

United Croquet Club

Newsletter – January 2011

This is the first newsletter for a long time. Apologies for that and we hope to send them regularly in the future. Sending the newsletter by email only will be easier for committee members who are pressed for time.

Go Jenny!

Jenny Clarke has been playing a lot of competitive croquet recently and it is certainly paying off. Some of her recent successes are:

- Winning the Canterbury Open, 11–14 November
- Winning the Wellington Women's Open, 27–30 November
- Winning the singles of the Australian Open, 20–22 November, and reaching the semi-final of the doubles (three of the four playing in the doubles final were Fletchers)
- Winning the Women's invitation in the Wairarapa and being unbeaten, 9–12 December
- Winning the Central Premier Silver Badge in Marton, 18–19 December, again being unbeaten.
- Winner of the women's championship and runner-up in the open event at the North Island Championship at Wanganui, 2–7 January
- Having a run of 32 consecutive wins – the fifth longest run in the world
- Reaching a world ranking of seventh, second in NZ and the highest ranked women in history

Well done Jenny. Watch out for her in the NZ Open where she will be challenging NZ's top-ranked player and defending champion, Paddy Chapman.

With Jenny away Chris has had plenty of time to mow our lawns.

New Zealand Open

The NZ Open will be played at United 15–23 January 2011. During this time the lawns will not be available for club play. United members who wish to play have the right to play at other Canterbury clubs without paying green fees. You should check with the club first, as they may have other activities scheduled. Please be considerate and fit in with the club.

Come along and watch. There will be several United members playing.

We need helpers to set out lawns, cater morning and afternoon teas and lunches, and clear up each day. If you can help on one or more days please contact Philippa.

Christmas Functions

We had a record number of businesses trying croquet for their Christmas functions this season. We had four groups book afternoons or evenings varying in size from 12 to 90 and we had to turn one away because of dates clashing. One event had to be cancelled because of rain, but the others thoroughly enjoyed themselves and are keen to return. We collected almost \$1000 and possibly a new member or two.

A thank you to the members who helped. We can't run these without your help.

United web site

The United Croquet web site has been updated and now includes a calendar. If you have anything for the web site, or want anything included, let John Yarrall know. Find it at www.croquet.org.nz/clubs/united.

Business House croquet

We will be running business house croquet in February – currently planned for Tuesday evenings.

This will involve play and coaching of golf croquet followed by pizza and drinks.

We will need lots of helpers.

Lawn mowing

For many years Bill Malloch, who worked for Hagley Tennis Club, mowed our lawns, marked lines, sprayed and top-dressed. Bill retired April 2010 and Hagley Tennis employed a new groundsman.

Our arrangement with tennis was reviewed and Chris Clarke offered to mow our lawns at no charge for two years which will hopefully allow us to accumulate some funds. With grants from Air Rescue Services Limited and the NZ Community Trust we purchased a triplex ride-on mower from Hagley Golf Club at a very good price and they have sprayed for weeds and moss. The Southern Trust provided a grant of \$2000 to buy a mower suitable for the old bowls lawn.

They have also verticut the lawns twice so far which is reducing the amount of stalks that lie flat and don't get removed by mowing. This is helping produce a finer grass. A down-side of the verticutting, is that stones that were in the soil used for top dressing were lifted. This caused problems with mowing and also meant that balls were deflected, to the consternation of players. This problem will gradually diminish as they are picked up by the mower and players. If you see stones while playing, it would help if you pick them up and remove them. We may also arrange a working bee to go over the worst areas.

Bowls club house

Discussions are continuing between Christchurch City Council, Christchurch Boys' High School Old Boys, Hagley Park Tennis and United Croquet, on the use of the old bowls' club rooms and lawns. Although not settled, it is likely that we will have use of the bowling lawn and that we will share use of the club rooms with Old Boys. The rooms will be developed with Old Boys contributing most of the funding. Tennis will add two courts on the abandoned lawn and Old Boys will build changing rooms near the rugby fields.

If you have any questions contact the subcommittee set up to handle negotiations: John Prince, Tony O'Donnell, Chris Clarke and John Yarrall.

Johnson

United had two teams reach the playoffs of the Johnson. United 5J (Geoffrey Duckett and Russell Lobb) won the red block and United 2J (Sally Jeffcott and Philippa Porter) were runner-up in the Green block. Well done.

Both teams managed to get through to the quarter finals.

Interclub results

The interclub competitions were disrupted by a large number of withdrawals. United's successes were:

United a1 (Gordon and Marlene Smith) won the division1 GC.

United iii1 (Bill Worley and Leo Van-Oosten) were runners up in the division 1 AC (0-6)

Canterbury Grade Championship

United players had great success in the CCA Grade Champs held 8–12 January:

Geoff Duckett won the 0–4 grade and John Yarrall was runner-up.

