Victorians Excel in National Golf Croquet Titles

The Tasmanian Croquet Association recently hosted the major golf croquet tournaments on the Australian calendar in Hobart and Launceston over thirteen days, including a travel day, in which Victorians performed with great success.

The Australian Gold Medal commenced proceedings followed by the Australian Men’s and Australian Women’s Singles Championships with the final event being the Interstate Shield Teams tournament.

Players experienced generally good weather, cool nights followed by fine days with temperatures typical of early Spring. The tournaments were played at a range of venues around Hobart and Launceston on lawns that were generally fast, challenging and in good condition thus providing a good test for the players.

The Australian Gold Medal was played between the six players who had each won their State Bronze Medal qualifying event. The medal was conducted as a round robin over three days during which contestants played each other in a series of best of three matches. Kevin Beard represented Victoria.

At the end of the round robin Tom Komene (Qld) and Chris McWhirter (WA) were locked together on four wins each and a play off for first place was required. This was won by Chris 7/2, 5/7, 7/5 after a very close tussle. Congratulations go to Chris McWhirter who won the Gold Medal and to Tom Komene, winner of the Silver Medal. As always Kevin Beard never gave up trying for that elusive gold medal and was a wonderful representative for Victoria.

The Gold Medal event was rounded off with a reception at Government House, Hobart where His Excellency the Honourable Chief Justice welcomed the players and presented the medals. The Governor of Tasmania has been both enthusiastic for Croquet in Tasmania and most supportive of the sport generally. A croquet lawn at Government House has been made available on a regular basis to Croquet Tasmania for social events.

The Australian Men’s GC Singles Championship, which was played in Hobart, had only five entries from Victoria. It was played in four blocks of 19 point games followed by a best of three game knockout with a best of five final.

Victorians, Lester Hughes and Terry Hopkins both reached the semi finals where Lester lost to Chris McWhirter (WA) and Terry beat Brett McHardy (WA). The final was an exciting affair with Chris McWhirter overcoming Terry 6/7, 7/5, 7/3, 5/7, 7/3. Eric Miller went down to Tony Hall in the final of the Plate. A great effort by all concerned.

The Australian Women’s GC Singles Championship was played in Launceston and had six entries from Victoria. It was played in four blocks followed by best of three games knockout play right through to the final.

Trish Watts, Wendy Dickson and Anne Quinn all reached the semi finals with Wendy and Anne making it through to the final where Wendy defeated Anne 7/4, 7/6. Congratulations to Wendy and very well done to Anne and Trish.

Jim Saunders October, 2015
President’s Report

Hello again.

Our Golf Croquet players did well in Tasmania. Congratulations to the Victorian team for retaining the WCF Interstate Shield, winning this time from South Australia. The team won their test matches against each state, making five wins to SA’s four. Congratulations to the team: John van der Touw (Captain), Anna Miller (Vice-Captain), Kevin Beard, Wendy Dickson, Lester Hughes, Darren McLoughlin, Anne Quinn and Judy Wembridge.

Congratulations also go to Wendy Dickson for winning the Australian Women’s GC Championship from Anne Quinn. Trish Watts (Kew CC) came in fourth. In the Australian Men’s GC Championship, Terry Hopkins (Essendon CC) came second to Chris McWhirter (WA).

Unfortunately, we did not fare so well in the Gold Medal event which preceded these events. Kevin Beard, representing Victoria, came in fourth with Chris McWhirter (WA) winning in a playoff from Tom Komene (Qld). Overall, a good result. We have some up-coming talent to watch in Terry and Trish.

I was lucky enough to attend the final three days and the presentation dinner. Croquet Tasmania had managed the event well, and the hospitality and catering were very good. The main venue, the Northern Tasmania Croquet Centre at St Leonards in Launceston, provided excellent conditions on eight courts. There were four additional courts on a soccer field nearby which added some additional challenges.

