



Minutes of Croquet Victoria Council Meeting
held Monday 19 February 2024 via zoom

1 Attendance

1.1 Present:

1.1.1 Directors:

Kate Patrick (President), Sarina Cevaall-Hewitt (Secretary/NEDCA), Claire Keating (Treasurer), Helen Worlidge (Member), Paul Coughlin (Member), Maurice Cevaall-Hewitt (Member), Deb Newbold (Director/EMCA), Pat Smith (Ballarat & District - part meeting), Minn Stewart (Bayside), Eileen Gough (Geelong), Jan MacDonald (Goldfields), Marjorie Grant (Goulburn Valley), Ian Potter (Murray Valley), Paul Ryan (NDCA), Terri Manwaring (SEMCA), Russell Worland (SWCA), Kevin Beard (WMCMA).

1.2 Apologies:

Stephen Forster (Vice-President), Tom Lacey (Gippsland)

2 Opening/Declaration of Interest

The President opened the meeting at 9.33 am with an Acknowledgement of Country and Respect for Indigenous Elders past present and emerging. Welcome. Acknowledgement of Country. The President welcomed Kevin Beard to his first Council Meeting.

The following declarations of interest were declared:

- Kate Patrick, Sarina Cevaall-Hewitt and Claire Keating - honorariums in Budget
- Claire Keating and Kevin Beard - state team representative support payments in Budget

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 18 December 2023 be adopted as a true and correct record.'

3.1 Business Arising from Minutes of Previous Meetings:

3.1.1 Lawn Management Proposal:

Majority of clubs have responded, report to April Council Meeting.

Action Paul Ryan/Secretary

3.1.2 Director Training:

Directors who have not completed the online training to be contacted.

Action President/Secretary

3.1.3 VCC Futures Options:

Paul Coughlin reported that he considered the process to date to be constructive and feedback has already received. First of two online forums 20 February 2024. Second online forum scheduled for 7.30 pm 21 March 2024.

3.1.4 Connection with Social Players:

April Council Meeting Agenda Item.

Action Eileen Gough

3.1.5 Nuisance Phone Calls:

The Secretary provided an update on nuisance phone calls received from the following two mobile numbers 0402 945 957 or 0404 282 671.

3.1.6 Personal Skills Matrix, Council Self-Assessment:

See Agenda Item 7.2.3/7.2.4

4 Adoption of Financial Report

Attached as Annex A

Resolved on the motion of Claire Keating and Eileen Gough 'that Financial Report be adopted.'

4.1 Business Arising from Financial Report:

New member and insurance levy invoices to be raised before end of February.

Action Treasurer

4.2 Adoption of DRAFT Budget:

Resolved on the motion of Claire Keating and Pat Smith 'that 2024-2025 Budget be adopted with amendments as approved by meeting'.

Resolved on the motion of Paul Ryan and Helen Worlidge 'that the State Team Allowance Policy be amended to increase individual support by \$200.00 for each event.' Abstention: Kevin Beard

Action Secretary

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 CoM Report: [20240117CoM.pdf \(croquetvic.asn.au\)](https://croquetvic.asn.au/20240117CoM.pdf)

5.4 Marketing & Publicity Sub-Committee:

Attached as Annex D

5.5 Strategic Plan Implementation Sub-Committee Report:

Attached as Annex E

5.6 Together More Active Player Development Project:

Attached as Annex F

5.7 Sub-Committee Minutes Received and Distributed:

Strategic Plan Implementation Sub-Committee: 23 January 2024

5.8 Regional Reports to Council:

Attached as Annex G

Resolved on the motion of Terri Manwaring and Helen Worlidge 'that Consent Items be accepted'.

6 Business Arising from Consent Items

6.5 Strategic Plan Implementation Sub-Committee Report:

Resolved on the motion of Deb Newbold and Russell Worland 'that the Strategic Plan Implementation Plan be endorsed.'

6.6 Together More Active Player Development Project:

Resolved on the motion of Russell Worland and Claire Keating 'that appreciation be noted to Tricia Devlin and the project team for the acquittal of this grant funded project.'

7 General Business

7.1 Matters for Decision:

7.1.1 Nominations:

The following nominations were endorsed:

- Association Croquet Selection Sub-Committee: Claire Bassett
- Strategic Plan Implementation Sub-Committee: Lorraine Powell
- MALLET NEWS Victoria Editor: Julie Marlowe

7.1.2 Tournament Results Unreported:

Clubs with tournaments awaiting results to be contacted to enter results.

Action Secretary

7.2 Matters for Discussion:

7.2.1 Adverse Playing Conditions Policy:

Awaiting Croquet Australia guidelines to implement Wet Bulb Globe Temperature into Adverse Playing Conditions Policy.

7.2.2 Croquet Australia National Membership Program:

Awaiting notification from Croquet Australia when clubs can expect to receive payment. Criteria as advertised is:

- \$50.00 per member, net membership increase of more than ten for period 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2023
- payments in February 2024
- clubs at capacity to receive a day of training/coaching from top level coaches and players

Resolved on the motion of Deb New bold and Terri Manwaring that Croquet Australia to be contacted re payment schedule, noting eligibility not clearly communicated.

Action President

7.2.3 Council Assessment:

The meeting reviewed the results of the current assessment, noting improvement, or otherwise to results of 2021 Council Assessment. Specific areas to be addressed:

- length of meetings
- Director participation in Sub-Committees
- Risk Management

7.2.4 Director Personal Skills Survey:

Resolved on the motion of Eileen Gough and Paul Coughlin 'that a Directors Skills Survey be created from agreed list.'

