

The Bears Croquet Club at the RAU, Cirencester

June 2017 Newsletter

Change of date - Summer Barbecue. This year's summer barbecue will be on **Tuesday 27th June starting at 6.30 p.m. at GFresh** (the cafe adjacent to our court at the RAU). This, of course, is a club day so those who wish to play in the afternoon can stay for an excellent meal provided by chefs Mike and Jo. Everyone is invited. Depending on the weather, we can use the picnic tables outside or choose between the conference room, sitting area and cafe areas inside. The cost is £15 per head, payable in advance. As the cafe does not have an alcohol licence, we have been invited to bring our own bottle of wine, glasses and corkscrew but soft drinks and coffee can be purchased from the cafe. GFresh will be opening especially for us and **bookings need to be confirmed by Tuesday 13th June.**

Please email Robert stating whether you would like the vegetarian or meat menu, and send your payment to Richard Way by BACS or cheque in the usual way. (Please remember to insert your surname in the reference box if paying by BACS).



Vegetarian Menu

Mediterranean vegetable kebabs V

Spinach and Parmesan burgers with red onion relish V ***

Meat menu

Mild cumin and mint lamb kofta with a mint and yoghurt dip

Chicken breast fillets with a satay sauce

Pulled Pork with a sticky hickory barbecue sauce

On the Salad Bar:

Lemon, herb and pomegranate cous cous salad

Mixed leaf salad with cucumber and baby tomatoes

Crunchy Apple coleslaw

Fresh English strawberries with whipped cream, brandy snap cigars and fresh mint

Membership

Following a very successful Open Day, our membership has now grown to 24 full playing adult members, 2 junior members, 6 non-playing members and 2 honorary life members.

Members survey. With increased membership, we want to ensure that everyone's wishes are considered. Beginners prefer to play on half lawns to start with but are being encouraged to move to the full lawn as soon as they feel ready. However, most experienced players only want to play on the full size lawn. We don't want anyone to feel uncomfortable or that they do not receive the amount of lawn time they want so in order for us to coordinate this, please let Robert know your preferences of lawn size and playing day/times. If necessary, we can have more than one club day and from the end of June, we will be able to play on Wednesdays, too, as the students will be on holiday. Do remember that at other times, you can use the on-line booking program to arrange your own time for a game if you wish.

National Croquet Day - Sunday 4th June.

You may become aware of national publicity around National Croquet Day. Our contribution to this was early - our Open Day in April.

The CA is to launch an inspirational video in time for NCD and as soon as it is released you will be able to view it via a link on our club website.

Handicaps - how they work and how to get one.

As new members become more proficient, they will be given two handicaps - one for GC and one for AC. Each handicap will show a corresponding INDEX number. You will also be given handicap cards on which to record the games played and the results achieved. Each time you play a serious game, you gain or lose index points depending on whether you win or lose the game. The number of points you win/lose depends on whether you play a Handicap Game (where you have Bisesques or Extra Turns) or a Level Game (where you do not). These index points increase or decrease your Index.

There are then certain trigger points which automatically change your handicap.

Those who play external matches regularly will usually be on the correct handicap but for those who only play within the club, and especially rapid improvers, they will need their handicap adjusted by the club handicapper in order to maintain fairness.

All this will be explained in detail when you get your first handicap cards.

Increasing your knowledge - 2.

This month, we are looking at the basics of Association Croquet. *The following is based on the Basic Rules and taken from the CA website. It is simplified and not comprehensive so if you would like a fuller explanation, you will find it at croquet.org.uk and then find it via the menus : Games > Association > Laws > Basic Laws of AC.*

On paper, it is easier to explain the rules for the singles game. So, here goes!

Health warning! *What follows is like a bottle of medicine. Taken in small doses it is good for you but trying to digest the whole lot in one go may have a very different effect!*

Association Croquet Level Singles

Start of the Game

20. The winner of the toss can take the choice of lead (i.e. to play first or make his opponent do so) or choice of balls. If he takes the choice of lead his opponent has the choice of balls and vice versa.

21. The first player plays either of his balls from any point on baulk-line A or B. At the end of that turn his opponent does likewise. In the third and fourth turns the remaining two balls are similarly played into the game. From the fifth turn onwards the striker may choose which of his two balls he is going to play for that turn. (*Just to clarify, when it is your turn, you are "the striker" and the ball you play with is "the striker's ball"*)

Ball Off or near the Edge of the Court

23. A ball goes off the court as soon as it begins to cross the boundary. The only time the striker's turn ends because of this is in a croquet stroke.

24. At the end of each stroke, the striker must replace on the yard line any ball that has gone off the court (*except for the striker's ball when it is about to take croquet*).

26. If the striker's ball is in the yard-line area it is played from where it lies, unless the turn has ended, in which case it is also placed on the nearest point on the yard-line.

Roquet

28. The striker's ball makes a roquet when it hits a live ball. (*even if it hits other things en route*).

29. At the end of the stroke in which a roquet is made, the striker replaces the roqueted ball on the yard-line if necessary, then, unless his turn has ended (see para 50), he picks up his ball and prepares for and plays a croquet stroke.

