



Minutes of Croquet Victoria Council Meeting
held Monday 21 August 2023 via zoom

1 Attendance

1.1 Present:

1.1.1 Directors:

Kate Patrick (President), Stephen Forster (Vice-President), Sarina Cevaall-Hewitt (Secretary/NEDCA), Helen Worlidge (Member), Paul Coughlin (Member), Brian Reither (Ballarat & District), Minn Stewart (Bayside), Helen Gammon (EMCA), Eileen Gough (Geelong), Tom Lacey (Gippsland), Elaine Baker (Goldfields), Marjorie Grant (Goulburn Valley) Ian Potter (Murray Valley), Terri Manwaring (SEMCA), Russell Worland (SWCA).

1.1.2 Observers:

1.2 Apologies:

Deb Newbold (Member/ EMCA), Maurice Cevaall-Hewitt (Member), Pat Smith (Ballarat & District), Jan MacDonald (Goldfields), Claire Keating (Treasurer).

2 Opening/Declaration of Interest

The President opened the meeting at 9.32 am with an Acknowledgement of Country and Respect for Indigenous Elders past, present and emerging, welcoming Tom Lacey (Gippsland) and Helen Gammon (EMCA) to their first Council meetings. No Director declared any interests that may have a bearing on carrying out their role impartially other than:

- Stephen Forster and Sarina Cevaall-Hewitt - Agenda Item 3.1.7

3 Adoption of Minutes of Previous Council Meeting

Resolved on the motion of Terri Manwaring and Russell Worland 'that the Minutes of the Croquet Victoria council Meeting held 20 June 2023 be adopted as a true and correct record.'

3.1 Business Arising from Minutes of Previous Meetings:

3.1.1 Croquet Victoria Secretary Task List:

To be addressed at next meeting of Constitution Review Working Group.

3.1.2 Regional Director Workshop – struggling clubs:

To be scheduled.

Action Russell Worland

9.37 Brian Reither (Ballarat & District) joins meeting.

3.1.3 Child Safety - Vicsport consultant collaboration:

Workshop to be delivered to clubs by end of September 2023.

Draft amended Croquet Victoria Child Safe Code of Conduct to be distributed to Directors for feedback prior to presentation to U21 State Coordinators for review.

Action Secretary

Funds available for content to be uploaded to Croquet Victoria website when finalised.

3.1.4 Club Region Secretaries Guide Working Group:

Previously drafted Guide to be approved at 13 September 2023 zoom meeting of Club Secretaries.

3.1.5 Complaints Procedure:

The Croquet Australia Working Group is reviewing the revised and simplified draft NIF policies produced by SIA.

Paul Coughlin is also drafting a proposed amendment to the Croquet Victoria constitution to better integrate and validate Croquet Victoria and Croquet Australia complaints procedures.

3.1.6 Equity and Access:

Organisations receiving state government grant funding are required to have equity and access plans. Croquet Victoria urge clubs to reflect if their membership aligns with diversity of their local community.

Directors advised of clubs in their region who are connecting with:

- community members still working
- guides
- business groups for inter business competition
- offering croquet as team bonding session
- local church group attending Sunday afternoons

3.1.7 Support for Victorians Players at World Events:

Whilst recognising that individual players at world events may not representing Australia they are badged as Australia.

Resolved on the motion of Eileen Gough and Terri Manwaring 'that Croquet Australia reconsider support of individuals as well as teams to world events to amount of \$2,000.00 per individual'.

Abstention - Stephen Forster and Sarina Cevaal-Hewitt

4 Adoption of Financial Report

Attached as Annex A

Resolved on the motion of Russell Worland and Paul Coughlin 'that Financial Report be adopted'.

5 Consent Items

5.1 President's Report:

Attached as Annex B

5.2 Secretary's Report: including correspondence

Attached as Annex C

5.3 Marketing & Publicity Sub-Committee Report:

Attached as Annex D

5.3 CoM Report: [20230719CoM.pdf \(croquetvic.asn.au\)](https://croquetvic.asn.au/20230719CoM.pdf)

5.4 Sub-Committee Minutes Received and Distributed:

Marketing & Publicity Sub-Committee: 12 July 2023

VCC Futures Working Group: 6 July 2023, 3 August 2023

5.5 Regional Reports to Council:

Attached as Annex E

Resolved on the motion of Helen Worlidge and Tom Lacey 'that Consent Items be accepted'.

