

February
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

MEM Trophy
2nd and 3rd March

Opening of the Lawns
8th March

Pennants
Div 2 and 3
March – July

TobrekTop 10
1st Feb to 31st March

AGM
11th July

AC Women’s Singles Championship
19th to 21 June

From Joanne our President

Dear all,

Looking forward to the Opening of the Lawns, Sunday 8/03/26, and hoping to see many of our newer members. Always a great event which welcomes the start of MCC croquet season, and a great opportunity to thank MCC’s wonderful Grounds Team, without whose dedication and hard work, we would not have the lawns we have, and which are so much appreciated by our members and visitors alike. Please see flyer in the clubhouse, \$15.00 p.p. bring your own beverage and glass.

All our thanks to Greg Breden, for his BBQ skills that he has provided for the MCC members over the years. We have all greatly enjoyed Greg’s culinary skills, and Marion’s quiet but invaluable organization.

Greg is having a well-earned rest. Thanks so much to Tim Cormak who will be BBQing at the Opening of the Lawns. I’m sure the handover will involve a great sharing of expertise.

MEM Tournament practices are well under way. All MCC members are welcome to come and watch some great croquet played with friendly but competitive rivalry between Mosman, Elanora and Manly clubs. Monday 2nd March at Manly, Tuesday 3rd March at Mosman. Best of luck to all Mosman teams.

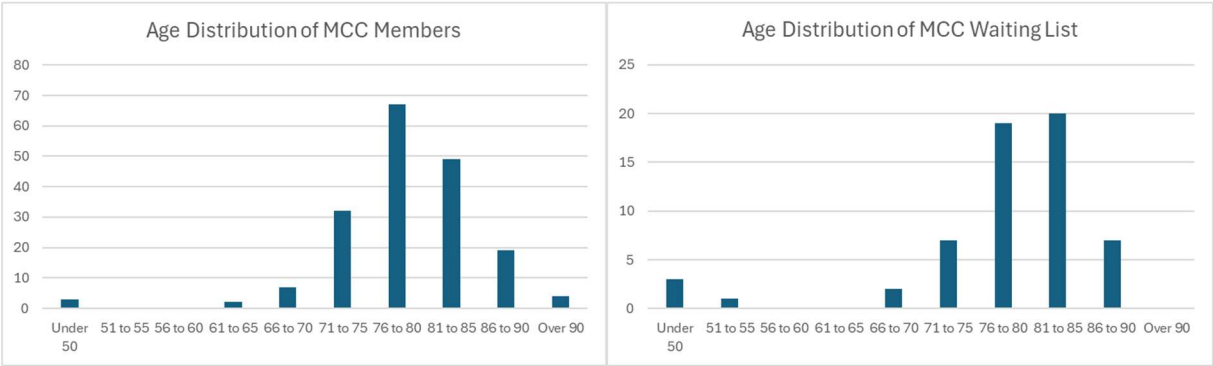
Take care,
See you on the lawns,
Joanne

From Chris our Vice President and Membership Coordinator

Currently we have 186 members - three Life Members, 172 Full Members and 11 Social Members – plus 60 people on our Waiting List. If there are any changes in your contact details or handicaps, please keep me updated.

Copies of the current Membership Application form can be found pinned to a noticeboard in the main clubhouse. Anthea has also published the form on MCC’s website in the Members Only - Club Documents area.

The average age of our members is 79 and 77 for those on our Waiting List. The age distribution for both groups is charted below. An increasing focus of our club in the future will be to achieve a more even distribution across retirement age groups.



Musings from Rob our Games Captain

The months of January and February have been dedicated to thorough preparation for what promises to be a busy year. Having recently assumed the role of Games Captain for the club, I spent much of January quietly familiarising myself with the responsibilities and expectations associated with this position.

Penny provided valuable support during the transition and offered insights into the scope of the Games Captain's duties. The selection process for the MEM team took place, followed by the commencement of training sessions.

Throughout this period, some lawns were unavailable, and the heat and humidity during the first six weeks of the year meant that ideal playing conditions were limited.

Social games are now well underway and preparations for Pennant inter-club play are accelerating. Eighteen Division 3 members participated in an early evening session where they were divided into groups to develop ideas for Pennants season training and team selection criteria. I am pleased to announce that Steve Anthony accepted the position of Assistant Games Captain and will oversee the management of the Division 3 Pennants season.

Alison Sharpe organised an evening meeting for Division 1 players to discuss plans relating to coaching and preparation for the upcoming season. Two teams have been registered for Division 1 competition.

Coaching and training matches simulating competitive scenarios have now begun for Division 1 each Tuesday from 3 pm to 5 pm. Similarly, our three Division 3 teams participate in coaching and practice games every Monday from 3 pm until 5 pm.

To guide the club’s future approach to games management, I have outlined foundational statements for our ongoing activities. Unlike most journeys, where a destination is reached, Mission, Vision, and Cultural/Core Value statements represent ongoing commitments that evolve over time. While many of us may hold these values instinctively, documenting them ensures clarity and shared purpose. We would all hold different Mission, Vision and Cultural/Core Values for Mosman games activities. However, the following are the ones I will use.

Mission:

- To establish us as a leading Australian club for competitive and social croquet, fostering player development and inter-club engagement.

Vision:

- To offer high-quality activities for both social and competitive players
- To serve as the croquet club for adults seeking lifelong participation in sport
- To have Mosman as the primary croquet club for our members
- To maintain membership levels aligned with our available lawns and facilities

Cultural / Core Values

- Approach croquet with friendliness, fairness, and respect for the rules of the game.

