

# NEWSLETTER

## UNITED CROQUET CLUB INC.

Autumn Edition - March 2000

*President*  
Geoffrey Naylor

*Treasurer & Editor*  
Bruce Newburgh

*Secretary*  
Ursula Hill

### EDITORIAL

Well - its over! It seemed to take forever to arrive and no time at all for finish. No! I am not talking about the Millennium, I am talking about some of the worlds finest croquet players gracing our world standard greens.

Most of the play was magnificent and a dream to watch and (with just one exception) all the visiting players I spoke to were interesting and charming.

One criticism - their play was so perfect I learned nothing about how to get out of trouble or how to build a break from nothing. I guess I will have to watch my friends instead.

While our greens were out of use I took the opportunity to visit other clubs for my twice weekly croquet fix. My thanks to Elmwood, St. Martins and Sumner for making me so welcome.

### INTERCLUB

A GRADE - won by St. Martins. Our team lost the crucial game - the last one.

INT. won by Sumner - by a huge margin.

B. GRADE - Sumner again on a play off with Cashmere.

Score, 3 games each with 102 points to Sumner and (wait for it) 100 to Cashmere.

C. GRADE - Kaiapoi after a 5 to 1 play off with Fendalton

No prizes for United but do you know any player who did not enjoy their games?

### THE JOHNSON

Again - none of our seven teams reached the finals but what a great way to spend a Saturday morning.

Winners Graeme and Frances Stringer of Elmwood.

### STH. ISLAND TEAMS EVENT

Two of our members were chosen to represent Canterbury in the four member team who played at Timaru in February.

Well done Ursula and Peggy.

### NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to:- Gail Duncan, also a member of Hornby and the Twilight Club. Carl Horn new to croquet, phone no.358-0945 and John Nelson, Irene's son. Please add to your membership list.

## NOTE YOUR DIARY

Our closing day - Saturday  
15th April. 10am ordinary  
play 1pm. fun play, 3pm  
party, party, party (well  
afternoon tea) - please bring  
a plate.

Association Closing Day.

8th April at Barrington  
from 10am to (about) 3.30pm.

Our AGM - 3rd June at  
1.30pm

Association AGM - 10th June  
probably at Barrington.  
Details soon on Notice  
board.

## SCHOOL AGE TOURNAMENT

You may care to come to  
Barrington to see croquet's  
hope for the future on  
Monday to Wednesday 17 to 19  
April 2000 from 8.30am.

See a future MacRob team  
in the making.

## REFEREE'S CORNER

PLAYING A WRONG BALL.

A wrong ball is any ball  
you did not start the turn  
with.

If this happens the  
result is-

1. All balls moved are  
returned to the position  
they occupied

immediately before  
striking the wrong ball.

2. Any points scored (after  
striking the wrong ball) are  
dis-allowed.

3. The turn ends - (in a  
handicap game a bisque may  
now be taken and the turn

continue.

Naturally - it would be  
undesireable to, say, play a  
wrong ball early in your  
game and have your opponent  
stop play three hours later  
when he/she sees you about  
to peg out. Therefore a  
time limit has been imposed.  
If a wrong ball has not been  
claimed or admitted before  
the opponent strikes the  
first ball in the next turn,  
all play is condoned and the  
opponent has no remedy.

LESSON - watch all play  
carefully. I have refereed a  
C Grade game in which a  
player asked to watch him  
make No. 2 with his brown  
ball. I then saw him make  
No. 3 with his green ball  
and after making an  
unsuccessful roll to No. 4,  
he laid up a rush using his  
brown ball again - and his  
opponent didn't see a thing.  
QUESTION - If the player of  
Pink/White had walked onto  
the green and questioned the  
play, what would be the  
result.

(answer at end of  
newsletter!)

## "THE MEMORABLE MACROB"

United's role in helping  
to make this premier  
tournament, held every three  
or four years in one  
hemisphere or the other, the  
outstandingly well run event  
it certainly was, has been  
widely acknowledged. For  
example, Roger Murfitt, who  
was chairman of the  
organising committee, wrote  
in a letter to me, "now that  
the MacRobertson Tournament  
is over, I would like to  
pass on my thanks to your  
Club for the wonderful  
contribution of time and  
effort which so many of your  
members made to ensure that  
the tournament went well".

Roger goes on to say that,



"A majority of Canterbury croquet players were involved with the tournament - the tent strikers, the sandwich and tea makers and the barbecue workers were the "visual helpers" but, as you know, there were many others who toiled away in the background making biscuits, picking up and delivering things, organising window displays, doing artwork, and a myriad other chores. And of course there was the \$3 levy which was very much appreciated to get the finances started.

"Particular thanks must go to United for the upheaval caused by this major event - we have had very positive feedback from the visiting teams who all enjoyed their stay in Christchurch and appreciated playing croquet on excellent lawns in front of such enthusiastic supporters! Please pass on a big **THANK YOU** to all your members for their tremendous effort which helped so much to make a successful tournament".

We have also received kind letters from Holmes Park which included the following comment, "The United Club is also congratulated for their hard work and diligence" & from Elmwood saying they appreciated all the hard work.

And in a possibly superfluous comment, I would like to add my own thanks for all the great help so very willingly given. Everything of ours, the lawns, the flower beds, the shelters, the Club Room looked splendid. And Peter and Kevin did a great job every morning setting out the lawns.

Well, we all gave up some four weeks of play - was it worth it? Quite apart from

the opportunity to see some staggeringly wonderful croquet, we also benefitted financially. I was able to arrange for the memorial badges to be available on an almost day to day basis. Which was just as well since I ordered only 50 initially, and we sold nearly 140!! In addition, Peter's BBQ made a worthwhile contribution (despite the handful of gatecrashers) and of course NZCC will shortly pay us for the use of our lawns. All up we have benefited by over \$2,000 in cash terms and of course we have been the fortunate recipients of other help - the cleaning and painting of the Club Room and our shelters, the extra cutting and rolling of our lawns, and also in other ways. And judging by the number of "out of town" visitors, and the length of their stay, the City benefited too, as the many comments about the attractions of the City and its restaurants confirmed.

Full results were posted daily on various Internet sites and this was much appreciated by many croquet players around the world. So all in all, and forgive me if I sound proud, the whole event has confirmed United's position as Canterbury's if not New Zealand's leading Croquet Club. Not only the facilities, but also the surroundings were highly praised - one overseas player even suggested to me that, "every MacRobertson should be played here!". Special mention must be made of the great help we received from our neighbouring Clubs - the United Lawn Tennis Club kindly allowed us to transform three of their

courts into a seventh croquet lawn, and the United Bowling Club were also very co-operative over the use of their Club Room.

Finally, I believe the CCA were very pleased with all the efforts put in by other Clubs and with their own monetary outcome, Maud, Fred and Kath were the chief stall minders, our own Joyce a superb catering team leader.

Thanks to everyone again.  
Geoffrey.

P.S. Oh yes! The result was a very narrow win for Great Britain over New Zealand and an equally narrow win by the USA over Australia for third place. Both halves reached a 10-10 position with the winners being the first to reach 11! An almost wonderful final day.

#### WINTER CROQUET

We will be leaving two greens open again this year - probably 5 & 6 - the sunniest.

We will be using Barlow C balls - Jacques must not be used. Any crack in the casing (and all Jacques have them, if only around the plug) will allow in the damp which swells the cork core and rapidly destroys the ball.

A winter sub of \$15 is payable before play or you may choose to pay a green fee of \$3 each time you play. Don't leave any money at the club. Just write your name in the book on the trolley and you will be billed later. Green fees incurred may not be credited against a winter sub so it will probably be cheaper if you decide early which option you prefer.

To limit damage to the

greens the following rules must apply:

1. Play only between 10am and 3pm

2. No play on frost or when surface is slippery

3. Club members and Twilighters only - no visitors.

And if both greens are in use you are expected to share with any later arrivals.

#### A SPECIAL MESSAGE TO A SPECIAL PERSON

Get well soon Alice - we miss you!!

#### NOMINATIONS FOR THE COMMITTEE

It is that time again! Your committee have had a very busy three years and it is time for other people to take up the reigns. Please give some thought for a new committee, the list is on the board. We need Office Bearers and committee members.

#### THANKS

As this is the last newsletter of the season a big thank you to Ursula for typing, copying, enveloping, posting and especially for correcting my spelling.

Have a happy winter,  
Bruce Newburgh.

#### REFEREE'S CORNER ANSWER

The balls would be returned to their position between 2 & 3 when the wrong ball was played and the brown clip would be returned to No 3 hoop.



# NEWSLETTER

## UNITED CROQUET CLUB INC.

**August 2000**

**President**  
**Geoffrey Naylor**

**Club Captain & Editor**  
**Bruce Newburgh**

**Secretary**  
**Geraldine Murphy**

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### ***Our President Speaks***

A special welcome to all our new members. It really does promise to be a great season with so much extra talent – and so many new anecdotes! With this newsletter, Bruce has set out the major activities to come, and the rules for our exciting new Club tournament which he has invented – good luck to us all!

