

UNITED CROQUET CLUB

NEWSLETTER

January, 1995

Presidential Ramblings....

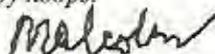
*Greetings to all members
a welcome to this new
style of communication
within the Club.*

*Communication is vital
within a voluntary
organisation and as United
grows and gains more and
more members who are
working through the week,
so we must use this avenue
to keep us all in contact
with what is happening in
the Club.*

*Your committee would
appreciate any feedback that
you may wish to provide
them about the usefulness
of this newsletter and, in
particular, what you would
find useful to read about
within its covers.*

*We hope to produce it about
four times each season!*

Happy hoops!



Quick, quick, slow..the green two-step!

Some want them quick, so that the skill of the player is exposed, while some want them slow so that the ball pulls up before the sideline! Bruce Newburgh wants to please everyone and so we've reduced the amount of irrigation that the watering system is delivering in the meantime!

Following the best advice, we've fertilised the lawns and watered them to promote the early season growth. Warm weather helped promote so much growth that we had to cut the lawns twice a week. Now, to make them fast enough for the average and better player, and to prepare for the Junior Nationals played at United in mid-January, we are watering just enough to keep the grass alive but the lawns fast.

While we can't make the lawns suit everyone, we sure want to please the majority - but please let Bruce play his games in peace!

Death of the Star Weed!

They multiply like rabbits and the infestation of the lawns is obvious - but never fear, their death is near!

We have, at last, found a suitable chemical to kill the star weed, but it's not cheap and it is one of the nastier hormonal chemicals that needs to be applied carefully. We have done some testing with localised applications but we will need to spray the entire surface thoroughly to achieve total eradication.

Expect to see the little blighters turning yellow during January. Theoretically, the chemical keeps active for three seasons so that any seeds that sprout are killed also. Seeing will be believing!

Back Page: Coming Events Pin-up - every good croquet home should have one!

The CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Play 'em games, please!!!

On the back page of this newsletter, you will note the small number of club days left in the season. There are lots of games that members need to play before we can determine the winners of the various grade championships so please make arrangements to play off your games before the cut-off dates, otherwise your entry will have to be removed. I've listed the conclusion dates below but they have been on the clubroom noticeboard since the beginning of the season....

- C Grade Championship - 19th February
- A Grade Championship Section play - 1st March
- Senior Ladies Championship - 8th March
- Open Singles - 22nd March
- Men's and Women's Handicap - 29th March

GAMES MUST BE PLAYED BY

CLUB HANDICAP PLAY Don't forget that if you are playing Handicap games for the Club Tournaments, these count towards your Club Handicaps...just make sure that you fill in the slip and put it in the box for Peter to evaluate. I have had a number of very positive comments about the Club Handicaps but if it is to catch on, we must play as many games as possible using them. If you have trouble understanding the options available to you (Handicap, Full Bisque, Handicap with Lifts & Contacts, etc) just ask!!! It is a great system...let's use it more!

NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS The best of good fortune to all members who are playing in the National Tournaments in January...may all your peels be Triples...or better! The Senior Nationals are in Wellington and the Juniors are at our own lawns. I'm sure that the UCC members who are playing in the Junior Nationals would appreciate some moral support from the sideline if you can spare the time!

SPREAD THE LOAD

Very shortly, your committee will be asking for nominations for Officers of the Club for next season. If you haven't been on the committee or you think it is about time you had another go (or if you think the current lot are useless)put your name forward.

As a voluntary sports club, we owe it to ourselves to spread the (fairly minimal) burden and not expect the same members to lead the club every season. We also need to rotate members so that the committee has a mixture of old and new hands.

PLEASE GIVE IT A GO!!

CAN YOU HELP??

United Club is hosting th National Junior Championships 15 - 21 Jan. Can you help serve the teas or put out the hoops or both??

For tea assistance
ph Shirley 385-9609;
To help with the lawns
ph Malcolm 365-0383
or 365-0385.
NOW!

GETTING YOUR OPINION!

Your committee would welcome your views on the four topics in the questionnaire included in this newsletter: 1. How best can we attract new members?

2. Possible expenditure at the Club.
3. The use of Club Days for other events.
4. Help in running the Club.

Q1. Our present membership of fifty or so is not sufficient to maintain our present lifestyle; we **have** to rely on grants and donations, etc.. Please do all that you can to bring your friends, or friends of friends to join. We are planning a leaflet drop in and around Riccarton this month, but please answer Question 1 to give us your ideas on how to attract new members.

