

United Croquet Club

Newsletter – February 2017

Corporate events

We are still getting bookings for corporate events.

While we did not earn as much as last season, we have brought in over \$4000 so far and still counting.

A thank you to all members who have helped.

SOPs

The committee has started producing some *Standard Operating Procedures* so that we can better organise corporate events and other club functions.

The initial SOPs include taking and managing bookings for corporate events, information for club team leaders managing a corporate event on the day and information for helpers.

Others in production include managing the website, including the online calendar and the secretary's duties.

This should ensure an orderly handover when club officers change.

Copies of the completed SOPs are available for viewing at the club. There are copies for corporate event team leaders and helpers to take away.

Petanque

You will have noticed the work going where the bowling lawns were. The City Council are developing the area for petanque as part of the agreement to move petanque from the existing location in Hagley Park. This is likely to last about 9 weeks.

There will be additional pressure on car parks. Please be patient and considerate. See the item on car passes elsewhere in this newsletter.

Carol Hayward

Results can be seen at

<https://croquetscores.com/2017/ac/carol-hayward>.

Pam Hurst is currently on 3 wins out of 3. Tony O'Donnell and Rosalind Thomson are on 2 out of 3.

Car passes

The public car park next to Hagley Tennis has a three-hour time limit on weekdays.

The council provides a limited number of passes that allow members to park longer than the three hours. Unfortunately there are not sufficient for all our members with cars. These have been allocated to those who have been members longest. Some members who no longer need their pass have returned them so other members may get one.

Car passes have the car registration number on them and so are not transferrable. We do not have any temporary passes that can be given to visitors.

If you are playing in an interclub or a tournament during the week, please consider parking in the public park so visitors can park at the club.

If you have a need for one, see the secretary.

AC Interclub

The AC interclub was played before Christmas. The Tuesday United team won their block. The final against St James Park was rained out and was played Monday 13 February.

It was a close match at three games each, but St James Park won by two hoops.

Maud Trainor

The Maud Trainor is a Golf Croquet handicap singles event played at United on a Wednesday morning. The Swiss draw ensures players, as the competition advances, play against those having similar success.

The two dozen entrants play two games with morning tea in between making it as much a social event as a competition. This gives eight games over the four mornings and at least six games must be played to be eligible for winning. Currently our Galina Worley and St James's Kay Blackburn lead having won five of their six games.

What does it take to run a croquet club?

There has been comment on where the money we get is used and the use of volunteers.

We have increased club reserves substantially over the past decade whilst improving our stock of top quality balls and hoops. We now have hot water in the kitchen, a new kitchen with new dishwasher (\$xx), a new BBQ and a new fence (\$19,900). We have enough mallets to cope with large numbers of visitors and a variety for new members to borrow and try before buying their own.

Our income from subscriptions is (very approximately \$8k p.a.).

The cost of maintaining our lawns if we needed to use entirely outside labour is approximately \$25,000 pa but is about \$8000 using a lot of volunteer labour.

The cost of a new lawn mower would be over \$40k if we could buy new, or about \$15k second hand.

Many members have given, and continue to give, huge amounts of their time to the club to ensure its long term survival. The form of this help comes in many areas, one of which is corporate events. Suggestions that the club does not need substantial reserves are completely false because we are so reliant upon volunteer labour to be able to function at all.

Before the start of this season setting out the lawns took 20–30 hours of volunteer effort.

The income generated from Corporate events is critical to the long term survival of the club. They also serve as a method of bringing players new to croquet into the sport. They may not join United, but several have joined their local Canterbury club.

The cost to equip one trolley is \$2,500 (hoops at \$1000, two set of ball at \$700 each and peg, clips, flags at \$100)

AC Selections

John Yarrall has been invited to play in the RA Clarke Copper Tray invitation to be held in Dunedin 17-19 March.

Happy Hoopers – New members' get-together

Our monthly get together of new members is underway. About 16 *Happy Hoopers* have met twice - and it has been a lot of fun, mixed with meeting, playing with and playing against other new members every half an hour.

Emphasis is on enjoyment, but at the same time trying to learn strategies to employand helping each other.

New is defined liberally as having joined over the last two or so years, and maybe lacking confidence to play with strangers.

We meet on the last Sunday of the month. Because some members can play only in morning and some only in afternoon, we have two start times:

- 1 - Morning tea at 9:45am. followed by about 3 rounds, then a break for lunch
- 2 - Lunch break until approx 12:30pm then play till last ones leave!

Many keen members stay all day!

Play is for 30 minutes, winners move to next green and then both pairs change partners for the next game. It is intended that we will try to incorporate a little coaching - targeting one specific skill at a time.

So far, feedback is that everyone is thoroughly enjoying their day.

For more information catch up with Jeanette Allison at the club, or contact her at:

Phone: 325 7980, cell: 027 209 7767
or email: jeanaettebill@gmail.com

Dishwasher

When the kitchen was recently updated we installed a dishwasher. This should make it easier for everyone to keep the kitchen tidy.

