

## What is Croquet?

Association Croquet has been likened to a cross between snooker and chess on grass. The game is played with four balls - red and yellow being paired against black and blue. Both balls have to go each way through six hoops in a set order and then hit the peg.

You have two extra shots when you hit another ball (roquet). For the first (croquet shot) you pick up your ball, put it next to the ball you've just roqueted and then move both balls. You also have an extra shot when you go through your next hoop.

So, as in snooker, you can use a sequence of strokes in a single turn to build up a break, in which several hoops are run. The side (doubles or singles) to 'peg-out' both balls first is the winner.



Casual and warm clothing may be needed in October!

Croquet is a skilful, tactical, intelligent and fascinating game requiring *skill* rather than strength. Beginners start off with a simpler variation called **Golf Croquet**, which gives immediate fun and practice at shots.

So that players of different ability can compete on equal terms there's a simple handicap system. At the top level there are international matches between various countries, culminating in World Croquet Individual and Team Championships.

## Where are we?

We're in Calverley Grounds (at the arrow in the map on the right): the nearest entrance is in Crescent Road.



We have three full-size lawns and a clubhouse built in 1995 with changing rooms and kitchen facilities.

## When can I play?

You can play any time from dawn to dusk, using your own key to gain access. Every Wednesday and Sunday from April to September we have 'club afternoons' when lots of members play socially. There are other club sessions specifically for coaching, Association or Golf Croquet and also Team events.



Daphne Gaitley coaching our players

## What about competitions?

We hold club and open tournaments and other competitive events throughout the year.

As a member of the Croquet Association our teams compete in the South East Federation Leagues and tournaments.

## What do I wear?

Sports wear - whites are only worn for tournaments and club matches. Flat-soled shoes are the one essential. Add a sweater for cool days in spring or autumn.

## How much do I pay?

Our membership year is a calendar one. New members pay a reduced subscription of £75 for the first year, including free coaching and use of equipment (£50 if joining after 1<sup>st</sup> July). In subsequent years the cost is £100. Students pay just £35 per annum.

## What equipment do I need?

None – we provide everything you need. After a time you may decide to buy your own mallet (costs about £170).

## What happens when I join?

You will be allocated a 'mentor' who will help you get started, introduce you to existing members and arrange coaching.

## Can I have a free trial?

Of course. Just ring our Membership Secretary Carolyn Gunstone on 01892 771194 and she'll arrange for a member to meet you at the club, or just turn up on one of our Open Days.



The normal way of holding the mallet

## Golf Croquet: what's that?

There's no relationship to Golf, except that it's a bit like Match Play Golf in concept.

It's a game for two or four people. When four play you each use just one ball and take turns in the sequence shown on the centre peg – blue, red, black, yellow then blue again. Blue starts and tries to get as close as possible to run the first hoop.

The others follow, but in the next turn each player has a choice of either trying to run the hoop or spoiling another player's chances and helping his/her partner succeed. That's when the tactics come in and the fun starts.

This rapidly teaches you the importance of being able to hit straight, either to go through a hoop or to hit an opponent's ball. Once a hoop is run you all move on to the next hoop in the correct sequence. The winning side is the first to score seven hoops.

When two people play each player uses two balls: Blue and Black against Red and Yellow.



Our Golf Croquet Team playing Eastbourne

The rules are easily learnt, but Golf Croquet provides a very good game for beginners and experts alike. A handicap system similar to that in Association Croquet lets players of different ability play competitively with each other.

## Membership Application Form

I would like to join the Royal Tunbridge Wells Croquet Club at the reduced subscription rate of £75 for the first year (to December), plus £10 key deposit.

Name .....

Telephone .....

Address .....

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Email address

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Please return this form to our Membership Secretary:

**Carolyn Gunstone**  
**The Corn House**  
**Hartwell Farm**  
**Edenbridge Road**  
**Hartfield TN7 4JT**

**Tel: 01892 771194**  
**Email: [gunstones@btinternet.com](mailto:gunstones@btinternet.com)**

Cheques should be made payable to  
**Royal Tunbridge Wells Croquet Club**

### Need more information?

You can find out much more information about us from the Secretary or from:

<http://www.tunbridgewellscroquet.org.uk>



## CROQUET in Tunbridge Wells

Don't be a couch potato this summer!!  
Enjoy the benefits of gentle exercise  
and fresh air.

Join us at our Croquet Club in the  
centre of Tunbridge Wells and learn  
how to play this fascinating game.

You never know - it may  
change your life!

*Come to any Open Day, held the first  
Sunday afternoon in the months of  
May, June and July, and we'll teach  
you free of charge!*