

# NEWSLETTER

## UNITED CROQUET CLUB INC.

Autumn Edition - May 1999

*President*  
Geoffrey Naylor

*Treasurer & Editor*  
Bruce Newburgh

*Secretary*  
Ursula Hill

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### EDITORIAL

Your Committee is aware that this is only the third newsletter for this season and whereas, ashamed would be too strong a word a better effort will be made in the millennium season.

### ITEMS FOR YOUR DIARY

**AGM**      **MAY 29th**      **Time**  
1.30pm at the Club Room

**OPENING DAY SEPTEMBER 11th**

**WINTER WORK PARTY** is being arranged for early June

Return your application for a place in the Interclub teams by

**2nd AUGUST, please send to Peter Weeks.**

### *WINTER WORK PARTY*

This will be our final chance to get it right for the MacRobertson - we must send our distant visitors back to their home countries with good memories of our sparkling fresh club.

Jobs to do are listed on our blackboard and includes

shelter repairs and painting, equipment maintenance and trolley painting, boundary boards construction and landscaping.

Members will be rung for assistance in early June.

### *THE TWILIGHTERS*

The experiment has been an outstanding success with a membership of 13. They have used the greens on weekends and evenings. The change over from our club days has been seamless and they have mixed with us socially and on a couple of occasions. Hopefully we can make it more often next season

### *TOPDRESSING*

This has been done in three stages and has now been completed. Each stage consisted of the grooving of two greens followed a few days later by the spreading of 6m of soil and spot seeding, this taking the best part of a day.

Greens 3 & 4 were done in early March and have now fully recovered for winter

play.

Many thanks for the hard work of Geoffrey, Dave, Ian, Peter, Tony and Bruce.

#### WINTER PLAY

A new green has been created which overlaps 3 & 4 and may be used during the winter subject to the following:-

1. Use the hoops on trolley 4 - the green still faces north.
2. A winter sub of \$15 is payable to cover the cost of spring repair, use of balls, any electricity (and Tea or coffee) used. Bring your own milk.
3. Sign your name once in the note book on the trolley and you will be billed later.
4. Use only Barlow balls - winter wet finds small casing cracks in the Jacques. The cork centre swells and the ball deteriorates quickly.
5. No play in, or shortly after, rain or when the greens are slippery - for obvious reasons.
6. Play only between 10am and 3pm. Please wait for any frost to thaw - walking on frost damages the grass.
7. Club members only (including Twilighters).
8. You are expected to allow any others arriving after you, to share your green or your game.
9. It is a requirement that you enjoy yourself.

#### INTERCLUB 99/00

Included with this newletter is your interclub form. Please indicate your interest and send it to your Club Captain by the due date.

Please also find yourself a partner for the Johnson Memorial (Saturday interclub) or show that you would like one to be found for you.

#### THE WEARING OF WHITES

At the AGM you will again be asked to vote on your preference so give it some thought.

#### THE MacROBERTSON SHIELD

All the arrangements for this three week series of Test Matches are now well advanced. The siting of the seventh lawn has been agreed with the United Tennis Club; all our six lawns have been grooved, sown and top dressed; the design of the programme is nearly settled; and the catering and accommodation details are just about complete. Nearly 100 "MacRob shirts" have been sold, and spaces in some inner City windows for appropriate displays, are being negotiated. Work continues on the details of the organisation at our Club event, and on such items as gifts packs for our visitors. One or two other croquet clubs have offered to help with the setting out the courts etc, and we have had a couple of offers so far of a "United Day" at other clubs while the MacRob is on. The CCA will be organising raffles.

Many of the best players in the world will be here next January. There will be no admission charge, so do make certain that you, and some friends, come along as often as you can.

If you have any questions or

comments, please let me know. Geoffrey

#### HANDICAPPING

The club recommendations have been forwarded to the Handicapping Committee for its submission to the National handicapper - results should be known by the AGM.

Reductions during the year include:

Peter Weeks 5.5 to 4.

Remember - the fastest and only sure way to achieve a reduction is to play interclub AND to enter as many Association and/or Council events as possible.

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Nominations for the new committee is VERY SHORT of names, please give thought to this.

We need nominations for the following: Vice President, Vice Captain, and at least two more ordinary members. The list was up on the board before we closed, so it is disappointing that the list was not full before Closing Day.



# NEWSLETTER

## UNITED CROQUET CLUB INC.

Spring Edition - August 1999

*President*  
Geoffrey Naylor

*Treasurer & Editor*  
Bruce Newburgh

*Secretary*  
Ursula Hill

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### EDITORIAL

Welcome to the new season which promises to be a very busy one, with Interclub, club competitions and the MacRobertson Test in the New Year. Hope you are all feeling fit and ready!