CLUBHOUSE CLEANING ROSTER

The roster is still not working well. Would you please note your duty week and when you have finished your turn, remind the next pair that it is their turn.

Tasks:

- Clean kitchen, toilet.
- Empty bins, etc.
- Vacuum clubrooms.
- Launder tea towels, towels & tablecloths.

Week commencing Monday:

- 9th Jan S. Bruce & B. Millar
- 16th Jan S. Bruce & B. Miller
- 23rd Jan I. Coop & J. Marsh
- 30th Jan M. Delahunty & N. Gash

- 6th Feb L. Cooke & V. Stewart
- 13th Feb C. Turnbull & G. McCann
- 20th Feb B. Baird & P. Wilson
- 27th Feb M. Collins & N. Neil

- 6th Mar J. Ramage & E. Ramage
- 13th Mar P. Norton & U. Tabley
- 20th Mar B. Collins & D. Connor
- 27th Mar P. Hill & U. Hill

- 3rd Apr J. Tyler & A. Mollinson
- 10th Apr P. Parkinson & M. Harrison
- 17th Apr G. Beale & J. Prince
- 22nd Apr Closing - Final Clean-Up

Q2. We may have about \$1500 to spend during the winter. Give us your ideas on how we could best do so.

Q3. Club Days are valuable. Your views would be welcome - about using them to play tournaments, and about inviting other Clubs on Wednesdays.

Q4. Finally there is the constant problem of running the Club - keeping it clean; keeping it in good repair; helping with tournaments; and a hundred and one other tasks. Of course, some Members are less able than others to help, and we recognise this. We need to know what you are prepared to do in this area.

Do please let me have your completed questionnaires back quickly.

**WELCOME
to our
NEWEST MEMBER!**

URSULA HILL



Coming Events

*Sunday, 15th January -
Saturday, 21st January
Sunday, 22nd January
Saturday, 28th January*

NZCC Junior National Championships
(UCC lawns not available for Club play)
Sunday play at UCC
Silver Badge Finals

*Saturday, 4th January -
Saturday, 11th February
Saturday, 8th February
Sunday, 19th February
Monday, 20th February -
Friday, 24th February
Saturday, 25th February
Monday, 27th February -
Friday, 3rd March*

CCA Seniors Tournament
(UCC lawns not available for Club play)
Johnson Memorial Section Play-Offs
Sunday play at UCC
The Maud Trainor Tournament *(Veterans)*
(UCC lawns not available for Club play)
Johnson Memorial Semi-Finals
The Agnes Dick Tournament

*Saturday, 4th March &
Sunday, 5th March
Sunday, 19th March*

UCC 'Senior with Junior Tournament'
(Entries close 1st March)
Sunday play at UCC

*Saturday, 1st April
Saturday, 8th April
Friday, 14th April -
Monday, 17th April
Saturday, 22nd April*

UCC Prizegiving
CCA Closing Day, St Martin's
UCC Easter Tournament

UCC Closing Day
Ψ

CLUB DAYS

Wednesday

January 11th, 25th
February 1st, 15th
March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th
April 5th, 12th, 19th

Saturday

January 7th, 14th, 28th
February 18th, 25th
March 11th, 18th, 25th
April 1st

UNITED CROQUET CLUB

NEWSLETTER

March, 1995

Presidential Ramblings....

Greetings to all members for the final time in writing this season.

The second half of the season appears to have passed in a flash - especially for those members who have been unable to get along every week.

This newsletter has a number of important dates and other matters of great note so please read it all and take it in before you use it for wrapping up the peelings!!

Note that the end of the season this year will differ from previous seasons due to late Easter... so don't get caught out!!

Make your last hoops clean ones!



Cup Presentation Day at United THIS WEEKEND!

You may recall that the members decided at our last AGM to hold the Cup Presentations and Afternoon Tea BEFORE the CCA Closing Day because of the late position of Easter....so that's what's happening *this weekend!* Make a note of the details!

This
SATURDAY, 1st APRIL
1.00p.m. - Progressive Croquet
3.30p.m. - Afternoon Tea and
Presentation of Trophies
Please bring a plate!!

I ask as many members as possible to make it to the CCA Closing Day of the next weekend (see below) but note three things:

- * It's at a different venue than in previous years!
- * Winning and Runner-Up teams and individuals from CCA Inter-Club Events should attend.
- * United is down to run the "Up the Ramp" activity!!

Please volunteer to put in 1/2hour's assistance by adding your name to the list in the Club Rooms!