Please be sure to keep an eye on the Notice Board for the date when, probably 2 December, we invite back some of our former members who do not now play croquet in Canterbury for a game and a bite of afternoon tea. It should be a great session, so come along to renew old friendships.

One former member whom we will all miss is Alice Mollison, who sadly passed away in April. She was a stalwart of the Club for many years, giving much more than we had any right to expect. Her open cheerfulness and willingness was, and will remain, an example to us all.

You will notice some improvements in the Club Room which I hope will make our lunches a bit more interesting and the room a bit more tidy. What we need now is someone to organise and then maintain a state of orderliness in the equipment shed. Volunteers please!

Happy croquet, **Geoffrey**

### **YOUR NEW COMMITTEE**

<b>PRESIDENT</b>	Geoffrey Naylor
<b>VICE-PRESIDENT</b>	Gail Duncan
<b>SECRETARY</b>	Geraldine Murphy
<b>TREASURER</b>	Jane McIntyre
<b>CLUB CAPTAIN</b>	Bruce Newburgh
<b>CLUB COACH</b>	Gillian Dixon
<b>COMMITTEE MEMBERS</b>	James Marsh, Ursula Hill

If you have a query/comment/suggestion/criticism talk to one of them.

You are welcome to join in at any meeting in a no voting capacity and (if you ask nicely) you may be given speaking rights.

Copies of the minutes are always available for inspection.

The editor too welcomes you all to a new season. No, I am not being premature – we open on Saturday 9 September which is less than six weeks to go. What happened to the winter?

Our season really starts on the 19 August as the following shows:

### **WHAT'S ON**

Saturday 19 August – starts 1 pm	Club Captain's Meeting. (We finalise the Programme for the new season.
Saturday 26 August – from 9.30 am	Working Bee. Mostly housekeeping and the laying out of the greens.
Sunday 3 September	B Grade Coaching at United by coaches from the CCA. Please ring the Club Captain or Club Coach to register, or sign the notice on the Notice Board.
Sunday 10 September	C Grade Coaching at Hornby
Sunday 17 September	C Grade Coaching at Edgeware. See Notice Board for details.

### **OPENING DAY**

#### **Saturday 9 September**

From 10 am to 12.30 pm - Normal Club Day

From 1.15 pm to 3 pm - Fun Croquet

3.15 pm - Afternoon Tea. Please bring a plate.

### **INTERCLUB**

Starts with Open Grade on Monday 25 September. If you want to be included in a team please complete the enclosed form and send it to the Club Captain soon.

### **JOHNSON MEMORIAL**

Starts Saturday 30 September. Enter on the same form. If you don't have a partner we will try to find one for you. School age players wanting to play will be found a senior player from our club members. In the unlikely event that this is not possible we will arrange a player from another club.

### **AN ANNUAL REMINDER**

If you accept a lift to another club you are expected to make a token contribution to the driver of:

Within the city \$2

Rangiora \$3

Akaroa/Ashburton \$5



## **TOURNAMENTS ETC**

**HANDICAP SINGLES:** 23-27 October

**SILVER BADGES:** Between 28 October and late November. (Advise Club Captain if you want to be included.)

**BEGINNERS' DAY:** Sunday 3 December. (For those who have come to croquet since Dec. 1999.)

**CANTERBURY SENIOR:** Friday (Show Day) 17 November – Saturday 25 November. Bisqueing 5 and below.

**CANTERBURY OPEN:** Saturday/Sunday 9&10 December. Open means 'open' not just the so-called 'good' players. If you are over, say a 5 bisque you probably won't win any games but you are not expected to – so you can relax and get the experience while the 'senior' player has all the pressure. They have something to prove – you don't. Details will be in our next newsletter.

## **ARTHUR ROSS**

Last year Peter Weeks organised a great weekend for us. Qualifying games were played with the losers playing for the also-ran honours and a BBQ for Sunday lunch. (For players and guests.)

Keep the weekend of 11/12 November free and in the meantime ring James at 351 8105 to register.

## **LAWS REVISION**

For the first time since the first four ships arrived the laws of croquet have been rewritten/revised/redrafted and improved. We have written a commentary on the changes but know that not everyone is likely to be interested so have not included a copy with this newsletter. If you are interested call Bruce at 3851 725 and a copy will be sent out to you.

The new laws take effect in New Zealand from this season. Retesting of umpires and referees has been delayed for a year to enable them to do some heavy study. Classes for umpires/referees will be arranged during the season.

(By the Association Referee)

## **MEMBERSHIP**

We have too many new members to mention by name – some (who are very welcome) have transferred from other clubs, but several are new to croquet and Gillian Dixon has spent a great deal of time introducing them to the mysteries of the "wonderful world of croquet."

I well remember last season, talking to two ladies from our Bowling Club neighbours, who, while watching my opponent beating me said – *'it's not a spectator sport is it?'* Tell **THAT** to the many hundreds who came to watch the world's best players during the MacRobertson Shield earlier this year – especially the almost 300 people who watched that incredible final game on Green No 1 when the English player David Maughan (with a number 2 world ranking) just defeated NZ's Toby Garrison to

decide that they (Great Britain) were the best in the world and New Zealand was No.2.

And they say it is not a spectator sport – but then I guess you have to know what it is all about.

### WORK PARTY – 26 AUGUST AT 10 AM

Jobs to be done include: emptying, cleaning and rearranging the clubhouse, cleaning windows in the clubhouse, equipment shed and shelters, touching up painting, the odd repair, helping Vicki to clean up the garden, laying out the greens and marking the boundaries.

Choose the job you would prefer and ring **James** at **351 8105** to register – can you bring you own gear – paint brushes, bucket, cleaning stuff, tools – and lunch!

### PARKING

Parking is restricted in the Gardens carpark to 3 hours on a week day. But there is no restriction on the weekend. As a club member you have unlimited parking if you display your parking ticket which is issued when you pay your subscription.

The three carparks at the clubhouse are reserved for the Club Captain, President and the Treasurer – one of the few perks they get.

### UMPIRES AND REFEREES

There has been a request for the names of umpires and referees at United so here they are with their phone numbers so you may contact them if necessary.

D. Connor	U	384 4222	B. Newburgh	SR	385 1725
N. Gash	U	349 8358	P. Parkinson	U	03 3138592
U. Hill	U	377 3455	J. Prince	R	358 7150
D. Hunter	U	337 0783	J. Tyler	R	384 3993
J. McIntyre	U	351 8113	Joan Tyler	R	384 3993
G. Murphy	U	383 3958	P. Weeks	U	358 3650
G. Naylor	U	358 4764	I. Nelson	U	383 0332





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## UNITED CROQUET CLUB Inc

North Hagley Park, Riccarton Avenue  
CHRISTCHURCH 1

Secretary:  
Geraldine Murphy  
Tel 03 383 3958

Editor:  
Bruce Newburgh  
Tel 03 385 1725

### SPRING EDITION Newsletter

Not long to the end of October and a quarter of our season used up. Soon it will be Christmas and then all downhill to the end of the season. But the good news is that we have many interesting things coming up. At club level we have:

#### The Arthur Ross

Arthur was a member and President of our club: a world class player and very active regionally and nationally. Arthur first appeared on the NZCC Honours Board in 1922 and was NZ Men's Champion on and off from 1934 (its inception) to 1953.

As a memorial, an annual open (to all) handicap event is held, Club winners playing off for the right to represent our region. Full details are given on page 162 of your yearbook.

Last year Peter Weeks devised a competition to find our Club Champion. His format was so successful and popular that, with a slight variation, we will do the same this season. It will be held over the weekend of 11/12 November, as follows:

Saturday	9.00 start	Arthur Ross - Round one
	12 noon	Bring your own lunch
	12.30-ish	Arthur Ross - Round two White Trophy - Round one
Sunday	9.30 start	Arthur Ross - Round three White Trophy - Round two Blue Trophy - Round only
	12.30-ish	BBQ by that well known and universally loved chef
	1.15-ish	Go home or stay to watch the finals
Cost:	Arthur Ross fund	- \$2 - Association
	All other play	\$1 - United
	BBQ	\$5 per person (bring a friend)

Older players may recognise this as an XYZ tournament (page 92 of your yearbook)  
To register, ☎ Gillian 385 7111, or Bruce 385 1725.

Coming up on the **Association** level we have :

**Canterbury Open** - weekend of 9/10 December. This is not just a tournament for champions - it is **OPEN TO ALL**.

If you have a high bisquing the experience of playing low bisquers is invaluable. No one will expect you to win anything if you are on a handicap of, say, 5 or more - but the pressure is on them. You can relax and enjoy great competition.

Last year Bill Stewart of Kaiapoi on a handicap of 7 beat a 2 and gained experience and confidence. John Prince beat me 26-0 in about 30mins - I had three strokes, two to put my balls on and a missed lift shot 15mins later. I cried for days. Entries close 2 December - see page 195 of your yearbook.

**Senior Tournament** - 5 bisques and below. With seven events there must be one for you. Commencing with A x Int grades on weekend 17/19 November (Show Weekend) and other events into the week following. Entries close 10 Nov - see page 193 of your yearbook.