Rob Wright

Some Div 3 players in full practice mode



From Tony our Grounds Captain

Lawn 1 was set up on Monday 23rd February and all lawns are now ready for play. Members will note the infestation of Ground Pearl in the southeast corner of Lawn 1 and we have been working to treat this over the past 3 weeks. Ground Pearl is a fungus that reside under the surface and appears after prolonged dry weather and while impossible to eradicate we endeavour to control the outbreak with fertilizer and watering.

March will be a very busy month with various tournaments set down and **members are requested to take care with set up and take down of Hoops on all lawns including the centre post**. Tap down and lift vertically to void damaging the cavity. Your consideration in this will assist us to maintain the very high standard of lawn care that MCC is proud to offer to our members and visitors.



Tips - Stalking the Ball

Stalking the ball in croquet is a fundamental technique for ensuring correct body alignment and accurate aim.

Approach from Behind: Start two or three meters behind your ball and walk forward along the imaginary line connecting your ball to the target.

Align Your Body: As you walk, position your feet, hips, and shoulders square to the line of the shot.

Final Positioning: Stop behind the ball, place your mallet, and ensure your nose is roughly above the back of the ball.

Check the Line: While in your stance, you can "cast" (take a few practice swings) to verify that the mallet is moving in a straight line toward the target.

Keep Your Head Down: Throughout the process and the shot, keep your eyes fixed on the back of the ball to avoid lifting your head and ruining the alignment.

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





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

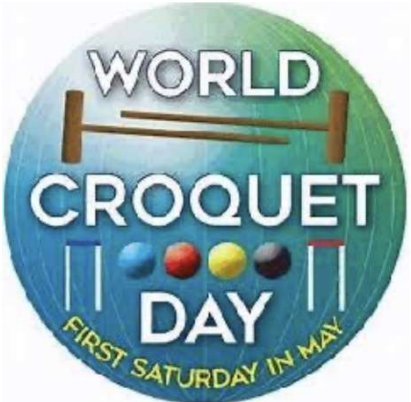
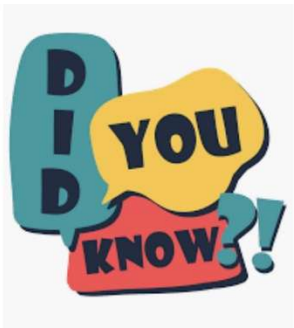
Social Sunday, the first Sunday of every month from 2.30 pm. Same as social Saturday. March Social Sunday is on Sunday 1st March. Because of Easter the April social Sunday will be on 12th April

Ricochet Saturday mornings start at 11.30 am. All welcome. No previous experience is needed. You will be partnered with someone who can help.

Ricochet is great for GC players wanting to practice roquet shots of all lengths and positioning the striker ball directly in front of hoops.

After Ricochet, join the Social Saturday players for a round of GC.

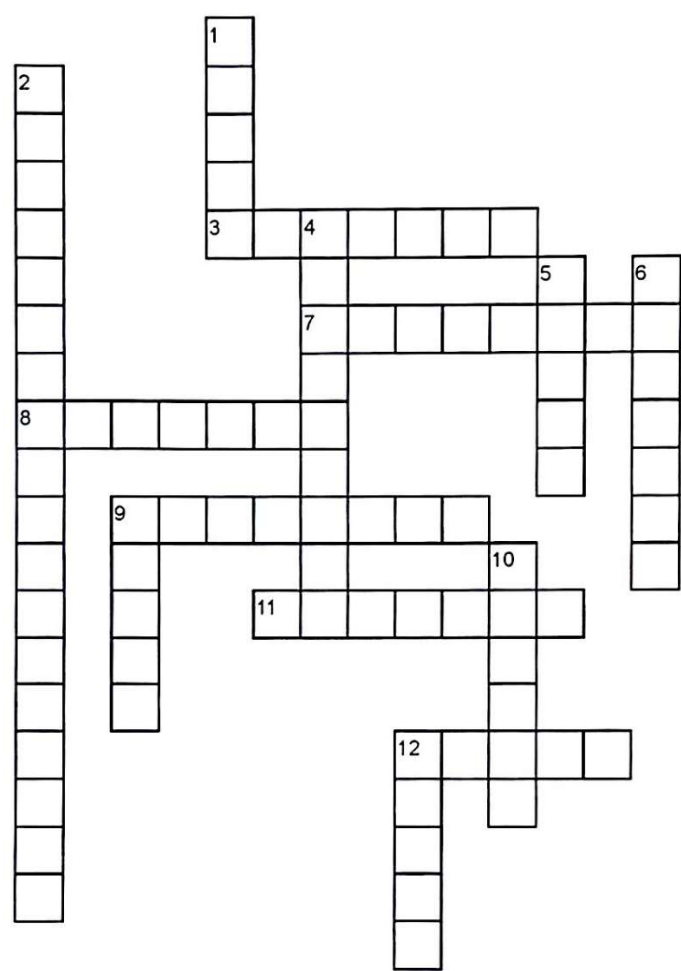
Some of our regular Ricochet players are in action below:



World Croquet Day is only a few months away. A perfect example of how popular the sport has become.



Fun Croquet Crossword



Across

- 3 Match official who rules on faults...
- 7 This variant of croquet is played on Saturday...
- 8 AC at Mosman is played on one of the following days..
- 9 A numerical measure of player's potential...
- 11 The name of the final stake a ball must hit to finish some croquet games ...
- 12 The colour of the ball that goes third in the sequence when playing with Primary Balls....

Down

- 1 Shot that sends a ball out of position intentionally...
- 2 AC stands for...
- 4 Total games to be played in the Tobruk Top 10 competition...
- 5 The colour of the fourth ball when playing Secondary Balls
- 6 The person who takes a shot is...
- 9 The official name for the metal wickets...
- 10 In the MEM competition one of the M's stands for
- 12 A shot played to prevent an opponent's hoop run...



See You On The Lawns