If you are the last one in the kitchen please check the dishwasher, and if there are dirty dishes in it, start it. The "Dirty" laminated sign will be on the door.

To start the dishwasher:

1. Add powder detergent and close dispenser door
2. Press On/Off switch
3. Dial to *Quick 45°* (it should be left on this setting)
4. Press *Start*
5. Turn the sign over to *Clean*

Tournament results

A round up of results around New Zealand involving past and present United players.

Past United member Josh Freeth was runner-up in the Yvonne Yeates GC invitation held at New Plymouth 4–6 March.

Josh also reached the semi-final of the AC New Zealand Open held at in the Bay of Plenty 14–22 January. He was beaten by Aiken Hakes who was also a past United member. Aiken beat past NZ Open winner, Greg Bryant, to win the Open.

United Associate member Ian Campbell managed to get into the knockout stage of the open.

Josh and Grace Mohi of Taranaki won the NZ Open Doubles CG held at Nelson 28 January. They beat United member Duncan Dixon and Hamish McIntosh (Auckland). Josh was runner-up in the Open Singles, being beaten by Edmund Fordyce of South Canterbury). Duncan was knocked out at the semi-final.

United Calendar

We have an online calendar on our website at unitedcroquet.com. Below are the main events being held at United for the rest of the season.

On the right-hand side of our website the next four entries from the online calendar are listed for quick reference.

- 3–5 Mar – Arthur Ross national final
- 6–7 Mar – Southern Veterans' AC (at St Martins)
- 8–10 Mar – Southern Veterans' GC
- 19 Mar – GC Silver badge
- 1–2 Apr – Southern Premier AC Silver Badge
- 2 April – CCA closing day
- 8 April – United Club closing day
- 20 June – AGM and lunch

AC Selections

John Yarrall has been invited to play in the RA Clarke Copper Tray invitation to be held in Dunedin 17-19 March.

Vacuum cleaner

There have been complaints about the vacuum cleaner and requests that it is replaced.

The current one is relatively new and is a bagless one so bags do not have to be replaced. However, it is not filterless. The filters were totally filled with dust as well as a 5mm layer of dirt on top. Consequently the vacuum was severely compromised.

The filters have been cleaned and the vacuum cleaner is functioning normally. Please look after our appliances and they will give good service.

Instruction books for our appliances are in the narrow set of drawers next to irrigation controls.

Unidentified notices

Some members have written notices on the boards such as *We need to buy a new vacuum cleaner*. The author of these notices is not identified so it is not possible to find out more details of the author's problem.

A better solution is to talk to a committee member or send an email to the secretary with full details of the problem. – not just your solution.

United Croquet Club

Newsletter – March 2017

There are some things that will affect members so please read this newsletter.

Southern Premier Silver Badge

The Southern Premier Silver Badge will be played at United on the weekend of 1st and 2nd April. It will use two lawns and the NZ MacRobertson Shield Squad will be using two lawns. That leaves two lawns for club members.

Kitchen floor replacement

After the kitchen cabinets have been replaced, the kitchen floor needs replacing. This will be done on Tuesday 4 and Wednesday 5 April. Part of the carpet will also be replaced with vinyl, removing the burnt patch.

Access to the clubhouse will be restricted, including the club day on Wednesday. Tea and coffee making facilities can be set up outside the equipment shed.

The people laying the vinyl will need vehicle access so, if possible, please park in the public car park.

Petanque

You will have noticed the work going where the bowling lawns were. The City Council are developing the area for petanque as part of the agreement to move petanque from the existing location in Hagley Park. This was scheduled to be completed by 8 April. This is obviously not happening and the latest completion date is Monday 24 April.

There will be additional pressure on car parks. Please be patient and considerate.

One of the last tasks is to redo the car park. There will be no vehicle access or parking while this is happening. Exact timing will be notified later.

Competition results

A round up of results around New Zealand involving past and present United players.

Past United member Josh Freeth (Kevin's son) was runner-up in the Yvonne Yeates GC invitation held at New Plymouth 4–6 March.

United Croquet Club Newsletter – March 2017

Josh also reached the semi-final of the AC New Zealand Open held at in the Bay of Plenty 14–22 January. He was beaten by Aiken Hakes who was also a past United member. Aiken beat past NZ Open winner, Greg Bryant, to win the Open.

United Associate member Ian Campbell managed to get into the knockout stage of the Open.

Josh and Grace Mohi of Taranaki won the NZ Open Doubles CG held at Nelson 28 January. They beat United member Duncan Dixon and Hamish McIntosh (Auckland). Josh was runner-up in the Open Singles, being beaten by Edmund Fordyce of South Canterbury. Duncan reached the semi-final.

John Yarrall came third in the CA Clarke Copper Tray AC invitation in Dunedin 17-19 March.

