



SURBITON CROQUET CLUB

www.surbitoncroquet.org.uk

NEW MEMBERS' PACK

This information pack has been written to provide all new members with an introduction to the club and how it operates. Do visit the website for more information and up-to-date details on tournaments and events.

We try to be accessible, which means that we keep our subscriptions at an affordable level and do not have lots of silly rules. We are passionate about the game and trying to play it well and proud of our excellent facilities and what we achieve.

A very warm welcome and we hope that you will enjoy your croquet with us.

George Noble

George Noble
Chairman

Contents

1. An Introduction to SCC	3
2. The Club's Aims	4
3. Club Access	4
4. Club Membership	4
5. Visitors & Guests	4
6. Club Committees	5
7. Club Tournaments	5
8. Croquet Handicaps	5
9. Booking Lawns	5
10. The Year's Calendar	5
11. Coaching	6
12. Summer Croquet	6
13. Winter Croquet (and Bridge)	6
14. How to Lay Out a Lawn	6
15. Lawn Cutting Schedule	6
16. How the Bar Works	7
17. How Catering Works	7
18. SCC Clothing	7
19. The Croquet Association	7
20. Inter-Club Tournaments	8
21. Health & Safety	8
22. Good Food Guide	9
23. Etiquette & Customs	9
24. Recruitment	10

Attachments:

- 1: Club Officers
- 2: Qualified Coaches
- 3: Laying out Lawns
- 4: Inter-club Organisers
- 5: Recruitment Poster
- 6: Membership Application Form

An Introduction to SCC

The present croquet club in Surbiton, based on land leased from the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames in Alexandra Drive, is not the first croquet club in Surbiton. The first record of a croquet club in Surbiton appeared in 1897, on what is now Surbiton Tennis Club in Berrylands Road. The croquet club did not survive the war and was compulsorily purchased to become the site of Christ Church C of E Primary School. Until recently, it was possible to make out the outline of the old lawns on the school playing field. Further information about croquet in Surbiton up until 1945 is available on the archive page within the club's web site.

In 1985, the late Derek Caporn worked with the late Lionel Wharrad, then Chairman of the Croquet Association and later president of Surbiton Croquet Club, to establish SCC in its present form and location. The club was developed on the former site of public grass tennis courts, and the small brick building next to the hard tennis courts (yes, it once was a public toilet) became our first "clubhouse" and storeroom, largely through the efforts of Stephen Mulliner

Facilities improved quickly when Derek Caporn sponsored the purchase of our first on-site clubhouse which is now the equipment hut. Loans from the Croquet Association and from Fuller, Smith & Turner plc, together with a grant from the Sports Council, helped finance the present clubhouse which was formally opened in 1988 by the then Chairman of the Sports Council, the late Sir Peter Yarranton. The kitchen was later extended with the help of a grant from the Croquet Association (topped up by the South East Croquet Federation).

Converting tennis courts into croquet lawns involved a great deal of work and money. Each lawn has been laser-levelled; some have been levelled twice. We were fortunate to receive a Lottery grant to help meet the cost of those works. In 2010, we installed an irrigation system, a huge undertaking which was paid for from club funds and with the help of club members and the Croquet Association.

The club's membership has grown steadily since the handful of experts who founded the club and we have more than 100 playing members including many who are new to the game as well as the current (2016/7) World Champions in both Association and Golf Croquet. The club's facilities and standing as a centre of croquet excellence mean that we are regularly asked to host major events. Recent highlights are:

- 2010 The MacRobertson Shield, the premier Association Croquet world team championship;
- 2011 The Association Croquet British Open Championship
- 2013 The Association Croquet World Championship
- 2016 The Golf Croquet World Team Championship
- 2017 The Golf Croquet British Open Championship



The Club's Aims

Surbiton Croquet Club aims to be a centre of excellence for British croquet:

- providing first class, affordable and accessible facilities in south west London for the playing of croquet for people of all ages and skills;
- forming a focus for regional networking;
- contributing to the development and furtherance of the game nationally.

