

CHELMSFORD CROQUET CLUB

MEMBER'S HANDBOOK

July 2015

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Introduction

Established in 1990 the Chelmsford Croquet Club moved to its present site in 1997, merged with Bentley Croquet Club in 1999 to form the Chelmsford and Bentley Croquet Club, and then in 2015 reverted to Chelmsford Croquet Club. The club, which is a member of the Croquet Association, has two lawns and offers both association and golf croquet.

Location and Car Parking

The club is located on the Writtle College Sports Ground, Foxburrows Lane, Lordship Road, Writtle, CM1 3SS. Cars can be parked in the pavilion car park.

Members with a disability may drive up the gravel track then across the playing field, keeping close to the tennis courts, and park adjacent to the clubhouse.

Clubhouse

The clubhouse, erected in 2006, offers facilities for making drinks, preparing refreshments for visiting clubs and for social occasions - and of course sheltering from the rain! There are facilities for members to make hot drinks and the club provides, for a small charge, coffee, tea bags, sugar, milk and biscuits

There are toilets in the sports pavilion adjacent to the main car park - unless the pavilion is in use members will need to have the access code for the keypad on the pavilion door.

Members are provided with a key to unlock all padlocks to clubhouse doors and windows but also need to know the keypad code – not the same as for the pavilion.

Copies of the laws of both association and golf croquet can be found hanging on the clubhouse wall under the clock.

Lawn Usage

Depending on the weather the lawns are available from early April until the end of September/beginning of October.

The lawns are reserved for golf croquet during the day on Tuesdays and Thursdays and for association croquet on Wednesdays and Saturdays. On other days and in the evenings, unless booked for a match or some other event, members are welcome to use the lawns on a first come basis – though note that on Mondays the groundsman has priority.

Other than on the 'reserved days', members may bring guests - for which a 'green fee' is charged. (Please record names in the club diary and pay the fee to the Treasurer.)

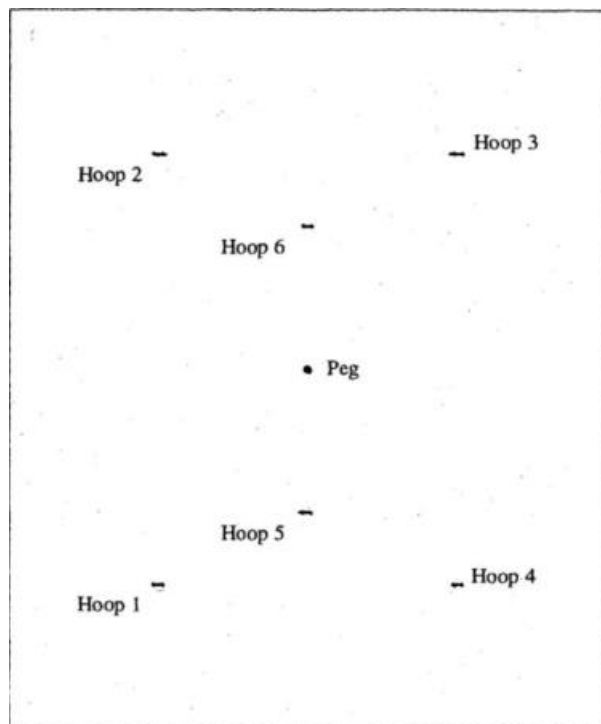
To reduce wear and to avoid damage to the lawns, other than when in play members should not walk on or across the lawns.

Mallets

The club has a small supply of mallets for the use of members and guests, particularly new members. Many members, once they are sure croquet is for them, buy their own mallets; those who don't and continue to use club mallets are asked to make a voluntary contribution of 20p per session – there is a box in the clubhouse – which goes towards the cost of maintaining and replacing club mallets.

Hoops and Pegs

There are two sets of hoops and pegs, one set for each lawn. It is a feature of cast iron hoops that the 'carrots' are not exactly identical so both sets of hoops (those for the lower lawn are kept in a wheeled trolley) are numbered 1-6 on the top of the left hand-side leg and should be placed as in the diagram below with the number facing towards the 'south boundary'.



Hoops are made of cast iron and are liable to shatter. Whilst they need to be firmly in the ground only a rubber headed mallet should be used to knock them in.

Because of the development of 'rabbit runs' it is necessary to move the hoops every few weeks. When the hoops are reset the 'carrots' are initially left anything up to half an inch above lawn level. This does not impede the balls running through the hoops and when setting out the lawn the hoops should be hammered in no further than necessary to ensure they are firm.

When the weather is dry, the groundsman has asked that at the end of play all the holes be filled with water – there are watering cans in the small hut.

Balls and Clips

The club bought four new sets of balls in 2009 – two sets of ‘primaries’ and two sets of ‘secondaries’ - and every care should be taken to avoid any damage. The coloured clips are used only for association croquet.

Clothing and Footwear

Other than for club matches and some internal competitions, when it is customary to wear ‘whites’, there is no particular dress code but it is essential at all times to wear flat-soled shoes to avoid damaging the lawns.

Etiquette and Customs

The following guidance – mainly but not exclusively relevant to association croquet matches - is reproduced from the Croquet Association’s Club Handbook.

General

- *By convention, the player with the lowest handicap tosses up, and is also responsible for setting up any bisques.*
- *In play, wait until your opponent's turn has ended before moving onto the court.*
- *Play as quickly as possible. Try to decide before your opponent has finished his turn what you are going to do next to avoid wasting time. In doubles matches, do not carry out unnecessarily long discussions with your partner when it is your side's turn to play.*
- *Do not distract your opponent by walking about, talking loudly, catching his eye, etc. Do not stand directly behind him watching him shoot, or directly in front of him on the line of aim.*
- *While out of play and off the court, be aware of other games taking place. Stand still if you are in the line of play on another court, or near a player about to make a shot.*

When Double-banking

- *Do not walk across the line of aim of the other game.*
- *Ask the other game if you can mark and lift any of their balls that may be at risk from your play. Always err on the cautious side before you strike your ball, even if you are playing well nothing is more annoying to the other game than having to try to guess where a critical ball was.*
- *Always let the other game through if a break is being played.*
- *Always keep an eye out to ensure that you do not impede the other game.*
- *If you do mark and lift a ball, make certain that the player in play in the other game realises that you have done so, particularly if their out player has started a new turn.*
- *Do not leave your mallet lying inside the yard line while you retrieve a ball that has gone off the court.*

Social Events

A number of social events are held during the playing season whilst in the winter months, in addition to the annual lunch, there are customarily activities such as indoor carpet bowls, and an organised walk with a pub lunch.

Officers and Committee Membership

This information can be found on the notice board in the clubhouse.

Useful Links

Club website

www.chelmsfordcroquet.uk

East Anglian Croquet Federation

www.angliacroquet.co.uk

Croquet Association website

www.croquet.org.uk/index.asp