Many thanks to the several who came to the wet working bee in August and cleaned the club house. Thanks also to the few who dittoed the equipment shed on 6 October. You will be surprised to learn that setting out our greens for the season's play took two of us (thanks Dick) two days, and another two (thanks Peggy and Chris) one day.

**Coaching** - surprisingly only two of our members took advantage of the Association's three early season coaching days. If you would like a coaching/practice programme designed for you or if you would like a 'one off' session, contact Gillian who will put a coach in touch with you. You may need help with only one aspect of the game (cannons?) - all needs catered for!

### **Congratulations**

- to Peggy, Marie and Dick who have been chosen (with others) to represent Canterbury in the President's Invitation (Auckland and Marlborough).
- also to Michael and Peter (Parkinson) who will be representing us at Elmwood 15/20 October in the 'President's Sixteen'. (Why do they call it the 16 when there are only 8 of them?)
- also to John and Graham who have been chosen for the 'Best 10' (as the 10 has 10 players it could be argued that our club accounts for 20% of NZ's best).

**Umpires/Referees** - add the following to your list (published in the last Newsletter) - Leonie Baker, Gail Duncan, Mollie Evans, Kay Wade.



**The Twilight Group** operates during days of daylight saving. Members may use all facilities after 3.30 p.m. Monday/Saturday, and all day Sunday. Membership is open to any croquet player in Canterbury who is a member of another club, for a sub of \$50. Players who are not members of a club pay \$50 plus levies. Green fee (casual) players may play a limited number of times by invitation only. Members of United are automatically members of the Twilight club at no extra cost. Enquiries: ☎ Gillian.

**You are invited** to register an interest in playing at Ashburton in our Association v South Canterbury Assn -

5 bisques & over	14 Jan 2001
5,5 bisques and under	7 Jan 2001

Your names will be forwarded to the Association for selection - a great day's fun - leave home about 8 a.m., back about 6 p.m.

**Club Champs** - as I write, all games have been played or defaulted in the first round and a number completed in the second. As only 6 members (of 43) defaulted, and as two of those were overseas, we can claim a great success. It is good to see that the handicap system is working - a number of junior players are winning against seniors.

**Greens Closed - Sunday 15 to Friday 20 October** as all greens will be in use by the 'Best Ten'. Open again for normal club play Saturday 21 October. Volunteers wanted for laying out greens: ☎ Gail (325 2784); helping with refreshments ☎ Mollie (332 8187).

**Club Day Draws.** It was decided by members who attended the 'Captain's meeting' that -

- ① a.m. Touching grades play each other.
- ② p.m. Play within grades.
- ③ All games be singles, *but*
- ④ players asking to play doubles will be accommodated if possible.



## CHRISTMAS

**Raffle:** A hamper has been started in a box placed under the blackboard. You are invited to donate an item of modest value (biscuits, a bottle of Dom Perignon, unwanted present from last year etc), or if you prefer you could give Mollie some cash (\$5?) to make a purchase on your behalf. You are also invited to buy a ticket or two.

**Party:** We will have an afternoon tea party/party on club day, Saturday 16 December. Normal club day otherwise. Please bring a plate.

Our 3 interclub teams and our 9 Johnson teams have started well, but more on this and much more in our summer edition.

May you win more games than you lose - but either way, enjoy all of them.

*Bruce*

# NEWSLETTER

UNITED CROQUET CLUB INC.

Late Summer Edition 2001

President  
Gail Duncan

Club Captain & Editor  
Bruce Newburgh

Secretary  
Geraldine Murphy

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The silly season is over and it's back to work/school/paying off the credit card (*delete those not applicable*).

During the first half of the season our Club has distinguished itself. **Dormer** won Beginners' Day, four of our teams won their section in the Johnson Memorial (there were only six sections), **Carl** on a handicap of 14 (reduced to 12 just to enable him to play) reached penultimate in a Johnson game against two '2 bisquers'. Of course he had a great partner. **Derek** and **Renee** did very well in Marlborough with **Derek** winning the Open. **Dick** was runner-up and with **Mollie** did well in the Doubles.

**Kevin** reached the C Grade Silver Badge final losing to croquet machine **Paddy Chapman** of **Cashmere**. **Georgina** won the Handicap section in **Invercargill** and was runner-up in the Open.

**Peter Parkinson** won the President's 16 in October and as I write is playing in the NZ Champs with **Graham** and **John (Prince)**.

Not bad for a club with less than 9% of Canterbury players!!!

It is always dangerous to mention names as there is always one (or more) who is left out. To you all I apologise – just put it down to ignorance on my part.

## CLUB GAMES.

These are being played well and we shall have only a small last minute rush to complete them. The handicap games are very pleasing. Most members have played all their games and only a couple have not played most.

After the January round we had three members who have won all their games – **Graham, Peggy and Bruce**. **Graham and Bruce** play in February so **Peggy and Graham** will compete for the win. Congratulations to **Graham** – oops! was meant to put that in our next Newsletter. We shall have a trophy for the overall winner and prizes for winners in each of the grades – Premier, A, Intermediate, B, C and Novice – so you could still be in the running. The final draw will be for March.

## BBQ.

It has been decided that we hold our Trophy Day on Sunday 1 April and instead of a plate and tea party we shall have a BBQ featuring the dynamic duo – **Peter Weeks**, Chef de Cuisine and **Gillian**, Femme d'Ordonnance.

A small charge will be made for meat and members are invited to bring a small salad.

**Note this in your diary now and watch the blackboard for more details.**

Enquiries and/or offers of help to **Gillian**, Phone 385 7111.



Twilight members especially welcome  
– for all day play or for the BBQ only.

#### **The Maud Trainor (Veterans).**

This is a United Club annual tournament open to those who have turned 65 (years of age, not waist measurement!) before or near to the week of the event. Singles are played in the morning and doubles in the afternoon. It runs from Monday to Friday with one game per day in each event. As it is played in Grades you will not face a greatly superior player and prizes (foodstuffs) are awarded in each Grade.

The emphasis is on enjoyment rather than dead serious croquet.

**When:** Monday 19 February to Friday 23 February.

**Cost.** \$10 per event payable to the Manager, **Derek Hunter, 1/207a Fifield Terrace.** Entries close Wednesday 14 February.

#### **The Agnes Dick.**

A handicap doubles tournament for a senior with a junior – a 5.5 or under bisque player with a 6 bisque or over player. Last date to enter is 24 February. See page 196 of your Year Book.

#### **Year Book.**

If you were too mean to buy one (\$7) there is a club copy on, or in the desk under the blackboard. Information in it includes:

*Tournaments/lists of clubs, secretaries' addresses and telephone numbers, number and names of members.*

*National/Regional officers.*

*Tournament Rules/Conditions Regulations/address of Backpackers' Lodges in Mongolia (just checking to see if you are paying attention) and much more.*

Orders are placed in about March with the Secretary and received and paid for at the beginning of the following season. If you want your name recorded differently in the next issue tell **Geraldine** as soon as possible. (Some are now dropping the appellative and using a forename.)

#### **WARNING WARNING!!!**

This is the time of the year that the pesky star weed starts to appear – if you find one while playing, take no unilateral action – report its location to **Ian** or **Bruce**.

#### **President.**

I am told there is a member (or two) who does not know that President **Geoffrey**, because of pressure of work on the National Body, has resigned as President and that Vice-President **Gail** is acting President for the rest of the season.

As this is a highly sensitive secret no public announcement will be made.

#### **Umpires/Referees.**

Two members of our Club have indicated to me that they are keen to become umpires. I have obtained the consent of the Regional Referee for me to hold classes during the winter (weekends). I would guess that the whole course will take three to four hours (one hour on three to four occasions).

Anyone interested in becoming an umpire, or any umpire wishing to lift to a referee is welcome to see me (**Bruce, Phone 385 1725**). See page 84, Reg. 5A of the Year Book.

At the beginning of the season I offered to coach on the new laws – that offer is still open.

#### **Top Dressing.**

Your committee has decided against us top dressing this year, opting instead to



pay a contractor to do it for us – you may now breathe easily.  
Lawns 5 and 6 will probably be done in March after Trophy Day.

### Winter Play.

Lawns 2 and 4 will be left open for play after Trophy Day on the following conditions:

*A winter sub of \$15 is payable before 1 April (or \$3 per half day/\$5 per full day).*

*Nothing is organised – turn up for a practice or to play with whoever else turns up.*

*C type Barlow balls will be used.*

*Whites need not be worn.*

*No play before 10.30 am or after 3.30 pm*

*No play on frost or on surface water.*

*You are required to share your green if necessary.*

*Bring your own milk.*

*United members only, including Twilight members.*

### Work Parties.

It would seem they are a thing of the past. Your committee at its last meeting decided to pay a contractor at an hourly rate to do all those odd jobs.

### AGM.

It is a little way off but it is time to note your diary and to consider playing your part by standing for your committee.

All positions are contestable from President to Editor – you will be required to manage your portfolio (with help) and to attend about 7 or 8 meetings during the year. What better

way to get to know your fellow members and to earn the respect and gratitude of all of us (violins!!).

