

Rangiora Croquet Club Inc.



AUGUST 2022 NEWSLETTER

The Annual General Meeting

Last Saturday we had a well-attended AGM, and on Tuesday evening your new executive met for the first time. The AGM saw Wil standing down after four years as our President. He remains on the executive in an ex-officio capacity and intends to continue to play an important part in the running of our club. We thank Wil for his guidance during the last four years and look forward to his on-going contributions to the club.

We were delighted to announce that Audrey Burnett is now a new life member of our club and present her with her badge. Carol told us about Audrey's involvement and generosity to the club over the years which includes the donation of the memorial seat on the terrace and the mower shed in memory of her late husband.

At this meeting two of our longest serving executive members, Carol Kidd and Neville Turner stood down. They were croquet players before the club re-opened in 2015 and contributed to the development of the first two lawns. We thanked them for their contributions to the club, Carol as our AC Captain, while Neville with his help fitting out of the clubrooms and his work around the grounds.

Also, Alister and Hilda Newey did not seek re-election and we are indebted to them for the tremendous contributions that they have made in recent years. Alister for liaising with Peter Parkinson and leading the work on the new lawns while also looking after our two other lawns. Hilda for being our very active and able GC Captain and her work alongside Alister on the new lawns.

In their place, we welcome to you executive Helene Macnab as AC Captain and Merv Marsh as GC Captain, and Glenda Hamilton and Ivan Hayward as executive members. Terry Green remains on the executive as Vice-President, Colin Ackroyd as Secretary, Anne Barnes as Treasurer, and Liz Partridge and John Foster as committee members. Liz will continue to be the GC handicapper.

We approved a major change to our constitution at this meeting, which means that our balance date in future will be 30 April, and our AGMs will most probably be held on the last Saturday in May each year. This change is needed because the Canterbury Croquet Association requires us to have our AGM before theirs which is held in June. This means that our officer holders for the coming year are appointed in time to work with the CCA to set up the main competitions for the coming season.

Opening Day

We decided that our opening day will be on Saturday 3 September, unless there is more wet weather. If we decide to defer opening day for another week, we will let you know by e-mail.

As we will only be able to use the two established lawns and COVID is still circulating we have changed the arrangements for opening day. The first hoop will be run at 12.50pm.



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As we anticipate that there will be too many people to allow everyone to play immediately, so we have decided that the first 24 GC players to arrive will be the first to play on three of the half lawns, while the AC players will use the fourth lawn. The GC games will run for 45 minutes, and these first group of players will have a cup of tea/coffee after they finish their first game while others will play. We see this as a way of limiting the number of people in the clubrooms at one time and hopefully you will feel more comfortable socialising under these conditions. After they have had an early afternoon tea the first group will have another game while the second group have afternoon tea. PLEASE bring a small plate of food for our shared afternoon tea.

Progress with the Lawns

As we have indicated, we will only be using the two established lawns initially and we hope to be able to use the two new lawns from the beginning of October. There will still be some areas on these lawns that are not fit for play, These will be marked as “ground under repair” and balls must be moved off them. These areas will have some impact on play, but we anticipate that balls will roll across the “ground under repair” area reasonably well.

You will notice that there is some courser grass particularly on lawn 3, and this is attributable to the use of the wrong seed mix, one which contained rye grass along with brown top and fescue. We are advised that we can use spray to gradually remove the rye grass over time without unduly damaging the finer grasses. We have chosen to do this instead of spraying the area out and starting again, because we wanted to be able to use lawns 2 and 3 this season. When closely mown the courser grass will not create too many problems, but the new lawns will not reach the standard of the established lawns until we remove the rye grass.

Introducing New Members

We recognise that most people interested in playing croquet with us are likely to find out about Golf Croquet, and that some may find Association Croquet more interesting from the outset. We have taken up the suggestion made the AGM that people considering joining us should be given the opportunity to find out about AC and GC. To do this, new members will have the opportunity to play on four club days rather than three before being asked to sign an application form if they are interested in becoming a member. This will allow them to spend time with AC players as well as playing GC during this introductory period, either on a Saturday or a Wednesday when AC players have the use of all the lawns.

A Message From Our GC Handicapper

Liz reminds all members that she needs to check and sign-off their handicap cards before they become involved with inter-club or other CCA competitions. The verification of handicaps is very important and each of us are responsible for seeing that our cards are up to date, which includes having them checked by Liz. If Liz has not had a look at your handicap card recently, PLEASE make sure you hand it in for checking as soon as possible, ideally before opening day.

Quiz Night

Our quiz night at Charles Upham Village is now scheduled for TUESDAY, 27 SEPTEMBER. This is the second quiz night that Rymans has hosted for us, and the last one was very successful, when we raised just over \$1,000 for the club. Merv and his team have everything ready to go, with great raffle prizes. This is a good time for you begin to sort out your teams of four or six, and it is an



opportunity to introduce friends and family to our club. The entry fee is \$10.00 per person. Entries will go to Jenny Marsh, jenniemarsh53@gmail.com but we do not want you to pay your entry fee prior to the day of the quiz, because of the risk of an outbreak of COVID at the village, which could mean that we have to cancel the evening at short notice. You may pay your entry fee via on-line banking, but only on the day of the quiz night when we are sure that it is going ahead.

The Telephone List

At our executive meeting we decided that our contact list will only carry members' telephone numbers. This is in response to the recently released Croquet New Zealand Privacy Policy, and our understanding of good practice with respect to protecting the privacy. You will also notice that members' email addresses do not now appear with messages that come from our Secretary. We are using the BCC function in Outlook to protect members' email addresses from being misused if a third party get access to them.

Looking forward to meeting up with as many as possible of you early in the new playing season.

Mary Sparrow
President



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