



AUTUMN/WINTER 2023 NEWSLETTER



Presidents Message – Autumn/Winter 2023

A very warm welcome to the first of two newsletters for 2023. To dwell on events of the past - of which we are all well aware - serves no useful purpose, suffice to say that we are now enjoying some well-earned, uninterrupted games. Let's make the most of it and look forward to having 4 lawns back in action once more. You can't fail to have noticed the kitchen renovations - the silver lining to a dark cloud back in September when our old ZIP boiler sprung a leak. Suzanne's article explains more. The cyclone caused us to cancel the Oval Tournament in February but the Ruth Castle Shield has now been hotly contested on a perfect Croquet-playing day; see what Charlotte has to say and find out about the mysterious Ruth Castle. Ulrike McLaughlan won the tournament in 2020 but was unable to defend it on this occasion. In this edition, you will see a list of forthcoming dates for your diary; of particular note is the Fundraising Dinner to be held on 20 May - more from Jenny Sonntag and Di Hale - the organisers par excellence! The Club Champs competition will be organised in a couple of months - date/s to be confirmed. An opportunity to take part in this Open competition to discover who will carry the trophy for another year. Later in October, we will host 2 grades of the Ryman's sponsored Golden Grades Tournament. Gold Card Holders only may enter and Takapuna will host 2 grades as well! Our website has been upgraded with more tweaks to come as we roll through the coming months. Please log on to keep abreast of events bookings and the monthly calendar - also pinned to the noticeboard. We have Linda to thank for managing the changes at this end and David Blake (Website Designer and Sportsman) for looking after the 'hidden' end. On the horizon is our AGM booked for the 17 June; your chance to have your say with all members of the Committee. Meanwhile, you will receive a questionnaire seeking your opinions and suggestions which will inform and influence

the future strategy of NSCC. I never tire of being amazed and impressed by the dedication of our Committee; their hands-on hard work, often unseen! Likewise our energetic and enthusiastic Club Volunteers who so willingly mow, trim, weed, clean, organize, coach, host corporate groups and the myriad of other demands for which we take responsibility to keep OUR Club running smoothly - THANK YOU one and all. Please put your hands up if you are able to help in any way. Even if you consider that you could only make an occasional contribution - we still need you!!

Have a very Happy Easter and look forward to more action over the coming months.

Michelle Templeman
Club President

Not Money Again!



One tends to skirt around the issue of money and quite frequently the true cost of improvements and developments are taken for granted. We recently embarked on a series of applications from Grant-Making Trusts; a very time-consuming process and one that is fraught with trying to 2nd guess what the selection panel is hoping to read. Notwithstanding this guesswork, the bottom line is very clear if we want to see our Club continue to thrive and grow, be secure and compliant - we need to bolster our income streams. This is reality and rather than burying heads, we as a Committee are facing it head-on with a raft of strategies.

The Story Of Borer And The Pink Carpet – A Fairy-Tale

Perhaps more of a bad dream than Fairy-tale, but surprisingly the two issues are intertwined – and the more I discover, the more I am coming to terms with the fact that the creatures who reside comfortably in our Rimu panelling are unlikely to ever be totally eliminated. Take for example the lifecycle of Borer – which incidentally find Rimu quite yummy – filling their little tummies with frass only to spit it out as they emerge from their hibernation, which, I am told can last up to 10 years!) So as I embarked on this crusade some months ago, I became reasonably well informed and now know that there are 3 types of Borer in NZ – each type preferring a speciality wood!



Setting off a Borer bomb will only be effective when the borer is in flight (or just about to be) – adults who have just developed from the larvae stage, but some larvae are still left behind in the wood. Injecting the holes (which is another method) will only work if the chemical penetrates deeper into the wood as the beetles have already departed; add to that the fact that our panelling has a varnished surface, on which chemical spray is ineffective unless one can spray the reverse (unvarnished) side!

