

Welcome to croquet in 2022!

What's coming up?

Coaching

Many of our members have been taking advantage of the **coaching provided at 11.30 am on Wednesday mornings**. This will be continuing so if you haven't already done so – do join in the coaching sessions as they are excellent. Thanks to Cheryl Hopley, Pam Hurst, Denise McLoughlin and Tony O'Donnell for their time and expertise and, of course, their willingness to continue with the coaching.

Tournaments.

Remember to check the noticeboard for upcoming tournaments.

CCA GC Handicap Doubles. This tournament is being held at **Fendalton Park Croquet Club on Sunday 20 February**. If you would like to enter please email Vilna Gough-Jones vgoughjones@gmail.com. include contact details of email and phone plus handicap. Cost is \$10.00.

United Singles Handicap. I'm sure all of us who entered the United Singles tournament had some excellent and enjoyable games. Winner is Lena Metcalf. Congratulations Lena!

Atkins Trophy. The Atkins Competition, a handicap doubles golf croquet tournament, commenced on Saturday 29 January with 6 teams/12 players entered from United. The games are held at the various clubs around Christchurch. Good luck and happy croquet to those playing in our teams.

Maud Trainor Golf Croquet Handicap Singles. This tournament started on Friday 4 February. All games are played at United. A good number of entries has resulted in some of the games being played on the slightly smaller lawns we used earlier in the season while lawns 5 and 6 were out of use.

Don Reyland. Geoff Price represented United and finished third. Congratulations Geoff!

AC Arthur Ross Regional. The final was held on 12 December. Two players competed this year – Owen Evans (Cashmere) beat Tony O'Donnell (United) 22-17.

Carol Hayward Association Croquet Handicap Singles. This tournament is also underway with round 2 completed on 8 February. Bruce McLay (United) and Sue Stott are leading the way with 2 games/2 wins.

CCA AC Open. This was held 28-31 January at St James. John Hearnshaw was the only player from United and the winner was Josh Winter (Cashmere).

South Canterbury AC Tournament. Betty Hall from United finished runner-up in grade. This was Betty's first time at a regional tournament. Congratulations Betty on an excellent result!

General

Cash Box

A cash box has been installed on right-hand wall as you enter the clubrooms – just past the desk. **Please put any cash in the cash box, NOT in the treasurer's drawer.** Note the amount and what it is for in the notebooks provided beside the cashbox.

Corporate Events

Corporate events continue to be a wonderful fundraiser for our club. Since October, we have hosted 14 events in 2021 and four this year. A further nine events are scheduled before the season ends. The groups have varied in size from 4-6 to 40+. There were three cancellations last year, one of which was because of rain. One group attended on a rainy day and played indoor games in the clubhouse – by mutual agreement there was a charge of \$10 per head. Our bookings close at the end of February. One late booking has been accepted as we lost three bookings when the redlight settings were introduced.

Dates in February are: 11 (2 groups), 20, 22, 24, 25, 26 and 27. Some groups are very small, but there are two large groups of around 30. Most are covered, but Jeanette always checks numbers the week before a booking, so a few more helpers needed at the last minute. If this happens, please help if you can. The trend has been for numbers to be lower than originally expected due to Covid-19.

Corporate Groups returning to play casually

A couple of the Corporate Event groups have asked to return and play casually after work or weekends. This would require a club member opening and locking up. It's hoped those members who live close to United would be happy to take a turn opening/locking up. if required. Please let Jeanette know if this is something you would be happy to help with. Email: jeanettebill@gmail.com.

Our lawns

Lawns 5 and 6 have been sprayed with Banine to kill weeds and other areas have been spot sprayed with Banvine or Turfix to kill noticeable weeds. Azoxy has been effectively sprayed in areas affected with fungus – our thanks to Steve and Barb Parry for doing this.

It's likely Lawn 1 will be closed and renovate from mid-March to enable grass to take before May when the ground is likely to be too cold for growth.

Due to a tournament at United, there may be **limited lawns available for play on 26 and 27 February**. Members are able to play elsewhere without paying green fees. Please let the club know you intend to play there rather than just turning up on the day.

Starweed has been present in our lawns and one way this is transported is on shoes. **We ask members to please clean their shoes/equipment after playing at other clubs.** Thank you 😊

Upcoming Events

After play drinks (third Saturday)	Saturday 19 February 2022
Afternoon tea (first Wednesday)	Wednesday 3 March 2022
Visitors' Day	Wednesday 3 March 2022 – more information to come.
End of Season BBQ and Working Bee	Saturday 9 April 2022 – start time 9 am with afternoon play.
UCC Closing Day	Saturday 30 April 2022 – lunch 12 noon with afternoon play.
AGM	Saturday 21 May 2022 – 10.30 am followed by lunch/play.
CCA Closing Day	Sunday 10 April 2022 at Fendalton Park Croquet Club. Presentations, morning tea and play. All welcome to attend.

Please note after play drinks and afternoon tea will be taken month by month due to Covid, in particular if the weather prevents us being outside.

Last but not least – keep enjoying croquet 😊

Judy Derby
UCC Committee