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***From the
President's Desk***

The highlight for the latter part of this year has been conducting the National Golf Croquet Handicap doubles and singles tournament at St Leonards with entries including some of the better players on the National scene and members of the Australian Croquet Association executive. The opening of new clubrooms set a good scene, with the clubrooms giving a comfortable and very user friendly finish to the Northern Tasmanian Croquet Centre. Members from the northern clubs did a marvellous job in running all facets of the tournament from organising play to providing player comfort and refreshment. A real credit to Ian Scott and all the organising team.

The centre will now be used quite a bit more as the venue for State medals and championships competitions, and as more and more players experience the pleasures of playing at a larger venue among others involved in the same competition at the same time we should be able to expect better involvement in our State competitions.

Congratulations to all members selected in the State Association team to compete in Adelaide next March, particularly new additions Ricki Barrett and Liz Smith. We wish you well, and whatever you privately feel your chances are, aim to really enjoy the game and see what good things can happen. Good luck.

I must commend the work Sally Liggins is doing along with Trish Verier in developing the TCA web page. With careful work, and a bit of time to plan and work out protocols to develop and upgrade club pages, the system will give us a very usable communication and advertising tool.

Wishing all members a joyful Christmas and New Year season. Hope everyone can plan for a straight backswing and a good follow through as new year resolutions.

Congratulations

Sue Beattie won the Women's Eights at the ACA Championships in Melbourne.

Patsy Paine and Gina Kirkland have been invited to participate in the ACA Golf Croquet President's Tens.

Congratulations also to the Tasmanian Eire Cup team members:

Women: Claire Bamford, Pam Hamilton, Ricki Barrett and Liz Smith

Men: Rob McAdam (Capt.), Callum Hyland, Ian Smith and Peter Rich

Coach: Sue Beattie

Rob McAdam will be our representative in the ACA Gold and Silver Medal



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Geoff Lyons MP
Federal Member for Bass***

The Festive Season

Season's greetings to all our readers!



By the time you read this Santa may already have visited. We hope his visit brought pleasure to you and your family.

Sports equipment has always proved a popular gift. As early as 1909 (December 2nd) in the Launceston Examiner *M'Kay, Sampson & McKinlay* advised that croquet sets at 3s/6d could be delivered on Christmas Eve! (Younger readers may need to ask older club members to translate 3s/6d into \$.¢)

It is traditional for most Tasmanian croquet clubs to take a break during the end of December with competitive play taking second place to Christmas celebrations, but as soon as the January arrives, off we go again.

In the same year as the earlier Examiner advert, at the other end of the state the Hobart Mercury reported (December 24th 1909) that

"Croquet tournaments are being arranged, and will be played in January on the lawns of the New Town Croquet Club. It will be remembered that very successful tournaments were played last season.' The entries already to hand show that the forthcoming competitions will be equally successful."

2013 starts off not at New Town but at Sandy Bay with the All-grades doubles (the HiLo) from January 4th – 6th.

At this time of year the Christmas/New Year carnivals travel around the state. filled today with cycling, foot races and wood chopping events. It was not always the case. As early as 1864 the Mercury advised the Eastern Shore Boxing Day carnival which included Croquet.

B O X I N G D A Y.

THE GROUNDS OF ROSNY

Will be open to the Public proceeding by the Steamer, on

MONDAY and TUESDAY, 26th & 27th inst.

On which occasions a **SPLENDID BAND** is provided.

The Games of Archery, Croquet, Aunt Sally, Quoits, Foot Ball, Dancing, Foot Races (for which prizes are awarded) are furnished for the Public Amusement.

VIVAT REGINA!

There were no cycle races – for until that year (1864 in Paris) bicycles had no pedals, but were propelled by foot – the velocipede.

Continuing with the historical theme, December now sees Leavers Dinners and Schoolies weeks. In 1867 Horton College in Ross presented prizes for the Christmas Examinations with subjects including Latin, Greek, Euclid, English History, Roman History and Scripture. The afternoon was spent on the College lawn, where three croquet sets were in constant requisition until near tea time. Then the dining hall was well filled and became a lively scene. It had been decorated by the students, and provided by the ladies of the establishment.

How times have changed. There were no limousines, no under-age drinking, and no arrests reported!

Southern Golf Croquet Pennants

The first seven rounds of these pennants finished on November the 16th, with the last two rounds to be held in January/February.

Results so far see 3 teams locked on 6 wins apiece.

