



“The Patient Malleter”

May 2022

WE’RE BACK

As promised, here is the Autumn edition.

TWITTERINGS FROM THE TWILIGHT ZONE



Wednesday 30 March saw the last night of our Summer Twilight Croquet evenings until October. It was a Covid fractured season and we ended up only really getting under way in January. We were only able to host half our normal number of games but what we lacked in quantity was made up with quality. Turnout was between 15-20 each night, and it was good to see those Twilighters that are now full members of our club also continue to come along as well as family and friends. The format is to bring a salad and drink of choice, and a fee of \$10 for non-members, the club provides gourmet sausages and mallet also. We have a sit-down meal and drink after the games, and have built up a regular following. The start time was moved forward half an hour to counter the shorter evening light, from 6pm back to 5.30pm. My thanks to all our supporters and the club for making a successful summer season, and it is great to see Twilighters move to becoming full members of our Club.

On behalf of the Club, President Murray Henshall gratefully acknowledges and thanks Martin and Wendy Bailey for all the hard work and support provided to make these evenings possible.

SUNDOWNER CROQUET

During the glorious summer months, some of us felt that playing croquet in the heat of the day was not as pleasant as it could be. With the warm balmy evenings over summer, we decided to meet on Tuesdays at 6 pm. We swapped the heat of summer days, for play under beautiful sunsets, until the clubhouse veranda beckoned for nibbles and wine, with a golden glow sunset and our candlelight. We thought it appropriate to call the group "Sundowner Croquet." As much as we would like to have continued our Sundowner Croquet, the end of daylight savings has now snatched our light, and we must now pause, until the lighter and warm evenings return. With the pandemic continuing to bring change on the world front, we remain grateful to keep the game as a constant in our lives. As much as we enjoy the thrill of the game, it is the friendship that keeps us returning.



Have fun, from Sundowner Croquet. Catch up again next summer



CROQUET IS A FUNNY GAME...

“if you want to know what a triple peel is then give Association Croquet a go!”

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EVENTS

Again, Covid put pay to hosting events at the Club over the summer months. The few that went ahead had wonderful functions, ranging from birthdays, anniversaries and a hen party for a lovely bunch of ladies who had a spectacular day as seen below.



There are plans to promote the Club facilities in Spring, in order to secure bookings for Christmas and summer functions. All details on hiring the Club can be found on our website, if you know of anyone who is keen to host a get together. We have a Christmas function booked already!

TOURNAMENT UPDATE

Huge thanks to Rod and Michelle Templeman for championing the recent tournaments. Also to the club members who provided support.



The Ryman Healthcare Golden Grades tournament.....

The “Junior” and “New to Croquet” grades of the Croquet Auckland GC Golden Grades Tournament for players over 65, managed by Michelle and Rod Templeman, and generously sponsored by Ryman Healthcare, were held at North Shore during the weekend of March 12th/13th. A total of 24 players took part. The Primary Grade was won by Cheryl Peter (Takapuna, pictured below right), with Maree Brierley (Takapuna, pictured below left) runner up - also pictured with Steph Cawte, Community Relations at Ryman Healthcare - and Michelle Templeman (North Shore) third. The New to Croquet Grade was won by Jenny Walters (Henderson), runner up was Bryn Walters (Henderson), with Lesley Ansell (Epsom-Remuera) just nudging Janet Paul (North Shore) into fourth. The other three grades took place at Takapuna Croquet Club. Details of all but the New to Croquet Grade can be seen online at www.croquetscores.com



During the coming season Croquet Auckland will be running several courses for those wishing to become Tournament Managers. Interested members should email Rod Templeman rodtempleman@me.com



MEMBERSHIP

It has been pleasing to see the growth of new members that has occurred over the past 12 months or so and the willingness of our 'newbies' to join in and learn the game. The number of our new members participating in the coaching sessions that started this week and that will run over the next fortnight has certainly demonstrated this. However, this significant influx of new members has certainly put pressure on Thursday and Saturday Club days. As a result the Committee has decided to place a short-term moratorium on the acceptance of new members - this will be implemented with immediate effect, and continue until the date of our next AGM – Saturday 18 June. Accordingly, all applications for membership currently in hand, or received between now and that date, will be placed on-hold and form the basis a 'waiting list' which the in-coming Committee, post-AGM, will review in light of circumstances prevailing at that time. Please be assured that the Committee will be monitoring the situation closely and looking to implement a way forward that is in the best interests of everyone. We are sure you will understand and support this short-term measure. In the meantime, if any of you have friends or family considering membership, please encourage them to complete an application form on the understanding that these will be reviewed in June.