The ‘operator’ from one company kept me entertained on the subject for quite a while, reaching the conclusion that the Lockers can be treated from the inside and the floorboards, once exposed, could also be treated, if they too haven’t been varnished; no hope for the ceiling beams though. Herein lies the connection to the new carpet. When the old carpet is lifted and disposed of, the floorboards will be exposed. At that point we will invite our

wonderful retired Structural Engineer and Building Surveyor (Pat O’Hagan and Bob McGuigan) to take a further look at the base of the building and give the piles a clean bill of health.

Carpet? Well yes. Ian Hunt Flooring will fit the carpet and special entranceway mat during June/July; thank you all for being so very patient! Meanwhile, I can’t help thinking that our borer image has something of a pink tinge to its skin. Could it have developed a taste for pink carpet as well as wood?

Despite this, rest assured that the floor is safe and floorboards will not disintegrate!

Michelle

Special Visit From Toni Van Tonder

Most of you will know that name – Toni is Chair of the Devonport Takapuna Local Board (DTLB) having been a Board member for many years.

We extended an invitation to Toni to visit the club in January, but Cyclones caused cancellations on not just one but three occasions. Finally on 1 March, Murray, Ross and Michelle welcomed her to NSCC. Visiting the Club for the first time and completely new to Croquet, she was visibly impressed with our Lawns and our Heritage Building; engaging and enthusiastic, to the extent that she is likely to persuade (at least some) of the 8 Local Board members to come along and enjoy some light-hearted competition in the future.



Some 7 years ago NSCC successfully applied to the Board for funding to create our Pétanque Terrain but in the intervening years no further applications

were made – until now! On 16 March we submitted a 20-page application to Auckland Council for funding from the DTLB under the heading of Heritage and Environment. It will take several weeks to process a huge number of applications from local Clubs and Charities hoping to benefit from the annual \$250,000 Community Budget. By mid-May we will know if we've been successful. A big 'thank you' to Di Hale for taking the time to read our submission; Di has many years experience as a Councillor and gave some helpful advice.

During her visit, Toni emphasised the budget cuts that Auckland Council will be making in the next financial year. The annual Community Budget will be massively reduced to \$100,000. Not only that, but plans are afoot to charge an Administration Fee to Community Groups. We (jointly as a Club or individually) have an opportunity to comment online to Auckland Council in 'Have Your Say'. We encourage you to do so.

We mark Toni's visit as a very successful one - informal, informative in both directions with some wise advice tucked in!

The Kitchen Refurbishment

As all of you will be aware, last September we had issues with the ZIP water boiler that was on the wall of the kitchen. It leaked and was not connected properly to a drainage pipe. It took one incident to allow for the cupboards, shelf and floor directly below the ZIP to become saturated beyond repair. What eventuated was a brighter outcome, although a few months passed before we could realise it. An insurance claim was filed and a builder contacted, as well as an electrician, plumber and flooring supplier. This was all undertaken by your President, Michelle T., who displayed her organisational skills and unending patience all the way through. When the claim was accepted, the renovation was all set to go. Carol, Jacqueline and I removed all the cups, plates, wine glasses and anything else, from the kitchen to be stored in plastic bins. A hot drinks table was set up in the clubroom so that members could still have a cup of tea during play. A short time later John the builder, came in to tear down and remove all the cupboards, drawers and countertop to make way for the new cabinetry. In the meantime, Michelle and I had made a trip to the joiner and flooring supplier to choose the colours and style (a limited range to suit the budget), of each item. We wanted light

colours to complement the wonderful dark wood panelling which gives our clubroom its vintage look, and we aimed for practicality as well. After the new cupboards, drawers and countertop were installed, Jason the plumber put in the under-the-sink instant hot water heater with a bench top tap above the sink. This can heat 2.5 litres of water to 98°C in 15 minutes, replenishing water and maintaining the temperature as long as required, at the flick of a switch. The dispensed water is automatically filtered, providing for a risk free constant hot water supply during club days and events. Next to arrive in short order was Russell the painter, who responded in a very generous way to a quick request by Michelle, as well as Phil the electrician who completed the wiring for new power points above the kitchen bench and new light fixtures in the ceiling. Luke the tiler also completed the tiling behind the kitchen sink. So, at the time of writing, we were waiting for the new vinyl floor installation, which will complement the replacement carpet that will happen – never fear!



