



Newsletter – August 2016

Welcome to the summer 2016 newsletter.

Despite some mixed weather we have enjoyed good use of the lawns and hosted some great activities during the season. Let's hope for an extended summer and continued sport for a while longer.

Derbyshire Dales District Council (DDDC)

We have had some mixed and limited success with our arrangements with DDDC in relation to our use of the recreation ground. We have steadied the ship with regard to the pavilion/lawns and secured some relief to proposed charges for 2016.

2017 will see a substantial increase in subscriptions and we hope to have further discussions with regard to our user licence prior to next season.

Our Chairman will circulate a Member response form shortly with regard to 2017 fee proposals which will be addressed at our AGM in March 2017 – your response will be key to the future success of our Club at Bakewell.

We have a wonderful facility at Bakewell and despite cut backs at DDDC which impact on our funding and charges our committee is determined to ensure we maintain a viable club for us all to enjoy.

Committee

Your club committee currently comprises -:

Position	Name	Specific Responsibilities (but not limited to)
Chairman	Bill Robinson	Match Liaison Association Croquet
Vice Chairman	To be filled	
Secretary	Ann Riley	Club meetings Correspondence
Treasurer	Allen Flatman	Club finances
	Peter Blackburn	Winter Croquet Coaching
	Ruth Barnes	Press Officer (inc. web) Catering liaison
	Louis McMeeken	Membership Event calendar
	Tim Spray	Ably supported Grounds man



‘Not touching balls’

Events

Ripon

The weekend at Ripon in May proved to be the usual success with all attendees thoroughly enjoying the Spa Hotel and beautiful lawns.

The Club seeks a volunteer to organise the scheduled October visit to Ripon – volunteer welcome please

Club Tournaments

May – A great event for members to gather and share some friendly games. Peter Blackburn took the honour as the days Champ.

August – Despite appalling weather the day was completed with support of the usual tea and cakes. With some ‘time out’ for rain Tim Spray gained title as Champ for the day.

National Croquet Day

A hard day of promoting the game was a huge success. We were inundated with participants from all over the globe. Blessed with excellent weather club support ensured we met the target of the Croquet Assoc for the public to enjoy ‘the croquet experience’.

Golding House

Well done to everyone involved with hosting the players. The support from our members and the Peak Park has been recognized.

Summer BQ at Oaksedge

A huge thank-you to David and Jean. Our members delight in the visit to Tansley for the challenge of good spirited contest and particularly as this is followed by excellent supplies of food and drink enjoyed in great company.

Rotary event at Ashford

A pleasant evening was spent supporting the rotary club members in learning the skill, tactics and devilment of golf croquet. The Rotary Club expressed their gratitude and we welcome new Croquet Members from the outcome of the event.

Friendly Matches

These events are always a welcome opportunity to meet and play with similar minded folk from other clubs. Toughly fought no doubt but always ending with a smile and offer of a return game. Contact Bob Furniss for details.

Brodsworth visit

An opportunity to play in outstanding surroundings was well organised by Peter Knowles and thoroughly enjoyed by all participants. With added garden interest these 'play away days' are well worth attending.

Club League

This is a good opportunity to play with club members at similar skill levels through three divisions. Jean Peters ensures the divisions work well for all players (those interested in joining the leagues please contact Jean).



Now – where's this one going!

Winter Croquet

Subject to availability at Fitism (Riverside, Bakewell) Peter Blackburn will circulate details shortly.

Association Croquet

The game continues to be played on Thursday evenings from 6.00pm – those interested please let Chairman – Bill Robinson know or simply turn up – you will be most welcome. A synopsis of the game is attached below.

An explanation of variant games to play is listed below.

FEMCC Match Results

A Team (Cap Alan Reeves)

Are placed about midway in the first division – good effort! 2 wins of 5.
Wins against Leicester (10-2) and Richmond Park (8-4)
Losses against Ashby (11-1), Long Eaton (7-5) and Pinchbeck (7-5)

B Team (Cap Dorothy Evans)

Are placed high in the third division – very well done! 4 wins of 5
Wins against Leicester (8-4), Branston (9-3), Long Eaton (7-5) and North Hykeham (10-2)
Losses against Torksey (7-5)

An excellent effort by both A and B Teams who deserve some supporting spectators if anyone feels able to attend match days. Contact captains to join a team.

