

# HOOP POINTS

## Vale Jim Grindrod

Jim was deeply respected and cherished by the croquet community, where his generosity, warmth, and willingness to share his expertise left a lasting impact on everyone he met.

Jim discovered his passion for croquet in 2016, at the age of 62. With his natural determination, sporting instincts and sharp, logical mind, he quickly mastered the tactics of Golf Croquet. By the end of that year, his dedication paid off when he won the Men's Open Championship—his first of many major wins but the one he was most proud of.

Jim was selected for the State Team in 2017 and 2018, and in 2019 his leadership and dedication earned him the role of Captain. He embraced the role with enthusiasm, guiding his team through challenges with encouragement and unwavering support. Under his captaincy, the team achieved several outstanding performances, fueled by the strong team spirit he fostered. Even when he could no longer play in 2020 due to illness, his teammates re-elected him as Captain, a testament to the respect and admiration in which he was held. Although illness eventually prevented him from competing, Jim remained actively involved in the sport. He served as the State Scorer and Handicapper and as an assistant coach for the State Squad. He also coached at Aldinga Beach, Brighton, and South Terrace Croquet Clubs, sharing his time, knowledge, and love for the game with anyone who sought his guidance.

Jim passed away on October 23 after many years of courageously fighting cancer.

Anne Woodhouse  
Brighton Croquet Club



## ACA SA AC Bronze Medal

The ACA SA AC Bronze medal was contested at Hutt Road on the 2nd and 3rd of November.

Eight players accepted an invitation from the AC selection committee for a chance to win the right to play against the winners from other states for the ACA Gold medal. Many of the strongest AC players are members of country clubs, so it was excellent to see that Mark Kobelt (Tumby Bay), Harley Watts (Moonta) and Simon Hockey (Crystal Brook) were able to compete this weekend. The new balls, challenging hoops, and the potential for longer games tested many! Turns ending with a breakdown rather than a clever leave were more common than is usual with this group. At the end of a long first day, the top three seeds were unbeaten, with Simon Hockey completing triple peels in all four of his games.

At the end of the second day Simon remained unbeaten in his seven games to win the event, with Dwayne McCormick the runner-up losing only to Simon.

Simon will represent South Australia in the ACA Gold Medal event to be held in Adelaide in March 2025. We wish him well.

Thanks to James Temlett, Mary Marsland, John Arney and David Wise for refereeing, and to Mary Marsland and John Arney for managing sessions.

Joan Kelly, Tournament Manager



## GC Level 1 Coaching Course - 12th February 2025

Are you ready to elevate your croquet game?

Looking to refine your skills?

Get guidance from experienced coaches who know the ins and outs of Golf Croquet?

Benefit from tailored advice to improve your game?

Build confidence to pass on your knowledge to help and coach your new club members?

Then the next Golf Croquet Level 1 coaching course is the perfect opportunity for you to achieve these goals.

To apply and learn more, please contact Laura Eden for more details.

Laura Eden

SA GC Coaching Coordinator

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## SA GC Spring Singles Open Women's

Holdfast Bay Croquet Club managed the South Australian Spring Open Woman's Golf Croquet Event at Croquet Headquarters, Hutt Road Adelaide on Thursday 7th and Friday 8th November 2024. The weather for the two days was very kind with temperatures in the early twenties.

There were six competitors, Laura Eden, Susan Davel, Jill Millhouse, Ann Millhouse, Linda Stone and Colleen Baumanis. Unfortunately Jill Millhouse had to withdraw due to injury on day One. Play on the Thursday commenced early so that competitors could attend a funeral in the afternoon. The competition was a round robin with games scheduled for sixty minutes. There was some very keen competition between all the competitors and the play was very entertaining to watch. The competition was still very keen, however it was noticeable that the long schedule of games was very tiring for competitors on the second afternoons play.

Congratulations to Susan DAVEL who was victorious winning all games that she competed in. Laura EDEN was the runner up. All games were keenly fought and congratulations must go to all the competitors.

Ruth Dunn Club Captain from Holdfast Bay presented the winners with their certificates.

It was also a quick learning curve for President Helen Kotz to learn the computer scoring system.