Also to Bill Down and Rosemary Willis who both won GC silver badges at United on Sunday 19 March - well done!

A big well done to two of our Atkins teams, Galina and Bill Worley (U3), and Maurice Cook and Bill Down (U5) who reached the play-offs with 6 other teams from around Christchurch. Bill & Maurice reached the semi final.

In the South Island Veterans competition, congratulations go to Ian Campbell and Peter Couch who were first and second in the top division. Ian also came first in Roger Murfitt invitation in Wellington 15-19 March and second in the Arthur Ross tournament national final held this year in Christchurch and - practice pays off! And Geraldine and I came second in the Agnes Dick competition.

In the AC Silver Badge, the four grades were won by Peter Couch, Tony O'Donnell, Pam Hurst and Rosalind Thomson.

Max Joines of St Martins won the Carol Hayward with 5 wins out of 5. Pam Hurst and 2 other Canterbury players had 5 wins out of 6. Tony O'Donnell had 4 wins out of 5.

Results can be seen at

<https://croquetscores.com/2017/ac/carol-hayward>.

AGM and lunch

The United Croquet Club Incorporated AGM will be held at the club rooms at 10:30am Saturday 20 May 2017.

This will be followed with a lunch at the Chateau on the Park. There will be a set menu for \$30. Spouses and partners are welcome.

Committee nominations

Nominations are called for President, Vice President, Club Captain, Vice Captain, Treasurer, Secretary and up to four members. Nominations must be with the secretary by Saturday 13 May 2017.

Nomination forms are available at the club. Nominations will be displayed at the club and will be distributed with the AGM agenda.

Working bee

There will be a working bee on Saturday 8 April, starting at 10am. There will be a BBQ at noon.

Lawn maintenance

Lawns 4, 5 and 6 will be top-dressed with soil. This is currently planned for Tuesday 11 April. These lawns will then be closed for a few weeks.

Please check the status board that is visible through the equipment shed window.

CCA Closing Day

The CCA Closing Day is a special occasion when croquet players get together to end the season with friendly games of croquet, afternoon tea and celebrating the successes of players and teams in our tournaments. Thanks to Barrington Park Croquet Club making facilities available, please come along between 1:00 and 1:30 pm to register for games. Afternoon Tea will be from 3:30 pm, followed by the presentation of awards. There is a \$5 charge for lunch.

South Island Teams

An appeal for AC players to make up a Canterbury team at the South Island Teams in Ashburton event next weekend. We require one player to represent our association in the 10 -16 handicap range. This can be two players playing just one of the two days' tournament. CCA pay the entry fees, provide an allowance for travel and accommodation as well as presenting players with their own Canterbury representative shirt. With all these incentives I am sure we can put a full team together. Please let Philippa know if you can make it.

United Croquet Club

Newsletter – May 2017

There are some things that will affect members so please read this newsletter.

Southern Premier Silver Badge

The Southern Premier Silver Badge will be played at United on the weekend of 1st and 2nd April. It will use two lawns and the NZ MacRobertson Shield Squad will be using two lawns. That leaves two lawns for club members.

Kitchen floor replacement

After the kitchen cabinets have been replaced, the kitchen floor needs replacing. This will be done on Tuesday 4 and Wednesday 5 April. Part of the carpet will also be replaced with vinyl, removing the burnt patch.

Access to the clubhouse will be restricted, including the club day on Wednesday. Tea and coffee making facilities can be set up outside the equipment shed.

The people laying the vinyl will need vehicle access so, if possible, please park in the public car park.

Petanque

You will have noticed the work going where the bowling lawns were. The City Council are developing the area for petanque as part of the agreement to move petanque from the existing location in Hagley Park. This was scheduled to be completed by 8 April. This is obviously not happening and the latest completion date is Monday 24 April.

There will be additional pressure on car parks. Please be patient and considerate.

One of the last tasks is to redo the car park. There will be no vehicle access or parking while this is happening. Exact timing will be notified later.

Competition results

A round up of results around New Zealand involving past and present United players.

Past United member Josh Freeth (Kevin's son) was runner-up in the Yvonne Yeates GC invitation held at New Plymouth 4–6 March.

United Croquet Club Newsletter – May 2017

Josh also reached the semi-final of the AC New Zealand Open held at in the Bay of Plenty 14–22 January. He was beaten by Aiken Hakes who was also a past United member. Aiken beat past NZ Open winner, Greg Bryant, to win the Open.

United Associate member Ian Campbell managed to get into the knockout stage of the Open.

Josh and Grace Mohi of Taranaki won the NZ Open Doubles CG held at Nelson 28 January. They beat United member Duncan Dixon and Hamish McIntosh (Auckland). Josh was runner-up in the Open Singles, being beaten by Edmund Fordyce of South Canterbury. Duncan reached the semi-final.

John Yarrall came third in the CA Clarke Copper Tray AC invitation in Dunedin 17-19 March.