HANDICAP ASSESSMENT AND COACHING

The AHS (Automatic Handicap System) has been developed to ensure that players who engage in regular competition within the club or in outside tournaments are able to do so 'on a level playing field'. Setting a handicap is simple and we do it through a process set out in the Rules of Golf Croquet. A player seeking a handicap is asked to play one ball through all 6 hoops in order and to do this three times. A 'scorer' or handicapper keeps track of the number of strokes taken and this is then compared to a table. The handicapper may then discuss the result with the player and perhaps tweak the result (or not) in order to give an initial handicap. This is entered on an AHS card which is personal to that player. Club tournaments will usually state 'AHS cards will be used' or something similar. Results are then entered and points awarded or lost by reference to a table and dependent upon the handicap of the player and opponent. When a player accumulates or loses points such that they move down or up the handicap scale the change is recorded on the card. Handicaps are registered with Croquet NZ.

Contact Greg on 021487602



THANKS...



Thanks to the great team effort in producing two new mallet stands: Carol (*right*) supplied timber; Jacqueline (*centre*) supplied top coat paint and did all painting. Neighbour Philip for building both units; Charlotte who bought the paint; and finally, Rob, for installing.



Job well done...

OUR HISTORY

We are working our way through memorabilia housed in the club and aiming to capture stories so we can complete a living memory book and history of our Club – if you have any photos/memories to share, please let a Committee member know. Although North Shore Croquet Club, in its current form, was established in 1905, its origins go back to 1886, making it one of NZ's oldest. Back then in New Zealand, croquet was essentially a game for ladies, who played Association Croquet and dressed the part.



North Shore Croquet Club's history stretches back to the late 1890s when the wives and daughters of the Devonport Men's Bowling Club were allocated a lawn at their club to play croquet one day a week. Over the ensuing decades growth in the numbers of men bowlers put pressure on the lawn space and over time the women were 'encouraged' to find grounds of their own. In 1931 the women eventually took up 'residence' at our current site.



JOHN'S CORNER – From the Shed

Just when you thought you had seen the last of washing lines you arrive at the Club and find you are surrounded by them marking the lawn boundaries. In the past NSCC used a paint line marker which we have just thrown out. When lines became the fashion some members were engineers at the local dockyard. They created narrow metal plates to attach the ends of lines to and two metal spikes to hold them in the ground. Most plates had three key holes spaced along them to allow for the lines to be moved when the hoops were moved to a new position. The plates cunningly hide in the ground to avoid being mown, which is why they take some finding and also because they are not kept cleared.

The original lines were nylon and are still available in the shed. However, as the members aged and the lines were no longer pristine white, they could not be seen so well so they were replaced by washing lines. There may have been a member with the surname Hills who donated lines from the family firm. However the change came about we are now doing our best to keep the firm in business. (A sponsorship perhaps?)

The advantages of lines are that they are weather proof and reasonably long lasting provided they don't have an argument with the mower and therefore much cheaper than the expensive painted lines which need repainting every month. Their disadvantages are that they have to be pulled up and thrown to one side every time we mow and then re-laid. If they are not re-laid properly they can be a trip hazard.

It would be very helpful if several members developed the skill of replacing the lines. During the summer the plates disappear under the grass. With a keen eye you can often see a depressed line of grass leading to the plate where the line has been. The two lines if laid correctly will create a right angle which marks the corner of the playing surface. A metal peg is useful for finding the plate and also for pushing the knot at the end of the line into the key hole.



One day perhaps we may no longer be the only club in the whole of Auckland and possibly NZ which uses washing lines or we may continue with our washing lines.

Vive la difference...Happy hoop running.

John...

What lies beneath....

