

# NEWSLETTER

## UNITED CROQUET CLUB INC.

Autumn Edition - March 2000

<i>President</i>	<i>Treasurer &amp; Editor</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
Geoffrey Naylor	Bruce Newburgh	Ursula Hill

### EDITORIAL

Well - its over! It seemed to take forever to arrive and no time at all for finish. No! I am not talking about the Millennium, I am talking about some of the worlds finest croquet players gracing our world standard greens.

Most of the play was magnificent and a dream to watch and (with just one exception) all the visiting players I spoke to were interesting and charming.

One criticism - their play was so perfect I learned nothing about how to get out of trouble or how to build a break from nothing. I guess I will have to watch my friends instead.

While our greens were out of use I took the opportunity to visit other clubs for my twice weekly croquet fix. My thanks to Elmwood, St. Martins and Sumner for making me so welcome.

### INTERCLUB

A GRADE - won by St. Martins. Our team lost the crucial game - the last one.

INT. won by Sumner - by a huge margin.

B. GRADE - Sumner again on a play off with Cashmere.

Score, 3 games each with 102 points to Sumner and (wait for it) 100 to Cashmere.

C. GRADE - Kaiapoi after a 5 to 1 play off with Fendalton

No prizes for United but do you know any player who did not enjoy their games?

### THE JOHNSON

Again - none of our seven teams reached the finals but what a great way to spend a Saturday morning.

Winners Graeme and Frances Stringer of Elmwood.

### STH. ISLAND TEAMS EVENT

Two of our members were chosen to represent Canterbury in the four member team who played at Timaru in February.

Well done Ursula and Peggy.

### NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to:- Gail Duncan, also a member of Hornby and the Twilight Club. Carl Horn new to croquet, phone no.358-0945 and John Nelson, Irene's son. Please add to your membership list.

## NOTE YOUR DIARY

Our closing day - Saturday  
15th April. 10am ordinary  
play 1pm. fun play, 3pm  
party, party, party (well  
afternoon tea) - please bring  
a plate.

Association Closing Day.

8th April at Barrington  
from 10am to (about) 3.30pm.

Our AGM - 3rd June at  
1.30pm

Association AGM - 10th June  
probably at Barrington.  
Details soon on Notice  
board.

## SCHOOL AGE TOURNAMENT

You may care to come to  
Barrington to see croquet's  
hope for the future on  
Monday to Wednesday 17 to 19  
April 2000 from 8.30am.

See a future MacRob team  
in the making.

## REFEREE'S CORNER

PLAYING A WRONG BALL.

A wrong ball is any ball  
you did not start the turn  
with.

If this happens the  
result is-

1. All balls moved are  
returned to the position  
they occupied  
immediately before  
striking the wrong ball.
2. Any points scored (after  
striking the wrong ball) are  
dis-allowed.
3. The turn ends - (in a  
handicap game a bisque may  
now be taken and the turn

continue.

Naturally - it would be  
undesireable to, say, play a  
wrong ball early in your  
game and have your opponent  
stop play three hours later  
when he/she sees you about  
to peg out. Therefore a  
time limit has been imposed.  
If a wrong ball has not been  
claimed or admitted before  
the opponent strikes the  
first ball in the next turn,  
all play is condoned and the  
opponent has no remedy.

LESSON - watch all play  
carefully. I have refereed a  
C Grade game in which a  
player asked to watch him  
make No. 2 with his brown  
ball. I then saw him make  
No. 3 with his green ball  
and after making an  
unsuccessful roll to No. 4,  
he laid up a rush using his  
brown ball again - and his  
opponent didn't see a thing.  
QUESTION - If the player of  
Pink/White had walked onto  
the green and questioned the  
play, what would be the  
result.

(answer at end of  
newsletter!)

## "THE MEMORABLE MACROB"

United's role in helping  
to make this premier  
tournament, held every three  
or four years in one  
hemisphere or the other, the  
outstandinly well run event  
it certainly was, has been  
widely acknowledged. For  
example, Roger Murfitt, who  
was chairman of the  
organising committee, wrote  
in a letter to me, "now that  
the MacRobertson Tournament  
is over, I would like to  
pass on my thanks to your  
Club for the wonderful  
contribution of time and  
effort which so many of your  
members made to ensure that  
the tournament went well".