Finances

The club is able to offer membership at attractive rates because of the efforts of the members. We are a "self-help" club in that if at all possible we do the work ourselves and only contract others when absolutely necessary. Additionally, we are fortunate to receive sponsorship from a local firm: Palmers Solicitors who provide legal advice from their offices in Kingston-upon-Thames (<http://www.palmerssolicitors.co.uk/>).

Club Access

Each new member should contact a Committee member to receive instructions about how to access the club's grounds and facilities. With the exception of a very limited number of days when the club is booked for tournaments or corporate events, members may use the club whenever they wish. The last person to leave the club should ensure that all lights and taps are off and that the club and grounds are secured properly. It is essential that all windows are closed before lowering the shutters (which lock in position when fully lowered).

Club Membership

A list of all members and their contact information is maintained and sent by email to all members. A paper copy is kept in the clubhouse by the telephone and updated copies can be requested from the Secretary.

Visitors & Guests

Our bar licence requires that all visitors sign the guest book. A number of members enrol their partners as social members as a simple and inexpensive way to obtain continual access to the club for social events.

There is a visitor's fee for croquet-playing guests; payment of the fee shown in the guest book should be placed in an envelope, marked **Visitors' Fees**, addressed to the Treasurer and left in the club.

Please be aware that minors must be accompanied by an adult at all times while within the club's boundaries.

Club Committees

Your club has four elected officials: President, Club Secretary, Treasurer and Auditor. The Club Secretary and Treasurer are joined on the Committee by a further eight elected members. The Committee elects from its members the Chair and Membership Secretary and allocates responsibilities across the following sub-committees: Catering; Bar; Grounds; Premises & Equipment; Coaching & Recruitment; Publicity; Clothing.

Current Committee members and sub-committee responsibilities are listed in Attachment 1.

Club Tournaments

There is a full programme of club tournaments beginning at the start of each season. This year's tournament details are displayed in the clubhouse and on the website. Sometimes it is possible for members to join the block tournaments mid-way through the year; contact the Club Internal Tournament Organiser (Attachment 1) to discuss the possibility of late entry to any tournament.

Croquet Handicaps

Croquet handicaps are maintained by players using handicap cards to record points gained or lost during official singles matches, *i.e.* club and CA tournaments, inter-club competitions and matches versus other clubs. Members are encouraged to keep a handicap card for Association and Golf Croquet. The cards are provided by the CA and are also available in the club's stationery store (under the TV). Initial handicaps and subsequent changes should be initialled by an official handicapper; see Attachment 1 for the names of the club's handicappers.

Booking Lawns

Members may book lawns using the website.

The Year's Calendar

The year's calendar is maintained and displayed on the website Diary.

Please note that the lawns are closed for approximately 7 weeks annual maintenance from the middle of October.

Coaching

The club has a number of CA accredited coaches who are listed in Attachment 2. Please ask any of these for any help you require outside of formal coaching courses.

Association and Golf Croquet courses are held regularly to help members improve their play.

A full programme of coaching courses is available at the CA Croquet Academy which operates at Sussex County Croquet Club, Southwick. The current programme is on the club's notice board.

Summer Croquet

The summer season starts on the day of the club's AGM in early April. Club days are Tuesday (GC from 10.30 am), Wednesday (AC from 10 am), Thursday (GC from 1.30 pm and AC from 6 pm), and on many weekends. These days provide an ideal opportunity to meet and play other members. On club days we organise coaching sessions for members and specific events to help with the tactical side of the game, e.g. an informal doubles tournament to pair high and low handicap players.

Winter Croquet (and Bridge)

Up to four lawns are available for winter croquet from the time of their re-opening in December. There is a programme of monthly one-ball tournaments played on Sundays and sometimes followed by a friendly bridge session. Also, there are organised club days on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays; play on Tuesdays and Thursdays is aimed at members with lower handicaps. Information about these sessions and the names of organisers are made available before the lawns are closed in October.

