



April 2024 Monthly Report from the Committee

President's Message



It has been a very busy time for our club. Please take time to read the newsletter. It covers most of the club's activities. Thank you to the working groups that are taking initiatives to improve the grounds and courts, looking at grants to cover larger projects that the club cannot afford, providing social, promotional, and fund-raising opportunities. In the newsletter you will read that we are asking for volunteers to be part of a working group that will oversee repairs needed on the clubhouse. I ask you to sincerely consider being part of this important group. The future for an inclusive, happy, social, and financial club is the responsibility of us all. Please join me in helping to make this so.

Thank you.

Jill

- **May Special General Meeting – 9:00am on Thursday 30 May**

Please indicate your intention to attend this meeting on the notice on the table inside the clubhouse.

The main item on the agenda will be the schedule of fees for the next financial year. The committee has agreed on these fees. Together with the agenda you will be sent the schedule of fees, the financial statement at the end of April and a budget for the 2024-2025 financial year.

Only items on the agenda will be dealt with. Any member may send a notice of business to be raised at the meeting by 2 May:

email to secretary@portmacquarietroquet.com.au

mail to 15 Buller Street, Port Macquarie.

- **Annual General Meeting**

The AGM will be held at 9:00am on Thursday 11 July. Details will be given in the May Newsletter.

- **The Golf Croquet Draw**

The committee decided not to have session marshals. Only two contributions were received regarding the draw.

The following procedure was determined:

1. Any member at a golf croquet session may do the draw
2. All name tags of those to play will be put in the bag
3. An independent person will pull out 4 (or 3 or 2) tags from the bag. These names are placed on the table against the tile for the court and primary or secondary balls (1P, 1S, 2P, 2S, 3P, 3S)
4. Each group will choose the pairings, which may be changed after each game
5. Those booked on court 3 will play on court 3 unless other players wish to play there.

- **Daylight Saving Ended on Sunday 7 April**

The mid-afternoon session times until 6 October are:

Tuesday	Golf Croquet	3:00 – 5:00pm
Thursday	Ricochet	2:00 – 4:00pm
Friday	Golf Croquet Singles	2:00 – 5/6:00pm.

- **Participation in MNCCC events**

Tony Croft has put up a notice asking for expressions of interest in being part of our team for the second golf croquet match. The 3 Inter-Club matches are:

- Port Macquarie v Gloucester at Taree on Sunday 17 March (PM host) – to be rescheduled
- Port Macquarie v Taree at Port Macquarie on 14 April
- Port Macquarie v Forster at Forster on Friday 26 April.

- **Two valuable lessons**

Our first 2024 MNCCC golf croquet match was played against Gloucester. Many of the players were playing their first match.

Play started in very light drizzle, which soon developed into steady rain. By the end of the first round most of the 12 players and 4 referees were soaked to the skin. Play was called off – to be continued at a later date.

Two valuable lessons were:

- have fully waterproof wet weather gear
- take a complete change of clothing!



- **Association Croquet Handicap Singles**

Our high handicapped players, Tony Croft and Jill Drury, were victorious in this competition. In a 7 player round-robin both won 4 games. On a countback Tony had a net score of +59 and Jill +29.

Yet again, congratulations Tony!



- **From Your Golf Croquet Captain - Our Travelling Players**

MNCCC – Port Macquarie v Gloucester at Taree

After a good start to the morning from Port Macquarie with 4 wins in 2 singles and 2 doubles games, the rain set in. The day was postponed to a later date, which is yet to be decided.

Maitland Carnival

Jill and Eric Drury played in the Maitland Sweet Pea carnival and did very well with 10 wins and only 4 losses. Their block was a very close which meant with 4 losses they came a very creditable 3rd.

Well Done Jill and Eric.

Forster Autumn carnival

Four of our players travelled to Forster for their Autumn carnival: Robyn Clarke, Donna and Stewart Sinclair, and myself.

The doubles were partnered randomly, so you had to get a connection as quickly as possible.

Stewart and his partner did this very well and won block 4 with 4 wins and 1 loss. Then to cap off a great effort in block 4 Robyn Clarke also connected and came 2nd in her block. In a count-back Stewart won with +9 net hoops against Robyn's +6. Great work.

In Block 2 my partner and I came in a creditable 2nd with +5 net hoops and the winners had +6. So close.

In the singles in block A I came 2nd with 7 wins and 4 losses. 2nd was about 10 places higher than I expected.

HappyHooping everyone.

Tony Croft GCC

- **Reports from the Working Groups**

- **SoFun** committee are excited to launch 2 activities for our croquet members commencing April.

Hit the Peg for Golf Croquet: if you hit the peg with your ball a gold coin donation is requested into the bucket provided.

