



# Croquet Victoria

## Annual Report 2012/2013

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*Patron: The Honourable Alex Chernov AC, QC, Governor of Victoria*

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## **The Victorian Croquet Association – Croquet Victoria**

### **Croquet Victoria: Supporting members to play and enjoy the sport of croquet.**

The Victorian Croquet Association, trading as Croquet Victoria, is a not-for profit, volunteer State Sporting Association formed and incorporated in 1914. The Association purchased a property in North Brighton in 1948 as its headquarters and playing venue.

In 2002 the Association sold North Brighton headquarters to provide funds for a new headquarters at Cairnlea in Melbourne's Western Suburbs, to provide financial security for the future, and to fund a full time Administration Officer.

Croquet Victoria is a service provider for 2608 members belonging to 90 clubs in 13 Regional Associations throughout Victoria. The members are the shareholders.

State Council, consisting of 13 Regional Directors and 8 Committee of Management Directors administers the Association. Volunteer members and committees provide a range of services to members whose core activity is to play a range of games socially and competitively.

The key executives are mostly retirees with experience in business, club and regional administration. The services to members are training coaches and referees, organising tournaments and pennants, maintaining a handicap system, communicating with members through the Website, *Malletsports Victoria* magazine, and developing policies to ensure member protection and effective business systems.

Croquet Victoria's customers are men and women aged between 8 and 80+ who are students, people in employment, and retirees.

The Association is competing against a growing list of sports and recreational activities. Croquet's advantages are that membership is very affordable, men and women play with and against each other, and participants have four versions of the game that can be easily mastered. Croquet is a non-contact sport where the games involve hitting a stationary ball, not a moving ball, and where members can choose to play socially or competitively.

### **Presidents Report – Mike Cohn**

Croquet Victoria has had another great year. For the last two years, we have been winners in both the Interstate Golf Croquet Teams tournament and the Interstate Association Croquet Teams tournament (the Eire Cup). In March 2013, Robert Fletcher officially became the World's Highest Ranking Association Croquet player. Congratulations to the teams and to Robert.

The Victorian Croquet Centre was host to the Inaugural WCF Women's Association Croquet World Championship in October 2013. Many thanks go to Vice-President Kenn Boal who headed the organising committee, and to the numerous helpers who made the event a success.

Victoria had several players in international team events. In the WCF Golf Croquet World Championship in South Africa in November/December 2012, Kevin Beard as captain was joined by John van der Touw. In the successful Trans-Tasman Association Croquet Championship in February 2013, Victoria was represented by Kevin Beard (Captain), Robert Fletcher, Stephen Forster, Malcolm Fletcher and Tricia Devlin.

At the 2012 Annual General Meeting, Valerie Haseloff was elected as the inaugural Life Member of the Victorian Croquet Association.

Club membership increased slightly, especially in Golf Croquet. There is a need to recruit younger players. There is a view that the use of lights could help in reaching working-age players.

Croquet Victoria continued the Road Show visits to the regions where presentations were made on matters of Governance, Financial Management, Coaching, Refereeing, Handicapping and Tournament Management. By the end of March, approximately two-thirds of the regions had been covered, and there were intentions to visit the remaining regions by the end of June 2013.

Shirley Hallinan has been a great asset to Victorian croquet for many years, in many roles including being a coach, player, referee and mentor, as well as acting as a VCA Director and being in charge of Catering at the Victorian Croquet Centre and previously at Warleigh Grove. Due to illness, Shirley resigned from most roles effective at the end of October 2012, retaining only the roles of Regional Director for Western Metropolitan Region and Coach for the newly reformed Cairnlea Croquet Club. Shirley has given so much to croquet, and I thank her.

Bill Keddie, the State Coordinator of Refereeing of both Association and Golf Croquet, travelled much of the state accrediting referees and conducting refresher sessions, as well as being an Association Croquet selector. While the number of referees on the list is quite large, there continues to be a much lower number of active referees, and the number prepared to referee at the Victorian Croquet Centre for state, national and international tournaments needs to increase considerably to share the load. Sadly, in January, Bill felt the need to retire from all positions. He had done great work in training new and old referees, and had been our most frequent Tournament Referee at VCA events. Thanks to Bill.