Also to Bill Down and Rosemary Willis who both won GC silver badges at United on Sunday 19 March - well done!

A big well done to two of our Atkins teams, Galina and Bill Worley (U3), and Maurice Cook and Bill Down (U5) who reached the play-offs with 6 other teams from around Christchurch. Bill & Maurice reached the semi final.

In the South Island Veterans competition, congratulations go to Ian Campbell and Peter Couch who were first and second in the top division. Ian also came first in Roger Murfitt invitation in Wellington 15-19 March and second in the Arthur Ross tournament national final held this year in Christchurch and - practice pays off! And Geraldine and I came second in the Agnes Dick competition.

In the AC Silver Badge, the four grades were won by Peter Couch, Tony O'Donnell, Pam Hurst and Rosalind Thomson.

Max Joines of St Martins won the Carol Hayward with 5 wins out of 5. Pam Hurst and 2 other Canterbury players had 5 wins out of 6. Tony O'Donnell had 4 wins out of 5.

Results can be seen at

<https://croquetscores.com/2017/ac/carol-hayward>.

AGM and lunch

The United Croquet Club Incorporated AGM will be held at the club rooms at 10:30am Saturday 20 May 2017.

This will be followed with a lunch at the Chateau on the Park. There will be a set menu for \$30. Spouses and partners are welcome.

Committee nominations

Nominations are called for President, Vice President, Club Captain, Vice Captain, Treasurer, Secretary and up to four members. Nominations must be with the secretary by Saturday 13 May 2017.

Nomination forms are available at the club. Nominations will be displayed at the club and will be distributed with the AGM agenda.

Working bee

There will be a working bee on Saturday 8 April, starting at 10am. There will be a BBQ at noon.

Lawn maintenance

Lawns 4, 5 and 6 will be top-dressed with soil. This is currently planned for Tuesday 11 April. These lawns will then be closed for a few weeks.

Please check the status board that is visible through the equipment shed window.

CCA Closing Day

The CCA Closing Day is a special occasion when croquet players get together to end the season with friendly games of croquet, afternoon tea and celebrating the successes of players and teams in our tournaments. Thanks to Barrington Park Croquet Club making facilities available, please come along between 1:00 and 1:30 pm to register for games. Afternoon Tea will be from 3:30 pm, followed by the presentation of awards. There is a \$5 charge for lunch.

South Island Teams

An appeal for AC players to make up a Canterbury team at the South Island Teams in Ashburton event next weekend. We require one player to represent our association in the 10 -16 handicap range. This can be two players playing just one of the two days' tournament. CCA pay the entry fees, provide an allowance for travel and accommodation as well as presenting players with their own Canterbury representative shirt. With all these incentives I am sure we can put a full team together. Please let Philippa know if you can make it.

United Croquet Club

Newsletter – August 2017

The summer season is about to start and hopefully the weather will be kinder than it has been with a very wet winter.

Opening day

The opening day for the summer season is Saturday 2 September. We will have a short captain's talk at noon. This will outline the tournaments planned for the first half of the new season.

Then we will have a BBQ and then some play after lunch. Please bring a salad or desert.

Carpet

The carpet is looking fresher now after being professionally cleaned for the start of the season.

Sails

The sails over the paved area were showing their age with holes where rats had a meal and the stitching was rotten to the extent that one of the sails fell down.



We have had new sails made. The photo was taken when the manufacturer tried them out. They will be installed for the season later as experience has shown that we can get the odd snowfall in September.

Subscriptions

Our treasurer, Tony, has sent out by email invoices for subs for the 2017/18 season and for yearbook orders. If you have not done so please pay now. If you do not wish to continue please let Tony know.

If you have not received an invoice please contact Tony right away.

Give croquet a go 30 September

CCA have organised a Give croquet a go day to promote croquet. This will be on Saturday 30 September, so please be welcoming of any visitors.

Working bees

We had a very successful working bee on 5th August with many willing and capable workers. Many maintenance tasks were completed but the sheds were not cleaned out so we had another working bee the following Saturday when the storage of tools was reorganised.

Many thanks to Les Willis, Mike McLoughlan and Ross Ansley for doing much of this plus replacing the concrete edging around the paved area and replacing the seat around the tree in the centre of our lawns.



Thanks also to Mary Morrison and others for painting and sorting out the clubhouse.

Afternoon teas

On the first Wednesday of each month at 3pm we will have afternoon tea. Volunteers will provide food. There is a list on notice board to put your name for providing food. The first one is on 6 September.

Coaching

From October, on first Wednesday of each month Chris Clarke will run a coaching session starting at 10:30am starting. The first session will be 4 October.

Both AC and GC will be covered. Chris will cover topics that members want, so if you have a specific requirement talk to Chris.

Club days

On club days we have organised play from 1pm. Please arrive at least 10 minutes beforehand so the club captain can arrange a draw.

Rosters

We are dependent on members volunteering to some of the many tasks to keep the club running well.