### Thanks

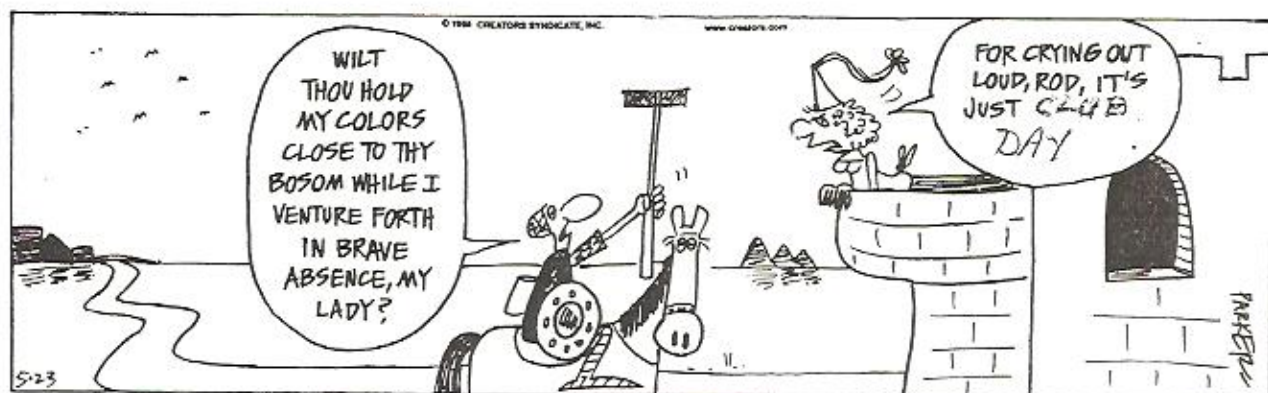
- to **John Tyler** for repairing and modifying our lifters – remember at the beginning of the season, when only one of them worked.
- to the mysterious person who replaced the roofs on the two northern shelters.
- to **Gillian and Geoffrey** who helped me reposition hoops and realign Lawns 5 and 6.
- to **Vicky** who maintains our garden in such magnificent splendour
- to **Winston Peters** for inventing the wine box (still awake?).

### World Famous.

While **Geoffrey** was 'surfing the wet' – I mean 'swimming the net' – WHATEVER!! he came across an interview with **David Openshaw** whom you will remember as the Captain of the English 'McRob' team. David was talking about United greens (which he described as the best in the world), when he said he had a bad position on two back, he hit hard to force it through, missed and the ball bounced back almost to rover. 'That is how hoops should be' he said, 'firm!' But then, we always knew we were the world's best, didn't we? – We are not too bad at croquet either.

Good croquet.

**Bruce**





# We Stand

United C. C.  
Newsletter  
August 2006

**Saturday 19th August** is the annual Captain's Day and Working Bee. Please come in appropriate clothes and bring a bucket, cloths and rags if you can. The day starts at 9:30 with the Captain's Talk when Dormer unveils the Club events including the Novice Cup. In the event of bad weather we will meet on Saturday 26th at the same. Let's get everything spic and span ready for Opening Day. 🇬🇧

## **NZ Trans Tasman Team, 2006**



Paddy tells us how they got on, See page 3. Left to right: Charles Jones (non-playing captain), Jane McIntyre, Paddy Chapman, Jenny Williams, John Versey, Sue Hoddy, Peter Parkinson, Sue Lea, Greg Bryant and Kevin Fellows (Coach) 🇬🇧

## News



Congratulations to John Prince, Paddy Chapman and Chris Clarke on their call-ups to international duty. John is the coach of the New Zealand team for the MacRobertson Shield where Paddy and Chris will represent New Zealand and Great Britain respectively. 🇷🇺🇺🇸

Brian Steadman is taking a rest from his duties at the Tennis Club. Brian has given many hours of assistance over the years to Tennis Club groundsman Bill Malloch, which has freed Bill's time to work for us. 🇷🇺🇺🇸

Welcome to new members Angela Rees, Suzanne Lemming and Bev Mills who all joined United over the winter. 🇷🇺🇺🇸

Invitations for the NZCC Silver Tray events were received by Chris, Paddy, John and Jenny for the Croquet Association 'Top Ten' and by Peter Parkinson, Jane and AJ for the Edwina Thompson Open Invitation. 🇷🇺🇺🇸



Paddy Chapman (left) receives his Player of the Series award at the Trans Tasman. 🇷🇺🇺🇸

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Round the world in 80 days	6
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Committee phone list	7
Diary	8
Pegged out	8





## Trans Tasman

Paddy gives a modest account of the recent tournament against the West Islanders.

The New Zealand Trans-Tasman team retained the Camden Park Trophy for the 12th year running. United Croquet Club and the Canterbury Association were well represented, with Peter, Paddy, Jenny and Jane making up half of the team, ably assisted by John Versey (Napier), Sue Lea (Wellington), Greg Bryant and Sue Hoddy (both Nelson)

The tournament, a three-test series, was held at the Victorian Croquet HQ, Warleigh Grove, in Melbourne, from 24–29 April. We were a little surprised to win the first test 8–4, when according to the world ranking list, we should have been soundly beaten, but our early victory gave us renewed confidence in the second test, which we again won – this time 7–5. New Zealand had taken an unassailable lead in the series.

A combination of the Australians finally hitting their straps and several well-earned hangovers among the New Zealand team members from the resultant celebrations, allowed us to be annihilated in the dead rubber third test, 3–9! Victory came too late for the Australians however, and a proud and jubilant New Zealand team was presented with the winner's trophy at a celebratory barbecue, where a good time was had by all.

Charles Jones (Wellington) as non-playing captain and team manager, provided the New Zealanders with a truly awe-inspiring culinary experience on most nights, while coach Kevin Fellows (Wellington) kept our feet firmly planted on the ground – a difficult task, especially after we had taken a 4–0 lead in the second test! Their steady presence, ensuring that our team was pressure free and able to concentrate solely on the job in hand, combined with our strong sense of team solidarity, gave us the edge on the Australians, and most certainly contributed to our victory. *[Paddy was awarded Player of the Series - Ed]* 🏆



## **More power to your elbow**

Geoffrey tells us of the under-rated hoop lift and its latest design

When I joined United we had a couple of old lifts which sat within the hoops and so pushed down the soil in the very place "rabbit runs" form. Our then Captain, Mrs Billy Millar, told us that this was "not a good thing". So in about 1993 I thought out how to spread the load, and devised our present lifters with a "footprint" of around 30cms square, albeit still exerting some pressure within the hoops, but with most well outside.

One recurring problem was how best to store them so that they were readily available at the end of a day's play. At first they were attached to the side of the trolleys, but this meant they were significantly wider and we could not easily fit them all alongside each other in the equipment shed. So their fittings were removed and we just carried them to the lawns as necessary.

A couple of seasons ago when we tried slotting them between the "shafts" of the trolleys, they caused the trolleys to blow over too easily. Without the heavy hoops and balls to steady them the trolleys were just too light and they were liable to spew the second colour balls onto the lawns. One or two lifters also got damaged.

Just a few weeks ago, Dick cleverly suggested that the lifters could be safely stored "on board" and immune even to a "Nor' Wester", by housing them horizontally, slipping into a sort of slot half way up the back of each trolley. However the present lifters were not suitable for this excellent idea. So I have re-designed them and you will find brand new hoop lifts next season, with a completely new system for storing them. Dick believes it to be fool proof – well he may say that, but I couldn't possibly comment! ■■■

## **Vote of Thanks**


Many thanks to Jane and Philippa for organising a card and the gift of a daphne for Roy Wade and his family. To Peter Weeks for collecting ground supplies for Bill Malloch. To Dormer, John and Kevin for attending the hoop setting workshop in preparation for the World Championships in February, 2008. ■■■





## **Tribute to Kay Wade**

Kay passed away suddenly on 20th July. Her cheerfulness, enthusiasm and selflessness will be sadly missed by all our members. Paddy shares part of his tribute read at her funeral.

Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Some stay for a while, and leave footprints on our hearts. And we are never, ever the same. Kay was such a person. She was my first croquet coach when I arrived at the Cashmere Croquet Club in January 1999, as a withdrawn, silent 11-year-old. Little did I know that Kay was to become my mentor and my 'forever friend'. From the start, Kay took me under her wing, turning up at nearly every tournament, entering quietly, often sitting with mum. She was interested in every match I played, and never doubted my ability to succeed. To her, I could do no wrong. I believe that Kay was my guardian angel in human form, a true miracle worker. She gave me the gift of communication. She gave me confidence in myself. She gave me a future. She loved me, and I loved her. Kay often told mum that I gave her so much joy. Kay, your coming into my life gave me more joy than you could ever have known. So how can I describe my guardian angel? Kay was always a 'lady' in the true sense of the word. She worked away quietly in the background, getting things done without a fuss, never expecting any thanks. Despite her quietness, Kay's tenacity was truly amazing! Once she got her teeth into something, she would never let it go until the task was completed to her satisfaction. She was the one who always managed to get wonderful donations for the fundraising to enable me to attend International tournaments. I will always remember Kay for her fierce sense of loyalty; the love and pride she felt for her family; her humbleness; her tireless work behind the scenes; her strong sense of fair play; her unfailing kindness, and her love of animals, especially her little Phoebe. So I say 'farewell' to Kay, but not 'goodbye'. 'Forever friends' never leave one another, because 'forever' has no end. Kay, it was an honour and a privilege to share in your life. Safe travelling my guardian angel, and thank you. Your Paddy. 