The Victorian Croquet Centre is a great venue for major competitions. All courts are now of a similar high standard, with Santa Ana couch turf; Courts 8, 9 and 10 which had been re-laid in November 2011 were used from May 2012. Revenue from hire of the facility for functions is increasing, mainly from direct bookings. An arrangement has been made with the Home Baking Company, a local catering company, to act as caterer for major tournaments, and to be available as a caterer for outside clients. Players and volunteers have been complimentary about the food served at tournaments. Late in 2012, a Barperson (Linda Brushfield) was employed to take the lead role in stocking the bar and serving at functions; the arrangement is working well.

There have been mixed experiences with tournaments. Some club tournaments are successful, but others have had a noticeable decline in entries. Possibly this related to the sheer number of tournaments available in Victoria.

Another area needing addressing is coaching. It is evident that many clubs want training, especially to build the numbers of Level B (for AC) and 0 (for GC) and Level 1 Coaches to work in their clubs. VCA was successful in receiving a grant of \$5,000 from Sport and Recreation Victoria for its "Target 1000" programme which aims to build up the "community coaches". This seems to fit with our plans to build up the numbers of lower level coaches. VCA has set an aim for two accredited coaches per club. The responsibility for training of these coaches lies with the State Coordinator of Coaching, Adrian Masterman-Smith.

Throughout the year, I have been helped by a band of hard-working volunteers. Vice-President, Kenn Boal, brings great experience and was in charge of organising the Inaugural WCF Women's Association Croquet World Championship held at VCC in October 2012. Secretary, Jim Clement, continues with great enthusiasm and efficiency. David Ross retired from his competent work as Treasurer in June 2012, and was replaced by Patrick Moore. Our Administration Officer, Sandra Kastanaras, has continued to be the centre of all

administrative matters in Croquet Victoria. Our caretakers at VCC, Tony Bosevski and Mimi Bosevska, who do not have a croquet background, keep the centre immaculately clean until August 2012, when they were replaced by his mother, Lubi Bosevska, who continues from where they left off; everyone appreciates her efforts and her friendly manner.

Brian Reither has again been invaluable as the key Tournament Manager at the Victorian Croquet Centre. Eric O'Donnell and Maxine Maclachlan have been enthusiastic State Coordinators of Golf Croquet and Gateball respectively. James Hood, Greenkeeper, has the courts in magnificent condition, and Jim Saunders assumed the role of Director responsible for the Courts; with James providing the knowledge, there seemed little need for the previous Courts Committee, but we needed a director to interface with James. Stephen Forster, Kevin Beard, Marie Calthorpe and others have ensured that the courts are ready for use. As well as reducing the load on volunteers for the bar, we have outsourced much of the light general maintenance of VCC.

Our magazine, Malletsports Victoria, continues to be edited by Rosalie Newman, printed locally, and distributed by members of the Kew Croquet Club. The arrangement is working well.

Our website has continued to be managed by Colin Clark.

Of course, there are many others who have made the year successful. Directors, many of whom travel far, devote much time in meetings for Croquet Victoria. Furthermore, there have been many referees and kitchen and bar assistants, plus the members of the various sub-committees. Thank you all.

### **Secretary's Report – Jim Clement**

From my point of view, the past year has been a successful one for Croquet Victoria. We have continued with our process of transparent governance, with minutes of general meetings now added to those of Council and Committee of Management on our website, with all minutes being arranged chronologically. I have also added some more policies. The next step is to add Job Descriptions for appointed officers and committees which will allow members considering nominating to view the responsibilities of such positions.

Continuing on the theme of governance, Mike Cohn, David Ross and I (with Patrick Moore, on one occasion) have continued the "Road Show" program of visiting regions to address club representatives on club governance and finances, coaching, refereeing, handicapping and tournament management, distributing printed and electronic resources on these subjects to the clubs. My thanks go particularly to Doron Gunzburg for developing the handicapping resource and to Brian Reither for the Tournament Management resource. We will have completed this cycle of visits by the end of June 2013 and the response and feedback has been such that we are considering another Road Show tour with, of course, different presentations, material and resources in the future. The main feature that I have presented in the club governance section of the Road Show visits has been the introduction of the *Associations Incorporation Act 2012* and its impact of our regional associations and clubs. By the end of June, all clubs will be aware of how it affects them and what they need to do.