Following the play, I represented Victoria at an Special General Meeting of ACA. The main business of the SGM was to ratify some changes to the ACA constitution. A new constitution had been approved in March. However, at that time, it was apparent that some changes needed to be made, but it was approved at that meeting so as not to hold back ACA in moving to a Board model of management. Victoria proposed the changes. The main one allows State Associations to have affiliated clubs across their borders; this recognises that there are clubs in NSW which are affiliated with Victoria or Queensland, and that Canberra CC is affiliated with NSW.

In the past month, I attended Season Openings at my club (Kew) and Ringwood. Most openings are now complete. Please keep an eye on the tournament schedule. As I write, we are about to commence the ACA President’s AC Eights. This is the top AC event for individual players in the Australian calendar. There’s a lot more in both GC and AC in November.

Speaking of tournaments, I got to play in the VCA AC Divisional Championships and have entered the Seniors event this month. It is possible for a president to get in some play as well as officiating in various roles!

Cheers Mike

Winning Victorian GC team.
L to R: Anne Quinn, Wendy Dickson, Lester Hughes, John van der Touw (Captain), Kevin Beard, Anna Miller (Vice-Captain), Judy Wemridge and Darren McLoughlin.
Management Report will not appear this month

VCA, VCC & Investments

I am often asked about my stance on the question of VCA funds and the provision of these funds to clubs, which I oppose, and the answer is rooted in history.

In 1923 the Warleigh Croquet Club was formed, playing on land owned by the inaugural president, Mrs EH Bleazby, in Oakleigh Ave (now Warleigh Grove), North Brighton for which it was charged a nominal rental. The four courts were among those hired by VCA for state fixtures and the MacRobertson Shield.

Following Mrs Bleazby’s death in 1947, the facility, less one court, was offered for sale to the Warleigh CC, which could not afford the purchase price, and then to VCA, which had been investigating sites for a headquarters facility. VCA’s purchase, at £3,800, was secured by donations, £5 debentures taken up by members and a bank guarantee. There was also a £682 gift and an interest free loan of £1,000.

In 1956, through the extremely generous donations of clubs and associations, sufficient land adjoining the Warleigh club was purchased, for £7,000, to build a further two courts. This was cleared by the efforts of volunteers and a contract let for the construction of the courts, which were opened on 24th February 1958 for Country Week.

A new agreement was drawn up that year, with VCA taking over the management and running expenses of Warleigh, and the Warleigh club being given a five year lease. This arrangement continued, with variations, until the property was disposed of.

In 1972 a new clubhouse, costing $24,000 was opened, financed primarily by an interest free loan of $20,000. In 1975, members were asked to take out $100 interest-free debentures to pay off the loan. The response by members and clubs was such that the debt was paid in 1976 and VCA paid off the debenture debts over the next few years, the association being debt free by the end of 1980.

However, VCA became increasingly short of funds to maintain the property, with, anecdotally, at the close of the century, the courts no longer being in good condition, the clubhouse roof leaking, the kitchen condemned, fences in sore need of repair or replacement and successive VCA presidents and officers reaching into their own pockets to keep the facility running.

At the turn of this century, VCA was approached by a developer who wished to purchase and develop a property in the prestigious North Brighton address. After negotiations, the property was sold for $6,500,500 and the search for a site for a new headquarters and playing facility began. Many sites and options were explored, but the only site which offered enough land for the present Victorian Croquet Centre at a realistic and affordable price was the to-be-developed area at Cairnlea.

As we now all know, the land was purchased and facility developed. The remainder of the funds from the sale of Warleigh were invested on terms that would provide an income for the support of VCC in perpetuity.

So, back to the question of my stance regarding the use of VCA invested funds. Those funds came from the sale of the then VCA headquarters and playing facility at Warleigh, which had been purchased, extended and improved by the donations and labour of members to be such a headquarters and playing facility. (To go back to the funding of that original purchase, when I arrived in Australia in 1952, the basic wage was well under £10 and for members to take out £5 debentures was a large part of their income, whether they were on the basic wage or well above it. In 1975, as a soldier with two young children, I was earning about $200 a week, so to purchase a $100 debenture was a goodly amount)

I believe that we have a moral obligation to observe the wishes of those original donors, debenture holders, loan providers & guarantors and continue to provide a headquarters and playing facilities for VCA in the foreseeable, and possibly non-foreseeable future, which the depletion of our invested capital reserves would not guarantee.

