

United Croquet Club

Newsletter – January 2020

We have not sent out a newsletter for a while, so there are several things to catch up on. Pam has been keeping us informed with her emails and notices.

Al Noor Mosque

We have invited members of the Al Noor Mosque to join us for croquet and socialising on Sunday 26 January. They are our neighbours (less than 10 minutes' walk) and this will be an opportunity for our communities to get to know each other better.

The plan at this stage is that they will arrive at 2pm, we will all play golf croquet for an hour or so and then break for afternoon tea and socialising. After that the keen ones may continue playing.

We may also need to put out the wide hoops if children come along. Partners, children and grandchildren are also welcome.

When we have further details finalised, I will send a further notice.

If you expect to come, please let John Yarrall know to assist with the planning at jyarrall@xtra.co.nz.

Twilight

On Wednesday evenings, from 22nd January to 26 February, we will have twilight croquet. We are trying to get people who have played croquet at corporate events to come back and play in a fun and friendly competition. Members and non-members are welcome including partners. The cost is \$2 for United members, and \$5 for anyone else, and will include pizza.

There is a link on the home page of the club website to the twilight site at <https://unitedcroquet.weebly.com/>

Happy hours

On the third Saturday of the month there will be a happy hour after play. Everyone is welcome and drinks and some food is provided for free.

Social afternoon teas

We will continue our afternoon teas on the first Wednesday of each month where refreshments are provided. You can continue to socialise or resume playing afterwards.

Welcome

Welcome to the members who have joined since the last newsletter:

Louis Inglewood, Cheryl and Jim Hopley
Annette Smale, Steve Costigan, Levi Franks, Joshua Winter, Myles Duggan and James Duggan.

The last five are associates or Junior Associates who are also members at other clubs.

Maud Trainor

The Maud Trainor golf croquet competition is on the Fridays of 31 January, 14, 21 and 28 February.

This is a very relaxed and social competition limited to players 60 years and over. It starts at 9:30am with a 13-point handicap game followed by a well-catered morning tea and socialising followed by a second game. It will be played at United unless numbers require a second venue.

You don't have to come every week, so it need not interfere with other commitments. However, if you want to be in for a prize, you must play at least 6 of the 8 games.

Maud was a significant presence in Canterbury croquet. She played well into her 90s and was CCA president. She set up and funded this competition and stipulated that prizes must be *useful*.

The manager, Tony O'Donnell, has advised that we now have a full field.

Carol Hayward

The Carol Hayward association croquet competition is on the Tuesdays of 28 January, 11, 18 February, 3, 10 and 17 March.

This is a very relaxed and social competition limited to players 60 years and over. It starts at 9:30am with one two and a half-hour game with break for a well-

catered morning tea and socialising. It will be played at United unless numbers require a second venue.

You don't have to come every week, so it need not interfere with other commitments. However, if you want to be in for a prize, you must play at least 5 of the 6 games.

The competition is in memory of Carol Hayward QSM of Elmwood Croquet Club. Carol was very active in Canterbury croquet including running winter indoor croquet. Carol died October 2009 and the Carol Hayward Competition started early 2010.

Entries to the manager, Tony O'Donnell evonne_tony@hotmail.com or 358 6422.

Agnes Dick

This is a CCA doubles handicap AC tournament. It is intended that a low-handicap player pair with a less-experienced player. One player must have a handicap of 10 or more and the combined handicaps must be 12 or more.

It will be played at Elmwood on Monday 24 and Tuesday 25 February.

Entries close 14 February with the manager Philippa Porter nandpporter@xtra.co.nz or 358 4393.

CCA GC Grades Tournament

The CCA GC Grades will be played at St Martins and Cashmere on Thursday 6 February (Waitangi Day).

Entries close 27 January with the manager, Chris Clarke, at chrisd4clarke@hotmail.com or 385 5957.

CCA GC Handicap Singles Tournament

The CCA GC Handicap will be played Fendalton Park on Sunday 23 February.

Entries close 14 February with the manager, Vilna Gough-Jones at fendaltonparkcroquet@gmail.com or 804 5784.

Corporate events

A big thank you to all the members who have helped with corporate events. As well as introducing croquet to hundreds of people it provides a significant income for the club. We have earned over \$7600 so far this season with at least four more events to come. This compares to the \$12,000 that we have spent on lawns this season.

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Thanks to Jeanette for organising the helpers.

Soil bin

Les and his team have completed the soil bin.

Over the years, the soil stored there has spread out making it hard to keep tidy. The bin will allow us to tidy up this area keep it tidy.

The area around the bin will be prepared for sowing in grass in autumn.

Ball barriers will be installed to protect balls that hit the bin. Barriers will also be installed along the fence from the club house to the shelter at lawn 5 so balls will not disappear through the fence.

Margaret Stoddart Visit

Margaret Stoddart Retirement village sponsors two of our tournaments in September. A van load of folk came to play croquet on 7th November. On 20th November they provided our monthly afternoon tea.

Roundup of results

Our members have had several successes this season.

GC World Teams Championship

The GC World Team championship was played between teams of four players each in Nelson 6–12 January.

Youth is to the forefront with the oldest Egyptian being 31 and the defending champions, New Zealand, having a team under 30.

All four of the New Zealand team have won the Under 21 World Golf Croquet Championship Josh Freeth (2015), Felix Webby (2017), Edmund Fordyce (2019) and Duncan Dixon won the 2009 inaugural event in Cairo. Three of the team are from United.

They beat Egypt in the final to win the event. Results are at <https://croquetscores.com/2020/gc/world-teams-championship-4>

The final was live streamed on Sky Sport Next on their YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaOvfE-4N9pm_36a2NYB8yw/featured. The two days of video are still available.