The last edition of the Croquet Victoria Address Book reintroduced a listing of coaches and referees, a feature that I believe we should retain and one that I hope to improve, as a service to those clubs and members seeking coaching or needing referees for their tournaments.

On a sadder note for the association, Sea Lake CC closed (after 101 years) and Beulah CC (established 1927) went into recess, both in early 2012, which I should have reported in last year's Annual Report. On the other hand, Keilor Village joined the Western Metro CA within the past year and there is some progress being made towards the establishment of another club in the Wimmera CA.

Finally, I wish to record my thanks to Sandra Kastanaras, our ever efficient and ever cheerful Administration Officer for the load of work that she performs and diverts from me.

### **Treasurer's Report (unaudited) – Patrick Moore**

The result for the year was a surplus of \$42,347 compared to a deficit of \$11,470 in 2012. The deficit in 2012 had a write-down in our Investments of \$53,698 and thus the operating result was a surplus of \$42,228. In 2013 the result was reduced by a realised loss on shares of \$22,185; thus the operating result was a surplus of \$64,532.

#### Accounting Changes:

- a) We have changed the accounting for our Investments at JB Were. The increase/decrease in market value will be put through an Asset Revaluation Reserve so as to not distort our operating results.
- b) We own valuable assets which over time do depreciate and thus we need to make provisions for their repairs, maintenance and replacement. Our most valuable asset is the building at the VCC. It is now 6 years old and slowly showing signs needing work on it and has not been depreciated. All other assets are depreciated.

The Finance Committee was formed comprising Gavan Woinarski, John Blackler, Tom Swinburne and the Treasurer.

### **Catering Officer – Shirley Hallinan**

The Home Baking Company is currently catering for our Tournaments at Cairnlea and are doing a great job. V.C.A. earns a small commission on sales. This is the best alternative to the Volunteer system. The conditions of this arrangement are to be looked at towards the end of July, and I hope it will continue so that players, referees, officers and visitors are adequately nourished during Tournaments,

Outside bookings continue to be the department's main source of income. More effort, perhaps in the form of advertising, could result in more bookings.

### **Coaching – Adrian Masterman-Smith, State Coordinator of Coaching**

I was very pleased and delighted to be appointed to the position of SCC in October 2012, a position I have held for 7 months.

The role of SCC has changed over the years. The position is still responsible for traditional coaching tasks. Many clubs continue to take up the offer and book enjoyable days of coaching for their members. The coaching of Development Squads in AC and GC continue to make a contribution to our performance as a state. Training and Accreditation of coaches has been an increased focus for this season. This year we have improved our delivery of coaching events by trialling a consultancy style of delivery. This has worked very well with Lowen Clarke, Eric O'Donnell and myself working together on delivering sessions.

The SCC position now also has many more strategic tasks and functions attached to the role. Coaching, as you can imagine, is a key system within Croquet Victoria. It is responsible for delivering a number of our strategic outcomes as identified in our Strategic Plan.

My initial challenge has been to identify key activities which need to be undertaken in coaching in order that we can continue to build Malletsports. The Target 1000 program was introduced to start this process off by revitalizing coaching in Victoria by accrediting and building a stronger sense of a coaching team across Victoria. Roll out of Target 1000 to date has gone very well with over 70 coaches becoming accredited, this exceeds the programs target of 50. Many clubs are taking up the opportunity to train their coaches and are looking forward to connecting to their communities through the skills of their coaches.

Coaching also has started to work in 4 areas that contribute to building our future. These are Servicing our Members, Connecting with Local Communities, Developing our Volunteers and Developing our Organizational Infrastructure. A more detailed report is now available and for a copy of this please contact me.

### **Courts – Jim Saunders, Courts Director**

The position of Courts Director was established by the Council during the year, the concept being to establish a communication protocol with the Greenkeeper and to delegate certain courts related matters for action/resolution.