How to Lay out a Lawn

Lawns are numbered 1 to 7, starting from the car park. In the equipment hut you will find a trolley numbered to identify the associated lawn. Each holds a peg, hoops, balls, flags and corner markers for the designated lawn. All hoops should always be placed in the ground according to the instructions in Attachment 3.

Lawn Cutting Schedule

Lawns are cut usually on Tuesday and Friday mornings.

How the Bar Works

The bar works on the principles of honesty and self-service. That said, members are encouraged to operate the bar whenever there are guests in the club. Those with an interest in real ale are encouraged to learn how to turn the draught beer on and off. There is a glass washer for use whenever the club is busy; at other times, glasses should be left in one of the washer's baskets on the draining board so they can be washed properly when the machine is next operated.

How Catering Works

Our catering is the envy of most clubs and consequently is hugely appreciated both by those enjoying the end-products, and by the Treasurer who values the contribution to the club's finances. The Catering Committee organises food for all official club catering (e.g. tournaments and social events) and are always grateful for any assistance in the form of extra hands or contributions to a menu. Tea and coffee is available at all times to members for a small charge. Again, an honesty and self-service arrangement.

SCC Clothing

We supply to order a range of clothing bearing with the club's badge. A few items are kept in stock held in the cupboard nearest the changing rooms and operates on the principles of honesty and self-service. Please remove the tiny white price ticket which is attached to each item and put it in the wooden box with your payment.

The Croquet Association

The following description is extracted from the Association's website www.croquet.org.uk. *The CA is the national governing body for the sport of Croquet (including both Association Croquet and Golf Croquet) in England, Wales, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man, and is responsible for promoting and regulating the game in those areas. The CA is a non-profit-making organisation, funded through club levies, individual subscriptions, and donations.*

Surbiton CC maintains full club membership of the CA and has benefited from that membership in a number of ways, including direct financial support during the club's start-up, access to beneficial insurance arrangements and entry into national inter-club tournaments. All club members are automatically enrolled as members of the CA and may participate fully in the Association's activities; these include those Surbiton tournaments that are listed in the CA Fixtures calendar, and further details are available from the External Tournaments Secretary (attachment 1).

SCC is also a member of the South East Croquet Federation (SECF) which is an association of croquet clubs, in the geographical area covered by the Federation: London and the counties of Kent, Surrey and Sussex. The Federation's primary activities are to assist clubs by providing coaching support to and to organise leagues and tournaments in the South East of England.

Inter-Club Tournaments

The club enters teams in the following club tournaments.

Association Croquet

CA Inter-Club Championship (holders 2016: Surbiton CC), open play.

CA Mary Rose Inter-Club Trophy (last won by Surbiton CC 2015), open play for handicaps 0 and above. Teams must have a combined handicap of at least 4.

CA Longman Club Team Cup, handicap play for handicaps between 3½ and 20. Teams must have a combined handicap of at least 24.

SECF "A" League, four open play matches against other SECF clubs.

SECF "B" League, four handicap play matches against other SECF clubs; each team is required to have a minimum total handicap of 48.

SECF "U" League, four handicap play matches against other SECF clubs; unrestricted.

Golf Croquet

CA Inter-Club (holders 2016: Surbiton CC), open play for handicaps 0 and above.

SECF Level League, open play.

SECF Handicap League.

Members interested in these tournaments should contact the organiser listed in Attachment 4.

Health & Safety

The casual observer may be surprised to find this section, but we are pleased to share a few warnings to help avoid painful lessons.

The club's first aid box is located in the kitchen. The nearest A&E department is at Kingston Hospital, opposite Norbiton railway station.

Mallet Injuries – mallets weigh approximately 3 pounds (or 1.4 kg.)

