



Plimmerton Croquet Club Newsletter

MARCH 2018

April

1-2 Apr – Easter GC
Tournament played at
Waikanae

7 Apr – Castle Cup
played at Waikanae

12 Apr – Plimmerton
Committee 5:30

15 Apr – Cherrington &
Ellis Cup Waikanae

May

5 May – AGM 1pm

26 May – WCA AGM
Plimmerton 10am

Rosters

April

Lawn Surrounds
John Brown
Line Marking
Graeme B

Housekeeping
1-10 John G
11-20 Michael H
21-31 John W

Shopping
Alison

May

Lawn Surrounds
Kelvin
Line Marking
Neville

Housekeeping
1-10 Sarah T
11-20 Heather T
21-31 Gaelene U

Shopping
Jan W

Upcoming Events

Lawn Closures

Keep an eye on the Club noticeboards and emails for the date when the remedial work will start on lawns 1, 2 and 3. There will be no croquet from then until lawns 4 and 5 are declared fit for play (hopefully at the end of May). It will be worth the pain to have our lawns fit for play again although I'm sure we'll all miss the element of chance our current lawns provide.

Plimmerton Easter Golf Croquet Tournament

Sunday 1st April for handicaps 8-9 and 10-16. Monday 2nd April for handicaps 4-7 and -2 to 3. The tournament will be played at Waikanae.

Mana College Students

There are two more sessions to come scheduled for 6th and 13th April from 12-1(ish). Many thanks to all those who have volunteered to help show the students our wonderful game. The first session seemed to go well.

Happy Easter Everyone!!

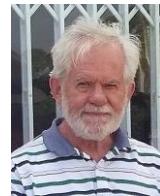
Recent Successes

Congratulations:-

to Murray Cain for winning the Wairarapa AC 18+
Tournament played recently at Masterton. Also to Ivan
Nicholson for coming third.



to Brian Williams for winning the recent Waikanae Health GC
Tournament



to Tom Berryman for winning and John Kliem for
being runner-up in the recent WCA AC Vets
Tournament played at Plimmerton and Petone



to Wayne Gair who was invited by Croquet NZ to take part in the
"Mrs R. A. Clarke Copper Tray Invitation" played recently at
Pukekohe. Wayne performed very creditably and won 4 (and it
could/should have been 5) of his games.

Excerpts from the Captains' Report

Easter GC Tournament.

With still 4 weeks to go we have almost a full field in each Division. Sue D has negotiated with Waikanae to transfer the event to their courts given the condition of ours.

WCA Programme for 2018/19

Draft programme material has been received from WCA inviting comments regarding:

1. What CNZ events the region should host over the next three years
2. What events each Club would be willing to host in the coming season

The programme is to be discussed at the March Biannual meeting but in the meantime, Tom has provided the following comments:

1. Given uncertainty regarding future lawn renovations it is not possible at this stage for Plimmerton to make commitments to host any tournaments during the coming season.
2. The limited number of CNZ events proposed to be hosted by WCA in 2018/19 is probably reasonable given the region's contribution to the Worlds. However, the WCA should consider hosting more GC Tournaments to encourage WCA players to participate and avoid travel costs.
3. The 18+ AC/GC Matchplay event should revert to just AC. Inclusion of a GC component does not appear to have made a difference in terms of player support.
- 4.

Parkinsons Support Group

The group will recommence meeting from 12 March, 1pm – 3pm and every 2nd Monday on alternate months.

Mana College Students

John and Carol Kliem have volunteered to look after the student groups, starting from Friday, 9 March, but no doubt would welcome assistance from others.

Tom, Sue & Graeme

Excerpts from the Groundsman's Report

Mowing:

Lawns mowed 7 times in January and 6 times in February – once very late and in the dark with Ron having severe difficulty seeing where he was going (done during the World Champs after play was finished). All lawns verticut with 1mm wide tines on 19th February - hire of machine cost \$45.00, thanks to a very friendly price and marvellous service from Tawa Mower Services.

General Maintenance:

Prior to the World's Tournament, roofs were replaced on two shelters at the Ulric Street side (Robin Chesterfield with some assistance from Ivan Nicholson) and work undertaken to paint the shelter adjacent to the Garage (Patsy/Ross and John Brown). A white line was established along the front of the terrace (Kelvin).

Chris Cambourn continues to tend to the gardens in his inimitable way and this generated significant positive comment during the World Champs. Of particular attraction were the dozens of Monarch Butterflies with some of the players almost seeming to take more note of them than the game they were playing!

Lawn Maintenance:

Following the World's Tournament, the lawns had to be reconfigured back to 5 courts and this was undertaken over 3 days from 14th to 16th February (34 man hours



involved).

The lawn surface has proven to have a few challenges as a result of weather conditions and our past management approach whereby maintenance work has generally been deferred until late autumn to avoid disrupting the use of the courts for play until late May or June. Information gleaned from Turf publications, the CNZ Greens Handbook and discussions with specialists in the field have indicated that we have two main problems: Thatch buildup which needs to be dealt with more regularly to manage it; and invasion of Poa Annua as a result of the timing of our management practices.

The thatch is a problem which will take a longer term strategy to address and can involve a variety of potential solutions, the most appropriate of which seem to be regular verticutting and/or coring. The more immediate problem is the lack of appropriate grass cover as a result of the Poa Annua dying off over dry periods, exacerbated by the recent drought. If left unchecked, this growth and die off process becomes more pronounced as the Poa Annua gradually invades the turf and takes over from the more desirable and summer resilient grass combination of Chewings Fescue and Browntop. The challenge here is that our previous renovation works have been undertaken at a time when the Poa is growing strongly and the Fescue/Browntop combination is in a phase of near dormancy, thus creating more of a problem. My recent approach is an endeavour to reverse this situation in the strong growing season for the Fescue/Browntop mix. As a follow up to the verticutting exercise and following the practice recommended in various publications, approximately 3m³ of soil was spread and massaged into the cuts made on courts 4 and 5. Since that time work has been progressing to import soil (about 4m³) and to reseed with a mixture of Chewings Fescue and Browntop.

This exercise has proved to be expensive in terms of effort from club members and is ongoing, with the main helpers being Kelvin, Dianne, Ivan, John Brown, Tony and Lynne Le Petit and Ron Dewsnap. The cost of the grass seed is not insignificant, at \$10 per kilogram, although that was a pretty friendly price from Wrightson's (normal price is about \$12.00 per kilogram).

The supply of soil from North City Shingle Supplies has been very friendly as to quantities supplied for the nominated price and is ongoing. Cartage to the site has been in small quantities (just under 1 cubic metre at a time in my trailer) and at no cost to the club.

My view is that we need to address the thatch problem in the longer term with appropriate management and at a suitable time of the year (maybe in two hits, thus keeping at least two courts in operation at any one time). Furthermore we need to keep on top of the grass situation by modifying our management to encourage the more summer resilient grasses and to inhibit the growth patterns of Poa Annua as far as is possible. This requires small works on an ongoing basis once the grass sward is established to maintain the surface and which may result in works at times when members find it inconvenient.

Wayne Gair
For the Grounds Team

Reminder

It's That Time of Year Again - Please Return your Trophies

April 15th is the absolutely final date by which that coveted Plimmerton Croquet Club trophy which you are proudly displaying on your mantelpiece must be returned to the Clubhouse so that there is time to prepare the trophies for this year's prizegiving.

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