Bill Worley won the 5–9 grade and Bruce McLay was runner-up.

Marlene & Gordon Smith won the doubles and Tony O'Donnell & Kevin Cusack were runners-up.

United Croquet Club

Newsletter – August 2011

The new season is about to start so I hope you are getting yourselves and your gear ready for a great season of croquet, hopefully without the shakes.

Working bees

We had a very successful working bee on Saturday 6 August. Over 20 turned up and the place is looking a lot better for the start of the new season.

We are having a second working bee on Saturday 13 August to complete some tasks that were not completed.

Invoices

Invoices are being sent out now. Please pay promptly. You can pay by cash, cheque, by making a counter deposit at a Kiwibank branch or by Internet banking. If you think the invoice is not correct please contact the club secretary, John Yarrall, at 325 7855 or john@workwrite.co.nz. Our treasurer, Bill Worley, is currently overseas. If you ordered a yearbook, the cost of this will be included in your invoice. Delivery of yearbooks is scheduled first week of September.

United Club opening day

Our club opening day will be Saturday 3 September. Further details will follow.

Early season coaching

Early season coaching will be held at United again this season. The dates are:

Sunday 11 September	GC coaching	\$20
Sunday 18 September	AC & GC coaching	\$20
Tuesday 20 September	Mid-week coaching	\$5 per session, 2 sessions per day
Thursday 22 September	Mid-week coaching	\$5 per session, 2 sessions per day

Applications and queries to: Tony O'Donnell, evonne_tony@hotmail.com, 5 Banff Place, Avonhead, Christchurch 8042, Ph (03) 358 6422

United weekend tournament

The United weekend tournament is on 24–25 September. There are two events; an open and a handicap. Entries to Jenny & Chris Clarke, (03) 385 5957, chrisd4clarke@hotmail.com or physjcw@gmail.com.

The season's calendar

The draft CCA calendar is available on the CCA website at www.croquet.org.nz/associations/Canterbury. Click the "Canterbury Association" button, then "Calendar of events".

United club also has an online calendar on its website at www.croquet.org.nz/clubs/united/. This will be updated as information comes to hand.

The CCA Tournament Convenor will be holding a meeting with all Club Captains on Saturday 27 August when the draws for all the CCA competitions will be available.

Bowls club house

With the earthquakes progress on use of the bowls lawns and clubhouse were delayed. Discussions between Christchurch City Council, Christchurch Boys' High School Old Boys, Hagley Park Tennis and United Croquet, have now resumed. Although not settled, it is likely that we will have use of the bowling lawn and that we will share use of the club rooms with Old Boys.

If you have any questions contact the subcommittee set up to handle negotiations: John Prince, Tony O'Donnell, Chris Clarke and John Yarrall.

United Croquet Club

Newsletter – September 2011

With opening day over we are fast approaching the early season coaching and the Ryman Health Care United Weekend Tournament.

Invoices

Invoices have been handed out or posted. Please ensure that you have paid by the end of September. The yearbooks are scheduled to be completed by the printer by 9th September.

United Club opening day

Our club opening day and Club Captain's meeting was held on Saturday 3 September. All enjoyed the ample lunch and there was more than enough for a generous afternoon tea. Several members could not attend as they were at Charles Jones's funeral.

Captain's meeting

As Philippa was unavailable, Geraldine Murphy ran the Club Captain's meeting where she explained details of club competitions and interclubs. Details are below.

Club Competitions

There will be a championship club competition for AC divisions 1 and 2 on Monday 3 October. This is a one-off event as division 3 starts 3 October, but divisions 1 and 2 don't start until 10 October. We hope that the majority of members in these 2 divisions will play 2 games on Oct 3rd. Those who are unavailable then can play their games by mutual consent by Oct 31st.

There will be a new doubles handicap GC competition on Saturday afternoons from 10th September to 3rd December. The more afternoons you play, the more points you can get. Entries must be in by 12:50pm each Saturday to enable a draw to be prepared. Come with a partner or one can be allocated. The intention is to mix up players and arrive at an individual winner. Games will be the best-of-three 13-point games with individual players gaining a point for entering and a point for winning. See Philippa for a result slip to record all of your games. Remember that AHS cards should also be used.

A new singles handicap GC competition on Wednesday afternoons started 7th September and will run until to 7th December. This will be in two divisions. Division 1 (0–6) Division 2 (7–12). The rules and timetable is similar to the doubles competition above, so, the more games, the more points.

Remember that the experimental rule where you can score points with an extra turn continues for this season.

Interclub

The rules and draws for interclub competitions are on the club noticeboard and will also be put on the CCA website. Copies of the draws have been posted to all players who are entered. New results forms are in the desk top drawer at The Club. GOOD LUCK TO ALL. Just concentrate and enjoy your games.