We thank all the players but especially the referees who gave up their time to assist. John Arney, Bob Neil, Barry Hayden and Ansi Baumanis for making the event a successful one.

Thanks also to members of the Holdfast Bay Croquet Club who gave up their time to successfully manage this event. Roger Zeuner, Helen Kotz, Val Brunner, Rosemary O'Neill, Margaret Frost, Ruth Dunn and Paul Wahlstead.

A very successful tournament.

Roger Zeuner  
Club Holdfast



We had a group of very enthusiastic spectators watching the play on day two.

## 2024 S.A GC Men's Open Spring Singles

This event was held on Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th of November at the Hutt Rd croquet courts.

Nine players from Hyde Park, South Tce, Millswood, North Adelaide and Norwood Croquet Clubs participated in this challenging event. The games were timed at one hour with the players playing a full nine round round-robin program.

At the end of the Saturday's games six players had won three games each. This led to an interesting range of possibilities for the leadership board on the second day of play.

At the end of Round 9, Steve Condous (Hyde Park) led the pack with seven wins from eight games. He needed to win his last game to hold top spot. He was closely followed by Paul Ensor (South Tce) on six wins and a hoop difference of +17, and Ansi Baumanis (Norwood ) six wins and hoop difference of +13.

This was a brisk, well played tournament with many fine tactical moves and brilliant, long roquets. The weather was very good – temperature in the low mid 20s, slight cool breezes and no rain.

It was a very entertaining competition and thoroughly enjoyed by the small crowd of spectators.

I would like to thank S.A.C.A for organising the event, the players for playing in the event, the referees – Kim Millhouse, Geoff Creek, Kevin LePoidevin, Graeme Thomas and Anne Woodhouse.

Special thanks to the Brighton C.C. managing team – Anne Woodhouse and Jill Gay.

Peter Woodward  
Brighton Croquet Club



Nine participants in the Men's Singles



Winner Steve Condous



Runner-up Paul Ensor

## 2024 N.S.W. State Gateball Championship

This event was held between October 18th to October 20th at the Lake Macquarie Croquet Centre, new home of the Toronto Croquet Club in the Central Coast Region of N.S.W.

Teams from Queensland and N.S.W. and players from Victoria and South Australia attended for a great three day event.

The Toronto Croquet Club was formed in 1992 in Toronto, N.S.W and used shared facilities. After a twelve year campaign, they relocated to a new purpose built facility some twelve kilometres north in Glendale in April 2024. They have six full size croquet courts and cater for Golf & Association Croquet, Ricochet and Gateball.

The Toronto Croquet Club took on the role of hosting the 2024 N.S.W. State Gateball Championship when Nowra pulled out of the role earlier this year. This has been a great dress rehearsal for next year's really big event - the 2025 Australian Gateball Championships.

This area is easily accessed without a car – plane to Sydney Airport, train to Sydney Central Station, 2 ½ hour train trip to Cardiff then the local bus to shops, accommodation and the Croquet Centre.

### The Doubles Event

Fourteen doubles combinations were split into two blocks for round-robin games.

Peter (Brighton CC) & Glen (South Tce CC) struggled valiantly winning two of six games - after initially losing to Glen & Kristina in a shoot-out.

Ralph & Kevin (Canberra) and Glen & Kristina (Canberra) were both undefeated and dominated their groups. They both won their semifinals.

The Grand Final was an epic struggle initially, but Glen & Kristina took control and went on to a great win 25 – 8 with time left on the clock.



Glen and Kristina - doubles presentation - Petula Shun (State Coordinator)

### The Teams Event

Eight teams competed in an entertaining round-robin competition.

Canberra White and Moreton Bay/Warnambool were the two strongest teams with Canberra Green close behind.

Moreton Bay/Warnambool were too strong and won the Teams Grand Final 16-9

Peter Woodward  
Brighton C.C.



Teams Event Winner Moreton Bay & Warnambool

## North Adelaide Games 2024

It was perfect weather for the 22nd North Adelaide Games, starting on Saturday 9 November with the Invitation Singles and finishing on Thursday 14 November with the Swiss Handicap Singles. Games of Association Croquet (AC) were played in excellent spirits and those who came to the event witnessed wonderful croquet on display.