Sweden v Canterbury Under 17

The Swedish team spent some time at United before the world champs. On Thursday 2 January Josh

Winter, Myles Duggan, Levi Franks and James Duggan played the Swedes winning 4 games to 2. All four are Junior Associate members at United. Results are at <https://croquetscores.com/2020/gc/sweden-v-canterbury-u17>.

Australia Nationals

Jenny Clarke won the Australian Doubles AC and the Australian Open in November. Results are at: <https://croquetscores.com/2019/ac/aust-doubles-champ> and <https://croquetscores.com/2019/ac/aust-singles-champ>

GC Nationals

Chris Clarke and Josh Winter won the GC National doubles held at Epsom/Remuera club starting 30 November. Edmund Fordyce was runner-up in the singles. Results are at <https://croquetscores.com/2019/gc/cnz-nationals-4>

Arthur Ross

Cheryl Hopley won the club playoff with John Hearnshaw, Tony O'Donnell and John Yarrall to represent United at the Canterbury playoffs at Rangiora on 2 February.

The Arthur Ross is an AC handicap competition where club representatives play an association event to select the association representative at the national final. This year the final is in Dunedin starting 28 February.

NZ Open

The NZ AC Open started in Wellington Saturday 18 January. Edmund Fordyce and Greg Bryant are to play in the doubles final Monday. Josh Freeth & Felix Webby reached the semi-finals. Results are at: <https://croquetscores.com/2020/ac/nz-open-championship>. The singles start Tuesday 21st.

Margaret Stoddart GC tournament

Because of the number of entries this tournament was expanded to two days with open played Saturday 14 September and the handicap played on Sunday.

In the Open Duncan Dixon won all his games, Josh Freeth was runner-up and Claire Horncastle 5th equal. Results are at:

<https://croquetscores.com/2019/gc/spring-tournament-united>.

Margaret Stoddart AC tournament

This event was played Saturday/Sunday 18/29 September. Greg Bryant won the Open with Josh Freeth coming third. In the handicap event Bruce McLay was second with two others. Results are at: <https://croquetscores.com/2019/ac/united-spring-tournaments>.

CNZ SI GC Championships

The CNZ South Island GC tournament was held at United Thursday 17 to Sunday 20 October.

In the doubles United members Duncan Dixon and Josh Freeth won over Josh Winter and Levi Franks in the final – all Canterbury players.

In the singles Logan McCorkindale (Marlborough) defeated Josh Freeth in the final. Duncan Dixon reached the semi-final. Results are at: <https://croquetscores.com/2019/gc/cnz-south-is-champs>.

CNZ SI AC Championship

This event was scheduled to be held by South Canterbury but was transferred to St James, Cashmere and Barrington who were all able to offer their facilities at the last minute. In the Open Doubles competition at St James, Chris Clarke and Katheen Colclough won all their five games, second were our student players Edmund Fordyce and Chris Spittal winning 4 and third were Greg Bryant and John Yarrall, winning 3, so good results for United. In the Open AC Singles, the order was Felix Webby, Logan McCorkindale in a field of 7 players at Cashmere. And finally, the 0-3.5 HC results at Barrington, saw William Rush winning the most games with Josh Winter runner-up. No United members were playing in this section. Results are at: <https://croquetscores.com/2019/ac/cnz-84th-si-champs>.

United Croquet Club

Newsletter – February 2020

Patron

John Prince had been our patron for many years. As he has moved away, he felt that it was not appropriate that he remain patron.

Roger Murfitt, another life member, has agreed to be our new patron. We welcome Roger to that role.

Roger and John are life members of United Croquet Club, CCA and Croquet New Zealand and have been active in croquet at all levels. You can read about them on the CNZ hall of fame at www.croquet.org.nz.

Roger came to the club for the monthly afternoon tea on Wednesday 5th February to meet the members.



Life members Geoffrey Naylor and Roger Murfitt with secretary John Yarrall

Social BBQ

We will be having our annual social BBQ on Sunday 22nd March starting at 4:30pm. It will be at Lena's home at 20 Kotuku St, Lincoln.

The club will be providing meats. Members please bring your own drinks and a salad or desert. Partners are welcome.

Behaviour

There have been some instances of friction between members. Remember, that we are all here to enjoy the game and if you disagree with something that someone has done, you can disagree with the action but don't attack the person.

AED

The Trust has installed an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) in the outside toilet. This is designed to be operated by almost anyone, even without training.

To get the access code for the door, call 111.

Denise McLoughlan and John Yarrall have received training on using the AED for resuscitating and will explain its use one Wednesday afternoon.

Al Noor Mosque

The Al Noor Mosque, scene of the horrific 15 March shooting, is less than a 10-minute walk from United. We wanted to support them and get to know our neighbours, so we invited them to join us for croquet and socialising on Sunday 26 January.

About 30 members from the Mosque turned up, including children and families. After a few games we all chatted over a generous amount of food and our club members got to try food that is popular with Muslims.

Everyone enjoyed themselves and several are keen to come back on club days. Some very small children were very adept at handling a mallet that was bigger than they are.



Social afternoon teas

We will continue our afternoon teas on the first Wednesday of each month where refreshments are provided. You can continue to socialise or resume playing afterwards.

Welcome

Welcome to the members who have joined since the last newsletter:

Flynn Moses-Jones has joined as a Junior Associate and is also a member of Cashmere.

Corporate events

A big thank you to all the members who have helped with corporate events. As well as introducing croquet to hundreds of people it provides a significant income for the club. We have earned over \$8700 so far this season with three more events to come so is likely to be over \$11000. This compares to total subs for last season of \$11,800, so helps us to keep our subscriptions down. After many years of continually increasing subs, they have been kept constant since 2014.

Thanks to Jeanette for organising the helpers.



