

April 2024



# Newsletter

Brighton Croquet Club Inc. Stopford Rd Hove 5048 [www.brightoncroquetsa.com](http://www.brightoncroquetsa.com)

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Brighton Bash 2, held on Saturday 30 March 2024, was a successful tournament with a number of father and son teams participating. Thanks to Karen Magee and Anne Woodhouse for organising this exciting event. It was great to see teenage members participating and playing extremely well. Thank you to Marlene Salmon for her catering and to Ken for the very efficient scoring. I think the spectators watching from the verandah really enjoyed the competition.

On Friday 22 March a small group from the St Paul's Lutheran Men's Fellowship group enjoyed games of croquet and a barbecue dinner. Thank you to all those who helped out on the night.

I would like to acknowledge and sincerely thank the Edinburgh Hotel at Mitcham for their wonderful donation to our club raffle. A generous voucher and bottles of wine were again donated and are very much appreciated. This raffle will be drawn at our Gala Day at Brighton to be held on Monday 27 May 2024.

We are looking forward to having lunch at Brighton Metro on Anzac Day, Thursday 25 April around 12.00 noon. It will be good to support one of our sponsors.

Our first Gala Day for the year will be held on Monday 27 May 2024. Thanks to Lorraine for managing this event.

Enjoy your croquet and stay safe and well.

Wendy Williamson

President



**Club Members enjoying lunch together at The Metro on Anzac Day**

# Annual Gateball State Championships of Victoria 2024

This event was held at Cairnlea in Victoria on Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday March 24<sup>th</sup>.

Players travelled from Queensland, N.S.W., A.C.T., and South Australia to compete alongside the local players for event.

The weather was mild, cool in the mornings and sunny and pleasant in the afternoons. The courts were in very good condition, well prepared and cut short, making the games interesting.

The competition consists of two sections – the Teams event and the Doubles event known as the John Bradley Pairs Championship.

## The Teams Event

Five teams were entered in this event – Kew (Vic.) and Essendon (Vic.), A.C.T., N.S.W. and a composite team calling itself 'Allsorts' comprising Woodville (S.A.) players Geoff and Trish, Peter from Brighton (S.A) and two Victorians – Tim & Jasmine.

The Allsorts team played a strong coordinated game and performed well in all four games pushing opponents to play better but was unable to secure a win.

All players played well.

The strong N.S.W. team was undefeated and deservedly won this event.

## John Bradley Pairs Championship

This trophy has been named after a strong devotee and promoter of this sport.

With eleven teams entered in this event the group was split into two groups for a round-robin series of games.

Geoff & Trish played well and made all opponents work hard.

The top two teams from each group played a semi-final match with the winners playing off in a Grand Final.

In the Grand Final - Maxine & Alex defeated Philip and Peter (S.A.) with a brilliant display of accurate hitting and good court control.

This was another fantastic gateball tournament. The venue suited everyone, and the grass was consistent over the two days. There was great competition and sportsmanship, with near perfect weather conditions.

Peter Woodward

Brighton Croquet Club



## Annual Gateball State Championships of Victoria 2024



Club House at Cairnlea Victoria – Gateball State Championships of Victoria 2024

# BRIGHTON BASH 2

The Brighton Bash 2 was held on Easter Saturday. It is one tournament of a proposed three (Brighton Bash 3 hopefully to be held later this year).

The club has three young lads, about 10 years old, who are now members and are very keen on their croquet. So, Karen put together some competitive play for them. Brighton Bash 1 was a round robin for them with partners; Brighton Bash 2 was a 10+ doubles tournament and Brighton Bash 3 will hopefully be a singles tournament, thus giving the boys a broad experience of croquet.

Brighton Bash 2 was a great success with a great atmosphere throughout the day. There were 10 entries from four clubs split into two blocks with a final between the two winners at the end of the day.

The results were very close with the winners of Block A, Peter and Geoff Crook (Woodville), only taking out top spot by one net hoop from Dianne Love and Jenny Haydon (Hyde Park). Peter Webster and Ibrahim Farran (Millswood) won Block B without losing a game.

Peter Webster and Ibrahim Farran continued on their winning way to win the Final, again with great croquet. Well done Peter and Ibrahim!

These tournaments do not run themselves and I would like to thank everyone who had any part in making this a very successful day.

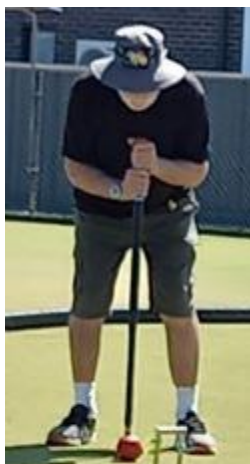
**Anne Woodhouse**

*Acting Tournament Manager*





Winners: Ibrahim Farran & Peter Webster with Anne Woodhouse (Acting Tournament Manager)



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## *Brighton Croquet Club History Matters: Episode 7*

### **Location, Location**

Enjoying the excellent facilities at the Brighton Sports Complex means a big thank-you is due to Howard Wood for his untiring input into what must be one of the outstanding croquet court surfaces in Australia. Members who have read one of the two Club histories (residing in our modest bookcase) will know though that our Club was once located elsewhere. Our former home was at the corner of Keelara Street and Torr Avenue, and you will be very surprised if you mosey along to that site now and marvel at the tiny piece of turf remaining there. A larger site there, such a bold purchase in 1917, was due to an enterprising effort by a group - all women in those days - who sought a lasting home base after first playing on a tract of land just south of St Judes church on Brighton Road.

The purchased tract of land was though to suffer a series of shrinkages. Firstly the creation of Mott Terrace between the Croquet and Tennis Club's land and the railway line which had the purpose of linking Keelara Street with Jetty Road. This action removed a significant 12 metre strip of the neighbouring Club's land - then that was later followed by the rounding of the corner of Keelara Street and Mott Terrace, which caused some further loss of Croquet Club land. After that came a widening of Keelara Street in 1942 which further shaved off some of our land leaving the site reduced to just one and a bit croquet courts.

By the 1970s however the Brighton Club membership was moving in the opposite direction and in 1996 the strength was over 90 members. The Club repeatedly approached the then Brighton Council for a better venue during the 1980s for relief of its plight, but no satisfactory result came until 1994. The Club's land was sold to the Council, leaving a very large amount to be raised to purchase our present site and then furnish it with a Clubhouse and lay down three playing courts. The Club ultimately took up residence at its present site in 1997.

Much more recently, good fortune occurred in the lead-up to the recent Federal Election when in Sports-rort style the Brighton sporting hub, being fortuitously located in the politically marginal Electorate of Boothby, was given a huge make-over. Our Club benefited from the addition of an attractive logo positioned over the front door, a re-paint of the Clubhouse in the traditional Brighton colours of Black and Yellow and the fencing alongside the eastern edge of Court One, replaced.

Bob Auld





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