

HOLDFAST BAY CROQUET CLUB

KEEPING IN TOUCH

DECEMBER 2018



Hi Folks,

Well, another year is coming to a close. Christmas is nearing and we are all waiting excitedly for Father Christmas to come.

Only a few years ago our croquet club was near winding up after more than 110 years of service, but with the grit and determination of former members that kept the club going through other tough times, we have emulated their resilience. Our club now stands strong and proud...and with a pennant to boot.

Holdfast Bay will celebrate another year of operation and in addition there is a noticeable *esprit de corps* running throughout our club. There is a pride in the wearing of our uniform and a pride in walking out amongst all the other clubs knowing they will have a battle on their hands if they cross mallets with Holdfast Bay. The struggling little club is no more. Holdfast Bay is again an influential player in the South Australian croquet community...and it is our members and their loyalty and dedication that made this happen. Holdfast Bay is a club to be proud of.

A big thank you is extended to all those helpers who assist with the many functions organised by the club. Your help is invaluable. The club would not be the success it is without your input. Many of the other croquet clubs have too many passengers and not enough doers. Our club has lots and lots of doers.

A special big 'thank you' to Trish Clayton who again opened her home and hosted our end of year Christmas function. As usual it was well attended and a great day. Father Christmas visited and all enjoyed. We came together as a club and celebrated 2018.

HOLDFAST BAY STINGRAYS: 2018 24+ AGGREGATE PENNANT WINNERS

In season 2018, Holdfast Bay fielded two 24+ Aggregate teams: Holdfast Bay Breakers and Holdfast Bay Stingrays. The competition is played mid-week and has two blocks of eight teams with the top teams of each block playing off against one another for the pennant. Holdfast Bay Stingrays topped the 'B' block and defeated the 'A' block champions, Glenunga Gold, 4 games to 2 games, 33 hoops to 27 hoops...our first pennant flag for seven years. The team consisted of Colin Broom, (Captain), David Hayter, Paul Wahlstedt and Jon Parrington.

This competition has proved very popular and continues to grow. Its purpose is to partner low handicap, experienced pennant players with high and/or inexperienced pennant players, therein easing them into a competitive environment, offering guidance in dealing with rules and strategies. Holdfast Breakers were not as competitive but as the club is starting to boast a larger group of players with more experience this will change.

Throughout the year Holdfast Bay also fielded teams in various other competitions. We had teams in the 9+ and 6+ handicap events. The 9+ team showed its potential by coming third in its weekend pennants and at most stages of the competition led the field. It was a close finish with the other two teams above coming from the far larger Hyde Park club and the fourth placed team our neighbour Brighton. Only one game and few hoops separated the top four teams.

Our 6+ team finished in the bottom half of the field, but considering that Holdfast Bay has only returned to competition in the last three years then this result in a lower handicap competition is far from embarrassing. What's important is that those who played in the competition would have gained invaluable experience as to what it was like to have played at the higher level against the big clubs.

Whether our teams win or lose our pennant players are out there competing and flying the club colours. If you are not a pennant player but have thought about it, give it a try. Speak to Club Captain, Ruth Dunn or any of the committee. Represent your club and join us in pennants and help make our club stronger. It's not as scary as you might think.

GALA DAY

Holdfast Bay's 2018 gala day was a huge success. All participants thoroughly enjoyed themselves and many positive comments from the multitude of different clubs concerning the catering and the event in general were received. It was a big day that required a lot of input and volunteers; and of those there were many. Thank you for all who got involved. Great to see so many members volunteering and helping with events. Many hands make light work and it eases the load on our core volunteer group. This sort of thing really strengthens us as a club with everyone chipping in.

PRESENTATION DAY, SATURDAY 15TH DECEMBER. HUTT RD, 11.00AM

All members are invited and encouraged to attend this event to offer support and appreciation to our various teams and to show what a strong club we are. Awards will be given and pennant winners acknowledged. Members are requested to wear club uniform. Also, as a light luncheon is provided you are requested to bring a plate...and a chair would be advisable. This is one of the big, big 'do not miss' days on the croquet calendar. It's a great way to mingle with other clubs and their members and get to be known in the croquet community.

ROYAL ADELAIDE GOLF CLUB SOCIAL FUNCTION (our last for the year)

Friday 21st December, 5.00pm - 10.00pm volunteers needed to help with court duties. Please if you have an hour to spare our club volunteers could sure use your expertise.

CLUB CLOSURE

The club will be officially closed between the 22nd December and the 7th January, 2019. If any member would like to come out for a hit between those dates please contact Max, our greenkeeper, to organise a time with him in case he's doing maintenance work on the courts. Max's number is 0433 308 972. Last drinks at the club for 2018 and raffle draw on Friday, 21st December, between 5.00pm and 7.00pm.

To all have a great, fantastic, wonderful Christmas. May Father Christmas be generous. Have a happy, prosperous and healthy New Year and we look forward to seeing you out on the courts.

Looking forward to another great year of friendship, croqueting and fun in 2019. 'Till then keep safe, keep well and enjoy whatever you do.

Cheers,
Marg

