



## SOUTH AFRICAN CROQUET ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2009

[www.croquet.org.za](http://www.croquet.org.za)

The 15<sup>th</sup> Golf Croquet National Championships were played at Rondebosch Croquet Club during the last week of October. Cape Town gave the players its customary dose of winds and showers but the tournament ran well and the last day was still and sunny. There were a total of 40 entries including visitors from Gauteng and Eastern Province. SACA regrets that there were insufficient entries to run the scheduled Association Croquet Tournament or to contest the Restricted Handicap Doubles. The results were as follows:

Handicap Double Winners: John Hedding & Victor Dladla  
Runners-up: Derrick & Greta Snaith

Open Doubles:  
Winners: David Hopkins & Carole Jackson  
Runners Up: John Hedding & Victor Dladla

Handicap Singles:  
Winner: Peter Masekane  
Runner Up: Meschack Mazibuko

Open Singles:  
Winner: Meschack Mazibuko  
Runner-up: David Hopkins

Ian Gillespie personally presented the Gillespie Salver to Meschack the new Golf Open Singles champion. SACA wishes to thank all the members of Rondebosch for making their venue and services available, also for the preparation of the lawns and an excellent cocktail party at the prize-giving. Derrick Snaith proved to be a persuasive auctioneer – lowering the hammer on the bidding of 9 bottles of souvenir labelled select wine and the profits of over R600 were presented to Rondebosch Croquet Club by way of appreciation.

The recently launched SA Croquet Association website continues to grow and has received almost 1000 hits in just 6 months. SACA is most appreciative of Jeremy van Zyl's ideas and interest in the website's continuing development. It is proving valuable in sharing croquet news around the country and overseas. SACA is receiving around half a dozen enquiries weekly from people outside croquet clubs who wish to buy or hire equipment. This has led to Sportsmans Warehouse undertaking the regular importation and supply of croquet garden sets in their stores countrywide. These will be to SACA's recommendation to ensure that they are of good quality. Some of these fledging croquet players may one day join our clubs. There is a growing interest in offering croquet to wedding guests; hotels have indicated that they wish to establish croquet lawns as well as several retirement villages. Somerset College Preparatory School now has croquet as one of the sports on their curriculum and it is hoped that this will be the start of the growth of a Youth League.



The website has attracted enquiries from younger folk, in particular a pupil at Bishops College in Cape Town as he wished to play croquet at the school. On following up this request one of the teachers, who was previously a croquet player of note, now takes a group of the youngsters to play at Rondebosch Croquet Club.

Each club affiliated or otherwise, has been given its own web page free of charge. SACA wishes to encourage the clubs to make full use of this facility remembering that it is now common practice for information of any kind to be sourced on the internet. It is important that each club keeps the details and news regularly updated through the Secretary. A small 'shop' will soon be featured on the website offering locally made croquet articles. There will initially be mallet and ball bags available.

The SACA Executive Committee has undergone further changes with the election of Chris Wakeham as Vice-President and Pat Erskine as an ordinary member. The President is particularly pleased that the Executive Committee has expanded to include other provinces' members.

Warwick has indeed continued and developed its support and interest in croquet throughout South Africa in generously sponsoring the Nationals 2009, as well as Provincial and club tournaments. SACA looks forward to a continued growing and beneficial association with Warwick. Old Mutual in Somerset West are once again sponsoring a Challenge in the Autumn. Spar have stepped in also at Somerset West in providing lunch for visitors to the Open Day. Maybe the interest of these leading companies can be sparked and encouraged countrywide. These are all acknowledged as our sponsors on the front page of the website.

Congratulations go to our three South African players, William Louw, Judith Hanekom and Victor Dladla, who came fourth in the World Croquet Federation (WCF) and European Croquet Federation (ECF) 2009 European Team Championship which was held in England at the end of June. This was the first time that South Africa had been invited and they excelled. This month Anne Oxton, Clare Stableford and Carole Jackson make their way to Australia to compete in the 3<sup>rd</sup> WCF Women's World Golf Croquet Championship 2009 in Victoria, Australia. South Africa is making its mark in international croquet.

South African Croquet business cards are now available to all players should they wish to distribute them, particularly at tournaments. These give details of the website and e-mail contact addresses.

Secretary  
South African Croquet Association