- 1 Hitting an ankle is an instant reminder that force = mass x acceleration!
- 2 Less immediate but just as painful are injuries to wrists, elbows and shoulder resulting from errors of technique.

Hoops do not move

- 1 Tripping over hoops may look funny from a distance but can be very dangerous; remember that all that furniture on the lawn that is forever getting in the way of your shots is equally unforgiving to legs. Never walk backwards without being absolutely sure there isn't a hoop waiting to trip you up.

- 2 Lifting hoops takes real strength and that's why each equipment trolley includes a levered device to save our backs!

Equipment trolleys are very useful but very heavy

Be very careful when wheeling a trolley and take extra care to ensure it is evenly balanced and the handles are fully extended in their lowest position. If the trolley is about to fall, let it fall and get out of the way quickly!

Good Food Guide

A guide to local eating houses has been compiled by club members, is maintained on the club's web site and displayed in the clubhouse. Please feel free to add to the list by contacting the editor (as named on the list). The star rating is a complex reflection of value for money. The price is for an average meal including drinks and service.

Etiquette & Customs

A few points are listed here to help avoid embarrassment for those new to croquet.

- Dress: always wear flat soled shoes on the lawn; whites are not required at Surbiton except for official tournaments. Other clubs may have other rules so best check if visiting.
- Respect for games in progress: be aware of games in progress and avoid interfering in any way.
- Before games: the player with the lower handicap tosses the coin and sets up any bisques.
- During games: play as quickly as possible; do not distract your opponent's play; always call for a referee or for your opponent to watch whenever you are about to play a shot that may result in a fault.
- Double-banking: ask the other game before lifting and marking their balls, and inform the player when the balls have been replaced; agree with the other player on the lawn who should go first when you are both playing in or towards the same parts of the lawn.
- After games: convention is that the winner retrieves clips and buys the drinks!

A more complete list can be found in the CA's Clubs' Handbook (stored on the bookshelf below the TV).

Recruitment

We are very keen to recruit new members and believe we have plenty of space to accept many more. Experience shows that members are our best channel to potential recruits and we encourage all members to introduce friends and acquaintances. A poster that may be helpful is attached, together with a membership application form that lists the current subscription rates. Note that new members joining partway through the season qualify for a reduced subscription and full details are available via the membership page of the website.



Attachment 1: Club Officials 2014

Elected Officers

President: Ian Bond

Treasurer: Mike Burrow

Club Secretary: Mike Lambert

Auditor: Ian Bond

Committee Members

George Noble, Chair

Mike Lambert, Club Secretary

Mike Burrow, Treasurer

Margaret Hampson, Membership Secretary

Graham Brightwell

Martin Burger

Kitty Carruthers

Christine Osmond

David Mooney

Susie Strong

Sub-Committee Chairs

Grounds: George Noble

Catering: Christine Osmond

Premises & Equipment: Mike Lambert

Shop & Clothing: Sue Strong

Coaching & Recruitment: Graham Brightwell

Publicity: Kitty Carruthers

Non-elected Roles

External Tournaments Secretary: Nick Cheyne

Webmaster: Nick Furse

Club AC Handicapper: George Noble

Club GC Handicapper: Don Beck

Club Internal Tournaments: Howard Cheyne

Attachment 2: Qualified Coaches

Club Coach

David Mooney

Qualified Association Croquet Coaches Grades 1 and 2 (down to handicap 3):

David Mooney
Nigel Polhill

Club Coaches: Association Croquet

Graham Brightwell
Nick Furse
David Mooney
Mike Lambert
George Noble
Janet Overell
Martin Pulsford

