

We Stand

United C. C.
Newsletter
August 2006

Saturday 19th August is the annual Captain's Day and Working Bee. Please come in appropriate clothes and bring a bucket, cloths and rags if you can. The day starts at 9:30 with the Captain's Talk when Dormer unveils the Club events including the Novice Cup. In the event of bad weather we will meet on Saturday 26th at the same. Let's get everything spic and span ready for Opening Day. 🇺🇲

NZ Trans Tasman Team, 2006



Paddy tells us how they got on, See page 3. Left to right: Charles Jones (non-playing captain), Jane McIntyre, Paddy Chapman, Jenny Williams, John Versey, Sue Hoddy, Peter Parkinson, Sue Lea, Greg Bryant and Kevin Fellows (Coach) 🇺🇲

News



Congratulations to John Prince, Paddy Chapman and Chris Clarke on their call-ups to international duty. John is the coach of the New Zealand team for the MacRobertson Shield where Paddy and Chris will represent New Zealand and Great Britain respectively. 🇳🇿🇬🇧

Brian Steadman is taking a rest from his duties at the Tennis Club. Brian has given many hours of assistance over the years to Tennis Club groundsman Bill Malloch, which has freed Bill's time to work for us. 🇳🇿🇬🇧

Welcome to new members Angela Rees, Suzanne Lemming and Bev Mills who all joined United over the winter. 🇳🇿🇬🇧

Invitations for the NZCC Silver Tray events were received by Chris, Paddy, John and Jenny for the Croquet Association 'Top Ten' and by Peter Parkinson, Jane and AJ for the Edwina Thompson Open Invitation. 🇳🇿🇬🇧



Paddy Chapman (left) receives his Player of the Series award at the Trans Tasman. 🇳🇿🇬🇧

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Trans Tasman

Paddy gives a modest account of the recent tournament against the West Islanders.

The New Zealand Trans-Tasman team retained the Camden Park Trophy for the 12th year running. United Croquet Club and the Canterbury Association were well represented, with Peter, Paddy, Jenny and Jane making up half of the team, ably assisted by John Versey (Napier), Sue Lea (Wellington), Greg Bryant and Sue Hoddy (both Nelson)

The tournament, a three-test series, was held at the Victorian Croquet HQ, Warleigh Grove, in Melbourne, from 24–29 April. We were a little surprised to win the first test 8–4, when according to the world ranking list, we should have been soundly beaten, but our early victory gave us renewed confidence in the second test, which we again won – this time 7–5. New Zealand had taken an unassailable lead in the series.

A combination of the Australians finally hitting their straps and several well-earned hangovers among the New Zealand team members from the resultant celebrations, allowed us to be annihilated in the dead rubber third test, 3–9! Victory came too late for the Australians however, and a proud and jubilant New Zealand team was presented with the winner's trophy at a celebratory barbecue, where a good time was had by all.

Charles Jones (Wellington) as non-playing captain and team manager, provided the New Zealanders with a truly awe-inspiring culinary experience on most nights, while coach Kevin Fellows (Wellington) kept our feet firmly planted on the ground – a difficult task, especially after we had taken a 4–0 lead in the second test! Their steadying presence, ensuring that our team was pressure free and able to concentrate solely on the job in hand, combined with our strong sense of team solidarity, gave us the edge on the Australians, and most certainly contributed to our victory. [*Paddy was awarded Player of the Series - Ed*] 🇳🇿🇫🇯



More power to your elbow

Geoffrey tells us of the under-rated hoop lift and its latest design
When I joined United we had a couple of old lifts
which sat within the hoops and so pushed down the
soil in the very place "rabbit runs" form. Our then

Captain, Mrs Billy Millar, told us that this was "not a good thing".
So in about 1993 I thought out how to spread the load, and devised
our present lifters with a "footprint" of around 30cms square,
albeit still exerting some pressure within the hoops, but with most
well outside.

One recurring problem was how best to store them so that they
were readily available at the end of a day's play. At first they were
attached to the side of the trolleys, but this meant they were
significantly wider and we could not easily fit them all alongside
each other in the equipment shed. So their fittings were removed
and we just carried them to the lawns as necessary.

A couple of seasons ago when we tried slotting them between the
"shafts" of the trolleys, they caused the trolleys to blow over too
easily. Without the heavy hoops and balls to steady them the
trolleys were just too light and they were liable to spew the second
colour balls onto the lawns. One or two lifters also got damaged.

