

MCC Croquet Section Inc

Annual General Meeting

May 1st 2010

Chairperson's Report

Membership

During the course of the year we welcomed many new Members into our Section. We have a "cap" of 80 on our membership.

We welcomed our New Members who include:

Colin Harper
Tom Kudelka
Colin Melville

Fran McCarthy
Robert Sandaver
Tom Swinburne

The following Members resigned from the Section during the year:

Ellie Bastow
Elaine Crosling
Jill Gray
John Hancorne
Sue Kinkaid

Rosemary Simpson
Barbara Sitlington
Dorothy Walkingshaw
Felicity Williamson

We have 57 Playing Members, one Life member, Noel Grant and two Senior Life Members, June Whiting and Rena Mair.

We have up to 11 prospective Members on the waiting list; all of whom have expressed interest in joining. You will see many of them on Friday Coaching at Caulfield during our Winter closure.

We are saddened by the death of our Member.

Anne Cordner

Croquet Activities

Club Opening – August 1st 2009

We opened our Season in the same manner as last year. Some of our newer Members and some visiting Members of other Clubs each ran a hoop and our guest, Jane Nathan from the MCC Committee, pegged out. In addition, there were Members of our neighbouring Croquet Clubs who came to help us celebrate our opening as a Section of the MCC.

INVOLVEMENT WITH THE MCC

During the year, Members of the MCC Croquet Section visited the MCC to participate in a number of functions including the Sporting Sections Annual Dinner and the Bowls Section Annual Dinner,

We also had a visit from Steven Smith during our Annual Tournament. Steven is the person on the MCC Committee who oversees Croquet

TOURNAMENTS AND CHAMPIONSHIPS

MCC August 2009 Tournament

Our Club Tournament started on August 13th and ended on August 23rd. It was well-managed by John van der Touw with great help from Ruth Firkin. Graham Fahey was the Handicapper and Ken Hopkins the Tournament Referee. As is usual, many Club Members helped with all the arrangements, catering etc. Marjorie Button co-ordinated all the catering with great help from Helen Worladge, Jill Gray and others. And thanks to Ken Hopkins for being the Tournament Referee.

- **Division IV** was won by Judy Chiron from Essendon and the runner up was Brent Campbell of the MCC. There were a total of twelve entrants in this Division including eight MCC Members; and this shows the underlying strength of the Club
- **Division III** (handicap range 14 – 18) was won by Brian Foley from Sandringham and the runner up was Ray Carter from Ringwood.
- **Division II** (handicap range 9-12) was won by John Miles of Ringwood and the runner up was Ken Woodward from Mornington.
- The lower half of the **First Division** (handicap range 5-9) was won by Don Ashton of Sandringham by one hoop from John van der Touw of the MCC who was Runner up.
- The Final of the top half of the **First Division** (handicap range -3 to 4) was an all MCC affair with Allan Cleland beating Adrian Palmer in a well fought final.

A total of 48 players participated in our Tournament of which 17 were from the MCC.

The 17 MCC Members were:

Division IV: Brent Campbell, Margaret Holding, Gail Plunkett, Helen Worladge, Glenda Burt, Colin Melville, Catherine Symons and Jane Waters.

Division III: Bruce McComb, John Hancorne and Margaret Tomlinson.

Division II: Gavan Woinarski, Graham Fahey and Reen Hancorne.

Division I (Lower): John van der Touw.

Division I (Upper): Allan Cleland and Adrian Palmer.

PENNANT
Jane Waters

Association Croquet

2009 Spring Pennant (Sept. - Dec.)

Ten metropolitan clubs entered 22 teams in Spring Pennant. We entered 3 teams.

Division II

Sas Derham
Bruce Mc Comb
Walter Runciman

Division IV (Blue)

Diana Refschauge
Catherine Symons
Jane Waters
Helen Worladge

Division IV (Red)

Brent Campbell
Carol Dobbin
Ruth Firkin
Gail Plunkett

Val Hunt, Marjorie Button, Colin Melville, Glenda Burt and Margaret Tomlinson also played in our Division IV teams.

Our Division II team came fifth, our Division IV team (Blue) was runner- up to Frankston and our Division IV team (Red) came fifth.

2010 Metro Social Play (Feb. - May)

Last year Sas Derham and Graham Fahey won the Green Section.

and

Bruce McComb and Patrick Moore won the Gold Section.

(with substitutes Graham Fahey, Reen Hancorne and Margaret Tomlinson)

This year eleven metropolitan clubs have entered 25 teams. We have entered 5 teams

Brown Section

MCC 1 : Bruce McComb and Patrick Moore, with help from John van der Touw.

At the halfway mark of the season, MCC 1 is on top of the ladder, winning all four matches.

Orange Section

MCC 2 : Sas Derham and Betty Siversen.

MCC 3 : Reen Hancorne and Brenda Seavers.

At the halfway mark of the season, MCC 2 is in fifth position. MCC 3 is in third position.

Red Section

MCC 1 : Brent Campbell, Gail Plunkett and Helen Worladge.