Club Coaches: Golf Croquet

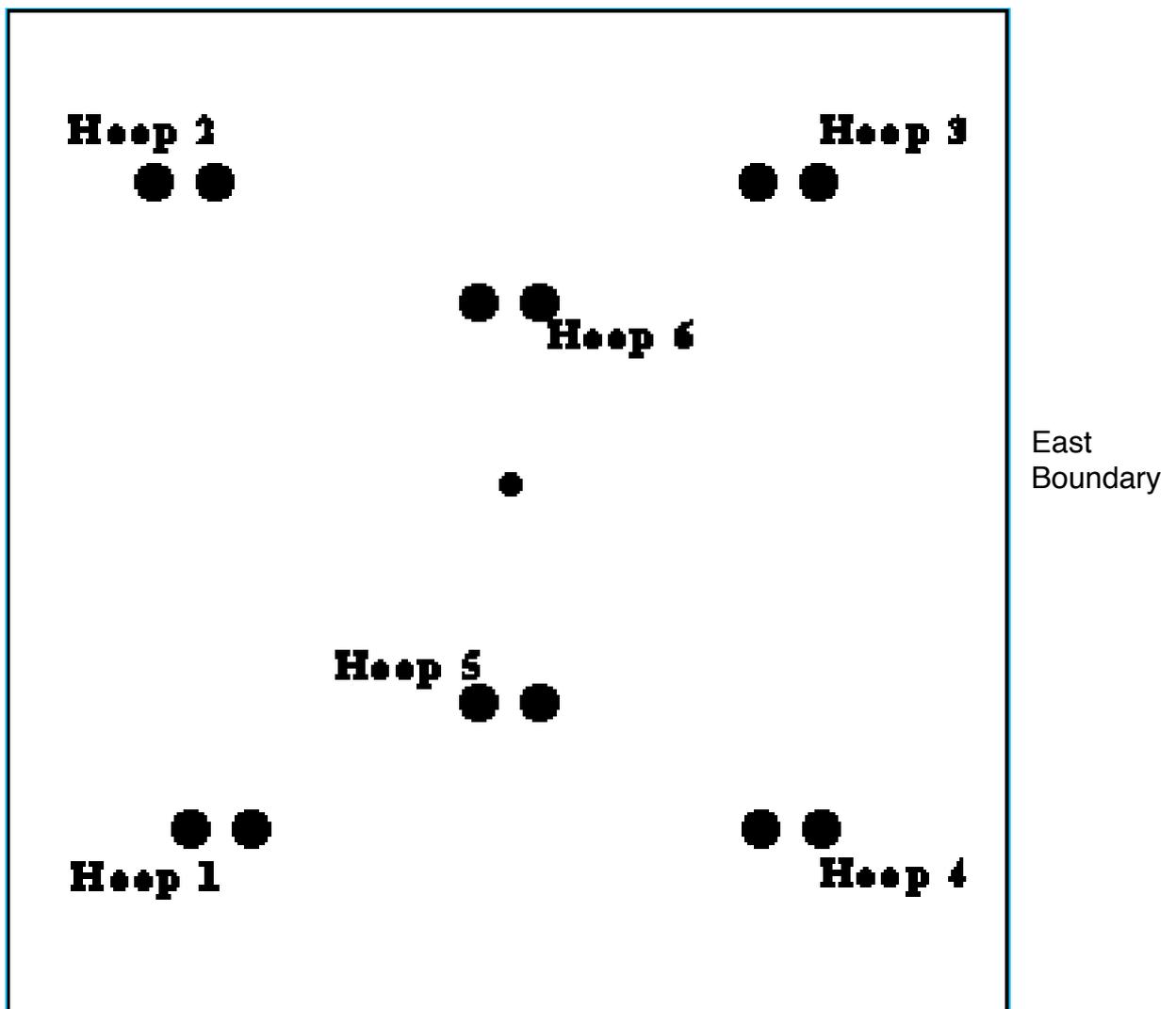
Don Beck
Yvonne Cunnane

Attachment 3: Setting and Storing Hoops and Pegs

Random placement of hoops causes their different shapes and sizes to enlarge the holes in the lawn. These instructions are designed so that each hoop and peg is always set in the same position on the same lawn.