### Invitation Singles

Eight men participated, some of the very best AC players in South Australia. It was wonderful to welcome four from country clubs – Crystal Brook, Tumby Bay, Coobowie and Moonta. After seven games over the weekend, Simon Hockey and Dwayne McCormick finished with 6 wins each – Simon was declared the winner with 116 net hoops and three triple peels, with Dwayne the runner-up with 98 net hoops and two triple peels. David Short was third (5 wins, 61 net hoops). Regrettably, this year the Women's event had to be cancelled a week before the tournament.

### Swiss Singles

In this two day event, 11 players from seven clubs and on handicaps ranging from one on -1.5 to three on 18, participated over four games each. Four players were from the country. In the Championship Singles, Tim O'Leary was the winner (4 wins, total hoops 99) and Greg Rowberry was runner-up (3 wins, 83 total hoops). In the Handicap Singles, where the player's handicaps were weighted, Debbie McPharlin was the winner (handicap hoop tally 114), narrowly from Norma Greig and Colin Yeatman (both 108), and Linda Kinch (107). Norma was the runner-up on countback. Hearty congratulations to all these worthy winners.

As tournament manager, my sincere thanks go to all participants in our Games this year, and to all helpers who assisted throughout the events – those who fed and watered players (Barbara Stanley and team); ensured lawns and hoops were excellently set (William Pennino, Russell Kopp, Chris Dalzell); refereed (James Temlett, Russell Kopp); organised the raffle, aided with technology and snapped photographs (Janet Willshire); staffed the bar after each event (William Pennino, Karen Tierney); and helped with finances (Noel Spooner); as well as any others I may have inadvertently missed. My grateful appreciation for helping to run a very successful Games in which all participants loved competing in great spirit and with superb croquet skills. For spectators, it was again a very great pleasure to observe!

Roger Harris

AC Captain, North Adelaide CC

Tournament Manager



Simon Hockey (Winner) and Dwayne McCormick (Runner-up) with Kay Seary (Presenter of the prizes) and Roger Harris (AC Captain, NACC, and Event Manager)



Tim O'Leary – Winner of the Championship section of the Swiss Singles



Debbie McPharlin – Winner of the Handicap section of the Swiss Singles

## Dwayne McCormick Now Holds Three Australian Titles

During November Dwayne played in the Australian Doubles Croquet Championship in Cairnlea. It was a 3 day competition, 4 games a day. This event had a round robin block followed by a final best of three play off between the top 2 pairs. Together with partner Lachlan Berryman from Victoria, they won the doubles championship with only 1 loss. Both players have a very relaxed attitude which helped them play so well together. It was great to watch as both of them are big hitters.

The Australian Singles Championship also held in Cairnlea was played over the next 6 days -13 competitors, 4 games a day.

This was not only a contest of croquet skills but an endurance contest. The competitors were fierce but so was the weather. With days of heat, one reaching 38 degrees, wind at high speeds coming from all directions and then the rain- not to mention the lawns with a few different character quirks.

The singles were played as a round robin block of 14, followed by a knock out final for the top 8 players. Ironically Dwayne knocked his doubles partner (Lachlan Berryman) out of the event in the semi-finals. The final was played as a best of five game. Callum Hyland from Tasmania won the first game - a very confident start. The second game went all Dwayne's way- a great game. The games went back and forth in the third match but finally Dwayne was successful. With a lot of rain, but still hot and not much wind the humidity kicked in. Dwayne went out strong and held his nerve and was able to finish the 4th game confidently.

A mammoth effort! Congratulations Dwayne.

3 Australian Croquet titles in one year -

The Australian President's 8s Champion

The Australian Doubles Champion

The Australian Singles Champion

What an achievement can't wait to see what next year brings!

Dwayne is a member of the Australian team playing in the MacRobertson Shield (Macrob). This competition is held every 3-4 years between the US, England, NZ and Australia.



## GC 19 Hoop Tournament

The 19-hoop tournament was played as a single day event on the 7th December with 4 players. We have tried to hold this event for the last 3 years but there haven't been sufficient entries. This year we decided to give it a go come hell or high water.

"It was great." The comment from most of the players was that even if they lost a couple of hoops, they felt that they were still in the game.

