



MEMBER TOOL KIT

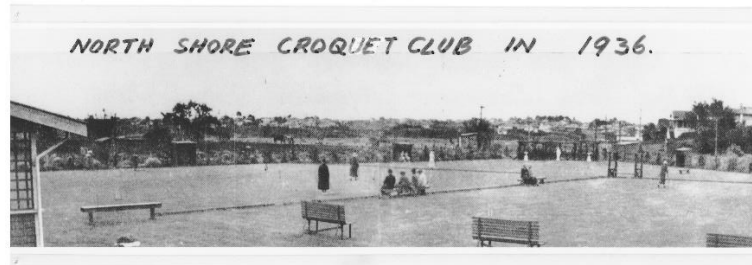
Warmest welcome from your new croquet buddies...



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

CLUB and HOUSE HISTORY



Sometime in 1931 this building was relocated to its present site for use by the newly renamed NorthShore Croquet Club, previously known as Devonport Bowls and Croquet Club, as its members consisted of the wives and daughters of the members of the Devonport Bowling Club. Pressure on the lawns on the Tui Street site necessitated the eventual move; the opening day for the new Club being held in October 1932. 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” a “jockeys’ changing room” or “a workman’s cottage”, the story varies. This building has undergone several changes since it arrived at No. 3 Wairoa Road, a major upgrade being undertaken in 1996.



Photo taken circa 1989



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 as well as the hard work of club members which ensures the longevity of organisations such as ours. Trophies and Boards trace achievements of those playing both Association Croquet (AC) and Golf Croquet (GC) as well as records of committee officials. Golf croquet has grown in popularity since the early 2000s and is now the predominant game at most Clubs.

MEMBERSHIP

The Club membership mid-2025 stands at around 100 full members, including five Life Members. The Club in the past few years has operated a Waiting List, currently there are 12 prospective members on this list with a likely wait time of one year plus. No new applications for the Waiting List are being accepted. The committee decides when the Club can introduce a new group of potential members and all aspiring members are required to attend organised coaching sessions and then embark on a period of supervised play before participation on Club Days is permitted. New members can make up games and practice with croquet-playing friends on non-Club days.

LAWNS AVAILABLE TO PLAY

When you arrive, always look at the blue Lawn **OPEN/CLOSED** sign board, then play or not as indicated.

Our Grounds team works hard to send us alerts as to the state of the lawns but weather can change quickly. We encourage you to watch out for email. Even if the advisory board says "Closed" in the morning lawns can sometimes open later in the day. The board also informs us whether jump shots are permissible.

After the Clubhouse, the lawns are our most precious asset; please treat them with the respect they deserve.



CLUBHOUSE AND SHED ACCESS

A clubhouse key has been issued to you, as well as opening the front door to the clubhouse. It also opens the front gate and the green mower shed by Lawn D, a separate key to the shed by Lawn C is on a hook just inside the front door. The ball trolleys are kept inside these sheds. The Clubhouse is fitted with a deadbolt; if you are the 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, Club Captain or a committee member.

CLUB PLAYING DAYS

Monday	9.30 a.m. Singles Play 1 st session 11.00 a.m. Singles Play 2 nd Session 1.00 p.m. Doubles Draw
Wednesday	1.00 p.m. Doubles Draws
Thursday and Saturday	9.00 a.m. Doubles (1 st game 'mixed' draw, 2 nd game 'own grade')

(On alternate Tuesdays in the summer months players are invited to come along for the aptly-named Sundowners gathering; beginning 6.00 pm, a short game followed by nibbles and a tippie or two, casual and supportive.)

On all club days members should arrive at least 15 minutes before play is due to start 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 verandah table alongside the others. First members to



arrive please open the Clubhouse and, once you feel comfortable with the process, start to set up the lawns. Trolleys for Lawns **A, B** and **C** are stored in the green shed near the clubhouse, and the trolley for Lawn **D** is stored in the large mowing shed. The rationale for this being that the trolleys are HEAVY when laden so shortest distance travelled is best. As well as hoops and balls, trolleys contain other equipment needed for lawn set up. In winter trolleys should be wheeled up the side of the lawns, not across them please. The draw is made approximately 20 minutes past so that Play can commence on time. If you are already on the lawns please return promptly to the clubhouse when the bell rings to both view the draw and listen to any notices there may be on the day.