### DATES TO REMEMBER

**CAPTAIN'S MEETING - 14th AUGUST AT 1.30pm**

**WORKING BEE - 19th August**

**HANDICAP PLAY COACHING - 29th August 10am -3pm. at St. James \$10. Entries close 22nd August. Phone Kay Wade on 337-0607. Take note book, pencil, mallet & flat soled shoes and your lunch.**

**OPENING DAY- 11th SEPTEMBER, Normal play in the morning and Official Opening at 1pm. Please bring a plate for afternoon tea which will be at 3.30pm.**

**MACROBERTSON TEST - 24th January to 13th February 2000.**

**TROPHY DAY - 25th March, 2000**

**CLOSING DAY - 15th April, 2000**

### WINTER PLAY

Winter players will have noticed that lawn "3½" has been replaced with lawn "5½". This is because of our concern that lawn four might be getting a bit too much traffic, especially when it is overly damp. Players are reminded that they should not play in frosty weather nor when the lawns are truly wet. Indeed, if the hoop holes are full of water you should not only be careful about putting the hoops in, but also extra cautious about playing at all.

### WORKING PARTY

Another working party will held late in August - details at the meeting on the 14th - but a general clean-up as well as a little further painting is on the agenda. We also hope then to make some extra edge boards because we will need to cater for the seventh lawn on the tennis courts next to the Bowling Club. Please do not be backward in coming forward to help -

even if it is only to bring home-made muffins to feed the workers! Of course the lawns will be laid out before we open on 11th September.

#### *VICE-PRESIDENCY OF THE CCA*

Congratulations to Geoffrey on winning the election for the Vice-Presidency of the Canterbury Croquet Assn. I am sure we all wish him well, as he joins Bruce Newburgh on the CCA Management Committee.

#### *INVITATION EVENTS*

Congratulations to the following members for being invited.

BEST OF 10 - Graham Beale and John Prince.

OPEN 16 - Ian Dumergue and Jane McIntyre

3 BISQUES & OVER - Peter Weeks

INVITATION WOMENS - Peggy Norton.

#### *REDUCED HANDICAPS*

Congratulations to the following for reduction in their handicaps during the season.

Kevin Cusack, Elva McNeil, Nola Neil, well done everyone.

#### *DELEGATE'S REPORT*

After the Minutes of the previous Meeting (on the Notice Board) were approved, the following points arose at the CCA Delegates' Meeting held on 12th June 1999.

1. Club Captains should tell the Association Handicapper when players are not playing to their handicaps, and should use the Appeals procedure as required.

2. The NZCC has produced a "Model Constitution" and Clubs will be asked to consider, if necessary, bringing theirs into line with it.

3. Although there are a goodly number of Umpires in the CCA, more would be welcome, and more Referees and Senior Referees are definitely needed.

4. Coaching for C Graders will be held on 3rd and 31st October. Early registration is advised. Coaching in Handicap Play for all Grades. will be held at St. James Club on 29th August. Register by 22 August, please.

5. Have-a-Go-Day will be on Sunday 12th March 2000, and all Clubs were urged to become involved in this show case event.

6. All the Reports from the CCA officers were accepted. These are on the Notice Board, as are the Accounts (and my analysis of them).

7. The six Recommendations proposed by various Clubs were considered. These too are on the Board, marked as to whether or not they were carried.

8. A summary of matters considered by the NZCC was presented to delegates. It too is on the Board.

#### *MACROBERTSON SHIELD TEST MATCHES*

The preparation for the MacRobertson is beginning to hot up now with under six months to go to their start on 24th January next yer. Committee held its first meeting on 11th May last year, apparently with plenty of time to do everything. And it very nearly has, although some things just

can't be decided until nearer the start. But here is a progress report.

The New Zealand team is to be captained by Steve Jones, and will include John Prince (congratulations John), Richard Baker, Shane Davis, Toby Garrison and Bob Jackson. The reserves are Graham eale (congratulations Graham) and Brian Wislang. Graham has also been appointed as Team Manager.

The whole team is expected here to hold a practice session of the weekend of 11th-12th of December at United. They will not however be taking up all our lawns, and there may well be a BBQ for us and them on the Saturday night.

The Teams from all four countries - the UK, US, and Australia will be the visitors - will be staying at the University Hall of Residence, and Joyce Maindonald - who is in charge of catering - plans to give members "Welcome" packs of goodies and to replenish them from time to time. If anyone wants to help by baking biscuits etc. Joyce (on 355-7478) might well be grateful. Each team has been allocated a "host club" which will help their team with all its non-playig needs.

