

# HOLDFAST BAY CROQUET CLUB

## KEEPING IN TOUCH

November, 2023



Hi Folks,

Hope all is well with all. For all who are on the sick or injured list all the best for a speedy recovery. Summer is on its way and so is the Festive season.

A Christmas lunch for us croquets is being organised for all. Venues and dates have been suggested.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December, 6.00pm.** has been nominated as a Club Holdfast function for all to attend. Further details to be forwarded later.

**Club closure :** 23<sup>rd</sup> December - 6<sup>th</sup> January

**Croquet closure:** December 22<sup>nd</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> January

**Club Xmas Raffle:** All members will receive 2 raffle ticket books to sell

Hi all,

Christmas is on the horizon and our seasonal lunchtime get together is being organised.

Thursday November 30<sup>th</sup> or Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December are dates that has been suggested by some members so we are working to that idea.



The venue last year was the Watermark Hotel which didn't suit all our members present so this year we are suggesting four venues that can be voted on by all members.

- 1). The Walkers Arms hotel in Walkerville has a Christmas menu that includes one free drink.
- 2). The Warradale hotel with good menu and seniors selection at good prices.
- 3). The Morphett Arms hotel with a good menu including starter and bread roll.
- 4). The Watermark. \$24.95 for seniors Smorgasbord buffet

Copies of the menus are on our notice board plus a preference sheet.

To arrange this event successfully Replies to Margaret or Colin ,email text or phone or add name to notice on our croquet white board at the courts would be appreciated A.S.A.P. ( by Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November)

Cheers Colin.



## FROM THE MANAGER

Hi all,

I hope with better weather now arriving everyone is enjoying playing croquet and also taking advantage of the excellent coaching from Roger that has definitely improved the quality of play of many members.

See the court side whiteboard or the keeping in touch mail out for coaching days.

An observation by several of our members and opposition pennant team competitors is that on our courts the balls travel quicker across the surface compared to other club greens in our region when playing pennant games and Gala Days.

The reason for this is that almost every other club and including Croquet H.Q. at Hutt Road have a playing surface made up of a variety of couch grass which is a reasonably long growing tightly packed grass that resists weed growth and if cut to the desired length will disguise any undulations in the under surface and allow balls to travel at a desired speed on a predictable course.

The grass at Holdfast Bay is unfortunately a type of couch grass used for bowling greens called tiff grass and is very short, slow growing and a less compacted type that will if not tended diligently by our green keepers allow weeds to easily contaminate the playing surface, It also does not disguise any undulations on the playing surface.

The green keepers have a constant battle and do an excellent job under the circumstances to mow our courts at a slightly higher level than the bowling greens in an attempt to slow the balls down.

They also use the roller to level the surface but the pay off in growing the grass longer is that this gives the weeds a better chance of establishing themselves resulting in the green keepers having to scarify the surface to keep the weeds at bay.

Scarifying produces the line pattern on the surface, this will need to be done less now that the winter grass weed is dispersing.

Unfortunately when Glenelg Croquet Club moved to this site in 2001 (see the honour board in the foyer with text by David Hayter) the playing surface which is an extended bowling green appears not to have been discussed with the council as to its suitability for playing croquet resulting in members and Green Keepers inheriting the surface we have now

To re lay the Croquet courts with a more compatible grass would not be possible at the moment due to the cost so if anyone has any ideas to help this situation please put them forward

I hope this helps to answer members queries

Cheers Colin

Croquet Manager



## FROM THE CLUB CAPTAIN

Hi Friends,

The Spring pennant season for 2023 has finished and will recommence again as the Autumn pennant in about February 2024.

The Spring season 2023 was a bit of a mixed bag.

Our Monday 24+ team consisting of Colin, Paul, Jān, Marion and Roger had a very good season and finished a very close third. Unlucky not to finish top.

The Thursday 9+ (Ruth, Jān, Marion, Rae, Joy, Barbara, Rosemary) team finished last but, only a game away from the sides above. The main problem was that we struggled to field teams and had last minute replacements and even forfeited a match, which on paper we could have easily won.

The year-long weekend competition 9+ team (Jān, Marion, Helen, Val, Joy, Ruth, Barbara, Rosemary, Rae) fared very well and finished a very close third. We had a far superior hoop advantage over the second placed North Adelaide team, but unfortunately our two tied games meant we just pipped.

Next year hopefully we will have a few more players returning after injuries and we have a couple of good new players that have joined Holdfast Bay and will be a valuable addition to any of our squads. We should be able to field a very competitive 12+ team in 2024, this competition is very popular and a great introduction to pennants for new players.

It would be good to see a few more of our regular members step up and play pennants. I think anyone that has attended Roger's very much appreciated coaching classes would be ready made material to play 12+ pennants.

Cheers to all and hope to see you at our Christmas function.

Jān HBCC - Club Captain



Keep well, keep safe, keep smiling and keep croqueting  
Cheers, Marg



**PPS. Volunteer/s needed to run the vacuum over the carpet in the bar area on a Friday.(am or pm)**

## FROM THE COACH

The next coaching/practice clinic will be conducted on Wednesday morning 22<sup>nd</sup> November weather permitting.