6 Business Arising from Consent Items

6.1 President's Report:

Zoom meeting scheduled to complete governance self-assessment.

6.2 Secretary's Report: including correspondence

Croquet Victoria welcomes our newest club, Wangaratta Lawn Tennis Croquet and Pickleball Club.

Status of ongoing complaints to be dealt with In-Camera.

6.3 Regional Reports:

Regions be invited to provide outstanding reports to be distributed with these minutes.

Action Secretary

7 General Business

7.1 Matters for Decision:

7.1.1 Volunteering Victoria Membership:

The meeting noted that membership not taken up this year.

7.1.2 Director Training:

Dealt with In-Camera.

7.3 Matters for Noting:

7.3.1 Vice Regal Patronage:

The meeting noted and acknowledged correspondence from Brunswick Croquet Club regarding the Croquet Victoria's request to renew Vice Regal Patronage. It was noted that the Brunswick Mallet Sports Club and other croquet organisations were not constrained by the Croquet Victoria Vice Regal Patronage from seeking

such other patronages as clubs and regions deemed appropriate.

7.3.2 Review of Incorporation Act 2023

Brian Reither noted late correspondence received calling for feedback to the draft Associations Incorporation Reform Regulation 2023 and the Regulatory Impact Statement.

A specific area to review could be the Complaint Procedure in the Model Rules.

8 Other Business

Stephen Forster reported that the bike racks required by our planning permit had arrived and that the newly purchased spray unit used much less water than previous units.

9 Close 11.03 am

10 Next Meetings

CoM	6.30 pm Wednesday 27 September 2023 via Zoom
Council	9.30 am Monday 16 October 2023 via Zoom
CoM	To be determined.

Annex A	Finance Report
Annex B	President's Report
Annex C	Secretary Report
Annex D	Marketing & Publicity Report
Annex E	Regional Reports

FINANCIAL REPORT JULY 2023

The following financial reports are attached:

- Summary Profit and loss for four months ended 31 July 2023 against budget and prior year
- Balance Sheet as at 31 July 2023

Key points to note:

The Net Operating result at the end of July is \$85,953, compared to budget of \$77,737 and \$141,223 at this time last year. The overall result is \$170,777 compared to budget of \$93,337 and \$(137,017) at this time last year. The main differences relate to lower Investment income but higher positive market movement.

Income

- a) VCA Affiliation fees of \$91,998 were billed in July, close to both budget and prior year.
- b) ACA Affiliation fees of \$84,047 were billed in the month. This is higher than last year as there was a \$1 per member increase in ACA fees.
- c) The JB Were investment portfolio income YTD is \$67,437 compared to budget of \$85,000 (\$17.6k) and \$105,173 last year (\$37.7k lower). Based on information provided by JBWere it appears that the difference to budget is mainly timing.
- d) The unrealised gain on the Investment portfolio YTD is \$84,824.
- e) We recorded \$6,000 of Grant income during the month. This relates to allowances for Interstate Shield (ISS) travel to Perth funded from the Sports and Recreation Victoria Athlete Pathway Travel Grants Program. .

Expenses

- f) We paid ACA Affiliation fees of \$85,018. There is a slight difference from the amount collected, due to Club amendments to player numbers after the amount was paid. This will be trued-up later in the year.
- g) Administration charges are lower than budgeted due to lower Admin support than expected and some budgeted costs being paid from Grant money (Website assistance \$3.6K and Legal fees \$1.5k).
- h) VCC Building costs are lower than budgeted mainly due to less Repairs and Maintenance and lower Insurance cost.
- i) VCC Court costs are higher than budgeted due to the very large water bill In June (\$8k impact). As previously reported, Greater Western Water had used an estimate in its' previous bill in March which significantly understated normal water usage and the June quarter bill was a catch up. This is partially offset by lower than expected Court Assistance (\$3.8k).
- j) State team payments reflect ISS allowances as noted above.

Balance Sheet

- k) Net Assets at 31 July were \$8,984,467 compared to \$8,680,947 at July last year. The movement in Net Assets for the four months is an increase of \$170,777.
- l) See attachment for a summary page of the JB Were portfolio at 31 July showing the value of \$4,885,239.46, an increase of \$134,828 since the end of March.
- m) Accounts receivable is predominantly outstanding Affiliation fees.
- n) GST payable includes GST applicable to net Affiliation fees. This will be due for payment in November.