Just a few weeks ago, Dick cleverly suggested that the lifters
could be safely stored "on board" and immune even to a "Nor'
Wester", by housing them horizontally, slipping into a sort of slot
half way up the back of each trolley. However the present lifters
were not suitable for this excellent idea. So I have re-designed
them and you will find brand new hoop lifts next season, with a
completely new system for storing them. Dick believes it to be
fool proof – well he may say that, but I couldn't possibly
comment! 

Vote of Thanks

Many thanks to Jane and Philippa for organising a card and the
gift of a daphne for Roy Wade and his family. To Peter Weeks for
collecting ground supplies for Bill Malloch. To Dormer, John and
Kevin for attending the hoop setting workshop in preparation for
the World Championships in February, 2008. 



Tribute to Kay Wade

Kay passed away suddenly on 20th July. Her cheerfulness, enthusiasm and selflessness will be sadly missed by all our members. Paddy shares part of his tribute read at her funeral.

Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Some stay for a while, and leave footprints on our hearts. And we are never, ever the same. Kay was such a person. She was my first croquet coach when I arrived at the Cashmere Croquet Club in January 1999, as a withdrawn, silent 11-year-old. Little did I know that Kay was to become my mentor and my 'forever friend'. From the start, Kay took me under her wing, turning up at nearly every tournament, entering quietly, often sitting with mum. She was interested in every match I played, and never doubted my ability to succeed. To her, I could do no wrong. I believe that Kay was my guardian angel in human form, a true miracle worker. She gave me the gift of communication. She gave me confidence in myself. She gave me a future. She loved me, and I loved her. Kay often told mum that I gave her so much joy. Kay, your coming into my life gave me more joy than you could ever have known. So how can I describe my guardian angel? Kay was always a 'lady' in the true sense of the word. She worked away quietly in the background, getting things done without a fuss, never expecting any thanks. Despite her quietness, Kay's tenacity was truly amazing! Once she got her teeth into something, she would never let it go until the task was completed to her satisfaction. She was the one who always managed to get wonderful donations for the fundraising to enable me to attend International tournaments. I will always remember Kay for her fierce sense of loyalty; the love and pride she felt for her family; her humbleness; her tireless work behind the scenes; her strong sense of fair play; her unfailing kindness, and her love of animals, especially her little Phoebe. So I say 'farewell' to Kay, but not 'goodbye'. 'Forever friends' never leave one another, because 'forever' has no end. Kay, it was an honour and a privilege to share in your life. Safe travelling my guardian angel, and thank you. Your Paddy. 



Round the World in 80 days

Croquet on three continents in less than 80 days!

Chris and Jenny , our very own Phillious Fogg's, tell us of their recent trip.

Jenny and myself left NZ on 4th June just before the snow. We flew to Oregon in NW America to play in the Resort at the Mountain Invitational. This was the strongest event that Jenny had ever played in and included the World Champion Reg Bamford and a host of other top thirty players.

There were nine players in a double round robin and Jenny won 7/16, which was an excellent result. Chris fared less well, struggling with his shooting and won 6/16. Reg won the event beating Pete Landrebe with two sextuples in the final.

We then flew to England and played in the East Midland Champs at Nottingham. Jenny had a poor tournament, losing the ranking points she had gained in Oregon, but Chris managed to win the event for the first time, beating Ian Lines in the final 2–1.

Jenny was spending part of her time in Geneva working, but came back for the British Open where she qualified comfortably from her block. She then played David Goacher (who reached the final of the NZ Open a few years ago) in the first round of the knockout, but lost in straight games. Jenny went on to be runner-up in the consolation doubles.

Chris was now playing closer to his best and won 10/10 in his block and then beat Avery, Goacher and Le Moignan to reach the semis where he lost to Bamford 3–1. The final was a thriller in which Robert Fulford beat Reg 3–2 winning the decider +1 from 25–0 down. Chris won the doubles with Robert for the 10th time to equal the record of most wins (picture opposite). Chris' 22 triples in the Opens was also a record.

