



MEMBER TOOL KIT

Warmest welcome from your new croquet buddies...



You've now been introduced to some of the basics of the game of Golf Croquet and we're delighted you have decided to join with us to continue grappling with the intricacies of the game. So, let's introduce you to *just a very few* of the weird and wonderful ways of the Club and the part you play within it. Never be afraid to ask for help both on and off the lawns, we were all newbies at one time.

Most information about the club can be found on our website

www.northshorecroquet.co.nz

COVID-19 Protocols

We recommend the wearing of masks indoors wherever it is practicable and following recommended distancing. Please keep up to date with the current Government protocols as they apply to our situation.

Clubhouse & Shed Access

A Clubhouse key will be issued to you – as well as opening the front door to the clubhouse, it also opens the front gate and both green sheds where you will find the hoop and ball trolleys. The clubhouse door is fitted with a deadbolt; if you are last to leave, please use your key on the inside of the lock and turn until the green slot turns red PLUS lock the main gate. Please note **keys are not to be shared with non-members**; we have a duty of care over our valuable historic building and its contents. When you resign – please return your key to the Membership Co-ordinator or a committee member.

Club Days

We have set Club days which are for members only, these are:

Monday and Wednesday at 1.30pm

Thursday and Saturday at 9.30am

First members to arrive please open the Clubhouse and, once you feel comfortable with the process, start to set up lawns. Trolleys for Lawns **A, B** and **C** are stored in the small green shed near the clubhouse, and for Lawn **D** trolley is stored in the large green mowing shed; the rationale for this being these trolleys are HEAVY when laden so shortest distance travelled is best. (Pegs are also stored in the sheds.)

Thursday and Saturday morning play

Members should arrive at the Club at least 15 minutes before play to put their names in the draw. This is done by taking your personalised name 'tag' from the board just inside the clubhouse door and placing it on the table alongside the others. Then please help with set up of lawns. The draw is made at approximately 20 minutes past so that play can commence on time. At the end of play (whether you stay for one game or two), replace your name tag on its hook before you leave (the board is alphabetised by first name). We aim to have a tea break midway through the morning.



Some people choose to leave after a cuppa, others stay on to play another game for a second draw. You are invited to pitch in to make tea / coffee (first to arrive usually turns on the urn or - in winter when there are few players - the hot water jug). All members are asked to put dirty cups etc. in the dishwasher before they leave; we have no invisible pixies in our Club to do this for you! Eventually you will feel comfortable enough to operate the dishwasher, instructions are on the front door and a laminated sheet on the bench informs us when dishes are clean or dirty; when clean please empty the dishwasher and put contents away, don't wait to be asked, it's easy if we all share the task. Members are asked to contribute around 50 cents per cup. This is run on an honesty system and most members prefer to pay a few dollars at a time. Put your money in the round tin (with slot in its lid) to be found in the kitchen. Feel free to bring along the odd packet of biscuits to share, this helps keep costs down. Last players to leave are responsible for ensuring all hoops / balls and trolleys are back in the appropriate shed, the kitchen is left tidy, and Clubhouse and sheds securely locked.

Please note: Thursday and Saturday Club days are not the time to bring along a potential member for an initial try-out. They need an introductory lesson or two (either individually or as part of a group) from one of the more experienced club members.



Monday and Wednesday afternoon play

At the present time there is no draw but if these times suit you do turn up and fellow players will include you and make you welcome. Last to leave are responsible for the security of equipment and the Clubhouse.

Casual Play

Now that you are a member you are entitled to come down and use the lawns at any time when they are not otherwise in use for tournaments, coaching, private (fundraising) functions, lawn mowing, spraying etc. We strongly recommend you go to the website and check the Club Calendar of Events to ensure the lawns are available. For the appropriate set-up of the lawns and removal / packing away of hoops, plus advice on when lawns are suitable to use, make sure you have received instruction from an experienced member first. Read on to expand and refresh what you have been told.

Clubhouse

Sometime prior to 1931 this building was moved to its present site for use by North Shore Croquet Club when it relocated here and opened under its new name in 1931. This building was moved from the adjacent Racing Club (situated where Waitemata Golf Course is now) when the Racing Club wound up and is believed to originally have been a 'tack room' or 'jockeys' changing room', the story varies. This building has undergone several changes since it arrived at No. 1 Wairoa Road. A brief timeline and some photos are displayed on the wall in the Clubhouse; do have a look next time you are at the Club.



Of interest in the Clubhouse is the display of Cups, Honours Boards, etc which track the achievements both on the lawns and off, highlighting sporting prowess and the hard work by club members which ensure the longevity of organisations such as ours. Trophies and Boards on the left-hand wall (from the doorway) trace achievements of those playing Association Croquet (AC) as well as records of committee officials over the years, and the right-hand wall, - where we have fewer trophies and Boards - reflects the growth of the Golf Croquet (GC) game which gradually took ascendance over AC around 10 years ago.