MCC 2 : Catherine Symons, Jane Waters and Xandra Macmillan

Also playing in our Red Section teams are :-

Ruth Firkin		Mary Vindin
Carol Dobbin	and	Colin Harper
Colin Melville		Tom Kudelka

At the halfway mark of the season, MCC 1 is in fifth position. MCC 2 is in second position.

MCC 2010 Association Championships

Entries:

Division I

Allan Cleland
Patrick Moore
Adrian Palmer
John van der Touw

Division II

Graham Fahey
Reen Hancorne
Gavin Woinarski

Division III

Bruce McComb
Jane Waters
Margaret Tomlinson

Division IV

Glenda Burt
Brent Campbell
Colin Melville
Gail Plunkett
Catherine Symons
Helen Worlidge

Results of our 2010 Association Championships:

	Champion	Runner-Up
First Division	Allan Cleland	Adrian Palmer
Second Division	Graham Fahey	Gavan Woinarski
Third Division	Bruce McComb	Jane Waters
Fourth Division	Brent Campbell	Glenda Burt

After the presentations for the Association Club Championships we had our second Long Lunch which was attended by over half the membership. Many thanks to all who helped and particularly to Marjorie and Jan who organised it.

Golf Croquet MCC 2010 Championships

Level I Winner – Adrian Palmer
 Runner up – John van der Touw

Jan Barry
Reen Hancorne
Bruce McComb
Patrick Moore
Adrian Palmer
John van der Touw

Level II Winner – Catherine Symons
 Runner up – Ken Hopkins

Ruth Firkin
Shirley Hayes
Ken Hopkins
Catherine Symons
Marg Tomlinson

Level III Winner – Tom Kudelka
 Runner up – Gail Plunkett

Pauline Clark
Margaret Holding
Val Hunt
Tom Kudelka
Xandra Macmillan
Gail Plunkett

The Golf Croquet Championships ended with a Long Lunch.

Noel Grant Trophy 2009

This was won by Gail Plunkett and Helen Worlidge was the runner up. Noel Grant refereed the game. Over 40 Members attended the Luncheon after the game. It was terrific in that there were 9 novices entering. Other entrants included Marjorie Button, Michelle Hodder, Mary Vindin, Ellie Bastow, Miriam Krahe, Valma Whitehead and Xandra Macmillan. Margaret Tomlinson ran the Tournament in great style and efficiency.

Noel Grant Trophy 2010

Tom Kudelka beat Val Hunt 11 – 4 in front of an audience of over 20 Members and Players. The event was managed by Carol Dobbin with Jan Watts and Liz Duff carrying out refereeing duties for all the games. Jan Barry arranged a terrific luncheon for about 30 of us. Noel Grant presented the prizes. Other participants included Glenda Burt, Colin Harper, Miriam Krahe,

EVE ASHBY TOURNAMENT

This is a handicap event **open to all Members of the Section.** It is named after Eve Ashby, a long-time President of the MCC Croquet Club.

There were a total of sixteen entries in the Eve Ashby Tournament. The four finalists were Colin Melville, Val Hunt, Glenda Burt and Marjorie Button. In the semi-finals, Val beat Marjorie but was not available to play in the afternoon; so Marjorie played Colin Melville in the final (who beat Glenda in the semi-final) and Colin won 11-6. Congratulations to Colin.

Many thanks to all involved: the players, the referees, the organisers and our catering team. The standard of play was terrific and is an outcome of our coaching program and the dedication of the players.

Please note that in the future, Members entering any Tournament must be available to play ALL matches.

Winter Play

During our Winter Break Caulfield Croquet Club were kind enough to make their Courts available for play; as they have done again for 2010.

MCC NEWS OF MEMBERS IN TOURNAMENTS

- Bruce McComb won Division III at Williamstown, Dandenong and Essendon Tournaments. A terrific effort!
- Graham Fahey won the Williamstown Division II Tournament in a very close competition.
- Adrian Palmer won the Victorian Silver Medal Competition. John van der Touw came Fourth. Adrian and Patrick competed in the Victorian Open Doubles coming 7th; but beating the Winners!
- John van der Touw also won the 3½ - 6 section of the Cairnlea Classic and now has a handicap of 4½. In Golf Croquet, John van der Touw played in the Victorian Open and the Australia Day Competition; coming third in both events.
- Adrian Palmer came seventh in the Victoria Gold Cup.
- Patrick Moore was Runner-up in the Warrnambool Tournament.
- Bruce McComb won the third Division in the Essendon Tournament and also won the third Division in the Dandenong Tournament.
- Gavan Woinarski came fourth in the Brunswick Electric Light tournament in the 6 – 11 handicap range and Reen Hancorne came fifth.
- Reen Hancorne was Runner-up in 7-11 section of Dandenong Association Tournament and third in 7-11 section of Frankston Association Tournament. Reen was also Runner up in the One Day Cairnlea Challenge Golf Croquet Doubles.
- Gail Plunkett played in the Essendon Tournament (but adds that she should have stayed at home)!

Monthly Medal – 2009

Betty Siverson won the Monthly Medal competition.

Thursday Doubles

Helen Worlidge and Patrick Moore won the 2009 Thursday Doubles Competition. June Holyman and Di Refshauge were the runners up.