Russell and Luke

We hope the completed kitchen refurbishment will serve the club well for many years to come and be of great benefit in the ongoing effort of Carol, Linda, Charlotte, Jenny, Diane and the Events Volunteers to raise funds from the management of events held there.

Suzanne Caron
Club Convenor

Lawns Report

After the wild late January/February rain which followed the ghastly pre-Christmas weather which came after the wet spring and sodden winter, the lawns have finally managed to settle down and give us some reasonable croquet days. These have definitely been the worst, continually horrible conditions that we have had to deal with at NSCC for as long as I have been a member. However, I recall the first winter season after A, B and C had been ripped up and resown in about 2018, shuffling around our one and only lawn, D, in the mud and the cold. We have come some way since then. So where are we now? In a nutshell, 3 okay lawns and one work-in-progress. The prize for the best lawn, currently, goes to "D". John Sutton elected to lower the mowing height on D from 7mm to 5mm and the lawn has responded very well. The couch has another few weeks of growth before it starts to go dormant over the winter but we hope that notwithstanding its imminent dormancy, D will continue to play well. B is probably the next best but we have a bit of a weed problem developing which has been on the 'list of things to do' for some time!! A plays well when not under water. So A, B and D are our stalwarts and we still have plenty of work to do on C. Just to recap, we scarified parts of C, spread the couch grass stolons that were uprooted and resanded the lawn about three or four weeks ago. The treatment appears to have worked but we are unable to say at this stage when C will be playable or even if C will be playable before next spring/summer. We hope it will, but this autumn growing season will be the last chance to get some good grass coverage before spring.

Squaring Up And Cutting New Hoop Holes

This process has been started by Rod Templeman in preparation for us receiving our new line marking equipment. D is complete. New hoop holes were cut this morning (22/03) and you will see three sets of hoop positions for each hoop. Two positions will be 'plugged' leaving one obvious position. Once A and B have been done we will start to rotate the hoop positions on each lawn every week in order to prevent or at least slow the development of 'rabbit runs' in a hoop. With new hoop holes being cut it is vital that your hoop setting and lifting is carried out with great care. In particular, do not bang the hoops in too far. The bevelled top of the 'carrot'

should always be above ground level and in fact the hoop can be set higher than that. The bevel is designed so that a ball will run the hoop even if the hoop leg or carrot is protruding above grass level. Hoop lifters must be used when lifting the hoops. If you are unsure then ask me or someone who has been around the club for a while.

Line Marking

Purchase of equipment has been approved, ordered and will be in action soon. Once lines are marked (white stripes) the local rule allowing the ball to be placed a mallet head in from the line will be scrapped. You will, however, still be allowed relief from border plants, buildings and uneven ground. More on all of that later

Meet The Mowing Team



Left to right; Rob Fergusson, Mike Crang, Knott, John Robertson, Kerry Chamberlain, Wendy Volkov. In Front left to right; The old Lawn master, The new John Deere and The newer (old) Lawn master. Missing; Grant Alexander (forgot), Murray Henshall (fishing), John Sutton and Ross Jewell.

These guys and Wendy are just the greatest and respond so well to requests to step in and mow at short notice to keep the lawns in the best possible condition for the members. The team are affectionately known as the 'moas', not because it sounds like 'mower' but because they resemble giant, prehistoric extinct flightless birds, especially John! For your information we do aim to mow twice a week at the moment and the 'moas' complement the work of John Sutton's young lads, Hannibal and Alex. This arrangement will continue until we can find the right person to become the regular external contractor. The 'moas', however, will always be a key part of the mowing effort. Of course the report would not be complete without acknowledging the

continuous and seemingly tireless work of John Sutton on the surrounds, mower maintenance, and other essential jobs that may not get done without him. Thanks also to, Charlotte, Carol, Lynley, Sherilyn, Suzanne, Rob and anyone else who works on lawns and surrounds.