I trust that everyone has had a look at the latest you tube video on coaching that I circulated. Very helpful in relation to tactics. As you will notice in the video, the presenter stresses the point that to improve your game it is a matter of practice, practice practice.

[https://youtu.be/BGELLU56erA?si=xpludszTNOmViW1\\_](https://youtu.be/BGELLU56erA?si=xpludszTNOmViW1_)



### Croquet Tips

Successful Croquet Players maintain a routine which they practice and use when taking every shot. It is recommended that you adopt the following routine for success.

**Remember to practice The 5 “S’s” of Successful Croquet**

**STALK**

**STANCE:**

**SWING SLOWLY BACK:**

**STAY DOWN:**

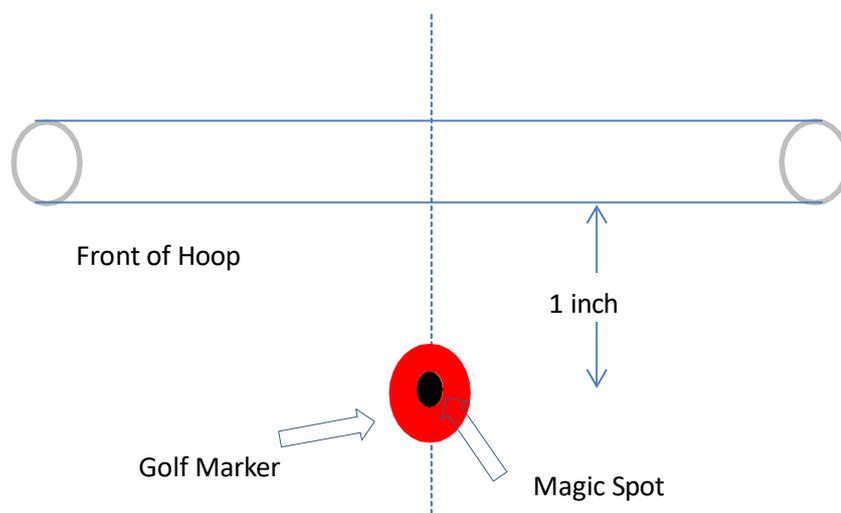
**SWEEP THROUGH:**

## MAGIC AIMING POINT MAP

Hoops can be run readily at angles between 15 to 45 degrees, provided the stroke is correct. Off-centre balls must **not** be aimed at the centre of the hoop, because it will strike the near leg and be deflected away or across the front of the hoop.

### **‘Magic Spot’ aiming Method**

Locate Magic Spot – exactly 1 inch away from front of hoop and exactly on the hoop centre line  
Mark this spot with a marker with a mark in the centre – golf markers are ideal for this  
The line-of-aim is always through the centre of the ball and across centre of marker - Magic Spot



A quick method to find the Magic Spot is to place a ball in the centre of the hoop and then place marker in centre of ball before removing ball.



## Croquet Club Members

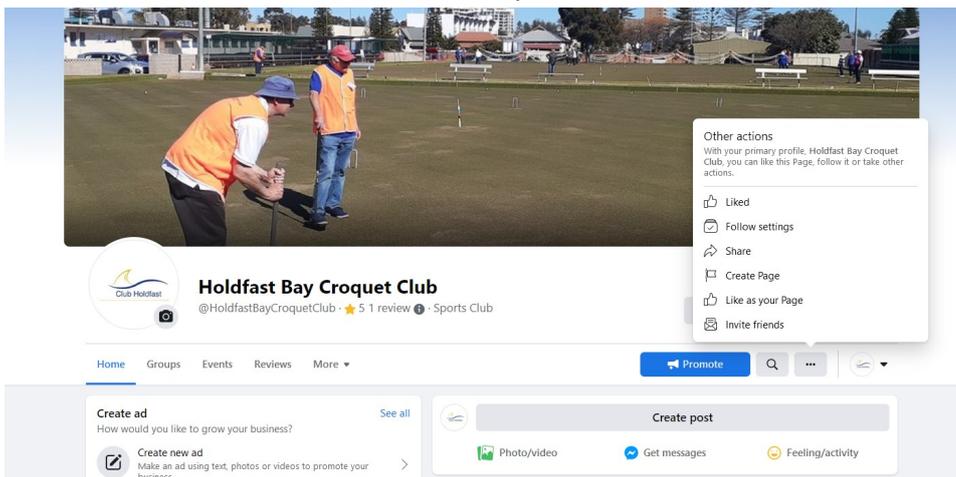
If you are a member of Facebook and would like to get the Holdfast Bay Croquet Club newsfeeds on your page then you need to do the following

Go to the **Holdfast Bay Croquet Club** facebook page.

Search for it in the top search bar of your facebook page.

Open the page and on the right hand side there are three dots.

Select the three dots and there is a drop down menu.



Select LIKE from this Menu.

Then select the three dots again and then select FOLLOW.

Thats it.

Enjoy your croquet  
Roger and Gloria.

Keep well, keep safe, keep smiling and keep croqueting

Cheers,

Marg

**PPS. Volunteer/s wanted to run the vacuum over the carpet in the bar area on a Friday.(am or pm)**



**COACHES**