Action President

7.3 Matters for Noting:

7.3.1 Approval of In Camera Minutes and Status of Current Complaints:

These matters were dealt with In Camera.

8 Other Business

8.1 Meeting Recap:

- Budget approved
- VCC Future Options update
- Survey completed by all Directors
- Implementation Plan approved
- Child Safe
- Wet Bulb Globe Temperature
- Croquet Australia Member Incentive Scheme.

9 Close 12.32 pm

10 Next Meetings

CoM	6.30 pm Wednesday 20 March 2024 via zoom
Council	9.30 am Monday 15 April 2024 via zoom
CoM	6.30 pm Wednesday 16 May 2024 via zoom
AGM	10.30 am Monday 17 June 2024 at Victorian Croquet Centre
Council	Monday 17 June 2024 at Victorian Croquet Centre after AGM
CoM	6.30 pm Wednesday 17 July 2024 via zoom
Council	9.30 am Monday 19 August 2024 via zoom
CoM	6.30 pm Wednesday 18 September 2024 via zoom
Council	9.30 am Monday 21 October 2024 via zoom
CoM	6.30 pm Wednesday 20 November 2024 via zoom
Council	10.30 am Monday 16 December 2024 at Victorian Croquet Centre

Annex A	Financial Report
Annex B	President's Report
Annex C	Secretary's Report
Annex D	Marketing & Publicity Report
Annex E	Strategic Plan Implementation Report
Annex F	Together More Active Player Development Project Report
Annex G	Regional Report

**Annex A to
Croquet Victoria Council Meeting Minutes
19 February 2024**

FINANCIAL REPORT JANUARY 2024

The following financial reports are attached:

- Summary Detailed Profit and loss for ten months ended 31 January 2024 against budget and prior year
- Balance Sheet as at 31 January 2024
- JBWere Monthly report Summary January 2024

Key points to note:

The Net Operating result at the end of January is \$56,917 compared to budget of (\$41,376) and \$154,425 at this time last year. The overall result is a surplus of \$262,394 compared to budget of \$(2,976) and \$33,664 at this time last year.

The main differences to budget are due to underspend on Administration (\$16.7k), Committee and Co-ordinators (\$20.8k), Junior Scholarship (\$5k), Repairs and Maintenance (\$25.2k) and VCC Court costs (\$16.6k).

ACA Insurance Income and Expense is also under budget as the ACA hasn't yet billed Insurance which is normally paid in January. The ACA has advised of a significant increase in ACA Insurance costs in 2024, from \$12.6k to \$17.8k. The increase relates to mainly to public liability. Whilst this has a neutral impact on our result, it is an increased cost to clubs/members.

The main differences from last year relate to lower Investment income (\$24.5k), lower premises hire (as last year included MacRobertson hire), higher legal fees (\$6k) and higher VCC Court Costs (\$22.3k).

The overall result is significantly higher than budget and last year due to large increases in Investment valuations over the past three months.

Income

- a) The JB Were investment portfolio income YTD is \$149k, \$5k higher than budget and \$24.5k lower than last year. Based on forecast information provided by JBWere we should meet budget this year.
- b) The unrealised gain on the Investment portfolio YTD is \$275k, \$237k higher than budgeted and \$394k better than this time last year. Over the last three months there has been a large positive movement of \$360k.
- c) Tournament income for the month was \$2.1k.

Expenses

- d) Administration charges are lower than budgeted due to continued lower Admin support than expected and some budgeted costs being paid from Grant money. However, as previously noted this has been partially offset by legal costs of \$6.6k relating to two tribunal matters.
- e) Committee and Co-ordinator spend continues to be below budget.
- f) VCC Building costs are lower than budgeted mainly due to less Repairs and Maintenance (\$25.2k) which is a timing difference.

- g) VCC Court costs are \$16.6k lower than budget. However, over the last two months more Court assistance has been used and it is expected that this will be the case for the rest of the financial year, so we should get closer to budgeted spend.

Balance Sheet

- h) Net Assets at 31 January were \$9,145,528 compared to \$8,851,630.57 at January last year. The movement in Net Assets for the ten months since 1 April is an increase of \$332,239.
- i) See attachment for a summary page of the JB Were portfolio at 31 January showing the value of \$5,139,678, an increase of \$389,268 since the end of March.

Cash Outlook

The operating bank account is \$127k at month end. This compares to approx. \$171k 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
12 February 2024