CCA CLOSING DAY
SATURDAY, 8th APRIL
10.a.m. - 2.30p.m.
at the
FENDALTON CROQUET CLUB

Proceeds of all activities to the "Selected Players Fund".

Inside : WINTER PLAY REGULATIONS for this winter!

WINTER PLAY

The Executive has discussed the several requests that it has received for facilities to be made available through the winter months. Over the last two seasons, winter play has been permitted under various rules. Last year, a green fee was requested but this appeared to be ignored in the large by members. There is some minor cost to the club in keeping a lawn or lawns open during the winter but the greatest cost to the club is the cost of any damage that may be caused by play on soft lawns, or irreparable burning of the turf that is caused if frozen grass is played on. Taking the interests of the club members into account as well as the desire to make facilities as available as possible, your Executive has determined that the following regulations will apply for winter play this year:

WINTER PLAY

1. Members may use the lawns after Closing Day provided they pay the Winter Play Green Fee of \$25.00. This entitles them to unlimited play throughout the winter provided the ground conditions are suitable.
2. Members who have paid their Winter Play Green Fee will have their names displayed in the window of the Equipment Shed.
3. Members playing in the winter will have to use Lawn 2 or 4.
4. If there has been a frost, NO PLAY UNTIL AFTER MID-DAY.
5. If there has been heavy rain, members must exercise discretion and abide by any lawn closure signs that may be erected.

EASTER TOURNAMENT

John Prince and Graham Beale are managing this once again and a large number of invitations have been accepted for the Championship Event. Expect to see a number of NZ's leading players in action during the weekend!

There are still

3 places only available for members in the Handicap Event.

If you want to in a really great tournament, telephone John right now or you'll be too late!!

There will be a barbecue at the Club on Easter Saturday.

It's open to all Club Members. If you want to attend, you'll be very welcome.

Again, let John know now!

ph 358-7150

OUT WITH THE OLD - IN WITH THE NEW!

Several spaces on the 1995/1996 Committee!

Every voluntary organisation needs members to organise it - nothing of much substance happens otherwise. We have been served by a good band of workers for several seasons, but many of them are ready for a break from the committee to let others have a go. At the Annual General Meeting at the end of the current season, the following Committee members will be stepping down. It's worthwhile knowing why.

Malcolm Long: Malcolm has been on the committee since the 1990/1991 season and President for the last three seasons - that's getting on towards dictator-for-life status. Besides, he has at last purchased a house in Christchurch and needs time to move in, do it up and start to live the normal life of a rate-payer!

Geoffrey Naylor: Geoffrey has been on the committee for two seasons, both as Club Captⁿ. However, next season, Geoffrey is taking a year off croquet to travel, develop some interesting business propositions and play golf!

Shirley Bruce: Shirley has been Club Secretary for two seasons - and a very efficient one at that. To be frank, Shirley is peeved by the lack of support she has received in the baking/cleaning/hosting business of the club. She looks forward to being just a player.

Billie Millar: Billie has been on the committee almost every year since 1990 and did two seasons as Club Captain! She feels quite a bit like Shirley!!

Bruce Newburgh: Bruce joined the committee two seasons ago not long after he started playing croquet! He feels that he has done his fair share, but will give the person taking over his role a hand, particularly with the handyman tasks about the Club! He will also edit this newsletter next season - so be on your best behaviour or you'll be in the gossip column before you can say, "Triple Peel Beale!".

Peter Couch: Peter joined the committee this season. He was particularly keen to see the Club Handicap Play system get up and take root. It hasn't to date, and Peter is disappointed at that.

The club owes these members its thanks for their service over this season, and those seasons that have preceded it!

Members will be pleased to know that **Peter Weeks**, the current Club Treasurer, has allowed his name to go forward for a further year of service. Thank you, Peter.

NOMINATIONS ARE CALLED FOR THE POSITIONS OF:
PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, TREASURER, CAPTAIN, VICE-CAPTAIN.

Nominations can be placed on the sheet on the wall of the Club Rooms. Obviously, your committee would prefer all vacancies to be filled by nomination prior to the AGM. If not, nominations can be taken from the floor at that meeting.

UNITED CLASSIFIED!

COACHING COURSE

for
-1/2 to 2 1/2 players

26th/27th AUGUST

Restricted to 8 men & 8 women only.

Only **\$25.00**

Get your application in quickly to:

John Prince

ph 358-7150

TOPDRESSING

of our Lawns 5, 6 & 7
A request for able-bodied
assistance on Tuesday,

8.00a.m., 25th APRIL

It's a Public Holiday, folks!!

