

August 2023



Newsletter

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

From the Brighton Croquet Club President, August 2023

The club has been quite busy over June, July and August. There were several social groups visiting and playing croquet with a barbecue afterwards. These events were enjoyed by both visitors and members and raised some funds for our club.

The success of these events would not be possible without the Committee members and generous club members who have given their time to volunteer for the benefit of the club. Your help and support is priceless and it is really wonderful to have so many people putting their hands up to help.

The generosity of our sponsors cannot be over-stated, and we are very grateful for their continuing support.

Hackham Community Social and Sports Club recently awarded us a grant for \$5,000 for a new computer, an extra mallet trolley and new croquet balls when they are available.

We have an additional Mah Jong Group meeting at our club on a Friday afternoon which has also brought in more income.

Our 2023 AGM was held on 25 July and many members were in attendance. A pizza lunch was provided at the end of the meeting.

Wendy Williamson

President

ITALIAN NIGHT

7 JULY 2023

Pam, Viv and Chris catered for us for an Italian Night a few weeks ago. We enjoyed delicious lasagne, garden salad and garlic bread, followed by Tiramisu for dessert. The meal was enjoyed by a group of almost 30 members and partners. Pam's husband, Laurie, provided some pleasant Italian background music. Thanks Pam, Viv and Chris for a lovely evening.

*Management Committee Members for
2023 - 2024*

President: Wendy Williamson

Vice President Administration: Lorraine McIntyre

Vice President Facilities: Howard Wood

Secretary: Jackie Sutherland

Treasurer: Susan Stevens

Club Captain GC: Peter Woodward

Club Captain AC: Peter Woodward

Club House Coordinator: Jill Gay/Lorraine McIntyre

Committee Member: Ken Nunan

Committee Member: Thea Peacock

Committee Member: Debbie Excell

Committee Member: Jon Trenwith

Bar Manager: David Maunder



A number of our members enjoying lunch at the Metro Hotel – one of our Sponsors.

Brighton Armstrong Challenge 2023

This annual tournament was held from 3 August to 6 August at Brighton Croquet Club.

It was a magnificent event with great weather, full catering, good looking courts, spectators and of course a great field of players all playing with intense competitive but friendly spirit all mixed with Brighton's well-known hospitality.

The women's event was played over the first two days. The semifinals were played between Karen Magee (Brighton), Ann Millhouse (Millswood), Julianne Jago (South Terrace) and Anne Woodhouse (Brighton) resulting in the Final between Karen Magee and Julianne Jago.

It was a match worthy of a final with Julianne winning the first game, Karen coming back to win the second and then Julianne playing an excellent third game to win the Championship.

The men's event was then played over the next two days with a high-quality field of players. There were some unexpected match results leading up to the finals for instance the lowest ranked player beating the top ranked player. Everyone had to be on their toes.

The Final was played between Dwayne McCormick (Salisbury) and Barry Haydon (Hyde Park). Barry was playing very well and did not give Dwayne a chance, quickly winning the Final in two games.

An unexpected positive outcome of a very quick Final was that all other finals still being played suddenly had spectators, something that does not normally occur.

Of course, none of this would happen without a team of dedicated people behind the scenes. So a very big thank you to Howard Wood and his team for making sure the courts looked great and the hoops were set to an exact measurement; to Marlene Salmon and her team for making sure everyone was well fed and felt welcome; to Ken Nunan for managing the draw and croquet scores as well as being our official photographer; and last but not least to the spectators who helped to create a great atmosphere.

Anne Woodhouse

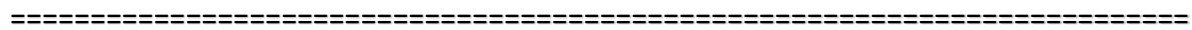
Event Manager



Entrants in the Brighton Armstrong Challenge 2023



Winner of the Men's section of the Brighton Armstrong Challenge, Barry Haydon, with Wendy Williamson, President.



Sue Stevens with her new Mazda



Hans Hiller with his new wheels



Brighton Croquet Club History Matters: Episode 3

"The past is a foreign country; they do things differently there" said some geezer once upon a time. Make sure that when you next enter our Clubhouse, before you advance past the foyer, to study the historic photograph on your left which captured the scene in 1918 when the croquet season formally opened at the Brighton Club lawn shortly after World War One had ended. The ladies pictured so well-dressed, are not in playing gear but making use of this occasion as a social and fund-raising event. This occasion which had Press coverage, was attended by dignitaries such as Brighton's Mayor invited to address the gathering as shown here.

Shortly after this, the Brighton Bowling Club came into being in Keelara Street, neighbouring the Croquet club. In 1923 Brighton affiliated with the State Croquet Association which at that time consisted of 22 Clubs and 550 players. In 1926 a Press article mentioned that thirty men were now playing the game State-wide whilst in the following year 37 clubs were in operation, encompassing about 1050 players of which 36 were Brighton players. The Clubs ranged in name from Alberton to West Park. Two years later State croquet numbers had ballooned to 1400 players from 46 clubs of which about half were located outside the metropolitan area.

Our Club proudly adopted the colours of Black and Gold as did every other sporting club in Brighton had done before and since. That takes in the Cricket, Rugby Union, Bombers Football, Yacht, Tennis, Lacrosse, Surf Lifesaving, Bowls and the Sailing clubs - the lot. There was a local uproar when Glenelg Football Club came into existence in 1920 and 'stole' these Brighton colours for their kit. The present uniform of our Club has unfortunately reduced the black and gold emphasis in recent years, but some resurgence of tradition occurred when the Clubhouse was re-painted in black and gold colours when the wholesale refurbishment of the Brighton Sports Complex took place in 2020.

Whilst in the Clubhouse during a rain break perhaps, go to the blanket box by the front door and take out the large Club photograph album which was diligently put together from all the scattered items which had been anywhere and everywhere. Most items identify players and events of our first 100 years. Your grandparents there perhaps?

Bob Auld



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