Some of the tasks are mowing the lawns (with the ride-on triplex mower), mowing around fences and other structures with the rotary mower, line marking, setting out lawns, lawn weeding, gardening, cleaning the clubhouse duties, maintenance and many others.

Thanks to members who have replied to Tony. If you haven't, please do so soon.

Club Rooms Duty roster:

The roster is posted for weeks Sept 10 to October 14. Please check this, and the list of duties. If dates assigned do not suit, please arrange your own substations as Jeanette is away for the next 6 weeks.

Once Tony has a complete list of volunteers, and Jeanette is back (after Sept 2), she will complete the roster.

Line marking and mowing

We need more members who are able to do line marking and mowing, so that we have a pool to call on for major tournaments and when regular people are not available. Training will be provided. Details will be announced later.

If you are interested in line marking or lawn mowing, please let John Yarrall know.

Coming events

Petanque Oceania. From Tuesday 24 to Tuesday 31 October the Petanque Oceania tournament will be held. They will be using our rooms as a meeting room. We use the HSOB/Petanque room for our major tournaments. Please make them welcome. There will be two interclub matches during this time.

U21 GC nationals. To be held at United Saturday 16 to Tuesday 19 December.

NZ Open. To be held at United Saturday 20 to Sunday 28 January.

Car park permits

The Christchurch City Council provide a limited number of car park permits that allow holders to park in the public car park beyond the three-hour limit on weekdays.

The limited passes are allocated to committee and to those who have been members longest. If you did not provide your car registration you will not have been allocated a pass. If you would like one as they become available, or you have changed your car, please let John know.

During mid-week interclub matches, if you have a permit, please park in the public car park so visitors can park at the club.

GC Rules

Tony O'Donnell will hold a seminar on the GC Rules on Tuesday 17 October at 10am.

Petanque

After many delays caused by the wet weather and discovering blocked drains the development of the petanque area has been completed. Well, almost. There are a number of minor finishing touches still undone.

We have a nicely paved car park – minus the lines for the parks. The work also damaged all the phone lines into the building.

Please make our new neighbours welcome. I am sure we will be arranging a get together some time.

There will be additional pressure on car parks. Please be patient and considerate.

Lawn maintenance

The top-dressing with soil that was planned for April did not happen because of all the wet weather. It is now planned to top dress lawns 3, 4, 5 and 6 on 19 September. These lawns will then be closed for two or three weeks.

Please check the lawn status board that is visible through the equipment shed window.

United Croquet Club

Newsletter – October 2017

The season is well under way and a number of competitions have started.

Health & Safety

Our landlord, the Christchurch City Council, has told us that we need to comply with the new Health and Safety in Work Act 2015. As a sports club with no employees we don't think the legislation applies to our situation. However, we have decided it is still prudent to voluntarily develop a H&S policy. This work has started.

Part of developing this policy is identifying any hazards. If you identify a hazard, please pass on to the committee.

Line marking

A number of members have been trained in using the line marker so more people can share the task and someone should always be available.

Overalls for have been purchased for line marking

Sails

The new sails were put up for the season last week.



Subscriptions

Our treasurer, Tony, has sent out by email invoices for subs for the 2017/18 season and for yearbook orders. There are 9 members who have not responded. If you are one of them, please contact Tony.

Working bees

Thanks to Les and others for all the maintenance and improvements including replacing the central seat and painting the shelters.

GC club champs

Pam has put up names for the club GC championship. This is arranged in six blocks of five (listed below). Please arrange games with each of the other four members before the end of November.

This is a handicap event with 13-point games. The winner will represent the club in the Don Reyland Stars competition. The Canterbury play-off will be Sunday 4 February 2018 at Hornby. The National final will be at Fendalton Park 10/11 March 2018.

Block 1

Tony O'Donnell
Lena Metcalf
Tony Thompson
John Leckie
Rosemary Willis

Block 2

John Yarrall
Rosalind Thompson
Jeanette Allison
Jill Nuthall
Denise McCloughlin

Block 3

Marlene Smith
Irene McGahey
Jane Ballinger
Lovena Sparks
Alison Watkins

Block 4

Bruce McKay
Mike McLoughlin
Steve Ballinger
Justine Whittaker
Alison Ansley

Block 5

Bill Down
Christine Williamson
Jill Lowe
Les Willis
Ross Ansley

Block 6

Mary Morrison
Heather Ponder
Alison Grimshaw
Libby Lechie
Carol Pilborough

Afternoon teas

On the first Wednesday of each month at 3pm we will have afternoon tea. Volunteers will provide food. There is a list on notice board to put your name for providing food.

Club days

On club days we have organised play from 1pm. Please arrive at least 10 minutes beforehand so the club captain can arrange a draw.

Coaching

From October, on first Wednesday of each month Chris Clarke will run a coaching session starting at 10:30am starting.

Both AC and GC will be covered. Chris will cover topics that members want, so if you have a specific requirement email Chris.

