



CLUB NEWS LETTER December 2018

Leone Woodward

The club has lost one of its very significant members. We were shocked to learn of Leone's passing on Tuesday 4th December. Leone has been central to the club being in its current location and functioning so well. Leone's personality was always very supportive, giving and inclusive. Mark, as president, worked with Leone for many years to achieve what we have. He writes.....

This year we decided to make a recommendation to the AGM to create a life member of the Rangiora Croquet Club. When the person you are proposing is the Secretary it is however difficult to spring such a surprise. Leone (and I still have not worked out how to do the acute above the "e" in her name) has been a member of this club since joining in 1988.

She is a great player and remains a warm and welcoming member to all.

Over this period she has been an ordinary committee member and President. Her latter role, and it has been a very long, has been that of secretary. During that difficult period when we had to leave the bowling Club, where we had played Croquet for 100 years, Leone always remained upbeat and positive about our future.

The writing had been on the wall for a long time that we needed to shift. From 1975 our name was no longer on the same title as the Bowling Club and the then, Rangiora Borough Council were first approached. The potential for conflict with the bowlers was ever present and it says something about the conciliatory and diplomacy skills of Leone as at one point I believe, Mrs Woodward was President of the Rangiora Croquet Club and Mr Woodward was President of the Rangiora Bowling Club.

In 2004 as well as planning our centennial we also began in earnest our search for new lawns. The only realistic outcome would be Croquet lawns on Waimakariri District Council land. Throughout this period Leone remained focused and indefatigable but always pleasant to all those she was dealing with in the corridors of local power.

The expression "softly softly catchee monkey" springs to mind and it is very apt.

I think I speak for all us who were original members of the club and certainly myself when I confess to thinking at times this quest was too hard, gone on too long and perhaps it didn't matter. I even remember thinking that an epitaph of "Last President of the Rangiora Croquet Club" had a sort of historic charm about it. (I'll now have to settle for "longest serving")

Leone was however fighting the good fight and at the same time realising a dream that indeed took us with her to the promised land.

Without Leone the Rangiora Croquet Club would have been consigned to history. Because of her we are here and have a future.





From the December Committee Meeting

Lawns Developments

We are very pleased to report good progress in planning to develop two new lawns for the club.

Using his experience in developing the first of our two lawns, Peter has prepared plans and costings that will see the new lawns developed in 'stages'. This will help our funding applications and make the project manageable. The major work will be done by hired contractors. However, there will be quite a lot of work that members will need to assist with along the way.

A significant help to get us underway should come from CCA which has just given approval for clubs to apply to CCA for grants to cover 'new lawn developments'. The guidelines give up to \$5000 per new lawn.

If plans go as we hope the first stage could be completed before winter. This will give time for land to settle in preparation for the key task of levelling the area. Landscaping can also begin soon.

When planning is finalised we will let members know as we will need you to help with some aspects of the development work.

Captains' Reports

Lesley and I are pleased to report that the two blocks in Division 3 GC Interclub have reached the final. Well done to all who played and to the people who helped.

Frank Williams and myself are in the playoffs for the Johnson Memorial Trophy. Well done Rangiora. On Sunday 2nd. December I took two of our new members to Beginners Day at St. James Park CC. This is a yearly event for new members to meet one another and to test their skills. I'm pleased to say that our two did extremely well.

Tuesday 11th will see Greg Bryant come to coach at the Club. Cost will be \$10 per head.

We recently hosted 9 ladies from the Rangiora Lioness Group and they all enjoyed themselves. They hope to return soon.

Jenny Clarke is providing coaching days for Referees. These will be held Tuesday 15th and Thursday 17 January. Important that we attend as we don't have a club referee.

Peter Parkinson has entered the AC Champs at United CC. We wish him well.

I've received notice of the Carol Hayward Competition. Details to follow.

I'd like to finish this report by saying how much I'll miss my good friend and doubles partner, Leone Woodward. Croquet won't be the same without her.

Carol Kidd

Greens Group

Our lawns continue to be in excellent condition. We received a very strong compliment from Greg Bryant, NZC national coach, about the quality of our lawns. There were also compliments at the recent CCA meeting. Well done Greens Group!!





Coaching

Greg Bryant took us through an excellent day's coaching on Tuesday. 20 members attended and it was good to see such a turnout. I am sure we can look forward to some improved play, and reduced handicaps?

Youth Croquet

Our club is planning initiatives to support youth croquet within our club. Howard has been working with a number of North Canterbury primary schools, culminating in a tournament day on our lawns last week. (Photos on the notice board). The enthusiasm was great to see and the play surprisingly good from some students. Next year it is likely Rangiora High will send some students for play and coaching as part of their sports programme.

The Youth Croquet initiative will require support from the club, and members. Greg Bryant is very involved in developing youth croquet nationally and he can give us some helpful guidelines and support for our venture. It is good to have this from national level.

Christmas BBQ

Thank you to the team who organised the Christmas BBQ. A really enjoyable evening.

Annual Membership

Our membership continues to grow. Mary is finalising numbers with CCA at the moment.

Club fees are \$230.00 for existing members and \$80 for new members. Mary can receive subs via internet banking and you need to identify by your surname. Our bank account is at the Rangiora branch of the Westpac Bank, and in the name of Rangiora Croquet Club.

Our banking number is 03 0674 0071147 00

Twilight Croquet

Twilight croquet is underway. It is enjoyable to have the BBQ before play. Do join in. Food from 5:00pm. Play at 6:00pm.

Committee meetings

The committee meets again on Saturday 12th January. Please let Anne Barns know if there is anything you would like the committee to consider.

I would like to personally wish you all a happy festive season with family and friends. Thank you for your support and the work you do to make our club function so successfully.

Wil Henderson
President

