

UNITED'S UNCTUOUS ULULATION!!

An informal, infrequent and infrangible little publication created for the edification, entertainment and equanimity of members of the irrepressible UNITED CROQUET CLUB, Hagley Park, Christchurch.

11th July, 1993

Presidential Message!

A cheery ahem to you all to begin what promises to be a great season. Your Committee has been beavering away during the dark days of the winter to ensure that the season begins and continues on a high note. Much of their deliberations will be expanded upon at the August Meeting to which, I trust, all members will do their best to be at. You'll be able to witness the results of a repaint and re-vamp of the clubrooms as well as get the low-down on the season to come. See you there! Regards,

The Management Committee respectfully asks all members to attend the important
AUGUST GENERAL MEETING of the CLUB
SATURDAY, 14th AUGUST at 1.30p.m.

Matters to be discussed:

Club Programme for the year; Inter-Club; Open Tournaments; Aussie Test; Building Progress; Coaching Matters; CCA Events; Social Matters and much more!

THE FIRST WORKING BEE

To help the season get going, we need to do a little "weeding" and "fertilising". We are holding an easy Working Bee prior to the General Meeting on:

SATURDAY, 14th AUGUST
9.30a.m. - 12.00noon

Bring your lunch and any equipment listed below. Please telephone Bruce Newburgh ph385-1725 and let him know you'll be there!

Bring:

- * Weeding, edge trimming implements
- * Wheelbarrow, spade, rake, broom
- * Handbroom, rags, bucket, etc.

SUCCESS AT THE CCA AGM!

Club Members will be pleased to learn that at the CCA AGM in June, all recommendations submitted by the club were passed by large majorities! That means that:

- + The Canterbury Open will now always be played before the Nationals;
- + The Johnson Memorial finals and semi-finals will now be played on full-sized lawns;
- + The CCA will no longer now be involved in setting the price for refreshments at tournaments!!!!

John Prince's nomination for Life Membership of the NZCC was passed to the NZCC with acclamation.

Our thanks to Graham for his excellent and well-modulated representation of the Club at the AGM!

YOUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

Each member of the committee, in addition to any other formal duties, has taken responsibility for an aspect of the club's operations:

Finance: Marie Delahunty
Secretarial: Shirley Bruce
Match Committee: Geoffrey Naylor (Chairman); Graham Beale; Billie Millar; Shirley Bruce (Secretary)

CCA Delegate: Graham Beale
Clubrooms, Club refreshments: Christine Beale
Grounds, Liaison with Greenkeeper: Bruce Newburgh
Land Acquisition; New Shelters, etc.: Peter Weeks
Sportsfest '93: Malcolm Long
International Test Liaison: Geoffrey Naylor

If you have a concern or suggestion, please direct it to the committee member responsible so that it can be followed up as quickly as possible.

HAVE YOUR SAY!!

The Management Committee will meet will on the second Saturday of each month. The agenda will be placed on the noticeboard prior to each meeting. Have a look at what is being discussed and let a Committee Member know if we're are not meeting your requirements or if you have a suggestion that you would like taken up by the committee.

It's YOUR club - have a say! We want to hear it!

ADVANCE NOTICE FOR YOUR DIARY
CLUB OPENING DAY
SATURDAY, 11th SEPTEMBER

Details will be provided at the August General Meeting

CLUB PLAY for 1993/1994 SEASON

Your Management Committee has been very conscious that the form of Club play during a season and the ability of the Club to cater for the wishes of all members is the most important task that it must handle. For this reason, both the Match Committee and the full Management Committee have given much thought to the form of play that they believe the Club should undertake this season.

The Management Committee will propose that the following be adopted as the form of play for the 1993/1994 season:

CLUB DAYS: The Club Days shall be Wednesday and Saturday. On Club Days, members may:

- * Enter the open draw by placing their tags on the table prior to the commencement of play; or
- * Play any Club Championships match; or
- * Play a Ladder Challenge match; or
- * Play any other pre-arranged match.

The draw will take account of those members who express a wish to play singles, and pair those members who are not able to remain for the entire play period.

Club Members are most welcome to practise or play arranged games at any time, including Inter-Club days, but not during NZCC, CCA or UCC External events.

CLUB COMPETITIONS: It is proposed to hold the following competitions during the season:

CHAMPIONSHIP: Open Singles; A Grade Singles; Intermediate Singles;
B Grade Singles; C Grade Singles
Open Doubles

HANDICAP: Men's Singles; Women's Singles

Players will be permitted to enter a Championship event one grade higher than their current grade if they so wish. This is to allow for those players who have a small number in their own grade to qualify for a larger number of matches, as well as to provide for more challenging play if you want it!

Entries will be taken up to and including the last Club day in September. All these competitions will be played off from the beginning of October. **If, by the closing date for entries, there are fewer than four entries for any particular event, it will not be played this season.**

In previous seasons, it has been left to the Club Captain to take responsibility for the completion of all games, and last season, the Club Captain even arranged matches. To reduce this workload and to spread the responsibility throughout the Club Members, the committee will be asking one player in each grade, or a player entered in a particular competition, to take responsibility for keeping play in that particular level or competition ticking over.

CLUB LADDER: As a means of creating further opportunities for competitive play, we are responding to several suggestions and intend operating a ladder for those who wish to participate. Specific rules will be announced but the intention is to make its operation blindingly simple. Play will be Championship, not Handicap.

CLUB BARBECUE: On the second Saturday of each month beginning October, we shall be holding a Club Barbecue tea at the Lawns from about 4.30p.m. - 5.00p.m. with play to follow. Club members will be asked to bring a salad to share. Both social and competition games may be played on these evenings.

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16th August, 1993

Presidential Message!

A second ahem for the new season! Thanks to all those who turned out for the Working-Bee last Saturday; the clubhouse, equipment shed and grounds are looking particularly spruce. There is still a little painting of shelters to be done so if you've a few hours to use up and would like to assist, please give Bruce Newburgh a ring (ph 385-1725). The Club Programme for the year was outlined by Geoffrey Naylor at the August Meeting and looks great. If you have any comments to make, please do speak to him about them...he is very willing to listen. I'm out of Christchurch from August 22nd until September 10th, so Geoffrey or Shirley will handle any questions you may have.

Regards



The Management Committee proudly announces the programme for

CLUB OPENING DAY for the 1993/1994 SEASON **SATURDAY, 11th SEPTEMBER**

Something for everyone!

9.00a.m. ONE-BALL MINI-TOURNAMENT

- Entries taken at 8.45a.m..
- Section play if necessary.
- Allowances for bisque differences.
- Prizes awarded.
- Play concludes at 12.00. Bring lunch.

1.00p.m. OFFICIAL OPENING of the SEASON

followed by

PROGRESSIVE CROQUET

- 30 minute games.
- One player of each team must play their ball from A Baulk to run Hoop 1 on that player's first turn.
- Maximum 3-hoop breaks.

3.30p.m. AFTERNOON TEA

MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO BRING A PLATE

Members may play if they wish following Afternoon Tea.

LAWNS CLOSED

Despite the lovely weather and the inviting nature of the lawns in this unexpectedly early spring, the Club Lawns are CLOSED until Opening Day to permit the maximum recovery and growth over last season's hoop areas. Members are asked to respect this.

AFTERNOON for the DISABLED

Put a circle around the afternoon of

SUNDAY, 17th OCTOBER

That is the afternoon that we have agreed to help our groundsman, Bill Mallock, by hosting the Christian Disabled Association at an afternoon of Croquet and Afternoon Tea. Details to follow.

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7th October, 1993

Presidential Message!

Well, the season has begun and although the weather has not been exactly conducive to play, there appears to be a great deal of enthusiasm on and off the court! Geoffrey and the Match Committee have organised the competitive season off to a smooth start...I trust everyone has their entries in for the events that have been opened!

The Special General Meetings have given approval for the borrowing of sufficient funds at low interest rates to get the new shelter erected and the old one demolished with suitable dignity, regret and praise for its lengthy and gracious service! We should expect to see the new shelter up and in use by November.

Many thanks to those who helped with Sportfest. As usual, it was quite a lot of fun, even if we did wish for a larger contingent from Japan! The word is that next year will be a bigger affair...but then that has been the word since it first started.

I hope that all Club Members will be on deck to help with our afternoon for the disabled next Sunday!

Regards

As unanimously agreed at the Annual General Meeting

the Management Committee requests your assistance with

AFTERNOON for the DISABLED SUNDAY, 17th OCTOBER

1.30p.m. to 4.00p.m.

This is an event that we are staging in response to a request from our groundsman, Bill Mallock. Most of the people attending will need assistance to play and we will be providing afternoon tea.

ALL MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO BRING A PLATE OF SUITABLE FOOD

Please telephone Christine Beale (352-7128) who is co-ordinating the food so that she knows what is being provided.

PLEASE ALSO BRING AS MANY MALLETS AS YOU CAN!!!

BARBECUE

Did you miss the Club Barbecue on the 9th October!

Mark the next one in your diary now - the second Saturday of every month! Bring your own meat and a salad to share!!!!

Next one:

SATURDAY, 12th NOVEMBER

WE LIKE PLAYING TOO!

Many thanks to all Club Members who have made suggestions to the Management Committee about the affairs of the Club!

One small request, though. Please, leave it until after we finished play before you let us know your thoughts! It is hard to concentrate on and enjoy play when your fielding a strongly held view!

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5th January, 1994

Presidential Message!

Greetings and good hoop-making for the New Year to all members! The second half of the season promises to be a busy and exciting one - may you achieve all that you wish in it! The Test is almost on us - I trust that you have purchased a ticket and told Vicky of the days that you can help to sell the daily raffle. We need to take advantage of every opportunity to raise money now that Sportsfest is unlikely to come back to Christchurch for a while!

Regards,

AUSTRALIA v NEW ZEALAND TEST

Please note that our lawns will be reserved for the Test Match from the evening of **FRIDAY, 21st JANUARY** until the morning of **TUESDAY, 1st FEBRUARY**.

The CCA has stated that our members will be welcome to play at other clubs during this period. If you find any difficulty making arrangements, please let Geoffrey know. Members will have to pay for entry to the Test: Tickets are available from Bruce Newburgh or from the gate on the day. If you have yet to volunteer for a task during the Test, please talk with Geoffrey who will be only too delighted to find something for you to do.

BARBECUE - Sunday, 30th January, 6.30p.m.

At the conclusion of the Test, the United Croquet Club is staging a barbecue for all players, officials, invited guests and United Croquet Club players. There is a small charge of \$10.00 but that will include food and drinks. We hope that all members will take advantage of this opportunity to meet the Test players. Please put your name on the list in the clubrooms if you intend to attend.



