

# Running Hoops

## The Newsletter of Kenilworth Croquet

March 2016

### Welcome to the 2016 Croquet season

While you have all been in hibernation your committee have been working on a few changes to the administration of the section .

The series of articles below cover changes lawn usage, handicaps, GC sessions and a GC philosophy.

There is also news of the fun day, open days and other items.

*P.S. Marj has emerged from her antipodean 'summer' season*

**Hope you enjoy the newsletter.**

Gordon

But first:

Situation vacant . Stella is no long able to fulfil the position of Friendly Match Organiser. Anyone who would like to fill this important and enjoyable position please talk to Adrian.

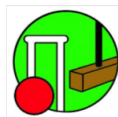
### Communications

During the winter much work is carried out by your committee and other members on the many and varied tasks that keep Kenilworth Croquet alive and flourishing. Not just the hard physical work on the lawns, grounds and buildings but all the "soft" areas as well, in terms of planning for the season and making things better for the future.

Some of the outcome of this work can be seen in the improved communications sent out with a new logo and presentation style being used with very useful links to the club website and calendar.

This cleaner format also links us to the main club and follows a format from the Main Club website and similar formats will be used by Squash and Tennis.

This consistent format has also been introduced in the Marketing for the Open Days and in the club letterheads.



## KENILWORTH CROQUET

Crackley Lane, Kenilworth, CV8 2JS

Website: [www.ktscc.co.uk/croquet](http://www.ktscc.co.uk/croquet)

Email: [croquet@ktscc.co.uk](mailto:croquet@ktscc.co.uk)

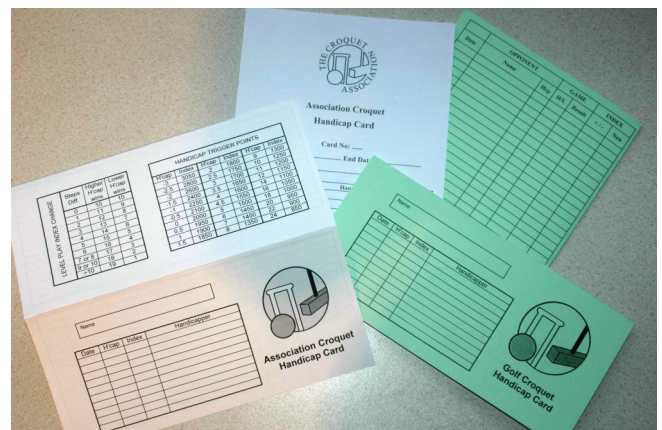
### New Handicap Cards

This season the Croquet Association is issuing new handicap cards for both GC and AC. The changes allow a new column for the date of games and more space to input details.

The new cards are A4, folded in half to A5 size but the useful information of index trigger points and the index point calculation for level play games has been excluded from the card.

We have therefore produced A4, trifold versions as previous cards with this information included. There is the same increased space for detail but with less games per card

Both versions will be available in the pavilion.



## Golf Croquet Handicap Changes

Over recent years, there has been disquiet about the GC Handicapping system. This was particularly pertinent at the extremes of the range. Much work has been done by the Croquet Association including analysing thousands of results and running a full season's trial in the East Midlands Region.

Following this successful trial, a new system is being introduced this season.

The most obvious change is the extension of the previous range. At the expert level, zero handicapped players will be spread from 0 to -5. Needless to say this affects no-one in Kenilworth!

At the other end of the scale, handicaps for new players can be as high as 16, compared to 12 at the moment. During play, this may drift to 18 or even 20. It is expected that there will be very few at 16 or above.

### **HOW DOES IT AFFECT ME?**

Very few people will have their handicaps changed but to facilitate the extended range, your index score will be increased.

Handicaps 6 to 12	Handicaps same, add 1100 to index
5	Handicaps same, add 1150 to index
3 or 4	Handicaps same, add 1200 to index. If 1800 or above, adjust handicap to 2
2	Becomes Handicap 1 with index of 1900

Anyone of Handicap 12 can ask to be adjusted, if they feel that they should be 14 or even 16.

