

# United Croquet Club

---

## Newsletter – February 2015

### Welcome

It has been a busy season with national and international events, tournaments and many corporate events and a long time since a newsletter.

### Under 21 GC World Champs

Congratulations to United Club member Josh Freeth becoming the Under 21 Golf Croquet World Champion beating Egyptian Marwan El Sabarouti. The best-of-three final went to the wire with scores of 5-7, 7-6, 7-6. Josh was 4-6 down in the last game but managed to score the final three hoops to win. Josh and Marwan qualified to play in the Golf Croquet World Champs where Josh narrowly missed out getting into the knockout.

The championship was held at United Croquet Club 1-5 February 2015. Many thanks to Gordon Smith for managing, Chris Clarke for preparing the lawns including 6:30am starts setting hoops, Jared Keeman and Brian Perwick for helping with hoop setting, Lena Metcalf and her team for Tuesday's meal and the daily BBQ, and many other helpers.



### Golf Croquet World Champs

Congratulations to Chris Clarke for getting into the semi-final of the GC worlds held 7-15 February in Bay of Plenty.

Jared Keeman won the Shield (for those eliminated in the second round of the knockout) and Duncan Dixon won the Bowl (for those eliminated in the first round of the knockout). Duncan won the first U21 World Champs

in 2009.

## **Volunteer hours**

Remember to record your hours volunteering for croquet for February. This could be helping at tournaments or corporate events, cleaning, mowing, gardening etc.

Enter your hours on the sheet on the noticeboard or email them to me. Please have them done by 7 March.

## **Security**

Recently, while members were playing croquet, a set of keys and a jacket were stolen. Entry was gained through the unlocked kitchen door.

The kitchen door is not visible from the lawns so it is a security risk to leave it unlocked when there is no one in the club house.

So please do not leave valuables in the clubhouse and keep the kitchen door locked whilst playing when there is no one in the club house. The ranch slider can be left unlocked for easy access.

If you are playing on lawn 7 and there is no one playing on the other lawns, all doors to the club house and shed should be kept locked.

A notice will be fastened to the kitchen door to remind you.

A lock will soon be put on one of the window boxes so members can securely keep their belongings. But please don't overuse this as there is limited space.

## **Lawns**

In mid-March lawns 3, 4 and 7 will be grooved, top-dressed and resown. They will then be closed for the rest of the season.

## **Fence**

You will have noticed that the fence is looking rather tired with several posts rusted off at ground level. Canterbury Community Trust has given us \$5000 towards replacing the fence. This is not sufficient to replace all of the fence so we are trying to raise further funds and will be replacing at least some of the fence this year.

## **Improvements**

A number of improvements have been made around the club.

1. Mallet storage has been improved and increased. We now have space to hold all our mallets. There is also a separate area for members to store their own mallets, separate to the club mallets.
2. Irrigation has been installed in the gardens by the club house and along lawns 5 and 6. The irrigation for the triangular garden by the club house needs to be fed by connecting a hose.

## **BBQ**

We now have a new bigger and better BBQ. It has been fastened to the outside of the equipment shed for storage. The key is on the same ring as the ranch slider. Please look after the BBQ and always clean it after use and turn off the tap at the gas bottle and store the gas bottle in the equipment shed when not in use. The cooking plates and grills should be scrubbed in the kitchen sink with plenty of hot water and dishwasher detergent and a stiff brush.

Last time it was used it was filthy and the gas bottle tap was left on. This can result in the gas bottle emptying prematurely.

## **Corporate events**

We have had 22 corporate events this season. This has earned us over \$8000 which is more than we received in subscriptions. Running a top-quality club is not cheap. We typically spend \$10,000 per year on maintaining the lawns and there is over \$2000 of equipment on each trolley.

A big thank you to everyone who helped. It has been a big effort.

## **New member promotion**

We have introduced a promotion for new members. If an existing member introduces a new member to the club, when the new member pays their subscription for their second season, the introducing member will receive a \$50 credit towards their sub.

Time to encourage your friends and family along.

## **Thank you**

With the NZ Open, the U21 Worlds and all the corporate events on top of the normal running of the club many of our members have put in an extraordinary effort. To say thank you, members who have been working hard will be invited to a special evening at Maurice's

# United Croquet Club

---

## Newsletter – August 2015

### Welcome

The new summer season is nearly here and there are lots of things coming up.

### Working Bee

We will be having a working bee 10am Saturday 29 August. We want to get the club house, the sheds, lawns and gardens all ready for the new season. Last year we had a good turnout and managed to get everything done.

We will have a BBQ around noon and you have the afternoon to play croquet.