The remainder of the games in the Thursday Doubles Competition for 2010 will be played after our Annual Tournament in September 2010.

REFEREEING

We are very lucky to have a number of referees in our Club, headed by Liz Duff who does a great job both at the MCC and for Croquet Victoria. We have continued our practice of having two referees or umpires at each Spring Pennant match, and one or two at Division 4 Autumn Pennant matches. Liz organised the rosters and would like officially to thank all referees and umpires for their outstanding co-operation and willingness to participate.

It is most important that all players recognise the fact that the Referee is responsible for games and that no Spectators should in any way interfere with the game, give advice or make comments. It is just a matter of etiquette!

COACHING

The Coaching program at the MCC Croquet Section has continued to strengthen our players so that not only are they better at croquet, but they can enjoy it even more. Our many thanks on behalf of the Club to all those who have been involved in coaching and in particular, Marg Tomlinson, Jan Watts and John van der Touw.

In addition, Kenn Boal coached us twice during the year to improve our play ins increase our enjoyment of croquet. Over 20 Members availed themselves of this terrific opportunity.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Our Christmas Luncheon was so very well attended. And our thanks go to all who were so helpful in making it a terrific day for all of us. There wouldn't be many other Clubs in the World where over two thirds of the Membership comes to such a function. Well done all! Members who had resigned were also invited back to touch base with their old friends. Liz Duff took many wonderful photographs and Helen Worlidge arranged for several collages of all the photographs

THE LONG LUNCHEONS

Many Members celebrated the end of our Association and Golf Croquet Championships with a long lunch.

Next year we intend to have only one Long Lunch to incorporate both Golf and Association croquet players.

FACILITIES REPORT

All our property is in good condition.

We have recently purchased a B B Q which was first used at our long lunch.

We have adequate locker space for all Members.

A plaque commemorating 100 years of Croquet and Bowls in Glen Street was unveiled by Noel Grant

Our courts are in use between 10.00 am to 3.00 pm most days of the week.

- We have Pennant on both Mondays and Wednesdays.
- Tuesdays Division 4 players practise singles and Golf Croquet is played in the afternoon.
- Thursdays we have our Doubles competitions for members in Divisions 1, 2 and 3.
- Fridays we have coaching for our Division 4 Pennant teams.
- Saturdays is a Club day where many members come and in the morning the more experienced players tend to play doubles with inexperienced players and the afternoon croquet becomes more serious.
- Sunday mornings have turned out rather informally to include players in Division 1 and 2 who take their croquet both seriously and in good and friendly company; normally with a drink afterwards.

It was again disappointing that our courts started to deteriorate well into the season; particularly in critical areas such as around hoops and in some corners. In the Winter break, our courts will receive even greater attention than last year and they will be laser levelled.

LIBRARY

We have a good library. Members are welcome to borrow books and CDs as long as they place their names in the borrowing book.

And donations to our library are welcome.

FINANCE

Under the stewardship of Bruce McComb our finance continue to be well managed. This year, our cash on deposit is now earning a more respectable 4.0%

Subscriptions

Subscriptions have been increased for the first time in 4 years and VCA affiliation fees were increased last year but not passed on. We have sought to maintain the surplus of funds on deposit inherited from previous years created by past Members in order to underwrite the strength of our Club and prepare for future contingencies.

Inevitably our costs will rise in the future, notably our Lawns face issues relating to levels, drainage, weeds and of growth on our Northern borders. The MCC may part fund some of these needs but we cannot be reliant on that to occur.

MCC Subscriptions will remain amongst the lowest in Melbourne and that, unlike other Croquet Clubs, we are not required to “volunteer” to maintain the amenity of our Club and are thus, very fortunate.

YOUR COMMITTEE

We started our year with a new Committee following the retirement of Sas Derham, June Holyman and Marg Tomlinson all of whom made a terrific contribution to the Club over the past years.

Office Holders for the year were:

Chairperson	Patrick Moore
Treasurer	Bruce McComb
Secretary	Catherine Symons

Committee Members for the year were:

Jan Barry (part year)	John van der Touw
Marjorie Button	Jane Waters
Ruth Firkin (part year)	Helen Worlodge

I wish to thank the Committee on behalf of the Membership for its sound and solid help throughout the year. I wish to particularly thank Ruth and Marjorie who resigned from the Committee during the year.

Our Future

Liquor licence

This matter has not yet been settled and is being looked after by the MCC

We are a healthy Club with good finances, a strong Membership brought about through word of mouth and a welcoming Club for all. This is not the work of one person, or any Committee; but of all the Membership.

Lastly, I would like to reiterate what I said last year:

We look forward to continued involvement of all current Members in the Club. I also encourage you to propose new Members who are likely to become keen Croquet players. Our Club is unique in that we have a very strong social group and also keen group of competitive Croquet players. It is important to keep this balance. Your Committee is aware and sympathetic to the view that our Club has these two attributes and that it is important to keep them in balance.

Patrick Moore
Chairperson
MCC Croquet Section Inc
Saturday 1st May 2010