Jim Clement
Dip Bus (Gov) FICDA
Honorary Secretary
**2015 Divisional Championships**

The 2015 Divisional Championships were held at Cairnlea in the middle of September. The Tregallas Trophy was won by Greg Hill from Brunswick. Greg has only recently returned to croquet and quickly stamped himself a player to watch in the future. The runner up in the event was Alan West who now plays out of the Elwood Croquet Club. Both players won three of their four games. Greg won decisively on net hoops. Zenton Chorny finished third.

The Nelson Medal (11-16) was won by Harley Johnstone (Sandringham) from Doug McConville (Castlemaine). This event was played in two blocks with the usual format of winners from one block playing the runner up in the other. The two block runners-up won their semi-finals and moved to the final!! The other semi-finalists were Roger Lee (Brighton) and John Miles (Ringwood). A most entertaining and close event.

The Nelson Medal (18 and 20) was played as a single block round robin of 7 players. The winner was Christine Eiffert (Gold Square). Runner up was Ken Amoore (Essendon). Christine played some excellent croquet and lost only her last game against Kate Patrick on a golden hoop!!

It was pleasing to note a number of new players coming to VCA for their first serious competition. Many of the players commented on the excellent competition and were pleased with their performance and pledged to return for further events during the season.

My thanks to Bill Humphreys, Jean Dunkley and Mike Cohn for their assistance with refereeing during the two days.

The spirit of Association croquet was alive and thriving!! May it long continue.

**John Grieve** Tournament Manager

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**Victorians Excel in National Golf Croquet Titles** from page 1

Jim Saunders, ACA Board member presenting Chris McWhirter With the Men’s Singles Trophy as Tournament Manager, Henry Burbury looks on.

Kevin Beard receiving his Bronze Medal at Government House from His Excellency the Honourable Chief Justice, Alan Blow.

Signing Cards: Chris McWhirter and Terry Hopkins sign their cards after the Men’s Final.
Victoria Retains Golf Croquet Interstate Shield Title

Widely regarded as the premier GC event on the Australian calendar, the World Croquet Federation Interstate Shield was recently played between teams from Queensland, New South Wales, Tasmania, South Australia, Western Australia and Victoria in Launceston. Over five days each State played a Test against each other with a Test comprising four Matches of mixed doubles and sixteen Matches of singles, with men playing men and women playing women. Each Match comprised two first to seven hoop games and to win a Match both games had to be won.

It will be recalled that Victoria won the Shield in 2012, 2013 and 2014, and it was expected that the going would be tougher in 2015, and it was, with several states, particularly South Australia, showing marked improvement. However, the Vics had a strong team of John van der Touw (captain), Kevin Beard, Darren McLoughlin and Lester Hughes and Anna Miller (Vice captain), Wendy Dickson, Anne Quinn and Judy Wembridge. Victoria was fortunate to have a small but strong band of supporters on hand together with the Team Mascot, Victor, who greatly enjoyed the competition.

Victoria started well by beating Tasmania by 14 matches to 1 on Day 1, then followed up with a 12 matches to 2 win against Western Australia. On Day 3 Victoria beat Queensland 12 matches to 2, then had to face up to the unbeaten South Australia on Day 4. The Vics really rose to the occasion and triumphed by 9 matches to 0. On Day 5 we played New South Wales and won 10 matches to 3. The croquet throughout the tournament was of a very high standard and augers well for Golf Croquet in Australia.

In the end, Victoria won the WCF Interstate Shield for 2015 having gone through five days of hard competition undefeated. This was a really tremendous effort against the best GC players in Australia. At the presentation, it was acknowledged that the standard of Golf Croquet had improved immensely in recent years and that the States had really applied themselves in preparation for the tournament. What is certain is that Victoria will have to work really hard to successfully defend their trophy in 2016.

The attached summary sheet really underlines the strength of Golf Croquet in Victoria.