Meetings have taken place with the Greenkeeper on an as needs basis. These have ensured that the courts works are overviewed and that reports are provided on a timely basis to both COM and Council. I can report that an excellent working relationship has been established with the Greenkeeper. In consultation with the Greenkeeper budgets have been developed for work programs, receipts and expenditure and provisions made for foreseeable equipment replacement. The Greenkeeper has carried out his duties in a most efficient and satisfactory manner.

A new submersible pump was installed in the drainage sump in the rear car park following the failure of the original pump. This pump is working well.

VCA has suffered several break-ins during the year and the incumbent has been delegated with improving security and resolving related insurance matters. Repairs have almost been completed, insurance payout is imminent and a more robust security system is to be established.

The occurrence of 'green' patches on certain courts, in particular, 5, 7, 8, 9 and 10 is perplexing. James Hood and I have discussed the issue at length and it was also recently discussed with Pitchcraft, the contractors who recently resurfaced 8, 9 and 10. We initially thought it was a surface problem but, if that was the case the recent renovation of 8, 9 and 10 should have remedied the situation. Instead, if anything, the problem is now more pronounced on those courts than before. We can only conclude that the problem is more related to the base of the courts than the surface. It is proposed to have deep core samples taken from both green and normal areas and to have them professionally analysed to see if the problem can be identified. Enquiries are continuing to find and retain a suitable independent professional for this purpose.

The white stormwater plastic pipes that have been used as court dividers in recent years have proved cumbersome and non-user friendly to move. In recent months they have started to deteriorate due to weathering and UV wear and tear. Black plastic 100 mm drainage pipe was trialled during the recent Bronze Medal and Selectors Invitation tournaments. Feedback from players was that this was a satisfactory replacement. The courts will now be divided by the new material which should prove most acceptable.

In conclusion, I wish to thank our Greenkeeper, James Hood, for his dedicated attention to the wellbeing of our courts. The cooperation of Sandra Kastanaras on many occasions is also greatly appreciated.

## **Equipment – Shirley Hallinan**

VCA equipment is in fair shape. A request has been made to the Treasurer for partial replacement to be included in the Budget. To keep our wonderful World Class Facility stocked with first class equipment requires a program of on-going replacement.

## **Gateball – Maxine Maclachlan, State Coordinator of Gate ball**

Victorian Gateballers participated in three tournaments over the past year.

- **Victorian Championships: 26-27 May 2012**

There were entries from 7 teams: Brunswick, Kew, Canberra/Kew/Nowra, The Riverina Anglican College (Wagga Wagga), Bilbies (Vic), Terang (Vic) and Tamborine Mountain Raptors (Qld).

As far as I am aware, the Tamborine Mountain Raptors are the first Queensland team to enter out state championship. They were very impressed with our tournament and have persuaded another Queensland team to join them in attending this year's championship. Similarly, the Riverina Anglican College is the first country NSW team to attend our state competition. The competition was enhanced by these new entries. Kew were winners, going through the round robin undefeated, with Tamborine Mountain runners-up.

There were 16 pairs, divided into 2 blocks, with semis and a final. The eventual winners, by one point, were Maxine and Alec Maclachlan (Kew) over runners-up David Hughes and Ian Clayton (Tamborine Mountain).

The Victorian Gateball Championships were extremely successful and showed Croquet Victoria Headquarters at their best.

- **South West Games: Terang 3-4 November 2012**

Terang CC are strong supporters of Gateball and this competition is a highly valued event on our calendar. Sadly in 2012 we missed the fellowship of Shirley Fahey who passed away in September. Shirley was a driving force for Gateball at Terang.

For the teams event four teams were entered: Bilbies (Melbourne), Kew, Terang and Wombats (Melb).

There was strong competition between Wombats (winners) and the Bilbies (runners-up). Nine pairs contested the Pairs Event with Maxine and Alec Maclachlan (Kew) winners and Elaine Coverdale and John Bradley (Essendon) runners-up.

- **NSW Gateball Championships: 15-16 December 2012**

These were held at Mosman CC, Sydney, with 9 teams attending: Blue Mountains (NSW), Canberra, Hunter Plovers (NSW), Kew( Vic), Mosman Whalers (NSW), 3Es (NSW), Tamborine Combines (Qld), Tambourine Mountain Raptors (Qld) and Wagga (NSW). Kew defeated Canberra in the final 12-9. 16 Pairs entered the Pairs Event which was won by Glen and Kristina Whitehead (Canberra) with David and Gareth Hughes (Tamborine Mountain Raptors) runners-up.