### Fence

You will have noticed that the fence has been getting very tired with some of the posts rusting off at ground level. The fence is being replaced and should be completed by the time of the working bee.

Well done to Tony for getting grants to cover most of the cost.

### New members

We have been a bit lax in welcoming new members. For that we apologise. We are improving our handling of membership applications so hopefully it won't happen again.

We are also looking at assigning experienced members as buddies to new members. Pam Hurst may be in touch.

### Opening Day

Opening Day for the summer season will be on Saturday 5 September. It will start at noon with the club captain's talk where draws for interclub competitions will be distributed, followed by a BBQ. Please bring a salad or desert.

We will have casual play from about 1pm.

### Early season tournaments

The United weekend tournament has always been popular. This year we are adding a Golf Croquet weekend on 12 and 13 September. There is an open event for handicaps 0–5 and a handicap event open to all handicaps.

The AC weekend tournament is 26 and 27 September. There is an open event and a handicap event for handicaps 2–24.

The entry fee for each tournament is \$25 and \$20 for United members.

Entries for all events to Chris Clarke, [chris4clarke@hotmail.com](mailto:chris4clarke@hotmail.com), 385 5957

## Subscriptions

Tony, our treasurer, has sent out subscription invoice for the new season. They have been emailed to members who have email and posted to those without. If you have not received an invoice, please contact Tony.

## Car park passes

The public car park between the club and Riccarton Avenue has a 2-hour time limit during weekdays. There is no limit on weekends.

The council provides us a limited number of car passes that allow you to park longer. These are specific to each car and cannot be transferred.

Passes are ready for collection. Please see me to collect.

## The committee

We had a few changes to the committee at the AGM. They are:

President	Chris Clarke	<a href="mailto:chrisd4clarke@hotmail.com">chrisd4clarke@hotmail.com</a>	385 5957
Vice president	Philippa Porter	<a href="mailto:nandpporter@xtra.co.nz">nandpporter@xtra.co.nz</a>	358 4393
Secretary	John Yarrall	<a href="mailto:jyarrall@xtra.co.nz">jyarrall@xtra.co.nz</a>	325 7855
Treasurer	Tony O'Donnell	<a href="mailto:evonne_tony@hotmail.com">evonne_tony@hotmail.com</a>	358 6422
Captain	Mary Morrison	<a href="mailto:mjmorrison@xtra.co.nz">mjmorrison@xtra.co.nz</a>	355 9510
Vice Captain	Pam Hurst	<a href="mailto:pmhurst@gmail.com">pmhurst@gmail.com</a>	358 1991
Committee	Maurice Cook	<a href="mailto:mauricecook@xtra.co.nz">mauricecook@xtra.co.nz</a>	351 8862
	Lena Metcalf	<a href="mailto:landmetcalf@xnet.co.nz">landmetcalf@xnet.co.nz</a>	741 1855
	Robyn Dawson	<a href="mailto:r.dawson@paradise.net.nz">r.dawson@paradise.net.nz</a>	342 5568

## Website

Our website is at [unitedcroquet.com](http://unitedcroquet.com). This includes news, information about coming events and an online calendar. Keep checking for the latest news.

In the right-hand column there are headlines and links to news items and below that the next four items in the online calendar.

## Bring a friend day

On Sunday 1 November all members are invited to bring a friend for a day of fun. This day will be publicised to the public as an open day. Hopefully we can encourage friends and family and visitors to give croquet a go.

## Interprovincial competition

Each year Canterbury plays against South Canterbury in Ashburton. We are playing AC doubles on Sunday 20 September. It is a casual fun day out. Players usually car-pool.

If you are interested, contact Philippa Porter.

# United Croquet Club

---

## Newsletter – October 2015

The new summer season is now under way with our first two tournaments over and the interclub competitions about to start.

### Early season tournaments

The United weekend GC tournament was held on 12 and 13 September. There is an open event for handicaps 0–5 and a handicap event open to all handicaps.

There were six entries in the open which was played as a double round-robin. Edmund Fordyce (South Canterbury) was all his 10 games and the open with Tony O'Donnell winning eight games to be runner-up.

There were 11 entries in the handicap event which was played as a round-robin. Connell Leahy won nine of his ten games to win the event. Both Rosalind Thomson and Lin Cross won seven of their 10 games. However, Rosalind had one more net point than Lin to take the runner-up place.

The AC weekend tournament was held 26 and 27 September. There were a few showers of rain and the temperature dropped at times but the weather was often pleasant. There were seven entries in the open which was played as a Swiss. Michael Wright (Wellington) successfully defended his title winning all his five games. Jenny Clarke was runner-up.

