

Christmas Lunch

Many of our members enjoyed an excellent Christmas lunch on Saturday 11 December. The food was delicious – starting with nibbles and followed by ham on the bone and an amazing array of salads. To finish, we enjoyed some stunning desserts. The clubrooms were beautifully decorated and the tables were split up to accommodate as many as we could inside. The weather turned out to be better than expected allowing some members to sit outside.

An enormous thank you to Carol Pilbrough for spoiling us with such a lovely Christmas lunch and to members who contributed salads and desserts. This was followed by croquet on lawns which had some Christmas decorations. The draw continued the Christmas theme with festive cards handed out to players telling us which lawn to go to. For this we owe our GC Captain, Heather Ponder, an enormous thank you.

What's coming up?

Coaching

There are plenty of members wanting to take advantage of the coaching and it is likely this will be held on Thursday mornings in January 2022. Please note final confirmation of dates to come. With luck those who have put their names on the list will be able to attend all of the mornings or at least some.

Tournaments

Remember to check the noticeboard for upcoming tournaments. There are three tournaments coming up early in 2022:

Atkins Trophy. The Atkins Competitions started in the 2009-2010 season and honours Beryl and Ray Atkins who were involved in the early stages of the development of Golf Croquet in Christchurch at the Elmwood Croquet Club and then at Cashmere Croquet Club. It is a handicap doubles golf croquet tournament played over a number of Saturday mornings in the second half of the season leading to a play-off in March.

Registrations close **17 December 2021**. Dates are 29 January, 12, 19, 26 February, 5 and 19 March 2022. Following this there is a final round. Note also that members of a team do not need to be from the same club. Please use the link [Atkins Registration](#) to register your teams. Further information is available on the [CCA Web Site](#).

Maud Trainor Golf Croquet Handicap Singles. If you were born before 31 January 1962 you are eligible for this tournament.

This will be held on four Fridays in February 2022 – 4, 11, 18 and 25 February commencing at 9.30 a.m. The cost to enter is \$4.00 per day. Please see the noticeboard for full details. **Entries close 22 January 2022.** Email Tony O'Donnell with your entry – evonne_tony@hotmail.com. Please note there is an underscore (_) between Evonne and Tony.

Carol Hayward Association Croquet Handicap Singles. If you were born before 28 January 1962 you are eligible for this tournament.

This will be held on Tuesdays – 1, 8, 15, 22 February and 1, 8 March 2022. The cost to enter is \$4.00 per game. Again, please see the noticeboard for full details. **Entries close 27 January 2022.** Email John Yarrall with your entry – jyarrall@xtra.co.nz.

U21 v NZ Selection Match

This is being played at United Croquet Club on 8-9 January 2022. Members are very welcome to come along and watch for all or part of play.

General

Donation

Recently one of the corporate groups provided a generous donation to the Club. This was used to purchase the kwila benches we are enjoying outside the clubrooms.

BBQ

The new BBQ has been purchased and secured to the equipment shed. We achieved an excellent price – thank you to Carol Pilbrough and Geoff Price for their negotiating skills!

Our lawns

Lawns 5 and 6 had new hoop holes prepared in mid-November and joined the normal roster for mowing then. They are currently a bit slower than our other lawns but the irrigation has been turned off and the mower lowered. It is hoped regular mowing and drier lawns will improve the surface ahead of the U21 v NZ Selection match being played at United Croquet Club on 8-9 January 2022.

A reminder that the **nominal day for mowing lawns is Thursday**. This may change when competitions are scheduled and you will see above there are competitions at United Croquet Club early in 2022. Additional mowing may be required. This will also likely result in the lawns being faster – as will happen prior to major tournaments.

If you come in to play outside of club days and mowing is in progress, please check with the person mowing which lawns to use so there is least inconvenience to all involved.

On **Wednesday 15 December** there will be a **demonstration on adjusting Quadway hoops**.

As part of looking after our lawns, divet lifters are available from the Golf Shop and this might be a very useful addition to your croquet pocket. Ball markers are also available at the Golf Shop if you'd like a couple of those in your pocket. Like many women I discovered my trousers generally don't have pockets but I do have a couple of favourites with pockets for croquet and these handy items!

Corporate Events

There have been a number of corporate events held with more being held in the second half of December. Thank you to members who have assisted with the events – in some cases we have members who have helped two or three times. These events are a wonderful fund-raiser for us and we all benefit from them by paying a very reasonable subscription.

Covid Protection Framework

Many of you will already be aware that Vaccine Passes are required for anyone attending United Croquet Club. The motion passed by the Committee is:

That valid Vaccine Passes are required for players and anyone attending events, gatherings or other functions at United Croquet Club as from Friday 10 December 2021.

This was passed unanimously by the Committee. **If members would please show their Vaccine Pass to one of the following:**

Heather Ponder (GC Captain)
Cheryl Hopley (AC Captain)
John Yarrall (Club Secretary).

Managers of tournaments are responsible to ensure everyone participating has a vaccine pass. Company organisers of corporate events will certify that their participants have a vaccine pass.

Last but not least – keep enjoying croquet 😊

And since this is the December newsletter – have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Judy Derby
UCC Committee

