



Newsletter

Brighton Croquet Club Inc. Stopford Rd Hove 5048 www.brightoncroquetsa.com

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

From the Brighton Croquet Club President, January 2025

Dear Members

Welcome to another year of croquet and friendship. I wish you all a very happy new year full of good health and happiness.

2024 was another successful year for Brighton Croquet Club and I believe that 2025 will also be good for us. As usual we are very grateful for our sponsors' contribution and support.

We have several teams registered to play competition croquet and it's great to see people, new to our club and the game of croquet, participating.

I would like to sincerely thank our Committee Members for their significant contribution and efforts in guiding and managing our club. Your endeavours and hard work are very much appreciated.

Enjoy your croquet everyone.

Wendy Williamson

President

Golf Croquet significant winners 2024

2024 saw one Pennant win for Brighton in the 9+ Spring Singles. This was played on Thursday afternoons in a Home and Away competition. Congratulations should go to all the team members.

Sue Davel won a significant event at Hutt Road, the 'Open Women's Singles'. It was an outstanding achievement. She was ranked second in the event but proceeded to win every game. A big congratulations to her.



S.A. GC Directors Trophy 2025

This event was held at Hutt Road over the extended weekend of Friday 17th January to Sunday January 19th. Competitors from North Adelaide, Hyde Park, Woodville, South Terrace, Brighton, Millswood & Victor Harbor Croquet Clubs joined in to make this a highly competitive event.

The weather was challenging with high temperatures causing big alterations in the playing schedules.

The doubles section of the tournament was concluded by early Saturday afternoon.

Susan Dunsby (Brighton) and Robin Golding (North Adelaide) were the winners with four wins from five games.

Glen Devison (South Terrace) and Frank Markus (Victor Harbor) were runner-up.

The singles section was originally programmed as an eleven-game round robin event but once the weather forecasts were known on the Thursday, a two block format was organised with a planned finals round.

In the semi-finals round Glen Devison defeated Mark Stevens (Hyde Park) and Geoff Crook (Woodville) defeated Annie Millhouse (Millswood).

A fascinating strategic Grand Final game then followed with Geoff Crook defeating Glen Devison 3-2.

Mark Stevens defeated Annie Millhouse for third position 6-5.

I would like to thank Kim Millhouse, the Event Manager, for the time and preparation that made this event happen. After a huge amount of preliminary work, the hot conditions caused new player draws to be made over and over.

Thank you to Kim Millhouse, Anne Woodhouse, and Ansi Baumanis for refereeing over the three days.

And also, the Brighton crew - Ken Nunan and Peter Woodward.

Most importantly I would like to thank the players for coming out in the trying conditions, playing great croquet in an atmosphere of good spirits.

Peter Woodward

Brighton Croquet Club.

S.A GC Directors Trophy 2025



Peter Woodward with Robin Golding & Susan Dunsby
Doubles - WINNERS



Peter Woodward with Frank Markus & Glen Devison
Doubles – RUNNERS-UP



Ansi Baumanis with Geoff Crook-WINNER



and Glen Devison-RUNNER-UP



All competitors in SA GC Directors Trophy 2025

Brighton Croquet Club History Matters: Episode 10

GENDER ISSUES

The Holdfast Bay Club situated to the north of us was originally titled 'Glenelg' and it is known that as early as 1919, that Glenelg welcomed all-comers who wanted to play croquet. It is also known that in 1926 approximately 1000 women were registered Statewide with SACA but only 30 men. In 1939 the SACA President lamented in a Press interview that too few men played croquet, and she opined that "Men would, I think, tend to improve the standard, as they would, perhaps, adopt more forceful tactics". The 'Association' game (much more popular in those times than 'Golf' croquet), for many years was sullied by a negative unadventurous type of play, disparagingly referred to as "Aunt Emma" tactics.

Brighton Croquet Club, in 1949 after 44 years of existence only welcomed women as members - but change was in the air! The Club Captain at the time seconded a motion put at a Special General Meeting "that men, be accepted as members of the Club". This did not go down at all well with some senior figures and so a cautious amendment to the motion was moved "that such membership be limited to six, until the end of the year". This was then followed by another Motion "that ladies only, hold office as it is a Ladies Club". Next month four men were accepted as members.

This ground-breaking occurrence seemed to have led to some unsettling developments, as just one week later, a Special Committee Meeting was held, at which it was decided to send a letter to a particular member "asking for an apology to the Captain, and also for more co-operation and less fault-finding on the lawns". A Special General Meeting followed to hear from both aggrieved parties, and it was decided by a unanimous vote to cancel that member's membership and to refund her six months fee.

In the following year the Committee drew up a set of Club Rules, within which there was no mention of restrictions on the number of male members. For the following decades women clearly continued to prevail in both membership numbers and as key office-bearers despite a steady increase in male memberships. Parity between the genders eventually occurred in 1966. Club records are scarce thereabouts, but we do know that in 1972 a man, Dennis Hassell was elected Club President, Charles Allport was elected Treasurer four years later, and popular Rod Kerr elected Secretary in 1987, but it was not until 2006 that a man, David Greig was elected as Club Captain.

These days, Wendy Williamson is doing an excellent job as Club President and the position of Secretary is more than ably filled by busy Jackie Sutherland whilst Jon Trenwith handles the office of Treasurer. Then of course we have other hard workers - Howard, Sonya, Marlene etc, etc....

What a lovely Club we belong to now!

Bob Auld

Editor's Note: Bob has advised that this may be his last hurrah!!!!

I hope not!



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