Team	Wins	Games	Hoops
Kingston B	6	58	504
New Town B	6	56	504
Kingston A	6	53	505
Sandy Bay A	4	44	476
New Town A	2	36	450
Eastern Shore A	2	35	427
Eastern Shore B	1	33	379
Sandy Bay B	1	21	364

Northern Golf Croquet Pennants

Patsy Paine and Lee Turner report that the 2012 Northern Golf Croquet Pennants have been completed with a minimum of fuss with six teams competing over 5 rounds. There was a weekend Sunday pennant, and a separate inaugural mid week pennant. The midweek pennant was played at the NTasCC in order to free up club lawns for social play, while the Sunday pennant was played on club home venues.

41 players took part with a total of 213 games being contested in the weekend pennant. East Launceston came out on top.

	Team	Points	Matches	Games
1	East	4	17	41
2	Devonport Diamonds	3 ½	18	43
3	St. Leonards Convicts	3	18	39
4	St. Leonards Sinners	2	14	34
5	Royal Artillery	1 ½	13	31
6	Royal Blues	1	10	25

Apart from one round being adversely affected by the weather, it was a pretty successful season all round with no recommended changes to the format. However, it would be good to play a pennant with all teams playing each other on a home and away basis, but this would mean a 10 week commitment from clubs.

Five teams contested the midweek pennant, with many beginners playing competitively for the first time. Many found it quite daunting to play on the multi-court venue at St. Leonards, as normal club play was mostly on half-courts due to the popularity of golf croquet. East Launceston Bears played consistently to beat St. Leonards Lionhearts into second place.

Position	Team	Matches	Games
1	East Bears	19	41
2	St. Leonards Lionhearts	15	33
3	East Lions	10	25
4	St. Leonards Saints	9	23
5	Royal Crowns	7	17

Women's and Men's Medals

Six participants provided a close, albeit low-scoring, competition in the Women's Medal. The ability of the more experienced players generally was evidenced by their points for. Ricki had won four of the five games and lost the fifth by inexpertly attempting the golden hoop, two back with the opponent's ball plumping itself out on the other side! Two more games had to be played before Ricki was declared the winner.

Ten players contested the Men's Medal with the top two in each Block playing off in the finals. Ian Smith played brilliant croquet to be undefeated in his section with Mick Wood runner-up. Ian Scott of the St. Leonards Club caused an upset in the 2nd Block defeating Rob McAdam by 1 hoop after full time. McAdam then played Bob Bye in the final game of the block and redeemed himself with a solid win to come a close second to Bob and reach the semi - finals.

Bob Bye played excellent croquet against Mick Wood in one semi - final winning 26 - 0 and Rob McAdam was in outstanding form in the other semi to comfortably defeat Ian Smith 26 -15.

The final between McAdam and Bye was of a high standard with both players making rare errors. The end score of 26 - 15 in favour of Bob Bye did not reflect the closeness of the final until a good break at the end secured the victory.



Winners are grinners: Bob Bye and Ricki Barrett
A great accomplishment for Sandy Bay Croquet Club

TCA Association Medals

These events were conducted at various southern venues during November.

Congratulations to the following:

Gold Medal Mick Wood (ES) Runner up Callum Hyland (SB)

Silver Medal Peter McCulloch (SB) Runner up Rex Potter (NT)

Bronze Medal Karen Boswell (SL) Runner up Kaye Jeffery (SL)

Bronze Brooch Harry Cox (ES) Runner up Colin Foster (SB)

NRCC Association Croquet Handicap tournament

Entries in the 2012 NRCC Association Croquet Handicap Tournament were adversely affected when there was a coaching clinic conducted in Hobart over the same weekend as this event. This placed some players under undue pressure, with some choosing to play in the tournament and miss the clinic, while others choose to attend the clinic and miss the tournament.

No entries were received in C-grade, or for the Novice category, and more effort needs to be put into this area if Association croquet is to have a future. Players from Devonport, East Launceston and St. Leonards competed, and all 3 clubs were represented among the event winners.

Neil Drury from East Launceston won the A-grade singles, with St. Leonards Bob Godfrey the runner-up.

Neil Drury and Lee Turner from East Launceston won the A-grade doubles, beating Ian Scott and Osma Marston of St. Leonards.

Karen Boswell from St. Leonards was victorious in the B-grade singles over Stephen Andersen of Devonport.

Jan Barnes (St. Leonards) and Stephen Anderson (Devonport) won the B-grade doubles, beating Karen Boswell (St. Leonards) and Lee Turner (East Launceston).

Thank you Shan

The Tasmanian Golf Croquet Team was the hottest group at the recent Interstate Shield Competition thanks to the handicraft skills of Shan Burbury.