Victorian Croquet Association Inc.
Profit & Loss vs Budget and Prior Year

April 2023 To January 2024

	Selected Period	Budgeted	\$ Difference	Last YTD	\$ Difference
INCOME					
JBWERE	\$149,231.11	\$144,200.00	\$5,031.11	\$173,809.16	(\$24,578.05)
VCA AFFILIATIONS	\$94,972.74	\$96,600.00	(\$1,627.26)	\$98,445.45	(\$3,472.71)
ACA AFFILIATIONS/INSURANCE	\$83,494.28	\$99,690.91	(\$16,196.63)	\$96,723.84	(\$13,229.56)
MERCHANDISE/PENNANT	\$974.02	\$2,250.00	(\$1,275.98)	\$3,988.63	(\$3,014.61)
TOURNAMENTS	\$9,808.80	\$10,565.00	(\$756.20)	\$10,658.42	(\$849.62)
Other Operating Income	\$72.89	\$0.00	\$72.89	\$401.82	(\$328.93)
CATERING/BAR	\$3,107.23	\$3,250.00	(\$142.77)	\$7,677.83	(\$4,570.60)
PREMISES/COURTS/RENT	\$18,912.68	\$18,350.00	\$562.68	\$41,346.72	(\$22,434.04)
BEQUESTS/DONATIONS	\$1,097.25	\$1,000.00	\$97.25	\$1,045.00	\$52.25
GRANTS	\$45,451.66	\$33,200.00	\$12,251.66	\$28,620.99	\$16,830.67
Total INCOME	\$407,122.66	\$409,105.91	(\$1,983.25)	\$462,717.86	(\$55,595.20)
Gross Profit	\$407,122.66	\$409,105.91	(\$1,983.25)	\$462,717.86	(\$55,595.20)
EXPENSES					
ACA AFFILIATIONS/INSURANCE	\$85,047.95	\$99,690.91	(\$14,642.96)	\$94,916.42	(\$9,868.47)
ADMINISTRATION VCA	\$45,117.47	\$65,036.00	(\$19,918.53)	\$31,563.18	\$13,554.29
COMMITTEES	\$5,976.90	\$26,800.00	(\$20,823.10)	\$4,241.80	\$1,735.10
COUNCIL/COM travel	\$1,390.88	\$2,450.00	(\$1,059.12)	\$974.82	\$416.06
GRANTS	\$38,857.46	\$32,000.00	\$6,857.46	\$27,566.54	\$11,290.92
UNDER 21S SCHOLARSHIP	\$969.46	\$6,000.00	(\$5,030.54)	\$2,056.77	(\$1,087.31)
TOURNAMENTS	\$4,471.96	\$5,820.00	(\$1,348.04)	\$6,231.22	(\$1,759.26)
MERCHANDISE/PENNANT	\$4,732.75	\$2,600.00	\$2,132.75	\$1,228.00	\$3,504.75
VCC BUILDING	\$115,008.62	\$145,735.00	(\$30,726.38)	\$112,873.02	\$2,135.60
CATERING/BAR	\$2,199.45	\$3,000.00	(\$800.55)	\$4,520.82	(\$2,321.37)
VCC COURTS	\$39,160.34	\$54,350.00	(\$15,189.66)	\$16,837.84	\$22,322.50
STATE TEAMS G & A	\$7,272.73	\$7,000.00	\$272.73	\$5,281.85	\$1,990.88
Total EXPENSES	\$350,205.97	\$450,481.91	(\$100,275.94)	\$308,292.28	\$41,913.69
Operating Profit	\$56,916.69	(\$41,376.00)	\$98,292.69	\$154,425.58	(\$97,508.89)
OTHER INCOME					
Realised fair value gains(losses)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$1,637.00)	\$1,637.00
Unrealised fair value gains(losses)	\$275,322.71	\$38,400.00	\$236,922.71	(\$119,123.81)	\$394,446.52
Total OTHER INCOME	\$275,322.71	\$38,400.00	\$236,922.71	(\$120,760.81)	\$396,083.52
Net Profit/(Loss)	\$332,239.40	(\$2,976.00)	\$335,215.40	\$33,664.77	\$298,574.63

Balance Sheet

As of January 2024

Assets		
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts		
Bendigo	\$127,675.83	
Bendigo - Grants Account	\$16,000.00	
Total Bank Accounts		\$143,675.83
Petty Cash Float		\$1,043.52
Total Current Assets		\$144,719.35
Accounts Receivable		
Accounts Receivable		\$375.64
Total Accounts Receivable		\$375.64
JBWERE - Investment A/c		\$5,139,678.87
Fixed Assets		
Cairnlea - Land and site works at cost		
Building at cost	\$1,980,368.00	
Accumulated depreciation	\$3,331,836.00	
Plant & Equipment	-\$1,460,737.00	
Plant and Equipment	\$197,811.91	
Accumulated Depreciation	-\$166,484.98	
Total Plant & Equipment		\$31,326.93
Total Fixed Assets		\$3,882,793.93
Total Assets		\$9,167,567.79
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$2,956.00	
Total Current Liabilities		\$2,956.00
Tax Payable		
GST Collected	\$5,774.98	
GST Paid	-\$3,091.88	
Total Tax Payable		\$2,683.10
Grant Liabilities		
Grants Received in Advance	\$16,000.00	
Total Grant Liabilities		\$16,000.00
Total Liabilities		\$21,639.10
Net Assets		\$9,145,928.69
Equity		
Reserves		
General Reserve	\$7,703,572.44	
Asset Revaluation Reserve	\$974,117.35	
Retained Earnings	\$93,965.46	
Current Earnings	\$332,239.40	
Special Funds		\$42,034.04
Total Equity		\$9,145,928.69



Report as at 31 Jan 2024

Portfolio Valuation

Issued by
JBWere Limited
ACN 137 978 360

Portfolio Summary

Account Number: M3787875F

Asset Class	Market Value *	Estimated Income **	Estimated Yield	% Of Portfolio
Cash	\$ 32,403.95	\$ 1,328.56	4.10 %	0.63 %
Credit	\$ 1,498,179.08	\$ 92,352.45	6.16 %	29.15 %
Equity - Domestic	\$ 2,401,702.14	\$ 105,577.56	4.40 %	46.73 %
Equity - International	\$ 1,207,393.70	\$ 23,329.16	1.93 %	23.49 %
Total Portfolio Value	\$ 5,139,678.87	\$ 222,587.73	4.33 %	100.00 %
Unsettled Transactions	\$ 0.00			
Net Portfolio Value	\$ 5,139,678.87			

Regional Summary

Region	Market Value *	Estimated Income **	Estimated Yield	% Of Portfolio
Domestic	\$ 3,701,634.15	\$ 185,080.50	5.00 %	72.02 %
International	\$ 1,438,044.72	\$ 37,507.23	2.61 %	27.98 %
Total Regional Summary	\$ 5,139,678.87	\$ 222,587.73	4.33 %	100.00 %

