



May 2023 Monthly Report from the Committee

• Change of the Port Macquarie Croquet Club Constitution

I thank Jill Drury, Sue Moss and John Watson for the enormous time and thought they put into updating the club constitution. Changes in technology have altered the way in which clubs are run. This was made clear in the new Fair Trading NSW Model Constitution published in October 2022.

Eventually, when the need for change was made clearer, the new constitution was accepted. The By-Laws are now in a separate document.

The vote for optional uniform was rejected. This means that all members will need to wear club uniform for all 12 club sessions. Club uniform is any combination of white, cream or royal blue clothes. Recent and new members of the club will have up to 3 months to acquire uniform.



• Fees for 2023/2024

The fees for the 2023/2024 will be \$170 for the annual fee and \$8 per day for green fees. Members are asked to pay the annual fee into the bank by the end of June. Please let me know if you will not be renewing your membership.

Bank account details:

Port Macquarie Croquet Club

BSB: 032586

Acc: 249968

Reference:

- for bank transfer state your name and annual fee
- for bank deposit state your date of birth (eg 011041 for 1 October 1941).

• Annual General Meeting

The AGM and July General Meeting will be held, in the clubhouse, at 9:00am on Thursday 13 July. Notices of motion must be received by Thursday 22 June.

There will be more information in the June report.

• Results of MNCCC Competitions

○ Golf Croquet Inter-Club match versus Taree at Taree

Our team played very well, winning the match 14 games to 6. Most games were closely fought and the Taree members were very good hosts.



- **Golf Croquet Inter-Club match versus Forster at Port Macquarie**
Another Advantage GC handicap MNCCC match – this time against Forster. There is no doubt that we had an advantage playing on our slower lawns. The Forster lawns are lightning fast. Our win of 16 games to 4 does not reflect the closeness of many of the games. It was good to have our keen 'young' players competing for the first time.



- **Golf Croquet Inter-Club match versus Gloucester at Taree**
Our last Inter-Club Advantage handicap game was played against Gloucester at Taree. The Gloucester club was the host and, as usual, they had sweet and savoury slices for us to graze on during the day. Janine Crellin and Lorna Butcher from Taree helped by substituting in the Gloucester team. We won 12 games to 8. Having won the three Inter-Club games, we have won the Jan Sage Plate for 2023.



- **Over 80s Advantage GC Handicap Competition**

Only 3 of the 20 members who are over 80 took part in the competition. The winner was decided in the third round match of Earle v Earle. Tony won 7 - 5. Well done Tony.

- **Association Croquet Division 3 Championship**

Congratulations Eric Gadd for winning this competition and triggering to a handicap of 8. Eric now plays in Division 2.



- **Christmas in June at The Westport Club**

You are invited to join other club members and their partners for dinner in the River Room on Wednesday 7 June. The details were in the April report and are on a clipboard inside the clubhouse.

The cost of the meal is \$40 and is to be paid by bank transfer or bank deposit, using the reference Xmas followed by your name, into the club account. If you need to cancel, refunds will be given before we need to pay for the dinner (one week before the event).

Please pay by Tuesday 30 May.



- **Competitions in May and June**

- **Golf Croquet**

- Saturday 20 May: Division 2 Championship.
- Friday 9 June: Division 1 Championship

- **Association Croquet**

Games are played on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

- Handicap Singles
- Handicap Doubles
- Division 2 Championship.

- **Ricochet**

- Wednesday 5 July: MNCCC PM v Forster at Port Macquarie (postponed from Wednesday 10 May).



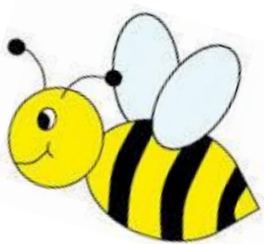
- **Golf Croquet Rules Workshop**

24 players, from Forster, Gloucester, SW Rocks and Port Macquarie took part in the Golf Croquet Rules Workshop run by Barb Piggott from Urunga. The morning session was in the Q & A format. It was well run, with lots of laughs and most people realising that they had a lot to learn. Sue Moss, Peter Drinkwater, Jane

Martin and Tony Earle organised and prepared a very tasty lunch. A lawncraft session was held after lunch. This covered faults, the half-way rule and demonstrations on how to play questionable strokes safely.



- **Working Bee**



There has been a wonderful response from members over the last few years. This year the committee has planned a working bee to start at 12 noon on Saturday 16 June. Just turn up with a bucket, brush and cloths. The inside of the clubhouse will be cleaned as well as the sheds.

A few things need to be taken to the tip – please let me know if you can help with this.

- **Golf Croquet Coaching by Pam Wiemers**

Pam has started running golf croquet clinics. The first of 3 clinics, from 9:00am to 11:00am on Mondays, started on Monday 24 April.

These clinics are run on Court 3: Clinic 1. Grip, Stalk, Stance, Swing; Clinic 2. Roquet, Stun shots; Clinic 3. Hoop running.

Pam is spending one hour on drills and finishing with a game that emphasises the skills practised.

Sign on sheets are on the tables beside the clubhouse door. The maximum number per course of 3 clinics is 6.

A further 3 clinics will also be held. These will cover: Clinic 4. Basic Strategy; Clinic 5. Around the Hoop; Clinic 6. Ball positioning, blocking.



- **Visit from Willing and Able**

Tony Croft and I played golf croquet with a few people from Willing and Able. After our session they were going to Livvi's Place, Westport Park, for a barbecue lunch. They would have loved watching the children playing in the new Water Park.



- **Visit from Carolyn Spooner**



The club had a visit from Carolyn Spooner who played Association Croquet in the 1970s to 1990s in Adelaide. She was a State and Australian team member, and won the English Silver Medal, Ladies Singles and Australian Doubles.

But mainly she loved the camaraderie of playing with mates and meeting new people, as well as the benefits of playing a challenging sport in different venues. She was lucky to be invited to play in events in England and California against a whole new cohort and different conditions. She edited the Australian Croquet Gazette which was a great experience. Her favourite player to watch is Robert Fletcher from Victoria. Her parents Tom and Jean Armstrong spent many winters coaching in New South Wales and Queensland and had happy memories of Port Macquarie. Carolyn thanked Bridget for a lovely visit to the club and the Anzac biscuits and cake!

- **Grounds committee volunteer hours**

The grounds committee has continued to work hard both on the lawns and in general maintenance. They worked for more than 60 hours during March and April.

- **Port Macquarie One Act Play Festival**

Tony Croft and Di Leslie are husband and wife in *The Tribunal*, in the One Act Play Festival at The Players Theatre, over the long weekend, from 9 to 11 June.



- **Club Booking System - Top-up facility**

Don't forget to use the Top-Up facility after you have transferred or deposited money for green fees into the club's bank account. Thank you all for keeping abreast of the changes.

- **Identifying your deposits**

When making deposits, when you may only use numbers, please use your date of birth as the reference number – **for example write 031039 for 3 October 1939.**

- **Committee Minutes**

The minutes of meetings are kept in a folder in the third drawer of the filing cabinet. They may be read in the clubhouse.

- If you have any concerns or suggestions please put them **in writing to the President and Secretary.** These will then be taken to the next committee meeting.

- **The Westport Club**



We are very grateful for the support given by The Westport Club and encourage all of our members to become Social Members of the Club, at minimal cost.

Bridget Earle (President)