Coming events

Petanque Oceania. From Tuesday 24 to Sunday 29 October the Petanque Oceania International tournament will be held. They will be using our rooms as a meeting room. We use the HSOB/Petanque rooms for our major tournaments. Please make them welcome. There will be two interclub matches during this time on Friday 27th.

During this period the car parks at the club will not be available. You will need to park in the public park near tennis, the public park accessed via the Armagh Street bridge or in the old petanque car park. There may be a chain that you can remove to enter. Refer to the map at the end of this newsletter.

U21 GC nationals. To be held at United Saturday 16 to Tuesday 19 December.

NZ Open. To be held at United Saturday 20 to Sunday 28 January.

Clearing branches

If you clean up branches and twigs, especially around the central tree, please don't just drop them behind the seat. They can be put in the concrete bin through the gate next to lawn 6.

Club rooms duty roster

A new roster for cleaning the club rooms has been put up Wednesday 18 October. If you are on this roster, please check.

Sunday GC for new and recent players

Jeanette will be resuming the Sunday GC for new and recent players on Sunday 29th October, starting at 10am in the morning and 1pm for an afternoon session. If you are a recent player, or are still a bit unsure, you are welcome. You may come early and bring your lunch or come for just a half day.

Corporate events

The season for corporate events has started. They add several thousands of dollars to our income which helps keep our membership fees down.

It is very popular with many groups returning each year. It does require club members to show them the basics and guide them around the lawns. You don't need to be an expert player yourself.

The groups booked so far are (the number of helpers needed in brackets):

- Thur 9 Nov 3:30-6:15pm (6-7) Colliers
- Fri 10 Nov 3pm-7:30pm (10-12) Whitebait Media
- Sun 19 Nov 4pm on – details to come
- Tue 5 Dec 1-3pm (3-4) Phillipstown Older Adults Leisure Club
- Thur 7 Dec 2-6pm (5-6) ECAN
- Fri 8 Dec 2-7pm (5-6) Cunningham Lindsey
- Thur 14 Dec 10am-noon (4-5) Ch School of Medicine
- Fri 15 Dec 12:30-4:30pm (10-12) Crombie Lockwood

Car park permits

The Christchurch City Council provide a limited number of car park permits that allow holders to park in the public car park beyond the three-hour limit on weekdays.

The limited passes are allocated to committee and to those who have been members longest. If you did not provide your car registration you will not have been allocated a pass. If you would like one as they become available, or you have changed your car, please let John know.

During mid-week interclub matches, if you have a permit, please park in the public car park so visitors can park at the club.

Information on life member

Mrs W Kellaway was made a life member of United in 1963. One of her relatives, Brent Taylor, has asked if we have any information on her. If anyone knows please contact Brent on 021 379 749 or brentpdtdaylor@gmail.com.

Learning the rules

Starting with this newsletter I will be including an item explaining some aspect of the rules of croquet. To use the correct terminology that should be AC Laws and GC Rules, but I will use rules here to keep it simple. The Laws and Rules are in the yearbook which also has the tournament regulations, handicapping regulations details of all croquet associations and clubs in New Zealand, a list of all affiliated players and a calendar of tournament throughout NZ. The Laws and Rules are also published separately. I strongly recommend that you have ready access to the rules. You can buy a copy or use the club's copy.

This month's rule comes from observing that many people put the corner flags in the wrong position.

The boundary of the lawn is the edge of the painted line nearest the lawn and can also be a string. The corner flag should be placed so it just touches the two boundaries that meet at the corner as shown in the diagram.

AC and GC have different rules as to when a ball is out. In GC the ball is out if over half of the ball is over the lawn boundary. The ball is placed so that its centre is over the lawn boundary.

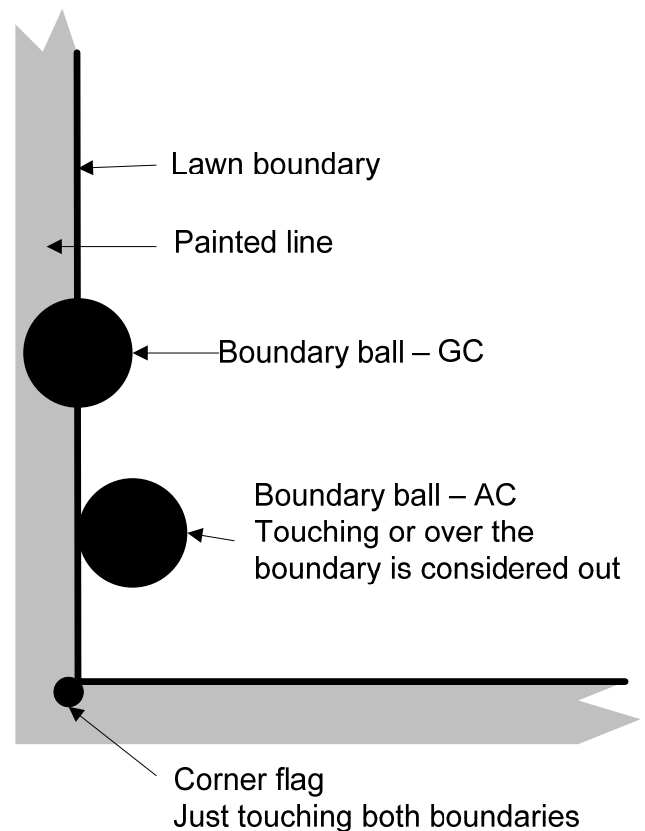
In AC a ball is out if any part of the ball is touching or over the lawn boundary. If it is not clear if the ball is out, there are prescribed methods to test. Ask someone if you want to learn how to do this test.