SUSAN WIGGINS

The passing away of Susan has meant the loss of a valued and popular member of the United Club. Her status as a member of the New Zealand Women's Team and a leading player at national level both here and in Great Britain brought kudos to our club and many of us have profited in the past from guidance and encouragement from her. She will be much missed.

RESULTS

Congratulations to:

Graham Beale on winning the Canterbury Open

Peter Couch on winning the Canterbury play-off for the Arthur Ross.

INTER-CLUB RESULTS

	Played	Won	Points Won on	Points Lost on	Lost	Points Earned
A1	8	6	2	-	-	15
A2	7	-	-	3	4	1½
Int	8	7	1	-	-	15½
B	5	2	-	-	3	4
C	7	5	1	-	1	11½

Among the achievements of the players have been:

A1: Breaks of 11 and 8 by Geoffrey

Int: Marie has won all her games; Breaks of 9, 9 & 8, and 8 by Geoffrey

B: Break of 7 by Una.

C: Ian has won all his games; Break of 6 by Bruce

None of our teams made it to the play-offs for the Johnson Memorial Competition. Better luck in 1994/95.

Please remember the cleaning roster!

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27th July, 1994

Presidential Message!

Greetings and good hoop-making for the new season to all members and to new members in particular! May all your misses be unimportant ones! The winter is passing with remarkable swiftness, and a remarkable quantity of water - I hope it has soaked away before we need to tread the greens. The gnomes who work unseen during the long dark winter have been busy with a hundred and one little tasks to improve the Club! I hope you will all be able to give them a hand at the working bee - Bruce and Geoffrey really deserve a big turn out. See you then and at the August meeting - they're perhaps the two most important gatherings of the year!

Regards, 

AUGUST GENERAL MEETING

ALL CLUB MEMBERS are requested to attend the August meeting of members to be held at THE CLUBROOMS on

SATURDAY, 13th AUGUST at 1.30p.m.

The major item on the agenda will be the programme of Play for the Season.

BRUCE'S CORNER

Well - it's that time of year again! Soon, the sun will be singing and the birds shining and we will be cutting our lawns again. Opening Day on 10th September is only six weeks away - where has the winter gone?

Time has not stood still for some of us:

- *Lawns 1 & 2 which looked such a mess when we topdressed them in May now look great - the regrowth is very healthy and will soon be getting its first cut.
- *The boundary boards lost in the fire are at present being remade; they'll be Australian-proof!
- *Perimeter boards have been built along the full boundary that we share with the Bowling Club
- *Geoffrey's tree house is finished and ready for painting.
- *Two gardens have been created, one each end of the new shelter.

WORKING BEE SATURDAY, 27th AUGUST

We must now ask for your help at our annual "spit-and-polish-before-Opening-Day" WORKING BEE.

The following are the jobs that we will need to do and the equipment you could bring (if you have it!)

CLEANING CLUB ROOMS (two people) - bring a bucket a cloth or two.

WINDOW CLEANING - Inside and Outside (two people) - bring a bucket, cloths, squeegee.

SHIFTING SOIL (two people) - bring a wheelbarrow and shovel

GARDENING (four people) bring trowel, handfork, kneeler

PAINTING (six people) - bring brush (2" to 3"), gloves, cloth, a little turps (optional).

CLEANING THE EQUIPMENT SHED (two people) - bring a yardbroom, hearth type brush, bucket, cloth.

WORK ON STORAGE SHED (two people) - bring hammer, yardbrush.

We will be STARTING AT 9.00a.m. and we will probably be finished within 3 or 4 hours. BRING YOUR LUNCH and do some socialising!!

IF YOU HAVE A PREFERENCE FOR A PARTICULAR JOB, CALL ME and book in - other wise turn up on the day!

YOUR CLUB NEEDS YOUR LABOUR AND TIME!!
Bruce Newburgh - ph 385-1725

OPENING DAY
Saturday, 10th Sept.
1.00p.m.

Progressive croquet. Bring a plate for Afternoon Tea.

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8th October, 1994

Presidential Message!

Greetings! We start the season on a high note - several new members, a new International Player and a Club first! Congratulations to Jane McIntyre on her selection to help thrash the Aussies in Wellington in November. I shall plead on behalf of you all that she is gentle with us on the lawns as she builds up to the Women's Test! The Club first was the sight of 18 players on Saturday afternoon, 8th October - 7 women and 11 men - surely a rare event for the gentlemen to outnumber the ladies. Thanks to Peter Couch for the simply magnificent Bisque markers and holders - surely the best in NZ. Thanks also to Peter Hill for the classy name tags! Some important information below so please digest it thoroughly - the information that is, not the sheet!

Regards,



Where were you during the last Working Bee? A lot of work fell on only a few shoulders. There are still quite a number of tasks waiting to be completed before the season gets too much further. So, we are calling a

WORKING BEE

on

SATURDAY, 29th OCTOBER at 1.00p.m.

It's deliberately on a Club Day so that we can all be there. Once the work is finished, there will be time for games, and there will be a BBQ (weather permitting) for those who wish to stay on - bring your own everything (the BBQ will be there however!)

WHAT TO BRING!

- * Rake or yard broom, wheelbarrow, shovel for some light topdressing of lawn 3 and finishing the mounding of soil under the fences to stop the balls leaving the property.
- * Paintbrush for a little more painting around the place.
- * Hammer for a few tasks that need one!
- * Hand brush, buckets, cloths for cleaning out the Equipment Shed and the Shelters.

SEE YOU THERE!!

CAR PARKING

We have a long-standing agreement with the Bowling Club as to the number of car park spaces which we are allocated.

Our allocation is THREE SPACES at all times.

**To be fair to all, these spaces are allocated to Officers of your Club -
PRESIDENT, CLUB CAPTAIN,
SECRETARY.**

If you are not one of these three Officers, please DO NOT park in the car park ON ANY DAY! If you want a space next to the Club House, get your nomination in for one of the places above!

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE

Yes! It's that time of the year again, and we need to start the raffle nice and early so that we raise a good amount, particularly from visitors to the Club.

So, we ask all members to contribute a few items of groceries or other Christmas fare for the hamper to be raffled.

**Cake, Tinned Food,
Wine, Chocolates, Nuts, etc**

All contributions gratefully accepted. Please place your Christmas items in the box in the Club Rooms.

UNITED CROQUET CLUB

NEWSLETTER

January, 1995

Presidential Ramblings....

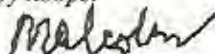
*Greetings to all members
a welcome to this new
style of communication
within the Club.*

*Communication is vital
within a voluntary
organisation and as United
grows and gains more and
more members who are
working through the week,
so we must use this avenue
to keep us all in contact
with what is happening in
the Club.*

*Your committee would
appreciate any feedback that
you may wish to provide
them about the usefulness
of this newsletter and, in
particular, what you would
find useful to read about
within its covers.*

*We hope to produce it about
four times each season!*

Happy hoops!



Quick, quick, slow..the green two-step!

Some want them quick, so that the skill of the player is exposed, while some want them slow so that the ball pulls up before the sideline! Bruce Newburgh wants to please everyone and so we've reduced the amount of irrigation that the watering system is delivering in the meantime!

Following the best advice, we've fertilised the lawns and watered them to promote the early season growth. Warm weather helped promote so much growth that we had to cut the lawns twice a week. Now, to make them fast enough for the average and better player, and to prepare for the Junior Nationals played at United in mid-January, we are watering just enough to keep the grass alive but the lawns fast.

While we can't make the lawns suit everyone, we sure want to please the majority - but please let Bruce play his games in peace!

Death of the Star Weed!

They multiply like rabbits and the infestation of the lawns is obvious - but never fear, their death is near!

We have, at last, found a suitable chemical to kill the star weed, but it's not cheap and it is one of the nastier hormonal chemicals that needs to be applied carefully. We have done some testing with localised applications but we will need to spray the entire surface thoroughly to achieve total eradication.

Expect to see the little blighters turning yellow during January. Theoretically, the chemical keeps active for three seasons so that any seeds that sprout are killed also. Seeing will be believing!

Back Page: Coming Events Pin-up - every good croquet home should have one!

The CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Play 'em games, please!!!

On the back page of this newsletter, you will note the small number of club days left in the season. There are lots of games that members need to play before we can determine the winners of the various grade championships so please make arrangements to play off your games before the cut-off dates, otherwise your entry will have to be removed. I've listed the conclusion dates below but they have been on the clubroom noticeboard since the beginning of the season....

C Grade Championship - 19th February
A Grade Championship Section play - 1st March
Senior Ladies Championship - 8th March
Open Singles - 22nd March
Men's and Women's Handicap - 29th March

**GAMES MUST
BE PLAYED
BY**

CLUB HANDICAP PLAY Don't forget that if you are playing Handicap games for the Club Tournaments, these count towards your Club Handicaps...just make sure that you fill in the slip and put it in the box for Peter to evaluate. I have had a number of very positive comments about the Club Handicaps but if it is to catch on, we must play as many games as possible using them. If you have trouble understanding the options available to you (Handicap, Full Bisque, Handicap with Lifts & Contacts, etc) just ask!!! It is a great system...let's use it more!

NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS The best of good fortune to all members who are playing in the National Tournaments in January...may all your peels be Triples...or better! The Senior Nationals are in Wellington and the Juniors are at our own lawns. I'm sure that the UCC members who are playing in the Junior Nationals would appreciate some moral support from the sideline if you can spare the time!

SPREAD THE LOAD

Very shortly, your committee will be asking for nominations for Officers of the Club for next season. If you haven't been on the committee or you think it is about time you had another go (or if you think the current lot are useless)put your name forward.

As a voluntary sports club, we owe it to ourselves to spread the (fairly minimal) burden and not expect the same members to lead the club every season. We also need to rotate members so that the committee has a mixture of old and new hands.

PLEASE GIVE IT A GO!!

CAN YOU HELP??

United Club is hosting the National Junior Championships 15 - 21 Jan. Can you help serve the teas or put out the hoops or both??

For tea assistance
ph Shirley 385-9609;
To help with the lawns
ph Malcolm 365-0383
or 365-0385.
NOW!

GETTING YOUR OPINION!

Your committee would welcome your views on the four topics in the questionnaire included in this newsletter: 1. How best can we attract new members?

2. Possible expenditure at the Club.
3. The use of Club Days for other events.
4. Help in running the Club.

Q1. Our present membership of fifty or so is not sufficient to maintain our present lifestyle; we have to rely on grants and donations, etc.. Please do all that you can to bring your friends, or friends of friends to join. We are planning a leaflet drop in and around Riccarton this month, but please answer Question 1 to give us your ideas on how to attract new members.

CLUBHOUSE CLEANING ROSTER

The roster is still not working well. Would you please note your duty week and when you have finished your turn, remind the next pair that it is their turn.