I continue in my endeavours to promote Gateball to clubs and the wider community. Encouraging demonstrations were held at:

- Frankston – 17 June 2012 with 10-15 attending. There is continuing interest from a couple of players there.
- VCA opening – We were in demand all day with strong interest from Wonthaggi who are hosting a demonstration on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2013.
- Kew CC for Kew High School – 12 November 2012.

Over the past year I have worked hard to establish regular weekly Sunday practice sessions involving the Melbourne clubs that play Gateball. Generally the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month is held at Brunswick, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays are at Kew and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at Essendon.

As well as Wonthaggi, on the 28<sup>th</sup> April, other demonstrations in the pipeline for 2013 include, Swan Hill (around June), Morwell and Cairnlea (18<sup>th</sup> May).

### **Golf Croquet – Eric O’Donnell, State Coordinator of Golf Croquet**

First of all I would like to congratulate the 2012 state golf croquet team on their exciting win in the 2012 interstate shield. A number of tournaments were held at headquarters this past season with most well supported but a couple were disappointing.

I have visited a number of clubs with a number still to be visited. This included two possible new clubs.

A Development Squad has been formed with two coaching sessions held so far with more to be arranged.

Level 0 coaching accreditation course is now up and running with a number of clubs interested in holding courses.

### **Handicap Committee – Doron Gunzburg, Chairman, Handicap Committee**

All seems to be going well with handicapping in Victoria and there is nothing of note to report

### **Golf Croquet Handicapper and Handicap Recorder – Bernie Bailey**

It has been a very quiet year I had a few enquiries about players being told by someone that after becoming a 10 they were told they could not go back to 11 and 12 which is incorrect. Also that they had to pass a trigger point not just reach it to change handicaps

### **Investment Advisory Group – David Ross**

The Investment Advisory Group comprises three members appointed by VCA Council plus the VCA Treasurer as a non-voting member.

For the period June 2012 to date, there were only two members – David Ross (June 2012) and Patrick Moore (Feb.2013). The usual quarterly meetings with JBWere to review the portfolio did not take place in September or December 2012, the only meeting being mid-March 2013.

- **Portfolio Valuations**

As at 31 March 2012, the portfolio valuation was \$3,396,358.54.

As at 31 March 2013, the portfolio valuation was \$3,735,333.74.

This is an increase of 9.98%.

The original investment CPI indexed to 31 March 2013 is \$3,622,079..

- **Prime Purpose of the Portfolio**

The funds from the sale of the previous headquarters at North Brighton were invested to underwrite the cost of running a significantly expanded headquarters at Cairnlea (5 courts increased to twelve) and also the employment of a VCA Administration Officer. It is misleading to assert ‘that the cost of running the VCC is substantial and is not sustainable unless significant new streams of income are found.’ The projected shortfall made eight years ago of \$120,000 per annum has been much less in recent years as the use of the VCC’s function area by the local community has increased. Only when there is corporate use of the function area on a regular basis will the centre be self-funding.

The practice has been that the portfolio is CPI indexed annually as at 30<sup>th</sup> June (the original investment CPI indexed to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012 is \$3,551,058) and VCA Directors at the August Council decide what funds from the increased portfolio valuation are available.

## **Malletsports Victoria – Rosalie Newman, Editor**

It is hard for me to believe that it is already two years since I became Editor of Malletsports, the time has flown by so quickly.

I am pleased to be able to say that the learning curve is nowhere near as steep as in the early days....now more a gentle rise rather than a cliff face.

Each month there is a steady supply of articles to fill the newsletter and my appreciation goes to all those who send them in, some on a regular basis and some occasionally but all very welcome.

I would love to receive feedback on which are your favourite or least favourite sections and articles, or suggestions on what you would like to see included, I'm always open to new ideas.

It was expected that Malletsports would be available on line by now although it isn't ready yet and opinions are divided as to who wants to receive it that way. Jim Clement has been working on that side of things.