Full details are available on the CA website and on Notice Board in the pavilion

## GC Handicaps

A GC Handicap will be set for all members as they feel ready and they would then be expected to maintain their handicap card for all qualifying games by adjusting their index after each competitive game.

The handicap is only used when playing competitively in club competitions, matches versus other clubs or in tournaments. A handicap of 10 is required to take part in certain activities. Players may continue to play in the "Social" leagues or by arranging games with fellow members without having been set a handicap.

Handicaps allow even matches between players of differing levels of experience and capability. They also show the level of play achieved by the individual and can be a good measure of improvement within the sport.

Initial Handicaps are set following an assessment by the Club handicapper(s). This assessment is usually done by watching play, assessing ability during coaching sessions and/or using results from the 3x6 hoop challenge, see below.

An individual can assess their own approximate handicap level as shown below. This is also a good practice routine.

Start from the normal start corner and count how many strokes it takes to run six hoops in order. This should be done over three circuits and the table below used to give an indication of your handicap.

An average score of less than 18 would require a further assessment before allocating a handicap.

The full details can be found on the CA website under the "Three Times Round" assessment.

Average Count per circuit	Indicated Handicap
26	14
23	12
21	10
20	8
18	7

## Philosophy

The following is our philosophy towards nurturing new members and high handicapped players. This applies to Golf Croquet but there will also be the opportunity with this framework to demonstrate Association Croquet and offer an introduction to AC to all interested members.

## Introduction for prospective new members

We offer three sessions on Tuesday evenings, led by Mervyn, for prospective members to learn something about Golf Croquet and to understand if it is a sport for them. This will be based on the CA Coaching Manual but recognise that the initial purpose is to give the audience enough of hands-on experience for them to make their decision.

## Tuesday club nights

The above introductions and ongoing nurturing of these new members and other high handicap players will impinge on the Tuesday Club Nights and we shall, therefore, provide a rota of more senior members to supervise activity during these evenings. These Club Nights will be open to all members.

## Monday afternoon GC sessions

These sessions are reserved for members with handicaps 10 or better. A player who has played on a Monday but whose handicap drifts higher will still be welcome.

## Member handicaps

New Members need not have a handicap until they are ready but will need a handicap of 10 to enter club competitions or the competitive GC leagues. Handicaps will be set and adjusted as necessary by the Club Handicapper(s) assisted by information from game results in club competitions and/or the GC leagues using whatever protocol he sees fit. We will ensure that those players without a handicap have every opportunity to enjoy croquet including some sessions of supervised play and the option to join the "Social GC Leagues" when they feel ready.

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## GC Sessions

There are currently two sessions which are allocated to GC:

Tuesday evenings L1, 2 & 3 and Monday afternoons L2 & 3. Thursday evenings are allocated to AC, on all lawns

### Tuesday Evenings:

Open to **ALL** and it is during these sessions that the introductions to Croquet take place together with relevant coaching. Play can be separated by standard and L3 can be used for high handicap players if necessary. A senior member will be available to supervise play.

### Monday Afternoons:

Are reserved for players of handicap 10 or better. Currently, only L2 is reserved but if demand increases, we would consider expanding the reservation to include L1.

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## Use of lawns

In 2016 we intend to continue to allow free use of the lawns on a first come first served basis. Until now, there have been very few occasions when member usage requirements has exceeded available space.

We are reluctant to move towards any lawn booking system. This will be reviewed if the number of incidents increases.

All lawns are available for members to play unless there is an event publicised on the Calendar of Events, available on the website or on pavilion notice board. Some sessions are allocated to a specific code.

We do expect common sense to prevail but the following guidelines to lawn usage should be followed.

First arrival of either code may select a lawn. New players arriving to play the same code may also play on either lawn but are encouraged to double bank. If they decide to play on a separate lawn and members arrive to play the other code, they are expected to move lawns to join the first arrivals.