The more members present, the quicker
it is done. It's a fun affair as we"

Let us know if you are available -

ph **Bruce Newburgh**

ph 385-1725

1995/1996 SEASON
at **UNITED**

AUGUST Pre-Season
MEETING

Saturday, 12th August at
1.30p.m.

OPENING DAY
Saturday,
10th September

Closing Day
1994/1995

at United is
Saturday,
22nd April.

There will be no formal
club closing event.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the
UNITED CROQUET CLUB

Saturday, 27th MAY
1.00p.m.

UNITED CROQUET CLUB Inc
 North Hagley Park, Riccarton Avenue
 CHRISTCHURCH 1



NEWSLETTER

Secretarial Ian 351 8084	LATE-WINTER EDITION 1995	Editorial Bruce 385 1725
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Meet your new COMMITTEE:

<i>President</i>	Billie Millar	338 3644
<i>Vice President</i>	No appointment	
<i>Secretary</i>	Ian Coop	351 8084
<i>Treasurer</i>	Peter Weeks	358 3560
<i>Captain</i>	Marie Delahunty	358 4335
<i>Committee:</i>		
James Marsh	Maintenance & Equipment	351 8105
John Prince	Lawns	358 7150
Marie Thompson }	Social	342 8398
Joan Tyler }	Convenors	384 3993

\$\$\$ SUBSCRIPTIONS 1995/96

The members at the AGM approved :

Honorary	\$20		
Full	\$130 }	Excluding	
Student	\$65 }	Levies	
Winter	\$25		
Green Fees	\$5	Each category inclusive of GST	



AUGUST MEETING - Saturday 12 August, 1.30 p.m.

Our pre-season meeting is to be held at the Club Rooms
 Major item on the agenda will be the programme of play for the new season.



OPENING DAY - Saturday 9 September

Progressive Croquet: 1.00 p.m. until afternoon tea at approx 3.30 p.m.
 Please bring a plate



PRE-SEASON WORKING BEE - Saturday 2 September, 9.30 a.m.

Bring your lunch if you are able to stay into the afternoon - cleaning, laying out lawns and general maintenance - all equipment supplied.



WINTER PLAY [Restricted to club members only]

There is a cost associated with winter play. Recognising this, your committee recommended at the AGM that a winter subscription of \$25 be set for the right to use the club room and equipment during the period closing day to opening day. Members wishing to avail themselves of the right to practise/play should send \$25 to our Treasurer, Peter Weeks, at 7 Glenavon Place.

Those who pay will have their names displayed in the window of the equipment shed. All others may pay \$5 green fees by leaving the money in the shed fridge and entering the date and their name in the book provided. This applies to members only.

The committee knows that you will not use the greens when they are so wet as to be easily damaged, but asks that you do **NOT** use them while they are covered by frost - this is when considerable damage is done.

The greens to use: No 2 and a new green (No 3½) which overlaps greens 3 and 4. The South boundary is about where hoops 1 and 4 were on No 4. The four corners are marked with ball markers - stretch a gate ball line between them to show North and South boundary lines.



CLOSURE OF GREENS

Our greens are in use for a NZCC Coaching Programme for senior players on the weekend of 26/27 August - they will not be available for winter play.



WINTER WORK

You thought that after the AGM we pulled dust covers over the seven greens, didn't you? You thought that we turned the key in the gate and turned our back on the club for four months, didn't you?

Wrong!! Winter is *grand maintenance time* and the work done keeps us looking fresh and bright for another season. This winter, following closely on the AGM, the Croquet Elves came out to beaver away for the next four months.

Top Dressing: Done whilst there was still some growth left in the grass, as you will read elsewhere in this tome.

Subsurface Aeration: Lawns 1 and 2 have been done to aid drainage (especially along the North boundary of lawn 1) and to improve the general health of the grass. The same was done to lawns 3 and 4 last season with a magnificent improvement to lawn 3 which used to have a sparse grass cover as it competed with moss. This year it was done in the early winter to let it settle down before our spring opening.



LAWN MAINTENANCE

The weather forecast of 24 April was for at least two days of fine weather - who then would be surprised to learn that it rained that night. The morning was sort of okay but black skies warned of further rain and the forecast had changed to 'rain'. This was enough for me - the day was bound to be fine and it was all on for the top dressing of lawns 5, 6 and 7.

The soil delivered the day before was only surface damp and the lawns were less wet than after a heavy dew. At 9 a.m. nine members were present with light step and happy heart, and just as you would expect of a bad weather forecast, the sun came out.