It is planned to set up one or two grandstands - kindly loaned by St. Andrew's College - and to erect four rugby goal posts to use as extra flag poles - also borrowed from St. Andrew's.

The lawns are looking very good, so all we need now is fine weather for the three weeks of the "MacRob".

#### DRESS POLICY

The wearing of whites is optional but whites is the preferred policy of the club.

#### NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the following new members: Geraldine Murphy, Joyce Maindonald, Chris Brady and John Tyler.

#### KEY POLICY

There is a charge of \$6 for a set of 2 keys. Refund of \$3 on resigning from the club. If you are a key holder please let Bruce know so that he can keep a register.



# NEWSLETTER

## UNITED CROQUET CLUB INC.

Summer Edition - December 1999

*President*  
Geoffrey Naylor

*Treasurer & Editor*  
Bruce Newburgh

*Secretary*  
Ursula Hill

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### EDITORIAL

Hi there fellow croquetors!  
The season has started well with the greens looking great and playing very true, a credit to those who have spent so much time on them over the past 3 years. I am sure our trans-Tasman/Pacific/Atlantic guests will be impressed when they play here in Jan/Feb.

This is the second of our newsletters for our Millennium season. Hopefully two more can be expected (if I can find the time) - members contributions are always welcome.

In the meantime you may find the following to be of interest.

### INTERCLUB

At the end of November, with mostly six games played and with between 3 and 5 still to play (depending on your grade) the teams have had mixed fortunes.

Highlights include - Ursula, who has won all her singles games including 3 played for the Intermediate teams - Kevin, as a "C" Grader, was asked to fill in for the intermediate team

and was thrilled to win his game.

### JUNIOR TOURNAMENT

Only two of our members entered. Kevin played at Hornby and played well enough to catch the eye of the handicapper - he is now a 10.

Irene Nelson won the Junior Women's Championship which resulted in a reduction from 6.5 to 5.5. Irene, because of personal and family commitments, is not seen often at club days so I guess her natural ability is in the genes.

### HANDICAPPING

Talking about reductions, Peter Weeks is now an "A" Grade player having come down from a 4 to a 2½. Peter has made it to a senior player in only 3 years of serious play - who said coaching and practice don't work!

### JOHNSON MEMORIAL

We have seven teams (14 members) competing, almost half our membership. With five of the seven games played the standing is:-

TEAM	1	2 wins	3 losses
	2	3	2
	3	3	2
	4	3	2
	5	4	1
	6	3	2
	7	2	2

(Cashmere defaulted)

Team 5 - Sally and Peter are in the running to win the United Trophy but with two games to play - who knows.

#### SENIOR TOURNAMENT

Attracted a record number of entries and our senior members were well represented. All played well - those who excelled themselves were:-

Peggy Norton, who won her section, but was put out in the play off.

Peggy (again) who was runner up in the Senior Women's Championship.

Chris Brady - Runner up (with Gary Annakin) in the Intermediate Doubles.

Peter Parkinson - Runner up in Senior Men's Championship

Geraldine Murphy - Winner of the Intermediate Women's Championship.

#### SOME REMINDERS

1. If you accept a ride to another club you are expected to contribute to the costs.

- to city clubs \$2
- to Rangiora \$3
- to Akaroa \$5

2. The Christmas hamper raffle is displayed on the table by the blackboard- you are invited to add something to the prizes and to buy a ticket (or two). The draw will be made on Xmas Party day.

3. When you have finished your practice please count the balls and take back into the equipment shed. Two balls have recently been found - one against the perimeter fence, the other in the garden. At \$100 each to replace, we can't afford to lose any.

#### CHRISTMAS PARTY

**SATURDAY 18 December 1999**

Fun games commence 1pm

Afternoon tea 3pm

Raffle draw and

President's (short) speech 3.30pm.

Please bring a plate (with something on it).

Normal club play in the morning. Twilighters please join us.

#### MEET THE MACROBBERS

The NZ MacRobertson team is to be our guest on Sat. 11 Dec.

It will be a normal club day but we can watch them try our our world standard lawns and meet them socially at a Barbeque starting at 4pm. The price for the BBQ will be \$5 per head. Please let Joyce Maindonald know if you are coming as she needs to know numbers. Her phone number 355-7478. Twilighters are also welcome.

#### CONGRATULATIONS

Geoffrey - is the South Island's representative on the NZ Croquet Council - "only the best shall be called to serve!"

#### ARTHUR ROSS COMPETITION

The large number of entrants shows what great heart our club is in. Sixteen of our members played for the favour of representing our club in this prestigious annual event.

It took place on the Saturday with those knocked out in the first round playing for their own Trophy on the Sunday morning. The event closed with a lunch time BBQ. A great weekend with great fellowship, and Peter Parkinson representing United for the play offs on 18/19 Dec.