Roger goes on to say that,

"A majority of Canterbury croquet players were involved with the tournament - the tent strikers, the sandwich and tea makers and the barbecue workers were the "visual helpers" but, as you know, there were many others who toiled away in the background making biscuits, picking up and delivering things, organising window displays, doing artwork, and a myriad other chores. And of course there was the \$3 levy which was very much appreciated to get the finances started.

"Particular thanks must go to United for the upheaval caused by this major event - we have had very positive feedback from the visiting teams who all enjoyed their stay in Christchurch and appreciated playing croquet on excellent lawns in front of such enthusiastic supporters! Please pass on a big **THANK YOU** to all your members for their tremendous effort which helped so much to make a successful tournament".

We have also received kind letters from Holmes Park which included the following comment, "The United Club is also congratulated for their hard work and diligence" & from Elmwood saying they appreciated all the hard work.

And in a possibly superfluous comment, I would like to add my own thanks for all the great help so very willingly given. Everything of ours, the lawns, the flower beds, the shelters, the Club Room looked splendid. And Peter and Kevin did a great job every morning setting out the lawns.

Well, we all gave up some four weeks of play - was it worth it? Quite apart from

the opportunity to see some staggeringly wonderful croquet, we also benefitted financially. I was able to arrange for the memorial badges to be available on an almost day to day basis. Which was just as well since I ordered only 50 initially, and we sold nearly 140!! In addition, Peter's BBQ made a worthwhile contribution (despite the handful of gatecrashers) and of course NZCC will shortly pay us for the use of our lawns. All up we have benefited by over \$2,000 in cash terms and of course we have been the fortunate recipients of other help - the cleaning and painting of the Club Room and our shelters, the extra cutting and rolling of our lawns, and also in other ways. And judging by the number of "out of town" visitors, and the length of their stay, the City benefited too, as the many comments about the attractions of the City and its restaurants confirmed.

Full results were posted daily on various Internet sites and this was much appreciated by many croquet players around the world. So all in all, and forgive me if I sound proud, the whole event has confirmed United's position as Canterbury's if not New Zealand's leading Croquet Club. Not only the facilities, but also the surroundings were highly praised - one overseas player even suggested to me that, "every MacRobertson should be played here!". Special mention must be made of the great help we received from our neighbouring Clubs - the United Lawn Tennis Club kindly allowed us to transform three of their

courts into a seventh croquet lawn, and the United Bowling Club were also very co-operative over the use of their Club Room.

Finally, I believe the CCA were very pleased with all the efforts put in by other Clubs and with their own monetary outcome, Maud, Fred and Kath were the chief stall minders, our own Joyce a superb catering team leader.

Thanks to everyone again.  
Geoffrey.

P.S. Oh yes! The result was a very narrow win for Great Britain over New Zealand and an equally narrow win by the USA over Australia for third place. Both halves reached a 10-10 position with the winners being the first to reach 11! An almost wonderful final day.

#### *WINTER CROQUET*

We will be leaving two greens open again this year - probably 5 & 6 - the sunniest.

We will be using Barlow C balls - Jacques must not be used. Any crack in the casing (and all Jacques have them, if only around the plug) will allow in the damp which swells the cork core and rapidly destroys the ball.

A winter sub of \$15 is payable before play or you may choose to pay a green fee of \$3 each time you play. Don't leave any money at the club. Just write your name in the book on the trolley and you will be billed later. Green fees incurred may not be credited against a winter sub so it will probably be cheaper if you decide early which option you prefer.

To limit damage to the

greens the following rules must apply:

1. Play only between 10am and 3pm
2. No play on frost or when surface is slippery
3. Club members and Twilighters only - no visitors.

And if both greens are in use you are expected to share with any later arrivals.

#### *A SPECIAL MESSAGE TO A SPECIAL PERSON*

Get well soon Alice - we miss you!!

#### *NOMINATIONS FOR THE COMMITTEE*

It is that time again! Your committee have had a very busy three years and it is time for other people to take up the reigns. Please give some thought for a new committee, the list is on the board. We need Office Bearers and committee members.

#### *THANKS*

As this is the last newsletter of the season a big thank you to Ursula for typing, copying, enveloping, posting and especially for correcting my spelling.

Have a happy winter.  
Bruce Newburgh.

#### *REFEREE'S CORNER ANSWER*

The balls would be returned to their position between 2 & 3 when the wrong ball was played and the brown clip would be returned to No 3 hoop.

