

United Croquet Club

Newsletter – April 2018

The summer season is nearly over and competitions have been completed. However, we will still continue playing through winter as long as the weather permits.

Club closing day

Our club closing day will be on Saturday 7 April. We will have a BBQ at noon and play in the afternoon.

The club will supply steak, fish and sausages and ice cream and cream. Can members also bring a salad or dessert.

This will mark the end of the official playing season. Play will continue through winter as long as the weather permits.

CCA closing day

The CCA closing day will be on Sunday 15 April. Further details will be provided.

Cups and badges for CCA events will be handed out.

Club AGM and lunch

Our club AGM will be held at 10:30am on Saturday 19 May. This will be followed by a club dinner at Chateau on the Park. A booking sheet will be put on the notice board. Partners are welcome.

Nominations are called for the committee - President, Vice president, Secretary, Treasurer, Captain, Vice-Captain and four committee. Nomination forms are on the notice board and will be sent out with this newsletter.

Fridge

Jeanette's email

New members

Hoops

Trust bar

United Croquet is a member of the North Hagley Sports Trust which was formed in 2017 and has the lease on the area formerly leased by the United Bowling Club. This includes the main part of the building and the petanque terrain.

On Saturdays the bar will be open selling drinks and hot food from ?? to ???.

Under terms of the trust's licence, alcohol purchased at the bar must be consumed on the Trust's premises.

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.

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.

United Croquet Club

Newsletter – April 2018 – Part 2

The summer season is now over. However, we will still continue playing through winter as long as the weather permits. And the grass still grows even if it has slowed.

Club closing day

Our club closing day for the summer season was on Saturday 7 April.



The club provided salmon, BBQ steak and sausages and ice cream and cream in appreciation for the work that many members have done to keep the club running and helping at corporate events. With salads and deserts supplied by members we had a very tasty lunch.

Repairs to round shelter.

The round shelter between lawns 2, 3 and 4 needs repair. This involves removing rust and repainting.

If you can help, please contact Les on 384 4523 or rosew6@hotmail.com.

Club AGM and lunch

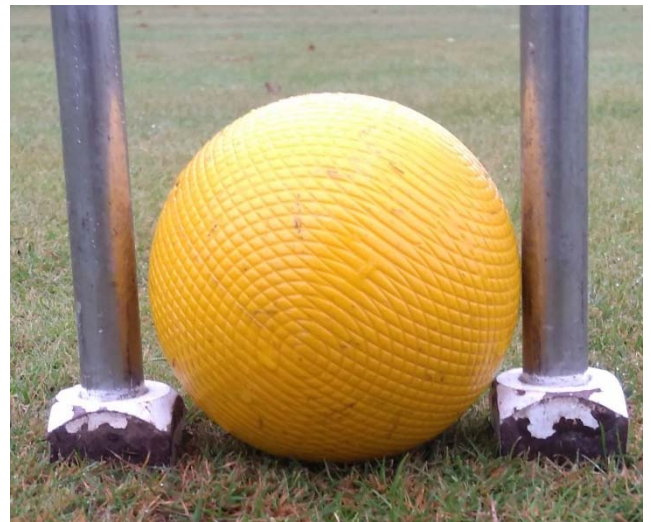
Our club AGM will be held at 10:30am on Saturday 19 May. This will be followed by a club dinner at Chateau on the Park. A booking sheet is on the notice board. Partners are welcome.

Nominations are called for the committee - President, Vice president, Secretary, Treasurer, Captain, Vice-Captain and up to four committee.

Hoops

When putting in hoops they don't have to be hammered in until the tops of the carrots are flush with the ground. They should be pushed in only until they are firm. As they are used, and the hole is worn, they will need to be pushed in further. By starting with then proud, they will last longer before they need to be moved.

The rules allow for at least a half-inch (13mm) tolerance and they won't interfere with the ball.



If you must use a mallet to put in hoops, use only a rubber mallet and hit them only over the wire.