Lawns

The top-dressing with soil has finally been completed after further weather delays and mechanical problems.

All lawns have been marked out and are available to use. However, please use lawns 1 and 2 first and use the other lawns when these are already in use. Also, please check the lawn status board that is visible through the equipment shed window for any changes.

The lawns are still very soft after all the wet weather that we have had. Merely dropping your mallet, especially on its corner, can create an indentation. If this happens unintentionally, please use a key or something to lift the indentation and restore the turf.



Keeping up to date

Some online resources are:

unitedcroquet.com

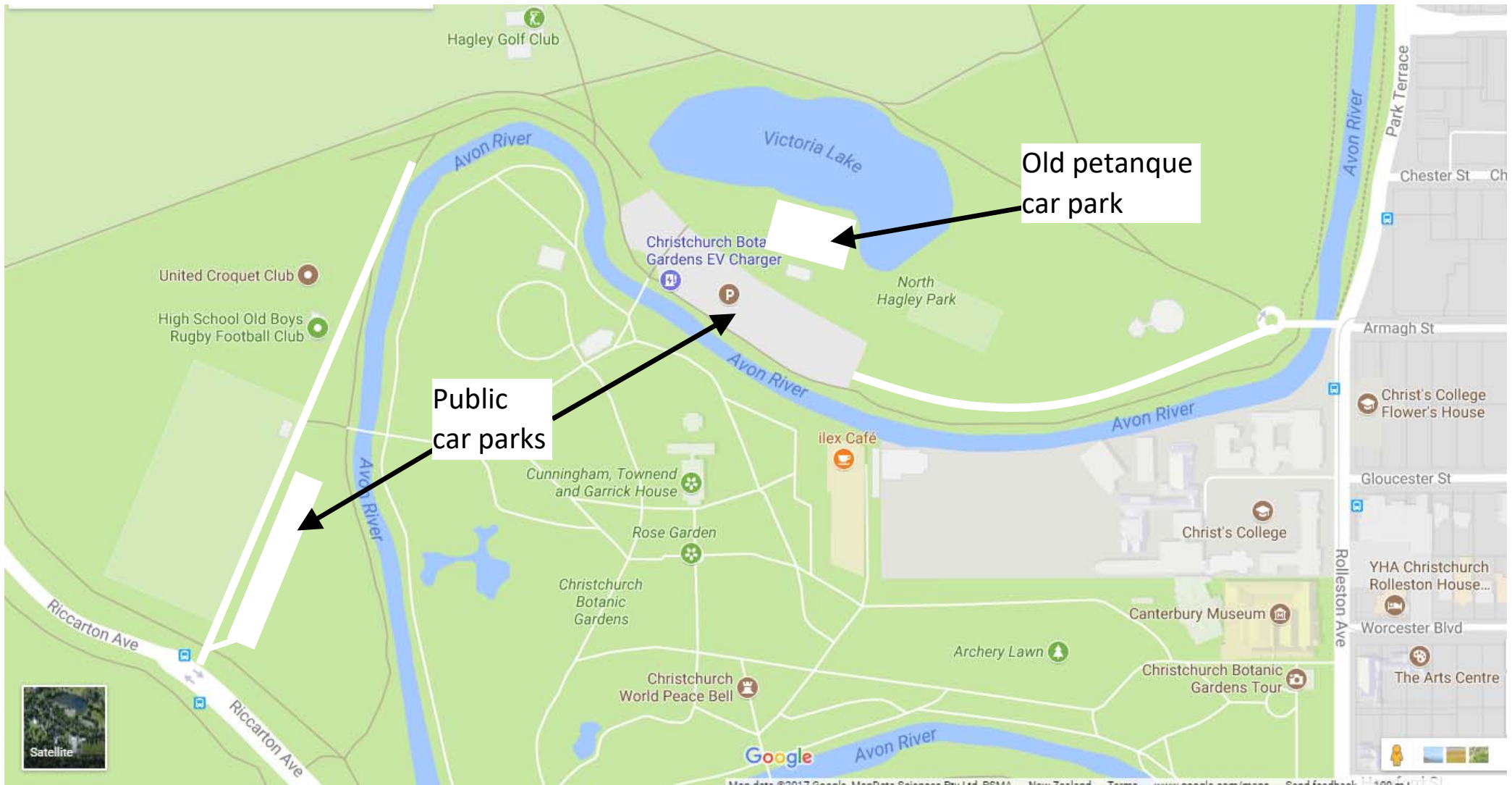
The club website. It includes a calendar of events and the next few events are listed on the right-hand side of every page.

canterburycroquet.com

The website of Canterbury (NZ) Croquet Association. It includes results, draws etc for interclub competitions, Johnson Memorial and association tournaments. It also has the CCA calendar for downloading. You can subscribe to receiving an email when updates are made to the site.

croquet.org.nz

The website for Croquet New Zealand.