Petanque Trans-Tasman

Petanque will be holding a Trans-Tasman competition from Thursday 19 to Sunday 22 March.

There will be a lot more vehicle traffic and there may be some restriction to parking. Parking should be available on the grass beyond the petanque area. Further information will be provided nearer the time.

Please be considerate.

Become a coach

A CNZ Coaches Workshop is scheduled for 26–27 March 2020 at the Cashmere Croquet Club. This workshop is ideal for existing club coaches, those that wish to obtain a CNZ Level 1 coach qualification in either code, and those that are likely to be involved in facilitating youth participation at your club or association.

Registration closes 1 March. There is a \$65 fee that the club will refund on qualifying as a coach.

Details can be found at

<https://croquetcanterbury.com/2020/02/13/coaching-for-coaches/> and on the notice board.

Roundup of results

AC World Championship

The AC World Championship is currently running in Melbourne, Australia until Sunday 23 February.

Jenny Clarke is participating. She has progressed to the knockout event which starts Wednesday.

The event website is <https://2020-acworlds.croquetvic.asn.au/>.

You can view match results at

<https://croquetscores.com/2020/ac/wcf-world-championship>. There will be live streaming in the latter stages of the knockout.

GC World Team Champions

Three United Club members, Duncan Dixon, Edmund Fordyce and Joshua Freeth plus Felix Webby were the New Zealand team that won the Tier 1 Golf Croquet World Team Championship held in Nelson on 5–12 January. New Zealand won all their tests in the block play, beat USA in the semi-final and then beat Egypt 7 games to 4 in the final. The two-day final was live streamed on Sky Sport Next.

Success in the NZ Open

United member Edmund Fordyce and Greg Bryant won the doubles of the NZ AC Open held in Wellington 17–26 January. United member Josh Freeth and Felix Webby were eliminated in the semi-final by Edmund and Greg. Edmund was runner-up in the singles.

CNZ NZ Open AC Championship

This was played at Wellington 18–24 January.

Runner-up was Edmund Fordyce who lost to Aiken Hakes in the final. Edmund with Greg Bryant won the Double competition and Josh and Felix played in the semi-finals. Well done.

Southland GC Singles

Played at Invercargill 13–14 January.

Claire Horncastle was the only participant from Canterbury. She won 5 games in Block 1 and in the play-off was placed third.

Arthur Ross Play-off

Cheryl Hopley won our United competition and so went to Rangiora on 2nd February to play against

three others from Christchurch clubs. She had to endure $9\frac{1}{3}$ hours of intense temperatures of 34-35 degrees C. The ultimate winner was Josh Winter who will go to Dunedin to play in the NZ finals.

Arthur Ross

Cheryl Hopley won the club playoff with John Hearnshaw, Tony O'Donnell and John Yarrall to represent United at the Canterbury playoffs at Rangiora on 2 February.

The Arthur Ross is an AC handicap competition where club representatives play an association event to select the association representative at the national final. This year the final is in Dunedin starting 28 February.

United Croquet Club

Newsletter – March 2020

Our Covid-19 response

Breaking News

On Saturday the Prime Minister announced that we are now at alert level 2. This means that high-risk people advised to remain at home (e.g. those over 70 or those with other existing medical conditions)

The Covid-19 pandemic is now having an impact on us all and we all must do our bit to keep everyone safe. Many of our members are in the vulnerable age group so we must be vigilant.

The committee has introduced some specific rules to manage our response. These rules are being distributed with this newsletter and will be displayed at the club. These rules may be updated, and updates will be emailed to members.

We will ensure there is enough liquid hand soap in the toilets and have also provided cake soap. The hand towels have been removed for the time being. See the section *Help to make our club function well* below for more information.

If you have any concerns talk to a committee member.

The Ministry of Health website www.health.govt.nz is regularly updated with information about covid-19. See also covid19.govt.nz or call the free government helpline on 0800 779 997.

Remember to maintain physical distancing but don't maintain social distancing. Always wash your hands before and after eating and after contacting any surface that others may have contacted.

Social afternoon teas

Our monthly afternoon teas are on hold until further notice.

Welcome

Welcome to the members who have joined since the last newsletter:

Al and David Hesse who will be with us for a limited time.

Judy Derby, Karen Johnston, Marg Lucas, Judy Price and Adrienne Watts from U3A Ellesmere.

Lawns

We will be renovating some lawns. This involves watering to try and soften the soil so that it can be cored. Please do not interrupt this watering.

Only four lawns will be open on rotation from 13 April (after Easter) until 11 July. This is to give lawns a rest. All lawns will be closed 12 to 31 July.

Club phone

We have a mobile phone at the club. It is mounted in a cradle on the wall by the desk. There are some brief instructions next to the cradle.

Members may use the phone to make a reasonable number of personal calls.

Please leave the phone in the cradle with the charger turned on so the phone is always available.

CCA Closing Day

The CCA Closing Day was scheduled for 5th April. This has been postponed. It is not known if or when it will be rescheduled.

Club Closing Day

Our summer-season closing day was scheduled for Saturday 18th April but is now cancelled. As we continue playing through winter our closing day is a notional event so is unlikely to be rescheduled.

AGM

The AGM was scheduled for Saturday 23 May. This will be postponed to a date to be determined.

However, we will proceed with taking committee nominations and will consider how to proceed.

North Hagley Sports Trust

New members may not be aware that we are a founding member of the North Hagley Community,

Sports & Recreation Charitable Trust. The Trust was formed August 2016. The other founding members are High School Old Boys Rugby and Petanque (who were moved by the Council from their previous location near Victoria Lake).

For our subscription we get several benefits including access to the Trust's club rooms for to charge, hedges trimmed, a much-improved car park when Petanque were moved in and access to the WiFi for managing tournaments.