The top crown on one set of hoops has a slight bow which means that the vertical wires are no longer vertical. Careful use will ensure that they last longer.

Communication

There are several ways that you can receive information on croquet apart from notices from the club captain and secretary.

The club website: <https://unitedcroquet.com/>

There is a club calendar that shows events at the club. There is a link below the calendar that you can use to make the calendar available on your phone or computer.

The CCA website: <https://croquetcanterbury.com/> for details of all Canterbury Association competitions. You can also subscribe to the CCA blog where Canterbury notices are published. In the right-hand panel enter your email in the *Follow this blog* field.

The Croquet New Zealand website:
<http://croquet.org.nz/>

The World Croquet Federation website:
<http://www.worldcroquet.org.uk/>

Leaves

Autumn is coming, and leaves are starting to fall. Cleaning leaves from the fence is an ongoing task. If you have a few minutes to spare feel free to take a leaf rack from the equipment shed and clean up some leaves. They can be disposed of in the concrete bin through the gate next to lawn 6.

If this is done often, it does not become a major exercise. If the leaves are not removed it can kill the grass as well as being untidy.

Fridge

Remember to remove any personal food that you put in the fridge. If you want it kept, write on it who it belongs to. Otherwise it is likely to be removed.

Trust bar open Saturdays

United Croquet is a member of the North Hagley Community, Sports and Recreation Trust which was formed in 2017 and has the lease on the area formerly leased by the United Bowling Club. This includes the main part of the building and the petanque terrain. Current Trust members are United Croquet, High School Old Boys Rugby, High School Touch and Christchurch Petanque.

On Saturdays the bar will be open selling drinks and hot food from 4:30pm.

Under terms of the trust's licence, alcohol purchased at the bar must be consumed on the Trust's premises which does not include the croquet grounds.

New members

We have been a bit lax in welcoming new members. For that I apologise. A welcome pack for new members is available at the club and can be sent to any member who wants one. Printed copies of the phone list are available at the club.

Corporate events

We are still getting the occasional corporate event. Many thanks to members who have helped out with them. They add several thousands of dollars to our income which helps keep our membership fees down. Corporate event income this season has been \$8800. This represents \$154 for each full member.

And helping at corporate events is only a small part of the volunteer effort required to keep the club running, including line marking, catering, gardening, maintenance, managing tournament and lawn mowing (about 200 hours each year)

United Croquet Club

Newsletter – June 2018

We are definitely into winter now with more rain and less sun and a few heavy frosts. However, we will still continue playing through winter as long as the weather permits.

Mid-winter GC fun day

Our newly-formed social sub-committee has arranged a Mid-winter Golf Croquet Fun Day on Saturday 30th June.

Numbers are now such that they will be using all lawns. However, there are a few places left. If you are interested, contact Jeanette Allison on 027 209 7767 or jeanettebill@gmail.com.

Working Bee

We are planning a working bee on Saturday 4 August with an alternative of 11 August in case of bad weather.

This is a chance to get the club lawns, rooms, gardens and sheds tidy and clean for the new season.

More details will follow.

Club opening day

Our summer season opening day will be Saturday 1 September. This will include a captain's talk telling us about events for the coming season, a shared lunch, and play.

More details will follow

Trust bar

United Croquet is a member of the North Hagley Sports Trust which was formed in 2017 and has the lease on the area formerly leased by the United Bowling Club. This includes the main part of the building and the petanque terrain.

On Saturdays the bar will be open selling drinks and hot food from 4pm to 9pm.

United weekend tournaments

We will be running two Spring tournaments early in the season.

The United Spring GC Tournament will be on Sunday 16th September with an Open Singles and a Handicap Singles event. Entries to the manager Tony O'Donnell by 9th September.

The United Spring AC Tournament will be on Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th September with an Open Singles and a Handicap Singles event. Entries to the manager Chris Clarke by 22nd September.