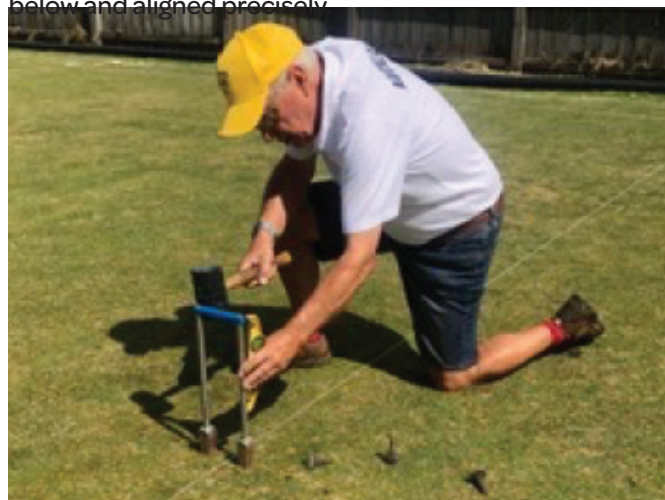
Acting General Manager, John Deere Mowing Operations, Tuesdays, Grant Alexander, in action behind the John Deere

The Lawns Behind The Scenes

To precise measurements, Greg and Rod have recently spent many hours marking new boundaries and hoop positions. The lawns were measured and marked in grids (hence the marking sticks and web of string across the lawns). Photo below



Each new set of hoop holes then had to be drilled as below and aligned precisely



Then each hoop was aligned vertically and horizontally.

Thanks, guys, for this brilliant work which will be greatly appreciated by all the players who enjoy using these lawns!



Gardening

“There is no gardening without humility. Nature is constantly sending even its oldest scholars to the bottom of the class for some egregious blunder.” (Alfred Austin, English poet). The blunder being the toppling of the flagpole this year. Well, it was rotten! Two new hibiscus and a couple of vireyas have joined the successfully transplanted gardenias and alstroemerias, donated by kind folk. Grateful thanks to the pruners of the wisteria (Lynley) and wonga wonga vines (Jacqueline). Thanks to Charlotte for organising the P.D. workers, to do the non-fun stuff, although she obviously doesn't want to spoil my fun turning the compost bin behind shed C!

Sherilyn

AKA Garden Fairy

Marquee Team

Volunteers are vital to the club and so a huge 'thank you' to Mike Crang for joining the Marquee Team. We are seeking 3-4 more volunteers to keep an eye on the weather for high winds and/or heavy rain, to then remove canopy and when the weather improves, put back on frame. An easy task and with others to lend a hand, takes very little time. Please contact Carol on 021 149 8219 if you can help out.



Mike Crang

Pétanque Team

A part of the grounds that has been overlooked until recently is the pétanque playing area.

The Committee would like to encourage club members, if they are interested in playing pétanque, to make use of this area and to this end, Wendy V, Valerie, Lynne and Malcolm have kindly volunteered

to weed and rake the terrain to maintain a good playing surface. There are 3 sets of boules in the garden shed, so if anyone is keen for a game, please do make use of these. I understand there are several members who have played before, so if you would like to learn, please let me know so that a practice session could be arranged. (Carol 021 149 8219). Several corporate events have had games of pétanque whilst other guests played croquet and we'd like to encourage pétanque as another option for events.

Carol Buckingham



Valerie (left) and Lynne

A big thank you to the volunteers above, and if you too would like to volunteer to help maintain this area, please let me know.

Wonderful Workers One And All!

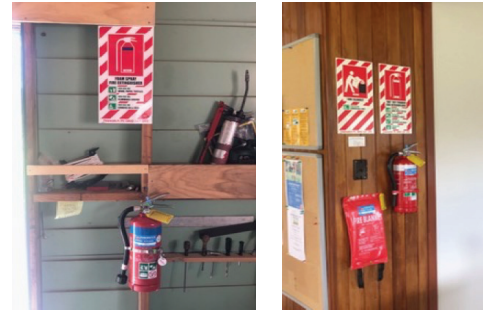
Nine folk in total came along to the Club recently to carry out much needed garden work; five community workers, one Corrections supervisor and three designated Club members, around 30 labour hours all up. Everyone beavered away with a will, following the worksheet set out; vines trimmed – back and front – kikuya removed from the diethes beds, the remains of the soil pile shifted and the ground raked and flattened, the pathway to the mowing shed weeded, and – best of all – the edges around Lawns A & B were strimmed, we look as neat as a pin. A self-seeded guava tree has had its life extended till the end of fruiting season, Charlotte successfully pleading for a stay of execution! Those involved are so pleased that this service has now resumed; if we can use these community workers to do the heavy grunt work then members will be better able to keep on top of maintenance work. Jacqueline Beetham has agreed to take over from Charlotte as co-ordinator of this task.