The weather was excellent for our entire stay and it was great to meet old friends and see the progress of some of younger British players. We are now looking forward to the NZ season and the upcoming MacRobertson Shield. 🇺🇰 🇺🇸

United Croquet Club Inc

North Hagley Park, Riccarton Avenue, Christchurch. Phone 366 5854
Patron: John Prince MNZOM Secretary John Yarrall,
President Magnus McGee PO Box 152, Lincoln 7640
magnus.mcgee@chmeds.ac.nz United@workwrite.co.nz

Finger on the pulse

Since the Club is in the heart of the Hagley Park, do need to be at the heart of the City Council's new plans for Park? Magnus explains.

One of the wonderful features of Christchurch is Hagley Park. Once every fifteen years the Council consults the public on how it is used and a new consultation is upon us. The plans include a formalisation of sport club leases that will have an impact on the Club. The process also includes the unveiling of new long-term direction for Hagley Park and the Botanic Gardens. The consultation runs from 21st with public meetings to explain the draft plans and offer people an opportunity to ask questions on Monday 28 August, 12.15–1.45 pm and Thursday 31 August, 7.30–9 pm at the Christchurch Netball Centre in South Hagley Park. This opportunity doesn't happen often: Please get involved.



Phone list for the UCC Committee members

Name	Phone
Magnus McGee	355 8515
Tony O'Donnell	358 6422
Dormer Gardner	343 0971
Jacob Farmer	329 6474
Jane McIntyre	382 8810

Name	Phone
John Yarrall	325 7855
Peter Weeks	358 3560
Philippa Porter	358 4393
Sally Jeffcott	355 3830
AJ Reid	348 8377



Chris Clarke (left) and Robert Fulford on their way to their tenth title at the British Open Croquet Doubles Championships. They'll be joined by Mark Avery, Keith Aiton, Jonathan Kirby and David Maugham for the MacRobertson Shield.

Picture by Samir Patel,

<http://www.croquet.org.uk/>

Diary

As well as the usual Wednesday and Saturday Club Days, here are some more dates for your diary

Date	Details
Sat 19th Aug	Captain's Day and Working Bee
Sat 26th Aug	Wet weather day for the Captain's Day and Working Bee at the same time
Sat 2nd Sep	Opening Day
Sun 3rd Sep	Coaching for 10 to 24 bisques
4 – 8 Sep	Coaching Tournament
Sat 9th Sep	Committee meeting
Sun 10th Sep	Coaching for 0 to 9 bisques
Sat 16th Sep	Delegate's meeting at Elmwood
Other selected dates:	
21 – 23 Oct	CCA Association Handicap Singles, Elmwood
Sun 26 Nov	Beginners' Day, Kaiapoi
30 Nov – 3 Dec	CCA Open Championships
30 Dec – 5 Jan	NZCC South Island Championships
Unless otherwise stated each event is at United	

Pegged out



Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo (left) is still trying to blame AJ (right) for Wayne Rooney's sending off at the football World Cup. But we know better, don't we AJ! 🇵🇹 🇪🇸



Captain's Day and Working Bee



*All Hands on Deck!
Saturday 19th August
From 9:30am
Sausage Sizzle for lunch*

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Seth Bennett won the CCA Senior Handicap Singles during **the** Labour Weekend (right). It's the third year in a row that a United member has won the event with AJ and Magnus winning in 2005 and 2006 respectively. Picture by Rodger Lane. 🇬🇧



*Play and Pizza
Saturday 11 November
from 3:30 pm
More details on page 3*

*Christmas Celebration
Saturday 16th December
From 3 pm
More details on page 3*



News

The top dressing on Lawns 2 to 4 has taken well. Check the blackboard for when the lawns can be used. 🟥🟨

Golf Croquet Rules and Referees course at the Club Thursday 23rd and Friday 24th November from 6pm to 9pm. Contact Tony O'Donnell for details. 🟥🟨

Dormer is taking entries for the Arthur Ross Association Handicap Singles. The winner represents the Club at the CCA play-offs on 17th and 18th January. 🟥🟨

CCA Open Championship and the NZCC South Island Tournament are being held at United. Offers of help to Sally, Magnus and other Committee members. 🟥🟨

Well done to all the inter-club teams for their good starts to the season. A special mention goes to Angela, Bev and Joan for playing their first competitive matches in the Golf Croquet. 🟥🟨

Green fees are now \$5 for a half or full day including tea and coffee. People new to the game are welcome to have up to two free visits. Please encourage visitors to sign the book as this helps us to keep in touch. After all, they may want to join. 🟥🟨