There were eight entries in the handicap. It was played as a Swiss with three games on Saturday and two on Sunday. Both Kent Caddick and Ken Kinzett (both St James Park) won four out of five games. Their opponents were rated identically, but Kent was the winner as he won his game against Ken.

Full results can be seen at [croquetscores.com](http://croquetscores.com).

### Wednesday afternoon tea

On the first Wednesday of every month an afternoon tea will be laid on. The first one is Wednesday 7 October. Chris and Jenny Clarke will be supplying refreshments.

### Fence

We now have a nice new fence to replace the old one that was rapidly deteriorating with many posts rusted off at ground level.

Well done to Tony for getting grants to cover most of the cost.

We will soon be adding signs advertising the club and acknowledging our sponsors on the fence and at the entrance gate.

### Subscriptions

Subscription invoice for the new season were sent out last month. If they have not been paid they are now overdue. Please pay now. If you have any issue with paying immediately, please contact Tony on 358 6422 or [evonne\\_tony@hotmail.com](mailto:evonne_tony@hotmail.com).

If you will not be renewing your subscription, please let Tony know immediately.

### Bring a friend day

On Sunday 1 November, starting at 1pm, all members are invited to bring a friend or family for an afternoon of fun. Hopefully we can encourage friends and family and visitors to give croquet a go.

This day will be publicised to the public as an open day where members of the public are encouraged to walk in. Signs will be put up on the fence and possibly other places.

### Interclub

Several interclub competitions are about to start. Dates are given in the calendar below. There have been some delays in getting draws out to teams, but you should get them soon.

## Beginners coaching

On each Wednesday in October coaching for beginners will be held at 1pm. A number of members of U3A Ellesmere, based in Lincoln, will be coming.

It is open to anyone, so if you have friends or family who want to try out croquet, they are welcome. Please let John Yarrall know, but people can also just turn up.

The coaching will be based around having small groups playing and helping them handle the basics. If you can help with the coaching, let John know.

More structured coaching can be arranged later in the season.

## Corporate events

Last year we had several corporate events. Many club members contributed their time to showing the players around the lawns. It was a bit of a burden for some and this year we will try and manage the load better.

However, these events bring in a lot of money. Last season, venue hire brought in over \$7,900, nearly all from corporate events. That is over \$180 for each full member, so it helps greatly in keeping our subscription at their current level.

Maurice Cook will be managing volunteers again this year, so he may be calling you.

## Rosters

We rely on our members to keep the club running smoothly without having to charge very large subscriptions. Last season we had several rosters for different tasks. This worked well and will be repeated this season.

Could you please indicate which roster you would like to be on:

- club rooms,
- lawn surrounds
- hedges
- gardens

If you don't indicate your preference, you will be assigned to a roster.

## Calendar

Here are some of the events coming up.

Unless a different venue is given, they are all at United.

- Sun 4 Oct GC knockout round 1 at Fendalton
- Wed 7 Oct Coaching for beginners  
(4xWed. in Oct)  
First afternoon tea  
Committee meeting
- Fri 9 Oct GC interclub starts
- Sat 10 Oct Johnson starts
- Mon 12 Oct AC interclub starts
- Sat 24 & Sun 25 Oct CCA AC handicap singles at Barrington
- Sun 1 Nov Bring a Friend / Open Day
- Wed 5 Nov Afternoon tea
- Thu 5 to Sun 8 Nov CCA AC tournament (Open & grades)
- Thu 12-Sun 15 Nov South Island GC Championship
- Wed 2 Dec Afternoon tea
- Sun 6 Dec CCA GC handicap doubles at Fendalton
- Sat 19 & Sun 20 Dec Under 21 GC national championship

## Car park passes

The public car park between the club and Riccarton Avenue has a 2-hour time limit during weekdays. There is no limit on weekends.

The council provides us a limited number of car passes that allow you to park longer. These are specific to each car and cannot be transferred.

Passes are ready for collection. Please see me to collect.

## Website

Our website is at [unitedcroquet.com](http://unitedcroquet.com). This includes news, information about coming events and an online calendar. Keep checking for the latest news.

In the right-hand column there are headlines and links to news items and below that the next four items in the online calendar.

# United Croquet Club

---

## Newsletter – November 2015

### Wednesday afternoon tea

On the first Wednesday of every month, except January, an afternoon tea will be laid on. The next one is 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

### Trans Tasman

Since 1991 New Zealand and Australia have competed for the Camden Trophy in the Trans-Tasman Open croquet tests. This is an association croquet event that NZ has won seven out of ten times.

