



## Members Handbook

### Old Grammarians Wellingborough

#### Introduction

Northampton Croquet Club extends a warm welcome to all new members. The club was founded in 1986 and played in Becket's Park, and then was based at St Andrew's Hospital until June 2020. It is now at a temporary home at the Old Grammarians Sports Ground, Sywell Road, Wellingborough.

#### Club Administration

The club is administered through a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). See the club constitution. There are three officers and usually four other committee members. They are there to help you. Contact them if you have any suggestions. Any complaints should be put in writing and sent to the Secretary. Please respond to their requests for assistance and cooperation.

#### The Committee (2020)

Chairman	Paul Chard
Secretary/Tournament Secretary	Mike Hills
Treasurer	Martyn Palmer
Membership Secretary/Website	James Skelton
	Lionel Tibble
	June Pendergrast
	Peter Taylor
	Steve Foster*

*\*Not a trustee of the CIO*

#### The Croquet Association

Our club belongs to the Croquet Association (CA).

The CA is the national governing body for the sport of croquet in the UK and is responsible for promoting and regulating the game. It is a non-profit making organisation, funded through club levies, individual subscriptions, and donations. More information at [www.croquet.org.uk](http://www.croquet.org.uk)

Northampton Croquet Club maintains full club membership of the CA and has benefited from that membership in a number of ways, including legal advice and entry into national inter-club tournaments. Individual club members have the choice of paying to be a Premium member or becoming a Standard member at no cost. Everyone is encouraged to become at least a Standard member of the CA so they may participate fully in the CA's activities. Further details are available from the Membership Secretary.

## **Current Playing Arrangement**

(these may change after Covid 19 restrictions are updated or lifted)

### **Playing at OGs**

Normal hours of play are 9.30am – 7.30pm. Competitions and matches may have extended hours. Please check the club programme, booking system and website to find out if a tournament is being held on a particular day, as there may be no lawns available in these circumstances. The club programme is distributed to all members annually and is also available on the club website: [www.northamptoncroquet.org.uk](http://www.northamptoncroquet.org.uk).

Any recent or last-minute changes will be notified via a noticeboard in the shed, website calendar and booking system. Please check the calendar and booking system for the latest news on when lawns have been reserved for matches, visiting groups or maintenance.

### **Lawns**

The lawns are numbered 3 and 4. Looking from the car park, lawn 3 is on the right, lawn 4 is on the left.

### **Lawn Booking**

Because of the limited number of lawns, the club operates a booking system which is accessed via the Club website – [www.northamptoncroquet.org.uk](http://www.northamptoncroquet.org.uk) You must always use the system to book lawns.

### **Toilets**

These are located in the main Old Grammarians building.

### **Parking**

The area is not formally laid out with spaces so please be considerate when parking especially when other events are occurring.

### **Smoking**

Smoking and vaping is not allowed on the lawns or surrounding areas.

Smoking is only allowed in the OGs designated area.

### **Equipment shed**

Keys for the equipment shed are available from the treasurer. They should be returned on cessation of membership. Members are responsible for setting out lawns correctly and for returning all equipment in a clean and dry condition to its proper place in the equipment shed after play. Always lock the shed door.

- Please do not leave donated items in the shed without asking for the committee's approval.
- There is an accident book in the shed which needs to be filled in when necessary in order to comply with our insurance policy. A first aid box is kept on the shelf in the clubhouse. Please also notify OGs of any accidents entered in the book.

## **Guests**

Guests may be brought along for a fee of £5 per session. A visitor's book and payment box are in the equipment shed. It is the member's responsibility to fill in the visitors' book and place the fee in the box.

Newcomers interested in joining are entitled to two initial visits without charge, before applying to join. Thereafter, until their application is accepted, they pay a guest fee of £10. If joining, their fee will be reduced by £5 for every £10 visitor fee they have paid. The visitors' book must be filled in for all visitors and guests.

## **Coaching**

Coaching courses are usually available within the club. Please see the club programme or noticeboard for details.

## **Club days**

Tuesday is reserved for golf croquet and Wednesday reserved for association croquet.

If a pre-arranged game needs to be played on a club day, i.e. a competition match, please consult the senior club member on the day. The club tries to avoid arranging inter-club matches on club days, although on occasion, GC friendlies with other clubs may be arranged on a Tuesday.

## **Double banking**

When all lawns are in use, members will have to share a lawn. Please ask permission from all players already using the lawn. It is not practical for golf to be played alongside association croquet.

## **Handicap cards**

Croquet handicaps are maintained by players using handicap cards to record points gained or lost during official singles matches (i.e. in club, Croquet Association, East Anglian Croquet Federation (EACF) or other inter-club competitions). There are separate handicap cards for association and golf croquet. The cards are provided by the CA and are available from the club secretary. New members will be allocated a handicap by the club handicapper once they have settled in. Handicap cards must be submitted for an annual review by the club handicapper. This usually takes place early in the New Year. Spare cards are kept in the equipment shed.

# **General Croquet Rules of Play and Etiquette**

## **Clothing and footwear**

It is essential to wear flat soled shoes, ideally trainers. If you play in a friendly or league match against other clubs, please wear white or light-coloured clothing.

## **Equipment and lawns**

### **Care of lawns**

In order to even the wear on the lawns, try to rotate the lawn you play on.

Treat the grass with care: eg: do not drag hoops across the turf; immediately repair divots with a repair tools (do not just tread over them); do not play when the ground is frost-bound or water-logged; observe any temporary restrictions which the committee may impose – usually in winter or during a dry summer. See notice on equipment shed door.

Chairs should not be placed within one metre of the lawn. This is to avoid damage to the turf, which might become part of the playing area the next time the lawns are marked out.

