



Newsletter

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

From the Brighton Croquet Club President, December 2025

Dear Members,

As 2025 comes to a close, the club has wrapped up the year with a particularly busy and productive couple of months.

Most notably, our club hosted the 2025 SA Gateball Championships for the first time. I will leave Peter to elaborate further on how the day unfolded, but it was a significant achievement for the club. In addition to the championships, we also hosted a couple of Christmas shows, one of which has already resulted in a confirmed booking for next Christmas. These events required a great deal of effort from many members, and I would like to sincerely thank everyone who contributed. They simply would not be possible without the generous donation of your time and energy.

Another recent development has been aligning the club with the Good Sports Australia program. The Good Sports program aims to create a welcoming environment for all, providing support and information around mental health, smoking, and drug and alcohol issues. While I don't anticipate that our club would encounter significant issues in these areas, aligning with initiatives such as this reflects positively on the club, demonstrates inclusivity across the wider community, and strengthens our position when applying for community-minded grants.

As you would be aware, ongoing maintenance work has continued on the courts in an effort to improve and smooth playing conditions. Hopefully, we receive more consistent weather over the coming months to allow the courts to properly repair and rejuvenate. In the new year, I will be communicating and working more closely with council to explore how we can continue upgrading our facilities—both inside and out—while maintaining the prestige and history of the club. Our goal is to provide the best possible croquet experience for both members and the broader community, and to position our club as the most desirable croquet club in the state.

One initiative I have been keen to trial for some time is an alternative evening format aimed at allowing workers and younger people to experience the game. This format varies slightly from traditional croquet by removing some of the more technical rules and shortening the games. The primary goals are to introduce people to the sport, get them out on the courts, and simply enjoy hitting a few balls. I kicked this off in mid-November and, while numbers have been relatively modest at this early stage, we have already had three men in their late 40s and early 50s say that croquet is the game they will gravitate towards over lawn bowls once they retire. This is a very encouraging sign. We have a fantastic game, and I firmly believe that croquet can grow and flourish again if people are aware of it and have the opportunity to experience it firsthand.

That's it from me for 2025. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to seeing you all in 2026 and working together towards another successful year for the club.

Kind Regards,
David

SA Gateball Championships 2025

The 2025 S.A. Gateball championships is an annual event, and this year was held at the Brighton Croquet Club over three days - Friday November 28th to Sunday 30th.

Players converged from Queensland, N.S.W., A.C.T., and Victoria to meet and compete with local Gateball players.

This event was originally a doubles event with players competing for the President's Trophy but in recent years the team event – five a side – has been added to the Championships.

The weather was mild mostly with pleasant temperatures but there was a heavy persistent rain late on Friday afternoon delaying the last round of doubles.

The grass was in good condition but was still able to produce unexpected turns at times.

The Presidents Trophy

Eleven doubles combinations competed in a round-robin draw.

In a final play in an exciting last match, one Philip Brown & Maxine MacLachlan came from behind to secure a win and rose to the top of the leaderboard, securing the trophy.

Congratulations to the Trophy winners - Philip Brown & Maxine MacLachlan, from Kew Croquet Club in Victoria.

Congratulations also to second place getters - Geoff Crook from Woodville Croquet Club and Barry Teague from Brighton Croquet Club.

The Teams Event

Five strong teams competed in this round robin event.

The Brighton team assisted by Captain Glen Devison (South Terrace Croquet Club) and Peter Martyniuk (Hyde Park Croquet Club) won this event. They were closely followed by a composite interstate team captained by Geoff Crook.

This was a great event played in great friendly competitive spirit.

A special thanks must go to the Brighton C.C. for hosting this event, the club President David Maunder for his strong support and the food preparation talents of the ladies who managed the kitchen keeping everyone well fed over the three days.

Peter Woodward

Winners of President's Cup- Doubles - Maxine MacLachlan, & Philip Brown with Brighton Club President David Maunder



Winning Team of SA Gateball Championships 2025

Graham Whiteway, Peter Martyniuk, Barry Teague, Peter Woodward & Glen Devison



Karen Magee won
the Women's GC
Spring Singles

North Adelaide AC Swiss Singles



Karen Magee won the handicap division of the North Adelaide AC Swiss Singles and Norma Greig was runner-up.

