

# United Croquet Club

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## Newsletter – June 2012

Members are managing to get play in during the winter in spite of the snow. There have also been some pleasant days in between the cold spells. Some days 14 members have been playing.

**However, all lawns are now closed until at least 1 July (see below)**

### Looking after the lawns

Our lawns are our most valuable asset and we spend several thousand dollars every year to maintain them. They are of top world-class standard and we want to keep them that way.

Some damage has occurred to a number of the lawns where a significant divot has been taken out. This can easily be done when the lawns are soft with the winter weather. If you do take out a divot, please carefully replace it and repair as much of the damage as possible. When the soil is soft and damp the grass will continue to grow.

Other damage is from the edge of the mallet. This may be caused with a jump shot. When the soil is very soft, like it is now during winter, even dropping your mallet can make a depression. If you do cause such damage, please immediately fix it as much as possible. Lift the depressed soil and grass, using something like a key if necessary, and carefully tamp down the area.

Damage to the lawn may be a fault. In association croquet, damage caused during a jump shot is a fault (law 28(a)(15)). Other damage may also be a fault. In golf croquet, any damage that if, before repair, could deflect a ball, may be a fault. Dropping your mallet while you are waiting and causing damage may be a non-striking fault (rule 12(b)). Any damage during a stroke may be a striking fault (rule 13(a)(14)).

### Sports hub

Members will have seen the changes around the lawns and bowling club house. High School Old Boys' rugby made a pre-emptive action to put up fences and a large marquee. Discussions have been ongoing with HSOB and Council and we have overcome the initial hiccups and are making progress.

The wooden fence along the bowling lawn that is now our lawn 7 will be removed and replaced with a lower picket fence that will be more in keeping with croquet lawn. This should be done before the croquet season starts. The steel posts between the car park and lawn 4 will be removed and replaced with a low picket fence. The marquee, which was temporary, has been removed because it was damaged by snow.

HSOB plan to install three 5m x 5m semi-permanent structures along the club house with roll-up sides.

While HSOB will be using the bowls club rooms during winter we expect to have ready access during our summer season.

HSOB will be producing plans for the landscaping of the area around the club house.

### Ideas to improve our image to passers by

The entry to the croquet club is not particularly inviting. The space between the clubhouse and the equipment shed does not look like a club entrance and we are removed from the gates where HSOB now have their signs.

Ideas are sought on how we can make our club more inviting. This could include signs at the gate, an arch, signs or something else between the club house and shed, or design of fence the between the car park and lawn 4.

### United Club opening day

Our club opening day and Club Captain's meeting will be on Saturday 1 September. Further details will follow.

### Secretary away

Club secretary, John Yarrall will be overseas from 21 June to 14 July.

## Your new committee

There have been a few changes to the committee at the AGM. The current committee is:

President	Tony O'Donnell	358 6422	evonne_tony@hotmail.com
Vice president	Richard Kimberley	326 6158	janeandrichard@xtra.co.nz
Club captain	Philippa Porter	358 4393	the.porters@clear.net.co.nz
Vice captain	Mary Morrison	355 9510	mjmorrison@xtra.co.nz
Treasurer	Chris Clarke	385 5957	chrisd4clarke@hotmail.com
Secretary	John Yarrall	325 7855	jyarrall@xtra.co.nz
Committee	Sally Jeffcott	355 3830	jeffcott@xtra.co.nz
	Kevin Cusack	022 314 9428	kevincusack@slingshot.co.nz
	Geoff Duckett	03 312 8665	theduckspoons@gmail.com
	Geraldine Murphy	383 3958	geraldinemurphy@xtra.co.nz

If you have any questions or concerns, do talk to a committee member. The President, Club Captain, Treasurer and Secretary also have in-trays under the notice board where you can leave any papers for them.

## Working bee

A working bee has been scheduled for 18 August with an alternate of 25 August if the weather intervenes.

There are several tasks that can be done when people have spare time. Some of these are:

clear leaves from fence	tidy mallet shed	clean gutters
weed gardens	repair seats	repair fence
prune roses	trim hedges	

## Early season coaching

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

Sun 9 Sep	GC coaching	\$20	10am–2pm, free lawn use after 2pm, Includes tea and coffee
Sun 16 Sep	AC & GC coaching	\$20	10am–2pm, free lawn use after 2pm, Includes tea and coffee
Tue 18 Sep	Coached games (AC & GC)	\$5 per session	10am–12:30pm and 1:15–3:45pm Includes tea and coffee

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 tournament is on 29–30 September. There are two events; an open and a handicap (for handicaps 2–24). Entries to Jenny & Chris Clarke, (03) 385 5957, chrisd4clarke@hotmail.com or physjcw@gmail.com.