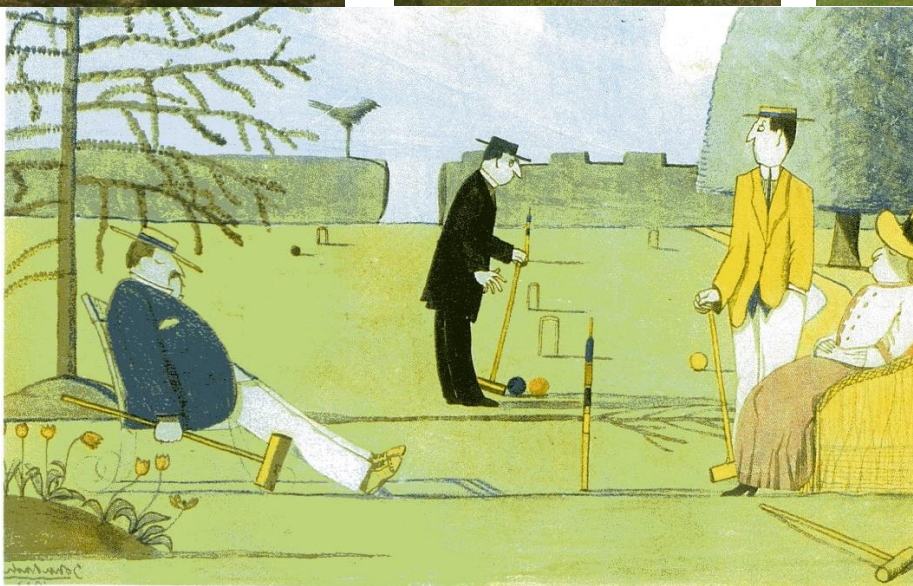
On Thursday and Saturday mornings we break for a cuppa after two x 45-minute timed games, some players choose to stay on for a third game. If you plan to leave after just one game turn your name tag over after you have identified on which lawn you will be playing so that you do not go into the second draw. At the end of play (whether you stay for one game or more), replace your name tag on its hook before you leave (board alphabetised by first name).

There is a House roster to ensure kitchen and clubhouse duties are shared. These folk keep milk, tea, biscuits etc stocked up but all members are invited to pitch in to make tea/coffee. 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 nearby and a 'clean/dirty' slider is on the door. When 'clean' please empty the dishwasher and put contents away, don't wait to be asked, it's easy if we all lend a hand. Feel free also to bring along the odd packet of biscuits to share, this helps keep costs down.



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.



Last players to leave are responsible for ensuring all hoops / balls and trolleys are back in the appropriate shed, the kitchen is left tidy, blinds are down, lights turned off and the Clubhouse, sheds and front gate are securely locked

LOCKERS

Lockers are in great demand and very short supply and you will need to double up, that is if you can find a space. If you have a friend or clubmate with whom you can share please make your own arrangement and then make the necessary notation on the Locker List on the kitchen noticeboard. Many members choose to take their mallets home.

CLUB GEAR

You will have received a Club name badge when you joined the Club, we recommend you wear it on club days so that all members can more readily learn new names. Club shirts with the Club logo - in both white with blue piping or dark blue with white piping, can be purchased. Some members choose to wear their club shirts on club days but this is your choice, however we do encourage members to wear them for tournament play. From time to time a notice will be circulated advising members of a proposed group purchase, look out for this if you are after a shirt or two.



MALLETS

In the early days new members 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. There are several excellent mallet makers in New Zealand, check out the various websites. A popular choice at NSCC is a Wood mallet; two reasons for this being a prospective purchaser can ask to try out another member's mallet as well as the offer made by Wood Mallets (located in Central Hawkes Bay) of a 10% discount on orders of four or more. Organise amongst yourselves.