Defensive/Growth Summary

Defensive/Growth	Market Value *	Estimated Income **	Estimated Yield	% Of Portfolio
Defensive	\$ 1,530,583.03	\$ 93,681.01	6.12 %	29.78 %
Growth	\$ 3,609,095.84	\$ 128,906.72	3.57 %	70.22 %
Total Defensive/Growth Summary	\$ 5,139,678.87	\$ 222,587.73	4.33 %	100.00 %

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 racket 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

In January CoM met twice, with the second meeting devoted to financial matters. It considered

- Appointment of an Equipment Officer to coordinate loans of Croquet Victoria equipment – referred to the VCC sub-committee
- Scholarships to support junior members attending the national Under 21 championships. Noted that James Wombwell came third in the national singles.
- Follow up to Council self-assessment and Skills Matrix
- Distribution of updated Ricochet rule books. Agreed that in line with practice in Golf and Association Croquet, accredited ricochet referees should receive a free copy of the new rule book.
- Status of current complaints
- The draft 2024-2025 budget

2. Promoting racket sports

I recently attended Ballarat Western's celebration of its recent improvements in its courts, surrounds and clubhouse. The Mayor of Ballarat and two Council representatives were present and the Mayor ceremonially planted a horse chestnut tree. Ballarat Western's membership has risen by ten since COVID (currently 60); this was a very positive occasion.

On the first day of the Victorian Golf Croquet Singles, I contributed a brief interview on ABC regional radio. I have also been invited to be a studio guest on ABC Radio on Wednesday 14 February, to talk with David Astle about the language used in croquet.

3. Governance: complaints, self-assessment

COMPLAINTS We have still not heard that Croquet Australia has updated its complaints policies. This agenda includes an *in camera* item on complaints.

SELF-ASSESSMENT In January CoM discussed following up our 2021 Council self-assessment. Directors are being asked to complete a repeat of this survey via SurveyMonkey.

4. Representing racket sports

By the time of this meeting I will have attended an update on Child Safe matters organised by Vicsport. Other Vicsport meetings have been in abeyance over the summer.

5. Liaising with Croquet Australia and other states

I have written to the other State presidents proposing that we get together via Zoom to catch up and share experiences. Waiting on their responses.

I have written to the CEO of Croquet Australia asking for updates on their complaints policies; their grants to clubs for increased membership; the documentation of their new logo; the distribution of Croquet Australia Board minutes; and the appointment of our grant funded organiser.

6. Attendance at meetings

Since the last meeting of Council I have attended the following meetings *ex officio*: Strategic Plan Implementation (2); Tournaments and Fixtures (2), GC Selection (1), AC Selection (1), Marketing and Publicity (1), VCC sub-committee (1).

Kate Patrick
9 February 2024

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Croquet Victoria Membership

3047 (10 February 2024).

Director Training

Fifteen of twenty Council Directors have provided proof of completion of training module. One Director has refused to undertake the training.

Croquet Victoria Logo

We are still waiting for the style guide prior to replacing the former logo on website, letterhead, social media etc.

Complaints

Two current complaints being progressed.

Nuisance Phone Calls

We await the outcome of recent contact with Victorian police.

Regional Reports to Council

15 April 2024	SEMCA, WMCMA, NEDCA
19 August 2024	SWCA, EMCA, Bayside
21 October 2024	Ballarat, Geelong, Goldfields
16/23 December 2024	GVCA, Wimmera



Secretary

Correspondence

In Email	
16 Jan 2024	Paul Manwaring - croquet balls now being manufactured
6 Feb 2024	Sport Aus – Game Plan invitation
6 Feb 2024	Governor of Victoria – request for Lilydale 130 th anniversary celebrations details
7 Feb 2024	Maldon Croquet Club - seeking digital history editor
8 Feb 2024	Croquet Australia - information about annual club survey
Various	requests for documentation related to VCC, VCC utility invoices, TMA notification of completed Director Training, Child Safe Club declarations and queries, Liquor Control Newsletters, Golf Croquet State Team Squad acceptances, Association Croquet State Team acceptances, Gateball Newsletters, Golf Complaint documentation, Vicsport e Bulletins, insurance certificate of placement queries,
Out Email	
8 Jan 2024	Regions and Clubs - VCC Future Options Paper
19 Jan 2024	Croquet Australia and Croquet States - VCC Future Options Paper
30 Jan 2024	Regions and Clubs - zoom link for VCC Future Options online forum
8 Feb 2024	Governor of Victoria - invitation to attend 2024 Golf Croquet Regionals
Various	documentation related to VCC, distribution of eBulletins, distribution of national event flyers, complaint documentation,

**Annex D to
Croquet Victoria Council Meeting Minutes
19 February 2024**

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

FROM: Marketing and Publicity Sub Committee

DATE: February 2024

SUBJECT: Marketing and Publicity sub-committee report

Background

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

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

Monthly Newsletters are continuing;

- Ongoing Child Safety updates – link to mandatory training Vic Sports
- Continuing to update Web News of the VCA website
- Updating Draft M and P Budget to the Treasurer
- New trifold brochure launched
- Asking for good news stories
- Croquet Victoria's new logo
- How to track your club's net membership

Due to lack of response to our Expression of Interest for a 2024/2025 calendar and request for photos, we are not proceeding with this.

M and P are still awaiting the new croquet Victoria logo before proceeding with a freshening up on new marketing materials.

Happy to announce that Julie Marlow (Ivanhoe Croquet Club) is happy to be a guest editor for Mallet News to see how it is received.

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

Strategic Plan Implementation Sub Committee.