## Lawns

The lawns have been infected by a fungus call fusarium (winter mould). This is causing circles of grass to die and the fungi can be spread by walking on the lawns or mowing. The lawns will be sprayed with chemicals when weather permits and all lawns have been closed until 1 July. The good news is that, providing it doesn't spread much more, the lawns should recover fairly quickly in September and October.

## Barrier moved

Good news. The barrier across the road near the tennis courts has been moved to just beyond the entrance to croquet. This means that you will not have to use the key in the shed to unlock the barrier. This will make everyone's life much easier.

The key will remain in the shed as it also opens the gates at Riccarton Avenue and the new barrier may have to be unlocked if cars are parked along the fence by lawn 3.

# United Croquet Club

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## Newsletter – October 2012

The weather is improving so there are plenty of opportunities to play croquet.

### Gardens

A big thanks to our members who are putting in an effort to maintain and improve our gardens. It is a pleasure to have nice gardens and many visitors often comment on them.

### Sports hub

Chris Clarke, Tony O'Donnell and John Yarrall have been in discussions with High School Old Boys' (HSOB) rugby and the council. Riccarton Cricket club are also interested in moving to the triangle between croquet and tennis, Riccarton Avenue and the path to the roundabout. The target is to build a two-story pavilion for their use that we will also be able to use for large events. Tennis is unsure of their requirements as it depends on Canterbury Tennis's plans and if they will move to Hagley Park or another location. Discussions are ongoing and will not be resolved until next year.

The wooden fence along the bowling lawn that is now our lawn 7 has not been replaced yet, but HSOB have promised to have it done before the NZ Open.

### Bar open

The bar operated by HSOB is now open Saturday afternoons from about 3pm and Wednesdays and Thursdays from 6pm. Croquet players are free to purchase drinks from the bar whenever it is open.

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### Best wishes Jenny

Best wishes to Jenny Clarke who will be competing in the inaugural Women's Association Croquet World Championship being held in Melbourne 21<sup>st</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> October. You can follow her progress on the official website at <http://croquetvic.asn.au/1wacwc.php>

### Schools croquet

Secondary schools croquet will be starting on Wednesday 17 October. They usually start mid-afternoon. There will be lawns available for club members.

### United Weekend Tournament

The tournament on 29–30 September, managed by Chris Clarke was a great success. Congratulations to Jenny for winning the open event. The handicap event was won by Marguaritte Rogers of St James Park with Bruce McLay runner-up.



### Websites

The United club website at [www.croquet.org.nz/clubs/united](http://www.croquet.org.nz/clubs/united) has been updated. It also has a calendar.

Information on Canterbury events, draws for interclubs etc and results can be seen at [www.croquet.org.nz/associations/canterbury](http://www.croquet.org.nz/associations/canterbury).

## Club championships

It is planned to hold our club championships on a single day this year. AC is planned for Saturday 28 October and GC on Saturday 10 February.

## Hoops

You may have noticed some different hoops on some lawns. We are trialling different hoops, one of which has been designed and made by Ray Atkins of Cashmere club.



Beginners may not know that there are different sized hoops. The "standard" hoop has a width of between 3¾" and 4". Tournament hoops have a nominal width of 3<sup>11</sup>/<sub>16</sub>" and can be set even smaller for premier events.

Before you choose a lawn, look at the board inside the equipment shed window to see which lawns have standard hoops and which have tournament hoops.

## Christmas party

Our Christmas party will be held Saturday 15 December. 4pm for 5pm.

BBQ sausage to be provided. Can players bring either a salad or a desert? Partners are welcome. The HSOB bar will be open.

## Working bee

We will be having a working bee on Thursday 25 October to work on the garden. Even an hour or two will help.

We will also have a working bee on Sunday 6 February to get the club looking smart for the centennial NZ Open.

## Twilight croquet

Twilight Croquet for AC players will be played on Wednesdays starting 17 October from 5:30pm at United. The nature of the competition will probably be Swiss, but yet to be decided and if the numbers permit will be held over two or three sections, under 5, 5–12, 14–24. The games will be shortened handicap games with a 2-hour time limit.

This event is free for United club members, but please help with setting up and clearing up.

This will be organised by Owen Evans, CCA Promotions Officer, and Jono Hart, CCA Tournament convenor.

## Coaching

You may have noticed the sign on the fence advertising free coaching for the public during November on Wednesday or Thursday evenings.

This is part of a promotion to get more members.

If you have friends who may be interested, send them along. Contact Philippa Porter on 358 4393 or [the.porters@clear.net.nz](mailto:the.porters@clear.net.nz).