<table>
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<th>Australian GC WCF Interstate Shield</th>
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Jim Saunders October, 2015
ACA President's Eights Tournament

The Victorian Croquet Association hosted the ACA President's Eights Tournament in October. A full complement of entries in all four flights ensured a busy time for all involved. The courts were in great condition and the weather was benign. A good start to this prestigious event.

The nature of the event - players throughout Australia indicate their preparedness to play and based on rankings are placed into three flights of 8 players in each. A further group of eight women players make up the final flight. Players play each other twice over the four days of the event. If players were level on games at the end of the round robin there was to be a play off.

Games in the open flights are un-timed. The women's group were 2.5 hour games. There were a number of long days for players, referees and managers.

In all flights the results were in doubt right up to the last day. Players had played four games on each of the first three days with the remaining two games played on the Monday.

The first flight was won by Robert Fletcher. Robert won 11 of his 14 games. Twice beaten by Jim Nicholls and once by Stephen Forster, Robert displayed his usual level of excellence to consolidate his position as Australia's leading Association Croquet exponent. Stephen was runner up with 9 wins and Jim Nicholls and Ian Dumerque both had 8 wins.

In the second eight Alan Honey (ACT) won with 10 wins. Second was Alan Walsh (NSW) with 9 wins just ahead on hoops from Claire Bassett. The Third Eight was won by Stephen Pearce (ACT) with 11 wins from his 14 games. David Wise was second having won 10 games.

The Women's Eight was won by Kerri-Ann Organ from Victoria. Kerri-Ann and Virginia Arney was level on games going into the last round. Kerri-Ann held on to win by 2 hoops. She won 10 games and Virginia was second with 9 wins.

There was some wonderful croquet played in all flights and the spectators who came along were treated to wonderful weather, excellent croquet and fantastic sportsmanship.

The support from Brian Reither as Manager and Brian Foley as Tournament Referee was much appreciated by all players. The organisation was seamless and the co-operation of the players excellent. The days were long with play not ending until well into the evening. Some of the players were playing in excess of 12 hours a day.

Our thanks to the VCA for hosting the event and the players for such commitment. All states and the ACT were represented. A very successful outcome.

Our congratulations to the winners - we now look forward to the Australian Open at Cairnlea in the middle of November.

John Grieve
Croquet is not Cricket!

This article appeared on the web in a program called “The Spade”. Not wanting to upset the team during their tour I kept it aside, however now that the cricket season is done and dusted, I can reveal the closely guarded secret about the Aussie team’s dismal effort at Nottingham.

A terrible mix up has meant Australia’s national croquet team were forced to face up against England in Nottingham last night, instead of the cricket team.

The mistake was made when the croquet team accidently boarded the wrong bus in the morning. “We misspelt the sign on the front of the bus,” a spokesperson said.

It was tough going for the players, who were not prepared for the ball to be thrown at them at such pace. “I had my mallet out ready to hit the ball through the hoop, but then there was a guy running at me very quickly, I missed the hoop,” croquet player Michael Clarke said.

Another player, David Warner, said he was also confused about proceedings. “I walked out onto the pitch and then moments later I was asked to leave. Maybe I did a double tap without realising it? I’m really not sure.

Luckily for the croquet tea; the ordeal was over in about an hour.

Reports about the cricket team’s performance playing croquet are yet to be provided.

As reported in “The Spade”

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Opening Day for Ballarat and District Croquet Association

Opening Day for Ballarat and District Croquet Association was held in August. All clubs in the association were represented with the exception being Lismore.

The large number of attending members had the choice of Association or Golf croquet and playing morning or afternoon or both.

The official opening was held at 1.30pm with new life member Brian Reither running the first hoop. Play resumed after the opening.

**Rosalie Newman** Ballarat Western CC  
Brian runs the first hoop to open the season.  
Ian McKee congratulates Brian.

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**Rosalie Newman** Ballarat Western CC

Brian runs the first hoop to open the season.

Ian McKee congratulates Brian.
**Hamilton Croquet Club Opening Day**

Hamilton Croquet Club recently had our opening day 10/9/15 a great afternoon was enjoyed by members who attended. The occasion was opened by the Mayor of Southern Grampians Shire Council Councillor Peter Dark who was well instructed by our President Patricia Bird.