The Strategic Plan Implementation subcommittee is pleased to present to Council updates to the Implementation Plan 2024. A link to the Implementation Plan (IP) is provided in this report. The TMA Final Action Plan has been forwarded as an attachment to this report. As Council members are aware, the Sub-Committee role is to maintain an oversight of activities scheduled to be undertaken as strategic initiatives within the current Strategic Plan, as identified in the Implementation Plan. This includes Croquet Victoria activities which have been funded by the Victorian Government such as the Together More Active project.

Purpose of report:

1. to present updated progress on goals set for 2026. (where possible)
2. to present updated Activities and Outcomes set for 2024.
3. to link objectives and KPI's related to the funded TMA Final Action Plan within the Implementation Plan.

Implementation Plan and TMA Action Plan.

Changes and additions to the IP are highlighted in yellow on the document.

Several updates have been made within the plan.

Specific actions have been added.

Some areas are still a 'work in progress.'

The TMA Action Plan lists the 7 Project Objectives in detail.

The TMA Action Plan lists information on the 10 Key Performance Indicator (KPI) targets.

Using the five Strategic Priorities of the Implementation Plan, the dot points below provide a snapshot of some of the changes, additions and specific actions to the updated plan (i.e. parts of the yellow highlighted section within the Implementation Plan 2024.) It would be helpful if directors read the full plan prior to the February council meeting.

[Strategic-Plan-2022-26.pdf \(croquetvic.asn.au\)](https://croquetvic.asn.au/Strategic-Plan-2022-26.pdf)

Strategic Priorities

Capability/ Sports Development.

Progress 2023

- Successful on coaching re: targets. (page 2/16 IP)
- Coordinators of 4 codes to prepare plans for growing participation. (page 2/16 IP)
- Currently GC and AC no coordinators. (page 2/16 IP)
- Player Development Groups proving popular and very successful. Excellent uptake. Positive player and club feedback(page 4/16 IP).

Proposals 2024

- Follow up and work is required with aspects of refereeing, further development of coaches, filling positions such as AC and GC coordinator roles and data collection related to the codes (page 2/16 IP)
- Ongoing Player Development Groups. 4 workshops by June 24. Underway in Warrnambool and Mooroopna (**TMA Objective 2, 23/24.**) Plan for 6 additional workshops by end of 2024. Several clubs have indicated an interest to host. (p 4/16IP)

Governance/Management

Progress 2023

- Online training module re: workplace bullying identified and recommended to directors. **(TMA Objective 6 (KPI 6), 23/24)** (p6/16 IP)
- Child Safe policy updated in line with Victorian standards. Resources developed. Clubs/ regions advised to appoint Child Safe Champions. Zoom meetings held to assist implementation. (p8/16 IP)
- Support provided for Club secretaries via Zoom meetings. Build network of club secretaries. (p7/16 IP)

Proposals 2024

- 100% Directors to complete training module re: workplace bullying. To be recommended to region and elected officers. **(TMA Objective 6 (KPI 6), 23/24)** (p6/16 IP)
- 20% of clubs with Child Safe Champion. **(TMA Objective 4, 23/24.)** (p8/16 IP)
- Continue to build network of club secretaries. Continue online connection between Regional Secretaries. OUTCOME: Self-managing groups. Target: 20 secretaries contributing. **(TMA Objective 5, 23/24.)** (p7/16 IP)
- Funding secured for a part-time organiser for 3 years. Positive response from Croquet Australia re: collaboration. OUTCOME: (Appoint organiser. Deliver TMA funded projects. **(TMA Objective 7 KPIs 9 and 10. 23/24.)** (p9/16IP)

Membership/Recruitment/Participation

Progress 2023

- State wide, support facility upgrade and renewal; ground upgrade and renewal. (p10/16 IP) Survey distributed to all clubs re: turf management.

Proposals 2024

- Survey results to be followed up. Potentially organise turf consultant. OUTCOME: Better turf surface for some clubs.(p10/16 IP)

Financial Sustainability/Funding/Sponsorship

Progress 2023

- Benchmark fees with like sports. Researched by Treasurer. (p13/16 IP)

Proposals 2024

- Develop processes for allocating and evaluating investment in clubs OUTCOME: Plan of action. (p13/16IP)

Image

Progress 2023.

- Most clubs report some use of media. (15/16IP)

Proposals 2024

- Develop tracking strategy for social media (15/16IP)
- Contact LGAs to discuss how croquet could contribute to their health and wellbeing plans. OUTCOME: Croquet to feature explicitly in LGA plans as helping them to provide whole of life wellbeing assets.(p15/16 IP)

To conclude, the Implementation Plan is a living document. The Strategic Plan Implementation Sub Committee will continue to oversee implementation and propose improvements and /or amendments to be considered by council.

Recommendation

The Council endorse the Implementation Plan 2024 as presented.

Deb Newbold (for SPISC) February 2024

Together More Active, Croquet Victoria Player Development Project

Final Report to VCA Council, 19th February, 2024

The Croquet Victoria Player Development Project working group is pleased to present to Council the final report on the TMA project.

Background

In late 2019, the working group asked for interest from coaches to take on the role of lead coaches for this programme. The plan was to conduct a series of three 2-day workshops in both AC and GC at host clubs around the state. These workshops would cater for both novice and developing players in both codes. Material for the sessions was to be prepared by the coaches and delivered at workshops about 2 months apart. The coaches would be funded for preparation, travel, accommodation and time coaching from the Together More Active project grant that Croquet Victoria received from the Victorian Government.

Coaches John Van der Touw, Kenn Boal and Stephen Forster accepted the positions of lead coach.

