



Newsletter

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

From the Brighton Croquet Club President, November 2023

In October our club hosted the Hackham Community Social and Sports Club for an evening of croquet and dinner. Jon Trenwith cooked some delicious lamb and chicken of his barbecue which was enjoyed by all. Thanks to Jon and all the people who helped on the night with coaching, serving dinner and tidying up.

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 be hosted another time.

We have secured Monday 27 May 2024 and Monday 30 September 2024 in the SACA Calendar for Brighton to host Gala Days.

A Melbourne Cup Luncheon was held on Tuesday 7 November which was enjoyed by those who attended. Thank you to Sonya who organised and managed the Melbourne Cup Day Raffle which raised \$150 for the club.

On the afternoon of 14 November, we hosted 20 teachers from Reynella East for a team bonding session which they all seemed to really enjoy. Ken introduced them to the game of croquet, and they played a few games with the help of Howard, Hans and Norm. Thank you to Jackie, Lorraine and Carmel who prepared some very attractive platters of nibbles for the guests. My thanks to everyone who helped on the day to make it such a success.

Covid is once again a concern and members are reminded to wash or sanitise their hands and social distance as much as possible. At our Christmas Lunch to be held on Tuesday 12 December we will be sharing plates of food and members are reminded to wash or sanitise their hands when entering the clubrooms.

On Wednesday 6 December we are hosting an end of year event for a large group from Flinders University Library. They will be taught to play croquet and enjoy an afternoon of fun, food and drinks. Thank you to Jackie Sutherland for her hard work liaising with Flinders Uni to ensure a successful and safe event.

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 may need to contribute to this purchase, but we will also be seeking grants to assist with the cost.

We have 2 new members who will be introduced to members very soon. We also now have 3 teenage members who are enjoying the game of croquet on Tuesday evenings under the guidance of Karen Magee.

Enjoy your croquet and stay safe and well.

Wendy Williamson

President

MELBOURNE CUP RAFFLE WINNERS

First Prize: Anne Woodhouse - \$50 Voucher & 2 bottles of wine

GENEROUSLY DONATED BY THE EDINBURGH HOTEL – our thanks to the Edinburgh

Second Prize: Chris Cutting – 2 bottles of wine – kindly donated by Sue Stevens

S.A. 2023 Mens GC Spring Singles

S.A. 2023 Mens GC Spring Singles This event was held at Hutt Road courts on Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th of November Brighton was the managing club.

People may remember the incredible storm occurring on the November weekend in 2022 when this event was last held. We dealt with rain and lightning, flooding in some areas. Very strong winds struck Adelaide causing trees to drop large branches or blow over blocking roads and affecting power lines. Power failure and blackouts lasted for days after in some areas T

his year was different - the weather was most pleasant.

Play on the first day was organised in two groups of seven players playing a round robin program. On Sunday the players played further games in groups depending on performance on Saturday. The group was split into three groups.

The Plate Competition - for those who didn't make the quarter finals. David Maunder (Brighton) finished runner-up to Barry Haydon of Hyde Park.

The Bowl Competition - for those who lost their quarter final. This was won by Stephen Condous (Hyde Park).

The finalists - the semifinals and finals were then played as a 'best of three' one-hour matches.

Semifinals - Robert Fletcher (Ballarat Alexandra) defeated Edward Wilson (Millswood) and Barry Jennings (Hyde Park) defeated Greg Fletcher (Ballarat Alexandra).

In the playoff for third spot Edward Wilson beat Greg Fletcher.

The Grand Final was played between Barry Jennings and Robert Fletcher with Robert Fletcher winning 7-2,7-5 in a very tough, tight match.

I would like to thank Robert and Greg Fletcher who made the interstate trip to play in the event and also Simon Hockey who made the trip from the mid-north of S.A.

A special thanks must go to the referees who volunteered their time to help with this event – Kim Millhouse, Graeme Thomas, Bob Neil, Anne Woodhouse, Bernie Pfitzner and David Stumm.

It was a great tournament, played well in good spirits with powerful displays of stroke making and tactics keeping the audience in enthralled.

Peter Woodward

GC Captain Brighton Croquet Club



S.A. 2023 Mens GC Spring Singles



Winner of SA 2023 Mens GC Spring Singles: Robert Fletcher with Peter Woodward, Tournament Manager (Brighton)



The crowd at S.A. 2023 Mens GC Spring Singles

David Maunder 'runner-up in the Plate' (Brighton) wearing his salute to Movember, with Jill Gay (Brighton)



Captain's Croquet Report November 2023

The last few months have been busy for members playing in the various competitions.