Cash Outlook

The operating bank account is \$105k at month end and owed \$6k from the Grants account. This compares to approx. \$129k at the same point last year. There is no foreseeable need to draw any amounts from the Investment portfolio in the next quarter.

Finance sub-committee report

The Finance sub-committee has not met since the Council last meeting.

Claire Keating
Honorary Treasurer
13 August 2023

Victorian Croquet Association Inc. Profit & Loss vs Budget and Prior Year April 2023 To July 2023					
	Selected Period	Budgeted	\$ Difference	Last Year	\$ Difference
INCOME					
JBWERE	\$67,437.42	\$85,000.00	(\$17,562.58)	\$105,173.59	(\$37,736.17)
VCA AFFILIATIONS	\$91,997.73	\$92,000.00	(\$2.27)	\$91,063.67	\$934.06
ACA AFFILIATIONS/INSURANCE	\$84,047.01	\$85,000.00	(\$952.99)	\$80,608.61	\$3,438.40
MERCHANDISE/PENNANT	\$378.18	\$400.00	(\$21.82)	\$2,597.26	(\$2,219.08)
TOURNAMENTS	\$1,431.85	\$1,580.00	(\$148.15)	\$3,518.22	(\$2,086.37)
Other Operating Income	\$66.00	\$0.00	\$66.00	\$370.00	(\$304.00)
CATERING/BAR	\$855.39	\$250.00	\$605.39	\$483.51	\$371.88
PREMISES/COURTS/RENT	\$9,028.01	\$7,600.00	\$1,428.01	\$5,855.20	\$3,172.81
BEQUESTS/DONATIONS	\$1,097.25	\$1,000.00	\$97.25	\$1,045.00	\$52.25
SRV GRANT -SVSR	\$45,106.23	\$32,100.00	\$13,006.23	\$13,822.90	\$31,283.33
Total INCOME	\$301,445.07	\$304,930.00	(\$3,484.93)	\$304,537.96	(\$3,092.89)
Gross Profit	\$301,445.07	\$304,930.00	(\$3,484.93)	\$304,537.96	(\$3,092.89)
EXPENSES					
ACA AFFILIATIONS/INSURANCE	\$85,018.86	\$85,000.00	\$18.86	\$78,400.68	\$6,618.18
ADMINISTRATION VCA	\$14,791.08	\$27,474.00	(\$12,682.92)	\$11,295.08	\$3,496.00
COMMITTEES	\$1,098.81	\$3,250.00	(\$2,151.19)	\$1,310.72	(\$211.91)
COUNCIL/COM travel	\$607.02	\$1,000.00	(\$392.98)	\$645.29	(\$38.27)
SRV GRANTS SVSR	\$38,676.81	\$32,000.00	\$6,676.81	\$13,368.39	\$25,308.42
TOURNAMENTS	\$1,254.75	\$550.00	\$704.75	\$431.88	\$822.87
MERCHANDISE/PENNANT	\$0.00	\$200.00	(\$200.00)	\$1,067.00	(\$1,067.00)
VCC BUILDING	\$52,234.20	\$63,969.00	(\$11,734.80)	\$50,317.59	\$1,916.61
CATERING/BAR	\$196.82	\$500.00	(\$303.18)	\$558.97	(\$362.15)
VCC COURTS	\$15,250.03	\$13,250.00	\$2,000.03	\$5,373.81	\$9,876.22
STATE TEAMS G & A	\$6,363.64	\$0.00	\$6,363.64	\$545.45	\$5,818.19
Total EXPENSES	\$215,492.02	\$227,193.00	(\$11,700.98)	\$163,314.86	\$52,177.16
Operating Profit	\$85,953.05	\$77,737.00	\$8,216.05	\$141,223.10	(\$55,270.05)
OTHER INCOME					
Unrealised fair value gains(losses)	\$84,824.75	\$15,600.00	\$69,224.75	(\$278,240.98)	\$363,065.73
Total OTHER INCOME	\$84,824.75	\$15,600.00	\$69,224.75	(\$278,240.98)	\$363,065.73
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$170,777.80	\$93,337.00	\$77,440.80	(\$137,017.88)	\$307,795.68