I am still enjoying my time as Editor and as my croquet playing days have become very rare now due to a wonky shoulder (or as my doctor put it yesterday "your shoulder is well and truly stuffed"), it's just as well I'm able to get my croquet fix while editing Malletsports.

## **Referees – Gwen Hamilton, Secretary, Referees Committee**

This year has been a very busy one for the referees committee once again. In addition to the regular schedule of regional, state and national title events, we hosted the First WCF Women's World Championships in Association Croquet held over eight days at Cairnlea in October 2012.

The committee worked towards having enough referees for all tournaments, accrediting new referees, and holding referee refresher days. Some suggestions have been put forward concerning the reaccreditation of referees. We would like to see the 2 tier system working, this would keep all referees active, and the clubs would not be disadvantaged. But unfortunately it does not appear that these changes will take place. The card system is working quite well and there is no need for tournament referees to hand in the refereeing sheet after a tournament, as all cards will be reviewed when the referee refresher days are held.

There has always been a problem getting referees to referee at Cairnlea, and most tournaments were not fully catered with referees. Golf croquet has 16 new referees this season, and Association croquet has 3 new referees.

Bill Keddie resigned in January after spending many hours each year as Coordinator, he was coordinating both golf and association referees this year. Bill was missed in this position and we would like to thank him for all the hours he has put into the job.

I would take this opportunity to thank all those people, Tutors, Examiners, and Regions for the wonderful cooperation we have received in the past twelve months.

## **Selection Committee (Association Croquet) – Adrian Palmer, Chairman**

The Victorian Selection Committee for Season 2012-13 consisted of:

Adrian Palmer	Chairman
Judy Evans	Secretary (Resigned 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan 2013)
Marie Calthorpe	
Ian Bassett	

Bill Keddie (Resigned 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan 2013)  
Mike Cohn (Ex-Officio)

Three meetings were held during the season and selections were made for the major Victorian events.

The failure to adhere to policy over the invitations for the Women's event was a mistake and an apology was sent by the chairman (but not always accepted) to those affected.

The decision to appoint Robert Fletcher as team squad leader was vindicated when the coach, Stephen Forster, was unavailable for one of the team weekends. The split of responsibilities will continue.

The Victorian Team, under Robert Fletcher, largely selected itself this year and played magnificently. Special congratulations go to Elaine Coverdale and Ken Bald who won all their singles, but also to Anna Miller and Malcolm Fletcher who showed great resilience.

Invitations have already been sent out to the squad for season 2013/4, but as usual reminders will have to be emailed to those who have not yet responded.

Judy Evans and Bill Keddie were thanked for their contribution to the Selectors Committee.

### **Selection Committee (Golf Croquet) – Jim Saunders, Chairman**

The Victorian Golf Croquet (GC) Team for the Interstate Shield in August/September, 2012 was chosen last May and consisted of

MEN	WOMEN
Kevin Beard – Captain	Anna Miller – Vice Captain
Eric Miller	Wendy Dickson
Neville Pope	Anne Quinn
John van der Touw	Judy Wembridge
Darren McLoughlin – Reserve	Tricia Devlin – Reserve

The Shield was contested at Cairnlea and resulted in a breathtaking finale with Victoria defeating Queensland at the last hoop of the last match on the final day.

At the presentation, it was recognised 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 was certain is that Victoria will have to work really hard to successfully defend their trophy in 2013.

Your selectors have worked diligently since last September to encourage the further improvement of top level GC in Victoria by selecting a strong State GC Squad which has been training hard under the dedicated care of its Coach, John van der Touw. In addition a State GC Development Squad, consisting of players who have the potential to develop to State level over the next few years has been working with its Coach, Eric O'Donnell. The selectors are most appreciative of the work of the State Coaches. Their efforts will further assist in improving the standard of GC in Victoria.

The Victorian Division of the ACA Bronze Medal event in April was again complemented by two, two day, Selectors Invitation Tournaments each of twelve players who played a round robin event. The outcome for the weekend was that 32 top golf croquet players were involved in solid competition under the watchful eyes of the selectors.

The Victorian Division of the ACA Golf Croquet Bronze Medal was played over four days. Judy Wembridge (Bairnsdale) was successful from Lester Hughes (Belmont) and will

represent Victoria in the ACA Gold Medal at Maitland, NSW in August. We wish Judy all the very best.