During our latest downpour the lawns became flooded and when I arrived at the Club, about 40 large seagulls were strutting around the lawns in charge of a feeding frenzy. These were not your feisty birds with pink coloured coordinated beaks and legs. They were the large bully boys of the seagull family. At first, I could not see what the great attraction was. I was fairly confident I wasn't on the menu. On closer inspection I found there were hundreds of African Black Beetles wandering around the lawns and hiding under the black pipes. There were also scattered across the surface about twenty piles made up of 20-30 of their corpses. They had all been flooded out beneath the ground, much to the delight of the birds. It is amazing how quickly this sort of news spreads through the avian world. It set me thinking about the world that lies beneath our feet as we indulge in our passion of croquet. At present on the lawns we find several coarse grasses growing, like:



Paspalum, summer grass and carpet grass - these have grown from seed which has lain beneath. Later in autumn the buried seeds of poa annua, toad rush and the spores of moss will invade from below too. The amount of rogue seed in a cubic metre of soil is staggering. One study found between 56 and 14500 seed in approx. $1/10^{\text{th}}$ m². In addition to all these there are hundreds of worms and millions of microbes and fungi which we never see because they all lie beneath and never appear.

The challenge in maintaining decent croquet lawns lies in trying to keep a healthy and nutritious soil for the fine leaved grasses. (At the moment we have a mixture of brown-top, fescue and couch on A.B.C lawns and a couch with the grand name Princess 77 on D.) At the same time we try to make life difficult for the coarse grasses, weeds and pests which lie beneath.

Anyone willing to spend the odd hour helping the challenge of weeding would be very welcome. Please contact Greg or John.

FUNBEE PROMOTIONS PRESENT

“Poetry in Motion”

*featuring an ensemble cast
(using own costumes and props)*

**ONE PERFORMANCE ONLY!
WEDNESDAY, 4 May 2022**

Produced and Directed by Charlotte Millar



HUGE THANKS TO ALL MEMBERS WHO TOOK PART IN THE ANNUAL WORKING BEE (make sure you sign up for next year!)



CREW:

Location Scout: Antoinette; Set Design: former members of the Club;
Set Preparation and Support: Janitor John & Groundsman Greg;
Health & Safety & Site Supervision: Careful Carol; Catering by;
“Crème de la Crop”; Cleaning by: Mop & Cloth Company; Lighting:
Meticulous Michelle & Savvy Suzanne; Transport supplied by:
Jewell’s & Son; Still photography: Whizzy Wendy S; Publicity:
Laughing Linda Mck; Gardening: girls, guys, grunts, go-fers
+ usual number of gaffers, grips and gosh knows who else!
And, as always: “extras”

That’s ROB FERGUSON on the ROOF!!



Tea / Cake and Shiny Silverware



COMMUNICATION

WhatsApp group was formed mid-last year which provides a great communication tool for keeping in touch with fellow members – ‘anyone want a game?’ etc. You can create your own WhatsApp group for groups who regularly play together or ask to join an existing one. Feel free to reach out to the Committee for tips on how to do this.

THANKS ROD

24 new and relatively new members were fortunate indeed to recently receive two - two-hour coaching sessions from Croquet Auckland coach Rod Templeman, the level of understanding of the game and strategies involved has grown exponentially, to the benefit of all club players



OUT AND ABOUT IN THE VILLAGE

“Voted NSCC’s ‘most sartorial member’, Pete Burt poses with his? Model A Roadster outside the Vic Theatre in Devonport.”



As we head towards the cooler season we give thanks to Mother Nature and, our support crew of garden and grounds attendants- “thanks everyone”



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



Autumn is with us after a long, hot summer. We have enjoyed some marvelous croquet, with our lawns in tip-top shape. I should like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the role being played presently by Rod Templeman as coach and strategist for our newer members. You are a legend Rod!

As I look ahead to our **Annual General Meeting on Saturday, 18 June at 10am**, I encourage you to consider putting your hand up to serve on the club governance group. We have sorely missed a Secretary – if this is your forte, please give thought to making yourself available. There is much talent and experience amongst you, our members, and as I say au revoir as President, please consider participating to make our Club even stronger going forward through 2022/23.

Our Winter newsletter is due out in July - If you have news and would like to submit an article please get in touch with linda@no9productions.co.nz