Aims

There had been a noticeable reduction in numbers of players entering tournaments or pennant, with many preferring social club play. The project was devised to encourage players to develop their playing skills to make them more able to compete as well as to promote competitive play as an option for them. Many had not been exposed to advanced coaching and also were not aware of the range of competitions available to them.

A secondary aim was to encourage developing coaches in all regions, by showing them best practice coaching from experienced coaches. We also aimed to be able to provide them with the planned courses for coaching, prepared by our coaches.

Progress

After many months of planning how and where to deliver the project, the arrival of Covid put a stop to the plans, and until travel and congregating was safer, we were unable to continue. Finally, in November 2021 the first workshops were started, in Boort, Charlton and Elwood, with Bairnsdale following in January 2022. These covered both AC and GC at host clubs who had applied during the previous year. We were pleased to have so many clubs asking for the opportunity to host workshops and selected them from widely spaced regions, in both regional and metro areas in an effort to reach as many players as possible. In general, participant numbers were limited to between 15 and 20 players. This was because of the number of courts available and the size of the clubhouses but also for the benefit of the coaches. However, during the early sessions we soon decided that it was necessary for 2 coaches to attend, so we doubled up.

Coaches Maurice Cevaal-Hewitt and Kevin Beard joined the original lead coaches. The success of the workshops also depended on the enormous support from the venue hosts, in publicising the events, providing the player contact details, setting up the courts and clubhouse and being the centre of communication between the participants and the lead coaches.

During 2022 and 2023, further workshops were held at the original venues, and more sets of three workshops were completed at Ballarat, Ringwood, Williamstown, Warrnambool, Mildura, Brighton and Beechworth.

All told, we reached 182 players in 10 locations, in 8 different regions, from Mildura to Beechworth and Warrnambool to Bairnsdale. All workshops included players from nearby clubs; the total number of clubs reached was nearly 50.

Participation is shown in the table below.

GC		AC	
Novice			
Boort	14	Elwood	15
Warrnambool	16	Brighton	16
Mildura	13		
Beechworth	16		
Ballarat Western	15		
Developing			
Bairnsdale	17	Charlton	8
Ringwood	20	Warrnambool	19
Williamstown	13		
TOTAL	124		58
			182

In addition, as a result of this project, six clubs invited Maurice Cevaal-Hewitt to provide a GC coaching programme at their clubs, with a total of 74 participants: Bendigo; Eaglehawk; Shepparton; Wangaratta and Benalla; and Albury.

Feedback

Participants at the workshops were all given drill sheets for practice. They were asked to complete the drills in the first workshop, then again at the end. They also received workbooks to take home, summarising the material that had been covered at the workshops.

Participants were asked to complete surveys online or on paper, covering their experience at the workshop, opinions of the quality of the coaching, the material covered, and their own practice or competition play as well as any change in their perceived skill level.

Following the first (pilot) round of workshops, a 'host kit' of resources was provided to *host clubs* to help them prepare for the workshops.

Hosts were asked for any feedback about the organisation and expectations of them, as well as their experience of the workshops. Some provided written reports and some photographs.

The general consensus was that the workshops were very well received and in particular, the country players were pleased to have quality coaching come to them. Most participants stated that they had really enjoyed the workshops and most also attended all three. There was some difficulty

in grading participants before the coaching, so for some the content was a bit advanced beyond their level and there was a suggestion that a brief course for a total beginner would be worth delivering as well. There were also a few who found that the days were too long. These issues will be considered by coaches in any future rounds using this material.

Even more promising was the number of survey respondents that declared that their play had improved, in both skills and tactics, even though not all respondents stated that they had actually practised! Many had played competition, including local pennant and tournaments, but there was a clear indication that those who had not felt that they were still not ready, or that there was a limited number of opportunities in their area. Some had travelled a large distance to attend the closest workshop and found travel and accommodation costs a big factor.

Confirming our working group decision to double the number of our presenting coaches, players commented that they appreciated the personal attention and would like even more, although they realised that couldn't always be achieved with up to 20 players.

Participants were complimentary to the host clubs, who really did a great job of catering to their needs and that of the coaches who they were supporting.

From *the coaches*, there was a suggestion that teaching novice AC players on a half size lawn, particularly if the court is slow, would be better. There was a very pleasing result of the AC coaching for novice players, that several of those participants have been invited to the Development Squad for further training. Similarly, participants from the AC developing player workshops were winners and runners up in the Country Regional Championships in three sections! One of the metropolitan GC workshop sessions was not as well attended as many others, which was disappointing, given that other hosting applications had been received and we had not been able to cater to them all.

Funding

Together with the grant from the Victorian Government, a small charge of just \$20 per participant for the three workshop sessions meant we were able to deliver this intensive coaching course to a widespread group of Victorian players of both GC and AC.

There has been a further grant allocated to VCA, to contribute to coaching. From this pilot project we can see that expert coaching has a flow on effect, with participants in the project passing on their knowledge, enthusiastically involving their clubmates and beginning to take part in competition. This is even more evident in country regions, where further requests for coaching have been received and catered to.

The largest part of the expenses allocated for this pilot project was for the travel and accommodation for the lead coaches. With local coaches being trained and able to deliver this programme in further workshops, the costs would not require continual grant funding.

Thank you

This project was conducted by the TMA working group:

Sarina Cevaall-Hewitt
Kate Patrick
John Van der Touw
Tricia Devlin,

with state coordinators of coaching, Ruth Duffy, succeeded by Maurice Ceva-al-Hewitt.
and ex president Jim Clement .

The task of hosting the workshops was taken on by individuals at Bairnsdale, Ballarat, Beechworth, Boort, Brighton, Charlton, Elwood, Mildura, Ringwood and Williamstown.

The coaches were Kevin Beard, Kenn Boal, Maurice Ceva-al-Hewitt and Stephen Forster.

