the leader board to finish fourth with a very fine six wins from nine games.

Susan Dunsby (Brighton) played well and was nudged into third position on seven wins, by hoop difference.

Karen Tierney (North Adelaide) played well and took second place, also on seven wins.

**GC Directors' Trophy 2024 continued.....**

Dougie Francis remained undefeated through the event and claimed top spot with nine wins and a healthy net hoops score of 27.

Congratulations to Dougie Francis

..... and congratulations to all the players for making him work hard producing a great three day event with many fine shots and entertaining match play for the spectators.

I would like to thank S.A.C.A. and the groundsman – the courts were in very good condition.

A big thank you to all of the referees who volunteered their time to help us – Ansi Baumanis, Julianne Jago, Barry Jennings, Bob Neil, Barry Haydon, Kim Millhouse, Anne Woodhouse and Graeme Thomas.

Also I would like to thank the Brighton team for managing this event – Karen Magee (who also kept a close eye on the handicap book and index point movements), David Magee and Kevin Nunan (also overseeing scoring & court allocation).

It was a great event, played in good spirits and a wonderful showcase for croquet.

Peter Woodward

Brighton Croquet Club.



**SA GC DIRECTORS  
TROPHY 2024  
PARTICIPANTS**

## Brighton's Junior Members

Thanks to Dave Maunder we now have 3 new junior members. Alex, Charlie and Oscar who play regularly on Tuesday nights at Brighton with a few of the other members.



Since attaining their ACA Registration and handicaps they competed in the inaugural Brighton Bash as a double round robin, doubles competition. This was held over 2 nights with each junior partnering an experienced player. Alex had Dave as a partner, Charlie had Anne and Oscar was partnered with Lorraine. Competition was tight as the much sought after medals and entry fee returned as prizes for the winners were up for grabs.

Oscar and Lorraine were the eventual winners, not dropping one game.



Brighton Bash 2 is now in the planning stages to be held on Easter Saturday with Peter from Woodville and George (an associate member from Hyde Park) being invited to participate. This event will include teams without juniors as well. Again, medals and money for prizes.

It is also planned to make Brighton Bash 3 a singles tournament for these juniors later in the year.

Karen Magee

## *Brighton Croquet Club History Matters: Episode 6*

### **Brighton Croquet Club and civic involvement**

Both the Great Depression starting in 1929 and World War 2 from 1939 were testing times across Australia. Brighton Croquet Club gave sympathetic assistance to those affected by both of these great disruptions and contributed in several ways to local community affairs. Our surviving records are meagre, but we do have some details of our Club's input and more from Press reports.

In 1929 the News reported that a Bridge evening was held to raise funds for the Children's Hospital and over ten Pounds was raised. Then in 1930 during the Depression, the Adelaide Central Methodist Mission launched the Kuitpo Industrial Colony which was intended to help unemployed men learn skills and maintain their self-respect while looking for work. Over 7,000 men were said to have been helped at the Colony. In May of that year, it was reported in both the Register News-Pictorial and the Glenelg Guardian that our Club organised functions to assist in providing a hut in a Colony for single unemployed men at Kuitpo. Fourteen pounds and ten shillings was raised at one event and the later Club Minutes of 1951 made reference to the 21st anniversary of this event and claimed that the Club had provided 'the first hut'.

Also in 1930 a correspondent to the News praised our Club for providing "a helping hand to those in need, having organised contests to assist unemployed girls. Brighton is proud that its croquet club is showing such a laudable spirit - the spirit of unselfishness, so necessary at present".

During World War 2 The Advertiser reported how the Brighton Croquet Club supported the War Effort via the local branch of the Red Cross General Service Committee by forming a knitting circle, meeting each Wednesday in the clubhouse. Our Club also supported the Fighting Forces Comforts Fund with an 'American gift party' at the home of the Club's President. The Comforts Fund supplied troops with all manner of items of extras to supplement a serviceman's usual kit. In early 1941 the News reported that the Club was to hold a gymkhana for Red Cross funds and would make a house-to-house canvass for contributions towards the suburb's quota. It was subsequently written up in the Glenelg Guardian under 'Croquet for Charity' and sub-headed 'Brighton Club's Gesture'.

In 1950 in yet another example of community involvement, it was planned that the Club hold a special fund-raising Pairs day for the forthcoming Glenelg Community Hospital which opened later in that year.

No doubt our Club took up many more worthy causes before and after 1950 but they are yet to be unearthed.

Bob Auld



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