

# HAVE YOU TRIED CROQUET?

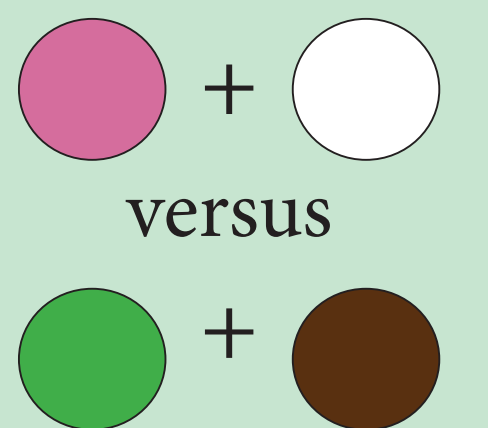
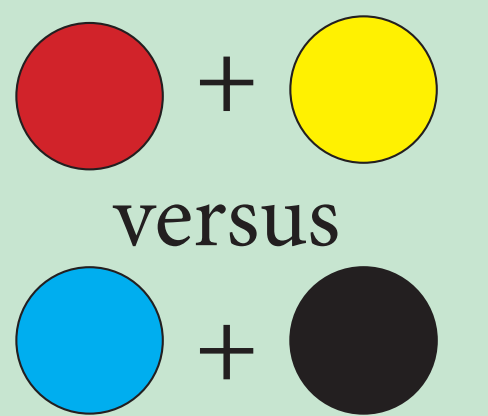
It is a game playable by anyone who can swing a mallet and is played between two sides: Red and Yellow against Blue and Black. It is a game of strategy and skill rather than strength and is accessible to all ages. The aim is to win the game by getting your balls through more hoops than your opponent.

A side can be one player or a team of two; in singles, each player plays two balls and in doubles, each player plays just one.

A second game is often played on a single court with a different set of balls in which Pink and White oppose Green and Brown.

When a game is played using handicaps, the player with the higher handicap is awarded a number of additional turns to reflect the handicap difference between the players.

This enables competitive games between players of all abilities.



## There are two main forms of the game: Association Croquet and Golf Croquet

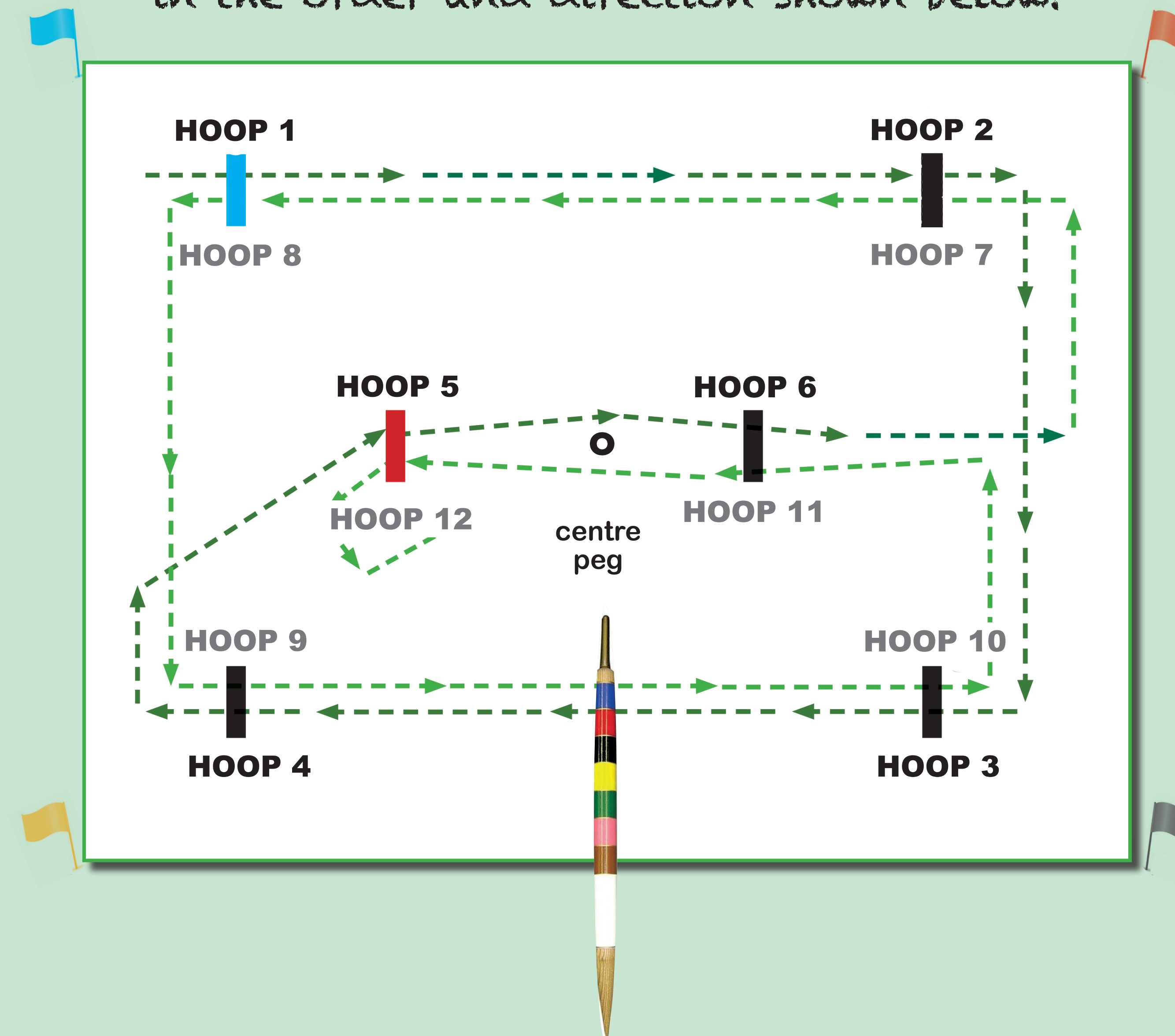
### How can I tell which is being played?