## **Round the World in 80 days**

Croquet on three continents in less than 80 days!

Chris and Jenny , our very own Phillious Fogg's, tell us of their recent trip.

Jenny and myself left NZ on 4<sup>th</sup> June just before the snow. We flew to Oregon in NW America to play in the Resort at the Mountain Invitational. This was the strongest event that Jenny had ever played in and included the World Champion Reg Bamford and a host of other top thirty players.

There were nine players in a double round robin and Jenny won 7/16, which was an excellent result. Chris fared less well, struggling with his shooting and won 6/16. Reg won the event beating Pete Landrebe with two sextuples in the final.

We then flew to England and played in the East Midland Champs at Nottingham. Jenny had a poor tournament, losing the ranking points she had gained in Oregon, but Chris managed to win the event for the first time, beating Ian Lines in the final 2-1.

Jenny was spending part of her time in Geneva working, but came back for the British Open where she qualified comfortably from her block. She then played David Goacher (who reached the final of the NZ Open a few years ago) in the first round of the knockout, but lost in straight games. Jenny went on to be runner-up in the consolation doubles.

Chris was now playing closer to his best and won 10/10 in his block and then beat Avery, Goacher and Le Moignan to reach the semis where he lost to Bamford 3-1. The final was a thriller in which Robert Fulford beat Reg 3-2 winning the decider +1 from 25-0 down. Chris won the doubles with Robert for the 10th time to equal the record of most wins (picture opposite). Chris' 22 triples in the Opens was also a record.

The weather was excellent for our entire stay and it was great to meet old friends and see the progress of some of younger British players. We are now looking forward to the NZ season and the upcoming MacRobertson Shield. 🇬🇧🇺🇰



## United Croquet Club Inc

North Hagley Park, Riccarton Avenue, Christchurch. Phone 366 5854  
Patron: John Prince MNZOM Secretary John Yarrall,  
President Magnus McGee PO Box 152, Lincoln 7640  
magnus.mcgee@chmeds.ac.nz United@workwrite.co.nz

### Finger on the pulse

Since the Club is in the heart of the Hagley Park, do need to be at the heart of the City Council's new plans for Park? Magnus explains.

One of the wonderful features of Christchurch is Hagley Park. Once every fifteen years the Council consults the public on how it is used and a new consultation is upon us. The plans include a formalisation of sport club leases that will have an impact on the Club. The process also includes the unveiling of new long-term direction for Hagley Park and the Botanic Gardens. The consultation runs from 21st with public meetings to explain the draft plans and offer people an opportunity to ask questions on Monday 28 August, 12.15–1.45 pm and Thursday 31 August, 7.30–9 pm at the Christchurch Netball Centre in South Hagley Park. This opportunity doesn't happen often: Please get involved.



### Phone list for the UCC Committee members

Name	Phone
Magnus McGee	355 8515
Tony O'Donnell	358 6422
Dormer Gardner	343 0971
Jacob Farmer	329 6474
Jane McIntyre	382 8810

Name	Phone
John Yarrall	325 7855
Peter Weeks	358 3560
Philippa Porter	358 4393
Sally Jeffcott	355 3830
AJ Reid	348 8377



Chris Clarke (left) and Robert Fulford on their way to their tenth title at the British Open Croquet Doubles Championships. They'll be joined by Mark Avery, Keith Aiton, Jonathan Kirby and David Maugham for the MacRobertson Shield.

Picture by Samir Patel,

<http://www.croquet.org.uk/>

## Diary

As well as the usual Wednesday and Saturday Club Days, here are some more dates for your diary

Date	Details
Sat 19th Aug	Captain's Day and Working Bee
Sat 26th Aug	Wet weather day for the Captain's Day and Working Bee at the same time
Sat 2nd Sep	Opening Day
Sun 3rd Sep	Coaching for 10 to 24 bisques
4 – 8 Sep	Coaching Tournament
Sat 9th Sep	Committee meeting
Sun 10th Sep	Coaching for 0 to 9 bisques
Sat 16th Sep	Delegate's meeting at Elmwood
Other selected dates:	
21 – 23 Oct	CCA Association Handicap Singles, Elmwood
Sun 26 Nov	Beginners' Day, Kaiapoi
30 Nov – 3 Dec	CCA Open Championships
30 Dec – 5 Jan	NZCC South Island Championships
Unless otherwise stated each event is at United	

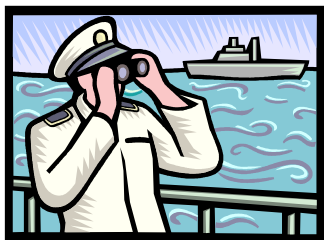
## Pegged out



Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo (left) is still trying to blame AJ (right) for Wayne Rooney's sending off at the football World Cup. But we know better, don't we AJ! 🇵🇹 🇪🇸



## Captain's Day and Working Bee




*All Hands on Deck!*  
*Saturday 19th August*  
*From 9:30am*  
*Sausage Sizzle for lunch*



# We Stand

United C. C.  
Newsletter  
November 2006

**Seth Bennett** won the CCA Senior Handicap Singles during **the** Labour Weekend (right). It's the third year in a row that a United member has won the event with AJ and Magnus winning in 2005 and 2006 respectively. Picture by Rodger Lane. 



*Play and Pizza  
Saturday 11 November  
from 3:30 pm  
More details on page 3*

*Christmas Celebration  
Saturday 16th December  
From 3 pm  
More details on page 3*



## News

The top dressing on Lawns 2 to 4 has taken well. Check the blackboard for when the lawns can be used. 🇷🇺🇺🇸

Golf Croquet Rules and Referees course at the Club Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November from 6pm to 9pm. Contact Tony O'Donnell for details. 🇷🇺🇺🇸

Dormer is taking entries for the Arthur Ross Association Handicap Singles. The winner represents the Club at the CCA play-offs on 17th and 18th January. 🇷🇺🇺🇸

CCA Open Championship and the NZCC South Island Tournament are being held at United. Offers of help to Sally, Magnus and other Committee members. 🇷🇺🇺🇸

Well done to all the inter-club teams for their good starts to the season. A special mention goes to Angela, Bev and Joan for playing their first competitive matches in the Golf Croquet. 🇷🇺🇺🇸

Green fees are now \$5 for a half or full day including tea and coffee. People new to the game are welcome to have up to two free visits. Please encourage visitors to sign the book as this helps us to keep in touch. After all, they may want to join. 🇷🇺🇺🇸

Welcome to Patrick Davey, Jill Nuthall and Richard Oldcorn who all joined United during the past month. 🇷🇺🇺🇸

### Phone list for the UCC Committee members

<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone</i>
<i>Magnus McGee</i>	<i>355 8515</i>
<i>Tony O'Donnell</i>	<i>358 6422</i>
<i>Dormer Gardner</i>	<i>343 0971</i>
<i>Kevin Cusack</i>	<i>379 3948</i>
<i>Jane McIntyre</i>	<i>382 8810</i>

<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone</i>
<i>John Yarrall</i>	<i>325 7855</i>
<i>Peter Weeks</i>	<i>358 3560</i>
<i>Philippa Porter</i>	<i>358 4393</i>
<i>Sally Jeffcott</i>	<i>355 3830</i>
<i>AJ Reid</i>	<i>348 8377</i>





## **Doing the Egyptian**

The Club's first Golf Handicap Singles started last week with an unusual format and not a fez in sight. Let me explain.

In most tournaments you play everyone else (block or section play) or there is a knockout (aka Bagnald-Wild) where a final between two players decides the tournament winner. There are other methods and one is quite, quite different. A tournament where you could play anyone, anytime and any number of times. The Egyptian System. It works like a ladder but rather than just swapping rungs on the ladder, the Egyptian awards points with everyone starting on 100 points. The system is being used for this year's Golf Handicap Singles Championship and you can find more details on the noticeboard and in the handbook. So the next time you are at the Clubhouse with some time to spare don't be surprised if someone asks you to play a game of Egyptian Golf! 🟥🟨



## **Play and Pizza**

It will be good to see you at the Club for early evening play on Saturday 11 November from 3:30pm. Bring a few dollars to chip in for pizza and we'll place an order around 4pm. 🟥🟨



## **Christmas Celebration**

Christmas Celebration. On Saturday 16 December there will be normal play until 3pm followed by some croquet games before lighting up the BBQ at 5pm. Please bring either a salad OR a "finger food" dessert. 🟥🟨



## City of the Dreaming Spire

The Club's responded to the Council's wake-up call with three submissions on the Draft Hagley Park/Botanic Gardens Master Plan, Hagley Park Management Plan and the proposed speed limits.