Balance Sheet

As of July 2023

ABN: 91 903 271 264

Assets			
Current Assets			
Bank Accounts			
Bendigo	\$105,821.97		
Bendigo - Grants Account	\$6,000.00		
Holding	-\$200.00		
Total Bank Accounts		\$111,621.97	
Petty Cash Float		\$1,043.52	
Total Current Assets			\$112,665.49
Accounts Receivable			
Accounts Receivable		\$71,743.20	
Total Accounts Receivable			\$71,743.20
JBWERE - Investment A/c			\$4,885,239.46
Fixed Assets			
Cairnlea - Land and site works at cost			
Building at cost	\$1,980,368.00		
Accumulated depreciation		\$3,331,836.00	
Plant & Equipment		-\$1,418,911.00	
Plant and Equipment	\$197,539.01		
Accumulated Depreciation	-\$166,484.98		
Total Plant & Equipment		\$31,054.03	
Total Fixed Assets			\$3,924,347.03
Total Assets			\$8,993,995.18
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable		\$3,600.00	
Total Current Liabilities			\$3,600.00
Tax Payable			
GST Collected		\$21,187.17	
GST Paid		-\$15,259.08	
Total Tax Payable			\$5,928.09
Total Liabilities			\$9,528.09
Net Assets			\$8,984,467.09
Equity			
Reserves			
General Reserve	\$7,703,572.44		
Asset Revaluation Reserve	\$974,117.35		
Retained Earnings	\$93,965.46		
Current Earnings	\$170,777.80		
Special Funds			\$42,034.04
Total Equity			\$8,984,467.09

President's report

BACKGROUND

Under the Constitution, the Committee of Management reports to Council via the President. Under the by-laws, the president is required to represent and promote mallet sports in all its forms throughout Victoria, to chair meetings of Council and CoM, and to attend meetings of sub-committees and working groups ex officio.

UPDATE

1. Matters from the Committee of Management

The July meeting of CoM considered

- Delay in the work of the Constitution Review Working Group. It asked that the Working Group invite to its next meeting any members interested in the review of the association's governance and the role of the secretary.
- Croquet Australia proposals for a new logo. The most recent suggestions have been circulated to Directors.
- Progress on Croquet Australia database. Specifications are being developed with a view to seeking tenders. Gareth Bushill has been providing advice on behalf of Victoria.

2. Promoting mallet sports

Tricia Devlin and I are in discussion with the videographer about finalizing the video of Kenn Boal's Player Development Project workshop at Warrnambool, which is to provide resource material for developing coaches.

Following earlier discussion at the Horsham CC centenary, I visited Horsham to discuss future plans with Horsham Kalimna Park and Horsham Rural City staff.

I have written to the Mayor of the City of Port Phillip to back up Elwood Croquet Club's request for support and an alternative venue while their courts and clubhouse are demolished by Melbourne Water, who are installing a new water main.

With Sarina, I attended an online meeting with Sport and Recreation Victoria staff to discuss steps towards developing action plans for Croquet Victoria to improve access and equity in croquet. Their suggestions key in with the proposals in Graham Smith's report to Marketing and Publicity (see separate agenda item).

3. Governance: complaints, self-assessment

COMPLAINTS Croquet Australia's complaints policies are currently out of step with the Sports Integrity Framework in that they do not provide a pathway for dealing with complaints that the Sports Integrity Office no longer deals with.

We are looking to a working party of Croquet Australia to resolve this issue and hopefully develop a set of clear and easy to follow complaints policies. Paul Coughlin is taking a lead role in this on behalf of Croquet Victoria.

SELF-ASSESSMENT Sport and Recreation Victoria have recently asked me to complete a Australian Sports Commission self-assessment for national and state sporting associations. SRV will be providing us with a customized report and also developing a report for the state as a whole. The self-assessment is said to take about an hour to complete.

I am proposing to convene a Zoom meeting to discuss how Croquet Victoria should respond to the self-assessment, at 2 pm on Wednesday 23 August. Please let me know if you would like to participate.

4. Representing mallet sports

On behalf of Croquet Victoria, I recently attended a celebration of the life of Lesley Cavalier at Brighton Croquet Club.

I continue to attend the VicSports online briefings for state sporting organisations, regional sport associations, and the Victorian Institute of Sport. Information at these briefings is provided by VicHealth and Sport and Recreation officers.

5. Liaising with Croquet Australia and other states

As Croquet Victoria's representative, I participate in monthly Zoom meetings between Croquet Australia directors and the Presidents of the State Associations. Most recently we have been discussing the proposed new logo. The latest proposals have been circulated to Directors.