Charlotte Millar
Club Captain

Health & Safety

In line with the Committee's ongoing focus to improve the Club's facilities and grounds, and to upgrade H & S equipment, a new fire extinguisher and fire blanket have been installed near the kitchen. Please take a moment to read the 'FOR USE ON' information on the wall. Also, a fire extinguisher has been installed next to the door inside the mower shed.

Carol Buckingham



From The Shed

Jenny and I have been feeling well loved by the kind tokens of support by members. We send our warm thanks. Jenny has had an MRI scan and will see the spine specialist on 21st March.

You may have noticed during the last few weeks splashes of red in the corners of D.

Just a short digression to show how language evolves. The word 'corner' comes from the Latin word for a horn or point e.g. cornucopia, a horn of plenty. Latin has the word 'angulus' for what we call a corner. So somewhere in its journey through several languages it lost its point and morphed into a 'corner'. It has also come to have several derived meanings too. Not to put you in a corner but how many can you think of? Anyway enough of word games and back to lawn corners. It is important to have these accurately marked. The red splashes are the tops of nylon bristles which are inserted into the top of a large plastic screw (large plastic screw with long red crew cut.) It is screwed into the ground at the corners leaving the tops of its red 'hair' just below cutting height. Even if the mower gives it a haircut the splash of red will remain. Finally, I want to introduce Hannibal and Alex to you. They will be mowing the lawns for the Club once a week for 2-3 months. They are from Eritrea and have been in

New Zealand for about 6 months after living in an Ethiopian refugee camp for 7 years. With the rest of their family they moved into a house down the road from us. They come from a culture which is extremely old. It is now predominantly Christian.

Their main language is Tigrinya. It is one of 9 official languages in that part of the world. To make things more difficult for them Tigrinya uses a different script. Hannibal is 18 and Alex 16. Hannibal and his sister are learning English at AUT and Alex is at Northcote College. To give you some idea of the adjustment refugees have to make, we learned that at the Camp to simplify matters, everyone's birthday is registered as January 1st. (How to lose your identity in one easy lesson.) In addition to learning our crazy English language, with words which sound the same but are spelled differently or which are spelled the same but sound different, they have to adjust to living in a country with different foods, customs and culture. The thing which gives them some sense of normality and a source of encouragement is their Ethiopian Orthodox Church life. It has been a delight to get to know them, they always brighten our day when they call in with their sense of fun and warm smiles.

John Sutton



Neighbourhood Cup

The annual "Friendly Neighbourhood Croquet Tournament" Trophy, held by Takapuna Croquet Club for several years, was fiercely contested by NSCC and the Trophy is now residing here as a result of our team of 6 players winning 8 out of 9 games

From left: Wendy Strain, Linda McKay, Michelle Wintle, Michelle Templeman, Jenny Sonntag and Di Hale.

Golf Croquet Handicap Doubles Tournament, Sponsored By Evelyn Page Retirement Village, Held At Orewa Croquet Club

Michelle Templeman and I decided to enter this popular Handicap Doubles Tournament on Wednesday 15 March. We had set off early (anticipating heavy traffic) so we could arrive at the Orewa Club in good time and be ready to play at the 8.30 start. Luckily, thanks to our wonderful chauffeur, Rod, we arrived really early. This meant we finished the entry procedure quickly, so had plenty of time for a pre-competition cuppa! Fourteen doubles entered the Tournament, with doubles divided into two sections, each independent of the other. Section One accommodated six doubles, with each double having a combined handicap of under 20. Michelle and I were in Section two which had eight doubles (divided into two groups of four) with each double having a combined handicap over 20. Each of these two groups played 3 games in the morning, followed by play-offs with section one in the afternoon. Meaning that each doubles played five games in total. We played against teams from Warkworth and Takapuna as well as the Tournament hosts, Orewa Croquet Club. Michelle and I won three games and lost two. We weren't disappointed with our losses though as one loss was to a player on a 2 handicap and his partner was equally impressive! Combined with our early start and playing five games, by the end of the day I was absolutely exhausted (Michelle too!) Everyone involved was so friendly and the event was really well organised, so we both had a thoroughly enjoyable day.

