



From the Editors - Barry Elsey & Gayle Searle

Events, events and yet more events complement the regular nature of club activities and bring out the best in our considerable combined capabilities. In late April we held our annual **Gala Day**, which is always well attended, played and enjoyed in excellent spirit and supported by wholesome foods throughout the day, with the Badger and Mallet in active accompaniment. As usual we raised a small army of club volunteers and by such means hosted a memorable event with flourish and style.

Next, we went in number to enjoy the friendly jousting with fellow croquet tragic members with the annual **Northwood friendly**, reported by Sue in the newsletter. Perhaps we were all rather surprised at our comfortable victory, but no need to go further.

Also, as reported by Gayle, we held our first ever **SWOT analysis**, which was a timely event as Prospect Council (PC) are looking as if they want to change some rental and lease conditions, as well as impose full water rate charges, all leading to more pressure on our finances. At the same time PC have rediscovered a long-forgotten masterplan for the whole Menzies Crescent precinct and the various, sporting, recreational and heritage sites that make up an iconic community space. Some members rightly felt mildly threatened by the tenor of these events, which perfectly supported the Strategic Planning Workshop. The management committee lost no time in considering our response to possible-maybe events that might impact on the club, presently in uncertain ways and means. Some committee members attended two forums to discuss the masterplan from various stakeholder perspectives. The NACC gave an excellent account of our doings, both in form and spirit, and impressed council members. At least the event has helped the club clarify what it stands for, being clear about what makes us tick, what poses a threat together with our early thoughts about future directions.

The **AGM** is fast approaching, and it is time for some of us office holders to take stock and consider our futures. I would have been happy to continue as VP but, in my view, Jim Carter, who has been nominated for the VP position, represents the future more than I do. So, I'm stepping down as VP and with it my roles as newsletter editor, happily shared with Gayle, and as convenor of the SAG. I enjoy writing as a form of relaxation but I'm aware that my academic habits may not be the best fit for the club newsletter. Anyway, it is time for a change of the guard and for new eyes to enjoy communicating with other members. Thank you, Gayle, for being such an excellent co-editor and doing things with pics that I struggle to do adequately.

Barry

Quiet steps are being taken to engage with neighbourhood business and commercial outlets and invite them to the club for social croquet and team bonding activity. A similar approach is being made to Prospect Council and our State MP to visit the club to play with members. The simple strategy is to get us better known as a valuable community-building resource, as well invite them to support our more ambitious projects (such as the Australian Master's Games). There is no harm in reaching out. Thank you Barry for your consistent efforts and work in this area. You certainly have the Club's interest at heart.

Gayle

Calling for a member to step up and take on the role of Newsletter Editor.

This will be the last Newsletter that Barry and I will be editing. It has been a fun run and we have worked well as a team but it is time to take a break and let someone else take the reins. The job is not difficult just being prepared to give of a little time to gathering interesting information from events occurring at the Club and then presenting them in a newsy format of your choice. Please give consideration to taking on this role after the AGM.

Congratulations Kevin Le Poidevin

On the evening of 17/5/23 Kevin received a **Community Service Award**, as part of National Volunteers Week, from the Prospect Council. Kevin works tirelessly behind the scenes at the North Adelaide Croquet Club and really deserves this award.



Kevin with Deputy Mayor, Mark Groote and CEO, Chris White.



Deputy Mayor, local MP Lucy Hood and CEO. If Kevin looks like he is asleep it is because he had only arrived back in Australia from Europe that morning and had lost 2 night's sleep!

Association Croquet News – Roger Harris

Colin Pickering North Adelaide Games 2023

A reminder that these Games have been booked for the following dates:

- **Invitation Singles:** Friday night 10/11, Saturday 11/11 and Sunday 12/11.
- **Swiss Singles:** Wednesday 15/11, Thursday 16/11 and Friday 17/11.

Roger Harris

AC Captain, North Adelaide Croquet Club

Time to have a go at AC Ladies! We can look this good too! Thursday mornings and Saturday afternoons at NACC



Golf Croquet News – Sue LePoidevin

While winning Pennants is a good outcome I strongly believe that encouraging as many people to play as possible should be our aim. Getting out in the fresh air, exercising, using the grey matter to determine what shots to play and having fun in a social setting is so beneficial to all of us. Donning the red and white uniform and being part of a team is a great experience and makes us all feel proud.

Please name all of your belongings, especially your mallet, when playing at Hutt Rd. It is very easy to lose items when people take them mistakenly.

The little things really do count. Have you noticed that there are often cakes or some nice Morning Tea item ready for us at break time? More often than not these items have been brought along, freshly baked, by **Elizabeth. Thank You Elizabeth!**

Sue Le Poidevin

Golf Croquet Captain

The Northwood Friendlies 2023

On Friday 2/6/23 our club participated in the annual competition with the Norwood Croquet Club. This year Norwood hosted us and they certainly provided much better weather than we managed in 2022! It was a lovely day and we started the first of 3 games at 10am. Each club provided a team of 16 players with the same 4 rotating over 3 different lawns. Two games were held before lunch and one was played after lunch. The eventual winners were **North Adelaide** with 14 games to 9 with 1 game drawn. It was a really pleasant day of socialising, a good standard of croquet and great hospitality.

Thank You Norwood!



Farewell Dan O'Connell (Doc) (but not Goodbye!)