6. Attendance at sub-committee meetings

Since the last meeting of Council I have attended four sub-committee or working group meetings: Tournaments and Fixtures (3), and the VCC Futures Working Group Strategic Plan (1).

Kate Patrick
15 August 2023

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Croquet Victoria Membership

89 clubs, 2944 members.

New Club Affiliated

With the affiliation of the Wangaratta Lawn Tennis Croquet Pickleball Club (16 members) the NEDCA region now has fourteen affiliated clubs.

Child Safety

Clubs are concerned as to whether they are complying with/and or correctly implementing current standards.

COVID Documentation

Clubs have been advised (25 July 2023) to destroy any records associated with member's COVID vaccination status or attendance records specifically kept to comply with pandemic requirements at that time.

Club Secretaries Workshop via Zoom

Scheduled for 2.00 pm Wednesday 13 September 2023.



Secretary

Correspondence

In Email

- 11 July 2023 Brunswick Malletsports Club - re Vice Regal patronage
Fennelly Legal - complaint documentation
SRV - Seeking Stakeholder consultation
- 12 July 2023 Croquet Australia - draft logo designs
- 16 July 2023 Victoria University Secondary College - thank you for use of car park
- 17 July 2023 Croquet Australia - interim staffing arrangements
Croquet Australia - national golf croquet event proposal (Peter Coles)
- 19 July 2023 Croquet Australia - acknowledgment of receiving query re referral to NST
Horsham Croquet Club - noting passing of Neville Pope
- 26 July 2023 SRV - Sports Governance Self Assessment
- 31 July 2023 Sports Lawyer - complaint documentation
- 1 Aug 2023 Wotton Kearney - complaint response
- 3 Aug 2023 SRV - suggested next steps for Equity and Inclusion
- 9 Aug 2023 National Ricochet Coordinator - summary of Ricochet rule changes
- 15 Aug 2023 Brunswick Malletsports Club - re Vice Regal patronage

Various

Gateball Australia emails, advising clubs of current vacancies,
Croquet Australia Board Minutes/Agendas/Gazettes, VCC utility invoices,
Vicsport grants available/workshops, eBulletins,

Mail

Christine Horner - Historical memorabilia

Out Email

11 July 2023 Fennelly Legal- acknowledgment of receiving complaint documentation
Brunswick Malletsports Club - acknowledging receipt of Vice Regal patronage concerns

13 July 2023 Regional Insurance Brokers - notification of complaint received

18 July 2023 Directors/Clubs - Commonwealth Games cancellation

19 July 2023 Port Phillip Mayor - re displacement of Elwood Croquet Club
Sec Cc'd - Port Phillip Mayor - support for relocation of Elwood Croquet Club

24 July 2023 Clubs (NSW) - Child Safe requirements

31 Jul 2023 City of Brimbank - Sports Facility Development Plan 2023 submission

9 Aug 2023 Clubs - notification of changes to Ricochet rules

15 Aug 2023 Brunswick Malletsports Club - acknowledging receipt of Vice Regal patronage concerns

Various

distribution of eBulletins, Croquet Australia Board Minutes/documentation, distribution of national event flyers, various agencies to source sensitivity training package.

**Annex D to
Croquet Victoria Council Meeting Minutes
21 August 2023**

**TO: The Secretary
Croquet Victoria Council Meeting**

FROM: Marketing and Publicity Sub Committee

DATE: 12th August 2023

SUBJECT: Marketing and Publicity sub-committee report

Background

The sub-committee is tasked with promoting the sport of croquet across Victoria and Southern NSW.

Existing M and P members returned and welcomed new member Helen Worlage to the sub-committee after the VCA AGM and General Meeting.

The following is a summary of the tasks undertaken by the sub-committee since the last report to Council.

- Monthly Newsletters continue to be produced and distributed promoting the following:
 - I. Publishing profiles of clubs who have increased membership.
 - II. Promoting the Gateball Championships in September 2023
 - III. Season Opening Day at Cairnlea – Aug Edition
 - IV. Ongoing VCA Child Safety updates
- Continuing to update Web News on the VCA website with contributions from Tournaments & Fixtures as well as good news stories from local clubs.
- Created a new design to refresh a new stock of Trifold Brochures which is now starting to be requested by clubs.

The Electronic Poster “Looking for a New Sport” was distributed to over 21 clubs and this has had a flow on affect by being shared amongst clubs electronically from the VCA Facebook page and from other club pages. Excellent feedback on the design was also received by clubs.