Only one side on the lawn and playing a sequence of shots?

#### Then it's ASSOCIATION CROQUET

Each side tries to score points with their balls while restricting the opposition's chances to do the same. A player scores a point by hitting their ball in the correct direction through its next hoop. The players take turns, with either ball of their side. In the first stroke of a turn the player can try to hit their ball through its next hoop or to hit (roquet<sup>1</sup>) another to gain two additional shots and start a 'break'. The first additional shot, a croquet stroke is played from where the roqueted ball comes to rest. The player's ball is placed in contact<sup>2</sup> with the roqueted ball and the player's ball then struck<sup>3</sup> so that both balls move, often to widely separated positions. The second additional shot (a continuation stroke<sup>4</sup>) is used to roquet another ball or to go through the next hoop to score a point. A roquet can be made once on each of the other three balls before a hoop point is scored. That gains an extra continuation shot and, with it, the right to roquet each of the other three balls again. A player can score many points in one break. The winner is the first side to score all hoops with both balls and to hit the peg – 26 points in all.

Players score points by hitting balls through the hoops in the order and direction shown below.

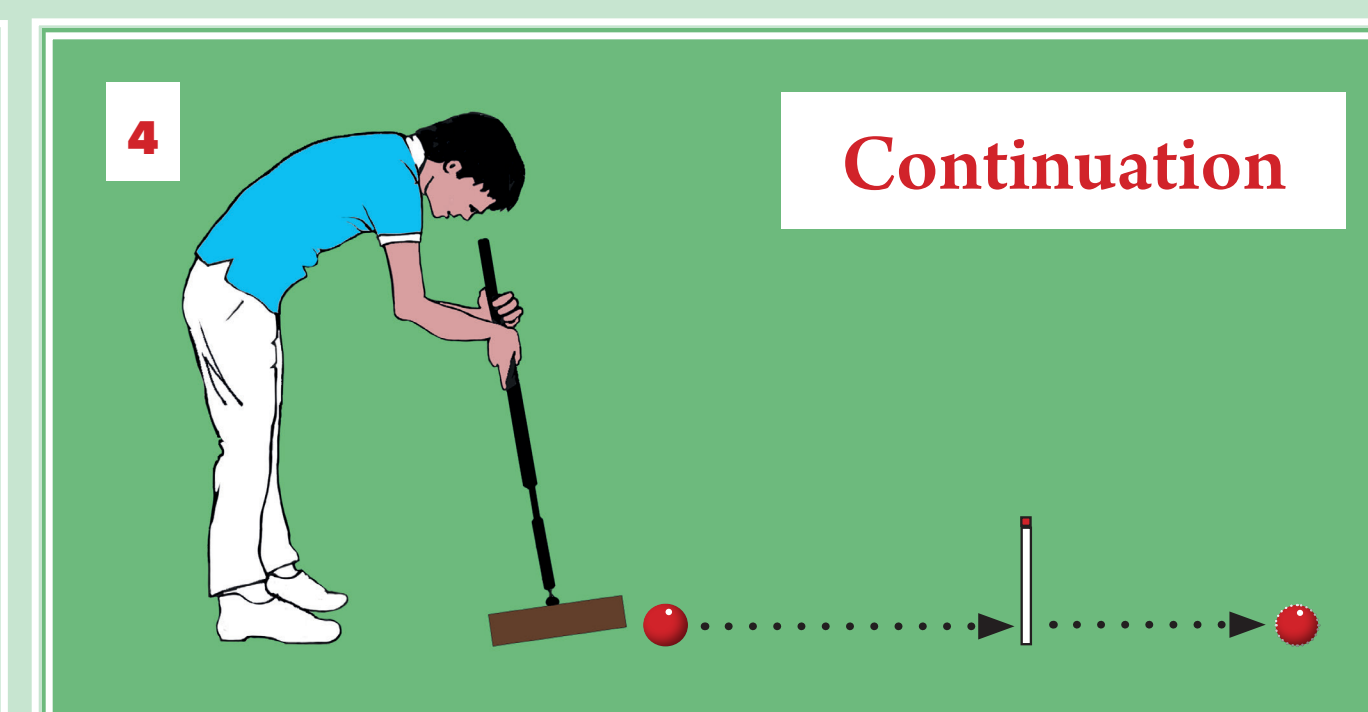
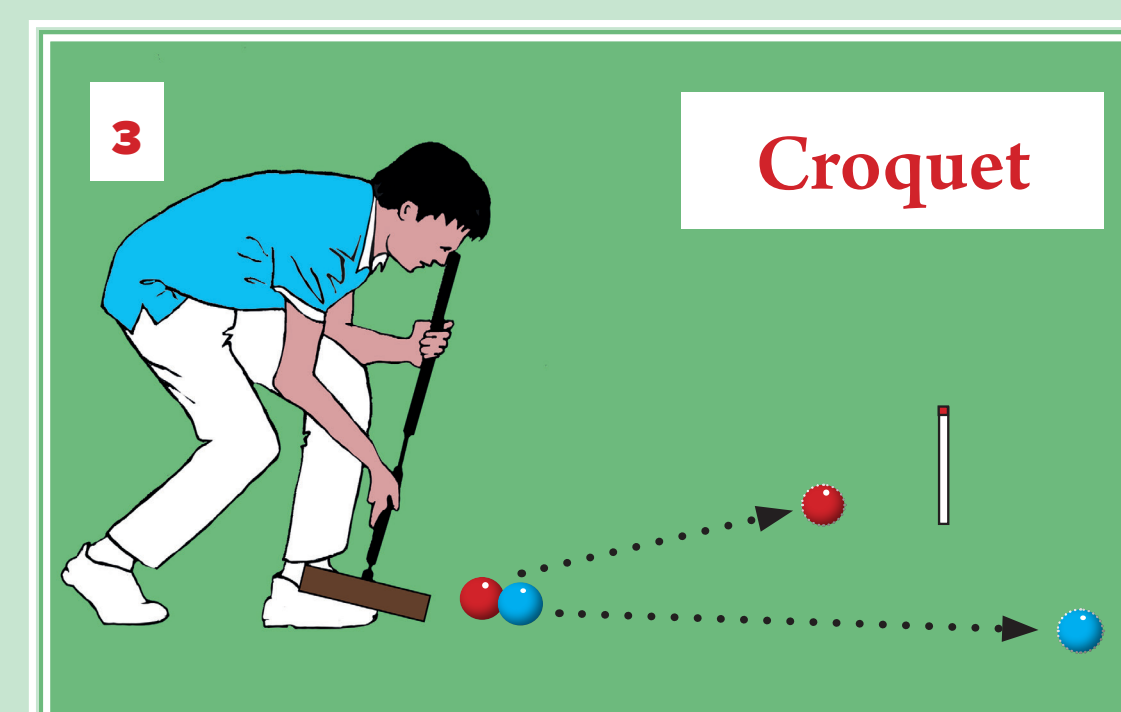
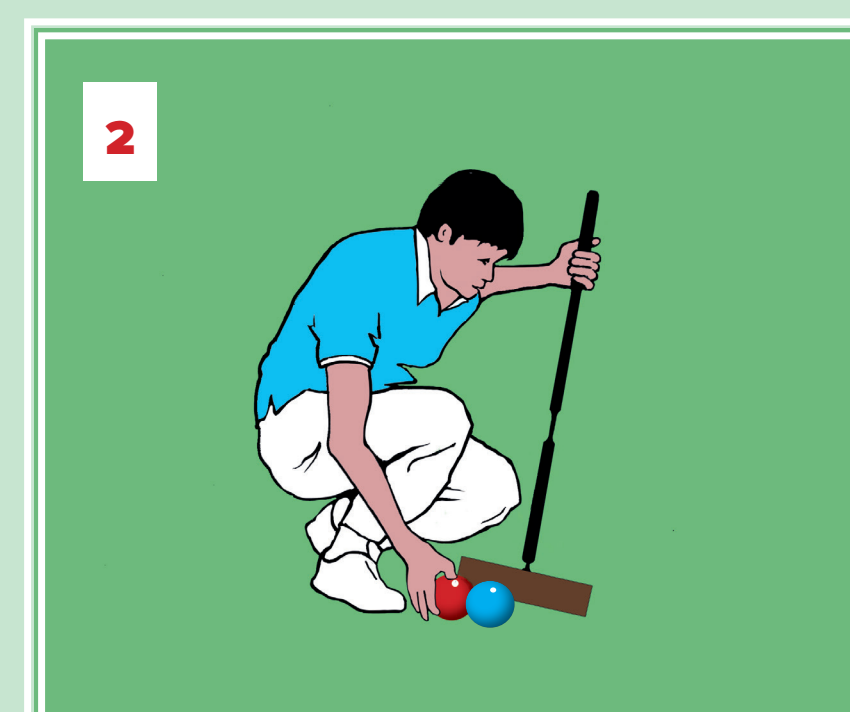
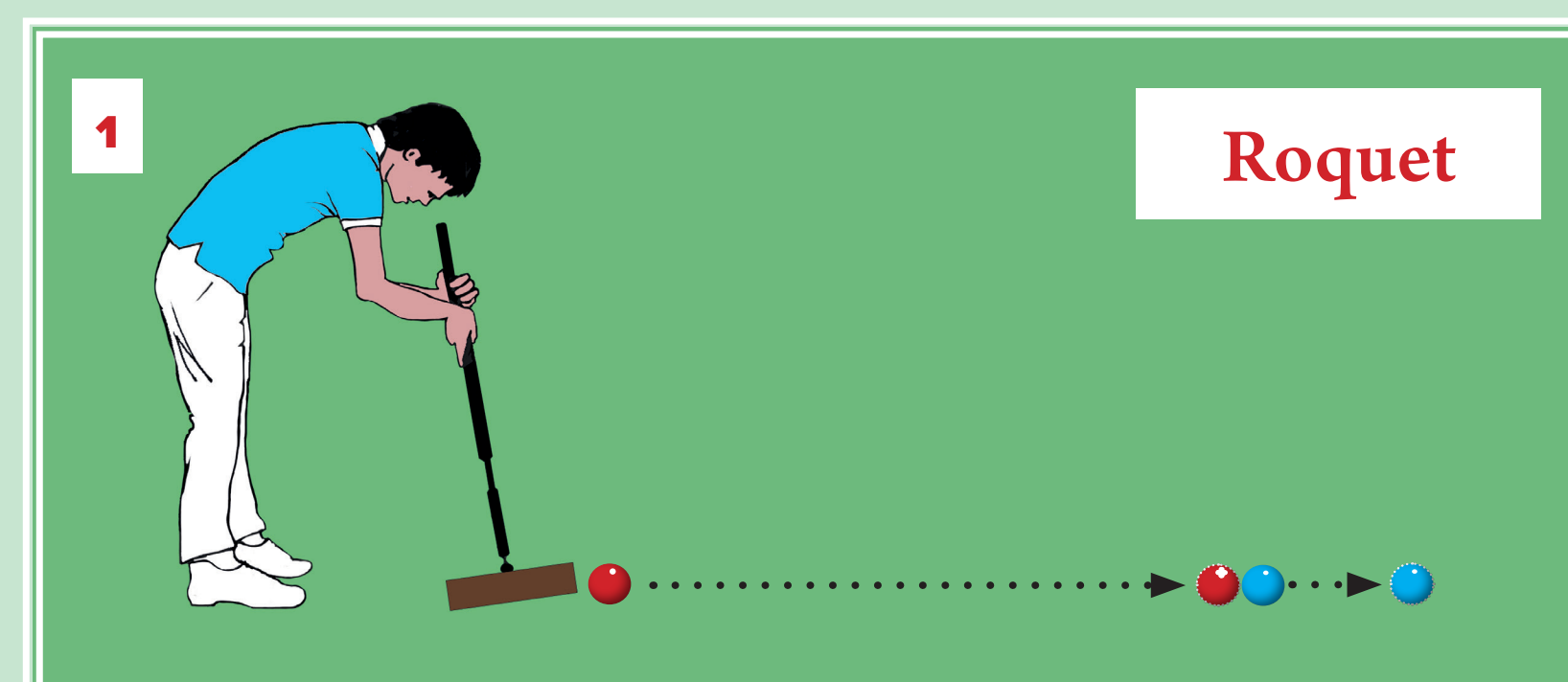


