

VCC FUTURES FORUM
20 February 2024
Questions and Answers

KEEPING AS IS

What would it cost croquet not to have the VCC? noting that we need to provide venues for training as well as competition.

If the current program were maintained we would need to relocate activities on around 120 days (depending on what national or international events are scheduled for a particular year). Includes around 42 Saturdays and 33 Sundays, so most weekends.

The cost and impact of regularly running events on alternative sites would include:

- Court hire at say \$50 a day per court. The VCC was used for Victorian events on 48 days in the year 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. Hiring the minimum number of courts required for these events would cost \$11,850. The ideal number would cost \$17,800. See the table of events at the end of this paper.
Practice matches, coaching sessions and set up days in advance of events would be additional to this.
- Preparation costs to ensure a competitive quality surface
- Displacement of club members
- Scheduling to avoid clashes where tennis or bowls courts are to be used
- National and international events are currently supported by Croquet Australia. National events would generate between \$18,850 and \$31,000 for court hire, which assists with the costs of maintaining the VCC. National events would probably be located in Victoria less frequently should they need to be distributed around several clubs. This would impact on the income available to support court maintenance and costs for local players travelling to these events.

Most tournaments at VCC are held at the weekend. Could more midweek competitions be held involving clubs and/or regions?

This question needs research. A majority of members do not play competitively. There is no indication that clubs or regions would wish to come to VCC for competition on a regular basis.

Has anything been done to explore sponsorship?

Limited. (Seasol have been a sponsor, providing fertiliser gratis.) We do not think it is timely to try to recruit sponsors at this stage with uncertainty about the future.

There has been some tentative discussion with Croquet Australia about increased collaboration. National grants could be available if the VCC were designated a national centre.

ALTERNATIVES

How do the other states manage when they host national events?

Queensland say quite onerous. Need to ensure quality of the surface at the clubs where events are to be held. Displace normal play. Would like to see more use of VCC as a national centre.

NSW likes having events spread around the country. They have two 6-court clubs. If VCC were national centre, which they support, we could apply for national grants for international events.

WA could only speak to one experience when it was difficult to negotiate with clubs – this was doing it for the first time so maybe not representative.

SA Onerous process. No four-lawn facility.

Could we have more detail on the number of courts required by events at VCC in 22 / 23?

See table at the end of this paper.

Is there any interest from other parties in buying the site to house a sporting facility?

No strong positive response to date from enquiries with Bowls, Tennis, but we have only made preliminary enquiries. We would need to test interest by engaging a real estate agent.

Would Croquet Australia purchase the site or impose a national levy to support it?

Some indication of support for this but

- a) they don't have capital;
- b) most members nationally are not competitive players so there could well be push-back on a levy.

Do we actually want a formal centre?

This is the question we are asking... See discussion paper.

IMPACT

Do neighbouring clubs suffer because active members are contributing to the VCC as volunteers? Are the club memberships declining as a result?

No and no. Membership of neighbouring clubs has been increasing or holding steady. One small club in the Western Metro region is about to close because the parent club (a bowls club) is being forced to close down. The croquet playing members have said they wish to join Brimbank.

COSTS

Could we have more detail of the contamination and the contaminated area? – could we see the description in the contract of sale?

We are uploading the Environmental Assessment (prior to purchase) and the VCC Contract of Sale to the website at <https://croquetvic.asn.au/PlanningForCroquet>.

Can we have more detail of the costs involved in disposing of the site?

The press has recently been reporting extensive difficulties in disposing of contaminated waste for metro rail tunnels. We don't have detail of the costs involved. In 2020 planning consultants guessed that remediation would cost in the order of \$1m. However this was an estimate without the benefit of further soil testing, and the consultants were not environmental engineers. Costs are likely to have increased since 2020.

Has the EPA been approached?

We are asking them for advice.

Could Croquet Victoria commission soil testing now?

That would take a long time and be expensive. It would require us to obtain government permission (see VCC Contract of Sale) and engage professional environmental engineers.

Responding to the consultation paper

How do regions handle diverse views within their membership?

That's up to them.

Do Regional delegates have to vote as their region instructs them?

This is covered in the Croquet Victoria constitution:

9. MEMBERSHIP OF ASSOCIATION

9.1 Categories of Member

The Members of the Association shall consist of:

- (a) Regional Associations, which subject to this Constitution, shall be represented by their Delegate who shall have the right to attend, debate and vote at General Meetings for and on behalf of the Regional Associations; ...

Why not include the option of a peppercorn sale?

This is an option that Council could consider following the feedback process.

COURTS REQUIRED FOR EVENTS ON CROQUETSCORES, 1.4.22 – 31.3.23

The minimum # courts would involve double banking and playing multiple games on the same courts. Ideally players rotate around courts and there is no double banking.

Note that this list does not include coaching or practice games such as Vic vs Vic A.

Event	Players	Min # courts	Ideal # courts	Days
Australia – President's GC Eights	48	12	24	3
Australia - GC Open Singles	47	12	23	5
Victorian Open GC Singles Championship	41	12	20	2
Australia - AC Open Singles	41	12	20	5
VCA GC Regional Championships	37	12	18	2
Australia - President's AC Eights	34	12	17	4
Australia - Eire Cup (AC) (min teams)	48	12	12	5
MacRobertson Shield	24	12	12	17
VCA GC Selectors 2nd Invitational	29	7	13	2
Australia - GC Open Doubles (pairs)	14	7	7	4
Australia - AC Open Doubles (pairs)	14	7	7	4
Australia - AC Men's Singles	37	6	18	4
Australia - AC Women's Singles	34	6	17	4
VCA Gold Cup, Silver & Bronze Shields*	24	6	12	2
VCA - Owen Edwards Cup	12	6	6	2
VCA GC Australia Day tournament	20	5	10	1
VCA AC Open Singles	20	5	10	4
VCA GC Mens Singles	18	5	9	2
Brian Reither Cup	10	5	5	2
Victorian Open GC Doubles (pairs)	10	5	5	2
VCA GC First Selectors Invitational	16	4	8	2
VCA AC Selectors Invitational (Oct)	13	4	6	2
VCA AC Open Doubles (pairs)	9	4	4	2
VCA GC Handicap Doubles (pairs)	9	4	4	2
VCA AC Men's Championship	8	4	4	2
ACA GC Bronze Medal - Victorian division	8	4	4	3
VCA GC Womens Singles	13	3	6	2
VCA GC Handicap Singles	10	3	5	2
VCA - Jean Rentoul Memorial	7	3	3	2
VCA AC Divisional Championships	6	3	3	2
Australia - AC Gold+Silver Medals 2023	6	3	3	3
VCA AC Selectors Invitational (Dec)	8	2	4	2
VCA AC Silver Medal	4	2	3	2
VCA AC Women's Championships	4	2	3	2
VCA AC Women's Invitational	4	2	3	2
VCA under 21 Bronze	4	2	3	2

* Three separate events each with 8 players.