Roundup of results

Jenny Clarke reached the quarter-final in the field of 80 in the WCF AC world championship in Australia.

Bruce McLay and Claire Horncastle reached the semi-final of the Twilight Golf Croquet.

Galina Worley was third in the GC Maud Trainor.

Geraldine Murphy and Jenny Tait (Elmwood) were placed second in the Agnes Dick.

In the CCA GC Grades sponsored by Ryman Healthcare, Jim Hopley was placed third in the primary division and Claire Horncastle was placed third in the intermediate division.

In the Atkins GC competition Cheryl Hopley and Alison Grimshaw were placed second and Tony O'Donnell and Lee Ferguson were second in the plate competition.

In the AC Silver Badge on 8th March:

0–3.5 Winner was John Hearnshaw

4–9 Tony O'Donnell was placed second.

10–16 Cheryl was placed third.

Carol Hayward

The 2020 Carol Hayward was played at United on six Tuesday mornings between the 28th February and the 17th March. Generally, the weather was fine making this relaxed competition with a two and a half hour, 18-point, handicap Association Croquet game interrupted by morning tea particularly enjoyable. The flexible Swiss format allowed players to miss one of the six games but still be a prize winner.

Covid-19 prevented Lynne Bretherton of our generous sponsor the Margaret Stoddart Retirement Village from presenting the prizes. Before the final round Steve Costigan was unbeaten but Ian Hamill won their game to clinch third placing with four wins

in five games. Steve and Bruce McLay with five wins in six games were equal first.

Help to make our club function well

We all want to enjoy our time at the club. What you do can help to make the enjoyable for everyone. If everyone cooperates then everyone will enjoy their time more and not put extra work on some members.

Below are a few things that will help.

Keep the toilet tidy

Please put paper towels in the bin provided. Dropping them on floor means that someone must pick them up, and especially in these time with Covid-19, this can come with risks, and is unpleasant.



Please do not dilute the hand wash. This reduces its effectiveness, especially its sanitising properties.

Keep the kitchen tidy



Please clean the sandwich toaster after use. This can easily be done with a paper towel. If it does not come off easily, a damp paper towel should work. And please dispose of the paper towels properly. Be careful not to be too aggressive and damage the surface.

Please put your dirty cups and other items directly in the dishwasher. Otherwise someone else must collect them with the risk of cross contamination.

Clear your lawn at the end of play

When you have finished for the day, please check the trolley has 8 balls, 8 AC clips, 6 hoops, a lifter, 4 flags, a peg and extension, clear the lawn and return all equipment to the equipment shed. Please don't put someone else to the inconvenience of clearing up after you.

If you are not sure if someone else will want to use the lawn, ask the club captain if they are there or other members who are not playing if they wish to use the lawn. If no one indicates the need the lawn, it is your responsibility to clear the lawn.

Look after our hoops and hoop holes

When you put the hoops out, they only need to be put in far enough that they are firm. Please don't hammer them in until the carrots are flush with the ground. This just puts more unnecessary work on the small group who periodically move the hoops and reset the lawns.

There is a tolerance of plus ½ inch and minus one inch for the height of the hoop, and the carrots can be above ground level without interfering with the balls.

If you hammer in the hoops, hammer only over the legs. Hammering the middle of the crown can put a bow in the crown. We have had to have some hoops re-machined at some expense because the crowns were bowed.

United Croquet Club

Newsletter – April 2020

From the editor

I hope you are all keeping safe and managing through these times. The days of the week start blending into one another and we can look forward to a bit more variety.

New Zealand is taking a very aggressive stand to eliminate the virus from the country. This is different to most other countries, but studies of past epidemics have shown the big hit up front usually results in a much quicker recovery in the end. The biggest problem may be the other countries that will be affected for many months. Holiday nationally.

Note that epidemiologists use the term *eliminate* differently to what the public might. It means that the cases will be zero or low in an area – say NZ. Cases may still be cases occur, so it is imperative that we all maintain our guard and that contact tracking is working well so we can squash any outbreak before it gets a hold. Totally getting rid of a pathogen is called eradication. Smallpox was declared eradicated from the world in 1980.

At level 3 there will be little change for most of us. One thing I am looking forward to is being able to buy takeaways. Not that our meals have not been good and mostly healthy, but we want some more variety. Also, we want to support our local businesses as they have been doing it hard. On the menu are wood-fired pizza and beer, sushi, fish and chips, Chinese and Indian, but not all at once and all within 1 km of home.

To support these businesses I have purchased some vouchers through [sosbusiness.nz](https://www.sosbusiness.nz).

Please read this newsletter carefully. There is important information on how we will be operating, and how we can keep everyone safe.

Re-opening the club

The club will not re-open until we are at Alert Level 2. The earliest possible date is Tuesday 12 May, but this could be extended depending on the success of Covid-19 elimination.

Lawns will also need to be marked out from scratch as all line markings and hoop holes have gone after the extended period of no use and no mowing.

United Croquet Club Newsletter – April 2020

We have to see if we can do that safely before we move to level 2 and will then inform members of the club re-opening date.

Club rules for Covid-19

The club covid-19 rules put in place before the lockdown have been replaced with the rules outlined below.

We will try to keep as many lawns open throughout autumn and winter as possible to minimise the need to double bank. Please ensure all open lawns are used before double banking. The previously advertised closure of all lawns during the first three weeks of July will no longer happen unless the lawns are unplayable.

All members are to keep a minimum of 1 metre separation whilst at the club – even from members of your own “bubble”. This is so that passers-by do not get a bad impression that some people aren’t social distancing at our club. There will be many people who still can’t participate in their own contact sports who will be looking enviously at us enjoying croquet, so let’s not give them any reason, correct or otherwise, to form an adverse opinion.