Both sides on the lawn together and each player's turn is just a single shot?

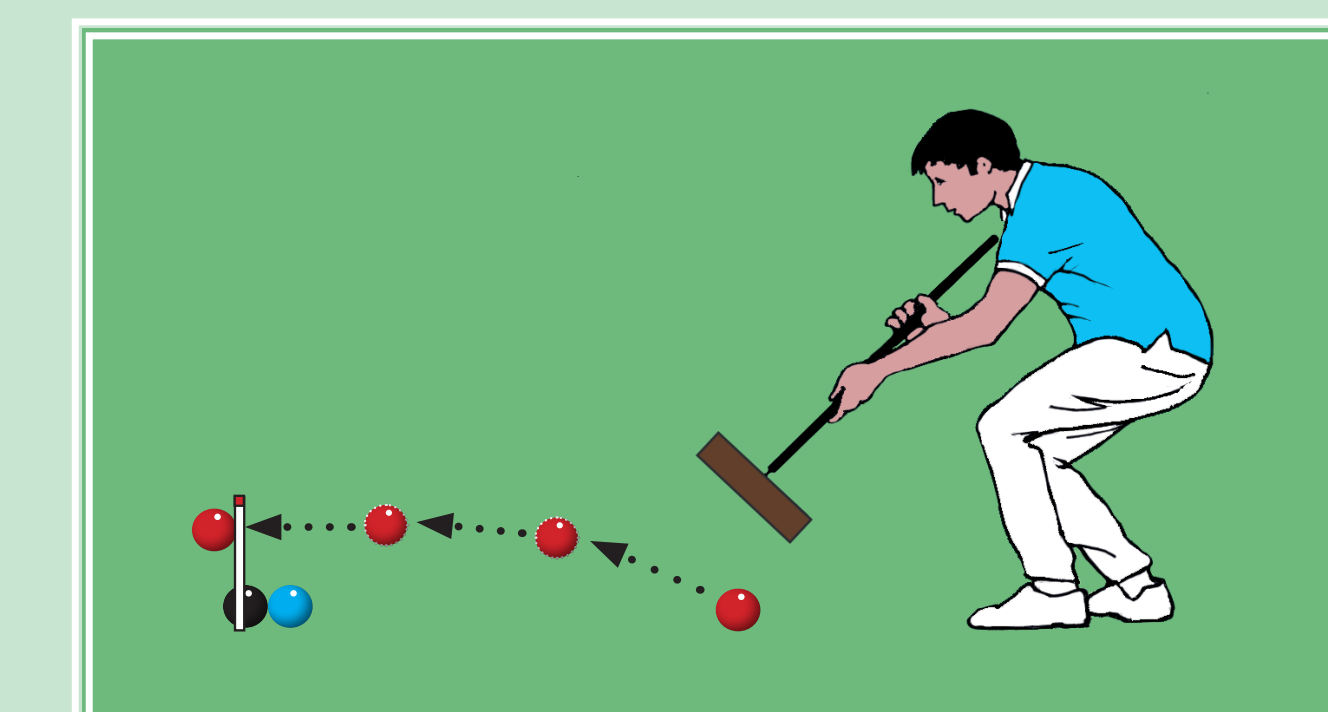
#### Then it's GOLF CROQUET

In this form of the game, a turn is a single stroke with the balls played in a strict sequence of Blue/Red/Black/Yellow (or Green/Pink/Brown/White) as given on the centre peg and shown left. Each player hits only one stroke at a time. Players contest each hoop in order. The first ball to pass through it in the correct direction wins that hoop for their side and scores that point. Then all players contest the next hoop. Players try to hit their ball through the hoop but when unable to do so will try to block an opponent's path to the hoop, to improve the position of their own side's other ball or to knock the opposition away from favourable positions. Those tactics lead to some spectacular shots such as the 'jump shot' over an opponent and through the hoop (as shown below). Clips are placed on the hoops to indicate which side won that hoop. Each game is the best of 13 hoops, so the winner is the side that reaches 7 hoop points. If the scores are level after 12 hoops, hoop 3 is played as the decider immediately after hoop 12.

### Building a break in Association Croquet



### Jump Shot



Note how little space there is for the ball to pass through the iron hoops – just 3mm or less



Surbiton Croquet Club is the largest croquet club in London. We welcome spectators and new members, run coaching courses and organise club, national and international tournaments. To learn more, come in or visit [www.surbitoncroquet.org.uk](http://www.surbitoncroquet.org.uk)