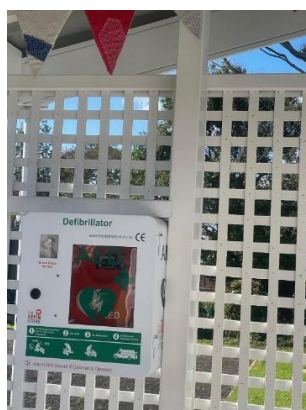
EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

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. Under privacy regulations these numbers cannot be readily available in the Clubhouse. However, there is a list of committee members and their phone numbers by the First Aid equipment. If a club member's contact person needs to be reached and the member is unable to provide this information please phone a committee member and they can ensure contact is made.

FIRST AID

Basic first aid supplies are kept in the clubhouse on the wall beside the Women's toilet door, an Incident/Accident form must be filled in if the problem is more than a mere scratch and a band aid is all that is required; the folder containing Incident Forms is clearly labelled and kept on the table by the front door. The Club now has its own defibrillator, the key - attached to a blue lanyard - is hanging by the First Aid box. (If this key cannot be found a second key is located under the Perspex panel on the defibrillator box.) The defibrillator is located on the trellis on the front deck; the spoken prompts are easy to follow but from time to time we do run training courses in its use.

If the incident is more serious, please call **111** and state our location – **No. 3 Wairoa Road Devonport.**



VISITORS

If you bring along a visitor or visitors on non-club days, they **must sign the Visitors' Book when they arrive** (found just inside 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 (be aware however that the Membership Waiting List is currently closed). The fee for a casual guest is \$10 per session, \$5 for a member of another Associated Club. Please put monies collected in an envelope marked 'Green Fees' and pop into Locker 43 or pay by bank transfer, all instructions are printed in the frame beside the Visitors Book (see photo). This works on an Honesty policy, please respect the system.



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. All new members are issued with a copy of the Rules Book and there is a copy in the clubhouse. This information is also contained on the Croquet New Zealand website and in the CNZ Year Book, a copy of which is on the Club's bookshelf.

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, follow instructions from an experienced player.

Lawn Care during play:

'Jump Shots' are not normally 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 area struck; (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'.

Removal of Hoops at end of play

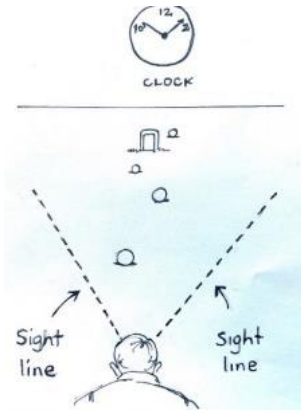


Under no circumstances is a player permitted to 'wriggle' the hoop back and forth when attempting to remove it from its hole. If a hoop does not lift cleanly from its hole on the first attempt - when pulled directly **upward** from above - then the hoop lifter must be used.

Some do's and don'ts whilst on the Lawns

- **Players are asked to not 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.
- **If you must leave the lawn for some reason your mallet must not be left on the lawn**, it can be a hazard and is deemed an 'outside influence', please take it off the lawn with you.

- **Discussing a player's strategy** within their hearing when they are preparing to take a shot is an absolute 'no-no', keep this till after a shot has been taken - whispering can carry quite a long way!
- **Be mindful of your language whilst on the lawns**, some people find swearing and loud exclamations distracting.
- **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 impeding 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 '10 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.
- **General Behaviour:** If you want to expand on the above, see CNZ Handbook Part 16, p.52,53.

LAWNS AND SURROUNDS

Maintenance of lawns:

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. We are fortunate that some club members routinely mow the lawns, mark the edges, etc. We also employ a couple of



students to help out but we do need to employ specialists throughout the year. So you will understand why we emphasise the need to treat the lawns with great respect.

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 where club members were able to assist 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.

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. We are lucky currently to have dedicated members who look after our beautiful hydrangeas, camellias, vines and the round garden in front of the clubhouse. And a fairly new feature are our native plantings which please both the eye and the bird life alike. Passers-by often lean over our fence and compliment us on our surrounds.



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 and much more, we really appreciate their input.

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 rosters, garden working bees, supporting club fundraising activities and— once a competent player - helping with rudimentary coaching/instruction on our money-making private and Company functions.



We are a member-based volunteer run Club: if you have a particular skill set that you are keen to offer to the committee, please let us know, we value your input, both mind and muscle.



Last - but by no means least - Enjoy Yourselves!



**TUESDAY
25 3 2025**