

# NEWSLETTER

UNITED CROQUET CLUB INC.

Late Summer Edition 2001

President  
Gail Duncan

Club Captain & Editor  
Bruce Newburgh

Secretary  
Geraldine Murphy

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The silly season is over and it's back to work/school/paying off the credit card (*delete those not applicable*).

During the first half of the season our Club has distinguished itself. **Dormer** won Beginners' Day, four of our teams won their section in the Johnson Memorial (there were only six sections), **Carl** on a handicap of 14 (reduced to 12 just to enable him to play) reached penultimate in a Johnson game against two '2 bisquers'. Of course he had a great partner. **Derek** and **Renee** did very well in Marlborough with **Derek** winning the Open. **Dick** was runner-up and with **Mollie** did well in the Doubles.

**Kevin** reached the C Grade Silver Badge final losing to croquet machine **Paddy Chapman** of Cashmere. **Georgina** won the Handicap section in Invercargill and was runner-up in the Open.

**Peter Parkinson** won the President's 16 in October and as I write is playing in the NZ Champs with **Graham** and **John (Prince)**.

Not bad for a club with less than 9% of Canterbury players!!!

It is always dangerous to mention names as there is always one (or more) who is left out. To you all I apologise – just put it down to ignorance on my part.

## CLUB GAMES.

These are being played well and we shall have only a small last minute rush to complete them. The handicap games are very pleasing. Most members have played all their games and only a couple have not played most.

After the January round we had three members who have won all their games – **Graham, Peggy and Bruce**. **Graham and Bruce** play in February so **Peggy and Graham** will compete for the win. Congratulations to **Graham** – oops! was meant to put that in our next Newsletter. We shall have a trophy for the overall winner and prizes for winners in each of the grades – Premier, A, Intermediate, B, C and Novice – so you could still be in the running. The final draw will be for March.

## BBQ.

It has been decided that we hold our Trophy Day on Sunday 1 April and instead of a plate and tea party we shall have a BBQ featuring the dynamic duo – **Peter Weeks**, Chef de Cuisine and **Gillian**, Femme d'Ordonnance.

A small charge will be made for meat and members are invited to bring a small salad.

**Note this in your diary now and watch the blackboard for more details.**

Enquiries and/or offers of help to **Gillian**, Phone 385 7111.

Twilight members especially welcome  
– for all day play or for the BBQ only.

#### **The Maud Trainor (Veterans).**

This is a United Club annual tournament open to those who have turned 65 (years of age, not waist measurement!) before or near to the week of the event. Singles are played in the morning and doubles in the afternoon. It runs from Monday to Friday with one game per day in each event. As it is played in Grades you will not face a greatly superior player and prizes (foodstuffs) are awarded in each Grade.

The emphasis is on enjoyment rather than dead serious croquet.

**When:** Monday 19 February to Friday 23 February.

**Cost:** \$10 per event payable to the Manager, **Derek Hunter, 1/207a Fifield Terrace.** Entries close Wednesday 14 February.

#### **The Agnes Dick.**

A handicap doubles tournament for a senior with a junior – a 5.5 or under bisque player with a 6 bisque or over player. Last date to enter is 24 February. See page 196 of your Year Book.

#### **Year Book.**

If you were too mean to buy one (\$7) there is a club copy on, or in the desk under the blackboard. Information in it includes:

*Tournaments/lists of clubs, secretaries' addresses and telephone numbers, number and names of members.*

*National/Regional officers.*

*Tournament Rules/Conditions Regulations/address of Backpackers' Lodges in Mongolia (just checking to see if you are paying attention) and much more.*

Orders are placed in about March with the Secretary and received and paid for at the beginning of the following season. If you want your name recorded differently in the next issue tell **Geraldine** as soon as possible. (Some are now dropping the appellative and using a forename.)

#### **WARNING WARNING!!!**

This is the time of the year that the pesky star weed starts to appear – if you find one while playing, take no unilateral action – report its location to **Ian** or **Bruce**.

#### **President.**

I am told there is a member (or two) who does not know that President **Geoffrey**, because of pressure of work on the National Body, has resigned as President and that Vice-President **Gail** is acting President for the rest of the season.

As this is a highly sensitive secret no public announcement will be made.

#### **Umpires/Referees.**

Two members of our Club have indicated to me that they are keen to become umpires. I have obtained the consent of the Regional Referee for me to hold classes during the winter (weekends). I would guess that the whole course will take three to four hours (one hour on three to four occasions).

Anyone interested in becoming an umpire, or any umpire wishing to lift to a referee is welcome to see me (**Bruce, Phone 385 1725**). See page 84, Reg. 5A of the Year Book.

At the beginning of the season I offered to coach on the new laws – that offer is still open.

#### **Top Dressing.**

Your committee has decided against us top dressing this year, opting instead to

pay a contractor to do it for us – you may now breathe easily.  
Lawns 5 and 6 will probably be done in March after Trophy Day.

#### Winter Play.

Lawns 2 and 4 will be left open for play after Trophy Day on the following conditions:

*A winter sub of \$15 is payable before 1 April (or \$3 per half day/\$5 per full day).*

*Nothing is organised – turn up for a practice or to play with whoever else turns up.*

*C type Barlow balls will be used.*

*Whites need not be worn.*

*No play before 10.30 am or after 3.30 pm*

*No play on frost or on surface water.*

*You are required to share your green if necessary.*

*Bring your own milk.*

*United members only, including Twilight members.*

#### Work Parties.

It would seem they are a thing of the past. Your committee at its last meeting decided to pay a contractor at an hourly rate to do all those odd jobs.

#### AGM.

It is a little way off but it is time to note your diary and to consider playing your part by standing for your committee.

All positions are contestable from President to Editor – you will be required to manage your portfolio (with help) and to attend about 7 or 8 meetings during the year. What better

way to get to know your fellow members and to earn the respect and gratitude of all of us (violins!!).

#### Thanks

- to **John Tyler** for repairing and modifying our lifters – remember at the beginning of the season, when only one of them worked.
- to the mysterious person who replaced the roofs on the two northern shelters.
- to **Gillian** and **Geoffrey** who helped me reposition hoops and realign Lawns 5 and 6.
- to **Vicky** who maintains our garden in such magnificent splendour
- to **Winston Peters** for inventing the wine box (still awake?).

#### World Famous.

While **Geoffrey** was 'surfing the wet' – I mean 'swimming the net' – WHATEVER!! he came across an interview with **David Openshaw** whom you will remember as the Captain of the English 'McRob' team. David was talking about United greens (which he described as the best in the world), when he said he had a bad position on two back, he hit hard to force it through, missed and the ball bounced back almost to rover. 'That is how hoops should be' he said, 'firm!' But then, we always knew we were the world's best, didn't we? – We are not too bad at croquet either.

Good croquet.

**Bruce**