I'm now looking forward to playing in my next tournament!

Jenny Sonntag



How To Coach Croquet.

Golf Croquet could be made more exciting if we went through 7 hoops in any order. The winner would still be the first person who managed to run 7 hoops. It would mean you had to keep a close eye on where and what your opponent was doing at the same

time as striving to score your hoops.

Once upon a time playing croquet was very simple; just hit the ball through 7 of the 12 hoops in a certain order. Then someone, who possibly loved being a referee, began introducing crazy ideas about things like double taps and crushes and not gauging up the lawn. Now we have a handbook of rules and regulations which are constantly being 'improved.

The rules of Croquet, especially those of AC (which are many more) would be a daunting subject for a competitor on MasterMind.

Fortunately the coaching course Greg, John and I went on was not about rules. (I need not have bought the Rule Book Charlotte! Any offers for an as new second-hand rule book?)

The course was about coaching people in the art of winning hoops. The BIG learning point for me was that coaches don't tell the coachee how to do this but they encourage them to work it out for themselves. They do tell them which face of the mallet head has to hit the ball but how to hold the mallet?. No! The rationale behind this is that the new person must learn to become their own coach rather than relying on "THE COACH". As coaches we were encouraged to ask questions rather than provide answers. e.g. What were you trying to achieve? What happened? Why do you think that happened? What could you do differently next time? This is a very different method to the one I am used to, e.g. "This is what you should have done and this is how you should have done it. I find the act of stepping back and letting someone learn from their mistakes painful at times. It was the rule of coaching that I really learned from the course.

But hey isn't that the way we human beings learn about life by making mistakes?

One day I shall find the time to offer AC coaching to those who would like to take their croquet further.

John Sutton

Sharing our Lawns with TCC

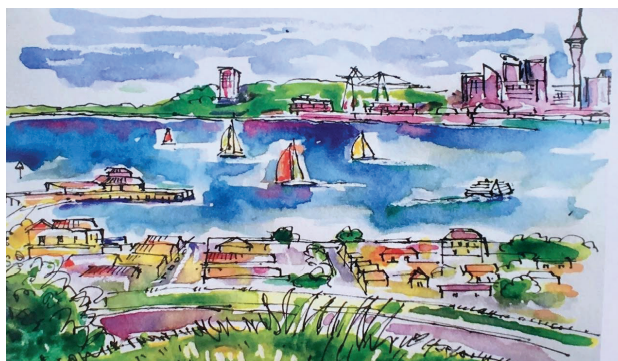
At the beginning of April Takapuna Croquet Club will be refurbishing all four of their lawns, with the result that they will be unplayable for about one month. Being close neighbours we have willingly agreed to their request to join us in Devonport during that period (roughly 3 to 28 April), so the following days and times have been suggested for them to mix with us or play separate games. I know you will welcome them - they are a very friendly club with a mix of abilities and we have happily accommodated

them on a previous occasion. There will come a time when we will undoubtedly call on them to offer their hospitality and lawns, meanwhile let's rise to the challenge of playing against some low handicap and Novice players!

- **Mondays** 1-4pm for Round Robin doubles (draw) jointly with NSCC
- **Thursday** 1-4pm Singles. Draw with NSCC if sufficient players
- **Sunday** 1-4pm Exclusive Use for TCC (although some NSCC players may turn up for their own games)



Travel Sketching Tony McNeight



021 925 031
erinhillsketching.co.nz



Twilight Zoners making the most of a lovely autumn evening. A happy crew!