My sincere thanks to all of you for enthusiastically seeing this project through to the end, and for the many reminders to me of things to be done!

The future

We propose that the development of coaches, in a coach network that spans the state, should be high on the priority list for Council, and that funding in the coaching budget be allocated to this. Part of this coach training has already commenced, with a coaching video in preparation.

The player training material from this project can then be delivered locally and our players can be taught how to achieve success in this wonderful game.

Tricia Devlin
For Croquet Victoria Player TMA Development Project
February 2024

Annex G to Croquet Victoria Council Meeting Minutes 19 February 2024

Gippsland Croquet Association Report: February 2024

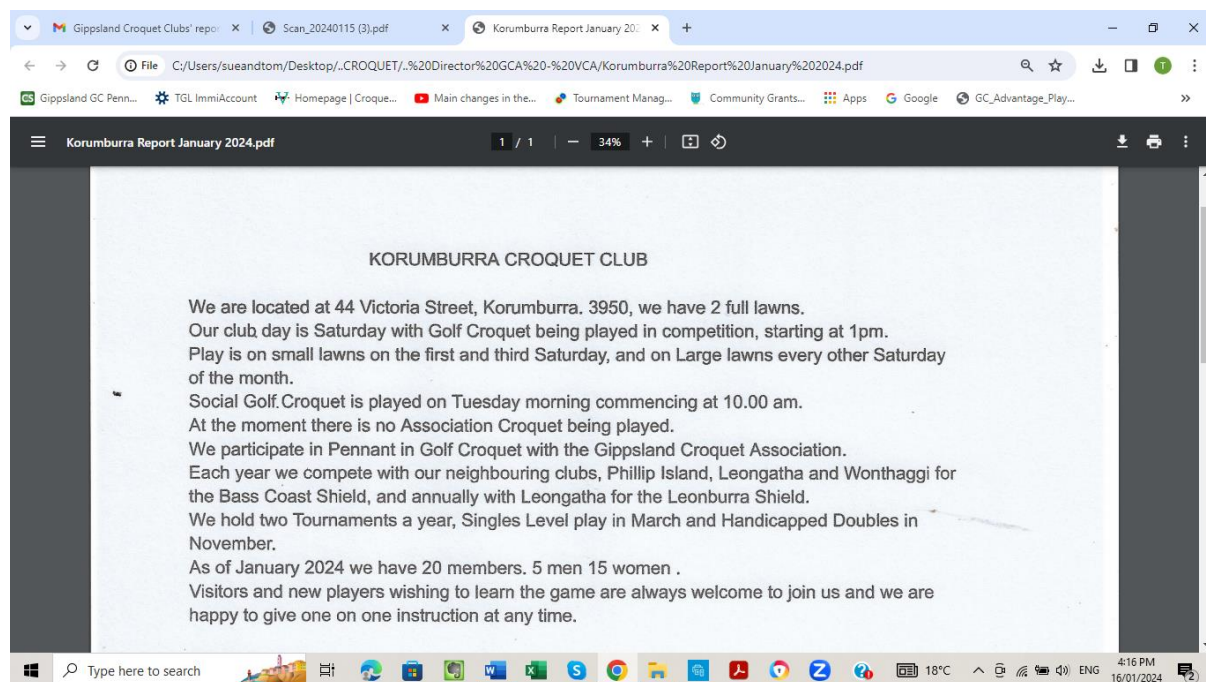
Drouin Croquet Club:

We have 23 members and have just have a few new ones, some juniors.

Some players play in both Pennant and Tournaments' and one is now an umpire (Bob Quayle) who also plays at Cairnlea.

Our Courts are looked after by our greens team who also do other jobs that need to be done. We are also doing work to our club rooms

Korumburra Croquet Club



Sale Croquet Club

Our current membership at January 2024 stands at 25 and 1 Associate member – we've had new members join, old members resign, and the death of a long-standing member; so numbers have remained pretty static over the past couple of years.

We applied for and received grants to enable the boundary fence to be replaced during 2023; a new computer for use by the secretary; Quadway hoops; and sponsorship to go towards the purchase of sets of Dawson balls.

We have also replaced the blinds in the Club Rooms – looking good! Our courts/lawns have been cored during the year and are playing well, a few ongoing paspalum patches being dealt with from time to time.

We continued this year with Twilight Golf Croquet on Wednesday's during the daylight-saving period and this has been well attended.

In February 2023 Deirdre Lebbon was presented with a 25-year certificate as a member of Sale Croquet Club.

On Mondays Association Croquet now has eight members regularly playing – we continue to encourage other members to join us - to no avail!

Two of the local schools have come along with Year 10 students to learn to play Croquet – most of them enjoying themselves. We continue to participate in the Seniors Festival in October with 'Come and Try Croquet.'

Sale Croquet Club were finalists in the Golf Pennant for Gippsland and were successful in winning against Phillip Island Blue. We were also winners in the Association Pennant.

Morwell

We currently have 19 full and five associate members. Our numbers are in decline, our population ageing, and recruitment of major concern. Owing to this situation we were unable to field a pennant team this year which was sad because we really gave it a nudge the previous year. We were also unable to host any tournaments as the manpower just was not available.

That being as it may our courts are looking the best they ever have after we sought professional help and bought them up to speed. We hosted the Gippsland pennant finals in December and received many compliments about our lawns.

We only had one competitive player in 2023 who is the current Gippsland Regional Champion Div 2 and also won the Eastern Qualifier to represent Australia in the World Golf Croquet Championship Over 50's in Bunbury WA in October.

As previously mentioned, membership is a concern and we need to rethink our strategies on this issue, other than that the club is holding its own.

