

United Croquet Club

Newsletter – April 2013

Welcome

The summer season has just closed but many members will be continuing through winter, as long as the weather allows. Some members of other Canterbury clubs will be joining us as winter members.

Macrob

Our MacRobertson Shield team did us proud and won the test series. The last time New Zealand won was in 1986. We are also proud of Jenny and Chris Clarke who were members of the team.

A thank you must also go to all the members who helped during the first test round.

Club AGM

The United Croquet Club Inc AGM will be held at the club 10:30am on Saturday 24 May. Further information will be sent after the executive meeting on Wednesday 23 April.

Any notices of motion must be with the secretary by Monday 21 April.

Club Lunch

We will be having a club lunch after the AGM at La Portchetta, 20 Rotherham Street, Riccarton. It will start 12:30pm on Saturday 24 May. You can download their menu at www.laporchetta.co.nz.

Executive nominations

Nominations are called for president, vice-president, treasurer, captain, vice-captain and up to four other members.

Nominations must be proposed and seconded by life, full or student members of the club and must be with the secretary by Saturday 17 May. Nomination forms are being distributed with this newsletter and will be available at the club. Nominations will be displayed at the club.

Royal tour

The Royal tour will be in Hagley Park on Monday 14 April to open the new Botanic Gardens information centre. This will impact access to United Croquet Club.

The gates at Riccarton Avenue will be closed as normal on Sunday night and will remain closed on Monday until about 2pm. There will be a police presence until the tour has left the park

Any cars parked in the public car park will be towed. Cars parked at the club will be OK.

You will not be able to drive in on Monday morning, but you will be allowed to walk in and play croquet.

Autumn lawn maintenance

You will have noticed that lawns 5, 6 and 7 have been top-dressed. They are now closed for about six weeks.

The north end of lawns 1 and 2 has also been top-dressed and these lawns have been shortened slightly. Please take care when playing on these lawns and keep off the top-dressed area as much as practical.

This annual maintenance is necessary to maintain the lawns. Fortunately, we have enough lawns to allow for normal play through winter.

Coaching

There will be coaching for players with an AC handicap of 16 or more. This includes players new to AC. It will run 4-6 weeks starting Wednesday 28 May, 11am to 1pm.

Contact Chris Clarke for details or just turn up on the first day.

Working bee and summer closing

We had a successful working bee last Saturday. The club is a lot tidier and ready for the winter season.

A focus of the working bee was to rationalise the equipment shed. This was getting very cluttered and untidy. Some of the contents, including the tables and some chairs, have been moved to the shed near lawn 7.

Please keep the sheds tidy. When returning equipment, put in its proper place and don't just drop in any available spot and shut the door.

Trolleys

The equipment trolleys need to be cared for. The equipment on each one costs over \$2000 to replace 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.

Websites

The United Croquet Club now has a new website at www.unitedcroquet.com. This was prompted because of difficulties maintaining the old one.

If you have ideas or content that should be added, contact John Yarrall. The site includes an online calendar. Let John know if anything should be added to the calendar

CCA has had the same issues and now have a new website at www.croquetcanterbury.com.

Improvements

The committee has a list of improvements that are being worked on as time, finance and volunteer effort allows.

The old croquet gate, that has recently been leaning against the equipment shed, will be installed between the equipment shed and club house with a matching smaller gate.

Sliding drawers will soon be installed in the cupboard used for cups and glasses. This will make it easier to use this space.

Additional storage will be added for mallets.

And many more small and larger items...

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.

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Newsletter – July 2013

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The wet weather has certainly limited winter play, but we are getting the occasional good day.

Events for next season are being organised, so now is a good time to think about the season ahead.

Golf croquet referee training

Gordon Smith will be running training for golf croquet referees over two Saturdays, 2nd and 9th August 10am to noon.

This is for players who are prepared to study, practice and sit the test to become a qualified referee.

For further information, or to attend, contact Gordon on 359 9225 or g.e.smith@clear.net.nz.

Working bee/Club Captains' talk

We are having a working bee starting 10am on Saturday 16 August to get the club tidy for the new season.

The Club Captain's talk will start at noon where details of the Johnson, AC interclub, GC interclub and other competitions will be given.