Twilight Croquet

As the days get shorter Twilight is now on annual hiatus. Huge thanks to Martin and Wendy Bailey for overseeing this great community activity.

Sundowners

(Tuesdays from 5.30pm – game followed by BYO refreshments on the deck)

As the days get shorter and the shadows get longer, we hope to continue after daylight saving for a few weeks, conditions being in our favour. Thanks to Malcolm and the regulars for continuing this fun Tuesday.



Funding North Shore Croquet Club

The club requires external funding for:

Boundary Fencing

We have 2 funding applications for replacing 50% of the boundary fence. A further application will be made in the next 2 months. We have just been advised that one has been unsuccessful

Part of the boundary fence was taken out by a storm some years ago and much of the fence needs to be replaced due to rot. To complete a total fence replacement will be an ongoing long term project.

Lawns

The state of our lawns has been a big issue this year due to an exceptionally wet summer.

The lawns were levelled and resown not long ago and have held up well except for lawn 3.

The club received a donation last year to assist in purchasing a new mower. Club funding has enabled the restoration of lawn 3 and Ryman have funded a line marker which means the current marking system will be replaced. We will seek funding for further lawn drainage in this year.

Club House

The club house kitchen has been modernised with the proceeds of an insurance claim.

An application has been made to Auckland Council to help fund further facilities in the kitchen and the general building plus new furniture. We have recently received donations to assist us in this endeavour. A new carpet is a priority; this has been partly funded by Devonport Rotary.

Ross Jewell
Sponsorship/Funding

Local Sponsorships – Ryman's First!

Our relationship with Ryman's goes back a long way and is two-fold. First and foremost, we have welcomed many new enthusiastic and competitive Club members from the William Sanders Village in Ngataranga Road.

Secondly we have enjoyed Sponsorship from Ryman's supporting the Golden Grades competition that takes place annually in the autumn. Now we have sealed that relationship by promoting Ryman Healthcare with an advertising board in one of the Club shelters. In return, we will be receiving a generous donation covering 85% of the cost of our new lawn marking equipment.

For those who are doubtful about raising funds in this way, should you go along to any other Croquet Club you are likely to see their perimeter fences decorated with advertising boards supporting local businesses. Think of it as a two-way arrangement, establishing partnerships with locals and working together in a financially beneficial way. For the most part, the sponsor's investment in us is part of their Marketing strategy. For us, we receive a donation and make a promise to exhibit their board for 12 months promoting them on our website (once our Sponsorship page is up and running)!

So, the Ryman's sign board will be the first of several



Balancing the Books

The Treasurer's role is akin to a gymnast's performance on the beam. On the one side the chasm of hoarding all monies resulting in the infrastructure of the Club falling into ruin and on the other side the abyss of spending too much money and bankruptcy. A budget is drawn up each year, with many wish list items at the bottom. The outcome can vary enormously, from windfalls of extra donations, to stresses like Gabrielle. This year we have had the added complexity of major repairs after a burst boiler, insurance claims not quite covering the work required. The continual nightmare as to how many Members will renew their subscriptions, how much rain will fall and provide irrigation without having to resort to expensive Auckland Water, how many weeds will blow onto the lawns and thus incur treatment are all part of the challenge. It also helps to be hard of hearing, so those cries from Committee Members to just buy this, or spend that, can pass smoothly overhead as we move onto the next subject of discussion.

Christopher Brotherton Ratcliffe
Treasurer



Save The Date

On 20th May we will be holding a fund-raising dinner, celebrating the new kitchen, with all profits going towards the club room refurbishments. Tickets will be 'limited' to 40 persons at a sit-down dinner.

At this stage it is anticipated that the tickets will be priced at \$50 pp and will include a glass or two of champagne on arrival, a non-alcoholic punch, canapes, eye fillet steak, side dishes, a vegetarian dish, and a dessert. Should you wish to enjoy additional drinks, please 'bring your own'. 'Due to the limited number of tickets, members and their spouses/partners will get priority'.

As this is a fundraiser, and if you are unable to attend, and are feeling generous, a small donation towards the cost of the food would be gratefully accepted. Further details to follow.

