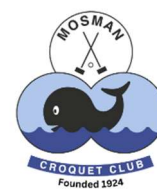


April
2026

Mosman Croquet Club Newsletter



President

Joanne Nimmons

Vice President and Membership

Chris Gingell

Secretary

Tim Cormack

Treasurer

Michael Chang

Games Captain and Coaching

Rob Wright

AC Captain

John Fransen

Grounds Captain

Tony Michaels

General Committee

Rob Boyer
John Fransen
Monique Gingell

Sub-Committees:

Games
Events
Handicap
Membership Review
Strategic Planning

Property manager

John Fransen

GC Referees

Michael Chambers
Michael Chang
Michael Morton-Evans



**Upcoming Events
2026**

Pennants

Div 2 and 3
March – July

Gibson Trophy

17th May

Div 3

Championship

June

AGM

11th July

AC Bronze and Silver Club

Championships

Tribute to Robert Gibson

Robert Gibson was Grounds Captain when I joined Mosman Croquet in c 2012, or if not holding that lofty title he certainly was organising, together with Mary, the lawns and gardens together with general maintenance at our Club. It should be noted that the Annexe we use and enjoy today would not have existed without Mary and Robert's involvement. Quietly spoken and gentle in manner, he always had a smile and kind words of encouragement for new beginners. Mary had requested my help with Robert in the setting up of a kickboard running along the eastern boundary of lawn 2 and following that Robert asked if I could help him with the lawns.

The Grounds Team then consisted of Ron Barratt as Captain, Gordon Scott (deceased) Tony Michaels and Robert Gibson as advisor and consultant. We were later joined by Hugh Lander and a strong bond of friendship was developed. The years passed and Robert no longer had the strength to assist but was always interested in the condition of our lawns and when visiting the Club would always make a point of complimenting us on our efforts. The Gibson Family have made an incredible contribution to Mosman Croquet and Robert Gibson was a guiding light in planning and achieving the great lawns and Club that we enjoy to this day. The bench seat at the northern end of lawn 3 is dedicated to Robert Gibson.

Tony Michaels
Grounds Captain 2026

From Joanne our President

Dear all,

The sad loss of our very much-loved members, Robert Gibson and Gordon Ingate very much dominated this month, and all our love and sympathies to their families and friends. It was a privilege to share some of Gordon's 100th birthday celebrations, on Monday, 16th April.

Robert's wake will take place at Mosman Croquet Club, and we are all honoured that the family has chosen the club, for members to say farewell to Robert, and celebrate his life. Mary has invited all members, to arrive at 12 pm, for light refreshments, and would like members to stay on, and continue, when the family leaves at 2.45.

Members will have received their Annual Subscription Notices this month. It is pleasing to note that there will be no increase in the subscription fees, this year.

Members are invited to a morning tea Wednesday, 6th May, 11.am, with Alison Sharpe, to celebrate NSW's win of the AC Eire Cup in Perth, earlier this month. Good article by Peter Fitzsimons regarding Alison, posted in the clubhouse. Alison invited Peter and several other members for a game, and seemed to have enjoyed his introduction to croquet, and was in awe (unsurprisingly) of her croquet skills.

Many thanks to Rob Wright and Steve Anthony for organising the mini-comps which have kept Division 3 members on their toes, good fun and good competition practice.

Take care,

Joanne

From Chris our Vice President and Membership Coordinator

A health check on our club comparing membership and waiting list information from 2021 with 2026 has yielded some interesting insights.

- Total membership has increased by 16% over the last five years.
- The average age of members has increased from 76 to 78 years old.
- The average age of people on our waiting list has increased from 75 to 77.
- The percentage of Full members with an AC handicap has dropped from 15% to 10%.
- The percentage of Full members with a GC handicap has dropped from 65% to 60%.
- In 2026, we have less people on GC handicaps of 6, 7, 8, 11 and 12, than we did in 2021.

Our current trajectory suggests challenges lie ahead in finding active players and volunteers to help in running our club.

From Michael Chang our Treasurer

2026-2027 Membership Subscription

A reminder that membership fees for the period from 1 June 2026 to 31 May 2027 are now payable.

The committee has resolved to keep the full member annual subscription at \$645 (or \$583 for members affiliated elsewhere) and social member annual subscription at \$130, unchanged from the previous year. This marks the first instance in over ten years where the subscription rates remain unchanged. The decision is motivated by the club's strong equity position, the anticipated budget surplus for 2026-27 and a consideration to providing cost-of-living relief to members.

Please contact Tim on secretary@mosmancroquet.org.au if you have not received an email containing the subscription notice.

From Rob Wright our Games Captain

With the hot and humid summer months behind us, the club is now entering the Competition period of the year. We have seven teams Pennant teams: two teams for Division 1 (being coached and managed by Alison Sharpe), two teams for Division 2, and three teams for Division 3. The co-ordination for Div 2 and Div 3 teams is being undertaken by our Assistant Games Captain, Steve Anthony.