The First Selectors Invitation consisted of players from the GC State Squad who did not make the Bronze Medal field. The tournament was won by David Wren (Essendon) from Ian Grant (Rich River). The Second Selectors Invitation consisted mainly of players from the GC State Development Squad and was won by Peter Foster (Kew) from John James (Deniliquin).

In the period under review the GC tournament calendar was changed so that the Victorian Handicap Singles and Doubles were played last November with the Victorian Open Singles and Doubles being played together at the beginning of February. The change provided additional competition at a high level for the better players who might, at a later date, be vying for State selection.

The team to represent Victoria in the Inter State Shield in the Hunter Valley in August this year will be selected at the conclusion of Australian Singles & Doubles Championships to be held in mid-May

I have been most fortunate to have had a very enthusiastic committee to work with this year. My grateful thanks go to Anna Miller, Lynne Roberts, Jim Clement, Eric O'Donnell and Mike Cohn, who represented VCA.

### **Tournament & Fixtures Committee – Brian Reither, Chairman**

The first event of the season was the Golf Croquet Men's Championships, won by Kevin Beard & Women's Championships, won by Judy Wembridge. The handicap events went to Cliff McCann and Lynn Hull.

16 association players had a very enjoyable Senior's Tournament. Unfortunately we did not have any entries for Golf. We look forward to bigger things this coming season.

Men's and Women's Championships were played in September. Men's event was keenly contested between

12 top players with Robert Fletcher the ultimate winner. The Women's had 11 entries, some good battles took place with Tricia Devlin being the winner. .

Elite Victorian events that we facilitated were; Aust AC Bronze (Robert Fletcher), Women's Invitation (Elaine Coverdale ), Selectors AC Invitation (Gareth Bushill), Silver Medal (Bob Roycroft), Bronze Medal (Bill Humphreys), Gold Cup (Robert Fletcher), Silver Shield (Wendy Dickson), Bronze Shield (Bill Humphreys), Selectors Golf Invitations ( David Wren & Peter Foster). Aust GC Bronze (Judy Wembridge)

The Victorian Handicap AC Championships saw 20 entries. Obviously Directors canvassing was not as good as last year. The winners were; Bob Roycroft, George Lewis and Roger Lee. Once again the Divisional Championships only had one section which was won by Chas Quinn.

The Vic State Open again saw some excellent competition. Numbers were slightly up this year with 24 in singles and 24 in Doubles. Robert Fletcher won the singles with Stephen Forster and Martin Clarke winning the Doubles. This coming year sees an issue with a clash with the Mac Robertson in New Zealand so this is an opportunity for the next level to shine.

Country Week was held at Swan Hill with 25 players having a very enjoyable 3 days. Thanks to the Swan Hill crew for an outstanding job. Winners were; Ken Bald, Lyle Carey and Kerry Lanyon. Remember this event is an opportunity for ALL players to get together, not just

country players. So PLEASE both Metro and Country get behind this event and make it the success it deserves.

Very disappointing that after 24 years of excellent competition, Country / Metro had to be cancelled due to lack of entries.

Our major ACA events which were a resounding success, were the Golf Croquet Interstate Shield plus Men's and Women's Championships, the Aust Open GC Singles & Doubles plus the AC Handicap Championships we hosted at Rich River. We also hosted the President's Eights AC and the President's Tens GC. The highlight was hosting the WCF AC Women's Championships. Unfortunately the attendance of overseas countries was poor but this allowed many Australians to play in this prestige's event

Once again It is disappointing that so many Tournaments where cancelled during the year due to lack of numbers. Many others where run with few or no starters in some sections

The approaching season is a going to be another big one with the major events we will be hosting at Cairnlea. Firstly we will have the Presidents AC Eights followed by the ACA AC Handicap Championships. Next will be the ACA AC Open Championships. Then the Presidents Golf Tens followed by the Australian Gateball championships and finally the ACA Golf Doubles and Singles.

I wish to thank my committee for their on-going support. It is nice to actually now have several people on this committee. However we are always looking for new faces to assist in improving the sport