Welcome to Patrick Davey, Jill Nuthall and Richard Oldcorn who all joined United during the past month. 🟥🟨

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<i>Magnus McGee</i>	<i>355 8515</i>
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<i>Dormer Gardner</i>	<i>343 0971</i>
<i>Kevin Cusack</i>	<i>379 3948</i>
<i>Jane McIntyre</i>	<i>382 8810</i>

<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone</i>
<i>John Yarrall</i>	<i>325 7855</i>
<i>Peter Weeks</i>	<i>358 3560</i>
<i>Philippa Porter</i>	<i>358 4393</i>
<i>Sally Jeffcott</i>	<i>355 3830</i>
<i>AJ Reid</i>	<i>348 8377</i>



Doing the Egyptian

The Club's first Golf Handicap Singles started last week with an unusual format and not a fez in sight. Let me explain.

In most tournaments you play everyone else (block or section play) or there is a knockout (aka Bagnald-Wild) where a final between two players decides the tournament winner. There are other methods and one is quite, quite different. A tournament where you could play anyone, anytime and any number of times. The Egyptian System. It works like a ladder but rather than just swapping rungs on the ladder, the Egyptian awards points with everyone starting on 100 points. The system is being used for this year's Golf Handicap Singles Championship and you can find more details on the noticeboard and in the handbook. So the next time you are at the Clubhouse with some time to spare don't be surprised if someone asks you to play a game of Egyptian Golf! ■■■



Play and Pizza

It will be good to see you at the Club for early evening play on Saturday 11 November from 3:30pm. Bring a few dollars to chip in for pizza and we'll place an order around 4pm. ■■■



Christmas Celebration

Christmas Celebration. On Saturday 16 December there will be normal play until 3pm followed by some croquet games before lighting up the BBQ at 5pm. Please bring either a salad OR a "finger food" dessert. ■■■



City of the Dreaming Spire

The Club's responded to the Council's wake-up call with three submissions on the Draft Hagley Park/Botanic Gardens Master Plan, Hagley Park Management Plan and the proposed speed limits.

The Master Plan. The current status as a world-class croquet venue needs to be retained under any future Plan. Indeed we can show why the Park needs the Club (rather than the other way around). The Council is formalising all sports leases and we reminded them that at the expiry of the current lease there was “no other required use of the leased areas that is of greater benefit to the public” (Draft Hagley Park Management Plan (August 2006) Pg 158.) and the club was meeting all the requirements under Section 54 of the Reserves Act 1979. We have also raised concerns over possible lawn damage from the Arboretum (Concept 1) and any loss of car parking from the building of the Visitor Centre (Concept 3). **The Hagley Park Management Plan** includes possible building projects. ~~At Our~~ present ~~our~~ accommodation is adequate and the status quo is likely to remain. We have enough space to house the Club, host tournaments and store our equipment. But only enough. The Plan provides the opportunity to consider other ways our resources might be used. Right now we need more volunteer help on the lawns. One way to help meet this need is new equipment, in particular a lawn mower, ~~and w.~~ With that comes the need for more storage either on site or on the area to the west boundary. Should we get ~~the~~ is then the patio could be turned into a sunroom with an extended Clubhouse forming an L-shape around it. This would allow easier

running of tournaments and indoor croquet during the closed season.

We do not support the **proposed speed increase** from 50kph to 60kph for the roads around and through Hagley Park. The benefit of the new speed limits to road users will be to the detriment of park users, pedestrians and cyclists. In balance it is not possible to sanction the new speed limits given the risks that many others will face. The full submissions are available in the Clubhouse.



Croquet Association Silver Tray

United was well represented at the Top Ten. Alas the same couldn't be said of the Nelson weather.

The Silver Tray, formerly [and still known as]

The Top Ten is a NZCC invitation event where competitors play nine matches of best of three games. Chris and Paddy finished second and third respectively. Placings wins/games: Aaron Westerby 8/9; Chris Clarke 7/9; Paddy Chapman 6/9; Brian Wislang 5/8; Greg Bryant 4/9; Robert Lowe 3/7; John Prince 3/9; Jenny Williams 3/9; Shane Davis 3/9; Michael Wright 1/8. Matches between our local players were shared: Chris beat Jenny and John; John beat Jenny; Jenny beat Paddy and Paddy beat John and Chris! 🚩

Vote of Thanks

Sally Kevin and everyone else who helped Chris with the weekend tournament;- Dormer for sorting all the Club teams and events; Bill Malloch and his team for top-dressing the lawns; Tony and his daughter for helping with the CCC submissions; -Jane for balloons, BBQ and

all that was the open day and, finally, everyone for being patient while we have only had three lawns to use.