The 2-metre separation at level 3 and 4 is reduced to 1 metre at level 2.

Whilst at level 2, please all avoid using the kitchen – if you can bring your own drinks in your own containers, we can minimise any risks associated with sharing surfaces. We will be providing additional cleaning materials so that everyone can clean bathroom surfaces after use and bin the cleaning materials. Hopefully as we move to level 1, we can start to move closer to normal.

If you are unwell you must stay away.

A majority of our members are over 70, but the Alert Level Plan has been updated since the one distributed in print at the beginning of the lockdown.

People at higher-risk of severe illness from Covid-19 (eg, those with underlying medical conditions, especially if not well-controlled, and the elderly) are encouraged to take additional precautions when leaving home.

Contact tracing

At levels 2 and 3 we are required to record attendees to ensure contact tracing may be conducted if necessary.

We hope to introduce a booking system to gather this information. We want a system that does not involve sharing pens or paper. We will provide details when this is done.

Jacinda Adern suggested that everyone keeps a diary of their activities to assist in tracing. Information could include times, where were and who you were in contact with.

If you have a phone with GPS you could turn on tracking and then have a reminder. You can delete your history after a month or so.

Our plans to do some work on the lawns have had to be delayed, as have the purchase of new furniture and other items for the clubhouse. I can assure you that these will all be fast-tracked once we start to be able to interact normally again. I would like to thank everyone who has helped keep the club ticking over during this period, so that we can all enjoy croquet again, hopefully in the near future.

Break-in

During the lockdown, the equipment shed door was attacked twice. The first time they did not enter but the lock was broken, and the door could not be opened from inside or outside. Fortunately, we could enter the shed from the other door facing lawn 4.

The second time they gained entry and took the park key and fuel containers. It is likely they took other items that may notice in time, but fortunately they left all the croquet equipment.

We hope to have the door repaired before we re-open. We will be improving security which may mean that keys that some members have will no longer work. This is because all keys that members have are not identical as many are copies of copies of copies etc. If your key does not work, it will be replaced.

We will also be investigating options such as video surveillance.

Social afternoon teas

All social gatherings, such as our monthly afternoon teas and happy hours are on hold.

Lawns

We were not allowed to mow our lawns for some weeks during the lockdown. We can mow now, and Chris spent many hours on the first mow, even with the grass cut a lot longer. The height will be gradually reduced as we approach re-opening. Chris is currently doing all the mowing as that means that only one person is touching the mower.

Jenny has joined him and is clearing all the leaves around the inside of the fence so only one person is handling wheelbarrows etc.

Claire has been renovating grass and Bruce has been mowing the new grass and surrounds.

Thanks to Chris, Jenny, Claire and Bruce for doing this essential work.

AGM

The AGM was scheduled for Saturday 23 May. This will be postponed to a date to be determined. A decision will be made after we at alert level 2.

However, we will proceed with taking committee nominations.

Current nominations used to be displayed at the club. Now they are on our website along with the draft agenda, reports and minutes of the previous AGM. Some are currently draft and will be updated. Everything will be emailed to all members when the AGM date is set.

Please email nominations to me at iyarrall@xtra.co.nz or 325 7855.

Current nominations are listed at the end of this newsletter.

Information relating to Covid-19

A more detailed version of the revised alert level plan is at:

<https://covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/tables/COVID-19-alert-levels-detailed.pdf>

Support your local businesses who have had no income, but still paying rent and staff. Purchase vouchers or make a donation through sosbusiness.nz.

The website at <https://info.flutracking.net/> tracks seasonal flu and now Covid-19 in Australia and New Zealand. Sign up and receive an email every Monday to enter your status so flu can be tracked. You can also view regular reports.

<https://delivereat.co.nz/> lists businesses that can deliver to your door. It includes dry goods, meat and a wide range of products. It currently lists 803 businesses and is growing.

Other Covid-19 links:

World Health Organisation

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

The NZ government main Covid-19 site:

<https://covid19.govt.nz/>

Ministry of Health: <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

An interactive map of cases from John Hopkins University: <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>



A lockdown project. The toilet door has been gouged by scraping against the trim on the left of the picture. The trim was fastened by screws from inside the wall so the only way to remove it was to break it. Replacement trim has been shaped to fit with a slight curve that will avoid the scraping.



Club mallets repaired, cleaned and sanded during the lockdown but now held up with lack of polyurethane. Hope to get some Tuesday. Final stage will be to add new grips in the club colour (red).

Current committee nominations

Position	Nominee	Nominator	Seconder
President	Chris Clarke	Jenny Clarke	
Vice president	Pam Hurst	Chris Clarke	
Secretary	John Yarrall	Tony O'Donnell	
Treasurer	Tony O'Donnell	Bruce McLay	John Yarrall
Captain			
Vice captain	Cheryl Hopley	Pam Hurst	Chris Clarke
Committee (four)	Bruce McLay	Tony O'Donnell	John Yarrall

United Croquet Club

Newsletter – May 2020

Club Opening

Great news! We will open to play croquet from Thursday 14 May.

However, we need to make sure that we keep everyone safe, so please carefully read below. Use the principle that you are infectious and must avoid infecting anyone else.

All lawns have been measured out from scratch, lines marked, and hoop holes made. Thanks to Jenny and Chris who marked out the lawns and set the hoops and to Denise and Mike for marking the lines. Chris has also been doing all the lawn mowing to avoid different people using the equipment.

The first time a lawn is used, the hoops will have to be hammered in. Use a rubber mallet on the shadow board next to the main door of the equipment shed. Hammer the hoops in just far enough so they don't interfere with the balls. Leave the carrots proud, so the holes will last longer.