These are a good way to improve you play and get into the swing of the new season.

Interclubs and other competitions

We have our usual tournaments, Johnsons (AC), AC interclub, GC interclub, AC knock-out and GC knock-out, starting around the beginning of October. Notices are on the notice board outlining the competition times and for you to enter your name.

Feel free to discuss your participation with club captain, Pam Hurst, or with any committee member.

New members' information

The information pack for new members is currently being updated and a lot more information will be included on happenings at the club and other information of interest to members. I will then be of use to all members.

Parking

Several years ago, when the United Bowling Club was next door, we had use of only a few car parks. The bowling club were vigilant that we did not encroach on their car parks. When they closed, our members have become used to having virtually exclusive use of all the car parks.

Now that we have new neighbours (High School Old Boys' Rugby, Petanque and Hagley Touch) we now have to share the parks again.

While most rugby players have been requested to park elsewhere, there are a number, including the club manager, committee members and others who have work to do at and around the club rooms who legitimately park in the car park. Please be considerate, and don't assume that any unknown car is parked without authority.

The trust has agreed that we are not going to allocate certain parks to certain clubs as, when we have a club day when the others don't, we can use all parks and vice versa. This makes best use of the limited parks.

Parking is very limited but, because we are in a public park, the prospect of additional parks is minimal.

Under terms of the trust's licence, alcohol purchased at the bar must be consumed on the Trust's premises.

Outside toilet

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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.

Your committee

After our AGM in May, the new committee is:

President	Philippa Porter	nandpporter@xtra.co.nz	35843930210403408
Vice-president	Sally Jeffcott	jeffcott@xtra.co.nz	355

nt	t		38300275544057
Secretary	John Yarrall	jyarrall@xtra.co.nz	32578550274079036
Treasurer	Tony O'Donnell	evonne_tony@hotmail.com	3586422
Captain	Pam Hurst	pmhurst@gmail.com	3581991021304948
Vice-Captain	Heather Ponder	jmponder@xtra.co.nz	33725540274385710
Committee	Bruce McLay	brucemxihug@gmail.com	358016602205048

			37
Les Willis	rosew6@hotmail.com		38
			4
			45
			23
Mary Morrison	mjmorrison@xtra.co.nz		35
			5
			95
			10
			02
			1
			08
			26
			71
			33

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.

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.

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.

United Croquet Club

Newsletter – July 2018

Preparations are under way for the summer season with working bees, opening day and spring tournaments.

Caring for our lawns

During winter our lawns can become very soft, so it is important to be careful not to damage them. Just dropping your mallet or dragging it when walking can leave large dents. If you do leave such marks, please try to repair the damage, by lifting the soil where you made the dent. A car key works fine. It has been great seeing so many of our members caring for our property over the winter.

Mid-winter GC fun day

40 folks enjoyed the mid-winter event with lunch, some progressive golf croquet, and finally a special afternoon tea.

Working Bee

We are planning a working bee on Saturday 4 August with an alternative of 11 August in case of bad weather.

This is a chance to get the club lawns, rooms, gardens and sheds tidy and clean for the new season.

The working bee will start at 9:30 with BBQ sausage and mulled wine at noon followed by play. Most of the work needed is in the garden and around the fence, so bring your old clothes and bring garden tools.

Club opening day

Our summer season opening day will be Saturday 1 September. This will include a captain's talk telling us about events for the coming season, a shared lunch, and play.

There will be a brief captain's talk at noon followed by a shared lunch and play in the afternoon. BBQ sausages will be provided. Please bring a salad or desert.

United spring tournaments

We will be running two Spring tournaments early in the season.

The United Spring GC Tournament will be on Sunday 16th September with an Open Singles and a Handicap Singles event. Entries to the manager Tony O'Donnell by 9th September.

The United Spring AC Tournament will be on Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th September with an Open Singles and a Handicap Singles event. Entries to the manager Chris Clarke by 22nd September.