Between us we moved about six cubic metres of soil - loading a trailer and wheel barrows, spreading, raking, screeding and then the big board. Borrowed from the Bowling Club it had taken five strong men (and me) to carry it from their club to ours some days before - we now had five of our members to pull it and these five included the one lady member to turn up, an octogenarian, and three old age pensioners.

By 3 p.m. we were heading home, bent, bushed and b.....d, but knowing the high standard of our greens was being maintained for another year. I am grateful to :

- ♣ Ursula Hill - for the pikelets
- ♣ Peter Hill - who drove the car and manoeuvred the trailer
- ♣ James Marsh - for his constant wit and humour
- ♣ Geoffrey Naylor - for his qualities of leadership
- ♣ Ian Coop - for his constant encouragement, and to
- ♣♣♣ Graham Beale, John Prince and Malcolm Long for pretending that the rest of us were keeping up with them.

Bruce Newburgh, Convenor, Lawns & Equipment (retired).



UNITED CROQUET CLUB Inc

North Hagley Park, Riccarton Avenue
CHRISTCHURCH 1



NEWSLETTER



Secretarial
Ian 351 8084

SPRING EDITION 1995

Editorial
Bruce 385 1725



GENERAL MEETING: Saturday 12 August

Eighteen members were present and several apologies were received - a FAIR turnout.

New Balls - to be purchased with a \$700 grant from the Hilary Commission.

Handicap Ladder - a large number of those present asked that it be continued for the new season.

Club Day Draws - will close at 9.50 a.m. and 1.50 p.m. If you are running late a telephone call before the cut-off time will ensure a place is held for you. If you have arranged your own singles game for a club day call Marie Delahunty to enable her to reserve a green for you.



DRESS

There appears to be some confusion in the minds of some members as to the required dress for croquet.

Club Days - full white is preferred but some leeway is permitted, especially with wet weather gear.

Interclub and Tournaments - white, but a jacket or cardigan of 'another colour' is permitted. Dress and pants *must* be white.

Shoes - must be white and have a flat sole.

Hats - anything goes, but please, no hanging corks.



COACHING

At Barrington at \$10 per person - Intermediate: Sunday 17 Sept. The fee may be paid on the day but an entry form must be lodged by the previous Friday. More details from Billie Millar ☎ 338 3644.



THE JOHNSON MEMORIAL TROPHY (also sometimes known as 'Saturday Interclub')

Our teams :

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. | Joan Tyler (2½) | Shirley Bruce (7) |
| 2. | Bruce Newburgh (5½) | James Marsh (9) |
| 3. | Ursula Hill (8) | Peter Hill (8½) |
| 4. | Marjorie Collins (7½) | Vicki Stewart (9½) |
| 5. | Nola Neil (11½) | Chris Turnbull (11½) |

Commences 23 September, thereafter 30 September, 7/14/21/28 October.



INTERCLUB COMPETITION 95/96

A Grade Teams: (Mondays, start 25 Sept)

A Team:	Marie Thompson (Capt)	B Team:	Marie Delahunty (Capt)
	Billie Millar		Peggy Norton
	Linda Cooke		Joan Tyler
	Alice Mollison		* Keith Taylor

Intermediate Team: (Thursdays, start 28 Sept)

- Ngaire Gash (Capt)
- * Daphne Parkins
- * Dawn Beattie
- * Dick Evans

B Grade Teams: (Tuesdays, start 26 Sept)

A Team: Shirley Bruce (Capt)
* Leone Baker
Irene Nelson
Bruce Newburgh

B Team: Una Tabley (Capt)
Marjorie Collins
Ursula Hill
Peter Hill

C Grade Team (Wednesdays, start 27 Sept)

James Marsh (Capt)
Vicki Stewart
Ian Coop
Chris Turnbull

* Seconded from other clubs.

OTHER EVENTS (Sept/Oct)

Canterbury Handicap singles: the week of 9-13 October

Details not available at time of going to press - see your yearbook which is due soon.

??? FROM OUR 'DID YOU KNOW?' FILE

You can wow them at tournaments with this one: Did you know that John Solomon (of the 'Solomon Grip' fame) won his first National Title ever at United? "Who gives a Clark Gable?" did I hear you say? Well, how about this one: Did you know that the first public croquet club in New Zealand was formed in 1866 in conjunction with the United Christchurch Cricket Club and that its first game was played in South Hagley Park opposite the Riccarton Hotel (which later became known as Nancy's)? Yes, you guessed it, it was **UNITED!**