Tasks:

- Clean kitchen, toilet.
- Empty bins, etc.
- Vacuum clubrooms.
- Launder tea towels, towels & tablecloths.

Week commencing Monday:

- 9th Jan S. Bruce & B. Millar
- 16th Jan S. Bruce & B. Miller
- 23rd Jan I. Coop & J. Marsh
- 30th Jan M. Delahunty & N. Gash

- 6th Feb L. Cooke & V. Stewart
- Feb C. Turnbull & G. McCann
- 20th Feb B. Baird & P. Wilson
- 27th Feb M. Collins & N. Neil

- 6th Mar J. Ramage & E. Ramage
- 13th Mar P. Norton & U. Tabley
- 20th Mar B. Collins & D. Connor
- 27th Mar P. Hill & U. Hill

- 3rd Apr J. Tyler & A. Mollinson
- 10th Apr P. Parkinson & M. Harrison
- 17th Apr G. Beale & J. Prince
- 22nd Apr Closing - Final Clean-Up

Q2. We may have about \$1500 to spend during the winter. Give us your ideas on how we could best do so.

Q3. Club Days are valuable. Your views would be welcome - about using them to play tournaments, and about inviting other Clubs on Wednesdays.

Q4. Finally there is the constant problem of running the Club - keeping it clean; keeping it in good repair; helping with tournaments; and a hundred and one other tasks. Of course, some Members are less able than others to help, and we recognise this. We need to know what you are prepared to do in this area.

Do please let me have your completed questionnaires back quickly.

**WELCOME
to our
NEWEST MEMBER!**

URSULA HILL



Coming Events

Sunday, 15th January -
Saturday, 21st January
Sunday, 22nd January
Saturday, 28th January

NZCC Junior National Championships
(UCC lawns not available for Club play)
Sunday play at UCC
Silver Badge Finals

Saturday, 4th January -
Saturday, 11th February
Saturday, 8th February
Sunday, 19th February
Monday, 20th February -
Friday, 24th February
Saturday, 25th February
Monday, 27th February -
Friday, 3rd March

CCA Seniors Tournament
(UCC lawns not available for Club play)
Johnson Memorial Section Play-Offs
Sunday play at UCC
The Maud Trainor Tournament (Veterans)
(UCC lawns not available for Club play)
Johnson Memorial Semi-Finals
The Agnes Dick Tournament

Saturday, 4th March &
Sunday, 5th March
Sunday, 19th March

UCC 'Senior with Junior Tournament'
(Entries close 1st March)
Sunday play at UCC

Saturday, 1st April
Saturday, 8th April
Friday, 14th April -
Monday, 17th April
Saturday, 22nd April

UCC Prizegiving
CCA Closing Day, St Martin's
UCC Easter Tournament

UCC Closing Day

Ψ

CLUB DAYS

Wednesday

January 11th, 25th
February 1st, 15th
March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th
April 5th, 12th, 19th

Saturday

January 7th, 14th, 28th
February 18th, 25th
March 11th, 18th, 25th
April 1st

UNITED CROQUET CLUB

NEWSLETTER

March, 1995

Presidential Ramblings....

Greetings to all members for the final time in writing this season.

The second half of the season appears to have passed in a flash - especially for those members who have been unable to get along every week.

This newsletter has a number of important dates and other matters of great note so please read it all and take it in before you use it for wrapping up the peelings!!

Note that the end of the season this year will differ from previous seasons due to late Easter... so don't get caught out!!

Make your last hoops clean ones!



Cup Presentation Day at United THIS WEEKEND!

You may recall that the members decided at our last AGM to hold the Cup Presentations and Afternoon Tea BEFORE the CCA Closing Day because of the late position of Easter....so that's what's happening **this weekend!** Make a note of the details!

This
SATURDAY, 1st APRIL
1.00p.m. - Progressive Croquet
3.30p.m. - Afternoon Tea and
Presentation of Trophies
Please bring a plate!!

I ask as many members as possible to make it to the CCA Closing Day of the next weekend (see below) but note three things:

- * It's at a different venue than in previous years!
- * Winning and Runner-Up teams and individuals from CCA Inter-Club Events should attend.
- * United is down to run the "Up the Ramp" activity!!

Please volunteer to put in 1/2hour's assistance by adding your name to the list in the Club Rooms!

CCA CLOSING DAY
SATURDAY, 8th APRIL

10.a.m. - 2.30p.m.
at the

FENDALTON CROQUET CLUB

Proceeds of all activities to the "Selected Players Fund".

Inside : WINTER PLAY REGULATIONS for this winter!

WINTER PLAY

The Executive has discussed the several requests that it has received for facilities to be made available through the winter months. Over the last two seasons, winter play has been permitted under various rules. Last year, a green fee was requested but this appeared to be ignored in the large by members. There is some minor cost to the club in keeping a lawn or lawns open during the winter but the greatest cost to the club is the cost of any damage that may be caused by play on soft lawns, or irreparable burning of the turf that is caused if frozen grass is played on. Taking the interests of the club members into account as well as the desire to make facilities as available as possible, your Executive has determined that the following regulations will apply for winter play this year:

WINTER PLAY

1. Members may use the lawns after Closing Day provided they pay the Winter Play Green Fee of \$25.00. This entitles them to unlimited play throughout the winter provided the ground conditions are suitable.
2. Members who have paid their Winter Play Green Fee will have their names displayed in the window of the Equipment Shed.
3. Members playing in the winter will have to use Lawn 2 or 4.
4. If there has been a frost, NO PLAY UNTIL AFTER MID-DAY.
5. If there has been heavy rain, members must exercise discretion and abide by any lawn closure signs that may be erected.

EASTER TOURNAMENT

John Prince and Graham Beale are managing this once again and a large number of invitations have been accepted for the Championship Event. Expect to see a number of NZ's leading players in action during the weekend!

There are still

3 places only available for members in the Handicap Event.

If you want to in a really great tournament, telephone John right now or you'll be too late!!

There will be a barbecue at the Club on Easter Saturday.

It's open to all Club Members. If you want to attend, you'll be very welcome.

Again, let John know now!

ph 358-7150

OUT WITH THE OLD - IN WITH THE NEW!

Several spaces on the 1995/1996 Committee!

Every voluntary organisation needs members to organise it - nothing of much substance happens otherwise. We have been served by a good band of workers for several seasons, but many of them are ready for a break from the committee to let others have a go. At the Annual General Meeting at the end of the current season, the following Committee members will be stepping down. It's worthwhile knowing why.

Malcolm Long: Malcolm has been on the committee since the 1990/1991 season and President for the last three seasons - that's getting on towards dictator-for-life status. Besides, he has at last purchased a house in Christchurch and needs time to move in, do it up and start to live the normal life of a rate-payer!

Geoffrey Naylor: Geoffrey has been on the committee for two seasons, both as Club Capt. However, next season, Geoffrey is taking a year off croquet to travel, develop some interesting business propositions and play golf!!

Shirley Bruce: Shirley has been Club Secretary for two seasons - and a very efficient one at that. To be frank, Shirley is peeved by the lack of support she has received in the baking/cleaning/hosting business of the club. She looks forward to being just a player.

Billie Millar: Billie has been on the committee almost every year since 1990 and did two seasons as Club Captain! She feels quite a bit like Shirley!!

Bruce Newburgh: Bruce joined the committee two seasons ago not long after he started playing croquet! He feels that he has done his fair share, but will give the person taking over his role a hand, particularly with the handyman tasks about the Club! He will also edit this newsletter next season - so be on your best behaviour or you'll be in the gossip column before you can say, "Triple Peel Beale!".

Peter Couch: Peter joined the committee this season. He was particularly keen to see the Club Handicap Play system get up and take root. It hasn't to date, and Peter is disappointed at that.

The club owes these members its thanks for their service over this season, and those seasons that have preceded it!

Members will be pleased to know that **Peter Weeks**, the current Club Treasurer, has allowed his name to go forward for a further year of service. Thank you, Peter.

NOMINATIONS ARE CALLED FOR THE POSITIONS OF:
PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT, SECRETARY, TREASURER, CAPTAIN, VICE-CAPTAIN.

Nominations can be placed on the sheet on the wall of the Club Rooms. Obviously, your committee would prefer all vacancies to be filled by nomination prior to the AGM. If not, nominations can be taken from the floor at that meeting.

UNITED CLASSIFIED!

COACHING COURSE

for
-1/2 to 2 1/2 players

26th/27th AUGUST

Restricted to 8 men & 8 women only.

Only \$25.00

Get your application in quickly to:

John Prince

ph 358-7150

TOPDRESSING

of our Lawns 5, 6 & 7
A request for able-bodied
assistance on Tuesday,

8.00a.m., 25th APRIL

It's a Public Holiday, folks!!

The more members present, the quicker
it is done. It's a fun affair as we"

Let us know if you are available -

ph **Bruce Newburgh**

ph 385-1725

**1995/1996 SEASON
at UNITED**

**AUGUST Pre-Season
MEETING**

Saturday, 12th August at
1.30p.m.

OPENING DAY

Saturday,
10th September

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the
UNITED CROQUET CLUB

**Saturday, 27th MAY
1.00p.m.**

**Closing Day
1994/1995**

at United is
**Saturday,
22nd April.**

There will be no formal
club closing event.

UNITED CROQUET CLUB Inc

North Hagley Park, Riccarton Avenue
CHRISTCHURCH 1



NEWSLETTER

Secretarial
Ian 351 8084

LATE-WINTER EDITION 1995

Editorial
Bruce 385 1725



Meet your new COMMITTEE:

<i>President</i>	Billie Millar	338 3644
<i>Vice President</i>	No appointment	
<i>Secretary</i>	Ian Coop	351 8084
<i>Treasurer</i>	Peter Weeks	358 3560
<i>Captain</i>	Marie Delahunty	358 4335
<i>Committee:</i>		
James Marsh	Maintenance & Equipment	351 8105
John Prince	Lawns	358 7150
Marie Thompson }	Social	342 8398
Joan Tyler }	Convenors	384 3993

\$\$\$ SUBSCRIPTIONS 1995/96

The members at the AGM approved :

Honorary	\$20	
Full	\$130 }	Excluding
Student	\$65 }	Levies
Winter	\$25	
Green Fees	\$5	Each category inclusive of GST



AUGUST MEETING - Saturday 12 August, 1.30 p.m.

Our preseason meeting is to be held at the Club Rooms

Major item on the agenda will be the programme of play for the new season.



OPENING DAY - Saturday 9 September

Progressive Croquet: 1.00 p.m. until afternoon tea at approx 3.30 p.m.

Please bring a plate



PRE-SEASON WORKING BEE - Saturday 2 September, 9.30 a.m.

Bring your lunch if you are able to stay into the afternoon - cleaning, laying out lawns and general maintenance - all equipment supplied.