All Interclub weekday games will start at 9.30am. This is a change from last season.

There will be no Sunday Social GC this season. This is because there are now a number of other GC competitions introduced.

AC weekday interclub divisions 1 and 2 will start on Monday 10 October. Divisions 3 and 4 start the previous week. All games are championship play as in the past. Singles in the morning and doubles in the afternoon.

GC weekday interclub will start on Friday 7 October at 9.30am. Division 1 is handicap play but Divisions 2 and 3 are level championship play.

All divisions play two 13-point singles games in the morning and one 19-point doubles game in the afternoon.

There is no time limit to GC games. There will be no lunch break as play is expected to finish about 1pm, but both teams can agree to have a lunch break.

Johnson

Saturday Johnson AC handicap doubles start on 1 October. There will be seven games. The playoff will be on 10/11 December all day Saturday and Sunday morning. All Johnson games still start at 9.00am.

Early season coaching

Early season coaching will be held at United again this season. The dates are:

Sunday 11 September	GC coaching	\$20
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Applications and queries to: Tony O'Donnell, evonne_tony@hotmail.com, 5 Banff Place, Avonhead, Christchurch 8042, Ph (03) 358 6422

Ryman Health Care United Weekend Tournament

Jenny has managed to obtain sponsorship for the weekend tournament so it now has a change of name. The sponsorship will cover prizes (engraved glasses/mugs) and morning tea, afternoon tea and nibbles. The tournament is on 24–25 September. There are two events; an open and a handicap. Entries to Jenny & Chris Clarke, (03) 385 5957, chrisd4clarke@hotmail.com or physjcw@gmail.com.

Lawns

The lawns may have some slopes since the earthquakes. Hopefully we will be able to even them out with future top dressings. The status of the lawns is:

Lawn 1: Full size

Lawn 2: Full size. We would like to rest lawn 2 for a few weeks as it had a lot of use over winter. It still can be used if the other lawns are in use.

Lawn 3: A few feet have been taken off some boundaries to avoid some patches that are a bit rough. Dimensions have been reduced 20%.

Lawn 4: Dimensions have been reduced 10%.

Lawn 5: This has been rotated 90° and dimensions have been reduced 10%

Lawn 6: A couple of feet have been taken of the south boundary

Check the display board in the window of the equipment shed for lawn status and the type of hoops in use.

Clearing lawns after play

When you clear lawns after play, please remember to complete the task. This includes returning chairs, cushions etc., even if you were not the one who put them out. On Wednesday chairs and a ball were left out.

Please check the trolley that all hoops, clips and balls are in place. If something is missing please let a committee member know, or better still, try and resolve the problem yourself.

If you do arrive home to find a clip in your pocket, please return as soon as possible.

Helpers required

About 20–24 from Mortlock McCormack Law will be coming for golf croquet on Thursday 15 September from about 3:15pm to about 6pm.

We would like some helpers to show them around the lawns. If you can help please let John Yarrall, 325 7855, john@workwrite.co.nz know.

Annex to United Croquet Club Newsletter – September 2011

Opening email attachments

Some members have commented on problems opening some email attachments because they don't have the necessary software. Below are details on how you can read and print different types of attachments – all at no cost.

PDF files

Nearly all attachments are sent out as PDF files. This stands for *Portable Document Format*. This was developed by Adobe but has become an international standard for distributing documents to virtually every type of computer. For this reason it is essential that you are able to read PDF files.

Adobe provides *Adobe Reader* free for every type of computer. You can get this from www.adobe.com/go/getreader. Adobe Reader is sometimes updated and the latest version is 9 or X (10) depending on your computer system. This is a large program, so download it when you have enough time.

Don't confuse *Adobe Reader* with *Adobe Acrobat* which is paid software for creating PDF files.

Microsoft Office Compatibility Pack

Microsoft Office (including Word and Excel and PowerPoint) made a major change to the files. New types of files were introduced with Office 2007 and continued with Office 2010. Office versions up to 2003 cannot normally read these newer file types. The most common extension for Microsoft Word files up to 2003 is .doc and .docx for 2007 and later.

However, Microsoft provides a free *Microsoft Office Compatibility Pack for Word, Excel, and PowerPoint File Formats*. Once installed you will be able to open and save Word and Excel files in the newer format used by the 2007 and 2010 versions of Office.

It can be found at www.microsoft.com/download/en/details.aspx?displaylang=en&id=3 or search for *Microsoft office compatibility pack*.

Word and Excel Viewers

If you don't have Microsoft Office you can download the free viewers for Word and Excel from Microsoft. These allow you to open, read and print these files, but not change them.

Microsoft Word viewer

www.microsoft.com/download/en/details.aspx?id=4

Microsoft Excel Viewer

www.microsoft.com/download/en/details.aspx?id=10