The Mayor also spoke with students from Baimbridge College who are aiming to get carpentry apprenticeships. These 18 year olds Matt Campbell, David Langley and Dylan Dorman made an all weather shelter for our Croquet Club as part of their VCAL training. The club is most grateful for their efforts as fundraising in a small club is always ongoing and there is always another urgently needed requirement. VCAL Coordinator Steven De Man said the boys had helped out with various other project over the years.

Cicely Fenton (Secretary HCC)

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**Rich River Golf Croquet Open Tournament 2015**

The tournament was run for three days with each division playing on separate days. The weather was lovely sunny days without much wind. The courts were in very good condition.

There were forty-eight players who came from Beaufort, Sandringham, Cobram, Queenscliff, Shepparton, Numurkah, Ballarat Alexandra, Ballarat Western, Brunswick, Horsham, Deniliquin, Kyneton, Daysdale, Euroa and Rich River.

The winners were Division 1. 1st John James, 2nd Mark Wilson, 3rd Jim Maynard, 4th Ray Davis
Division 3. 1st Fred Littman Deniliquin, 2nd Ian Pitt Beaufort, 3rd Shirley Fowler Cobram.

We must thank the Referees for their work. The referees came from Deniliquin, Numurkah, and Rich River. They did a marvellous job. Many thanks.

The food was excellent. Thanks must go to all who helped with the food and helped in the kitchen.

Marjorie Grant Rich River CC

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*L to R;* Division 1 Mark Wilson 2nd John James, winner, RR Vic-President Jeff Pumpa, Tournament Manager Jim Maynard

Division 2 Winner Raewyn Taylor 2nd David Hocking.

*L to R;* Division 3, 1st Fred Littman Deniliquin 3rd Shirley Fowler Cobram), R R Vic-President J Pumpa 2nd Ian Pitts (Beaufort)
Ballarat Western Spring Tournament

Ballarat Western held their Spring tournament on Saturday 10th. The weather held fine although slightly muggy for a while.

Players from Beaufort, Horsham, Kalimna Park, Geelong Eastern Park, Geelong Belmont, Terang, Macedon Ranges, Brimbank, Phillip Island, Ballarat Alexandra and of course Ballarat Western competed the 5 games of doubles changing partners for each game.

Three players finished the day winning all 5 of their games, separated in a countdown. The winner was Ray Ball (Phillip Island) and Runner-up Patricia Boyd (Kalimna Park).

Rosalie Newman Tournament Manager
**Emergency Contact Lists. A timely reminder**

Members of Brimbank were really enjoying the lovely playing conditions when suddenly without warning one of our members collapsed unconscious.

With immediate support from Sandra and our trained first aiders we arranged for an ambulance and our member was transported to hospital.

However, we did not have access to the Emergency contact numbers, so have suggested for future use (hopefully not needed) that our emergency contact's name and mobile number be placed on the reverse side of the name badge. We also have updated our list and placed it where it is known to all members.

Many thanks to the Victorian Ambulance crew, especially to David Newman, son of Rosalie and Dennis Newman, of Ballarat Western, and his partners.

Our member is slowly recovering.

Lilian Jurey Secretary Brimbank CC

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**2015/16 State Association Croquet Development Squad**

The VCA is seeking nominations of persons suitable for inclusion in the 2015/16 State Association Croquet Development Squad.

The Association Croquet Development Squad is selected annually and comprises deserving high potential individuals who have the enthusiasm, capability and willingness to learn, to participate in a series of advanced coaching sessions led by the State Association Croquet Coach, Mr Stephen Forster, with a view to becoming advanced level players in the next one to three years.

Preference is for nominations to be received from club secretaries nominating those individuals that they believe fit the above criteria. However, individuals who are interested and feel they match the criteria can apply direct to

Tricia Devlin (Chair of Selectors) triciadev3@bigpond.com
or
Anne Quinn (Secretary) acquinn@bigpond.com

Anne Quinn Secretary

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**Vale Terry Marvin 1919 – 2015.**

Terry Marvin was a member of the Sandringham Croquet Club for over 40 years.