Lockers

If you wish, a locker is available for your use to store your mallet and/or other belongings. You will find a list of Club lockers on the noticeboard in the kitchen; choose a vacant space and add your name.

Emergency Contact Numbers

On the Membership Application form, you were asked to supply an **emergency contact phone number** to be used if you have a serious mishap at the club. This is kept at the front of the second drawer of the filing cabinet if you ever need to access the information of another club member.

First Aid

Basic first aid supplies are kept in the clubhouse, in a glass-faced cabinet marked with a **red cross**. If there is an incident of a medical nature, whether it can be dealt with by member/s or needs assistance from St Johns, an Accident Register must be filled in; this is located on top of the First Aid cabinet. The nearest defibrillator to the Club is located at Waitemata Golf Club (turn right out of the Club gate). It is situated on the wall in the covered walkway between the two golf club buildings. **For a life-threatening emergency, dial 111 - location is # 3 Wairoa Road, Narrow Neck.**

Visitors



If you bring along a visitor or visitors, they **must sign the RED Visitors' Book when they arrive**; this can be found on the table by the front door. Please assist visitors to state what type of visitor they are – 'casual' visitor accompanying a Club member, a member from another Club, or someone interested in trying the game with the view to becoming a member. For information on any applicable fees and how they should be paid please consult the instructions on the inside cover of the Book. And sometimes someone will just wander off the street to make enquiries, after ascertaining their purpose please also note their details in the book so that the appropriate committee member can follow up. (Thursday/Saturday Club Days are not the time to bring along a raw beginner)

Lawns and Surrounds

By far the largest item of Expenditure in the Club's budget is, the LAWNS. Currently we anticipate spending around \$15,000 on lawn maintenance in the next financial year. Add to that our recent purchase of a \$16,000 mower (part funded by a significant donation) and the consequent need to enlarge the door of the mowing shed; you will understand why we emphasise the need to treat the lawns with great respect.



Old lawn mowers but it's the young helpers we are focussing on!



New Mower with all the bells and whistles!

Maintenance of lawns:

Each year the lawns need to be fertilised, weed sprayed, spot-levelled, irrigated, hand weeded, mown weekly - or twice-weekly in summer.

Many of the tasks which club members assisted with in the past have now been handed over to professional lawn maintenance teams; rules have been tightened around spraying, fertilising etc. Nevertheless, there are numerous tasks where Club members can lend a hand, please be willing to assist where you can if need be.

Lawn Set-up in advance of play:

The following may at first seem long-winded and complicated but as you assist more experienced players to set up the hoops the information will become clearer and if you happen to be the most experienced player on the day you will know how the job is done!

- The hoops are set into the holes in a particular order, with the blue-topped hoop being the first one for a player to 'run' (go through and score a point), the red-topped hoop situated at the 3rd hole (in a clockwise direction and diagonally opposite, blue-topped Hoop 1).
- Some other clubs set up/orient their lawn in a different direction to us (all croquet lawns are set up oriented to the South boundary, play commencing at the SE corner - but they can appear back-to-front!). For ease of understanding for those who don't know where South is at the Club, it runs approximately in line with the walkway so play commences at a 'shelter shed' (SE corner) along this boundary, hitting off from that position towards Hoop 1 (blue top) – and you are quite correct, Lawn C has no shelter at that position!
- Sometimes when setting up the hoops, the 'carrot' will protrude further, this might be because there is water in the hole or the hoops have been recently moved (see below) and the fit is tighter than usual, in these circumstances only the rubber mallet should be used to facilitate a better 'fit'.

Quadway hoop showing 'carrot'



Set up of hoop showing correct positioning



- The quadway hoops we use are moved to a different location every so often to ensure they remain tight within their hole (created by something called a 'dibber'), and to cut down on overuse of certain sections of the lawn (the creation of 'rabbit runs' for example). The relocation of the hoops is an exacting process so you will understand the insistence on treating the set-up with respect.
- When the hoops seem too loose in their holes some sphagnum moss should be used to pack the hole to ensure a tighter fit, a container of said moss is kept in the mower shed near the front door.

Lawn Care during play:

'Jump Shots' are not permitted during the winter months when the lawns are vulnerable and easily damaged. In any case this is not a shot you will be learning or using in the early months at the Club.



When it is time to learn how to do a jump shot and for ongoing practice, a couple of hoops have been set up outside the end of Lawn D, please perfect your shots there!

If while making any shot, a player's mallet hits the lawn, the player must immediately inspect the lawn; (often the mallet has just grazed the grass and no damage has resulted), however, sometimes the turf is affected, and a repair must be made immediately. Do not just stamp down on the area and hope no-one noticed, instead very carefully unfurl the damaged grass, and lay it back in its original position, after which tamp it gently back into place, in this way the turf can more quickly repair itself. (There are consequences during the game for this damage, a more experienced player will explain how play is affected; this information can also be found in the 'WCF Rules of Golf Croquet' Book, copies of which can be found in the Clubhouse.)

