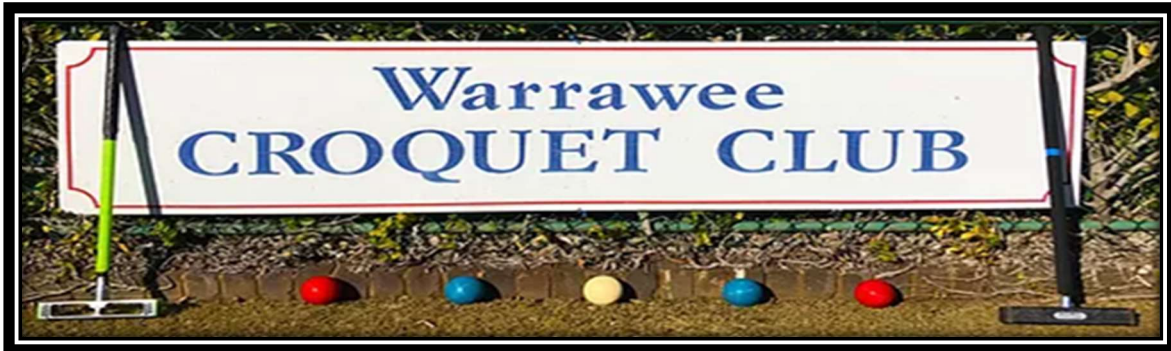


# WELCOME TO THE WARRAWEE CROQUET CLUB

Newsletter December 2023



As we close off 2023, we are confident in saying the year is a successful one indeed, as we recovered and regrouped from three years of Covid-19 and the La Niña weather events that plagued NSW.

It is pleasing to report membership recruitment remains robust as we reach the point of a full register for the one lawn, providing the WBC with assurance of the future direction of the WCC and its longevity at Warrawee.

During the year we managed to conduct seven in house championship / competitions, competed in Division 3 GC Pennant season ,played the "Kilwar" friendly AC & GC matches against Killara Croquet Club and arranged our first Gala Day.

The move to promote Corporate and Private bookings in conjunction with the Function Centre has proven to be a very successful initiative. The game played is Golf Croquet doubles with two to three groups circling the hoops at any one time - it's interactive, and able to be learnt in ten minutes. The pace is easy, the tone is social, and the accent is on "serious fun."

These additional bookings provide a boost to the club's income and a purse to purchase new equipment.

We renewed our relationship with D'Caf Connection, a local community NFP group that cares for people with early onset dementia, by providing their members with the lawn, equipment, and a team of coaches. The session was enjoyed by all and appreciated by D'Caf while our volunteers gladly offered their time and energy to ensure another successful and enjoyable outing.

We engaged Pam Gentle the NSW State Croquet Coaching Co-Ordinator, a very experienced accredited GC level 2 Coach and a member of Maitland Croquet Club. The morning session covered basic skills and stroke making, while the afternoon session covered strategy

and tactics. All members that attended the day found the course valuable and suggested more of the same in 2024.

The final initiative for the year was the upgrade of our club coaching mallets, with the acquisition of five new spring alloy PFC mallets. Hopefully, we can repeat this initiative next year for five more mallets from a different maker giving our stock of coaching mallets a range and variety of styles. This will also assist our new and existing members to try before they buy their own mallet.

All this activity could not be achieved nor continue without a strong diligent committee backed by a willing team of volunteers. I take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank all of you for your commitment, fantastic input, and management during the year.

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### **From the Captain's table :**



**“Spring into Croquet”** a casual and impromptu day of Croquet and lunch on the lawn.

A barbecue lunch and GC Croquet was held on a brilliant spring day with cloudless sky and a maximum temperature around 28C – perfect croquet weather for our members.

Double banked games of 30 minutes were played ensuring all members got time on the lawn.

#### Attendees:

Scott Marnane	Liz Niemeyer	Beth Marnane	Stan Simpson
Deb Heagney	Patsy McCaskie	Pauline McLoughlin	Anita Beer
Melinda Parkin	Jenny Tange	Peter Armstrong	Sue Yule
Jenny Ellwood	Brent Fuller	John Bartrop	Robin Evans
Bernie Cookson	Richard Bellingham	Marilyn Pryor	Mary Poirrier
Peter Armstrong	Anne Steele	Mary Angela Bellingham	

The outing was opened with a round of ‘Spider’ played across two groups with the first six to play in the final. From the group of finalists John Bartrop picked up 1<sup>st</sup> Prize, Bernie Cookson 2<sup>nd</sup> prize and Anita Beer the 3<sup>rd</sup> prize.

Lucky Door Prize raffle winner was Sue Yule.

The winner of the most hoops on the day (averaged per game) was yours truly - thanks for the bottle of Prosecco.



John Bartrop gave a 30-minute instructional demonstration of the major 4 shots in AC croquet.

The Club has 7 active AC players and we are promoting AC to GC members who would be most likely to join the AC players for coaching.

Marilyn Pryor, our energetic Social Convener, once again prepared and delivered a selection of fine food and drinks for the day.

**Scott Marnane – Club Captain**

### Sponsorship – A special note of thanks :



Our grateful appreciation to Charlie and Jess Crane proprietors of “**Mr. Nice Plumbing**” for their sponsorship support, as its sponsorship funding that supports a program of special events and club social activities in addition to normal playing days.