Access to the equipment shed is by the side door until the broken lock is replaced. The key to this door is on a white key ring in the secretary's drawer (The plastic set of drawers under the notice board.) Please return the key immediately after use. If it's not there, it might be on the hook to the left of the kitchen bench.

Contact tracing

At levels 2 and 3 we are required to record attendees to ensure contact tracing may be conducted if necessary.

We have introduced a system for members to record their attendance. Please complete the online form on the club website at

<https://unitedcroquet.com/contact-tracing/>.

It includes your name, date, start time and end time. Members from the same bubble can include all their names in the one report. You can complete the report before, during or after play, but no later than the day of play.

If you can't complete the form, let the secretary know on 325 7855 or 027 407 9036 by text or message.

All information collected will be kept strictly private and will not be divulged to anyone except the authorities who will be contact tracing. All information will be deleted after one month.

A QR code is displayed at the club that will link to the online form.

The government has suggested that everyone keeps a diary of their activities to assist in tracing. Information could include times, where were and who you were in contact with.

If you have a phone with GPS you could turn on tracking and then have a reminder. You can delete your history after a month or so.

Club rules for Covid-19

The government's covid-19 rules require all gatherings be limited to 10 people. This will apply separately to each lawn, but it does mean that groups must not mix. This will require careful management around the equipment shed, toilets and club house.

We will try to keep as many lawns open throughout autumn and winter as possible to minimise the need to double bank. To make it easier to keep separated, please ensure all open lawns are used before double banking.

To minimise the people handling equipment, one person from each group should enter the shed, take the trolley and set out the lawn and the same person should clear up afterwards. This could be shared by two people in the same household. If equipment is cleaned, only mild detergent should be used.

Only one person should be in the shed at a time.

Members should take their own mallets home and bring them to play to avoid more than one person handling any mallet and reduce the need to enter the equipment shed. Members who do not have their own mallet may borrow a club mallet and take it home until we return to normal.

All members are to keep a minimum of 1 metre separation whilst at the club – even from members of your own “bubble”. This is so that passers-by do not get a bad impression that some people aren't social distancing at our club. There will be many

people who still can't participate in their own contact sports who will be looking enviously at us enjoying croquet, so let's not give them any reason, correct or otherwise, to form an adverse opinion.

Whilst at level 2, please all avoid using the kitchen – if you can bring your own drinks in your own containers, we can minimise any risks associated with sharing surfaces. We will be providing additional cleaning materials so that everyone can clean bathroom surfaces after use and bin the cleaning materials. Hopefully as we move to level 1, we can start to move closer to normal.

If you are unwell you must stay away.

A majority of our members are over 70, but the Alert Level Plan has been updated since the one distributed in print at the beginning of the lockdown.

People at higher-risk of severe illness from Covid-19 (eg, those with underlying medical conditions, especially if not well-controlled, and the elderly) are encouraged to take additional precautions when leaving home.



Club mallets repaired and ready for use.

AGM

The AGM was scheduled for Saturday 23 May. This will be postponed to a date to be determined. A decision will be made after the limits on gatherings is eased.

However, we will proceed with taking committee nominations until one week before the rescheduled AGM.

Current nominations used to be displayed at the club. Now they are on our website along with the draft agenda, reports and minutes of the previous AGM. Everything will be emailed to all members when the AGM date is set. We are proposing a small change to our rules that will allow electronic meetings in future if we have a similar situation.

Please email nominations to me at jyarrall@xtra.co.nz or 325 7855.

Current committee nominations

Position	Nominee	Nominator	Seconder
President	Chris Clarke	Jenny Clarke	Geoffrey Naylor
Vice president	Pam Hurst	Chris Clarke	Geoffrey Naylor
Secretary	John Yarrall	Tony O'Donnell	Mary Morrison
Treasurer	Tony O'Donnell	Bruce McLay	John Yarrall
Captain	Heather Ponder	Pam Hurst	Mary Morrison
Vice-captain	Cheryl Hopley	Pam Hurst	Chris Clarke
Committee (four)	Bruce McLay	Tony O'Donnell	John Yarrall
	Mary Morrison	Pam Hurst	John Yarrall
	Les Willis	Mary Morrison	Pam Hurst
	Carol Pilbrough	Heather Ponder	Rosemary Willis

United Croquet Club

Newsletter – June 2020

A return to normal

Now that we are at Alert Level 1 and can freely associate the lawns are getting lots of use. Let's hope that there are no further outbreaks to put us back into lockdown.

Soup and Rolls

Celebrate the installation of the new oven with a bowl of soup and a bread roll.

Saturday June 27th at 12:30pm.

So that we can ensure we have sufficient food, please add your name to the list on the new notice board in the club house.

The electrician will be installing the wiring for the oven on Friday 19th June.

AGM

Our AGM was held on Saturday 13 June after being delayed because of the lockdown.

The new committee is

President	Chris Clarke
Vice president	Pam Hurst
Secretary	John Yarrall
Treasurer	Tony O'Donnell
Captain	Heather Ponder
Vice-Captain	Cheryl Hopley
Committee	Bruce McLay
	Mary Morrison
	Les Willis
	Carol Pilbrough

Many thanks to Philippa and Lena who are standing down from the committee, but I am sure that they will still be contributing to the club.

At the AGM Jenny Clarke and John Yarrall were made life members of the club for all the work they have done.

The club rules were changed to allow us to hold future AGMs remotely using voice or video calling. Our previous rules did not allow this. Hopefully, we will not need to do this in the future, but now we do have that option if it is imposed on us.

Equipment shed locks

After the multiple break-ins during lockdown, the locks to both doors to the equipment shed have been replaced. Access to the shed was gained by smashing the lock, so we have replaced them both with deadbolts that are much harder to break. This does mean that you need a key to lock the door from the outside. You can lock and unlock from the inside by turning the lever.

