

United Croquet Club

Newsletter – UCC newsletter -March 2021

Coming events

Happy hour

There will be a happy hour at the club this Saturday 20 March starting at 3:30pm. It looks like good weather for croquet.

Club closing day

Our club closing day is on Saturday 10 April. This marks the end of the normal summer season. The lawns remain open, except for some seasonal maintenance, but some events such as afternoon teas may stop during the winter season.

We will have a shared lunch at noon followed by play. Please put your name on the sheet on the notice board indicating if you will bring a salad or desert.

CCA closing day

The CCA closing day will be Sunday 18 April at Fendalton Park Croquet Club. Details are still to be announced. This will include the CCA prize giving.

Club AGM

The date for the club AGM will be decided at the next committee meeting in April. It will be in May or June.

CCA AGM

The CCA AGM will be Saturday 26 June at Fendalton Park Croquet Club at 10am.

GC rule books

We now have a small supply of GC Rules books. Some members have ordered one, but we do have extras if you did not put in an order. Collect them from John Yarrall. Cost is \$7.50.

CCA Silver badge

The Silver Badge competitions are played among representatives of Canterbury clubs. It is level play in grades.

The GC Silver Badge was played on 14 March.

United representatives were:

Duncan Dixon	Premier (-6 to 5)
Galina Worley	Senior (3 to 5)
Louis Inglewood	Intermediate (6 to 8)
Carol Pilbrough	Primary (9 to 16)

Congratulations to Duncan who won his grade and to Louis who was runner up in his grade.

Results were published on the CCA blog. To receive an email for each post, go to the CCA website and register your email. Details are below under *Staying informed*.

The AC Silver Badge will be played on 28 March.

United representatives are:

Duncan Dixon	-3 to -0.5
John Yarrall	0 to 3.5
Steve Costigan	4 to 9

There are none for 10 to 16 and 18 to 24.

Security

Security is an ongoing issue at the club. Many tools were stolen in the break-ins while we were at level 4 lockdown. The locks on the equipment shed have been changed so it is harder to break in.

Unfortunately, since we are back playing, we are still losing small items. These include screwdrivers, spanners, hoop clamps and many other items. It is possible that some items were borrowed and not returned. If so, can any borrowed items be returned.

In the past, members have lost items left in the club house. Some loss is from opportunistic entry when doors are left unlocked when people are out playing.

Unless someone is in the kitchen, the kitchen door should be kept locked. Consider always keeping it locked so you will not forget to lock it when going out to play.

The sliding door can be left unlocked (but closed) as it is visible from the lawns.

Rosters

We rely on members contributing to rosters to keep our costs down. We have rosters for club-house cleaning, gardens, lawn mowing, lawn care, mowing surrounds.

We recently added members to lawn mowing and they have been trained on using the mower. Even with the extra numbers, each person is rostered to mow monthly. This can increase to fortnightly when we mow twice a week during peak growing season. A few more members on the mowing roster would spread the load.

Lawn care involves spraying (star weed is coming back), weeding, spot watering of lawn under repair and supporting new lawn. Currently this is left to a very small group which can be very onerous on individuals. Additional members to take some of the load is needed. This work is not continuous but comes and goes as we have work to do. More volunteers for lawn care are needed.

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.

Canterbury Croquet Association website croquetcanterbury.com

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

United Croquet Club

Newsletter – August 2021

Coming events

Fun Day

Our Fun day is on Wednesday 11 August.

Put your name on the list on the notice board if you want to attend.

Working bee

We are having a working bee Saturday 21 August to get the club tidied up for the summer season. This involves cleaning out the club rooms, cleaning and organising the equipment sheds and getting the gardens and shelters weeded and cleaned up.

It is a 9am start and have a BBQ lunch and refreshments.

In the event of bad weather, we will try Saturday 28 August.

Opening day

Our opening day for the summer season will be Saturday 4 September.

There will be a welcome and captains' talk at 11:30am, a finger-food lunch at noon and play in the afternoon.

Please bring a plate for the lunch. Refreshments will be provided.

Afternoon teas

Our regular afternoon teas on the second Wednesday will resume 8 September.

Please put your name down (on the noticeboard) for contributions.

After-play drinks

We will be resuming our regular after-play drinks on the third Saturday on 18 September. Drinks and refreshments are provided.

If anyone has specific requests/allergies, please let Carol know at pilbroughc@gmail.com.

Our new treasurer

We now have a new treasurer. Geoff Price was appointed treasurer at the committee meeting last Wednesday.

Tony O'Donnell resigned as treasurer and committee member. Tony will still manage the lawn maintenance and is active in many functions at the club. He is also chair of the Croquet New Zealand board.

Tony was club president for seven years and club treasurer for over six years. He was also on the CCA executive for many years including treasurer.

Take care of our lawns

A reminder to take care of our greatest asset – our lawns. They are very soft with winter and all the rain we have had.

There are several marks on the lawns where mallets have been carelessly dropped.

Jump shots are allowed only if you can do them without damaging the lawn. If you attempt a jump shot and damage the lawn, you are not allowed to attempt any more jump shots until 1 September.

What's coming up?

Saturday 11 December 2021 **Christmas lunch**

It is planned to hold our Christmas lunch on Saturday 11 December 2021. There is a roster at the clubrooms for everyone to add their name to and also add what salad or dessert you would like to bring. Meat and drinks provided.

Our after-play afternoon tea and drinks are cancelled for the remainder of 2021.

Corporate Events

The good news is we are generally covered now for all events except for a new one just received. Thanks to all who have volunteered to help with these events.

The extra date is **Saturday 4 December** after club day and would require about 3 or 4 people to stay on with Jeanette for a couple more hours.

