



Newsletter

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

From the Brighton Croquet Club President, October 2025

Dear Members,

With the weather warming up, it finally feels like our croquet season is swinging into full gear. A couple of months into this role, I want to express my sincere gratitude for the incredible efforts you, our members, continue to put in to keep the club running so smoothly and progressing so positively.

The number of volunteers willing to lend a hand, no matter how big or small the task, makes for a wonderfully well-oiled machine. Every contribution makes a difference in driving the club forward. I'm sure there are countless efforts that I don't see due to my different attendance times, but there are a few which I have witnessed, which I'd like to highlight and acknowledge today.

Committee Appreciation

Firstly, to our committee...what a fantastic team we have! The combination of long-standing knowledge of club operations and the injection of fresh ideas has created the perfect balance to keep our day-to-day activities running smoothly, while positioning the club for future growth. Each of you puts in an enormous effort. I could easily write a paragraph on every one of you...but no one wants a 30-minute newsletter! So, I'll simply say thank you as a collective for your commitment, teamwork, and positive energy. I'm confident we'll continue to work cohesively throughout the rest of the season.

Volunteer Acknowledgements

Since joining the club, I've noticed one member in particular who's always the first to arrive on Saturday mornings to set up the hoops, and again every Thursday, right around 9am, quietly walks past our committee meeting to get everything ready for the 9:30am start. Thank you, Hans Hiller, for your ongoing dedication. While this task might seem small, it certainly doesn't go unnoticed and is deeply appreciated by all.

Our recent membership growth has been nothing short of fantastic, thanks largely to Graham Whiteway, who gives up his Wednesdays to run beginners' classes and theory sessions for newcomers. Your commitment to nurturing new players and building our membership base is invaluable! Keep this up and we might just have to erect a bronze statue in your honour!

Evening "Come & Try" sessions have been another great initiative for the club, offering opportunities for people like me who can't attend during the day, a chance to experience the game for the first time. Lorraine McIntyre, thank you for your selfless support and for making yourself available on Tuesday nights. Your efforts have played a key role in welcoming new players into the sport over the years.

Continued on next page

President's Letter continued:**Event Recognition**

A special thanks also goes to everyone involved in the recent Mini-Olympics team-building event for the Paringa Park Primary School teachers. It's a special thanks because I know I threw you all in the deep end with a range of new and unusual activities...but you all took it in stride and ran your stations like pros by the end of the day!

A huge thank you to Jill Colley, Susan Dunsby, Karen Magee, Jon Trenwith, Howard Wood, Peter Dermody, Ken Nunan, and David Magee for your fantastic work on the lawns, and to Deb Parsons, Jackie Sutherland, and Carmel Godwin for your support and activities in the clubhouse. Together, you made it an incredibly enjoyable day for everyone involved, and the feedback from the school principal was overwhelmingly positive.

Sponsor Appreciation

Finally, thank you to Kate and Simon from Cove Print, one of our valued sponsors, for stepping up at short notice to provide equipment and printed materials for the event. The targets you produced were a huge hit and will now become a regular feature for our members and guests alike.

As we move further into the season, I'm genuinely excited about the strong position the club is in, and the new initiatives, social events, and programs we have on the horizon to build on our current success. Together, these efforts will help us attract fresh faces, strengthen our membership base, and continue showcasing croquet as a game for everyone. Thank you once again for your ongoing support and generosity.

Yours in Croquet,

David Maunder

President, Brighton Croquet Club

Notes from the Vice President – Facilities**The Draw.**

Following discussion at the last Committee Meeting, the plan for the draw has been revised, so that on Tuesdays both draws will be random. On Thursdays the first round will be another random draw. The second round will aim to be more competitive and may take the form of all reds playing together and all yellows playing together or two reds playing with two yellows (the high low combination). I emphasised that with all the draws we will endeavour to mix the combinations between the first and second rounds so that where possible you will not be playing with or against the same players as in the first round. New players will be paired with an experienced partner to assist with coaching advice, tactics and rules.

Testing and Tagging of Electrical Appliances

This work was carried out on October 29th and will be due again in 12 months' time. All appliances tested satisfactorily. An invoice (approximately \$100) and report will be forwarded to us shortly with follow up reminders, in due course.

Howard Wood

2025 NSW State Gateball Championships

This event was held at the Canberra Croquet Club this year from Friday September 26th to Sunday 28th.

It is a great city to visit, with good public transport and plenty of really interesting sights to see and good accommodation.

The weather was perfect with coolish gusty breezes and temperatures in the low to mid 20s - short-sleeves weather.

Players came from Queensland, NSW, Victoria, ACT and South Australia.

NSW Doubles Championship

Twelve doubles teams entered and were split into two blocks. Each block played a round-robin competition with the top two-placed teams progressing to the semi-finals.

In one block Philip Brown & Maxine MacLachlan (Kew) were undefeated in their block and successfully beat Manuel & Glenda Guiterrez (Nowra) in their semi-final and reached the grand final.

In the other block Geoff Crook (Woodville, SA) & Cheryl O'Dwyer (Warrnambool) who also had been undefeated, had a tough semi-final game narrowly defeating Kathie Grant (Southport, Qld) & Warren Dowse (Moreton Bay) 11 -10.

