

United Croquet Club

Newsletter – May 2013

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

High School Old Boys' (HSOB) rugby finally removed the ugly wooden fence along lawn 7 and have replaced it with pool fencing along lawn 7, the south side of lawn 5 and between the car park and lawn 4. This is a great improvement and hopefully will keep the rugby players and their children off the croquet lawns and we won't have any more sprig damage.

Car parking

We have agreed that HSOB can use the car parks between the tennis pump shed and the entrance gate. That is the five parks nearest the gate. This particularly applies when rugby players are around. We all have to share so please cooperate.

Taking care of our lawns

Our lawns are our most precious asset. They have a world class reputation, being generally true and flat.

Divots have been appearing regularly. This is easily done

Closing up at the club

There have been some instances when the club has been left unsecured.

All members are responsible for making sure everything is secure. The equipment for each lawn has a replacement value of over \$2000.

Here is a check list you are leaving the club:

1. Ensure all lawns are cleared and equipment store neatly the equipment shed.
2. Ensure the equipment shed is locked. Turn the lock to vertical position and pull door closed. Check it is locked.

3. Lock the club rooms' sliding door with the key, place white security bars and return the keys to their storage.
4. Close all windows and draw all curtains.
5. Turn off the boiling water unit.
6. Lock the club rooms.

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.

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 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.

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 3¹¹/₁₆" 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

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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.



United Croquet Club

Newsletter – December 2013

Welcome

Welcome to all players/members. Lately the committee has been so busy that we have not put in place special acts of welcome to you all. If you feel neglected please phone Maurice at 351 8862 and we will see what we can do to help.

Gardens

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Sports hub

High School Old Boys' (HSOB) rugby finally removed the ugly wooden fence along lawn 7 and have replaced it with pool fencing along lawn 7, the south side of lawn 5 and between the car park and lawn 4. This is a great improvement and hopefully will keep the rugby players and their children off the croquet lawns and we won't have any more sprig damage.

Car parking

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Taking care of our lawns

Our lawns are our most precious asset. They have a world class reputation, being generally true and flat, and with hoops that are firm and can be a real challenge, event to elite players.

Divots have been appearing regularly, sometimes in significant numbers and size. It is easy to make a divot, but please take some time to repair them. Replace any turf and, using a point such as a car key, lift the compressed dirt and tamp down. If the damage is too extensive to easily repair, please let Chris Clarke know so he can make more extensive repairs.

Club Days

Club days are Wed and Sat from 10 am and 1 pm so try to get there with at least ten minutes to spare so we can fit you into practice and/or games as you wish.

Clubrooms

Please keep the clubrooms clean, dishes washed and the place tidy.

Now we have a Rheem boiler there is no need to boil the kettle. With people at the club most days, the Rheem can be left on during summer. During winter, please turn it off as you lock up.

Business House functions

Running business house functions at United provides a very useful extra income. The three events in November brought us over \$1000. In addition, it exposes people to the fun of croquet. One comment heard on Friday, after 5 minutes of play was "I didn't think it would be such fun".

Thanks to those who have helped so far.

In December we have nine more events scheduled.

Fri 6 Dec 13	starting 3pm for 35-40
Sat 7 Dec 13	starting 6pm
Tue 10 Dec 13	starting 1pm for 20 people
11 or 18 Dec	starting 4pm for 15-20
Fri 13 Dec 13	11am - 2pm for 20-30
Fri 13 Dec 13	3-6:30pm
Tue 17 Dec 13	Noon-3:30pm for 20
Fri 20 Dec 13	starting Noon
Fri 20 Dec 13	2 - 4pm – 1 lawn off site.

As you can see, we still need plenty of additional help. Ideally we would like to have one club member per four players. This means that we can give each game individual attention until they have got the idea of the game. We can then manage with fewer helpers who can move from game-to-game.

So if you can help for only an hour, that will be a great help. For the next event this Friday we would like to start with 9-10 helpers.

Most groups invite the helpers to join in with any food and refreshments they have.

Trolleys

The equipment trolleys need to be cared for. The equipment on each one is over \$2000 so please keep the trolleys clean and tidy. Put away bisques, pegs etc. and check that there is a complete set of 8 balls, 8 clips, 6 hoops, 4 corner flags and a centre peg on the trolleys before putting the trolley back in the equipment shed in order. Please keep the shed tidy.

Closing up at the club

There have been some instances when the club has been left unsecured.

All members are responsible for making sure everything is secure. The equipment for each lawn has a replacement value of over \$2000.

Here is a check list you are leaving the club:

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4. Close all windows and draw all curtains.
5. During winter, turn off the Rheem water boiler.
6. Lock the club rooms as you leave.

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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.

Subscriptions

There are still a few subs for 2013/14 outstanding. If you do not intend renewing, please let me or Chris Clarke know so we can update our records. Otherwise payment as soon as possible would be appreciated.

If you have difficulty meeting the payment, discuss it with Chris as some arrangement may be possible.

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Duty Rosters

Duty rosters are posted in the clubhouse near the kitchen. Please check when you are on duty and please perform the task or find a replacement if you cannot do it yourself.

We now have separate indoor and outdoor rosters. If you want to change to a different roster please contact Sally. If you see things that need to be done either tell someone or do it yourself.

Macrob

The MacRobertson Shield International teams' competition is being held at United December 27- January 3. This is the top international competition so come along and bring friends. Parking will be available. If you feel you could help let Maurice know.

Competition Successes

United is well represented across all grades as competitions continue. Special mention must be made of Jenny Clarke runner up in the Australian Open and Chris for winning South Island Champs and the North Island Doubles. All of you.....keep up the practice and wins. Philippa is delighted but especially with Johnson results.

Upcoming competitions

There are more competitions ahead so keep your ears/eyes open and enter.

Also ahead are the club championships which need to be completed so grab someone in your grade and make it a competition game. All club competitions with more than 4 players will now be run as a knock-out. Look out for the Carol Haywood (AC) and Atkins (Sat am Doubles HC GC) in the New Year. See Philippa or Mary to enrol. Entries must be in by 12 Dec.

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Finally, Best Wishes for Christmas, the holidays, MacRob, croquet games and return refreshed for the New Year