

The Bears Croquet Club at the RAU, Cirencester

May 2017 Newsletter

Club Competition Day



“Champions seem to be getting younger these days.” A mix of older and newer members played a variety of AC and GC games but also had the chance of trying their hand at one-ball and short croquet. One of our newest and youngest members, Harvey Smith, won the trophy after a full day of play and saw off the rest of the competition. He was in the lead for most of the day but with three other members hot on his heels, success was by no means assured. Another new member, Tony Stone, several decades Harvey’s senior, tried hard to upset Harvey’s position but youthful determination prevailed with Harvey scoring a total of 80 points, Tony on 75 and the rest of us trailing a long way behind.

He now has the pleasure of looking after The Bear Trophy and must keep it warm and well fed until the next competition day in September when he will have to defend his title in order to keep the bear for another six months.

We were pleased that so many came early on Sunday to help set up the courts and others who stayed at the end to help clear away. Many hands ... Many thanks.

Successful Open Day

The pre-publicity advertising our Open Day was more fruitful than expected. We had hoped to attract about ten visitors and for four or five of these to be encouraged to join us. The fact that twenty visitors spent several hours with us and eighteen of these expressed serious interest was gratifying. The Open Day was followed by a four week coaching course covering the basics of both GC and AC. Ten guests have attended regularly with four others expressing serious interest but who are unable to attend at the moment owing to other commitments. However, at the time of writing, seven people have applied for membership and others have expressed their intention of applying. We extend the warmest of welcomes to everyone who has been playing as our guest and hope that those who join will enjoy a long association with us.

New system for signing in and parking.

The RAU have agreed that on arrival, only the first of us needs to sign in/out at the Porter's Lodge and that person will then be the designated "responsible adult" for the duration of that club day. **This is on condition that everyone then signs in at our own register which is kept in our store cupboard so that an accurate record is kept of everyone who is on site on every occasion .**

Parking on site now requires a parking permit to be displayed. These are available from the Porter's Lodge and we are told that we should write our name and the word "Croquet" on the permit but not the date. We can then keep this permit in our cars for display on each visit. We understand that parking has been a problem and that security personnel will be on duty.

South West Federation (SWF).

The country is divided into areas and we are part of the SWF which covers Gloucestershire, Worcestershire, Wiltshire, Somerset, Devon, Cornwall, and south Wales. This is one of the biggest federations and organises competition leagues, coaching courses and much support for clubs. You can see more of the federation's activities in the SWAN magazine (**South West Area Newsletter**).

If anyone has not received their copy of SWAN, you can pick up a copy at the next club night. SWAN is published annually and email updates (called Cygnet) will be forwarded to you as they are born.

Lawn care.

We are grateful to two members who have volunteered to help with mowing the court. If we can get a few more, we will be able to create a rota so no-one has to do it more than four times a year.

Congratulations to Dave Gunn from Nottingham CC on his appointment to the new CA role of National Development Officer. Dave will be working with the Federation Development Officers to seek out best practices and develop initiatives to increase participation in our sport particularly in AC and in competitive play.

Increasing your knowledge.

Over the next few issues of the newsletter, we will be giving information about both Golf Croquet and Association Croquet. Much of what you will see is common to both but there are some fundamental differences. This is something that has bemused many of us and in recent years some progress has been made to bring the rules closer to each other. The GC Rules committee and the AC Laws committee are working on bringing more issues together but we may have to wait some time before they are totally in sync.

To start us off, this month we are looking at three issues: the etiquette for GC; the faults likely to occur in GC; and the most common differences between GC and AC rules. Next month we will focus on AC. *(I don't recommend you attempt to tackle this in one sitting or, indeed, to feel you have to memorise it: this is intended as an overview. You will learn the relevant issues as they crop up when playing.)*

GOLF CROQUET Etiquette. *(Do any of the following surprise you?)*

(Taken from Rules of the World Croquet Federation)

Players are responsible for maintaining good standards of behaviour towards other players, equipment, courts and spectators. Examples of unacceptable behaviour for which players may be penalised include, but are not limited to, cases where a player:

- (1) leaves the vicinity of the court during a match without permission from the opponent, referee or the manager.
- (2) offers tactical advice to an opponent during a match.
- (3) physically abuses their mallet or other equipment
- (4) disturbs other players during the match by talking, making noises, standing or moving in front of the striker, except as permitted or required by the rules.
- (5) argues aggressively or continuously with or is aggressive towards another player.
- (6) fails to accept a decision of a referee on a matter of fact or shows lack of respect for a referee.
- (7) knowingly or repeatedly plays the partner ball.
- (8) wastes time. Players are to play with reasonable dispatch. The striker is to play within 1 minute of the last turn ending, except where the game is held up while a ball is retrieved or a referee called.
- (9) plays after the opponent has clearly asked that play is stopped to enable an action to be investigated or a ball to be placed.
- (10) places a mark or marker to assist the striker in gauging the strength or direction of a stroke.
- (11) except with the permission of an opponent or referee, attempts to perform a physical test to determine whether a point has been scored or may be scored.
- (12) provides wrong information to an opponent when asked in accordance with Rule 8(b).
- (13) attempts to repair lawn damage that may indicate a fault, before it is ruled on by a referee or opponent.
- (14) smokes or drinks alcohol during a game.
- (15) acts in such a manner that may bring the game into disrepute.