In the Grand Final, Geoff & Cheryl lead from the early stages in a challenging, tight game. Philip & Maxine rallied strongly towards the end of the game and scored several gates at full time to win the Championship 14-13

Well done Philip & Maxine.

NSW Teams Championships

This event saw six teams play a round-robin competition

The home-based team Canberra, and Hazelbrook (NSW) both won four of their five games. Canberra had the superior 'Net Gates' score and took the Championship.

Interestingly, Hazelbrook's only loss was to Canberra. Canberra's only loss was to Strathfield (NSW) - who only won one game. Giant-killers!

All team games were vigorously contested and often results were often only determined in the last few minutes of each game.

Well done, Canberra!

South Australian Participation

Geoff Crook (Woodville) played in the Doubles finishing in the second-placed overall

Peter Woodward (Brighton) was less successful.

Geoff & Peter played in a composite team with four players from the Toronto Croquet Club (NSW). They were very competitive in a tough field.

Over the last few years, the standard and variety of tactics, and general stroking of the balls and play-making has greatly increased. Leaving a ball in a challenging position on the field rarely works - it invariably gets struck out with great play.

This event was well run, in a great venue, with great weather and conditions.

The players participated with enthusiasm and great sportsmanship.

The competition was lively and exciting.

Well done Canberra Croquet Club!

Peter Woodward

Brighton Croquet Club



Doubles Finalists:

Cheryl O'Dowd, Geoff Crook, Philip Brown, Maxine MacLachlin



Canberra Croquet Club



Peter Woodward, Margy Wooster, Marty Wooster, Geoff Crook, Helen Chalmers, Ruth Mulvaney

Australian Gateball Championships 2025

The 2025 Australian Gateball Championships were held from Thursday October 16th to Sunday October 19th at the Toronto Croquet Club in the Lake Mac Croquet Centre in Glendale, N.S.W.

Players converged from many parts of Australia - N.S.W., Queensland, Victoria, S.A. and W.A., to compete alongside overseas visiting gate ballers from Hong Kong, Taipei (Taiwan), Japan and Pakistan.

The Toronto Croquet Club

This club has had a slow evolution from a croquet club forming in 1992 near the Toronto Workers Club to its current site in Glendale in 2014, some eleven kilometres to the north.

The club initially used a site near the Toronto Workers Club until it moved in 2003 to share the Ron Hill Oval at Toronto with the local cricket club. Some of the Google maps photos still show unusual lawn mowing patterns.

This move was followed by a large effort to secure a suitable purpose-built croquet centre.

In 2014 the club moved to its new site – the Lake Macquarie Croquet Centre at Glendale (at the northern region of the City of Lake Macquarie which is adjacent to the City of Newcastle).

There are six full size croquet courts and a modern large clubroom complex available for members.

Gateball has been played there since 2017.

Currently, members regularly play Gateball, Association Croquet, and Golf Croquet, and Ricochet.

In recent times this club has hosted many events – in particular the 2024 N.S.W. State Gateball Championships and matches played as part of the Golf Croquet Interstate Shield competition.

The 2025 Australian Gateball Championships

This is a biennial event, last played at Wodonga, N.S.W. in 2023.

The Championships are played over four days with Doubles and Team components.

The Doubles Event

Thirty-two Doubles teams were entered and were grouped into four blocks of eight. Doubles teams in each block played a round-robin series of seven games. The top two progressed to the quarter finals.

Peter Woodward (Brighton) & Glen Devison (South Terrace C.C.) finished third in their block, only losing to the top two teams. The games were tight and challenging. The top two teams in this block both won their quarter finals matches with one pair progressing to the Grand Final which they narrowly lost.

Geoff Crook (Woodville C.C.) teamed up with Philip Brown (Kew C.C.) and were second in their block after the early rounds, qualifying for the quarter finals. They narrowly lost this next game.

Glen & Kristina Whitehead (Canberra C.C.) won the Doubles Event. They were undefeated throughout this part of the competition.

The Teams Event

South Australia was represented by two players. Geoff Crook and Pever Woodward played with the Toronto team. Geoff captained this combined Toronto team.

The field was comprised of sixteen teams split into two groups. Each group played a round robin series of seven games. The top two teams from each block played off in the finals.

The combined Toronto team won three of its four games on the first day, then struggled on the second day finishing third in their group.

The Hong Kong team was undefeated in their block and decisively took control in the finals, winning this event.

Their display of varying tactics and skills was great to watch and a good lesson.

The final series – semi-final and Grand Final games was 'livescreened' on youtube and can be seen by simply searching on youtube.

This was another well-run great event, in a great venue, played in good spirits.

The overseas players were welcomed and joined in the fun.

Peter Woodward

Brighton C.C.



Combined Toronto Gateball Team 2025

Players L to R: Peter Woodward, Ruth Mulvaney, Helen Chalmers, Marty Wooster, Geoff Crook & Margy Wooster



Winners Teams Event - Australian Gateball Championships 2025

PARINGA PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL STAFF TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITY



A GOOD AFTERNOON WAS HAD BY ALL!