New Members we welcome in 2016

Christopher Harrison
Mike and Rita Reed
Bob and Kathleen Dennis
Stephen and Jill Schmidt

Interest
Harvey Pell

Calendar of events for the season (to date) -:

Key Dates -:

May 21-24	Ripon
May 27	B Team vs Leicester B home
May 28	Club Tournament
June 5	National Croquet Day
June 24	Friendly vs Sheffield away
July 6	Golding House session
June 15	B Team vs Nth Hykeham away
June 29	A Team vs Ashby away
July 4	Committee Meeting
July 6	B Team vs Branston home
July 9	Oaksedge BBQ
July 10	Friendly vs Southwell away
July 15	Rotary event at Ashford
July 15	B Team vs Torksey away
July 23	A Team vs Richmond Park home
July 29	B Team vs Long Eaton away
August 2	Friendly vs Darley Dale away
August 3	Lincolnshire Handicap
August 8	Brodsworth away day
August 10	B Team vs N Hykeham away
August 20	Club tournament
August 24	A Team vs Pinchbeck away
September 3	Social at Tim and Ann Spray's
September 26	Committee Meeting
October	2 nd Ripon event
2017	
March 8	AGM
March 14	Annual dinner

Club times -:

Monday 2pm – 4pm

Thursday 2pm – 9pm (from 6pm Association Croquet reserved one lawn)

Saturday 10am – Noon

Forward notice – Annual Dinner 14th March 2017 at Bakewell Golf Club



Good luck with the red ball Jean!!! Even the mallet may balk at your chances!

Alternative Croquet Games to develop new skills and mental agility!

Ricochet

Played like golf croquet.

Each time a player's ball strikes another ball that player receives and extra shot (you could agree two to assist positioning).

They can only strike another ball once in a turn except in the case where a hoop is taken.

If a hoop is taken an extra shot (one only) is taken for the hoop and the ricochet sequence can start again if desired.

This game enables extra shots per turn allowing increased opportunity to gain accuracy skills.

The game can assist toward an understanding of angles that is useful for association croquet.

Multi Play Golf Croquet

Played like golf croquet.
Either singles or pairs.
The secondary colours can also be played.
I.e. up to 8 singles or 4 doubles.

This enables additional players beyond 4 to play in a game.
Players can also gang together to stop any individual from taking too much of a lead.
This can be a fun and even game for the delight of more people in a game.
This can work especially well if we introduce numbers of younger players.

Suggest colours taken in usual sequence –
Blue – red – black-yellow - green –pink – brown- white
(Depending on number of players – with usual colour pairings if desired).
Probably best played as singles.

Alternative double banking

A different start to Golf croquet.
Instead of waiting for the first game to gain the first hoop before starting.
The second game could start from the opposite corner.
I.e. starts two hoops behind the first game.
This enables a faster start to the second game.
Obviously the game will finish on the opposite end hoop as well.

Garden Croquet

Plat as assoc croquet but no penalty if a ball goes off. Bring ball on and play on.
Also the croquet shot the players ball need not move the other ball.

One Ball

Play as per garden croquet but only one ball each.

Practice game

Set three balls on the lawn as desired.
Start from one mallet length from first hoop.
Using the association format use the other balls to run as many hoops as possible in a single turn.
This could be extended to play the 12 hoops plus posts in the least number on turns for a single ball.

Old Croquet

Play as AC but keeping sequence of balls and only croquet each ball once per turn whether hoop scored or not.

AC/Golf

Play as golf but if a ball strikes another a croquet is taken.
No follow on shot.
The games time is extended so it may be preferred to end after 4 hoops rather than 7

A/c Croquet triple

Three balls – three players
Play in order of colour

Other ideas welcome to extend our play tactics.....



Did he or didn't he - hats off if he did!

Hammer Strokes and similar

When the mallet is struck steeply downwards onto the ball in “hammer strokes” and jump strokes, there is a risk of faults under a number of rules including 13(a)6 and 13(a)11. These risks increase the more steeply the mallet comes down onto the striker’s ball. A firmly-played hammer or jump stroke will make the ball “rebound” from the lawn if played cleanly - if it doesn't, this is evidence the ball was trapped by repeated or prolonged contact with the mallet, as is a muffled contact sound. Slow-motion video evidence shows that hammer strokes played even at relatively gentle angles like 30 degrees to the horizontal are in fact often double taps, even though this was not obvious to the naked eye. To foster consistent playing and refereeing standards, it will be normal practice to fault any firmly played stroke where the mallet strikes the ball more steeply than at 45 degrees to the horizontal and which is not seen to rise from the surface as a result. A badly played hammer stroke at less than 45 degrees may also give rise to audible double taps and should be faulted accordingly. Hammer strokes in particular should routinely be watched by a referee (or experienced player, if no referee available) to ensure the stroke is played fairly. The same faults might arise when hitting down on a ball in a hoop hampered by another ball close behind the striker’s ball – however these are often played quite gently and so not give rise to these particular faults. The referee should make a decision about such gentle strokes based on their judgement of the particular stroke.

Useful Web sites :-

www.croquet.org.uk

www.eastmidlandscroquet.org.uk

Members wishing to read the Croquet Magazine please register with our secretary Ann Riley.

A synopsis of both Golf and Association Croquet is attached below. If these are not readable on your screen and you wish to see the original copy of the pamphlet please contact Secretary – Ann Riley - who will make these available at the pavilion.

Golf Croquet

Golf Croquet is a game played as singles or doubles and in either case the blue and black balls play against the red and yellow balls. In singles each player uses both balls, in doubles one each.

The object of the game is to make either of your balls pass through the hoops in a set order.

before your opponent does. A hoop point is scored for the side whose ball runs a hoop in order first. The winner is the side which scores the most hoop points.