# NEWSLETTER

## UNITED CROQUET CLUB INC.

**August 2000**

**President**  
**Geoffrey Naylor**

**Club Captain & Editor**  
**Bruce Newburgh**

**Secretary**  
**Geraldine Murphy**

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### ***Our President Speaks***

A special welcome to all our new members. It really does promise to be a great season with so much extra talent – and so many new anecdotes! With this newsletter, Bruce has set out the major activities to come, and the rules for our exciting new Club tournament which he has invented – good luck to us all!

Please be sure to keep an eye on the Notice Board for the date when, probably 2 December, we invite back some of our former members who do not now play croquet in Canterbury for a game and a bite of afternoon tea. It should be a great session, so come along to renew old friendships.

One former member whom we will all miss is Alice Mollison, who sadly passed away in April. She was a stalwart of the Club for many years, giving much more than we had any right to expect. Her open cheerfulness and willingness was, and will remain, an example to us all.

You will notice some improvements in the Club Room which I hope will make our lunches a bit more interesting and the room a bit more tidy. What we need now is someone to organise and then maintain a state of orderliness in the equipment shed. Volunteers please!

Happy croquet, **Geoffrey**

### **YOUR NEW COMMITTEE**

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Geoffrey Naylor
<b>VICE-PRESIDENT</b>	Gail Duncan
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Geraldine Murphy
<b>TREASURER</b>	Jane McIntyre
<b>CLUB CAPTAIN</b>	Bruce Newburgh
<b>CLUB COACH</b>	Gillian Dixon
<b>COMMITTEE MEMBERS</b>	James Marsh, Ursula Hill

If you have a query/comment/suggestion/criticism talk to one of them.

You are welcome to join in at any meeting in a no voting capacity and (if you ask nicely) you may be given speaking rights.

Copies of the minutes are always available for inspection.

The editor too welcomes you all to a new season. No, I am not being premature – we open on Saturday 9 September which is less than six weeks to go. What happened to the winter?

Our season really starts on the 19 August as the following shows:

### **WHAT'S ON**

Saturday 19 August – starts 1 pm	Club Captain's Meeting. (We finalise the Programme for the new season.
Saturday 26 August – from 9.30 am	Working Bee. Mostly housekeeping and the laying out of the greens.
Sunday 3 September	B Grade Coaching at United by coaches from the CCA. Please ring the Club Captain or Club Coach to register, or sign the notice on the Notice Board.
Sunday 10 September	C Grade Coaching at Hornby
Sunday 17 September	C Grade Coaching at Edgeware. See Notice Board for details.

### **OPENING DAY**

#### **Saturday 9 September**

From 10 am to 12.30 pm - Normal Club Day

From 1.15 pm to 3 pm - Fun Croquet

3.15 pm - Afternoon Tea. Please bring a plate.

### **INTERCLUB**

Starts with Open Grade on Monday 25 September. If you want to be included in a team please complete the enclosed form and send it to the Club Captain soon.

### **JOHNSON MEMORIAL**

Starts Saturday 30 September. Enter on the same form. If you don't have a partner we will try to find one for you. School age players wanting to play will be found a senior player from our club members. In the unlikely event that this is not possible we will arrange a player from another club.

### **AN ANNUAL REMINDER**

If you accept a lift to another club you are expected to make a token contribution to the driver of:

Within the city \$2

Rangiora \$3

Akaroa/Ashburton \$5

## TOURNAMENTS ETC

**HANDICAP SINGLES:** 23-27 October

**SILVER BADGES:** Between 28 October and late November. (Advise Club Captain if you want to be included.)

**BEGINNERS' DAY:** Sunday 3 December. (For those who have come to croquet since Dec. 1999.)

**CANTERBURY SENIOR:** Friday (Show Day) 17 November – Saturday 25 November. Bisqueing 5 and below.

**CANTERBURY OPEN:** Saturday/Sunday 9&10 December. Open means 'open' not just the so-called 'good' players. If you are over, say a 5 bisque you probably won't win any games but you are not expected to – so you can relax and get the experience while the 'senior' player has all the pressure. They have something to prove – you don't. Details will be in our next newsletter.

## **ARTHUR ROSS**

Last year Peter Weeks organised a great weekend for us. Qualifying games were played with the losers playing for the also-ran honours and a BBQ for Sunday lunch. (For players and guests.)

