

April 2011

Onehunga 1905 - 1955

notes from "Onehunga Bowling Club  
Centennial: 1901 - 2001"

p9 Between Inkerman and Selwyn Streets,  
Onehunga, early in the year 1901 there  
was in being a struggling Tennis Club.

..... The property which the promoters  
(of the Bowling Club) had in view, fortunately  
became available. The Club was registered  
on January 29th, 1902.

p14 The origin of a subsidiary which from its  
inception has played quite a part in our  
Club affairs should interest members.

At a Special General Meeting held on  
November 28th, 1905, Mr W.N. McIntosh moved:

"That a sub-committee be formed to confer  
with the wives, sisters and daughters of  
Club members, for the purpose of forming  
a Croquet Club, and the lawn be let to  
them for one year at a rental of £10,  
and further: that the wives, sisters and  
daughters of the members of the Club, and  
ladies who have given afternoon tea, shall  
be admitted to the Croquet Club without  
ballot; and further: that the ladies be  
permitted to play bowls on the Croquet  
Lawn on certain days of the week if they  
so desire" ..... the motion was carried  
by one vote.

p18 Season 1911-12

..... space on Opening Day was at a  
premium, resulting in nine Rinks on No1  
green and five on the croquet green (now  
our No4) kindly lent by the ladies  
[NB Written in 1951]



p 22 Season 1916-17  
Continually through the years the Ladies Croquet Club occurred in records and their motto appeared to be: Ask and ye MAY receive, and they certainly did.

p 28 Season 1924-25  
The charge to the Croquet Club for the use of the lawns was increased from £60 to £75 per year.

p 32 Season 1926-27  
The Croquet Club, earlier named as a "Subsidary" was congratulated on winning "The Banner" for the seventh consecutive year.

p 33 Season 1928-29  
The Croquet Club won the Banner for the ninth year in succession.

p 34 Season 1929-30

Again the Croquet Club asked our Club to purchase the Chappell section north of the house. They stated they were forced by their Association to have a full sized lawn or withdraw from the Banner competition.

They offered to pay an extra £31 per year if the property was bought for them, etc.

Our Club was very sympathetic, and offered to assist them.

p 46 ... the promotion of "Gala Days", the first of which showed a profit of £108 approximately, after the Croquet Club had received £25 odd as their percentage.

p 53 1947-8 Season

For a number of years the Croquet ladies had had afternoon tea in the Clubs Pavilion, but a big increase in membership forced the management committee to ask the ladies to cooperate by making other arrangements and this they agreed to do.



p 56 Season 1950-51

The converting of the Croquet lawns, vacated by the ladies, into a five rink green, No 4, absorbed many Sunday mornings . . . . .

. . . In conjunction with the Croquet Club, social evenings were started with bridge, five hundred, supper and another game of "fun" after. These evenings are proving a great success, both socially and financially . . . . .

p 81 Seasons 1954-56

During the period now under review the Onchunga Croquet Club celebrated its golden jubilee but through lack of members found it necessary to wind up. It generously offered the bowling club all its property for £600.





The president of the **Onehunga Croquet Club** gave an "At Home" to the members on Tuesday of last week, when the day being beautifully fine, and other conditions being favourable, a most pleasurable afternoon was spent. Progressive croquet was played, and the prize-winners were Mrs. Clarkson and Mrs. Bert Stonex. The tea table was beautifully decorated with pink flowers and greenery, and was heavily laden with delicious home-made cakes, pastry, sandwiches, etc.

Reproaches have been cast at croquet players for spending time at play when it is alleged they should be doing war work, but it has been pointed out to me that, without exception, croquet ladies are all ardent patriotic workers, and give days at the Town Hall or elsewhere, and there are not a few who have suffered the loss of more than one son, who seek the croquet lawn as a means of taking their minds for a spell off their troubles. One, in particular, told me she would be in the asylum for the insane if she did not have something to keep her from brooding.

Since the beginning of the war the croquet clubs have given social afternoons in the summer, and evening parties in the winter, to raise funds, and lately there has been a round or

which was a brilliant success socially and financially. The president, Mrs. Millington; the secretary, Mrs. Webber, and the members, put in a large amount of labour, and gave money freely to supply dainty refreshments for the two hundred people who gathered there at a shilling a head, mostly to play croquet, but some to play bowls with the men bowlers, who turned up to help swell the funds. There were money-raisers in the form of guessing competitions, and sales of home-made cakes, etc., so the Red Cross very materially benefits. **Mt. Albert** and **Rocky Nook** Clubs also gave tournaments for the same cause recently, but so far I have not received any particulars. **Ponsonby** Club, which has only a few members, decided to levy a subscription on their members instead of holding an "Afternoon." This they did some time ago, and