Shan produced Team Beanies (one knitted while she had a broken wrist) which were greatly appreciated in the cold windy climate at Cairnlea.



Back row: Bob Godfrey, Chris West, Graham Keating, Henry Burbury and Nick Twaits.
Front row: Jenny Parrott, Gina Kirkland, Patsy Paine, Lee Turner and June Pongratz.

Shan also produced a beanie for Terry the Tasmanian Team Mascot during the competition.



A big thank you to Shan from all team members

ACA Bronze Medal

Congratulations to Rob McAdam who was undefeated in this event.

Pos.	Name	Wins	Net Pts
1	Rob McAdam	8	160
2	Callum Hyland	6	61
3	Claire Bamford	6	13
4	Ian Smith	5	63
5	Liz Smith	4	-24
6	Peter Rich	3	-37
7	Ray Irlam	2	-52
8	Ricki Barrett	2	-94
9	Elizabeth Brinsden	0	-90

TCA Website



The new TCA Website has been up since September 1st, so you have probably already visited to see the fresh look and check out your own club pages. If you haven't visited for awhile, take a look at <http://croquettas.com/>

As well as club pages, the website also includes

- TCA event entry forms and conditions
- player handicaps
- names of accredited coaches
- quick links to the ACA Website and
- Laws for AC and GC and the rules for less played variations
- photos of TCA activities

Many thanks to Sally Liggins who single-handedly found the software, developed the website, chased the photos and asked you for your club information. And, thanks to all of you who answered her call for club background, session times, photos and other information for your pages. Sally, for her efforts, has been appointed Web Officer by the Executive Committee and the Assistant Secretary will serve as her backup support.

The TCA Executive at a recent meeting, also provided guidance for the management of the website and the submission of information for publication. They have decided that all changes to the website should come through the TCA Secretary and Directors (as appropriate) and club secretaries for club matters.

Tassie Tales will appear as soon as I send Sally the material for her to upload!

Official Opening of Pavilion

The Pavilion Building at the Northern Tasmanian croquet centre was promised for completion in time for the ACA GC handicap Tournament. It was handed over the day before, and officially opened at the start of the event. The Minister of Sport Michelle O'Byrne and the Launceston Mayor Albert van Zetten jointly unveiled a commemorative plaque in front of a distinguished guest list including ACA President Robyn Wallace, Senator Helen Polley and Rosemary Armitage MLC.



Minister of Sport Michelle O'Byrne, Launceston Mayor Albert van Zetten, ACA President Robyn Wallace.



ACA President Robyn Wallace, TCA President Henry Burbury and NTasCC President Ian Scott.



Watched by Robyn Wallace, Kingston's Kath Lines and Albert van Zetten, Michelle O'Byrne (in stockinged feet) runs the first hoop in front of the new building.

Eastern Shore news

During Seniors Week our Club hosted a "Come and Try" Day. We had a great response and, despite it being a very windy day, everyone enjoyed themselves. During the session we were joined by Senator Lisa Singh and Mrs Margaret Bird (President of COTA) - photographed with ESCC President Dary Jacobs - both of whom were delighted with the number of participants. It was such a successful session we now have 15 coming for a series of six lessons starting later this month.



In the morning of the same day we were visited by a group from Cosmos Disability Services who were accompanied by four carers. It was amazing how well most of them handled the mallets especially one who only had the use of one hand. We had such a lively morning with them that we've invited them back for a Christmas themed morning early in December.

News from East Launceston Croquet Club

The East Launceston Club followed their 2012 A.G.M by a B.B.Q and Association and Golf Croquet games which were enjoyed by all.

A "Service to the club" award went to Eileen Bardenhagen a worthy playing member for 30 years and who has also supported the club in many ways being secretary for several years and a committee member for many years. President Lee Turner thanked Eileen for her support and commented that she had the club's appreciation for her input and loyalty to the club.



Eileen being presented with her award by club President Lee Turner.

Devonport farewell

Members past and present met on October 6th for an afternoon tea to farewell immediate past President Norma Windley.



Norma joined the Devonport Club in 2003 and was secretary for 4 years and was Chairperson from 2010 to 2012. Her contributions and efficient organisation both on and off the field will be greatly missed. Norma and her husband Chris will be moving to Nowra and any grey nomading Tasmanians will always be welcome at the Nowra Croquet Club where Norma has already become a member.

ACA Golf Croquet Handicap Tournament

The first ever ACA Golf Croquet Handicap Tournament to be held at St. Leonards was a great success. Interstate visitors found excellent conditions, and for the most part excellent weather.