30. The turn is not ended by either the striker's or the roqueted ball going off the court after making a roquet.

Croquet Stroke

32. The striker prepares for a croquet stroke by placing the striker's ball in contact with the roqueted ball, which should not be moved (*unless it needed to be replaced on the yard-line*).

34. In a croquet stroke, the ball that was roqueted is now known as the croqueted ball, and becomes dead.

35. The croquet stroke is played by hitting the striker's ball with the mallet in a direction which causes the croqueted ball to move or shake. If it does not move, a fault is made and the turn ends.

36. The turn ends if in the croquet stroke the croqueted ball is sent off the court.

37. The turn ends if in the croquet stroke the striker's ball is sent off the court, unless it scores a hoop point or makes a roquet.

38. At the end of a croquet stroke, the striker replaces all balls except the striker's ball on the yard-line if necessary, then, he plays a continuation stroke from where his ball lies.

Continuation Stroke

39. After a croquet stroke or a stroke in which the striker's ball scored a hoop point, the striker plays a continuation stroke from where his ball lies.

40. At the end of a continuation stroke, unless a roquet was made or a hoop point was scored, the striker replaces all balls on the yard-line if necessary and the turn ends.

41. Continuation strokes are not cumulative, so that:

(a) if a roquet is made in a croquet stroke, the striker takes croquet immediately and then plays one continuation stroke;

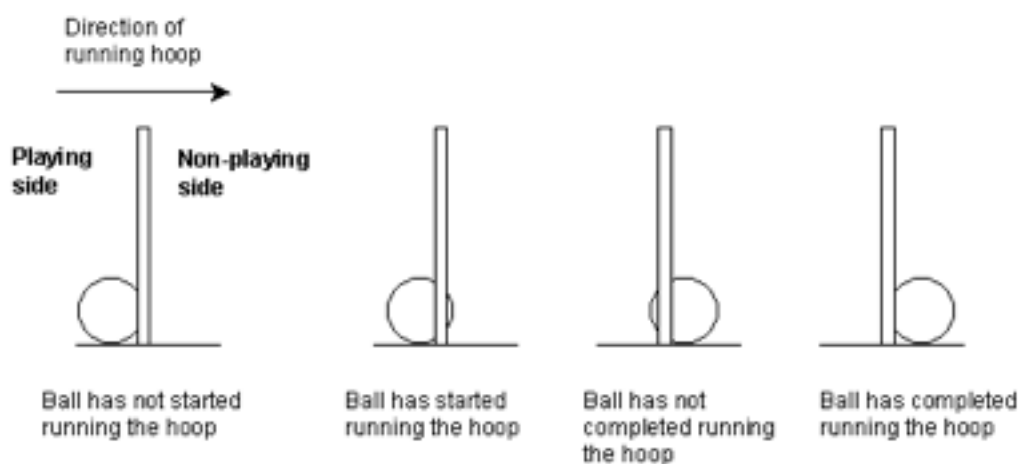
(b) if the striker runs his hoop and then makes a roquet in the same stroke, he immediately takes croquet and then plays one continuation stroke;

(c) if the striker runs his hoop in a croquet stroke, he only plays one continuation stroke.

Hoop Points

42. A ball scores a hoop point by passing through its next hoop. This is also known as running a hoop.

DIAGRAM 2 - RUNNING A HOOP



43. A ball begins to run a hoop when any part of it first emerges from the back of the hoop and finishes doing so when the whole of it finally enters the front of the hoop, provided that it does not come back past this point later in the stroke (see Diagram 2).

44. A ball may take more than one stroke or turn to run a hoop, provided that it is not placed as the striker's ball for a croquet stroke while doing so.

45. A ball cannot run a hoop after making a roquet, unless the ball it hit was clear of and behind the hoop at the start of the stroke, in which case the hoop is run and a roquet is made, providing that the ball ends up through the hoop.

46. At the end of a stroke in which the striker's ball has scored a hoop point, the striker plays a continuation stroke (after replacing his ball on the yard-line if it went off the court), unless he has made a roquet (in which case he takes croquet).

Peg Point

48. When a ball has scored all 12 hoop points it is known as a Rover ball and only then can it score its peg point by hitting the peg, or cause another Rover ball to do so.

49. After making a roquet, the striker's ball cannot score a peg point for itself in that stroke.

50. A ball that has scored its peg point is said to have been pegged out. At the end of a stroke, any balls that have been pegged out and their clips are removed from the court and play no further part in the game. If the striker's ball or a roqueted ball was pegged out, the turn ends.

Increasing your knowledge - 3.

Your First Tournament - this is where the excitement really starts.

The following is an abbreviated and amended form of information published on the CA website. If you would like a fuller explanation, you will find it at croquet.org.uk and then navigate via the menus : Tournaments > First Tournament.

Once you have been playing for a while, you may wish to enter a tournament. Tournament play allows you to take your croquet up to a more competitive level, and is often one of the quickest ways to improve.

This can be a daunting experience, but don't be alarmed - just make sure that the other players at the tournament are aware that this is your first event, and most will be happy to show you the ropes. And always remember - both you and the other players are all there to enjoy yourselves!