For 10 years Dan has been the smiling face behind The Badger and Mallet NACC Bar. He has worked tirelessly behind the scenes to keep our Bar well stocked and to provide a wonderful service for club members. Now it is time for him to take some time for himself, to travel with Tamara, and to relax. Our Bar will never be the same again so THANK YOU, Dan, for your dedication and hard work. Sunday 18/6/23 was Dan's last shift so a pleasing number of members gathered to thank him and to celebrate his time with us. We hope to see Dan and Tamara back on the Croquet lawns in the very near future.



Notes from the Badger and Mallet

Dear All,



"I have a new manager to control things behind my bar! I do hope she likes Badgers as I am really a friendly character and just like to be in my comfy seat overlooking all proceedings. Her name is Karen and she is really caring about keeping things up to date so I am feeling very confident the bar will carry on perfectly well. Hope she gives me a pat sometimes. Good bye to my dear mate Dan, who looked after me so well. I hope he comes to see me again sometime soon. Hello to Karen! Here's to continued fun times together!"

from The Badger

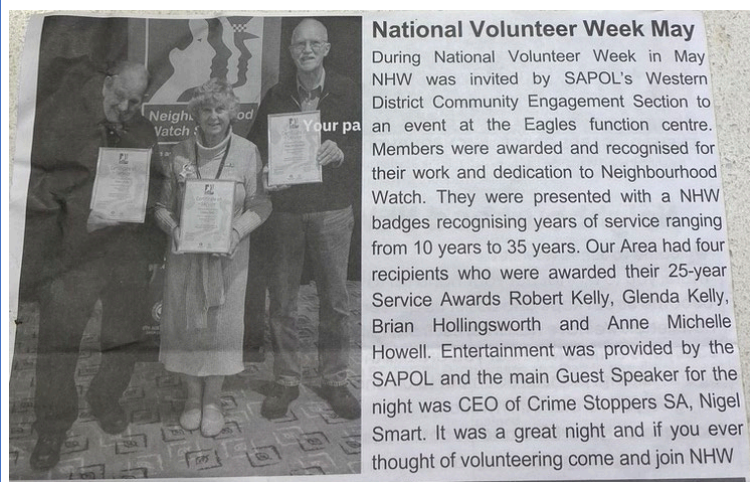
Come & Try Croquet

Our Sunday afternoon sessions also provide an opportunity for other Club members to bring along friends to have a try in a relaxed setting. Barry has on many occasions, taken this opportunity with the result that a couple of new members have joined our Club.

Maintaining our Club and its membership is up to us all, so please consider how you might assist in introducing the game we all love playing to some of your friends. Tuesday and Saturday mornings are a little challenging initially for newcomers but to have a more relaxed and individual instruction time allows for more successful come & try outcomes. Let's all work together on encouraging more people to Come & Try Croquet.

Gayle Searle

Congratulations to Robert & Glenda Kelly



Congratulations to Robert & Glenda Kelly for their recent National Volunteers Award for 25 years assisting with Neighbourhood Watch- Enfield. It is not surprising that Robert & Glenda have been involved as they are very community minded and both contribute significantly to North Adelaide Croquet Club as well. Fantastic effort! Well done!

XIX Australian Masters Games 2023

Robin has been working hard already with many of the early administrative requirements prior to the October Games. There is a Newsletter – Monthly Masters if anyone is interested in keeping up with all the latest news. To register go to amg.admin@unisport.com.au

We will be hearing more from Robin when she returns from her interstate outback adventures, as organisation revs up closer to the event October 7th – October 14th 2023.

Strategic Planning Workshop

Sunday afternoon July 9th

Guest Facilitator: Gary Bowman

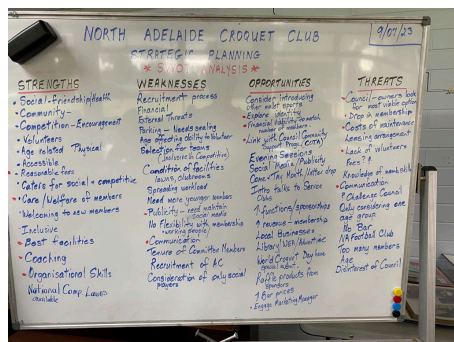
Organisers: Gayle Searle Barry Elsey



What a great response from members to be part of future planning for our Club. Many thanks to the 25 people who attended on such a wintry day but we were very warm and comfortable thanks to our air-conditioning.

Groups were asked to discuss and respond to various questions that enabled thinking about our **S**trengths, **W**eaknesses, **O**pportunities and **T**hreats. Reporting back to the whole group enabled a wonderfully balanced and honest sharing of ideas. All were summarised & recorded by Gayle on the whiteboard, for further reflection after a tea/coffee/cake break. The last part of the workshop was then directed towards different groups looking to what actions are needed Now Soon and Later. Barry has collected all documented responses and will provide a summary to the AGM. A small committee will then take on the task of following up on these actions and maintaining communication to Club membership.





Many thanks to Gary who walked us through this process and identified possible 'what if' scenarios to consider. It was a pleasing response after significant planning efforts but as with all workshops we all now have a great deal more work to follow up.

Birthdays! Another one hits the deck!

Thank you to the social committee for the lovely birthday cake enjoyed by all July 4th. Gayle Recently Gayle Searle "came of age" as a 70-year-old. Congratulations Gayle. We hope that you had a fantastic Birthday. We celebrated at the club with a lovely cake. Thanks to Lynn for organising it. Gayle does a tremendous amount of work for the club and we are all very grateful!! Sue.





Enjoy precious times with family, friends and neighbours. Find some happiness in every day.

Gayle Searle