WINTER PLAY [Restricted to club members only]

There is a cost associated with winter play. Recognising this, your committee recommended at the AGM that a winter subscription of \$25 be set for the right to use the club room and equipment during the period closing day to opening day. Members wishing to avail themselves of the right to practise/play should send \$25 to our Treasurer, Peter Weeks, at 7 Glenavon Place.

Those who pay will have their names displayed in the window of the equipment shed. All others may pay \$5 green fees by leaving the money in the shed fridge and entering the date and their name in the book provided. This applies to members only.

The committee knows that you will not use the greens when they are so wet as to be easily damaged, but asks that you do **NOT** use them while they are covered by frost - this is when considerable damage is done.

The greens to use: No 2 and a new green (No 3½) which overlaps greens 3 and 4. The South boundary is about where hoops 1 and 4 were on No 4. The four corners are marked with ball markers - stretch a gate ball line between them to show North and South boundary lines.



CLOSURE OF GREENS

Our greens are in use for a NZCC Coaching Programme for senior players on the weekend of 26/27 August - they will not be available for winter play.



WINTER WORK

You thought that after the AGM we pulled dust covers over the seven greens, didn't you? You thought that we turned the key in the gate and turned our back on the club for four months, didn't you?

Wrong!! Winter is *grand maintenance time* and the work done keeps us looking fresh and bright for another season. This winter, following closely on the AGM, the Croquet Elves came out to beaver away for the next four months.

Top Dressing: Done whilst there was still some growth left in the grass, as you will read elsewhere in this tome.

Subsurface Aeration: Lawns 1 and 2 have been done to aid drainage (especially along the North boundary of lawn 1) and to improve the general health of the grass. The same was done to lawns 3 and 4 last season with a magnificent improvement to lawn 3 which used to have a sparse grass cover as it competed with moss. This year it was done in the early winter to let it settle down before our spring opening.



LAWN MAINTENANCE

The weather forecast of 24 April was for at least two days of fine weather - who then would be surprised to learn that it rained that night. The morning was sort of okay but black skies warned of further rain and the forecast had changed to 'rain'. This was enough for me - the day was bound to be fine and it was all on for the top dressing of lawns 5, 6 and 7.

The soil delivered the day before was only surface damp and the lawns were less wet than after a heavy dew. At 9 a.m. nine members were present with light step and happy heart, and just as you would expect of a bad weather forecast, the sun came out.

Between us we moved about six cubic metres of soil - loading a trailer and wheel barrows, spreading, raking, screeding and then the big board. Borrowed from the Bowling Club it had taken five strong men (and me) to carry it from their club to ours some days before - we now had five of our members to pull it and these five included the one lady member to turn up, an octogenarian, and three old age pensioners.

By 3 p.m. we were heading home, bent, bushed and b.....d, but knowing the high standard of our greens was being maintained for another year. I am grateful to:

- ♣ Ursula Hill - for the pikelets
- ♣ Peter Hill - who drove the car and manoeuvred the trailer
- ♣ James Marsh - for his constant wit and humour
- ♣ Geoffrey Naylor - for his qualities of leadership
- ♣ Ian Coop - for his constant encouragement, and to
- ♣♣♣ Graham Beale, John Prince and Malcolm Long for pretending that the rest of us were keeping up with them.

Bruce Newburgh, Convenor, Lawns & Equipment (retired).



UNITED CROQUET CLUB Inc

North Hagley Park, Riccarton Avenue
CHRISTCHURCH 1



NEWSLETTER



Secretarial
Ian 351 8084

SPRING EDITION 1995

Editorial
Bruce 385 1725



GENERAL MEETING: Saturday 12 August

Eighteen members were present and several apologies were received - a FAIR turnout.

New Balls - to be purchased with a \$700 grant from the Hilary Commission.

Handicap Ladder - a large number of those present asked that it be continued for the new season.

Club Day Draws - will close at 9.50 a.m. and 1.50 p.m. If you are running late a telephone call before the cut-off time will ensure a place is held for you. If you have arranged your own singles game for a club day call Marie Delahunty to enable her to reserve a green for you.



DRESS

There appears to be some confusion in the minds of some members as to the required dress for croquet.

Club Days - full white is preferred but some leeway is permitted, especially with wet weather gear.

Interclub and Tournaments - white, but a jacket or cardigan of 'another colour' is permitted. Dress and pants *must* be white.

Shoes - must be white and have a flat sole.

Hats - anything goes, but please, no hanging corks.



COACHING

At Barrington at \$10 per person - Intermediate: Sunday 17 Sept. The fee may be paid on the day but an entry form must be lodged by the previous Friday. More details from Billie Millar ☎ 338 3644.



THE JOHNSON MEMORIAL TROPHY (also sometimes known as 'Saturday Interclub')

Our teams :

- | | | |
|----|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. | Joan Tyler (2½) | Shirley Bruce (7) |
| 2. | Bruce Newburgh (5½) | James Marsh (9) |
| 3. | Ursula Hill (8) | Peter Hill (8½) |
| 4. | Marjorie Collins (7½) | Vicki Stewart (9½) |
| 5. | Nola Neil (11½) | Chris Turnbull (11½) |

Commences 23 September, thereafter 30 September, 7/14/21/28 October.



INTERCLUB COMPETITION 95/96

A Grade Teams: (Mondays, start 25 Sept)

A Team:	Marie Thompson (Capt)	B Team:	Marie Delahunty (Capt)
	Billie Millar		Peggy Norton
	Linda Cooke		Joan Tyler
	Alice Mollison		* Keith Taylor

Intermediate Team: (Thursdays, start 28 Sept)

- Ngaire Gash (Capt)
- * Daphne Parkins
- * Dawn Beattie
- * Dick Evans



B Grade Teams: (Tuesdays, start 26 Sept)

A Team: Shirley Bruce (Capt)
* Leone Baker
Irene Nelson
Bruce Newburgh

B Team: Una Tabley (Capt)
Marjorie Collins
Ursula Hill
Peter Hill

C Grade Team (Wednesdays, start 27 Sept)

James Marsh (Capt)
Vicki Stewart
Ian Coop
Chris Turnbull

* Seconded from other clubs.

OTHER EVENTS (Sept/Oct)

Canterbury Handicap singles: the week of 9-13 October

Details not available at time of going to press - see your yearbook which is due soon.

??? FROM OUR 'DID YOU KNOW?' FILE

You can wow them at tournaments with this one: Did you know that John Solomon (of the 'Solomon Grip' fame) won his first National Title ever at United? "Who gives a Clark Gable?" did I hear you say? Well, how about this one: Did you know that the first public croquet club in New Zealand was formed in 1866 in conjunction with the United Christchurch Cricket Club and that its first game was played in South Hagley Park opposite the Riccarton Hotel (which later became known as Nancy's)? Yes, you guessed it, it was **UNITED!**



UNITED CROQUET CLUB Inc

North Hagley Park, Riccarton Avenue
CHRISTCHURCH 1



NEWSLETTER



Secretarial
Ian 351 8084

AUTUMN EDITION 1996

Editorial
Bruce 385 1725



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 1.30³⁰ p.m. 25 May 1996

This is your official notice as required by our rules.

Business: To receive reports and financial statement.
To appoint executive for the 1996/97 season
To set the annual subscription and green fees
General business.

Nominations for office are invited - see the notice board in the club rooms. If you wish any matter discussed, please contact secretary, Ian Coop, at ☎ 351 8084.



CLOSING DAY - Saturday 20 April

Start: 11 a.m. with drinks
Lunch 12.30 p.m. and presentations
Play 1.30 p.m. fun croquet to 3.30 p.m.

Please bring your own drinks and lunch. - *shared finger lunch*



EASTER TOURNAMENT

Sorry! - cancelled through lack of entries. There has been a tournament of some sort each second week since the Nationals at the beginning of the year so I guess we are just about croqueted out. But! - knowing how disappointed you will be we are holding a special Open Day on Easter Monday with fun croquet from 9.30 a.m. Members of other clubs have been invited and we hope you will bring a friend or two. Please also bring your own lunch and a plate for afternoon tea. (Usual green fees of \$5 apply for non-members).



THE NATIONALS

A great experience watching New Zealand's best players isn't it? (And a little depressing in a positive way). IF THEY CAN DO IT, SO CAN WE!!! All visitors commented on the excellence of our lawns and our thanks go to Bill Malloch for the great greenkeeping job he does for us. Thanks also to Malcolm Long for his early morning green dressing each day - to Joan Tyler and her catering helpers, and to all those members who helped with raffles, daily sausage sizzles and the two BBQs. Oh yes - and we made over \$2,000. Well done everyone.



CONGRATULATIONS TO :

Silver Badge Competition

Senior A	Peter Couch	Winner ☺
A Grade	Michael Harrison	Winner ☺
B Grade	Bruce Newburgh	Runner up ☺
C Grade	James Marsh	Winner ☺

Canterbury Croquet Association

Senior Mens	Peter Couch	Winner
Senior Championship Doubles	Jane McIntyre/Ian Dumergue	Winners
Junior Mens Championship	Bruce Newburgh	Winner
Canterbury B Grade Championship	Bruce Newburgh	Runner up
B Grade Championship Doubles	Shirley Bruce/Bruce Newburgh	Runners up

National Events

NZ Mens/Womens Championships	Jane McIntyre	Winner
NZ National Championship Open Doubles	Graham Beale/Richard Baker	Winners

Canterbury Interclub

A Grade B Team captained by	Marie Delahunty	Winners <i>Runners-up</i>
Intermediate captained by	Ngaire Gash	Runners up*
(*were placed 1st equal with St James but lost on a play off)		
B Grade A Team captained by	Shirley Bruce	Winners

Other

Johnson Memorial	James Marsh/Bruce Newburgh	Runners up
Agnes Dick	James Marsh/Bruce Newburgh	Winners

Two of our members reached the finals of the Canterbury Handicap Tournament and were placed third and fourth.



FROM OUR 'I only believe it because YOU told me' FILE

Believe me - the Canterbury Association was the first in New Zealand - its inaugural meeting was held on 3 August 1910 and its first tournament was held in 1911. In 1912 the Canterbury Association contacted all NZ clubs proposing the formation of a National Council - would you believe that they were not interested? In 1919 we tried again - this time the rest of the country had caught up to us and the first National Body was formed. The first National President was the well known Christchurch player, E J Ross. You guessed it - he was the father of Arthur Ross (of trophy fame) who won the NZ Open eleven times. His name appears on the Council Honours List 47 times.



MAUDE TRAINOR TOURNAMENT

The over 65s enjoyed a week of it with 61 combatants (sorry, that should be participants). The weather was bad, with rain each morning, improving to just miserable in the afternoons. I didn't hear one complaint - the oldies can take it. The tournament made us a little over \$800 and we all had a lot of fun.