Both shed doors and the club house door all use the same key. A key for these doors is on the key ring with the wooden tag over the kitchen bench.

Looking after our lawns

Even though the temperature has dropped it is great to have some pleasant playable weather.

Remember that the nominal start time during winter is 11 am. This does not mean that the lawns will be ready for playing at 11 am. If there is still frost, or the ground is very wet or soft please delay or even cancel play if conditions are not suitable.

If lawn wear becomes too great it might be necessary to close the lawns completely for a period or for the rest of winter.

CCA AGM and prizegiving

The delayed CCA AGM will be held at Barrington Park 10 am Saturday 27 June. After the AGM some light finger food will be served, followed by the CCA Prizegiving.

If prize winners and supporters do not wish to attend the AGM they may arrive at Barrington around 11 am.

Missing door trim

The toilet door has been under repair during the lockdown to prevent the gouging of the toilet door. Two pieces of trim were in the corner just outside the toilet. These have disappeared. They are two pieces of wood, painted white about one metre long.

If you know where they went, please let John or Les know.

Covid-19 contact tracing

Thanks to members who checked in in when they were at the club. We no longer have to keep this record, but the government recommends that

everyone keeps a diary of their activities to assist in tracing if there are more cases.

You can use the NZ COVID Tracer app and scan the QR code at the club for this.

United Croquet Club

Newsletter – September 2020

Margaret Stoddart tournaments

Start off the new season by playing in one or more of the Margaret Stoddart events. Entering in these friendly events is a great way to improve your game.

The GC events are full but there is room in the AC events.

The GC Open is on Saturday 12 September and there will be three lawns available for other members. Consult with the manager Tony O'Donnell to find which lawns are available. The Handicap is on Sunday 13 September which will be using all lawns.

The AC Open and Handicap events are on Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 September. Contact John Yarrall on 325 7855 or jyarrall@xtra.co.nz.

Happy hours

Happy Hours will resume from 17 October. They are held on the third Saturday of the month after play. Everyone is welcome and drinks and some food is provided for free. 17 October is election day, so complete your voting before coming to croquet.

Social afternoon teas

We will continue our afternoon teas from Wednesday 7 October. They are held on the first Wednesday of each month where refreshments are provided. You can continue to socialise or resume playing afterwards.

Mowing

To maintain our lawns at a high standard, regular mowing is essential. During summer this can be twice a week or more leading up to major events.

Nominally mowing is done on Thursdays although this changes due to weather and other events including interclub competitions.

We are short of members for the mowing roster. If you are interested, contact John Yarrall on 325 7855 or jyarrall@xtra.co.nz. Training will be provided.

If you wish to play casually at the club while lawns are being mown, talk to the person mowing before you put out lawns to minimise disruption for everyone.

Managing with Covid-19

We are currently at Level 2 for Covid-19. At this level, we are all encouraged to keep track of where we've been and who we've seen. This helps with rapid contact tracing if it's required. At United, this can be done by scanning the QR code or completing the reporting form on the club website. A sign-in sheet will also be available.

The Level 2 restrictions also provide that people should keep 1 metre apart in places like workplaces, cafes, restaurants, and gyms (which would include our club).

To comply with the Level 2 restrictions, everyone should:

- Scan the QR code or sign-in on our website or sign the paper register
- Keep 1 metre apart
- Avoid congregating in the clubhouse

Club house improvements

Many changes have been made to the club house, including new chairs, new cushions, a new servery and desk and refreshing new paint.

Visitors

We welcome visitors to come and play when the lawns are available. Normally visitors pay a \$5 green fee per day. If you invite someone who is not a club member to come and play, please collect the green fee and put in the treasurer's tray with a note.

Working bee

Thanks to everyone who helped during the working bee to get the club tidy for the new season. We had a great turnout of nearly 30 members, so made lots of progress. Thanks to Alison for the muffins and we all appreciated the BBQ lunch.

Opening Day

Opening Day was very successful with 42 members present and a finger-food lunch. It was a busy day with a captain's talk, mini GC competition followed by a happy hour.



The new garden behind Ernie's Shed

Missing trophy

We are trying to locate a trophy that has not been seen for some time. It is a wooden trophy labelled:

UCC Golf Croquet Championships Premier Grade

United Croquet Club

Newsletter – December 2020

WCF Hall of Fame

The World Croquet Federation established a Hall of Fame in 2006.

Congratulations to Jenny Clarke who was inducted into the Hall of Fame in December.



Jenny Clarke began playing croquet whilst studying for her PhD in the UK at Oxford University in the 1990's, becoming a regular player on the UK tournament circuit the following decade and becoming an accomplished A-Class player. She returned home to Christchurch in her native New Zealand, where she still lives with her husband Chris Clarke who she married in 2008. She is a life member of the Canterbury Croquet Association and the United Croquet Club.

Jenny plays both AC and GC and won the Women's AC World Championship in 2012. The GC title has always eluded her but she has two silver and three bronze medals in this event. She has been a member of the New Zealand AC and GC Test Teams for many years. In addition to various Trans Tasman

matches, she has made three appearances in the MacRobertson Shield including the victorious 2014 team and as captain of the 2017 team. She was also a member of the victorious Openshaw Shield team of 2016, only she and her husband have won both the AC and GC World Team Championships.

Jenny has won various open and women's domestic titles both in NZ and the UK but her stand-out titles at this level are her three Australian Open Singles titles in 2010, 2018 and 2019.

Whilst it is her playing success, which is particularly noteworthy, Jenny, who is a lecturer in Sport Science at Canterbury University, is also an accomplished coach. She coaches both AC and GC at an international level, has developed a coaching website and introduced the athlete-centred coaching methodology to croquet. She has also spent a good deal of time honing her own skills including changing from playing right to left-handed in the midst of her career.