Lucky Numbers: selling numbers 1-50, \$2 each, \$50 prize drawn when all sold.

SoFun members will be at sessions to kick us off!

Donna Sinclair (Coordinator)

- **Grounds and Gardening Working Group**

Thanks to an encouraging response at the Ideas Forum, there are now 9 members who volunteer their time to maintain the Courts and Gardens of our Club:

Judi Avenell, Mark Bullivant, Peter Drinkwater, Eric Drury (Co-ordinator), Tony Earle, Steve Evans, Eric Gadd, Jill Sargeant, Stewart Sinclair.

Thursday morning (8.00 am to 10 am) is our regular time to attend to the tasks required, namely:

- Marking of the lines on the courts (approx. fortnightly)
- Moving of the hoops (approx.. fortnightly)
- Weeding of the gardens (Peter, in particular, is getting these under control – thanks Peter)
- Control of weeds on the courts (Stewart and Steve are working with Shorty to help get rid of these)
- Preparing the courts for upcoming Taree and Urunga Clubs visits on 14th and 16th April.

Eric Drury (On behalf of the G & G Team)

For a full report see the April minutes and reports in the third drawer of the filing cabinet. Alternatively, you may ask me to send an electronic copy by email.

- **Grants Group**

A meeting chaired by President Jill was held on 28 February with members who indicated their willingness to be part of the Grants Group – Danuta Chessor, Robyn Richardson, Stewart Sinclair, John Watson and Pam Wiemers.

It was agreed that a register of grants be recorded. To enable this a list of possible organisations which offer grants was allocated to each member of the group, to research the type of grants on offer, special conditions and time frames. This has been completed as far as possible.

Discussions have been held with the garden group in their quest for funding a garden project.

Pam Wiemers (Coordinator)

- **Willing and Able**

On Friday 15 March a group from Willing and Able, together with 2 carers, enjoyed playing golf croquet with Marg Mackie and me. We now have a few people who have volunteered to help at these 1 to 1½ h sessions. The next visit will be on Tuesday 23 April.



- **Port Macquarie Croquet Club Facebook Page**

With the help of Olive Schultheis from The Westport Club we have created a club Facebook page. It will mainly contain notices of upcoming events and reports and photos of club or district events. Anyone may view the page and “Like” or ‘Comment’ but only the administrators, Tony Croft and Bridget Earle, will post items on the page.

If you would like material posted send it to:

Tony Croft on SMS - 0401 558 585 or email to tonycroft42@gmail.com
 Bridget Earle on SMS - 0412 023 232 or email to bridget@earles-paradise.com



- **Come and Try**

Do you know someone who is interested in learning to play croquet? If so, contact our coach, John Hincks on 0401 314 928, to arrange a free lesson. Please give John their name, mobile number and email address.



- **Practice**

All players who practise are asked to register in the **PRACTICE BOOK** which is on the table just inside the clubhouse.
 Practice is when you are playing by yourself and no fee is incurred. With two or more players you are playing a game and the green fee applies.
 You may still book on the booking-site, if no-one is booked on the court, but write in the Practice Book as well. Thank you.

- **Club Volunteer Helpers**

All members who do voluntary work in the clubhouse or around the grounds are asked to fill in their details in the voluntary helpers book. This needs to be done every time and is mainly for insurance purposes.



- **Cleaning the clubhouse**

We have been able to employ a cleaner who will usually clean on every second Monday afternoon. We will still need to do the day by day cleaning – this is mostly cleaning the kitchen benches and the table on the verandah. Thank you to those who have helped in the last few months.

- **Inspection of the clubhouse building**

Jason Hickman (The Westport Club) inspected the clubhouse building and sent a submission detailing repairs that need to be done on the cladding.
 The committee seeks expressions of interest from members to form a working group to help with these repairs. If you are willing to help please contact:
 the President (president@portmacquarietroquet.com.au) or the
 the Secretary (secretary@portmacquarietroquet.com.au).

- **New members**

We are a caring community. Please try to make all new members feel welcome and help to make them feel comfortable in the club.

- **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.

- **Register to play whenever you go to the lawns**

This is essential for insurance purposes. If only one person is registered on a lawn for a session this is interpreted as practice and there is no lawn fee.

- **Communicating with the Committee**

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 by email or mail to the:

President (president@portmacquarietroquet.com.au) and

Secretary (secretary@portmacquarietroquet.com.au).

These will then be taken to the next committee meeting.

- **The Westport Club**

We are grateful to The Westport Club for the support they have continued to give us over many years. We encourage all members to become social members of The Westport Club, at minimal cost.

Bridget Earle (Secretary)