The Gibson Trophy is in May. Coaching activity and a preparation mini handicap competition has been run for this major Trophy. All members are encouraged to enter this Golf Croquet handicap singles event by contacting Steve Anthony or Fidy Westgarth.

The Association Croquet Bronze and Silver club championships will shortly commence.

From Richard our GC Competition manager

After two months of very high standard play, we have a winner for the first competition on our 2026 calendar - the Torbreck Top 10. Aniko Osvald is a new member at Mosman but is a very experienced player, first in New Zealand, then at Manly. She is spectacular to watch and is noted for her power and long-distance accuracy, whether clearing opponents or running hoops. During the competition Aniko only lost one game.

Runner up is Aniko’s husband, Charlie. He is a more conventional player but is also high quality. And, like Aniko, it’s obvious he loves playing croquet.

The Top 10 was played using the new Target Scores version of Advantage GC and everyone seemed comfortable playing it. This was an important outcome because Mosman was one of the first clubs in the world to use this new handicap system. It became the standard on 1st March. Full results for the Top 10 are available on the club website and in the GC competition folder.

Following the Top 10, our next GC competition is the Division 2 Championship. Invitations have been sent to members with handicaps from 5 to 8, but the competition is also available to division 3 players, preferably those playing close to division 2 standards. The competition will be level play.

Finally, many players are building up to the most popular event – the Division 3 Championship. This is the big one, usually with three blocks and 20 or more competitors playing 50 games. It will start in June and should avoid the current high lawn use associated with Pennants and related activities.

Marrickville Centenary: Birdie Telfer Invitation

Mosman CC was honoured to be invited to participate in Marrickville Croquet Club’s centenary celebrations by participating in their invitation tournament, the Birdie Telfer Memorial Trophy on Saturday 18 April. The event remembers their much-loved Birdie Telfer who took on the role of secretary of Marrickville Croquet Club for a temporary 3-month period in 1967 and ended up staying on as secretary for 15 years!

2026 was the first time the Birdie Telfer was played as a GC tournament. Representation from Mosman, Manly, Sutherland and Strathfield Clubs attended at Marrickville - each team having two women, handicaps between 7-12.

Thank you, Marrickville for making us so welcome. As Mosman reps, Sue and I enjoyed the day immensely - the games and the hospitality, both. Congratulations to Manly CC for being outright winners on the day. They will have more challenges in the Finals at Marrickville’s Centenary festivities on 2 May.

Sue Clubbe and Fidy Westgarth



Presentation of the winners of the Croquet NSW AC Silver Doubles held 18/19 April at Cammeray Croquet Club.



Bronwyn McGrane (Mosman) and Marg O’Brian (Cammeray)



Weekly Program – A Reminder

Mosman's lawn use is divided into two types of session – **Club Play** and **Open Play**. These are spread throughout the week to provide options for members and are shown on the Weekly Program chart.

Club Play sessions are social sessions in which members play organised games (usually doubles) against a variety of drawn opponents. Association / Ricochet sessions are shown in blue and Golf croquet in green. There are also special variations - Friday mornings are reserved for singles GC play and on Monday lawns 1 and 2 are reserved for divisional GC play.

All other sessions are **Open Play**, and they can be used in a number of ways. Individual coaching and competition games can be pre-booked, and play can cover any type of game, AC, GC or Ricochet. Regular group coaching sessions are also reserved for these sessions.

As with any practical system, there is also some flexibility with the Club Play sessions. If Club Play lawns are available, they can also be used for other purposes, with permission. An example is that a Friday morning singles session could be used for a singles competition game.

More information is available in the Arrangements for Play During Club Play Sessions, and you'll see it stresses that common sense and goodwill will solve most problems.



- A new Charter has been approved, and it can be located on MCC website under Constitution.
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- Joanne Nimmons has been elected as Chair of CNSW.
- Alison Sharp, as member of the NSW team, has won the 2026 AC Eire Cup in Perth.
- Michael Chang – New GC Examining Referee.



- The Committee has decided to continue with the provision of soft drinks. We rely on members' honesty to pay \$3 for the variety of bottles of soft drink found in the fridge to continue with the service and to cover costs.
- Individual coaching should go through Games Captain.



Let's Hear from You

Your **contribution** to our **newsletter** would be appreciated.

Stories, poems, crosswords / puzzles/fun activities, photos you have taken of club events. Your contribution will be acknowledged. This way other members can get to see we are all part of a wonderful croquet community at MCC.

You can send your contributions to gingellmonique@gmail.com



Gibson Trophy 17th May.

Entries by 7th May. Forms in clubhouse or online @ MCC website.

Social Saturday starts from 1.30 pm. All welcome. Have a game or two, bring drinks and nibbles and join other members.

Social Sunday, 3rd May, the first Sunday of every month from 2.30 pm. Same as social Saturday.

Ricochet Saturday mornings start at 11.30 am. All welcome. No previous experience is needed. You will be partnered with someone who can help.
After Ricochet, join the Social Saturday players for a round of GC.

AGM 11th July at 11 am.



[See You On The Lawns](#)