PLEASE!

When practising please count the number of balls you start and finish with. On three occasions during the past few months odd balls have been found around the boundary where they have lain at least overnight.

It is more than the \$65 per ball at stake as it takes a full set of four to replace one lost one (equivalent to the annual sub of two members). Thanks!

UNITED CROQUET CLUB Inc
North Hagley Park, Riccarton Avenue
CHRISTCHURCH 1



NEWSLETTER

Secretarial
Ian 351 8084

SPRING EDITION 1996

Editorial
Bruce 385 1725

AT LAST the winter is dead and spring has brought the daffodils, street collections, lower power bills and a new bottle of sun screen - oh yes, and CROQUET. On the down side (if street collections weren't enough) we are all a year closer to the day we stop believing in Father Christmas and the 'wine box' conspiracy.

In the meantime we have lots of goodies to look forward to and pleasant games to play.



THE CLUB HOUSE

Your committee has looked at the possibility of widening the room by two metres, with glass doors opening onto a decking. It is practical, feasible, desirable and most importantly, financially possible. The cost will be a little over the cost of two shelters.

The money will be raised by a levy of \$1,000 on each member - JUST JOKING!! Frightened myself that time!!

We have about half the money invested at present, and plenty of ideas on how to raise the balance. This will involve no financial burden on any member although a few may be asked to give a little of their time. Of course, no decision will be made until the facts are provided to all members at a general meeting.

More on the Clubhouse: Don't the new chairs look great? For the benefit of those who haven't been along lately, Geoffrey found 27 chairs at an auction of surplus American Base equipment (it seems the presidential campaign is proving to be more costly than expected) and found he had bought them as he demonstrated a hammer shot to a bystander. Fortunately they were very cheap and our Treasurer saw the funny side. With the help of Ngaire (who has donated the material) Geoffrey is repairing and upholstering them.

\$\$

TRIP COSTS/DONATION

If you are accepting a lift you are expected encouraged to make a token contribution to the vehicle running costs. Our recommendation is:

	Per person
Within the city	\$2
Diamond Harbour/Rangiora	\$3
Akaroa	\$4
Ashburton	\$5
Elsewhere	By arrangement

This is an annual reminder which, by setting a fixed amount, helps to avoid the embarrassment of offering and accepting.



CLUB COMPETITIONS

A little belatedly we enclose your entry form. Please complete **immediately** and, to save time, hand (or post) to James. The forms must be received by James by Saturday 9 November and all games completed by Friday 28 February 1997. An event will be cancelled if less than four entries are received.



CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

A carton has been placed under the blackboard and Vicki would appreciate your contribution of a prize. Anything would be appreciated - a bottle of wine, tin of peaches ... money clip of \$50 notes ...



NEW MEMBER

A sincere welcome to Shirley Jeppe of 3/28 Taupata Street, Christchurch 8. Tel 384 1469. Please add to your membership list.



SNIPPETS FROM NZCC

- * Jane McIntyre has been selected to represent New Zealand at the 'Transasman Challenge' to be held at Noosa, Queensland in May 1997 - well done, Jane!
- * The New Zealand Open Championships being held in Auckland in January 1997 are to be sponsored by Guardian Trust, with prizes totalling \$1,500. Our own John Prince was the last South Islander to win in 1987, having first won in 1967.



CHRISTMAS CROQUET

We will be closing for the year on Saturday 21 December.

Morning - the usual draw (some will be playing Saturday interclub)

1.15 p.m. - Fun croquet

3.30 p.m. - Afternoon tea, a speech if we are lucky, and the drawing of the raffle.

Please bring a plate. Club days recommence Wednesday 8 January 1997.



PROFESSIONAL CROQUET

On Thursday 24 October eight staff members each of chartered accountants Price Waterhouse and investment bankers Forsyth Barr Ltd met after work for the game of the year playing one ball croquet, with the help of some of our members.

- * all had plenty of laughs;
- * our bank account expanded a little from green fees, and
- * the reputation of croquet as a fun game benefited a great deal.

The investment bankers won - don't they always?



UNITED CROQUET CLUB Inc

North Hagley Park, Riccarton Avenue
CHRISTCHURCH 1



NEWSLETTER

Secretarial
Ian 351 8084

SUMMER EDITION 1997

Editorial
Bruce 385 1725

Welcome to the wonderful world of 1997 - a world in which Hong Kong confirms its chineeseness, a world in which Winston Peters publishes his first budget, and (to move to the more important events) United pulled off the trifecta when **Peter Weeks** won the Diamond Harbour 'Sea' grade tournament recently.



CONGRATULATIONS ALSO TO

- * **Graham Beale** who won the Y event in the NZ Open Championships;
- * **Ian Dumergue** has also done well this season by winning the Southern Senior A Silver Badge, the Men's Championship Singles AND Doubles, and the South Island Open Championship Singles;
- * **Jane McIntyre** who has left the ranks of ordinary croquet player by being promoted to the exalted Senior A with a bisquing of minus one half;
- * **Geoffrey Naylor** who was first in the A Grade Senior Championships;
- * **Bruce Newburgh** who won the Intermediate Silver Badge;
- * **John Prince** who is representing Canterbury at the Arthur Ross play off. John also won the Canterbury Open singles.



TEAM RESULTS

Interclub:	A Grade	6 wins	2 losses
	Intermediate	4 wins	4 losses
	B Grade, Team 1	5 wins	3 losses
	B Grade, Team 2	2 wins	6 losses

Johnson Memorial

James and Bruce have reached the finals (15 Feb) with one loss.



COMING EVENTS

- * **Veterans** (Maud Trainor Trophy over 65s)
If you haven't entered - tough luck, all places full - better luck next year.
- * **Agnes Dick**
Week commencing Monday 3 March. Entries close 22 Feb - see p197 of your Yearbook.
- * **Easter Tournament - United**
Contact John Prince ☎ 358 7150 - p243 of your Yearbook.



DO NOT READ ANY FURTHER if you are the slightest bit squeamish!

Three years ago Ian Coop, Peter Hill and Bruce Newburgh conducted an all-out spraying campaign against the Star Weed and won - but the dreaded weed is back!! We can win again, but we need your help with our ...

1997 'ADOPT A GREEN' CAMPAIGN

Wanted - six members, each to check their green each week and to pounce when a star weed appears. Volunteers please ☎ Bruce 385 1725. You will need to commit yourself to about 10 minutes per week. A full training will be given.





NEW MEMBERS

Please add to your membership list -

David Wills	(11)	☎ 349 0646, 30a Seymour Street.
Michael Rice	(13)	☎ 355 3784, 43 Leinster Road.
Elva McNeill	(13)	☎ 332 8376, 2/10 Timbertop Lane.

Welcome to the greatest little club in the world.



NEW WORKS

Your committee recently received and considered at length the maintenance/improvements report prepared by Peter Weeks. Over the past few months Peter has discussed our members' wants and wishes with anyone who would listen. Some ideas were small and modest; others large and costly. Some have been deferred indefinitely and still others will be actioned as time permits. The more urgent jobs include :

- * Resiting the 'central' verandah post of the equipment shed.
- * An irrigation system for the gardens.
- * Fence repairs (alongside No 4).
- * An awning above the newly paved area at the No 4 end of the equipment shed.

We would dearly love to enlarge (widen) the club room with glass doors onto a small terrace but the \$11,000 quoted is beyond our meagre resources.



BE WARNED

A job already done is the fitting (at last) of an alarm bell on the club room door. This allows us to leave the door unlocked when we are playing. Open the door and the bell rings - close it and it stops. A switch at the inside edge of the door deactivates the alarm when the door is left open.

When practising or on club days please lock the door or switch on the alarm.



HELP NEEDED

Vicki has done a tremendous job of turning an ordinary garden into a thing of beauty. Now that all the hard work has been done she would like some help to keep it looking good. Volunteers please ☎ Vicki on 355 9269.



GOOD NEWS

If you are a timid player, fear not, for the weak shall inherit the earth. (That is, if the rest of you don't mind.)



UNITED CROQUET CLUB Inc

North Hagley Park, Riccarton Avenue
CHRISTCHURCH 1



NEWSLETTER

Secretarial
Ian 351 8084

SPRING EDITION 1997

Editorial
Bruce 385 1725

Welcome to another wonderful season of croquet. Sixteen of our members paid a winter sub of \$15 and have played games amongst themselves or just gone for an hour or so of practice. These dedicated souls are those who will win most of their interclub games this season, and whose names will be mentioned more often in the 'Press' sports pages during the 1997/98 year.



WINTER CROQUET

Lawn six is showing signs of use, especially where the porina beetle has been lunching at the approach to hoop one. Repairs will be needed before opening day so lawn five will be opened as a substitute about mid-August. A note will be placed on the trolley when this is done.



OPENING DAY

Note your diary for : **Saturday 13 September, 9.45 a.m. AND 12.45 p.m.**

The format is still to be planned but will probably be the normal draw in the morning and fun croquet after lunch, with a special afternoon tea at 3 p.m. **BRING A PLATE** (with something on it!).



COMMITTEE 1997/98

The workers are (not necessarily in order of importance) :

Geoffrey Naylor	President
John Prince	Vice-President and Association delegate
Ian Coop	Secretary
Bruce Newburgh	Treasurer
Nola Neil	Housekeeping and catering
Peggy Norton	Liaison for interclub teams and club trophy play
	End of season handicapping
Peter Weeks	Greens maintenance
Dave Wills	Equipment/gardens

You will remember at the AGM electing a committee which included Vicki. Vicki was not present and did not intend standing - Peter Weeks has graciously agreed to take her place.



HELP WANTED FOR:

- * Vicki, with the garden
- * Peter and Dave, with lawns and equipment
- * Compiling the newsletter and maintaining membership list
- * Keeping the club diary
- * Star weed warrior or warrioress.



INTERCLUB

As we go to print the teams have not been finalised, although it is obvious that we will have one team for each of the grades and perhaps two B grade - you will be contacted if you have agreed to take part. If you have changed your mind or if you are not sure if your name is on the list, call Peggy.





WELCOME

Ursula Hill is moving into the city from distant parts and has rejoined our club. Welcome back Ursula, and many sincere thanks for your much needed donation of garden tools.



TRAVEL COSTS

The following is an annual reminder to our older members and serves to advise our newer members that if you accept a lift to another club you are expected to make a token contribution. The club recommends :

to anywhere in the city	\$2
to Diamond Harbour/Rangiora	\$3
to Akaroa	\$4
to Ashburton	\$5
to Vladivostock	\$3,500
and elsewhere by arrangement.	



MEMBERSHIP

We start the year with 30 playing members, a decrease of four from a year ago. Ian Dumergue is now living in Australia, Roger Murfitt and Marjorie Collins have given up for health reasons; Billie Millar, after many years as a very good croquet player, has had enough excitement and is transferring her affections to bowls. They will all be missed.