**The Master Plan.** The current status as a world-class croquet venue needs to be retained under any future Plan. Indeed we can show why the Park needs the Club (rather than the other way around). The Council is formalising all sports leases and we reminded them that at the expiry of the current lease there was “no other required use of the leased areas that is of greater benefit to the public” (Draft Hagley Park Management Plan (August 2006) Pg 158.) and the club was meeting all the requirements under Section 54 of the Reserves Act 1979. We have also raised concerns over possible lawn damage from the Arboretum (Concept 1) and any loss of car parking from the building of the Visitor Centre (Concept 3). **The Hagley Park Management Plan** includes possible building projects. ~~At Our~~ present ~~our~~ accommodation is adequate and the status quo is likely to remain. We have enough space to house the Club, host tournaments and store our equipment. But only enough. The Plan provides the opportunity to consider other ways our resources might be used. Right now we need more volunteer help on the lawns. One way to help meet this need is new equipment, in particular a lawn mower, ~~and w.~~ With that comes the need for more storage either on ~~site~~ or on the area to the west boundary. Should we get ~~the~~ is then the patio could be turned into a sunroom with an extended Clubhouse forming an L-shape around it. This would allow easier



running of tournaments and indoor croquet during the closed season.

We do not support the **proposed speed increase** from 50kph to 60kph for the roads around and through Hagley Park. The benefit of the new speed limits to road users will be to the detriment of park users, pedestrians and cyclists. In balance it is not possible to sanction the new speed limits given the risks that many others will face. The full submissions are available in the Clubhouse.



### **Croquet Association Silver Tray**

United was well represented at the Top Ten. Alas the same couldn't be said of the Nelson weather.

The Silver Tray, formerly [and still known as] The Top Ten is a NZCC invitation event where competitors play nine matches of best of three games. Chris and Paddy finished second and third respectively. Placings wins/games: Aaron Westerby 8/9; Chris Clarke 7/9; Paddy Chapman 6/9; Brian Wislang 5/8; Greg Bryant 4/9; Robert Lowe 3/7; John Prince 3/9; Jenny Williams 3/9; Shane Davis 3/9; Michael Wright 1/8. Matches between our local players were shared: Chris beat Jenny and John; John beat Jenny; Jenny beat Paddy and Paddy beat John and Chris! 🚩

### **Vote of Thanks**

Sally Kevin and everyone else who helped Chris with the weekend tournament; -Dormer for sorting all the Club teams and events; Bill Malloch and his team for top-dressing the lawns; Tony and his daughter for helping with the CCC submissions; -Jane for balloons, BBQ and

all that was the open day and, finally, everyone for being patient while we have only had three lawns to use.



## **UCC Weekend Tournament**

Fourteen players descended on Hagley Park for spring play in a new ranking event. Jenny Williams reports on great weekend tournament wonderfully managed by Chris Clarke.

The Club held a new early season tournament this weekend. There was an Open Advanced block and a Handicap event. Three members of the New Zealand test team used it as their season opener, and the overall entry was good, ranging from - 2.5 to -3.5 (NZ handicaps) in the open block. The eight players in the advanced section played an all-play-all American block on slow lawns with firm tight hoops. The overall standard of play could best be described as "early season", but Aaron Westerby and John Prince both played the odd good turn. Paddy Chapman finished the tournament with a 5th turn TP. The Handicap event had six players and after the block both Seth Bennett and Magnus McGee had won four out of five. The final was a fairly one-sided affair, with Magnus winning 22-10. There was some good play in this event with Leo van Oosten (9 handicap) completing a 12 hoop break and John Yarrall (16) a 10 hoop break.

Open Advanced Block: Aaron Westerby won 7/played 7; John Prince 5/6; Paddy Chapman 4/7; Jenny Williams 4/7; Peter Parkinson 3/7; AJ Reid 2/7; Greg Bryant 2/6; Jane McIntyre 0/7.

Handicap Event: Block: Seth Bennett 4/5; Magnus McGee 4/5; John Yarrall 3/5; Leo van Oosten [Holmes Park] 3/5; Joan Bradford 1/5 and Rita Yardley 0/5 [both Barrington Park]. Final: Magnus beat Seth 22-10. 🏳️🏳️

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President Magnus McGee PO Box 152, Lincoln 7640  
magnus.mcgee@chmeds.ac.nz United@workwrite.co.nz

### Clouds and silver linings

Bill gave the newly ~~top-top~~-dressed lawns their second cut this week. They looked great: I could imagine~~d~~ February, 2008. Sure there are some stones on some lawns and clover on the others but there are times you have to take a step back. Already this season we have had a great Opening Day; over forty players at the Coaching Week; fourteen players including most of the NZ MacRobertson squad at the Weekend Tournament; as many regular student visitors; four members play in the winning NZ Trans Tasman team; five Interclub teams; six Johnson teams and collected the first CCA trophy of the season. Not bad when half the lawns are closed. Has this focussed our attention? Club Days are starting promptly due to members placing their names into the draw in good time. This allows Dormer to get everyone involved at once. This makes for a better Club Day. When the Club Captain isn't there, the draw will be made by the first one available from the Vice Captain, committee member, experienced Club member. Even when we return to six lawns the lawn space pressure will still exist. As well as club championship games we must continue to encourage each other's play through coaching assistance and supervised play. Let's continue the season the way we have started. Perhaps you can make the Play and Pizza (11th November) or Christmas Celebration (16th December) where we can all give each other a well deserved a pat on the back.



## Diary

As well as the usual Wednesday and Saturday Club Days, here are some more dates for your diary. Events marked\* are mentioned in the newsletter.

Date	Details
Sat 4th Nov	Committee meeting
Sat 11th Nov	Play and Pizza*
From 20th Nov	Arthur Ross Memorial Handicap Singles*
23 – 24 Nov	Golf Referees Course, 6pm to 9pm*
Sun 26 Nov	Beginners' Day, Kaiapoi
30 Nov – 3 Dec	CCA Open Championships*
2 - 3 Dec	NZCC S.I. Golf Croquet Grade Champ, Timaru.
Other selected dates:	
Sat 16th Dec	Delegate's meeting at Elmwood.
30 Dec – 5 Jan	NZCC South Island Championships*
20 - 21 Jan	CCA Golf Croquet Handicap Doubles
3 - 8 Feb	CCA Senior and Junior Championships
Unless otherwise stated each event is at United. S.I. – South Island	

## Pegged Out

Amy, Jenny and Chris's Labrador, likes to sit, fetch and run hoops.

Amy's obedience training is going well but she can't get past Rover.

Picture by Steel Pup. 🇺🇵



**Outline for April, 2007 Newsletter**  
**Paddy Chapman and Magnus McGee, 1 September 2021**

**Summary**

The following is an outline for the next *We Stand*, the UCC newsletter. Most of the material is now in place and needs to be edited. There are a host of details that need to be confirmed (highlighted below). Most of these are date and times. Since the newsletter will be mailed to all of the membership then this might be the opportunity to send a new telephone list. Could Paddy and I please have decisions on the “missing” details.

**Possible page by page layout**

1. Cover story.
2. News.
3. Article: Geoffrey Naylor (possibly starting on front page too) by John Prince.
4. Article: CCA review for 2006/2007 by Tony O'Donnell.
5. Article: NZ Open, 2007 by Paddy Chapman.
6. Article: MacRobertson Shield, 2007 by Chris Clarke.
7. Editorial.
8. Diary.

Other items: Adverts and Pegged Out.

**News**

- Lawns.
- Winter play.
- CCA Closing Day, Fendalton Park CC, **time Saturday 14 April 2007 1.00-3.30pm** with note that trophies are to be presented
- Arthur Ross (or edited into Tony's CCA article **Add “Late News: Magnus was beaten in the semi-final by the eventual winner Geoff Duckett”**).
- UCC man the WCF marquee

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**Adverts**

- **Closing day with details.**
- **Presentation evening with details.**
- Early season coaching (will be in Diary could be advert or News too)
- United Weekend Tournament (will be in Diary could be advert or News too)

**Editorial**

- If no one else volunteers then Magnus to write something.

**Pegged Out**

- Photo of Kevin helping with the top dressing.

## Diary

All dates are 2007 unless otherwise stated.

Date	Details
Xxxx	CCA Closing Day, Fendalton Park CC, <u>time Saturday 14 April 2007 1.00-3.30pm</u>
Sat 21st April	Closing Day function
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Summer play ends
Xxxx	Annual dinner / presentation night <u>Jane still organising</u>
Xxxx	Call for nominations <u>Open now. Close 19 May</u>
Sat 26th May	Annual General Meeting <u>OK Time 1.00pm???</u>
Thur 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Winter play ends
Xxxx	Winter social. We sometimes have a pot luck dinner in July. Please don't pick the night of the Christchurch rugby test. <u>28 July. Details to follow</u>
Sat 18th Aug	Working Bee with Captain's report
Sat 25th Aug	Working Bee (alternate date)
Sat 1st Sep	Opening day
Sun 2nd Sep	AC early season coaching I
Mon 3–Fri 7 Sep	AC early season coaching tournament
Sun 9th Sep	AC early season coaching II
Sun 16th Sep	GC early season coaching
Mon 17–Tue 18 Sep	GC early season coaching tournament
Sat 22–Sun 23 Sep	United weekend tournament * <u>Note change in date OK</u>
Xxx	September delegates meeting ** Probably not available
Xxx	CCA Open Day ** Probably not available
Xxx Oct	[Dates for S.I. Masters and possible evening with bowls and petanque]
Sat Xxx Nov	Play and Pizza [but not on show weekend] <u>a Saturday in November</u>
Sat Xxxx Dec	Christmas Celebration
Other selected dates	
Sat 9th June	Canterbury Croquet Association, Annual General Meeting *** to be confirmed
Xxxx	CCA Association Handicap Singles ** Probably not available
Sat 2 – Sun 10 Feb 2008	WCF World Association Croquet Championship
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb 2008	UCC man the WCF marquee
Late Feb	End of the World(s) ***** Will there be a celebration for this?