Instructions:

1. Ensure the trolley handles are positioned downwards before moving the trolley.
2. To avoid scraping the hoops against the metal flags, **remove all flags first**.
3. Place each hoop in the correct location on the lawn.
4. After removing the peg and each hoop, tread down the holes and store each item in its correct position in the trolley.
5. Place the flags into the trolley only after the hoops are stored.



South Boundary (parallel to Aelxandra Drive on lawns 1-6)

Attachment 4: Inter-Club Competitions

Throughout the season there are inter-club competitions for all levels of players. For Surbiton lawn speeds see the lawn speed web page.

Croquet Association Inter-Club competitions:

- The Inter-Club Championship - Level advance play - No handicap restrictions. Organiser: Sam Murray
- The Mary Rose Inter-Club Trophy – Level advanced play for handicaps 0 and above -The gross handicap of a team should be at least 4. Organiser: Andy Dibben
- The Longman Club Team Cup - The gross handicap of a team must be at least 24 bisques. Every competitor must have a handicap of at least 3.5, maximum 20. Organiser: Christine Osmond
- The Secretaries Shield - No handicap restrictions other than a maximum individual handicap of 20. Organiser: Martin Pulsford
- The Golf Croquet Inter-Club Organiser: Don Beck

South East Croquet Federation Leagues:

We will be entering teams in all SECF Leagues this year. Anyone interested in taking part or requiring more information should contact the respective organiser(s) below. NB Any member may play in more than one league but you may not play in the same league for more than one club.

- A-League. (Advanced level play) Organiser: Graham Brightwell,
- B-League. (Beginners handicap play) Association croquet mainly for the higher bisquers, say 10+ as total team handicap must be 48 or more. Organiser: Trudi Pulsford,
- U-League. (Unrestricted handicap play) Association croquet with no handicap restrictions. Organiser: Martin Pulsford,
- GC A-League. Golf croquet – level play. Organiser: Don Beck,
- GC R-League. (Restricted handicap) Golf croquet – level play. Organiser: Bryn Hughes,
- GC Handicap-League. (Handicap golf croquet.) Organiser: Bryn Hughes.

Attachment 5: Recruitment Poster



SURBITON CROQUET CLUB

ALEXANDRA DRIVE, SURBITON



CROQUET

THE GAME FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITIES

IT'S FUN – COME AND TRY IT!

*our members include world champions
and complete beginners*

we offer:

regular coaching and introductory sessions every Wednesday
throughout the season, between May and October.

seven lawns, car park, excellent catering and a
well-equipped, friendly clubhouse

regular events for all standards of play, from internal
competitions for beginners to international tournaments

a busy social calendar, including quizzes, bridge
and other special events during the year



FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT

MIKE LAMBERT on 020 8398 1476
or GRAHAM BRIGHTWELL on 020 8979 9176



Attachment 6: Membership Application Form



Application for membership

Name

Address

..... Post code

Telephone numbers (home) (work)

..... (mobile)

Email address

Handicap (if any)

If you are a member of the C.A. via which club do you pay a registration fee?

Subscription rates	Single	Family	
Full	£183	£273	
Country	£124	£183	25 – 50 miles from the club
Far Country	£65	£93	Over 50 miles from the club
Student	£45		
Social Coaching course	£25		
	£30		As part payment towards Full membership

- Please note that the Club runs introductory sessions so you can try the game with minimal expenditure!
- Please make cheques out to 'Surbiton Croquet Club' and send to Margaret Hampson, Membership Secretary.
- Existing members can renew their subscriptions for £10 less, provided they pay their subscription before 1 May.
- Regular members can transfer the money directly to the Surbiton Croquet Club account (sort code 30-98-62, account number 00328046) using internet or telephone banking. If you're doing this please let Margaret know and add a reference to the payment so we know who it's from.



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