A new membership list is enclosed.



THE CAPTAIN'S MEETING

The annual pre-opening meeting is to be held at the club room on **Saturday 16 August**. The Secretary's notice of meeting is enclosed.



TRIBUTE

It is not generally known that after the great fire of '79 our club was saved from oblivion by the outstanding efforts of a small team under the leadership of Roger Murfitt. Although only a young man Roger has been forced to give up croquet. Those present at our AGM proudly elected him to life membership. Thanks, Roger!!



FOR THOSE WITH THE KILLER INSTINCT ONLY

John Prince is running a coaching day for the Association on the

1] Receiving of bisques	2] Giving bisques
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to be held at the Cashmere Croquet Club on Sunday 14 September (the day after our opening). Time :

Group 1 (receiving)	10 a.m.-12 noon.
Group 2 (giving)	1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Cost: \$10 payable on the day.

Numbers are limited to 24 players in each group. Register with Bruce ☎ 385-1725 by 5 p.m. Sunday, 31 August. CAN YOU AFFORD NOT TO REGISTER?



TELEPHONE

The telephone has been disconnected for the winter, resulting in a net saving (after reconnection fees) of about one annual sub. When it goes on again at the beginning of the season we intend taking the low fee option and paying 20c per call. A box will be provided for your donation of 20c per private call - resulting in a saving of about \$100 annually.

Our last year number was relinquished on disconnection, and we may not get the same number back - watch this space.



NEWSLETTER

This is my last newsletter - a replacement is required. Someone with access to a computer (or at least a typewriter). Volunteers to Ian at 351 8084 or Bruce at 385 1725.

NEWSLETTER

UNITED CROQUET CLUB INC.

Spring Edition - August 1998

President
Geoffrey Naylor

Treasurer & Editor
Bruce Newburgh

Secretary
Ursula Hill

EDITORIAL.

It is that time again - time to think about taking out the mallet for a good polish and to shake the moths out of our whites.

If the Croquet Council has its way, this could be the last year we will be doing it - taking the whites out, that is. The NZCC Executive has (in what I consider to be a seriously retrograde step) agreed to change the rules requiring players to wear white at tournaments. A reasonable standard is asked for and flat soled shoes are still required.

The Council hopes that clubs will "move to mufti and not require that 'whites' be required"

No doubt the Canterbury Association will be considering this recommendation and your committee will do the same. How about making your views known!!

THE OFF SEASON

Well - those winter elves have been at it again. All six greens have been grooved and top dressed. Fifteen cubic metres of soil was used. That is a column of soil one metre square reaching to a height of a 5 storey office building - where does it all go?

Seed has been spread, but more will be needed in the spring; three shelters have had the rotting rooves repaired and the four unpainted shelters have now had the first coat of paint and should have a second and final coat by the end of July. Seating has been repaired and painted and - listen carefully - that terribly uncomfortable seat in shelter 6 has been modified and now is as comfortable as your favourite lounge suite.

INTERCLUB

James has been in touch with all who have expressed an interest in playing for us next year and we are able to field a team in each of the grades - full details will be given at the Captain's Meeting on 15th August, after the Special General Meeting.

JOHNSON MEMORIAL

Disappointing - only four teams have entered from our club. Entries close in August - think about it.

COMING EVENTS

Committee Meeting 12 Aug. Contact a member of the committee if you have any issue you want raised or any questions.

Special General Meeting 15 August at 1.30pm - to consider Rule changes required by the formation of the Twilight Club.

Captain's Meeting 15 August following the Special General Meeting to discuss our playing activities for the coming season.

Opening Day 12 September. Ordinary play in the morning - organise your own draw. Fun play starts at 1.15pm. Afternoon tea, (bring a plate) 3.15pm.

COACHING

Geoffrey is organising two days of coaching for C Graders - Sundays 13 and 20 September at \$10 per day. UNITED MEMBERS FREE. Register with Geoffrey at 358-4764.

Coaching for B & C graders on Friday mornings commencing late September - probably 10.30am to 12.30pm. by prior arrangement only.

Tales from Long Ago

The contributions to United, and to croquet, of some of our members has been quite outstanding. We don't always remember just what a huge debt we owe to our predecessors - and it is huge - nor the special place United has in the history of croquet in New Zealand.

Long, long ago, before the Pavilion burnt down in 1979, three sports clubs were as one - they were United; the bowls club, the tennis club and the croquet club. Some four years after the initial application was made, and no less than thirty eight years after we were formed - one of the first Croquet Clubs in New Zealand and based then as now in Hagley Park - the official formation all three clubs was approved by the Domain Board in 1904. At a total cost of just under £100, two croquet, two bowls and six tennis lawns were laid out. In 1905/1906 a pavilion was built for the use of all three Clubs.

Four years further on, on 3rd August 1910 to be precise, the Secretary of the United Croquet Club, Mr S.S. Blackburn, convened a meeting to form the Canterbury Croquet Association. Can you guess where its first tournament was held, in 1911? Correct, right here in Hagley Park. Another year on, and Mr E.J. Ross of United, on behalf of the Canterbury Croquet Association, proposed, unsuccessfully, the setting up of a National Council. But the proposal was accepted in 1919, and the next year Mr Ross was elected its first President. For the next ten years or so we were the largest croquet club in the country, and our Members dominated the National tournaments.

Once the Pavilion was completed, of course there had to be a Pavilion Committee. It more or less "ruled the roost" because it controlled both the arrangements for tournaments and the social events for all three clubs, since, obviously, it was best to avoid all of them wanting to use the Pavilion at the same time. So it was a most important Committee. And now we can introduce Iris and Ernie Horwood who are just two of the people who deserve a special place in our history. Iris was the influential Secretary of the Pavilion Committee for sixteen years, from well before "the fire" until the new Clubrooms were built.

Not content with all that commitment, Iris also served on the Committee of our Club for another long stint. Vice-President for two years, from 1965 to 1967 - a time when Alice Mollison first became a Committee member - Iris was then Secretary for thirteen consecutive years - from 1967/8 to 1980/1 - and then went on to become President for a seven year spell from 1981/2 to 1987/8 except for 1983/4 when she took on the role of Secretary again! Who will ever repeat such devotion?

Although he learned his croquet at the Holmes Park Club, Ernie was also a stalwart United supporter. Not only did he prepare tea for them both when Iris was at work for the Club or playing in tournaments, but he too was a member of the Committee for a ten year spell, from 1975 to 1985, except for 1978/79. He was United's Delegate to the CCA in the early 80's.

But Ernie's efforts for the Club went far beyond his wise counselling on the Committee. He was always busy around the lawns, the Clubroom and the shelters, doing jobs a good many of which he initiated and then carried out. Of course, as he would be the first to acknowledge, others helped too.

Is that all Ernie did for us? Not by a long chalk. He worked tirelessly amid the ruins of the burnt out Pavilion, along with Jack McNab and others, clearing the site and rescuing as much memorabilia as possible. We should acknowledge too, the support received from the Bowls and Tennis Clubs in the initial stages of this salvage operation. Is *that* all Ernie did? Not by another long chalk. He helped to replace and dispose of an old water pipe under the golf course from Kilmarnock Street. The new pipe brought *mains* water which replaced the river water we had used up to then to water the lawns. [Our drinking water came from a well in our car park!]. But the pressure left a great deal to be desired, and later on the City Council brought a high pressure pipe to our back gate. Ernie, helped by the late Ray Forsythe and others, used a small digger to put in the watering system for our lawns, at a cost of \$2,000 in the late 80's.

The sprinklers were turned on and off by Bill Mallock, then as now our devoted green keeper. Of course the watering took place in the daytime - no doubt to the annoyance of some members - but at tournament times Roger Murfitt would come down in the middle of the night to do the job!

At \$1,500 a season the cost of water was a major burden on the Club's finances. But Tony Reid persuaded the Council that we were a deserving cause, and got them to reduce the charges significantly. His efforts complemented all the work Ernie had put in, enabling us to afford to make our lawns the envy of many other clubs.

So it is very fitting that both "The Horwoods" as they are affectionately known, should be Honorary Members of our Club; and that Iris be asked to "run the first hoop" each Opening Day. It is a pity that they don't feel able to come down to play much nowadays, but then if they did, and continued to play like they used to, we'd probably all get beaten.

Iris and Ernie we salute you, and want you to know all the present Members are grateful to you for your efforts over the many years you served the Club.

GET WELL WISHES for a speedy recovery to Alice and James, we hope they will be better to join us by Opening Day.

NEWSLETTER

UNITED CROQUET CLUB INC.

Christmas Addition - December 1998

President
Geoffrey Naylor

Treasurer & Editor
Bruce Newburgh

Secretary
Ursula Hill

EDITORIAL

Dress Policy

Well - it's official - we don't need to wear whites any more on club days! The NZ Croquet Council has decided that from this season whites need not be worn by those playing in its tournaments. Neatness and flat soled shoes are its only requirements. They have asked clubs to consider dropping their standards (oops, sorry) old whites only dress code.

The Canterbury Croquet Association has decided as an interim measure to require whites to be worn for all events controlled by it - this includes the Johnson Memorial and weekday interclub as well as any Association tournaments. This requirement will be reviewed at the end of the season.

At our own Special General Meeting held in August to consider the changing of our rules to permit playing associate members (Twilighters) only four of those present voted to retain whites on club days - but neatness and flat soles please.

THE TWILIGHT CLUB

During the winter we were looking at forming a new club to operate within our club to encourage more members of the public to consider croquet as a spare time activity.

Our home in Hagley Park is becoming increasingly surrounded by high rise residential flats, hopefully filled with gardenless people looking for something to do in the early evenings and Sundays. As our President has said "instead of taking a dog for a walk - take a croquet mallet". The "sub club" meet after 3.30pm any day and anytime on Sunday during the days of daylight saving. Currently there are 13 members who meet regularly (and none live in a highrise flat). They are also developing an interesting social side.

MAINTENANCE IMPROVEMENTS

Much work has been done since last season. The shelter between greens 1 & 6 now has a full set of windows - has been painted - the roof has been partly

rebuilt - a "window box" type garden has been built and planted and even the seat facing green 6 has been made comfortable to sit in. Those ugly part tyres have been replaced with hit boards and the greens, after our full autumn top dressing, have improved magnificently.

More work is scheduled and your help is needed - the following will be done over the next month so:-

1. finish painting clochmerle and the North West shelter
 2. roof repairs and painting of the North East shelter
 3. laying paving slabs in front of equipment shed
 4. building storage bins.
- If you can spare say, half a day over the holidays please call Peter Weeks

CONGRATULATIONS

To Jane McIntyre who won the Canterbury Open championship (Bruce missed being the runner up by only 3 net points).