### REFEREE'S CORNER

You are playing a game of handicap singles. You started your turn by making hoop 6. You also made hoop one back but stuck in the hoop at 2 back with your other ball between the hoop and A baulk.

Your opponent takes the lift from A baulk and hits in. While he/she is placing their ball for a croquet stroke you suddenly realise that it is a handicap game and lifts don't apply. You stop the play and call for a referee - how does play continue. (Answer at end of Newsletter).

### NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members: William (Bill) Jeffries, 23 Bartlett St. phone 348-4955  
Kay Wade, 6 Kidson Tce. phone 337-0607, and  
Twilighters: Gail Duncan 325-2784, Lesley Isaac 352-2200. Ken James 366-3407  
Pat Strahan 358-4640.

### WORK PARTY

The second (and last before the MacRob) work party was held on Friday 26 November when some final repairs/improvements and touch up painting were done. All major and we hope, minor jobs have now been completed for the season although there always seem to be more

each time you think you are finished. If you see anything less than perfect, please let James know.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

1. The interprovincial at Ashburton - Seniors 9 Jan  
- Junior 16 Jan.  
Entries for both close 17 December.
2. S.I. Teams event (one from each grade) at Timaru 19/20 February.  
Entries close 29 Jan.
3. Silver Badge - play off 11/12 Dec.

If you are interested in any of these, see your Club Captain - details are on notice board.

### CLUB BADGES

We have had a new logo and badge designed. There is a sample on the blackboard in the club room. If you wish to have one, please put your name down on the list under the blackboard, price \$6.

### A WARM & BALMY MACROB? by Geoffrey.

With only seven weeks to go now to the event, everything is beginning to fall into place. All the teams have now been announced - with the Americans naming six players and seven reserves. The lawns look to be in very good condition, thanks to a great deal of effort by Peter, Bruce and others including our greenkeeper, Bill Malloch. With his help we intend to cut the seven lawns on alternate days and to mark the lines on the intervening days, as to do both on the same morning would delay the start of play.

A daily start time of 9.30am has been set, and

only one match - the best of three games - will be played on each lawn each day. Who is playing whom, and the score, will be shown on a big board as you come in from the car park, so you will be able to go straight to whichever lawn you wish. There will be designated areas and walkways for spectators, so as not to disrupt play. Admission is free, but there will be a charge for programmes - which by the way, will be available in a week or so.

While the teams and officials will be catered for in the Bowls Club Room, gourmet refreshments, including drinks, will be easily obtainable from a site close to our Club Room. And there will be a BBQ on the last Saturday, February 12th, when Peter will be roasting a whole hogget! Tickets for the BBQ will be sold during the MacRob, price probably \$10, drinks extra. Buy yours early as the number will be strictly limited.

Security around the 31st December "Millennium Party" will be supplied by 80 City Council guards and 100 police. The Bowls and the Tennis Clubs have agreed to share with us the cost of one guard specifically assigned to our area. This aspect has long been a bit of a concern of mine, and I am pleased with the way the arrangements have turned out.

The visit by the New Zealand team to United on 11th and 12th December will give the organisers a great chance to check over the final details. The plan is for the team to use lawns 1,2,& 6 on the Saturday, and 3,4 & 5 on the Sunday. They will also have the

opportunity to have a good look at lawn 7 which is on the tennis courts next to the bowling greens. We can of course, use the other lawns each day.

I am delighted with the results of the working parties that have been kind enough to help us prepare our whole site. Members from other Clubs have pitched in, as have a good few of our own members. If you would like to volunteer for the next one, please just let me know.

The NZCC is very grateful for the excellent co-operation we have received from both our neighbouring Clubs, and even though as I write the weather is wet and windy, I sincerely hope that come January and February it will be warm and balmy. And that New Zealand wins!

#### THANKS

To Chris Brady for the hardboard for the workbench and for the long term loan of the new black tubular boundary "board" which is proving to be far superior to the timber ones.

Thanks also to Ursula who, along with her regular duties, typed, folded, corrected my spelling, deleted all the bad language, enveloped, addressed and stamped and posted this newsletter with such efficiency and good humour.

Thanks to all of you for being such good team mates - have a good Christmas and safe holiday period. Bruce.

#### REFEREE'S ANSWER

is on the next page!

## REFEREE'S CORNER

Answer to the question.

Bad luck - you waited too long. Law 29 which deals with playing when a ball is misplaced states that you must forestall immediately and that this is your only remedy. If you fail to do so the stroke is deemed to be valid.

Lesson to be learned -

1. Know your rules.
2. Don't let your attention wander, even when you are the "out player".