This will be followed by a BBQ and play.

Early-season coaching

As usual we will be holding coaching in both AC and GC to get your season off to a roaring start.

GC Coaching is on Sunday 7th September and both AC & GC coaching is on Sunday 14th September. On Tuesday 16th September there will be coached games (both AC & GC).

For further information, or to attend, contact Chris Clarke on 385 5957 or chrisd4clarke@hotmail.com.

United Spring Tournament

The ever-popular United Spring AC Tournament will be played Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th September. There are two events, an open and a handicap event. The handicap event is open to those with handicaps 2 to 24. There will be three 2½-hour games Saturday and two 3-hour games on Sunday.

This event was oversubscribed last year, so enter early to avoid disappointment.

Full details will come later, but to enter, contact the manager, Chris Clarke.

Johnson and interclub competitions

The Johnson memorial competition (AC handicap doubles on Saturday mornings) starts 4th October.

The starting dates for the interclub competitions are:

GC K/O	Sunday	5 Oct
AC Div 1 and 4	Monday	6 Oct
AC Div 2	Tuesday	14 Oct
AC Div 3	Wednesday	15 Oct
GC-All divisions	Friday	17 Oct

Other events at United this season

Some events coming up at United this season are:

Fri 24 Oct	Expert AC coaching Open to handicaps -4 to 10
Sat 25–Mon 27 Oct	MAGAK advanced play tournament. Open to handicaps -4 to 10. Best 28 entries accepted.
Fri 28–Sun 30 Nov	Duncan Dixon GC invitation
Sat 10–Sun 18 Jan	NZ Open
Sun 1–Thu 5 Feb	Under-21 GC world champs

Lawns

During the next 10 days, lawns 1, 2 and 6 will be closed for a few weeks.

Lawn 5 is marked out as a smaller lawn and is available to all members.

Watch out for notices in the equipment shed.

Websites

The calendar on the United Croquet Club website at unitedcroquet.com has been updated. We will continue to update it as changes are made to the programme.

The Canterbury Croquet website is at www.croquetcanterbury.com. It includes the Canterbury calendar, information on interclub and other events and more.

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Newsletter – September 2014

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Entries to the manager, Chris Clarke on chrisd4clarke@hotmail.com or 385 5957.

United GC Handicap Tournament

A one-day GC handicap singles tournament will be run on Sunday 5 October starting at 9:30am. Each player will get 4–5 games.

Entries to the manager, Chris Clarke on chrisd4clarke@hotmail.com or 385 5957.

Johnson and interclub competitions

Draws for all the Johnson and interclub competitions are available. They are in envelopes on the table next to the sliding doors.

Team captains should take their envelope and hand a copy of the draw to each team member.

Lawns

Lawns have been laid out for the new season.

Lawn 2 has been closed.

Lawn 6 is 6/7 of full size to allow the grass at the south end to recover.

The bowling lawn has been set out with two 4/7-size lawns. Lawn 7 is nearest the gate and lawn 8 nearer the road.

Check the board that hangs in the window of the equipment shed for the status of the lawns and also for what hoops they have. Lawn 4 currently has tournament hoops that are narrower than standard hoops. You can

use this if you want more challenging hoops.

There are hoop holes in the practice lawn (between the clubhouse and lawn 5) for people to practice jump shots. The hoops are stored just inside the right hand side of the equipment shed door.

Funding

The Southern Trust has given us a grant of \$2000 for lawn maintenance. We spend between \$6,000 and \$10,000 each year on lawn maintenance, so this grant is a useful contribution. It helps to keep subscriptions down. This season we are hosting the NZ Open and the Under 21 World GC Championship, so want to get our lawns in top condition. Well done Tony.

Yearbooks

Yearbooks have been delivered. If you ordered one check the table or contact me.

Car passes

The public car park next to the tennis club has a three-hour time limit on week days. There is no time limit on weekends. The Christchurch City Council supply a limited number of car passes that allow parking beyond the three-hour limit.

If you arranged for a pass contact me to collect it.

As the number of passes is limited we can't get more unless current passes are surrendered.

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Newsletter – October 2014

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Tidy trolleys

Members' mallet storage