A complete list will be prepared and put on the notice board in the clubhouse next week for members to check. Jeanette will also email all groups the week of their commitment.

It would be appreciated if a few volunteers can be on standby for cover for each of the dates in December – the schedule is below for easy checking. Please contact Jeanette Ellison with dates/times you can assist. Mobile: 027 209 7767 or email: jeanettebill@gmail.com

Date	Time
Thursday 2 December	1.00 pm 4.00 pm
Friday 3 December	12.30 pm 4.00 pm
Tuesday 7 December	12.30 pm
Thursday 9 December	4.00 pm
Friday 10 December	2.00 pm 3.00 pm
Thursday 16 December	2.00 pm
Friday 17 December	12.00 noon 4.00-6.00 pm
Tuesday 21 December	12.00 noon
Wednesday 22 December	3.00 pm

General

Donation

Recently one of the corporate groups provided a generous donation to the Club. It is intended to use this to replace our outdoor benches and the Committee is currently looking further into this.

BBQ

The Committee approved the purchase of a new BBQ. Hopefully this will be available before the end of the year as the BBQ is often used by our corporate events.

Our lawns

Many of you will have noticed the wonderful progress on lawns 5 and 6. The lawns have been mown a number of times at progressively lower heights and have now had their final cut and have been marked out. They are now available for play.

All members are extremely grateful for the hard work in the renovation by Tony O'Donnell, Barbara and Steve Parry, Denise and Mike McLoughlin, Jane and Steve Ballinger, Cheryl and Jim Hopley, Bruce McLay, Richard Milburn, Ray Story, Steve Costigan and John Yarrall. THANK YOU 😊

AC players have had the use of just one lawn for the last 6 months but they will be pleased, on occasion to be able to use lawn 2 as well now we are back to 6 lawns. Play for GC was managed during the unavailability of lawns 5 and 6 with an extra draw at 9.30 am. **Now that all lawns are back in use for play there will be one draw at 12.45 pm, starting Saturday 20 November.**

Lawn Mowing

We all like to have nice lawns to play on and this requires regular mowing. **The nominal day for mowing is Thursday**, but this may change if competitions are scheduled. Additional mowing may be required, especially with major competitions.

If mowing is in progress, please check with the person mowing which lawns to use so everyone is inconvenienced the least. Sometimes lawns are cut more than once so please don't assume a lawn is free without checking. On occasion you may be required to move lawns so that all lawns can be mown. Thanks in advance for your help with this.

Membership

We have had 3 or 4 new AC members lately. We have had some more GC members as well, mostly from Fendalton Croquet Club.

Success at the Masters Games

A big congratulations to our GC member Carol Pilbrough who was awarded a Bronze Medal in her grade at the recent Masters Games held in Blenheim, 15-24 October 2021. Well done Carol!

The games are held alternately in Blenheim and Timaru, with Timaru being the venue in 2022.

Rosters

We have a number of rosters for duties around the club and these are shown below. As always, the more we have on the rosters the less onerous it is for everyone.

Please have a look and see where you might like to contribute. The co-ordinator details are also below so please **email the coordinator for the task you would like to help with.**

Task	Coordinator	Description/notes
Club house	Judy	Cleaning club house and toilets
Lawn surrounds mowing	Bruce	Move ball barriers and mow with rotary mower
Lawn surrounds clearing		Clear grass and weeds that cannot be mown. Weed-eater, spray or manual removal
Lawns	Tony	Spraying, top-dressing, over-sowing. Consulting with experts.
Lawn mowing	John	Regular mowing of lawns. Once or twice a week and more often with major tournaments. We need to have some members with additional training for adjusting and maintaining mower.

Line Marking	Denise & Mike	Marking lawns as they fade and when lawns are changed. Denise & Mike do this, but we need to have some understudies for when they are not available.
Gardens	Pam	Maintain gardens. Weeding etc. Pruning as required. One or more members are assigned a part of the gardens to do in their time of choosing. A nominal split of areas is listed below. Feel free to propose your favourite area. Roster areas End of car park and behind equipment shed Lemon tree garden down to lawn 5 Garden at end of lawn 5 Garden to end of lawn 6 Centre gardens Spraying courtyard and car park-weeds Shelters
Maintenance	Ross	As required. It would be good to have a pool to widen expertise and cover larger jobs
BBQ cleaning	Heather	Should be cleaned after use with regular thorough cleaning needed occasionally
Leaves around fence	Heather/Cheryl	Seasonal
Twigs/leaves	Heather/Cheryl	around central tree, especially after strong wind
Laying out lawns	John/Tony	Major tournaments can require time constraints, so a larger pool that can be called on is helpful. There are several things to be done - measuring out, driving in hoops, sighting that hoops are straight.

Coordinators

Please contact the appropriate coordinator to let them know you would like to be on that roster.

Bruce McLay	358 0166, 022 050 4837	brucemxihug@gmail.com
Cheryl Hopley	021 883 301	cheryl.hopley.top@gmail.com
Denise & Mike McLoughlin	022 103 7544	denise_mcloughlin@hotmail.co.uk
Heather Ponder	027 438 5710	4heatherp@gmail.com
John Yarrall	325 7855, 027 407 9036	jjarrall@xtra.co.nz
Judy Derby	021 666 904	judederby@outlook.com
Pam Hurst	358 1991, 021 304 948	pmhurst@gmail.com
Ross Ansley	027 272 3286	rossansley@yahoo.co.nz
Tony O'Donnell	027 292 5229	evonne_tony@hotmail.com

Remember to check the noticeboard for the various tournaments, fun days etc.

Last but not least – keep enjoying croquet 😊

Judy Derby
UCC Committee

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