Refer below for summary of Graham Smith (Kynton Croquet Club) who on behalf of M and P attended the *2023 Doing Sport Differently Forum* in Melbourne late June 2023.

**Rita Jenkins
Secretary
For the Marketing and Publicity Committee**

2023 Doing Sport Differently Workshop presented by Vic Sport, VicHealth and La Trobe University Centre for Sport and Social Impact - 28th June 2023.

Studies show that trends in physical activity and sport participation are changing.

Australians are not sufficiently active, and sport can be part of the solution.

They put forward six principles that can help sport organisations attract and retain larger and more diverse audiences.

1. Engage with the target market throughout the design process to reduce barriers and fulfil motivations.

We need to have a checklist of who are our target markets (i.e.. different ages, genders, racial groups, etc.) and what are the barriers. Croquet Victoria's target market may be different from what individual clubs may see as their targets.

Having decided on an objective, we then need to connect with target groups. As croquet is predominantly older age group, we would look at service clubs like Lions, Probus, etc or age specific groups seniors clubs, active retiree groups.

As much as we can target specific groups, much research shows that often the main reason people get involved in a particular sport is through 'word of mouth', so we do need to be talking about our enjoyment in playing croquet with our friends and relatives.

One way to think about potential new members is to look at our current membership and see who we don't have. We are underrepresented in different racial groups and younger demographics. Should we be looking to contact different community ethnic organizations. If looking for juniors, ask local schools if they would include croquet in their curriculum.

2. Think about participants as customers and consider their total experience.

While many will take up a sport for competition or fitness the overwhelming initial reason will be for its social factors; being with friends or enjoying the interaction with new people. Family days are always a good way to make the initial contact with potential new participants. There should be welcome banners and people at the gate to welcome new people in. Although it can be good to have free events, if putting on an introductory course it can be better to charge a fee of some sort. Those who pay a fee are more likely to make a commitment and continue on.

3. Participation should cater to different levels of skill, ability and fitness.

Some sports modify games to make it easier for new participants to get involved. Aussie croquet or just hitting a ball to see who can get closest to the centre peg may be good ways to help players learn skills when they first start. People who are competitive need to see a way to go further in our sport through coaching and higher levels of competition.

4. The deliverer is the most vital person to participants' experience and retention.

The welcome new people receive, the encouragement they get as they try and learn new skills are the most important factors that will make them keep coming back.

5. Participants need a clear pathway for retention or transition as their skill, fitness or interest changes.

For those who do want to take their participation further, they must see a clear path forward. Social members will always be the backbone of a club but those who do want to go further must see a pathway and be encouraged to try and reach new levels.

6. Best-practice project management and delivery will enable scale and sustainability.

Start small, but make sure you communicate to your club members about the vision and engage them in any decision making going forward. Have short and long-term goals. Communicate with the wider community. Modify the rules and payments.

VCA Regional Report – August 2023 – Gippsland Croquet Association

The Region has 13 clubs with Golf, Association, Advantage, and Ricochet croquet being played within the region.

Croquet Open Day: Players from several clubs participated in the Croquet Season open day, held at Traralgon on 9 August. All forms of croquet were played, followed by afternoon tea.

Pennant Season 2023: Gippsland pennant seasons commences soon with two separate divisions (based on location) playing both Association and Golf Croquet. West Gippsland Golf Croquet pennant starts 29 August, and East Gippsland starting one week later. Association Croquet pennant starts on 5 September.

Wonthaggi Club: The Club's new Pavilion is in its final build stage, with additional concreting and some electrical work still to be completed. Official opening yet to be finalised, but some initial discussions with Council leading to confirmed dates and other matters commenced. Once finalised, invitations will be issued.

Active participation: Several tournaments are being held across a number of clubs this calendar year. Early indications are that entries will be high, often with waiting lists.

State and Selector representatives: Several Gippsland players have, and are currently, representing Victoria in tournaments, with special mention of Shane Downie. We also have members participating in the Selectors invitation games.

Tom Lacey
Director, Gippsland Croquet Association

VCA Regional Report – August 2023 - Bayside Croquet Association

The region has 5 clubs with Ricochet, Golf and Association being played within the region.

Frankston Club has joined in July 2023.

This Club will hold a Club Championship in golf and doubles in October. Lawns have been arranged to enable golf and association to occur on the same day. A social playing day occurs on the 3rd Monday of the month when a specific Club is invited to Frankston. Phillip Island and then Ringwood are the next clubs to be invited.