Chez Di and Jenny

Events And Communication

To date, we have successfully hosted 4 functions generating \$2600. We have a further 5 functions booked with potential revenue of over \$4000 – not including the rush with Xmas functions - we are well on target to break our annual hirage income record for this year. We simply can't offer these events without member volunteers, PLEASE consider offering 2 hours of your time occasionally to help assist with hosting functions; we really need your help.

Outside Catering

We are keen to promote local suppliers of food/ refreshments to members and hirers of the club requiring outside catering. Calimero Pizza located on Victoria Road (next to Victoria Superette) have offered NSCC 10% of sales from any member or club hirer purchase so, if you keen to try them out they are yummy, please mention NSCC and 10% of sales will be donated back to NSCC.

Promote Your Business Or Service

The committee are pleased to offer club members the opportunity to advertise pre-approved services/ products at a cost of \$50 for a one-sixth page advert in our next newsletter. If you are interested in this offer please send details to;

linda@no9productions.co.nz

Linda and Carol
NSCC Event Managers



Future Key Diary Dates

Saturday 20 May

Fundraising Dinner Celebrating Kitchen and Club House improvements (limited tickets available)

Saturday 17 June

AGM – Format to be confirmed

May-June

Club Championships

August

Call for Summer newsletter articles and adverts

Saturday 9 September

"Swing into Spring" Lunch and Informal Doubles Competition to launch the 2023/24 Croquet season.

October

Golden Grades Tournament

Sunday 3 December

Club Christmas Lunch and Competition.



Ruth Castle Shield GC Competition

Eight keen club members (Jenny S, Rob T, Mike C, Linda McK, Murray H, Tony McN, Carol B, Kerry C) fronted up on Sunday 26 March for a day of croquet, playing for the right to have their name on the Ruth Castle Shield. Open to those with handicaps between 6 and 10, all entrants were stretched as they navigated the giving and taking of free turns, there were many very close games.

We had two divisions with all players playing three games - as Murray H won all three of his games in Division 1 he automatically became the winner, Carol Buckingham and Rob Turner then played to determine second and third place, a cliff-hanger of a match with Rob just squeaking a win, well done both of you! At the end of the competition, Ulrike McLachlan, as the previous winner of the Trophy (last contested in 2019) was delighted to hand over the Shield to this year's winner. For those of you who don't know, Ulrike was our Club Convenor

from 2010 – 2018 so was very interested to see all the improvements to the clubrooms currently underway, in particular the kitchen, a huge wish list item for many years. And some background about the Shield; Ruth Castle was Club Captain from 1998 – 2002 and again from 2004 – 2010. She was a fine Association player in her own right and as well as organising and playing in many tournaments both in-house and inter Club, she had to navigate the introduction of Golf Croquet to the Club, no easy thing to accomplish! Life Membership was conferred on Ruth in 2010 and although she now lives in Gisborne she maintains a keen interest in the Club, being informed of our 'doings' through Club newsletters.

FRIENDLY REMINDER - This is how you use the pegs playing with Primary and Secondary Balls





Remember last year at the Christmas 'DO' with 'BBQ' and lots of laughs? On that occasion our Chef de Cuisine was Rod Templeman who juggled Chicken, Sausages, Vegetarian and Vegan requests with huge patience, demonstrating only an occasional Chef-like irritation! It was on that occasion that Charlotte presented Rod with the title of Honorary Member of NSCC – and a badge to prove it. Surprised but full of appreciation, Rod responded, mentioning that he was only the second in recent memory to have received this award, the first being Josh Freeth a few years ago. Who's he? I hear you ask. Well, his claim to fame was as an 18-year-old winning the Under-21 World Championship Golf Croquet Tournament in the UK in 2016. Several years on, he continues to be a brilliant GC player and not bad at AC either; sadly, the USA has noticed his skill and kidnapped him for a Croquet Contract in North Carolina – he

flies there next month. A few of us benefited from his coaching here at NSCC in 2020 and I personally recall 'winning' a doubles game against Josh and Rod in Christchurch – they did give me more than 20 free shots though!

Stay Warm have fun on the lawn