Off the courts he was Club President from 1998 to 2001, Chairman of the Referee’s Committee at VCA, and represented the club on the Bayside Foreshore, and the Bayside Croquet Region Committees. He was a member in 1980 when fires destroyed the club house and was very involved in rebuilding the Club and after that continued to make a huge contribution to maintaining the courts and surrounds.

Terry’s wife Dot who died in 1991 was also a Club President and Life Member and was the main reason he started playing croquet.

Terry was a member of the Sandringham teams that won the Metropolitan First Division Pennant seven times in the period 1987-1998. He was club champion five times, a VCA silver medallist and competed in many tournaments local and interstate.

The Club expresses their condolences to his children Marilyn and Ray.

Ray Davis Sandringham CC

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**GOLF CROQUET SCORING CLIPS**

Many clubs use the clips shown above for scoring purposes in Golf Croquet events. It has been difficult to find replacement clips in recent months as the previous supplier can no longer supply them.

Clips are now available and come in lots of 100 comprising seven different colours, each colour having approximately 14 clips of each colour.

They are available, delivered to the customer, at $90 per set of 100 clips.

If interested, please contact Jim & Val Saunders, 8 Terrigal Court, Leopold. 3224.
Phone -h: 03 5250 5250, m: 0417 541 311 or email:ourjives@bigpond.com

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**Appeal for information re VCA History**

Thank you to everyone who has sent me information for the VCA History 1980-2014. However there are lots of gaps in both club and region history. Please could you send me information if you have not already done so by the 30th of November.

Anne McKee <eekcma@gmail.com>
45 Life Lessons Written by a 90 yo Woman

These universal lessons are relatable to anyone who needs a little reminder of what's important in life. One to embed in the memory bank for sure!

1] Life isn't fair, but it's still good.
2] When in doubt, just take the next small step.
3] Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.
4] Don't take yourself so seriously. No one else does.
5] Pay off your credit cards every month.
6] You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.
7] Cry with someone. It's more healing than crying alone.
8] Save for retirement, starting with your first pay cheque.
9] When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile.
10] Make peace with your past so it won't screw up the present.
11] It's OK to let your children see you cry.
12] Don't compare your life to others.... You have no idea what their journey is all about.
13] If a relationship has to be a secret, you shouldn't be in it.
14] Life is too short for long pity parties. Get busy living, or get busy dying.
15] You can get through anything if you stay put in today.
16] A writer writes. If you want to be a writer, write.
It's never too late to have a happy childhood. But the second one is up to you and no one else.
17] When it comes to going after what you love in life, don't take no for an answer.
18] Burn the candles; use the nice sheets; wear the fancy lingerie. Don't save it for a special occasion.

Today is special.
19] Over prepare, then go with the flow.
20] Be eccentric now. Don't wait for old age to wear purple.
21] The most important sex organ is the brain.
22] No one is in charge of your happiness except you.
23] Frame every so-called disaster with these words: "In five years, will this matter?"
27] However good or bad a situation is, it will change.
28] Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends will. Stay in touch.
29] Believe in miracles.
30] Whatever doesn't kill you really does make you stronger.
31] Growing old beats the alternative — dying young.
32] Your children get only one childhood. Make it memorable.
33] Get outside every day.
34] If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's, we'd grab ours back.
35] Don't audit life. Show up and make the most of it now.
36] Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful.
37] All that truly matters in the end is that you loved.
38] Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need.
39] The best is yet to come.
40] No matter how you feel, get up, dress up, and show up.
41] Take a deep breath. It calms the mind.
42] If you don't ask, you don't get.
43] Yield.
44] Miracles are waiting everywhere.
45] Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift.

{If this doesn't inspire you, I don't know what will. This truly is a wise and wonderful list.}
Opinions expressed in MSV do not necessarily reflect those of VCA.
While every care is taken to ensure accuracy of information, no responsibility is accepted by MSV or VCA for errors that may occur inadvertently.