These events are a good way to improve you play and get into the swing of the new season.

Club Doubles Trophy

From Pam

During September on the Saturdays 8th, 15th and 22nd we will run a doubles grades competition. Pam has sorted players all out into pairs according to the grades: 5 or less, 6 to 10 and 11 to 16.

There will be a draw posted on the board early next week - in plenty of time!

The first Division will play a round robin competition. The other two divisions will play a knock out competition. Therefore, half of you will only play one game! There will be three trophies awarded to the three division winners.

On Wednesdays Heather and I intend to have some organised play and making sure we all know the rules (there are a few small new ones), and perhaps some socializing.

Club phone

For many years the club has had a landline phone and more recently internet was added for use during tournaments, so results can be put online. This cost \$85 per month (\$1020pa).

Also, in the last few months there have been multiple failures of the phone line which are very inconvenient to get fixed as someone must remain at the club waiting for the repair person.

The phone line has been removed and replaced by a mobile phone. The new number is 028 414 5730. The phone has access to phone numbers of all United members, presidents, secretaries and club captains of all Canterbury clubs and of the CCA executive. You can search by a person's name or the name of their club. It is uncertain how regularly this will be kept up to date.

The phone is an Android device. If you want instructions on using it, just ask. Press the small button on the right-hand side to wake it up.

Members won't be charged for using the phone, but this may be reviewed if usage is excessive.

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.

Interclubs and other competitions

Club captain, Pam Hurst, is trying to organise teams for the Johnsons Memorial (AC), AC interclub and GC interclub, starting around the beginning of October.

If you have not spoken to Pam about playing in these competitions, please phone or email her urgently.

United Croquet Club

Newsletter – August 2018

The summer season is fast approaching and there are several things happening. Some are very important to understand so please read this newsletter carefully.

Moving hoops

You will have noticed some big rabbit runs on some lawns.

We will have a session moving hoops on Monday 20 August, starting at 10am. If you can't make it at 10, you can come later.

This will also be a training session on putting in hoops, so if you want to learn, come along.

If you think you might come, please let me know.

Club opening day

Our summer season opening day will be Saturday 1 September. This will include a captain's talk telling us about events for the coming season, a shared lunch, and play.

There will be a brief captain's talk at noon followed by a shared lunch and play in the afternoon. BBQ sausages will be provided. Please bring a salad or desert.

Changes to the GC Rules

The fifth edition of the GC Rules have been approved by the World Croquet Federation and will apply in New Zealand from the start of the season. It is therefore very important to understand the changes, especially if you are playing in interclub or other competitions.

The new GC Rules will be in the full yearbook that should be delivered before the end of August. Some members have ordered their own copy and there will be one in the club.

Orders for the separate GC Rules booklet must be with the secretary by Monday 20 August. It will be a pocket-sized format (10.5 x 14.8 cm) and will cost \$7.50. They should be delivered in September. A copy can be downloaded from the Croquet NZ website croquet.org.nz. Click *About Us* on the menu, then *Yearbook*. Alternatively, you can download it

from the latest blog on the club website or under *News* in the right-hand column.

A document summarising the changes and a longer document giving the rationale are also available. A shorter, simpler explanation may also be produced. See the latest blog on the club's website at unitedcroquet.com.

On Wednesday 5th September, starting at 12:45pm, Philippa will talk about the changes.

Wednesdays during September

We will organise sessions as follows for Wednesdays starting at 12:45pm. The intention is to brush up on technicalities before interclub matches.

Wed 5 Sept 15 min talk by Philippa about changes to the GC Rules.

Wed 12 Sept Coaching by Chris, starting 1pm, including how to use extra turns.

Wed 19 Sept Progressive play.

Wed 26 Sept Mix-up day. Draw names from hat. Prizes.