What they did not find was the anecdotal two-headed locals, although this shot of Graham Keating, Tim Parker and Tony Hall (ACA treasurer) might mislead some into thinking some of us have three heads!



14 pairs contested the doubles in two blocks of seven. Topping block A was June Pongratz & Nick Twaits from runner up Graeme Keating & Henry Burbury. Block B was won by John Grieve & Julie Thornton(VIC/NSW) with Tony Hall & Greg Diprose(NSW/NSW) runners-up.

The final was an all-Tasmanian affair, with June Pongratz & Nick Twaits emerging victorious over Graeme Keating & Henry Burbury 4-7, 7-4, 7-4.



Another Tasmanian pairing, Deidre & Tim Parker, won the Doubles Plate event.

22 players contested the singles in two blocks. The semi-finals saw Tony Hall(NSW) beat Karen Boswell(TAS) 7-5, 7-3 and Lester Hughes(NSW) beat Peter Freer(NSW) 3-7, 7-6, 7-4.



Tony Hall, Lester Hughes, Karen Boswell and Peter Freer

Henry Burbury made up for some of the disappointment of losing in the Doubles final by winning the Singles Plate event. He is seen here being presented with his prize by the ACA President Robyn Wallace,



St. Leonards Celebration

St. Leonards members celebrated Christmas with a lunch in the new Pavilion building.



TCA Golf Croquet Doubles

The first ever TCA Golf croquet Doubles event was held this month at St. Leonards. Eight pairs took part over two days of double round robin play.



At the end of day one, the Kingston pair of Sue and Bob Beattie led on net points from Bob Godfrey (St. Leonards) and June Pongratz (Eastern Shore).

Going into the final round on day 2, Sue/Bob were on 11 wins out of 13, with Bob/June on 12 wins. A win of 7-5 to Sue/Bob and they would have won the event. 7-6 to Sue/Bob and both pairs would tie equal on wins and also net points. In the end June and Bob got up 7-6 in a nail-biting finish!

Pair	Wins	Net Points	Place
Sue Beattie Bob Beattie	11	36	2
Bob Godfrey June Pongratz	13	40	1
Gina Kirkland Patsy Paine	10	15	3
Karen Boswell Kathleen Lines	4	-17	6
Gwen Denehey Graeme Denehey	7	-5	4
Margaret Brockett Ruth McKean	3	-27	7
Bill Greenhill Ken Philpot	6	-7	5
Sue Hardwick Nick Twaits	2	-35	8



A concluding word from the editor

When I took over as Editor at the end of last year, I promised in my first editorial "a minimum of four annual issues is planned from now on, both in hard-copy and in full-colour electronic form, hopefully to be archived on the TCA website".

Numerically astute readers will have noticed that this year I am one issue short. My new year's resolution is to make good on my promise next year. I also resolve to respond to Sally Liggins numerous requests and send her the means to get Tassie tales on the TCA website.

Bob Godfrey

Email: bobgodfrey1@gmail.com

3 Stone Street, West Launceston

Tel: 63346656

Who's Who?



President

Henry Burbury
34 Chardonnay Drv Berriedale 7011
eMail: hbu394366@bigpond.com

Vice president

Ian Scott,
PO Box 95 Lilydale 7268
Ph: 63951048
Email: ijscott@aapt.net.au

Treasurer

Graham Keating
PO Box 2085 Lower Sandy Bay 7005
Ph: 62254238
eMail: gfk68@bigpond.com

Secretary

Graeme Denehey
15 Maweena Place, Kingston 7050
Ph: 6229 6318
email: gdenehey@bigpond.net.au

NRCC Convenor Director Golf Croquet

Patsy Paine
Ph: 64246152

Director Coaching

Jenny Parrott
Email: jparrott2@bigpond.com

Director Refereeing

Graeme Denehey
email: gdenehey@bigpond.net.au

Tournaments Convenor

Ian Smith,
28 Nimala St. Rosny 7018
Ph: 62441332
Email: liziansmith@bigpond.com

Competition Secretary

Elizabeth Smith
Email: liziansmith@bigpond.com

Tassie Tales Editor & Gazette Correspondent also Constitution Convenor

Robert (Bob) Godfrey
3 Stone Street West Launceston 7250
Ph: 63346656
eMail: bobgodfrey1@gmail.com

State Handicapper

Rob McAdam
eMail: macadamrd@gmail.com

Web Master

Sally Liggins
eMail: sliggins@bigpond.net.au