Before Entering. Before playing a tournament, you need a CA handicap and handicap card. *Robert is a CA handicapper and will organise this for you.*

Entering the Tournament. The CA publishes the Fixtures Book, a list of all open tournaments during the playing season. *You will find a copy in the club cupboard. We will help you choose a handicap tournament aimed at your handicap range (e.g. if you are playing as a handicap 18, a tournament described as 'H14-22' would be ideal).*

It may be wise to enter your first tournament with a friend from your club - that way you can be sure of at least one familiar face! If you are not confident of going it alone, you may prefer to enter a doubles tournament. This allows you to have a more experienced player to guide you through the event. Please check however, whether you need to enter as a pair or whether the manager will find a partner for you. Once the fixtures book has been published, on line entry is available for tournaments at clubs which participate in the online entry system, otherwise you should submit a tournament entry form to the relevant tournament secretary.

When You Arrive, introduce yourself to the tournament manager. If at any point during the tournament you are not sure of anything, this is the person to ask for advice. The manager will tell you who to play on which lawn and when. It is usually easy to spot the manager - spot the person looking most harassed! Other people worth identifying are the Tournament Handicapper and the Referee of the Tournament (known as the RoT).

Playing a Game At the start of a game it is customary for the lower handicapped player to toss a coin. The winner of the toss has choice either of which pair of balls they wish to play or which side plays first. Play will then proceed as you would expect.

If at any time you are not sure of the laws or you believe that a fault may have been (or be about to be) committed by either yourself or your opponent, do not hesitate to ask your opponent or call a referee. It is normal to call a referee by holding your mallet upside down in the air. If it proves difficult to locate a referee, either check the list of referees from the manager or find the RoT. At the end of a game it is usual (but by no means obligatory) for the winner to offer a drink to his opponent. However, before retiring to the bar, always clear the balls and clips from the lawn, return any bisques to the box and report the score to the manager.

At the End of the Day. Before leaving at the end of a days play, always report to the manager to let him know that you are leaving, and to find out at what time you will be needed on the following day.

At many tournaments, players arrange communal dining in the evening. If no one asks you to join in, assume it's because they didn't want to impose or simply didn't think of it, so ask around.

At the End of the Tournament. Once the tournament is over, you should complete your handicap card. This will ensure that your handicap always reflects your changing ability. It would be wise to obtain the help of a friendly player to help you complete your card. Many players will complete their card at the end of each game in the tournament. If your handicap has changed, inform the Tournament Handicapper who will sign your card and inform the CA of the change on your behalf. It's generally acceptable for you to leave the tournament at any time you are not required for play - just make sure you tell the manager. Most tournaments have a presentation to the winners and sneaking off minutes before this might be seen as poor form, but needs must.

Diary dates

Play on Club Days is from 2.00 p.m. until dusk. There is usually an afternoon game for those who wish followed by an early evening game for those who play after work.

JUNE

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| Sunday 4th | National Croquet Day |
| Tuesday 6th | Club Day |
| Tuesday 13th | Club Day |
| Tuesday 20th | Club Day |
| Friday 23rd | RAU term ends |
| Tuesday 27th | Club Day and Summer barbecue |
| | NEW DATE |

JULY

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| Tuesday 4th | Club Day |
| Tuesday 11th | Club Day |
| Saturday 15th | Parkstone match v Nailsea - Home |
| Tuesday 18th | Club Day |
| Tuesday 25th | Club Day |
| Saturday 29th | Parkstone match v Cheltenham - away |

AUGUST

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| Tuesday 1st | Club Day |
| Tuesday 8th | Club Day |
| Tuesday 15th | Club Day |
| Tuesday 22nd | Club Day |
| Tuesday 29th | Club Day |

SEPTEMBER

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| Tuesday 5th | Club Day |
| Tuesday 12th | Club Day |
| Friday 15th | RAU International students orientation croquet activity |
| Sunday 17th | Club competition day |
| Tuesday 19th | Club Day |
| Monday 25th - 29th | RAU student registration week |
| Tuesday 26th | Club Day |

OCTOBER

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| Tuesday 3rd | RAU term begins |
| Tuesday 3rd | Club Day |
| Tuesday 10th | Club Day |
| Tuesday 17th | Club Day |
| Tuesday 24th | Club Day |
| Monday 30th | AGM (provisional date) |

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

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| Friday 8th | RAU term ends |
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***Towards the end of the season
12th and 13th October 2017***



***Budleigh Open Short
Croquet Tournament***

***Aimed at satisfying a growing
demand in this popular code of Croquet***

***12th and 13th October 2017
All AC handicaps are welcome
SC handicaps will be assigned to
players who do not already have one
9 + timed games guaranteed***

***Manager - Peter Moore
CA membership not essential***

***Entry fee: £25 inc. tea/coffee and biscuits
(light lunch available)***

***Apply to: Phillip Shaw, Tournament Secretary,
2 Penlee, Budleigh Salterton, EX9 6BP.
Email: xwep@btinternet.com. Phone: 01395 442684
BSCC, Westfield Close, Budleigh Salterton, Devon EX9 6ST***