Elsternwick Club

Still struggling with reduced members although there is hope that the new golf players will bring some marketing skills to advertise the facilities. A plan for Seniors Week and a Bunnings Sausage sizzle are being planned.

Elwood Club

Club is in use seven days with organised Ricochet games being played three days and association two days. A handicapping group has been organised to monitor player development. This will meet four times a year. Lease renewal for only two years has been offered by the Port Phillip Council. In two years the Melbourne Water intends to do significant ground work that will result in the building being removed and the lawns dug up over at least a three year period. The Club is in negotiations with State, Council and Melbourne Water concerning a solution for play to continue during and after this construction period.

Brighton Club

Club has completed the Div 4 and Div 3 championships AC and has won the Metro Autumn Pennant Div 3-AC. Currently running an all of club AC handicapped championship with an AC tournament to be held in the first 2 weekends September. The Club will be organising a Golf club championship. Referee training is continuing and is attended by members of Elsternwick. A second Novice AC training workshop has been completed. A Website has been established- brightoncroquetclub.com.au

Sandringham Club

Solar panels have been installed on the roof of the Clubhouse, fully funded by the Sandringham Council.

The Golf Croquet Autumn Shield and level Play competitions finished in late May and for the first time in 4 seasons we didn't have a team in the finals. Recently the courts have been badly affected by worm castings.

As membership Fees have gone up so some resignations are expected.

Western Metro Croquet and Malletsports Association Report

BACKGROUND

WMCMA is a relatively small association which was originally formed by four clubs and as this number was insufficient to incorporate. It was set up as an association of all club members. Our total membership is currently around 220.

Three of our clubs are long-established: Brunswick, Essendon and Williamstown and two were formed more recently. Brimbank, which is based at the VCA Centre, was formed less than 20 years ago. Maribyrnong Park Bowls and Croquet was formed 6 years ago by the Maribyrnong Park Bowls Club.

Management of regional affairs has historically been rotated between the clubs with Essendon currently responsible.

CURRENT STATUS

Recently Western Metro has not been particularly active as a region partly due to Covid. Whilst historically WMCMA members have contributed significantly to croquet in Victoria, particularly in state squads, our elite playing numbers have dwindled.

The clubs in Western Metro are generally well equipped. Williamstown, Brunswick, Essendon and Brimbank all use the Quadway hoops. Brunswick and Essendon have lights and run some activities at night.

The Western Metro Region GC Team won the 2023 Lefel Aggregate Shield at the VCA Regional Tournament over the weekend of 31 March to 2 April 2023. Our region was represented by Williamstown's Richard Hingst who won 10 out of his 12 Division 1 games, Brunswick's Ines Cervi who won 4 out of her 10 Division 2 games and Essendon's Daniel Laurenta who won 10 out of his 12 Division 3 games.

BRIMBANK CROQUET CLUB

Brimbank continues to regularly play on Tuesdays and Thursdays with a small number of enthusiastic members. The Club recently made a submission for grant money previously allocated. The money was to be used to purchase mallets both for club member use but mainly to be used in membership activities.

BRUNSWICK MALLET SPORTS CLUB

Brunswick courts are maintained by the Council and are in reasonably good order, with members assisting when necessary. Club members maintain hoop positions, lawn positions and lines. The gardens are maintained by volunteers. The clubhouse is in good condition. Membership is around 60 with play at the club almost every day. New lighting has been installed this year with costs partially funded by a grant from the local council, Merri Bek.

ESSENDON CROQUET CLUB

Essendon continues to be the strongest club in the region, with around 80 members. It has two courts which are maintained by a greenkeeper and are full for many sessions during the week. Social activities include Meal and Play sessions and luncheons. The lawns and the clubhouse are in good order and the club is well equipped and assisted with income from the Essendon Football Club Affiliated Sporting Clubs Trust fund.

MARIBYRNONG PARK BOWLS AND CROQUET CLUB

The Maribyrnong Park Bowls and Croquet Club was formed 6 years ago and has been struggling with members since Covid. Several regional members have put in time at the club helping them with coaching sessions.

WILLIAMSTOWN CROQUET CLUB

Williamstown is maintaining a membership of around 60 with good participation in social events.

The clubhouse has been recently repaired and repainted and is all in good order and the lawn area has been extended so there is more space for moving the position of the courts.