Spring GC Men's Singles

This event was held at Hutt Road courts on Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th of November.

Brighton was the managing club.

After the round robin games on Saturday David Maunder finished fifth in his group and entered the Plate Competition on Sunday.

He finished runner-up to Barry Haydon of Hyde Park

Monday 24 Plus Pennants

Brighton were very competitive and finished the season with an honourable mention

Spring Pennants - part way through the season

9 Plus Division

Brighton are competitive and sitting fifth in the team rankings.

5 Plus Division

Brighton are very competitive and at the halfway mark are sitting on top of the team rankings

Open Division

Brighton are doing well and are second after six games.

Weekend Pennants 2023

Open Division

The clear winners of the Open Division for 2023 are Brighton Gold.

This team comprises of Howard Wood, Karen Magee, Kate Logan, Anne Woodhouse, Bernie Pfitzner and Ken Nunan

The Brighton Black Open team were very competitive and after a slowish start came home strongly to finish in the middle of the field.

9 Plus Division

Brighton played very well in a tight competition winning four of their eight games and finished equal third - but with a lesser hoop difference were pushed down the placings to seventh position.

Peter Woodward GC Captain

Brighton Croquet Club History Matters: Episode 5

For pure dynamism it would be hard to surpass the energies of the late Sescadorowna Somerville known to all as 'Sesca'. After being one of Brighton's foundation members in 1915 she was living in Malvern in 1916 and was involved in the founding of the Sturt Croquet Club situated at the Unley Oval site. After that Club was unceremoniously booted out of that location in favour of football spectators, she helped found croquet clubs at both Malvern and Unley Park! Meanwhile Sesca had been involved in the very foundation of SACA, the croquet State body and there won high praise in her role as Manager. Around this time, she squeezed in a stint at Glenelg then, when her family moved to Brighton, became Captain of our club in 1925 but soon decided to found her own club, Araluen adjoining the Esplanade just a mere kilometre from Brighton Club's then location behind the Town Hall on Jetty Road. When Araluen disbanded in 1928 the peripatetic Sesca joined the South Park club briefly before again returning to our Club.

A tribute to Sesca appeared in the 'News' in May 1927 in the series 'Players Of Croquet' and was subtitled 'Writer and Student'. 'Mrs A Somerville secretary of Araluen Croquet Club in Brighton has been a foundation member of Sturt, Malvern, Unley Park and Araluen Clubs. Mrs Somerville takes a keen interest in poetry and historical research. Before marriage Mrs Somerville wrote under her maiden name Sesca Lewin and won several prizes in the SA Literary Societies' competitions. Two books of poems were published. Mrs Somerville confesses that nowadays with croquet claiming her attention and a family of six, she finds little time for writing. Four of her six children have gained University degrees.' (The children were born over only a six years period and included twins to help keep her occupied!)

The 'Register News-Pictorial' included more recognition of Sesca's prolific input to the sport in 1930. 'Mrs Somerville of Brighton was described by the President of SACA as one of the most valuable officials on the executive. For the last six years Mrs Somerville has been manager of Association fixtures, including tournaments, medal contests and pennants and with her at the helm, arrangements are always carried out satisfactorily. Mrs Somerville was on the committee which revised the constitution of the Association. Not only do metropolitan croquet players appreciate Mrs Somerville but she is held in high esteem by country players who come to the city to take part in Association fixtures. Players always refer to the kindness of Mrs Somerville in making provision for their comfort. Victor Harbour Club presented her with a gold-mounted fountain pen.'

In 1935 Sesca was reported in 'The Advertiser' to have been given a party at the home of Brighton's Lady Mayoress in King Street. 'A poem composed by Dr W Torr, framed with a miniature scene in water colours of the Brighton coast and jetty, was presented to Mrs Somerville as well as numerous posies.' Present were representatives of SACA, Brighton, Semaphore, Prospect, Glenelg and St Peters Clubs as well as Brighton President Kassie Silver.

Sesca Somerville died aged 85 after experiencing a stroke. Our Club could make a request to the SA Croquet Association to have this wonderful contributor to the development of our sport in this State posthumously recognised with a Life Membership!

What do you think?

Bob Auld



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