To begin a game you toss up for who starts. The winner of the toss starts and plays blue and black; blue always plays first. All balls are initially played from a spot on the lawn within a yard of Corner 4 (see diagram A). The balls are played with one stroke in each turn in a set sequence: blue followed by red, black and yellow and this order continues throughout the game. Colour sequence is shown on the centre peg.

A match consists of a contest for the best of one, three or five games of seven, thirteen or nineteen hoop points. Each game ends as soon as one side has scored a majority of the points to be played. See diagrams A, B and C for the hoop sequence of each game.

Tactics: Tactically it is as important to prevent your opponent running a hoop as it is to run one yourself. But success depends upon the accuracy with which you can position your balls. When you have scored a hoop point your opponent will be first to approach the next hoop (unless you are fortunate enough to have run the hoop well enough to reach the next, or even to have run it!) It is possible to run two hoops in one stroke: hoops one and two (for example). A ball in a hoop running position can either be knocked away or its route to the hoop blocked. Because you always know which ball your opponent is to play next, you have to decide whether to attack or defend. Vying for position is an integral part of the game of Golf Croquet and because each turn consists of a single stroke, accurate stroke play and mallet control are very important.

Shot making: The stop shot (very little follow through) allows you to hit an opponent ball a long way without your ball travelling very far. This can mean that you may hit an opponent ball well away from a hoop and take position yourself, or even run the hoop if you have the correct angle.

The 'in-off' is a perfectly legitimate stroke. It is also possible to jump one ball over another, a useful stroke where the route to the hoop may be blocked by another ball. This shot needs practice! (It is a fault if you damage the lawn). The ability to run hoops from some distance and from awkward angles is an important part of winning games of Golf Croquet. And an important part of playing Association Croquet too. See the separate leaflet for details of this rather more complicated game.

The Lawn. A full size lawn is 35 by 28 yards. Size can vary, especially for garden croquet, but it is a good idea to keep the 5:4 ratio.

Assoc Croquet

Association Croquet is a challenging and intriguing sport requiring tactical ability, judgement and skill rather than strength and fast reflexes. And to dispel the myth that croquet is a vicious game of hitting your opponent's ball into the shrubbery, any ball that is hit off the lawn is immediately replaced onto the 'yard' line. The game is played as singles or doubles but in either case the blue and black balls always play against the red and yellow balls. In singles each player uses both balls, in doubles one each.

The object of the game is to make both balls of your side pass through all the hoops in order and then hit the peg before your opponent. The first hoop has a blue top and the last hoop to be run, 'rover', has a red top. After the sixth hoop, you run the six hoops again in reverse direction; hence they are named 'one back, two back', etc, until the 'penultimate' hoop and finally rover. See diagram for the route. Coloured clips are placed on the hoops to remind players (and show spectators) which hoop a ball has to run next. They are placed on top for the first time through the hoop

and on the side for the return journey.

To begin a game, the balls are played onto the lawn one at a time, alternately by each side, from either A or B baulk (see diagram). After that a player can choose which ball to play during each turn. At the beginning of a turn a player has only one stroke, out, depending on what you do, you may earn extra strokes. If you run a hoop in order you gain one more stroke. If your ball hits another ball it is called a 'roquet' and you earn the right to take 'croquet', the stroke that is unique to the game of croquet and where the fun really begins.

The croquet stroke is played immediately following a roquet. You pick up your ball and place it touching the ball you have roqueted. You are then entitled to two more strokes. For the first, you strike your ball in any direction you choose, but ensuring that the other ball goes off the lawn you can play a second, or stroke. The croquet stroke is the most exciting stroke in the game and can be played in numerous ways to control both balls. By varying

the other ball most exciting continuation.

the angle at which you strike and the degree of force and follow through applied, a skillful player can send both balls to very accurate destinations which will enable the break to be continued.

Building a break is made possible by earning these extra strokes. At the beginning of a turn you may roquet all three other balls and take croquet from them just once but the moment you run a hoop in order you may roquet all three balls again. Thus it is possible to run several hoops in one turn; they may even manage to send their partner ball through some of its hoops. This is called 'peeling' and forms an important part of the Advanced form of the game. In case you think this seems too complicated, don't be disheartened, there are simpler forms of the game. Golf Croquet, One-Ball and Short 7 Croquet are all versions which have their own particular requirements of skill and tactics.

Please see the Golf Croquet leaflet.

The Lawn. A full size lawn is 35 by 28 yards. Size can vary, especially for garden croquet, but it is a good idea to keep the 5:4 ratio.

Who can play? Everyone. It's a sport suitable for all ages and both sexes that men and women can play on equal terms. It has a really good handicapping system which, more than any other sport, is a genuine leveller. A weaker player can play an international and have an even chance of winning. Not even golf can offer that. Although to be fair, croquet is one of the few entirely amateur sports and therefore does not suffer the enormous gulf that separates the amateur and professional. And it's all the better for that!