United Croquet Club

Newsletter – November 2017

After the rain over the past few months the fine weather has arrived, and we can enjoy some croquet in the sun.

Get-together with Petanque

On Sunday 3 December we are having a get-together with our new petanque neighbours. It will start at 10am and we will play both petanque and croquet followed by drinks and food around noon. You can continue play in the afternoon.

Happy hours

At our last committee meeting it was decided that we would have a *Happy Hour* on the first and third Saturday of each month at 3.30pm. The first one is Saturday 18 November. We will provide some wine, drink and chips etc and hope many of you will be able to stay on after playing, or pop in anyway.

Annual club dinner

The club dinner will be on Saturday 16 December at Sally's home. Please Let Sally know by 13 December by putting your name on the list on the club notice board or call Sally at 355 3830 with the number attending and if you will bring:

- Meat/cold cuts,
- Vegetable dish/salad,
- Dessert, or
- Other, eg. nibbles

Congratulations to our patron

Our patron John Prince won the NZ Men's and Women's Mixed Doubles that was played at Rangatira Club in Dannevirke Wed 1 to Sun 5 November. His partner was Liz McLay, sister-in-law of club member Bruce. John is a life member of United and of Croquet New Zealand. He moved from Christchurch to Hawkes Bay a few years ago.

Club grade champs

Pam has done the draws for the club AC and GC grade competitions and put them on the notice board. These are level games and are to determine the representative we need to find for each grade to play in the Canterbury Silver Badge competitions.

Please start on these matches at any time now. The Canterbury finals will be played Sunday 18 February 2019 for AC and Sunday 25 March 2019 for GC>

GC club champs (handicap)

You have all done really well to almost completely finish these games in the block play. Pam will shortly arrange games for the best players in the blocks to play off.

The winner will represent the club in the Don Reyland Stars competition. The Canterbury play-off will be Sunday 4 February 2018 at Hornby. The National final will be at Fendalton Park 10/11 March 2018.

U21 GC nationals

Chris Clarke is managing the Under 21 nationals that starts Saturday 16 with coaching in the morning and doubles starting at 3:30pm. The doubles will finish on Sunday with the singles on Monday 18 and Tuesday 19 December.

Chris would like some helpers to set hoops, mark lines etc. We have a large corporate event on the afternoon before the tournament, so much of this will need to be done afterwards.

All members are invited to come and watch some impressive croquet.

NZ Open

Chris is also managing the NZ Open (AC) to be held at United from Saturday 20 to Sunday 28 January 2019.

Chris needs help with setting hoops, particularly on the afternoon of Friday 19 January for 4 hours. Lena will want help with catering.

Outside toilet

You will have noticed that the lock on the outside toilet has been changed with a combination lock.

This has been done so members of the North Hagley Sports Trust can access it. This applies particularly to petanque players who may not have access to toilets if it is not their club day.

After opening the door using the code in the morning, the door can be unlocked by turning the lever on the inside vertical. Use the upper bolt during the day that will indicate vacant/occupied on the outside.

At the end of the day, remember to lock the door by turning the level horizontal.

Afternoon teas

On the first Wednesday of each month at 3pm we will have afternoon tea. Volunteers will provide food. There is a list on notice board to put your name for providing food.

Clearing branches

If you clean up branches and twigs, especially around the central tree, please don't just drop them behind the seat. They can be put in the concrete bin through the gate next to lawn 6.

Club days

On club days we have organised play from 1pm. Please arrive at least 10 minutes beforehand so the club captain can arrange a draw.

Coaching

From October, on first Wednesday of each month Chris Clarke will run a coaching session starting at 10:30am starting.

Both AC and GC will be covered. Chris will cover topics that members want, so if you have a specific requirement email Chris.

Sunday GC for new and recent players

Jeanette will be resuming the Sunday GC for new and recent players on Sunday 29th October, starting at 10am in the morning and 1pm for an afternoon session. If you are a recent player, or are still a bit unsure, you are welcome. You may come early and bring your lunch or come for just a half day.

Corporate events

Corporate events are now under way. They add several thousands of dollars to our income which helps keep our membership fees down.

Maurice Cook is arranging members who can help at each event. Many thanks to the members who are helping.