For the first time an equivalent golf croquet event will be held at Nelson Monday 30 November to Sunday 5 December. It will be played as three two-day tests.

Our club members Jenny Clarke, Chris Clarke, Jared Keeman and Duncan Dixon are members of the team of four women and four men.

You can follow results, and hopefully some commentary, at

<https://croquetscores.com/2015/gc/trans-tasman>

We wish the team all the best.

### Christmas lunch

We are having a Christmas lunch on Saturday 12 December, starting at 12:30pm. This is pot luck, so please bring a salad or desert. BBQ sausages will be provided.

The Johnson final will be on. Some lawns will be available for club play, so come along and play and watch the Johnson final.

### BBQ

We recently had a fat fire in the BBQ because of a build-up of fat.

It is important that the BBQ is properly cleaned after use. The plates can be removed and washed with detergent in the kitchen sink.

Someone will be rosters to periodically give the BBQ a good clean.

### Corporate events

We have several corporate events scheduled for the rest of November and for December.

Maurice Cook is managing club volunteers for these events. If you can help and have not volunteered give Maurice a call. You don't need to be an expert player. You will be guiding the players around the lawns, reminding who has the next shot and which is the next hoop.

These events bring in a lot of money. Last season, venue hire brought in over \$7,900, nearly all from corporate events. That is over \$180 for each full member, so it helps greatly in keeping our subscription at their current level.

### Margaret Stoddart market day

Margaret Stoddart has sponsored some of our competitions for the past two years.

You and your family are invited to their market day on Tuesday 1 December from noon to 3pm. There will be a wide variety of Christmas gift ideas including jewellery, liquorice, Belgian chocolates, and biscuits, crafts lavender products and much more.

They are at 23 Bartlett Street, Riccarton (near the Riccarton Road round-about).



### CNZ Player of the Year

At the CNZ AGM in October Josh Freeth was presented with Player of the Year award. Josh's big achievement this year was winning the World Under 21 GC Championship.

We won't see as much of Josh as he is now studying in Auckland.



## Calendar

Here are some of the events coming up. Unless a different venue is given, they are all at United.

- Fri 27 Nov Final round of GC interclub
- Sat 28 Nov Final round of Johnson
- Tue 1 Dec Margaret Stoddart market
- Wed 2 Dec Afternoon tea
- Sun 6 Dec CCA GC handicap doubles at Fendalton
- Mon 7 Dec Final round of AC interclub
- Sat 12 Dec Johnson final  
Christmas lunch at 12:30pm
- Sun 13 Dec Johnson final
- Mon 14 Dec AC Div 1 interclub playoff
- Fri 18 Dec Under 21 GC coaching
- Sat 19 Dec Under 21 GC national championship
- Sun 20 Dec Under 21 GC national championship

## CCA AC Open

The Canterbury AC Open tournament was held at United on the weekend of 7–8 November.

Ian Campbell and Richard Kimberley both won four of their five games. Ian had one more net point than Richard to win the event.

## South Island GC champs

The South Island GC champs were held at United 12–15 November.

Five pairs entered the doubles which was played as a best-of-three round robin. Chris Clarke and Duncan Dixon were unbeaten to win with Tony O'Donnell and John Yarrall runners-up.

The open singles, with ten entries, was played as a round robin of 13-point games. Duncan Dixon was unbeaten to win and Josh Freeth lost only to Duncan to be runner-up.

## Croquet NZ newsletters

Croquet New Zealand regularly produces a newsletter. A copy is placed on the club house notice board.

You can get your own electronic copy by signing up at <http://croquet.org.nz/newsletter/>

## Website

Our website is at [unitedcroquet.com](http://unitedcroquet.com). This includes news, information about coming events and an online calendar. Keep checking for the latest news.

In the right-hand column there are headlines and links to news items and below that the next four items in the online calendar.

## Car park passes

The public car park between the club and Riccarton Avenue has a 3-hour time limit during weekdays. There is no limit on weekends.

The council provides us a limited number of car passes that allow you to park longer. These are specific to each car and cannot be transferred.

I still have some passes that have not been collected. Please see me to collect.

## Parking at United

Parking can be at a premium, especially for some weekday interclub events.

As the public car park has a 3-hour time limit, players from other clubs risk getting a ticket if they park there. The Christchurch City Council used to supply temporary car passes for our visitors, but stopped doing that some years ago.

United club members who have a car pass can assist by parking their car in the public car park and allowing visitors to park in the parks by the club house.

Remember that the car parks are shared with High School Old Boys, so please cooperate with them.