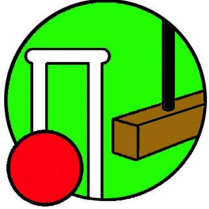
No member, or code of Croquet, has precedence over another in terms of lawn usage.

## Events:

We are intending to hold **two open days** on Sunday April 24th & Saturday April 30th to recruit new members. Help is needed to set up and run the event. The event starts at 1p.m. so if you can help please come along help make the days a success.

There is to be a Croquet Fun Day on Sunday 17th April: communications nearer the dates.

Please spread the word about the events. If you would like a hard copy of the poster, contact Ray.



# KENILWORTH CROQUET

**Crackley Lane, (Off Coventry Road), Kenilworth. CV8 2JS**



**Come and try Croquet at our**

# **OPEN DAYS**

**Sunday April 24th & Saturday April 30th**

- ◆ You are welcome anytime between 1pm and 5pm.
- ◆ Wear what you like but, trainers or other flat soled shoes please.
- ◆ All equipment and instruction provided.
- ◆ A warm welcome guaranteed.



She's back! Marj has had a busy season down under and is now relaxing with answers to questions from, among others, Lucy and Carol.

Anyone spotted the form in which Carol has written each stanza; **prize for first correct reply.**

Dear Marj

Could you please clear up a disagreement between Sheila Bruce, my Aussie friend, and me, who have been playing GC for donkey's years. We were double-banking, and I hit my ball towards the next hoop – concentrating so hard on not lifting my head, that I did not see that someone in the other game had taken up position between me and the hoop. The inevitable happened, and my ball hit his boot (no harm done – thankfully).

I was prepared to agree with Sheila where the ball may have ended up, and if we couldn't agree – play the shot again. However, Sheila said that it was for her, and her alone, either to leave the ball where it actually ended up or rule on where it may have stopped if there had been no interference. We have never played it that way before – surely she is wrong. Is that what they mean by "Aussie rules"!

Lucy Lastic

*Dear Lucy*

*Ouch! Sorry – Sheila is right, but I can see why you think otherwise. Such "interferences" don't happen often, and most of the time will be when someone in the other game walks across the line of a moving ball. Such occurrences cannot normally be predicted or prevented, and so it's a case of coming to a reasonable agreement with the opponent as to where the ball would have ended up, or replaying the shot if there was a reasonable chance that it would have ended up in a critical position.*

*However – you make it pretty clear that the obstacle was in position before you played your shot, and while your technique may be admirable, the rules effectively expect you to be more vigilant. In these precise circumstances, Sheila was right to say that she can choose whether to leave the ball where it is or to put it where she feels it would have stopped. Of course, under the high standard of ethics which we all observe (even us Aussies "Advance fairly!"), she will not be silly about this! She was also right to say that the rules specifically prohibit a replay.*

Marj

Dear Marj

The lawn is green, the hoops are white,  
It is indeed a splendid sight  
My opponent's good, his name is Jack  
"Your turn to play, with black"

Now where are we? "Jack, what's the score?"

"Buck up old girl, I've won all four"  
How's his ball there? In front of five?  
It's through, oh Saints Alive!

It's running on, oh fiddlesticks,  
In just one shot, it's now through six  
"How can that be? Upon my soul,  
We've got no middle pole.

I'll fetch it", and off I trot.

"You'll have to retake that shot"

"Sorry, not per law two-three,  
You'll find that's six to me!"

Carol Lewis

*Dear Carol*

*Bizarre as it may seem, even though it should not be possible to hit a ball straight through five and six, there is no provision in the rules for that shot to be replayed. Rule 2 (3) says "If it is discovered that a game is being played with a hoop or the peg missing or seriously misplaced, the item should be correctly placed, and play should continue from that point with all previous legal play condoned."*

Marj

**Please continue to send me lots of exciting articles, photographs, opinions and comments on any thing remotely related to croquet and our club.**

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**Gordon Henderson. Editor**