



Busselton Croquet Club News

South West Pennants

2023 has not been a successful one for the club - a bit disappointing after the win in 2022. Some of our better players were unavailable (the pool of B Grade reserves was more of a paddling pond). The C grade team was more numerous and we were pleased to have new members willing to try their skills in interclub competition.

B Grade

Our first match was against Bunbury Central and we won this one comfortably. There's nothing like the familiarity with home courts to give you confidence. It helps to know the vagaries of each one—that three is slower than one and two, hoop nine on court two sits on a distinct hill and that it asserts itself very strongly as your ball slows down. Likewise, hoop one on court one can send your first shot behind if you aim your ball too close to the hoop (seldom a good idea anyway on the odd numbered hoops).

Allan won all his games—likewise Trevor. Ron won two and Tony one. Trevor had his shiny new jump shot out of its wrapping and scored on five of them— a result he couldn't replicate at Moorabinda where he managed to put opponents through on three occasions and only landed one. Rooster to feather duster, as they say.



Recording the scores, Adjusting the handicaps

The second game was on Dunsborough's home courts. Our team struggled with the conditions, reporting that lawns were not as well-maintained as they had been in previous years. Robin Beer, an ex Dunsborough player, took Trevor's place and familiarity with his opponents' games didn't pay off. Their familiarity with his style may have played to their advantage. At any rate, Robin lost all his games, although he ran Dunsborough's best player, Wendy Collins, close with a 7-6 result. Tony lost too. The margin in three of his four was only one hoop. Unlucky perhaps. Ron again halved his games and so did Allan.

So on to Moorabinda for the last games of the competition. All four clubs were sharing four courts and we needed a comprehensive win over Moorabinda to have any chance. It didn't happen. Trevor returned and Barry replaced Tony, whose involvement in the first place had been somewhat reluctant. He hadn't been long back playing, but acquitted himself well and the club thanks him for his willingness to fill the gaps in the first two fixtures.

Once again home court advantage was significant. The greens are very fast and it is so easy to overhit the ball and finish behind the hoops. We couldn't complain about their regularity. Balls travelled pretty straight. We were simply outplayed on the day. Allan and Barry won two of their games, Ron and Trevor one. The comprehensive win was Moorabinda's and we had to settle for third place behind Dunsborough. Ah well.



Lining Up and Following Through

Note: Barry's Jump Shot already Airborne



South West Pennants C Grade

Our C Graders, featured three players, Henry, Jan and David, who had never played in any competition using handicap cards. Ellen and Julie had handicap experience in other competitions. All players were representing Busselton for the first time.

As was the case for our B Grade Team, the match against Bunbury Central was very successful. Bunbury Central had entered a golf croquet team for the first time and struggled against all opponents. A look at the scores on page 4 reveals that the B Graders did better than our Cs by a margin of one game.

It was a different story against Dunsborough. In both matches we were soundly beaten. This time the C Graders did better than our Bs, despite inexperience costing them: Henry's with the format of Pennants games, along with, probably, his opponent's. The bell went to signal the end of their game, so his opponent grabbed the balls and rolled them to the start position. Henry was sitting in front of the hoop ready to run it. Score: 4 –3 in Dunsborough's favour. The rules of these games require that the hoop being played when the bell goes should be completed. If this results in a draw, then another hoop must be played. Too late for Henry. Score 4—3 to to Dunsborough.

David Bull's inexperience of the format caught him out too. He reasoned that four games would be completed by 12:00 mid day as they are at home and that he would not have trouble keeping an appointment he had made. When he realised that there was no way he could keep his appointment and complete the final game, he forfeited and left feeling very disappointed.

Moorabinda at Moorabinda is always testing and the Cs rose to the challenge very well. The results show a shaky start, but a great finish. Two games won before morning tea followed by six after, leaving the match tied on eight games each. Sadly, Moorabinda won on the number of hoops scored: 88 vs 80. Overall, Julie and Henry won seven games in three outings while Jan won six in only two.

Moorabinda won B Grade and Dunsborough won C Grade, with Busselton finishing 3rd in both Grades.

The *Geographe Challenge* looms on the 23rd of September. Can Busselton respond and beat Dunsborough?



South West Pennants B Grade	Tests			Games		Hoops		
	Wins	Losses	Draws	Wins	Losses	For	Against	Net
Moorabinda	3	0	0	29	19	269	234	35
Dunsborough	2	1	0	30	18	269	236	33
Busselton	1	2	0	22	26	251	262	-11
Bunbury Central	0	3	0	15	33	234	291	-57

South West Pennants B Grade	Tests			Games		Hoops		
	Wins	Losses	Draws	Wins	Losses	For	Against	Net
Dunsborough	3	0	0	31	17	282	222	60
Moorabinda	2	1	0	28	20	275	235	40
Busselton	1	2	0	24	24	239	261	-22
Bunbury Central	0	3	0	13	35	220	298	-78



Busselton and Bunbury Centrals C Grade Team Plus Referee Robyn