Wonthaggi

Currently we have 37 members, including two juniors. We will be actively encouraging people to join our club now that we have a new Pavilion. The pavilion, pathways and landscaping are now mostly completed and an official opening ceremony will be arranged at the appropriate time.

The club entered two Golf Croquet pennant teams in the GCA 2023 season, with one coming runner up in the West Gippsland section. We provided a qualified referee to officiate at the finals held in Morwell. Several members are regular tournament attendees (and raffle winners) and the club is hosting three separate tournaments this croquet season.

The club was a recipient of grants during the year. RSV provided funding for new croquet balls, and the Bass Coast Shire generously committed funds to assist the club purchase new, sturdy, lightweight chairs. We are also a registered donor under the Victorian Cans and Bottles deposit scheme. This allows members to direct credit to the club's bank account any refunds they may be entitled to, if they so choose.

Lakes Entrance

We currently have 31 full members, and one associate member, having lost one through transfer to Wonthaggi (lucky Club!), and gained 2 new members.

Our courts are in excellent condition, thanks to our volunteers and a steady summer rainfall.

We play Golf Croquet only, and our playdays at present are Tuesday (singles), Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday mornings. We have recently commenced Friday afternoon play with the focus on social interaction, and this is proving very successful, and there is likelihood of some new members as a result.

In November we had a Come Try Croquet afternoon, thanks to sponsorship from the Lakes Entrance Action and Development Association. Free BBQ, soft drinks and door prizes. Whilst 22 people came along, however it did not result in any immediate ongoing interest. However, there were a couple of primary school aged children who proved very keen, and we are intending to connect with local primary schools for possible inclusion in their early 2024 sports programmes. Sadly, secondary school students to date have shown negligible interest, so primary level may be of more benefit.

Our Come Try afternoon was strongly promoted on local social media pages and in shop windows plus Community messages on REG FM radio, plus word of mouth. Outcomes have proven that word of mouth, that is members bringing friends along, is truly the best means of promotion.

We had two pennant teams this season, and though not overly successful, the competition was nevertheless enjoyed.

We are in the process of gaining a grant to install a tournament office plus change room and extra toilet.

Our tournaments are very well run and popular, with full fields and players from all over Victoria. We are struggling, however, with our own Club events due to an ageing membership. This makes it even more important that we grow our membership by spreading the word about our Club and the great game of Golf

Croquet, all the while valuing and retaining our current members, many of whom were integral to Lakes Entrance Croquet Club Inc from its early days.

WARRAGUL CROQUET CLUB REPORT 2023-2024

MEMBERS: Currently 30 members – same as last year, we've had a couple leave and some join.

COURTS: Had a few problems with fungus patches but hopefully this will be under control soon. A new ride-on mower has made mowing an easier task, requiring about half the time. Baw Baw Shire Council is planning to build a retaining wall alongside one of the courts this year. Hopefully, that will start next month which means we will be down to one court for a period. We plan to take this time to work on the condition of the court.

PENNANT: Unfortunately we were unable to field a pennant team this past season due to a lack of numbers wanting to play.

TOURNAMENTS: Well attended singles and doubles tournaments in April and October. Singles tournament scheduled for April is already full with a waiting list.

SOCIAL DAYS: We have two challenge days per year. Twin Towns against Drouin – won by Warragul – and the Twin W'S Challenge against Wonthaggi – also won by Warragul. Come and try days haven't been fruitful.

SCHOOL GROUPS: We have had three groups of secondary school kids come.

ISSUES: The main issue we have at the moment is the problem associated with junior members (we have none, some may come from other clubs in the future, who knows) and visiting school groups. Due to the State Government's legislation requiring all clubs, etc, to adopt a Child Safe Policy which leads to members requiring to have working with children endorsement. The average age of our members is about seventy-two and there is real reluctance to obtain the WWC check. This means that there are only a few of us who are actually "legal" and sometimes the time commitment to these endeavours is tedious. Another issue for all clubs in the future, as I see it, is there will be people not willing to take on office-bearer positions as there seems to be more and more administrative type work involved. I sometimes feel like I need a degree in administration – if there is such a thing! Please note that's my personal gripe and not necessarily a club one.

TRARALGON CROQUET CLUB INC

Traralgon Croquet Club currently have 49 members (not all are active members).

2023 was a successful year - the club held successful Association & Golf tournaments, both doubles & singles throughout the year with good attendances. The club championships for both Association and Golf were held early in the year with quite a few members participating & hope to encourage more members to play in 2024.

We have gained some new members during the year, mainly by word of mouth. Sadly, two of our members passed away in 2023. Two new members to the club have re-located here from Tasmania & played for the New Town Croquet Club in Tasmania.

One of our members, Shane Downie, captained the Vic State Team last year.

The club entered 2 Association teams and 1 Golf team in the 2023 pennant season. A few Golf members played pennant for the first time in 2023 & are keen to play again in 2024.

The club successfully applied for a Latrobe City grant to extend our storage shed for extra green-keeping equipment. It looks very smart and fits perfectly with the current shed. Our "volunteer" green-keepers welcomed the extra space.

Our lawns are OK & the green-keepers are working hard keeping the weeds at bay – we do thank them for the wonderful job they do in rain, hail and shine.

In September the club hosted the Victorian Teachers' Games. The participants are past and present teachers & admin staff. It is a huge event and Latrobe City welcomed the games here in 2023. It was very well organised by the co-ordinators & they kept us well informed. We hosted over 90 players over 3 sessions - it was a lot of fun & a very successful event. The event will be held in the Latrobe Valley again in 2024 and we have once again been asked to participate as croquet will be on the list of sports being played.