**Vote of Thanks**

Bill Malloch and his team for top-dressing the lawns; Sally and everyone who helped with catering during recent tournaments; Ursula for all her handicapping work; Jane and Paddy for coaching at recent functions. **Any others?** Dormer for organising teams and club events and preparing lawns for numerous events

**Phone list for the UCC Committee members****Some other time**

- Article on Top Ten
- Article on A. H. S.
- Pegged out: Amy II.
- Anagrams of United Croquet, UCC etc

# We Stand

United C. C.  
Newsletter  
August 2006


## **Life Membership awarded to Geoffrey Naylor**

John Prince profiles longstanding United member, Coach, Umpire, Past President and now Life Member whose services were recognised at the May AGM.

My friend Geoffrey Naylor first played Croquet when in his twenties along with his father on their small suburban lawn, using home-made equipment. They visited the Hurlingham Club during a Croquet Tournament to see if they were playing the same game as the experts. Well they weren't exactly, but a young competitor kindly took time to chat about the game with them; they later discovered that he was none other than John Solomon, destined to become perhaps the greatest player of all time. Although Geoffrey was intrigued he was soon leading a very busy life with his Canterbury, N.Z. born wife Alison raising a family and building a career in business, and with his Canterbury, N.Z. born wife Alison raising a family. However, in the early 80's he was approached in his role as the While Marketing General Manager for the Royal Bank of Scotland Group he was approached, to sponsor televised Croquet possibly on TV. Remembering his enjoyment from playing at home and the pleasant time at Hurlingham he readily entered into negotiation with Stephen Mulliner representing the Croquet Association. The upshot was the Royal Bank Short Croquet Series filmed on a purpose build lawn at Granada TV studios. Played as a "Home Nations" tournament it was quite a success. Large numbered blocks were mounted on the crown of the hoops and Croquet player commentator Phil Cordingley became the whispering voice of Croquet, not unlike his Snooker counterpart Ted Lowe.

But, it wasn't until Geoffrey retired and he and Alison moved to Christchurch that he took up Croquet. Introduced by Marie Thompson he joined United in late 1991. With the guidance of Dorrie Winchester, Billie Millar and others Geoffrey soon became a very capable "A" Grade player. In the Intermediate Grade with Joan Tyler he won the N.Z. Junior Championships Doubles in 1995 and he won the Canterbury Senior Singles Championship the

following year. There were many other successes and only last season, although admitting to being extremely nervous he won the CCA Senior Doubles with fellow countryman Chris Clarke.

Geoffrey's contribution to Croquet off the court has been immense. He has tirelessly organised and taken part in numerous coaching ventures, not only for the benefit of United members but those from the other Canterbury clubs, winning the Sport Canterbury "Outstanding Summer Sports Coach" award in 2005. He has been President at United for several years, and has helped steer the club through difficult patches, and established a good working relationship with our neighbours, both bowls and tennis. He was very active in ensuring the "United" Centenary celebrations were a great success. He has been involved with numerous CCA activities including organisation for Trans Tasman and MacRobertson Tests and currently is on the organising committee for the WCF 2008 World Championships. In 2001 he was presented with the Sport Canterbury "Outstanding Summer Sports Administrator" award. Geoffrey was a member of the New Zealand Croquet Council Executive and in that role rewrote the Council's Constitution. He was a little uncertain on how he would be received by the "traditionalists" when he commenced this task, but in true Geoffrey fashion he "drafted" various amendments and sent them for comment, deletion etc., to the various people he knew would hold strong views on this subject. He was delighted to be paid a compliment once it was completed by Ashley Heenan, whom he had regarded as someone very formidable should he get on his "wrong side". Over three years in the late 90's I was pleased to be able to help Geoffrey write "Play Better Croquet" modestly having his name as author printed in smaller print than those who made contributions. It has sold almost 1,000 copies. Geoffrey while very decisive is never autocratic, he is always interested in the view of others, and has worked very hard over many years for the betterment of the United Croquet Club. 



## News

The details of the Committee elected at the Annual General Meeting are given on the back page. 🟥🟨

Congratulations to Chris Clarke on winning the Australian Open Singles and Doubles titles 🟥🟨

Christchurch City Council Botanic Gardens and Hagley Park Management Plan are still at the committee stages with the report due before the spring. 🟥🟨.

Annual dinner and presentation night. 🟥🟨

Invitations. 🟥🟨

English season. 🟥🟨

Does Dormer want an entry. 🟥🟨

United ground commitments. 🟥🟨

AJ Reid. 🟥🟨

World's and its website. 🟥🟨

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Green fees are now \$5 for a half or full day including tea and coffee. People new to the game are welcome to have up to two free visits. Please encourage visitors to sign the book as this helps us to keep in touch. After all, they may want to join. 🟥🟨

Peter Weeks.... treasurer resignation. 🟥🟨

Anything else from. 🟥🟨

.... who all joined United during the past month. 🟥🟨

# United Croquet Club Inc

North Hagley Park, Riccarton Avenue, Christchurch. Phone 366 5854

Patron John Prince MNZOM

President Tony O'Donnell

[magnus.mcgee@chmeds.ac.nz](mailto:magnus.mcgee@chmeds.ac.nz)

Secretary John Yarrall,

PO Box 152, Lincoln 7640

[United@workwrite.co.nz](mailto:United@workwrite.co.nz)

## Editorial

### UCC Committee members for 2007/2008

Name	Post	Phone
Tony O'Donnell	President	358 6422
John Yarrall	Secretary	325 7855
Dormer Gardner	Captain	343 0971
Peter Weeks	Treasurer	358 3560
Magnus McGee	Vice-President	355 8515
Philippa Porter	Vice-Captain	358 4393
Kevin Cusack	Committee	379 3948
Sally Jeffcott	Committee	355 3830
Marie Thompson	Committee	



## **WWW dot Canterbury Tales**

Following United's fortunes was easier due the website wizardry of Jenny Williams.


Tony O'Donnell reflects on the season.

Looking at the website maintained by Jenny Williams showed United is Canterbury's, and probably New Zealand's, premier croquet club (<http://www2.phys.canterbury.ac.nz/~jcw83/CCA/croquetresults/index.html>).

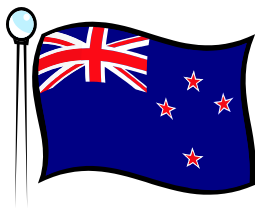
In the Canterbury Interclub competitions Marie Thompson and Kevin Cusack won the Division 1A title. This was particularly meritorious as Kevin had only just graduated to Division 1 and was playing up in the 1A division. Tony O'Donnell, Dormer Gardner, Sally Jeffcott and John Yarrall won all their matches to take out Division 2 and the United 1 team of Philippa Porter, John Yarrall, Ian Black and Sheila Walker, of Holmes Park, had a seven win, one draw record in winning the inaugural Golf Croquet CCA Interclub Tournament.

This fine form continued into the Canterbury Championships, where United names were prominent. In the Open grade the first three Singles placings were Jenny Williams, Peter Parkinson and Jane McIntyre. In the Open Doubles Peter and Jenny formed half of the winner and runner-up pairs respectively. Marie Thompson and Roger Lane (St James) won the Doubles 0-3 handicap grade with Sally Jeffcott and Dormer Gardner winning the 10+ grade. In the 10+ Singles, Magnus McGee beat Tony O'Donnell in the final. Magnus also represented Canterbury in the national Arthur Ross finals where he was a losing semi finalist.

The Golf Croquet Silver Badge had only United in the Premier grade with Paddy Chapman ahead of Tony O'Donnell and Jane McIntyre. Geoffrey Naylor was runner-up in the Intermediate section. In Association Silver Badge Marie Thompson was runner-up in the Division 1A, whilst Trevor Walker and Philippa Porter won Divisions 2 and 3 respectively.

So the results in the 2006/7 season have been tremendous for UNITED. 





## **The 2007 New Zealand Open**

Paddy Chapman reports on the nationals.

Wellington hosted its first NZ open for quite some time, had its headquarters situated at the Kelburn Municipal Croquet Club. The event proved to be an extremely strong turnout, boasting an entry of 48 players in the singles and 23 pairs in the doubles. These included overseas players such as #2 seeded Ian Lines, #3 seeded Pete Landrebe, and #4 seeded Stephen Mulliner, as well as many of the usual contingent of Kiwis.