The above are all points of etiquette and are in addition to the rules.

GOLF CROQUET FAULTS and remedies

The following are the most common but others and a more detailed explanation may be needed in which case, consult a referee.

Striking Faults

- e.g.
- touching the head of the mallet
 - resting the shaft of the mallet or hand or arm on the ground or any part of the legs or feet
 - causes the mallet to strike the ball by kicking it
 - strikes the ball with any part of the mallet other than the flat, end face
 - "double taps" the strikers ball
 - "crushes" the strikers ball
 - fails to play strikers ball away from a hoop or the peg if it is in contact with it
 - moves or shakes a ball at rest by hitting a hoop or peg with the mallet or any part of the body or clothes
 - "shepherding" the ball
 - touches any ball other than the striker's ball with the mallet
 - touches a ball with any part of the body or clothes
 - plays before the previous turn ends
 - plays any stroke which causes damage to the court

Remedy: Play must be stopped. The Opponent chooses whether to leave the balls where they are or have them replaced. No points have been scored in that turn and the turn ends. However, if play was not stopped and the next turn was played, the fault has been condoned and so no action can be taken.

Non Striking Faults

- e.g.
- a moving ball touches a player, a mallet, clothing or player's property
 - a player touches, moves or shakes a stationary ball with any part of the body, clothing or mallet (except when taking the shot)
 - a player causes damage to the court

Remedy: Play must be stopped. The Opponent of the person who caused the fault, chooses whether to leave the balls where they are or have them replaced. The side that made the fault loses its next turn. However, if play was not stopped and the next turn was played, the fault has been condoned and so no action can be taken.

Playing the Wrong Ball or playing out of sequence.

Either of these is a fault and must be dealt with immediately because if the next player plays the correct ball, the fault is condoned and no action can then be taken. There are three different remedies depending on the exact situation.

a) **Replace and replay** (in effect, no penalty). This happens if:

- the striker plays the wrong ball in the first 3 turns of the game
- in Singles, the striker plays the wrong one of their balls and the error is spotted before another ball is played.
- in Doubles, if the striker's partner plays his correct ball before the striker plays and the partner alerts the error.

- b) **Full penalty** - no points scored, opponent chooses whether to replace the balls or not and then opponent can restart with EITHER of their two balls. This happens if:
- Striker played opposition ball in Singles
 - Striker plays ANY wrong ball in Doubles
 - An opposition player plays out of turn
- c) **Condoned** - points can be scored, sequence continues from last ball played. This happens if:
- the last player plays their correct ball in sequence but the previous shot was played by the opponent with a wrong ball. i.e. By playing their shot, the striker condoned the previous shot.
 - if a series of wrong balls have been played, each condoned the preceding one so once spotted, the striker is the person who plays the correct ball in sequence following on from the last colour played.

Different rules for AC and GC

	AC	GC
Air shot (trying to hit the ball but missing)	End of turn	No error. Continue to play
Ball off court	When <u>any</u> part of the ball crosses the inside of the boundary line	When the <u>centre</u> of the ball has reached the inside of the boundary line
Touching ball accidentally with mallet while preparing for a stroke (either in a back swing or while addressing the ball)	No error. Continue	End of turn
Hoop names	1,2,3,4,5,6, 1 back, 2 back, 3 back, 4 back, penult, rover	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12

Club days

With increased membership we may need to consider having an additional club day possibly with one having a full size court and the other having two half-size which is better for those learning the game. Your views on this will help us make a choice which works for all.

Remember that by using the on-line booking system, members can play at other times when the court is available. The students will always have priority on Wednesdays (their sports days) and Fridays from 4.30 (their social play time).

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.

MAY

Tuesday 2nd Club Day
Tuesday 9th Club Day
Tuesday 16th Club Day
Saturday 20th Parkstone match v Bristol - Away
Tuesday 23rd Club Day

*Sunday 28th Parkstone match
v Sidmouth - Away*

Tuesday 30th Club Day

* This is a "Home" match but we shall be playing it at Sidmouth.

JUNE

Sunday 4th National Croquet Day
Tuesday 6th Club Day
Tuesday 13th Club Day
Tuesday 20th Club Day
Thursday 22nd Summer barbecue (provisional)
Friday 23rd RAU term ends
Tuesday 27th Club Day

JULY

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

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

SEPTEMBER

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

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

Friday 8th RAU term ends

Good luck to the Parkstone League players who have their first two matches in May. They play Bristol on 20th and Sidmouth on 28th - both are away matches.