Hopefully it's these additional activities that will encourage greater participation and assist in driving that social interaction that all clubs strive to achieve.

### 2023 Champion of Champions :



It is with pleasure I report dual member John Bartrop – Ranked 75 in Australia, Represented Warrawee Croquet Club in the 2023 Champion of Champions Tournament played at Tempe HQ on the 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> November.

John's accomplishment in winning the event is a reflection of his dedication to the sport, his skill set and hours of practice on the lawn.

Congratulations John, well done and well deserved and we wish you continued success in the years ahead.

John's handicap is AC: 1 and GC :2.

## Dates for your Diary :



- **2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 Saturday**  
Annual Christmas Party with lunch on the balcony.
- **2<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 Tuesday**  
Lawn closed for renovations.- Timeframe six weeks.
- **22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024 Tuesday**  
Renovations to the Croquet office and Kitchen . Timeframe four weeks
- **17<sup>th</sup> February 2024 Saturday**  
Lawn open - Gala Day , spider, welcome back BBQ. Lunch.

## 2023 Christmas Party:



2023 Christmas party is booked in for Saturday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December. Invitations to members, partners and friend are out there and we have Marilyn our Social Secretary supported by a troop of connoisseurs busy planning the lunch and activities.

You can be assured of another enjoyable and fun outing leading into the festive season and summer holidays.

## **2024 GC Pennant season :**

Coaching and training for GC Pennants will begin in mid-February; we are keen to enter 2 teams in the Division 3 Metropolitan competition, Accordingly, we ask those interested in playing pennants to register their interest during the Month of December.

Each team consists of 4 players with 1 or 2 reserves.

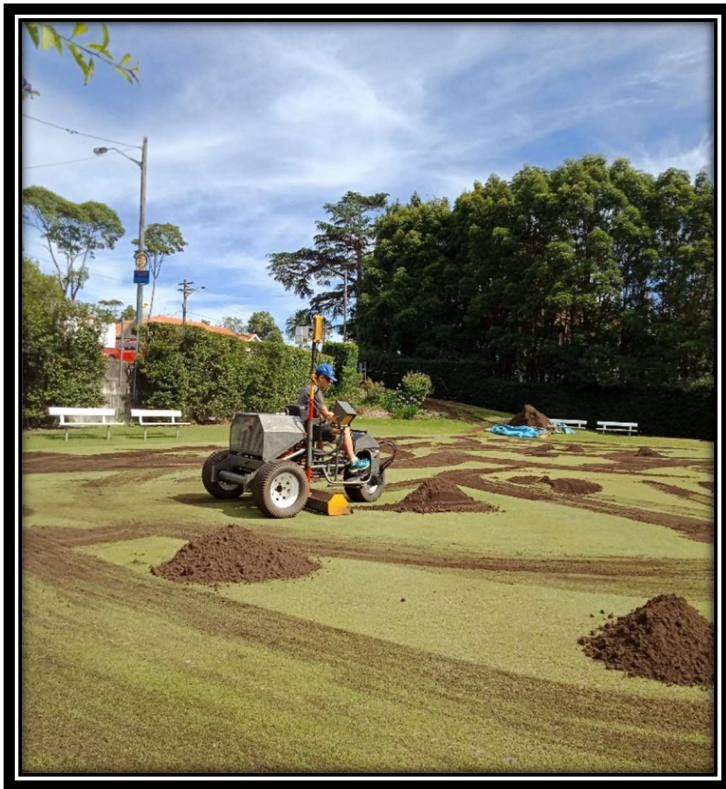
We play against 5 clubs at home and away ranging from Manly , Mosman, Cheltenham. Killara, Lindfield, Epping, and Chatswood .

All we ask is your commitment and willingness to play and you must have a division 3 handicap.

Please refer to the Clubs Pennant 'Expression of Interest' registration sheet.

## Lawn renovation :

Plans are in place to take the Croquet lawn out for a light renovation from the 28<sup>th</sup> of December, back in play by the 17<sup>th</sup> of February 2024 just in time for the GC Pennant season.



The 6-week renovation involves: Spray for weeds, dropping the cut height for easier scarifying and brushing, followed by a light coring and fertilizing (full of goodness),.

Next, we will see some 8 tons of topsoil rubbed in, watering, and more fertiliser.

A final top dressing then constant watering, mowing, and rolling until such time the lawn is green, flat as a tack and running at the Australian Croquet Association competition speed of 11 to 13 seconds. Upon completion the lawn will again looking like carpet and at its best.

Well worth the wait and a joy to play on.

## The year ahead :

As previously mentioned, our challenge in 2024 is to change our direction from recruitment to increasing participation on the lawn by encouraging our members involvement and develop a culture of learning and advancement for players to improve their game and enjoyment of the sport of croquet. This initiative is well underway with the recent Level 2 GC Coaching class and the acquisition of new coaching mallets.

Acquisitions planned for 2024:

- Renovation to the Croquet Office/ Kitchen (Order placed with the cabinet supplier)

- New coaching mallets.
- New set of Balls and AC hoop clips (Order placed with NZ suppliers)
- New Club shirt (register your interest/order with Beth today)

Well, that is all from the Croquet hut for 2023 .

In closing I take this opportunity to wish all Club members, family, friends, and readers a most enjoyable and safe festive season, and may good health and happiness remain with you in 2024.

*Peter*

President - Warrawee Croquet Club.

*" Croquet the thought sport. "*