Keep the weekend of 11/12 November free and in the meantime ring James at 351 8105 to register.

## LAWS REVISION

For the first time since the first four ships arrived the laws of croquet have been rewritten/revised/redrafted and improved. We have written a commentary on the changes but know that not everyone is likely to be interested so have not included a copy with this newsletter. If you are interested call Bruce at 3851 725 and a copy will be sent out to you.

The new laws take effect in New Zealand from this season. Retesting of umpires and referees has been delayed for a year to enable them to do some heavy study. Classes for umpires/referees will be arranged during the season.

(By the Association Referee)

## MEMBERSHIP

We have too many new members to mention by name – some (who are very welcome) have transferred from other clubs, but several are new to croquet and Gillian Dixon has spent a great deal of time introducing them to the mysteries of the "wonderful world of croquet."

I well remember last season, talking to two ladies from our Bowling Club neighbours, who, while watching my opponent beating me said – *'it's not a spectator sport is it?'* Tell **THAT** to the many hundreds who came to watch the world's best players during the MacRobertson Shield earlier this year – especially the almost 300 people who watched that incredible final game on Green No 1 when the English player David Maughan (with a number 2 world ranking) just defeated NZ's Toby Garrison to

decide that they (Great Britain) were the best in the world and New Zealand was No.2.

And they say it is not a spectator sport – but then I guess you have to know what it is all about.

### WORK PARTY – 26 AUGUST AT 10 AM

Jobs to be done include: emptying, cleaning and rearranging the clubhouse, cleaning windows in the clubhouse, equipment shed and shelters, touching up painting, the odd repair, helping Vicki to clean up the garden, laying out the greens and marking the boundaries.

Choose the job you would prefer and ring **James** at **351 8105** to register – can you bring you own gear – paint brushes, bucket, cleaning stuff, tools – and lunch!

### PARKING

Parking is restricted in the Gardens carpark to 3 hours on a week day. But there is no restriction on the weekend. As a club member you have unlimited parking if you display your parking ticket which is issued when you pay your subscription.

The three carparks at the clubhouse are reserved for the Club Captain, President and the Treasurer – one of the few perks they get.

### UMPIRES AND REFEREES

There has been a request for the names of umpires and referees at United so here they are with their phone numbers so you may contact them if necessary.

D. Connor	U	384 4222	B. Newburgh	SR	385 1725
N. Gash	U	349 8358	P. Parkinson	U	03 3138592
U. Hill	U	377 3455	J. Prince	R	358 7150
D. Hunter	U	337 0783	J. Tyler	R	384 3993
J. McIntyre	U	351 8113	Joan Tyler	R	384 3993
G. Murphy	U	383 3958	P. Weeks	U	358 3650
G. Naylor	U	358 4764	I. Nelson	U	383 0332



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

Secretary:  
Geraldine Murphy  
Tel 03 383 3958

Editor:  
Bruce Newburgh  
Tel 03 385 1725

  
**SPRING EDITION**  
Newsletter

Not long to the end of October and a quarter of our season used up. Soon it will be Christmas and then all downhill to the end of the season. But the good news is that we have many interesting things coming up. At club level we have :

**The Arthur Ross**

Arthur was a member and President of our club: a world class player and very active regionally and nationally. Arthur first appeared on the NZCC Honours Board in 1922 and was NZ Men's Champion on and off from 1934 (its inception) to 1953.

As a memorial, an annual open (to all) handicap event is held, Club winners playing off for the right to represent our region. Full details are given on page 162 of your yearbook.

Last year Peter Weeks devised a competition to find our Club Champion. His format was so successful and popular that, with a slight variation, we will do the same this season. It will be held over the weekend of 11/12 November, as follows :

Saturday	9.00 start	Arthur Ross - Round one
	12 noon	Bring your own lunch
	12.30-ish	Arthur Ross - Round two
		White Trophy - Round one
Sunday	9.30 start	Arthur Ross - Round three
		White Trophy - Round two
		Blue Trophy - Round only
	12.30-ish	BBQ by that well known and universally loved chef
	1.15-ish	Go home or stay to watch the finals
Cost:	Arthur Ross fund	- \$2 - Association
	All other play	\$1 - United
	BBQ	\$5 per person (bring a friend)

Older players may recognise this as an XYZ tournament (page 92 of your yearbook)  
To register, ☎ Gillian 385 7111, or Bruce 385 1725.