In addition to the many titles she has won, Jenny has regularly been the number 1 ranked female player at both AC and GC throughout the past 15 years and has also achieved the highest AC grade of any woman since the rankings began. Jenny is without doubt the outstanding female croquet player of her generation.

Managing with Covid-19

New Zealand is very fortunate with its management of Covid 19 and our ability to have relatively normal life.

However, we have seen how fragile that freedom is. The Auckland cluster and the latest Sydney outbreak remind us that Covid can take hold quickly and quietly. A single case escaping the border controls can see us back in lockdown.

It is important that we continue to register each visit to the club by scanning with the NZ COVID Tracer app or sign the register at the club. That will help rapidly trace any contacts if there is another outbreak.

Club lunch

Over 30 turned up for the club lunch on Saturday 19 December. Carol and her team put on a great spread including ham and multiple salads followed by plenty of desert.

Most enjoyed some games after lunch in the hot day with a little respite with some cloud.



Corporate events

We have had several successful corporate events in November and December with just one having to be cancelled because of weather.

This is a great source of income that helps keep membership fees down. Much of the recent clubhouse improvements was funded from corporate event earnings.

Having more members help out at these events spreads the load. You don't need to be an expert player. You just need to be able to guide the players around the hoops and remind them which ball is next to play. Jeanette will be seeking more help to a few bookings in the new year.

Socialising

We have some regular social events:

Happy hours

Happy Hours are held on the third Saturday of the month after play. Everyone is welcome and drinks and some food is provided for free.

Social afternoon teas

Afternoon teas are held on the first Wednesday of each month where refreshments are provided by rostered club members. You can continue to socialise or resume playing afterwards. Rosters are on the noticeboard where members can volunteer to provide food. Thanks to those members who volunteer.

NZ AC Open Tournament

The NZ Open will be held at United from Saturday 23rd to Sunday 31st January 2021. Barrington Park is also listed as a venue, but the number of entries this year is likely to be smaller because of travel restrictions making it difficult for overseas players to enter.

There will be much activity two days before the event to get the grounds prepared.

As this is a Tier 1 event, the lawns will be getting fast, so you will need finesse, not power to play.

CCA is the host for the event, meaning that United players will not be charged green fees if they play at another Canterbury club during the tournament. Before you turn up at a club, make sure that the time suits. They may have other events and may have specific days for AC and/or GC.

GC Referee training

CCA is running an 8-week coaching course to teach you how to prevent, recognise and deal with faults. It will cover all the skills needed to pass Part A of the Referee's Exam.

The sessions will run in February and March. Venues, days and times will be arranged to suit participants. You do not have to attend all 8 sessions. All handicaps are welcome.

A Referees' course will be held in the winter where you will have an opportunity to sit the exam and become a CNZ qualified referee. This will enable you to help players at your club to understand the rules.

To register, email chorncastle1@gmail.com or ask your Club Captain to register you.

Knowing the rules is important to prevent an opponent incorrectly applying rules to your disadvantage.

Tournament Management course

A seminar for Tournament Management will be held Wednesday 13th January 4 pm at Fendalton Club. This is not just for CCA tournaments but for Club tournaments as well.

Let the club captain know if you are interested or wish to discuss.

Get-together with petanque

The annual get-together with Petanque was held Sunday 6 December. We all played an hour of petanque followed by croquet and ended with a BBQ lunch. It was enjoyed by all.

Photos?

Draws on club days

We have been running a draw for GC from 1pm on club days. From Saturday 9 January we will also be doing a draw at 10am. You can put your name down for the draw or, if you prefer, you can arrange your own games of AC or GC.

Looking after our lawns and equipment



Our lawns are our most valuable asset, and we have a lot of equipment involved.

Please ensure that all the equipment is all put away. This penny was caught in the mower and could have done damage costing thousands and meant that we would be without our mower for some time.

Club improvements

Improvements are continuing around the club.

Ball barriers have been added to the fence alongside the car park and the ball barriers have been repaired

between the lawn 5 & 6 shelters. This garden is about to get a major renovation.

Some rearrangements of power outlets in the club house will remove a problem with drawers being blocked.

Staying informed

There are lots of ways to keep informed at United.

These newsletters as well as emails from the club captains and secretary are regularly sent to members. Other sources of information are:

United Club website unitedcroquet.com

This includes an on-line calendar with the next four events listed in the right-hand column of every page. Add your email under the heading "Follow Blog via Email" to receive an email of every blog posted on the site. This will include reports of competitions and other events at the club. Under the menu item "Members" you can find:

- Lawn Usage. A Microsoft Excel file listing each day of the season with what is on. A printed copy is on the club notice board.
- Information for members. A copy of the booklet with general information for all members. Printed copies are available at the club.
- Club Rules (constitution)
- Lawn dimensions – for laying out lawns of different sizes
- Standard Operating Procedures
- Manuals for club equipment

Canterbury Croquet Association website

croquetcanterbury.com

Add your email under the heading "Follow Blog via Email" to receive an email of every blog posted on the site. This will include reports of association competitions and other association events.

CNZ website croquet.org.nz

Click the "Newsletter" menu item to register your email to directly receive a link to the Croquet Matters newsletter.

World Croquet Federation website

worldcroquet.org

The World Croquet Federation is the international organising body for the sport of croquet

Croquet Score website croquetscores.com

Croquet Scores has results of many club, regional, national and international tournaments in New Zealand and around the world, including United and CCA competitions.

Clarke Croquet website clarkecroquet.com

This site provides “courses” covering aspects of croquet such as Laws Training, Stroke-Play and Tactical Coaching, Lawn Care, and some fun stuff such as croquet trivia quizzes.