A special feature of this premier event was that two thirds of the contestants were United members. Jane also won the Canterbury Singles Championships, and as this goes to the press, Jane and John Prince are in the NZ trans-Tasman test trials in Wanganui.

To Peter Parkinson who was runner up in the South Island Championships. Peter also won the Senior Mens Championships.

To Geoffrey and Peggy who won their section in the Senior competitions.

MORE CONGRATULATIONS

To Malcolm Long who is to be married about the time you

will be receiving this - To Vicki for an even more magnificent garden display this season - To James on his return home after almost four months in hospital.

COMING EVENTS

The **NZCC National Championships** will be held at United starting 9th January 1999 till 16th. Peter Weeks has asked for helpers for the week. There is a roster up in the club room, if you are able to help please put down your name.

- **Interprovincial** (at Ashburton) Junior 10th Jan - with a record entry, all teams have been chosen.

Senior 17 Jan - some vacancies exist. If you are interested in entering, call Peter Weeks.

- **Silver Badge** competitions
Play off 30/31 Jan. If you are interested in representing the club in your grade contact Club Captain Peter Weeks immediately. Entries must be processed by Peter before 18 Dec.

- **South Island Teams event:**
Feb 20/21 at Timaru

- The regions premier "**C**" **Grade** tournament Jan 16/17 at Diamond Harbour - a fun weekend of short games.

- **Canterbury Junior**
-commencing Sat 6th Feb.

Christmas Party

Saturday 19th December - afternoon tea at 3.30pm, bring a plate of festive goodies. There is a raffle, \$1.00 a ticket, this will be drawn in the afternoon.

The MacRobertson Shield

This series of six test matches to be played among the four countries, America, Australia, Great Britain and New Zealand, will now be held from 24th January to 13th February 2000.

The change of date has been dictated by the lack of aircraft seats for the original starting date of 3rd January, just two days after the start of the Millennium.

United will be the main venue, and possibly the only one. An opening reception is planned at the University - where the teams will be staying and for which a limited number of tickets will be sold to anyone who wishes to come along - and a closing barbecue at United, to which everyone will be welcome for a nominal charge.

Our lawns are already in very good condition and with the further work planned for the autumn/winter months, they should be even better by the time this major international event is held.

In due course we will be asking for volunteers to help with various aspects of the event, from other Clubs as well as United. The tasks which still need to be done include painting, "mini work" on the lawns, with full top dressing to come later, extra flagpole erections, a variety of carpentry jobs on seats & chairs and a good deal of tidying up. A cheerful and willing response from you would be appreciated by your Committee, even if it is only to make coffee for the other volunteers!

We have been fully re-imbursed by the MacRobertson Committee for the expenses we have incurred so far, and will be for all future MacRob

expenditures, so everything now looks set fair for the Shield Tests. Let's hope the weather also sets itself fair for the three weeks of the Tests.

Each Test between two teams of six players will consist of nine singles and three doubles games and will last six days. To accomplish all these matches within the three weeks allocated means the use of seven lawns. Whether or not we can find a seventh lawn nearby, or whether some matches will have to be played at another croquet club is still being explored.

The MacRobertson Committee is chaired by Roger Murfitt, a very seasoned MacRobertson Shield player, as well as an experienced team manager, and Geoffrey is the UCC representative on it - with special responsibility for the lawns.

There will be no entrance fee, so please do make a note in your diaries to come along and to "Bring a friend". It will be a marvellous opportunity to show off croquet at its very best to all the doubting Thomases you know. Drinks, food, and programmes will be available.



Have a great Christmas and may Santa bring you all you deserve.

Bruce.

NEWSLETTER

UNITED CROQUET CLUB INC.

Autumn Edition - May 1999

President
Geoffrey Naylor

Treasurer & Editor
Bruce Newburgh

Secretary
Ursula Hill

EDITORIAL

Your Committee is aware that this is only the third newsletter for this season and whereas, ashamed would be too strong a word a better effort will be made in the millennium season.

shelter repairs and painting, equipment maintenance and trolley painting, boundary boards construction and landscaping.

Members will be rung for assistance in early June.

ITEMS FOR YOUR DIARY

AGM **MAY 29th** **Time**
1.30pm at the Club Room

OPENING DAY SEPTEMBER 11th

WINTER WORK PARTY is being arranged for early June

Return your application for a place in the Interclub teams by

2nd AUGUST, please send to Peter Weeks.

WINTER WORK PARTY

This will be our final chance to get it right for the MacRobertson - we must send our distant visitors back to their home countries with good memories of our sparkling fresh club.

Jobs to do are listed on our blackboard and includes

THE TWILIGHTERS

The experiment has been an outstanding success with a membership of 13. They have used the greens on weekends and evenings. The change over from our club days has been seamless and they have mixed with us socially and on a couple of occasions. Hopefully we can make it more often next season

TOPDRESSING

This has been done in three stages and has now been completed. Each stage consisted of the grooving of two greens followed a few days later by the spreading of 6m of soil and spot seeding, this taking the best part of a day.

Greens 3 & 4 were done in early March and have now fully recovered for winter

play.

Many thanks for the hard work of Geoffrey, Dave, Ian, Peter, Tony and Bruce.

WINTER PLAY

A new green has been created which overlaps 3 & 4 and may be used during the winter subject to the following:-

1. Use the hoops on trolley 4 - the green still faces north.
2. A winter sub of \$15 is payable to cover the cost of spring repair, use of balls, any electricity (and Tea or coffee) used. Bring your own milk.
3. Sign your name once in the note book on the trolley and you will be billed later.
4. Use only Barlow balls - winter wet finds small casing cracks in the Jacques. The cork centre swells and the ball deteriorates quickly.
5. No play in, or shortly after, rain or when the greens are slippery - for obvious reasons.
6. Play only between 10am and 3pm. Please wait for any frost to thaw - walking on frost damages the grass.
7. Club members only (including Twilighters).
8. You are expected to allow any others arriving after you, to share your green or your game.
9. It is a requirement that you enjoy yourself.

INTERCLUB 99/00

Included with this newletter is your interclub form. Please indicate your interest and send it to your Club Captain by the due date.

Please also find yourself a partner for the Johnson Memorial (Saturday interclub) or show that you would like one to be found for you.

THE WEARING OF WHITES

At the AGM you will again be asked to vote on your preference so give it some thought.

THE MacROBERTSON SHIELD

All the arrangements for this three week series of Test Matches are now well advanced. The siting of the seventh lawn has been agreed with the United Tennis Club; all our six lawns have been grooved, sown and top dressed; the design of the programme is nearly settled; and the catering and accommodation details are just about complete. Nearly 100 "MacRob shirts" have been sold, and spaces in some inner City windows for appropriate displays, are being negotiated. Work continues on the details of the organisation at our Club event, and on such items as gifts packs for our visitors. One or two other croquet clubs have offered to help with the setting out the courts etc, and we have had a couple of offers so far of a "United Day" at other clubs while the MacRob is on. The CCA will be organising raffles.

Many of the best players in the world will be here next January. There will be no admission charge, so do make certain that you, and some friends, come along as often as you can.

If you have any questions or

comments, please let me know. Geoffrey

HANDICAPPING

The club recommendations have been forwarded to the Handicapping Committee for its submission to the National handicapper - results should be known by the AGM.

Reductions during the year include:

Peter Weeks 5.5 to 4.

Remember - the fastest and only sure way to achieve a reduction is to play interclub AND to enter as many Association and/or Council events as possible.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Nominations for the new committee is VERY SHORT of names, please give thought to this.

We need nominations for the following: Vice President, Vice Captain, and at least two more ordinary members. The list was up on the board before we closed, so it is disappointing that the list was not full before Closing Day.



NEWSLETTER

UNITED CROQUET CLUB INC.

Spring Edition - August 1999

President
Geoffrey Naylor

Treasurer & Editor
Bruce Newburgh

Secretary
Ursula Hill

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the new season which promises to be a very busy one, with Interclub, club competitions and the MacRobertson Test in the New Year. Hope you are all feeling fit and ready!

DATES TO REMEMBER

CAPTAIN'S MEETING - 14th
AUGUST AT 1.30pm

WORKING BEE - 19th August

HANDICAP PLAY COACHING -
29th August 10am -3pm. at
St. James \$10. Entries
close 22nd August. Phone
Kay Wade on 337-0607. Take
note book, pencil, mallet &
flat soled shoes and your
lunch.

OPENING DAY- 11th SEPTEMBER,
Normal play in the morning
and Official Opening at 1pm.
Please bring a plate for
afternoon tea which will be
at 3.30pm.

MACROBERTSON TEST - 24th
January to 13th February
2000.

TROPHY DAY - 25th March,
2000

CLOSING DAY - 15th April,
2000

WINTER PLAY

Winter players will have noticed that lawn "3½" has been replaced with lawn "5½". This is because of our concern that lawn four might be getting a bit too much traffic, especially when it is overly damp. Players are reminded that they should not play in frosty weather nor when the lawns are truly wet. Indeed, if the hoop holes are full of water you should not only be careful about putting the hoops in, but also extra cautious about playing at all.

WORKING PARTY

Another working party will held late in August - details at the meeting on the 14th - but a general clean-up as well as a little further painting is on the agenda. We also hope then to make some extra edge boards because we will need to cater for the seventh lawn on the tennis courts next to the Bowling Club. Please do not be backward in coming forward to help -

even if it is only to bring home-made muffins to feed the workers! Of course the lawns will be laid out before we open on 11th September.

VICE-PRESIDENCY OF THE CCA

Congratulations to Geoffrey on winning the election for the Vice-Presidency of the Canterbury Croquet Assn. I am sure we all wish him well, as he joins Bruce Newburgh on the CCA Management Committee.

INVITATION EVENTS

Congratulations to the following members for being invited.

BEST OF 10 - Graham Beale and John Prince.

OPEN 16 - Ian Dumergue and Jane McIntyre

3 BISQUES & OVER - Peter Weeks

INVITATION WOMENS - Peggy Norton.

REDUCED HANDICAPS

Congratulations to the following for reduction in their handicaps during the season.

Kevin Cusack, Elva McNeil, Nola Neil, well done everyone.

DELEGATE'S REPORT

After the Minutes of the previous Meeting (on the Notice Board) were approved, the following points arose at the CCA Delegates' Meeting held on 12th June 1999.

1. Club Captains should tell the Association Handicapper when players are not playing to their handicaps, and should use the Appeals procedure as required.

2. The NZCC has produced a "Model Constitution" and Clubs will be asked to consider, if necessary, bringing theirs into line with it.

3. Although there are a goodly number of Umpires in the CCA, more would be welcome, and more Referees and Senior Referees are definitely needed.