Saturdays during September

On Saturdays we will run a doubles competition. Division 1 will be a round robin and divisions 2 and 3 will be knock-outs. We will need only three Saturdays (8, 15 & 22). We possibly will also revisit the rules and filling in AHS cards etc.

Details are on the notice board.

Car passes

During the working week, there is a three-hour time limit on parking in the public car park next to tennis. The council provide us with car passes that allow us to park more than the three hours. This is handy for events such as interclub. As our car parking is very limited please let our guests park near the club and park members' cars in the public park.

If you have given me your car registration, I should have a pass for you. If you want a pass, please let me know your registration number.

Corporate events

Corporate events have been a good income for the club and are also good publicity for croquet. They are one way that we can keep our subs at their current level.

Bookings are starting to come in for this season and we will need club members to help out. You don't need to be an expert. You just need to be able to guide the players the correct way around the lawn.

Maurice has been organising helpers for some years and this year Jeanette Allison and Lena Metcalf will do it.

Website

Remember that we have a club website at unitedcroquet.com. I try and keep it up to date, but it takes time to assemble the information. If you wish to contribute, or have specific suggestions, please let me know. Don't worry about the technical details about putting it on the website – I can do that.

I have started putting information that may be of use to members. This includes the lawn usage sheet, Standard Operating Procedures and Equipment Manuals. Some of this information is incomplete. If you want to contribute, or have specific requests, let me know.

Other links are:

CCA - croquetcanterbury.com

Croquet NZ – croquet.org.nz

Clarke Croquet (learning resources)–
clarkecroquet.com

World Croquet Federations - worldcroquet.org.uk

Updating business cards

A few months ago we produced some business cards with the club contact details and the 7-point game we use for corporate events.

Now that we have changed our phone, the cards are out of date. If you want to help out in a tedious job, you can alter some of the cards by hand.

Working Bee

We had a successful working bee on Saturday 4 August and managed to do the majority of tasks.

Thanks to the many members who help out..

United spring tournaments

We will be running two Spring tournaments early in the season.

The United Spring GC Tournament will be on Sunday 16th September with an Open Singles and a Handicap Singles event. Entries to the manager Tony O'Donnell by 9th September.

The United Spring AC Tournament will be on Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th September with an Open Singles and a Handicap Singles event. Entries to the manager Chris Clarke by 22nd September.

These events are a good way to improve you play and get into the swing of the new season.

END OF NEWSLETTER

United Croquet Club

Newsletter – October 2018

The season is well under way and we have a busy time leading up to Christmas.

United Spring GC tournament

United's Spring GC Tournament returned this year as a one-day tournament, involving both open and handicap events and jointly managed by Tony O'Donnell (also playing) and Chris Clarke.

Four players contested the open event, played as a double round robin. Jenny Clarke of United won with a 6-0 scoreline and Tony O'Donnell (also United) took second place with three wins.

With ten entries, the handicap event was played as two blocks of five, followed by playoffs between equivalent place-getters in each block to decide overall standings. Half of the entries were young players from Cashmere Croquet Club.

Both Josh Winter (Cashmere) and Bruce McLay (United) were unbeaten in their respective blocks. In the playoff Josh was untroubled to triumph 7-0 in the playoff for first, with second place going to Bruce.

A thank you to Margaret Stoddart Retirement Village for sponsoring the event and the AC Spring Tournament in two weeks.

Full results are on Croquet Scores and more photos on the blog.



Flynn Moses-Jones (Cashmere) 3rd in handicap.
James Duggan (Cashmere) 4th in handicap. Tony O'Donnell, runner-up open. Bruce McLay (United) runner-up handicap. Jenny Clarke (United) winner open. Josh Winter (Cashmere) winner handicap

United Spring AC tournament

United's Spring AC Tournament returned this year with open and handicap events on Saturday 29 and Sunday September 2018 and was managed by Chris Clarke.

The weather on Saturday was glorious but there was a chilly wind on Sunday morning which died down for the afternoon.