In a normal 13 hoop game, if you are 4 – 6 down after 10 hoops, it is pretty well hopeless. Even if you play really well, and get the score to 6 – 6, your opponent has the first shot to 13 which is a huge advantage. In a 19-hoop game, 4 – 6 down just means you have to buckle down and win a couple of hoops to get back to an even game.

This year's 19 hoop tournament was won by Mick Reidy, winning all his games. Barry Haydon was runner up losing a single game to Mick.

Next year we plan on having a two division 19 hoop tournament. An open and possibly a 5+ 19 hoop tournament. More information will be available closer to the event.

Kim Millhouse

GC Individual Events Coordinator



## GC Development Squad

This year Barry Haydon ran a squad of GC players who wanted to improve their game to a level that they could be considered for inclusion in the State Squad. The group went through their paces once a month under Barry's watchful eye (Barry co-opted help from others, Laura Eden & Kim Millhouse in particular). Some of the development squad have graduated and as such there should be room for some new faces.

While those in the 2024 group may or may not continue, the key for 2025 is to make the sessions more accessible so depending on numbers interested we will start with a relatively clean slate and consider opportunities for others. If you would like to know more about the program then contact Barry on [bandjhaydon@gmail.com](mailto:bandjhaydon@gmail.com). Indeed, if you want to be included in the squad, please contact Barry highlighting why you should be included.

All members of the squad should have an interest in representing the State which, amongst other things, can be demonstrated by involvement in SACA tournaments (singles & doubles).





### Mount Gambier Croquet Club Gala Day

Under a beautiful sunny day the Mount Gambier Croquet Club hosted their 2024 Gala Day hosting six clubs from SA and Western Victoria. Many close contests over the day made it hard to predict the outcome but Majella King from the Portland Club was the eventual winner by one game with five players in second place. The games were played in a great spirit of competition and fun. The club would like to thank our sponsors with their help. The day was a great success.

The Club is in its last month of competing for the Laslett Cup with the overall winner will be announced in early December. Our October winner was Judy Brodie.

The Club is to be holding a Twilight game soon for anyone interested in playing croquet. "Come and Try" , all equipment supplied on the day. For further information call or message Judy on 043400346

Janice Vitagliano



Left to right Chris Henkin Jan Vitagliano , Janet Rivet, Majella King, James Wombswell and James Mason

## UPCOMING EVENTS.....

### Golf Croquet

- JAN 16- 17 Johanna Minzlaff Memorial Twilight Singles Event Contact Kevin Lepoidevin 0403836954  
Sue Lepoidevin 0411134161
- JAN 17 - 19 Director's Trophy Hutt Road, enter via SACA website
- JAN 25 - 27 President's Trophy Hutt Road, enter via SACA website
- FEB 1 Weekend Pennants played at Hutt Road
- FEB 3 Aggregate 24+ played at Hutt Road
- FEB 8 - 10 SA Bronze Medal open to handicaps 9+ Hutt Road, enter via SACA website
- FEB 17 Aggregate 24+ Hutt Road
- FEB 22 Weekend Pennants Hutt Road
- FEB 24 Aggregate 24+ Hutt Road
- MARCH 2 Weekend Pennants Hutt Road
- MARCH 3 Aggregate 24+ Hutt Road
- MARCH 23 Weekend Pennants Hutt Road
- MARCH 24 Aggregate 24+ Hutt Road
- MARCH 25 & 27 9+ Autumn Singles played at Hutt Road
- MARCH 29 Silver Medal open to handicaps 6+ Hutt Road, enter via SACA website

### Association Croquet

- FEB 23 - 28 Victor Harbor Tournament Contact: S. Howlett 0431332194 showlett261@gmail.com
- MARCH 1 AC Pennants
- MARCH 5 - 7 CA AC Gold Medal
- MARCH 8 - 11 CA AC Men's and Women's Singles enter via the Croquet Australia website (formerly ACA)
- MARCH 12 - 16 CA AC Eire Cup
- MARCH 18 - 20 SACA Handicap Doubles 12+ Enter via SACA website
- MARCH 22 AC Pennants



Mallet head end piece found at Hutt Road.  
Is your mallet missing something?

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