4. Coaching for C Graders will be held on 3rd and 31st October. Early registration is advised. Coaching in Handicap Play for all Grades. will be held at St. James Club on 29th August. Register by 22 August, please.

5. Have-a-Go-Day will be on Sunday 12th March 2000, and all Clubs were urged to become involved in this show case event.

6. All the Reports from the CCA officers were accepted. These are on the Notice Board, as are the Accounts (and my analysis of them).

7. The six Recommendations proposed by various Clubs were considered. These too are on the Board, marked as to whether or not they were carried.

8. A summary of matters considered by the NZCC was presented to delegates. It too is on the Board.

MACROBERTSON SHIELD TEST MATCHES

The preparation for the MacRobertson is beginning to hot up now with under six months to go to their start on 24th January next yer. Committee held its first meeting on 11th May last year, apparently with plenty of time to do everything. And it very nearly has, although some things just

can't be decided until nearer the start. But here is a progress report.

The New Zealand team is to be captained by Steve Jones, and will include John Prince (congratulations John), Richard Baker, Shane Davis, Toby Garrison and Bob Jackson. The reserves are Graham eale (congratulations Graham) and Brian Wislang. Graham has also been appointed as Team Manager.

The whole team is expected here to hold a practice session of the weekend of 11th-12th of December at United. They will not however be taking up all our lawns, and there may well be a BBQ for us and them on the Saturday night.

The Teams from all four countries - the UK, US, and Australia will be the visitors - will be staying at the University Hall of Residence, and Joyce Maindonald - who is in charge of catering - plans to give members "Welcome" packs of goodies and to replenish them from time to time. If anyone wants to help by baking biscuits etc. Joyce (on 355-7478) might well be grateful. Each team has been allocated a "host club" which will help their team with all its non-playig needs.

It is planned to set up one or two grandstands - kindly loaned by St. Andrew's College - and to erect four rugby goal posts to use as extra flag poles - also borrowed from St. Andrew's.

The lawns are looking very good, so all we need now is fine weather for the three weeks of the "MacRob".

DRESS POLICY

The wearing of whites is optional but whites is the preferred policy of the club.

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the following new members: Geraldine Murphy, Joyce Maindonald, Chris Brady and John Tyler.

KEY POLICY

There is a charge of \$6 for a set of 2 keys. Refund of \$3 on resigning from the club. If you are a key holder please let Bruce know so that he can keep a register.



NEWSLETTER

UNITED CROQUET CLUB INC.

Summer Edition - December 1999

President
Geoffrey Naylor

Treasurer & Editor
Bruce Newburgh

Secretary
Ursula Hill

EDITORIAL

Hi there fellow croquetors!
The season has started well with the greens looking great and playing very true, a credit to those who have spent so much time on them over the past 3 years. I am sure our trans-Tasman/Pacific/Atlantic guests will be impressed when they play here in Jan/Feb.

This is the second of our newsletters for our Millennium season. Hopefully two more can be expected (if I can find the time) - members contributions are always welcome.

In the meantime you may find the following to be of interest.

INTERCLUB

At the end of November, with mostly six games played and with between 3 and 5 still to play (depending on your grade) the teams have had mixed fortunes.

Highlights include - Ursula, who has won all her singles games including 3 played for the Intermediate teams - Kevin, as a "C" Grader, was asked to fill in for the intermediate team

and was thrilled to win his game.

JUNIOR TOURNAMENT

Only two of our members entered. Kevin played at Hornby and played well enough to catch the eye of the handicapper - he is now a 10.

Irene Nelson won the Junior Women's Championship which resulted in a reduction from 6.5 to 5.5. Irene, because of personal and family commitments, is not seen often at club days so I guess her natural ability is in the genes.

HANDICAPPING

Talking about reductions, Peter Weeks is now an "A" Grade player having come down from a 4 to a 2½. Peter has made it to a senior player in only 3 years of serious play - who said coaching and practice don't work!

JOHNSON MEMORIAL

We have seven teams (14 members) competing, almost half our membership. With five of the seven games played the standing is:-

TEAM	1	2 wins	3 losses
	2	3	2
	3	3	2
	4	3	2
	5	4	1
	6	3	2
	7	2	2

(Cashmere defaulted)

Team 5 - Sally and Peter are in the running to win the United Trophy but with two games to play - who knows.

SENIOR TOURNAMENT

Attracted a record number of entries and our senior members were well represented. All played well - those who excelled themselves were:-

Peggy Norton, who won her section, but was put out in the play off.

Peggy (again) who was runner up in the Senior Women's Championship.

Chris Brady - Runner up (with Gary Annakin) in the Intermediate Doubles.

Peter Parkinson - Runner up in Senior Men's Championship

Geraldine Murphy - Winner of the Intermediate Women's Championship.

SOME REMINDERS

1. If you accept a ride to another club you are expected to contribute to the costs.

- to city clubs \$2
- to Rangiora \$3
- to Akaroa \$5

2. The Christmas hamper raffle is displayed on the table by the blackboard- you are invited to add something to the prizes and to buy a ticket (or two). The draw will be made on Xmas Party day.

3. When you have finished your practice please count the balls and take back into the equipment shed. Two balls have recently been found - one against the perimeter fence, the other in the garden. At \$100 each to replace, we can't afford to lose any.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

SATURDAY 18 December 1999

Fun games commence 1pm

Afternoon tea 3pm

Raffle draw and

President's (short) speech 3.30pm.

Please bring a plate (with something on it).

Normal club play in the morning. Twilighters please join us.

MEET THE MACROBBERS

The NZ MacRobertson team is to be our guest on Sat. 11 Dec.

It will be a normal club day but we can watch them try our our world standard lawns and meet them socially at a Barbeque starting at 4pm. The price for the BBQ will be \$5 per head. Please let Joyce Maindonald know if you are coming as she needs to know numbers. Her phone number 355-7478. Twilighters are also welcome.

CONGRATULATIONS

Geoffrey - is the South Island's representative on the NZ Croquet Council - "only the best shall be called to serve!"

ARTHUR ROSS COMPETITION

The large number of entrants shows what great heart our club is in. Sixteen of our members played for the favour of representing our club in this prestigious annual event.

It took place on the Saturday with those knocked out in the first round playing for their own Trophy on the Sunday morning. The event closed with a lunch time BBQ. A great weekend with great fellowship, and Peter Parkinson representing United for the play offs on 18/19 Dec.

REFEREE'S CORNER

You are playing a game of handicap singles. You started your turn by making hoop 6. You also made hoop one back but stuck in the hoop at 2 back with your other ball between the hoop and A baulk.

Your opponent takes the lift from A baulk and hits in. While he/she is placing their ball for a croquet stroke you suddenly realise that it is a handicap game and lifts don't apply. You stop the play and call for a referee - how does play continue. (Answer at end of Newsletter).

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members: William (Bill) Jeffries, 23 Bartlett St. phone 348-4955
Kay Wade, 6 Kidson Tce. phone 337-0607, and
Twilighters: Gail Duncan 325-2784, Lesley Isaac 352-2200. Ken James 366-3407
Pat Strahan 358-4640.

WORK PARTY

The second (and last before the MacRob) work party was held on Friday 26 November when some final repairs/improvements and touch up painting were done. All major and we hope, minor jobs have now been completed for the season although there always seem to be more

each time you think you are finished. If you see anything less than perfect, please let James know.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

1. The interprovincial at Ashburton - Seniors 9 Jan
- Junior 16 Jan.
Entries for both close 17 December.

2. S.I. Teams event (one from each grade) at Timaru 19/20 February.
Entries close 29 Jan.

3. Silver Badge - play off 11/12 Dec.

If you are interested in any of these, see your Club Captain - details are on notice board.

CLUB BADGES

We have had a new logo and badge designed. There is a sample on the blackboard in the club room. If you wish to have one, please put your name down on the list under the blackboard, price \$6.

A WARM & BALMY MACROB? by Geoffrey.

With only seven weeks to go now to the event, everything is beginning to fall into place. All the teams have now been announced - with the Americans naming six players and seven reserves. The lawns look to be in very good condition, thanks to a great deal of effort by Peter, Bruce and others including our greenkeeper, Bill Malloch. With his help we intend to cut the seven lawns on alternate days and to mark the lines on the intervening days, as to do both on the same morning would delay the start of play.

A daily start time of 9.30am has been set, and

only one match - the best of three games - will be played on each lawn each day. Who is playing whom, and the score, will be shown on a big board as you come in from the car park, so you will be able to go straight to whichever lawn you wish. There will be designated areas and walkways for spectators, so as not to disrupt play. Admission is free, but there will be a charge for programmes - which by the way, will be available in a week or so.

While the teams and officials will be catered for in the Bowls Club Room, gourmet refreshments, including drinks, will be easily obtainable from a site close to our Club Room. And there will be a BBQ on the last Saturday, February 12th, when Peter will be roasting a whole hogget! Tickets for the BBQ will be sold during the MacRob, price probably \$10, drinks extra. Buy yours early as the number will be strictly limited.

Security around the 31st December "Millennium Party" will be supplied by 80 City Council guards and 100 police. The Bowls and the Tennis Clubs have agreed to share with us the cost of one guard specifically assigned to our area. This aspect has long been a bit of a concern of mine, and I am pleased with the way the arrangements have turned out.

The visit by the New Zealand team to United on 11th and 12th December will give the organisers a great chance to check over the final details. The plan is for the team to use lawns 1,2,& 6 on the Saturday, and 3,4 & 5 on the Sunday. They will also have the

opportunity to have a good look at lawn 7 which is on the tennis courts next to the bowling greens. We can of course, use the other lawns each day.

I am delighted with the results of the working parties that have been kind enough to help us prepare our whole site. Members from other Clubs have pitched in, as have a good few of our own members. If you would like to volunteer for the next one, please just let me know.

The NZCC is very grateful for the excellent co-operation we have received from both our neighbouring Clubs, and even though as I write the weather is wet and windy, I sincerely hope that come January and February it will be warm and balmy. And that New Zealand wins!

THANKS

To Chris Brady for the hardboard for the workbench and for the long term loan of the new black tubular boundary "board" which is proving to be far superior to the timber ones.

Thanks also to Ursula who, along with her regular duties, typed, folded, corrected my spelling, deleted all the bad language, enveloped, addressed and stamped and posted this newsletter with such efficiency and good humour.

Thanks to all of you for being such good team mates - have a good Christmas and safe holiday period. Bruce.

REFEREE'S ANSWER

is on the next page!

REFEREE'S CORNER

Answer to the question.

Bad luck - you waited too long. Law 29 which deals with playing when a ball is misplaced states that you must forestall immediately and that this is your only remedy. If you fail to do so the stroke is deemed to be valid.

Lesson to be learned -

1. Know your rules.
2. Don't let your attention wander, even when you are the "out player".