Charles Jones was again the manager, and looked after all the players' needs extremely well. The lawns were fairly easily paced, but the hoops were always well set (though still forgiving in the soft ground). Unfortunately, once again, aspherical Barlow GT balls were used throughout.

United was well represented, with Chris, Jenny, AJ, Paddy and Jane all competing this year. Chris and Jenny won the doubles title, with Paddy (and partner Greg Bryant from Nelson) runner-up. AJ played some brilliant croquet to reach the singles final where he took Chris to the fifth game of the best-of-five. Chris, the #1 seed, won his first NZ singles title, triple peeling his way to victory. In fact, the top three places in this year's tournament went to United club members, surely proving that United is the strongest club in New Zealand. A great result. 🇳🇿



## **Vote of Thanks**



## **MacRobertson Shield**

Association Croquet's World Cup was coming back to New Zealand but in who's suitcase. Chris Clarke explains all.

The Mac was held in Australia at Rich River and Shepparton from mid-Nov to early Dec last year. Paddy Chapman was representing New Zealand at number 2 and Chris Clarke represented Great Britain at number 3.

The first day test matches saw New Zealand against GB and Aus vs USA. NZ took a surprise 2-1 lead after the first day of doubles, but GB took control with 3 doubles wins on day 2. Paddy had very few chances during the entire test match and having not had a break in the first three days, failed to take the few opportunities that came his way on days 4 and 5. GB won 15-6 with Aaron Westerby beating both Robert Fulford and David Maugham, an excellent performance. Meanwhile, AUS had beaten the US 14-7.

The second set of tests saw GB win 19-2 over the USA and NZ compete in a close struggle against Aus. Paddy won 3/5, but unfortunately it was not enough to stop Aus winning by the closest of margins 11-10.

The final sets of tests had NZ take an early 2-1 lead against the US before one of the biggest upsets in Mac history when the US won all 6 singles on day 2 to go 7-2 up. NZ did well to claw their way back to 8-5 down, but the final score of 13-8 to the US must have been very disappointing. Paddy finished with 2/6 in singles and 5/9 in doubles, an encouraging start for his first Mac, playing at the top of the order.

The decider between Aus and GB was totally one-sided. By the end of day 3, GB had won with an emphatic 12-0 lead. The final result of 19-2 showed that the GB team had all played fantastic croquet and are currently a level ahead of their rivals. Chris finished with 5/6 in singles and 9/9 in doubles.

The next Mac will be held in GB in 2010 with NZ hosting again in the 2013/14 season. 


## Diary

Date	Details
Sat 18th Aug	Working Bee with Captain's report
Sat 25th Aug	Working Bee (alternate date)
Sat 1st Sep	Opening day
Sun 2nd Sep	AC early season coaching I
Mon 3–Fri 7 Sep	AC early season coaching tournament
Sun 9th Sep	AC early season coaching II
Sun 16th Sep	GC early season coaching
Mon 17–Tue 18 Sep	GC early season coaching tournament
Sat 22–Sun 23 Sep	United weekend tournament
Other selected dates for 2008	
Sat 2 – Sun 10 Feb	WCF World Association Croquet Championship
Wed 6th Feb	UCC man the WCF marquee
Events marked * are mentioned in the newsletter.	

## Pegged Out



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Picture by Mrs Malloch, March 3rd, 2007. 



# NEWSLETTER June 2008

United Croquet Club, North Hagley Park, Riccarton Avenue

<i>President:</i>	Tony O'Donnell	<i>Secretary:</i>	John Yarrall	<i>Club Captain:</i>	Philippa Porter
	358 6422		325 7855		358 4393

## *Diary of Events*

Saturday June 21, 6:30 pm	Club dinner, Commerce Club Canterbury, 277 Kilmore Street
Saturday August 16, 9.00 am	Captain's talk followed by working bee at 9.30 am
Saturday August 30, 10.00 am	Opening Day
Sunday September 7, 10.00 am	Golf croquet coaching
Sunday September 14, 10.00 am	Association croquet coaching (10-24 bisques)
Monday/Tuesday September 15/16	Association and golf croquet coaching games
Sunday September 21	Association croquet coaching (0-9 bisques)
Tuesday & Thursday September 23 & 25	Association and golf croquet coaching games
Sunday September 27	Ranking/handicap association croquet tournament

## *The Club Dinner*

Be at the Commerce Club Canterbury, 277 Kilmore Street, at 6.30 pm for dinner at 7.00 pm., \$15 per person. Presentation of Club Trophies will follow the dinner. Please note: The Club will be charged if you have booked and do not turn up, so please do attend what has been a most enjoyable and cheap evening out.

## *Our New Committee*

<i>President</i>	Tony O'Donnell	<i>Vice President</i>	Magnus McGee
<i>Secretary</i>	John Yarrall	<i>Treasurer</i>	Trevor Walker
<i>Club Captain</i>	Philippa Porter	<i>Club Vice Captain</i>	Marie Thompson
<i>Committee</i>	Sally Jeffcott, Kevin Cusack, June Passmore, Seth Bennett		

## *New Member*

We welcome Alison Grimshaw (phone 980 6711) as a new member.

## *Year Books*

Please order one by adding your name to the list on the Club Noticeboard or emailing our Secretary by July1 (john@workwrite.co.nz , Subject – United Club).

## *Captain's Talk*

Please be at the Club 9.00 am to hear about Club Teams, starting times for fixtures, and other essential information. Bring your diaries.

## *The Working Bee*

The working bee will follow the Captain's Talk and be under way by 9.30 am. Please bring cleaning rags and buckets, and "work clothes". Secateurs, a wheel barrow, hand brushes for spider webs, and a rake would be useful.

## *Winter play*

The current arrangements – Wednesdays and Saturdays, 11.00 am to 3.00 pm, frost and lawn moisture permitting – have been working well.

## *Subscriptions*

Accounts will be sent out shortly. Subscriptions are due before September 30 2008. You are reminded that both CCA and NZCC rules state that you must be a fully paid-up member of your club before you can enter tournaments.

# United Croquet Club

## Newsletter

May 2009

North Hagley Park, Riccarton Avenue

### AGM

The AGM was held Saturday 16 May 2009 and the new committee is:

<i>President</i>	Tony O'Donnell	<i>Vice President</i>	Magnus McGee
<i>Secretary</i>	John Yarrall	<i>Treasurer</i>	Trevor Walker
<i>Club Captain</i>	Philippa Porter	<i>Club Vice Captain</i>	Seth Bennett
<i>Committee</i>	Sally Jeffcott, Kevin Cusack, Geraldine Murphy, Jonathan Fletcher		

### Diary of Events

Saturday June 6, 6:30 pm	Club dinner, Commerce Club Canterbury, 277 Kilmore Street
Saturday June 20, 10:00am	Working bee
Saturday August 15, 9.00 am	Captain's talk followed by working bee at 9.30 am (alternate day August 22)
Saturday August 29, 10.00 am	Opening Day (alternate day September 5)
Sunday September 6, 13, 20	Coaching
To be advised	Coaching tournament
Saturday/Sunday September 26/27	United weekend tournament
Monday October 12 to December 14	Spring evening tournament
Thursday February 11 to March 25	Summer evening tournament

### Club website

Magnus has started a website for our club. It can be found at [www.croquet.org.nz/clubs/united/](http://www.croquet.org.nz/clubs/united/). It contains the diary and information about coming events. Eventually it will have competition results and other information. Comments and suggestion to Magnus.

### The Club Dinner

Be at the Commerce Club Canterbury, 277 Kilmore Street, at 6.30 pm for dinner at 7.00 pm Saturday June 6. Cost is \$20 per person. Presentation of Club Trophies will follow the dinner. Please note: The Club will be charged if you have booked and do not turn up, so please do attend what has been a most enjoyable and cheap evening out.

## **Year Books**

Please order one by adding your name to the list on the Club Noticeboard or emailing our Secretary by June 16 at [john@workwrite.co.nz](mailto:john@workwrite.co.nz). Cost is \$16. This will be invoiced with subscriptions for next season.

## **2009/10 fixtures**

A questionnaire has been sent to members asking what interclub and club events you want to enter. Please return these to Philippa as soon as possible.

## **Captain's Talk**

Please be at the Club 9.00 am to hear about Club Teams, starting times for fixtures, and other essential information. Bring your diaries.

## **The Working Bees**

We are having two working bees to get on top of all the tasks that need doing. Some of the tasks are: removing leaves, painting hoops and clips, fence repair, gardening, tidying and cleaning the club house and sheds. The working bee will follow the Captain's Talk and be under way by 9.30 am. Please bring cleaning rags and buckets, and "work clothes". Secateurs, a wheel barrow, hand brushes for spider webs, and a rake would be useful.

## **Winter play**

The winter play arrangements are: Wednesdays and Saturdays, 11.00 am to 3.00 pm, frost and lawn moisture permitting.

## **Subscriptions**

Accounts will be sent out mid-year. Subscriptions are due before September 30 2008. You are reminded that both CCA and Croquet New Zealand rules state that you must be a fully paid-up member of your club before you can enter tournaments. At the AGM subs were increased by the rate of inflation to \$170 for a full membership.