Coming up on the **Association** level we have :

**Canterbury Open** - weekend of 9/10 December. This is not just a tournament for champions - it is **OPEN TO ALL**.

If you have a high bisquing the experience of playing low bisquers is invaluable. No one will expect you to win anything if you are on a handicap of, say, 5 or more - but the pressure is on them. You can relax and enjoy great competition.

Last year Bill Stewart of Kaiapoi on a handicap of 7 beat a 2 and gained experience and confidence. John Prince beat me 26-0 in about 30mins - I had three strokes, two to put my balls on and a missed lift shot 15mins later. I cried for days.  
Entries close 2 December - see page 195 of your yearbook.

**Senior Tournament** - 5 bisques and below. With seven events there must be one for you. Commencing with A x Int grades on weekend 17/19 November (Show Weekend) and other events into the week following. Entries close 10 Nov - see page 193 of your yearbook.



Many thanks to the several who came to the wet working bee in August and cleaned the club house. Thanks also to the few who dittoed the equipment shed on 6 October. You will be surprised to learn that setting out our greens for the season's play took two of us (thanks Dick) two days, and another two (thanks Peggy and Chris) one day.

**Coaching** - surprisingly only two of our members took advantage of the Association's three early season coaching days. If you would like a coaching/practice programme designed for you or if you would like a 'one off' session, contact Gillian who will put a coach in touch with you. You may need help with only one aspect of the game (cannons?) - all needs catered for!

**Congratulations**

- to Peggy, Marie and Dick who have been chosen (with others) to represent Canterbury in the President's Invitation (Auckland and Marlborough).
- also to Michael and Peter (Parkinson) who will be representing us at Elmwood 15/20 October in the 'President's Sixteen'. (Why do they call it the 16 when there are only 8 of them?)
- also to John and Graham who have been chosen for the 'Best 10' (as the 10 has 10 players it could be argued that our club accounts for 20% of NZ's best).

**Umpires/Referees** - add the following to your list (published in the last Newsletter) - Leonie Baker, Gail Duncan, Mollie Evans, Kay Wade.

**The Twilight Group** operates during days of daylight saving. Members may use all facilities after 3.30 p.m. Monday/Saturday, and all day Sunday. Membership is open to any croquet player in Canterbury who is a member of another club, for a sub of \$50. Players who are not members of a club pay \$50 plus levies. Green fee (casual) players may play a limited number of times by invitation only. Members of United are automatically members of the Twilight club at no extra cost. Enquiries: ☎ Gillian.

**You are invited** to register an interest in playing at Ashburton in our Association v South Canterbury Assn -

5 bisques & over      *14* Jan 2001  
 5,5 bisques and under      *7* Jan 2001

Your names will be forwarded to the Association for selection - a great day's fun - leave home about 8 a.m., back about 6 p.m.

**Club Champs** - as I write, all games have been played or defaulted in the first round and a number completed in the second. As only 6 members (of 43) defaulted, and as two of those were overseas, we can claim a great success. It is good to see that the handicap system is working - a number of junior players are winning against seniors.

**Greens Closed - Sunday 15 to Friday 20 October** as all greens will be in use by the 'Best Ten'. Open again for normal club play Saturday 21 October. Volunteers wanted for laying out greens: ☎ Gail (325 2784); helping with refreshments ☎ Mollie (332 8187).

**Club Day Draws.** It was decided by members who attended the 'Captain's meeting' that -

- ① a.m. Touching grades play each other.
- ② p.m. Play within grades.
- ③ All games be singles, *but*
- ④ players asking to play doubles will be accommodated if possible.



## CHRISTMAS

**Raffle:** A hamper has been started in a box placed under the blackboard. You are invited to donate an item of modest value (biscuits, a bottle of Dom Perignon, unwanted present from last year etc), or if you prefer you could give Mollie some cash (\$5?) to make a purchase on your behalf. You are also invited to buy a ticket or two.

**Party:** We will have an afternoon tea party/party on club day, Saturday 16 December. Normal club day otherwise. Please bring a plate.

Our 3 interclub teams and our 9 Johnson teams have started well, but more on this and much more in our summer edition.

May you win more games than you lose - but either way, enjoy all of them.

*Bruce*