UCC Weekend Tournament

Fourteen players descended on Hagley Park for spring play in a new ranking event. Jenny Williams reports on great weekend tournament wonderfully managed by Chris Clarke.

The Club held a new early season tournament this weekend. There was an Open Advanced block and a Handicap event. Three members of the New Zealand test team used it as their season opener, and the overall entry was good, ranging from - 2.5 to -3.5 (NZ handicaps) in the open block. The eight players in the advanced section played an all-play-all American block on slow lawns with firm tight hoops. The overall standard of play could best be described as "early season", but Aaron Westerby and John Prince both played the odd good turn. Paddy Chapman finished the tournament with a 5th turn TP. The Handicap event had six players and after the block both Seth Bennett and Magnus McGee had won four out of five. The final was a fairly one-sided affair, with Magnus winning 22-10. There was some good play in this event with Leo van Oosten (9 handicap) completing a 12 hoop break and John Yarrall (16) a 10 hoop break.

Open Advanced Block: Aaron Westerby won 7/played 7; John Prince 5/6; Paddy Chapman 4/7; Jenny Williams 4/7; Peter Parkinson 3/7; AJ Reid 2/7; Greg Bryant 2/6; Jane McIntyre 0/7.

Handicap Event: Block: Seth Bennett 4/5; Magnus McGee 4/5; John Yarrall 3/5; Leo van Oosten [Holmes Park] 3/5; Joan Bradford 1/5 and Rita Yardley 0/5 [both Barrington Park]. Final: Magnus beat Seth 22-10. 🟥🟨

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magnus.mcgee@chmeds.ac.nz United@workwrite.co.nz

Clouds and silver linings

Bill gave the newly ~~top-top~~-dressed lawns their second cut this week. They looked great: I could imagine it February, 2008. Sure there are some stones on some lawns and clover on the others but there are times you have to take a step back. Already this season we have had a great Opening Day; over forty players at the Coaching Week; fourteen players including most of the NZ MacRobertson squad at the Weekend Tournament; as many regular student visitors; four members play in the winning NZ Trans Tasman team; five Interclub teams; six Johnson teams and collected the first CCA trophy of the season. Not bad when half the lawns are closed. Has this focussed our attention? Club Days are starting promptly due to members placing their names into the draw in good time. This allows Dormer to get everyone involved at once. This makes for a better Club Day. When the Club Captain isn't there, the draw will be made by the first one available from the Vice Captain, committee member, experienced Club member. Even when we return to six lawns the lawn space pressure will still exist. As well as club championship games we must continue to encourage each other's play through coaching assistance and supervised play. Let's continue the season the way we have started. Perhaps you can make the Play and Pizza (11th November) or Christmas Celebration (16th December) where we can all give each other a well deserved a pat on the back.

Diary

As well as the usual Wednesday and Saturday Club Days, here are some more dates for your diary. Events marked* are mentioned in the newsletter.

Date	Details
Sat 4th Nov	Committee meeting
Sat 11th Nov	Play and Pizza*
From 20th Nov	Arthur Ross Memorial Handicap Singles*
23 – 24 Nov	Golf Referees Course, 6pm to 9pm*
Sun 26 Nov	Beginners' Day, Kaiapoi
30 Nov – 3 Dec	CCA Open Championships*
2 - 3 Dec	NZCC S.I. Golf Croquet Grade Champ, Timaru.
Other selected dates:	
Sat 16th Dec	Delegate's meeting at Elmwood.
30 Dec – 5 Jan	NZCC South Island Championships*
20 - 21 Jan	CCA Golf Croquet Handicap Doubles
3 - 8 Feb	CCA Senior and Junior Championships
Unless otherwise stated each event is at United. S.I. – South Island	

Pegged Out

Amy, Jenny and Chris's Labrador, likes to sit, fetch and run hoops.

Amy's obedience training is going well but she can't get past Rover.

Picture by Steel Pup. 🇺🇲 🇯🇲