Both the open and handicap had six entries from nine clubs in Canterbury and South Canterbury. Both events were played as round robins. Jenny Clarke of United was unbeaten to win the open event. John Yarrall of United was runner-up, losing only to Jenny. Ian Campbell of Barrington Park was third.

Kaleb Small of Waireka, South Canterbury won four of his five games to win the event and earn a handicap reduction. Bruce McLay of United, Lyn Dawson of Elmwood and Trish Dollan of Waimate, South Canterbury, had three wins, but Bruce was runner-up on net points.

A thank you to Margaret Stoddart Retirement Village for sponsoring the event and the GC Spring Tournament held two weeks ago.

Full results for the open and the handicap are on Croquet Scores.



Handicap place-getters: Lyn Dawson (3rd), Bruce McLay (2nd), Kaleb Small (first)

Open place-getters: Jenny Clarke (first), Ian Campbell (3rd) and John Yarrall (2nd)

Club GC Doubles Competition

The Golf Croquet doubles competition was held over a few weeks in September 2018 organised by club captain Pam Hurst.

The premier division (0-6) had three pairs and was played as a block. Tony O'Donnell and Bruce McLay won their two games to win the event.



The intermediate division (7-11) was played as a knockout and was won by Lena Metcalf and Lovena Sparks.



The primary division (12-16) was also played as a knockout and was won by Libby and John Dickie.



What's coming

AC Interclub and GC Interclub have started and Johnson starts this Saturday. Results are on CroquetScores. If you can't find them, you can get to them from the CCA website.

Pages below refer to the full yearbook.

Wed 17 Oct 12:20pm: GC Coaching by Chris based on things he saw during the first week of the interclub.

Sun 28 Oct: CCA GC Handicap Singles at Cashmere. Entries to Chris Clarke by 19 Oct. There is currently only one United member entered. Page 350.

Sun 25 Nov: CCA GC Handicap Doubles at United. Entries to Tony O'Donnell by 16 Nov. Page 350.

Wed 5 Dec: Extended afternoon tea. Details to follow.

Sun 9 Dec: Get-together with Petanque.

Wed 12–Sun 16 Dec: South Island AC Champs. Includes doubles, open, 0–3 and 4+. Page 311.

Handicap changes for Association Croquet

The handicap system for AC has been changed and most players will have had their AC handicap changed for this season. If yours has not been changed see our club handicapper, Mary Morrison, before you play any AC games in a competition.

This change aligns New Zealand handicaps with those in Australia and the UK. That means, if you are playing someone from those countries, you can use your AHS card as you normally do.

You can still use your existing card to record games, but all the tables have changed. A copy of the new tables is on the notice board.

You can download the new AHS card under the members' information on our website (see below). A stock of new AC AHS cards is also available.

Handicap change for Golf Croquet

There has been a small change to the handicapping system for GC. It affects only the index point changes for level doubles games.

This means that the small table on the GC AHS cards is out of date. The new table is in the new GC Rules and stickers are available to update the table. As CNZ still has a large stock of the old cards this will apply if you start a new card.

Alternatively, you can just update the left-hand column in the table.

Changes to the GC Rules

You have been told about the fifth edition of the GC Rules that now apply in New Zealand. This edition introduces a number of significant changes.

If you ordered a copy of the new rules and have not received it, please see John. If you did not order a copy, the club has several spare copies that can be purchased for \$7.50.

A copy can be downloaded from the Croquet NZ website croquet.org.nz. Click *About Us* on the menu, then *Yearbook*. Alternatively, you can download it from the blog on the club website at unitedcroquet.com/2018/08/15/new-gc-rules/.

Also available is a two-page document summarising the changes and a longer document giving the rationale.

The latest addition are the official rulings issued in October. None of these rulings will affect the way the game is normally played. Some are clarifications and others deal with unusual situations.

Corporate events

Corporate events have been a good income for the club and are also good publicity for croquet. They are one way that we can keep our subs at their current level.