Lawns too wet to play.



Sometimes, it is not always clear when the lawns are unsuitable for play; obviously great puddles of water are a pretty fair indicator to stay off the lawns, but sometimes at a glance the lawn appears okay, that's when the 'squelch' test should be applied, as illustrated. If the lawn sounds 'squelchy' and water extrudes from underfoot, that indicates the lawns are not suitable for play. Some lawns

may drain better than others so do try them all. If lawns do not pass muster but the day is clear and no more rain threatens then by all means come back a few hours later and repeat the process, this time you might strike it lucky! After the Clubhouse, the lawns are our most precious asset; please treat them with the respect they deserve.

Removal of Hoops at end of play

Under no circumstances is a player permitted to 'wriggle' the hoop back and forth when attempting to remove it from its hole. If a hoop does not lift cleanly from its hole on the first attempt - when pulled directly upward from above - then the hoop lifter must be used.



Lines

For various reasons, our Club continues to use plastic lines to mark the boundaries of each lawn; these need to be lifted at the end of a game when the mowing team are due, then replaced once mowing is complete (mowing occurs twice weekly in summer). If you are asked to do this either before or after a game, please assist. A member will show you how to replace the lines.

Lawn Surrounds

We don't have a budget item to cover any of this work so it's down to us on the whole to keep the surrounds tidy; over the past years a handful of members have helped here and more assistance is always needed, do let us know if you can help. Half a dozen or so members make relatively light work of the annual pruning of the hydrangea bushes, and the wonderful blooms that result are admired by members and passers-by alike. (Sometimes helpers are rewarded by scones with a cuppa afterwards!).



For many years we have been grateful for the assistance of workers from the Corrections Department Community Workers Scheme; they have been able to tackle some of the heavier tasks such as vine pruning, edge trimming, house washing, moving dirt, digging out fence posts, water blasting seats, painting, etc. etc. – if we ask they usually help. The scheme is not currently operating due to Covid-19 restrictions, but we are hopeful the programme will recommence later in 2022.

'The WCF Rules of Golf Croquet' Book

It is not the function of this document to explain the game – individual tuition by an experienced club member, from time-to-time group coaching, watching videos online, club play, private practice etc are recommended. The Club has copies of the Rules Book if you want to consult the Rules. This information is also contained on-line, see (Croquet New Zealand) website amongst others.

Mallets

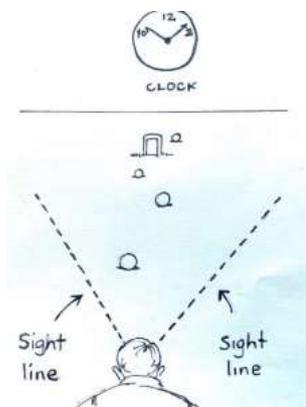


In the early days of trying out the game and then membership, newbies use the Club's supply of mallets and in this way can get an idea, for example, of the length of the shaft, the weight of the head etc; and then gradually move on to the purchase of their own. Talking to other club members can assist you when making enquiries and decisions to purchase your own mallet.

There are several excellent mallet makers in New Zealand; a popular choice particularly at our Club is Wood Mallets (located in Central Hawkes Bay). Terminator Mallets, based in Nelson, are also popular at other clubs and there is a mallet in the clubroom you can try). Plus, RP Mallets (Ray Puckett) mallet, trading under the name Numero Uno Mallets situated in Katikati. There are other makers and some excellent websites to browse.

Some Do's and Don'ts whilst on the Lawns

- **Players are asked not to use cell phones during play;** if you need to be available for a call, please ask other players on the lawn if an exception can be made.
- **When double-banking** (two games on the same lawn) always be aware of the other game and try not to impede their play.
- **Be mindful of your language whilst on the lawns** – this may distract other players.
- **Discussing a player's strategy** within their hearing when they are preparing to take a shot is a 'no-no', keep this till after a shot has been taken - whispering can carry quite a long way!
- **Where players waiting their turn can/cannot stand**



Because players standing in the 'v' zone can affect the concentration and ability of the player preparing to take their shot – for example possible intimidation (can happen!), distraction, or impedance of flow of ball – players when moving forward to stand nearer their own ball are asked to stay out of the sightlines as illustrated, approximately '8 to 2' on a clockface.

- **Take care not to cast your shadow** on the person in play, the ball they are aiming at and/or the hoop.

Our Club

All members, as they are able, are expected to contribute to the running of the Club over and above the paying of annual subscriptions; this could be in the form of assisting on the house or mowing roster, garden working bees and, importantly, helping with rudimentary coaching/instruction on our money-making private and Company functions.



***We are a member-based
volunteer-run committee:***

***If you have a particular skill
set that you are keen to offer
to the committee, please let
us know, we value your input.***

Last, but by no means least, enjoy yourself...



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