Bookings are starting to come in for this season and we will need club members to help. You don't need to be an expert. You just need to be able to guide the players the correct way around the lawn.

Jeanette Alison and Lena Metcalf will be organising helpers, so you might hear from them.

Car passes

During the working week, there is a three-hour time limit on parking in the public car park next to tennis. The council provide us with car passes that allow us to park more than the three hours. This is handy for events such as interclub. As our car parking is very limited please let our guests park near the club and park members' cars in the public park.

There is a larger public park off the Armagh Street entrance to Hagley Park. It is 400m from the club.

If you have given me your car registration, I should have a pass for you. If you want a pass, please let me know your registration number.

Club Shirts

Many members now have their new club shirts.

This has improved the appearance of our teams at competitions.

If you wish to order a shirt, see Mary. Cost is \$35.

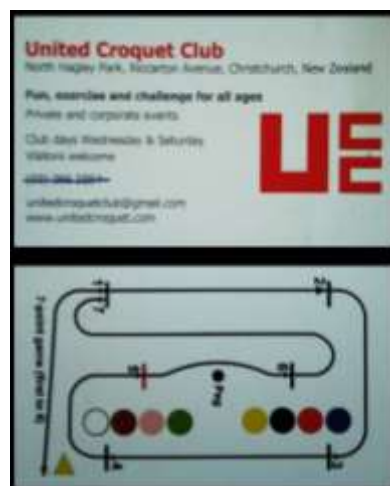


Promoting croquet

The committee is always looking out for ways to promote croquet. We have signs on the fence, our website, listings on directories such as CINCH etc.

All club members are the best ambassadors for the game. When you are talking to friends and family tell them about the game and invite them along.

We have printed business cards with contact details and the 7-point game that we use for corporate events. Feel free to take several and hand them out.



We also have a sign that is kept in the equipment shed. It should be put out at the gate on club days and returned when packing up.



Website

Remember that we have a club website at unitedcroquet.com. I try and keep it up to date, but it takes time to assemble the information. If you wish to contribute, or have specific suggestions, please let me know. Don't worry about the technical details about putting it on the website – I can do that.

A blog on the site gives information about tournaments and other events. Click *Blog* on the menu or see the last few blog posts under *Latest News* in the right-hand column of every page.

Some of the recent changes to our website are:

1. You can now subscribe to blog notifications by email. Enter your email address under *Subscribe to this blog* and you will receive a copy of each new blog by email. This is similar to subscribing to the blog on the CCA website, but of course is for blog posts for our club, not for Canterbury.
2. A new page (under *About, Getting There*) gives options to get to the club by foot, bus and by car.
3. A new page contains information that may be of use to members. This includes the lawn usage sheet, GC Rules, AC Laws and AHS cards that can be downloaded, Standard Operating Procedures and Equipment Manuals. Some of this information is incomplete. If you want to contribute, or have specific requests, let me know.

Other pages will be added, including one for school croquet.

Other links that you might find useful are:

CCA - croquetcanterbury.com

Croquet NZ – croquet.org.nz

Clarke Croquet (learning resources)–
clarkecroquet.com

World Croquet Federations - worldcroquet.org.uk

CroquetScores – croquetscores.com

Control of weeds

The short working bee on Saturday 15 September removed three large buckets of weeds from our lawns. The weather was great, and everyone enjoyed the pizza afterwards.

Jenny and others have been picking over weeds that weren't removed at the working bee.

The area between lawns 1 and 2 still have a very large number of starweed. This is particularly difficult to remove. Few herbicides are effective, and the roots are almost impossible to remove cleanly. Each plant has dozens of very fine roots and the smallest piece left will regrow.

Chris has arranged to do a trial on starweed control. You will notice that the area between lawns 1 and 2 has been marked into strips. A different treatment will be applied to each strip, including Banvine, Grazon and others.

Please leave this area alone so the trial can proceed undisturbed.