### **Balls and clips**

Balls are in matched sets and must not be mixed up with other sets of the same colour. Clips should be returned to their trolley compartment or appropriate bag in the main equipment shed. A bag of clips for association croquet play (one of each colour) should be kept on each trolley.

### **Hoops**

It is important to use the hoop set that is allocated to the lawn you are using. The blue-topped hoop is for hoop 1, and the red-topped hoop for hoop 5 (in golf croquet) / hoop 12 (in association croquet).

If you need help inserting hoops into the ground, use the rubber-headed mallet. Never use a metal-headed hammer to firm hoops, otherwise the hoop coating will chip. Hoops just need to be firm in the ground.

If the hoop is difficult to remove, use the hoop extractor. Do not wriggle hoops, as this enlarges the holes, making the hoop loose next time.

### **Corner posts**

Coloured corner posts are used in association play and one set needs to be kept on each trolley.

Short white posts (for marking the yardline by the corners in AC competitions) is kept in the equipment shed.

The centre pegs need to be handled carefully as each has a loose top piece that can easily fall off and get lost when being carried back to the trolley. (This piece is needed in association croquet for holding clips.)

## **Club competitions and tournaments**

Various club events open to members take place during the summer season (April to October).

The Golf croquet season begins with a handicap competition in April.

The Club runs several golf croquet CA competitions (for members of the Croquet Association) in May and June which attract players from around the Country. For these, entries always need to be booked and paid for in advance. Apply to the tournament secretary or online. To avoid disappointment please book early for the popular CA golf A, B, and C-level competitions.

Later in the season there are separate golf croquet club competitions for handicap and level play.

The Association croquet season opens and closes with an association and a short competition, both for handicap play.

Other Club competitions take place throughout the year

Association competitions include the Ladder, May Jack, Advanced and Doubles tournaments. You enter the May Jack and Advanced tournaments by ticking the appropriate box on the subscription form. The deadline for each round of the knock-out competitions should be observed.

*The Ladder Trophy* is suitable for all members, and players decide the type of game – association, short or golf.

*The May Jack Trophy* is a knock-out association handicap event.

*The Advanced Trophy* is played according to association advanced rules.

*The Doubles Trophy* association competition is held either on one day or runs during the season.

*The Golf Handicap Knockout* runs throughout the season.

*Doreen Coghill Fun Day* is a fun day competition played on a designated day.

*The Pirates Trophy* is a Pirates competition played on a designated day.

## **Croquet etiquette**

Applicable to both Association and Golf

1. Do not practise on the lawn before a match (unless the event manager has given his agreement) or even before a game commences (unless your opponent is agreeable). You are however allowed a 10-minute warm-up practice session prior to a tournament game or important club match or game, in line with CA tournament regulations.
2. Turn off mobile phones during a game.
3. Before the game it is customary for the player with the lower handicap to toss the coin and be responsible for setting up bisques. In association croquet the player who wins the toss has the choice of colours or alternatively, the order of play. In golf croquet, the winner must play blue and go first.
4. Try to be conversant with the laws. If you are about to make a stroke where there is a possibility of a fault being committed, ask your opponent to watch. If you are aiming to hit a ball in the jaws of a hoop, have someone watch it to ensure that contact is made. In a tournament, call a referee by raising your mallet vertically (head uppermost). If you are unsure of the rules applicable to the shot to be attempted, consult an experienced player. Copies of the booklets 'The Laws of Association Croquet' and 'The Laws of Golf Croquet' are available for reference in the clubhouse.
5. When double-banking and you need to move a ball from the other game in play, first ask the person in play for permission. Use the correct type of marker as supplied by the Club and place it behind the ball to be marked, in line with the centre peg. (Coins should not be used because, if left on the ground, they will cause expensive damage to mowers.) Inform the players when the balls have been replaced.
6. When double-banking you will sometimes need to decide when to wait for the other game to complete a turn and when to carry on playing. In this situation in association croquet give priority to a player who is playing a break.
7. While out of play be aware of the state of any other games in progress and stand still if you find yourself in the line of play, or near a player about to shoot.
8. Play as quickly as possible. Try to decide, before your opponent has finished his/her turn, what you are going to do next, to avoid wasting time. In doubles, avoid long discussions with your partner when it is your turn to play.
9. After your turn, in golf croquet try to avoid standing in the hoop area to minimise wear, unless you are about to take a shot. In association croquet you should leave the lawn as soon as your turn is finished.
10. Do not accept advice (or offer it), but query any point of law, if uncertain. The only person allowed to give advice to you during a game is your partner in a doubles match.
11. After play has finished it is customary for the winner to clear the balls from the lawn, remove clips from the hoops and return the bisques.

12. When replacing a ball on the lawn, keep your back to the lawn to show that you are not putting the ball in a position to your advantage.

## **Club administration**

### **Membership**

The membership year runs from 1st April to 31st March in the following year. Membership of the Club is open to all persons irrespective of their ethnicity, religion, disability or gender, subject to the approval of the Committee, and membership shall be confirmed upon receipt of a completed membership application form with the appropriate subscription. This shall be payable on joining the Club and at the specified times thereafter. A register of members shall be kept and only fully paid up members shall be entitled to vote at any General Meeting of the Club.

There shall be the following classes of membership:

SINGLE

NEAR COUNTRY: Living outside a 20 mile radius of OGS

FAR COUNTRY: Living outside a 50 mile radius of the OGS

STUDENT: Persons under 24 and in full-time education, or young persons who are not family members.

At the discretion of the Committee, concessionary rates may be allowed

### **Honorary Members**

The Club may, at AGM, may elect members to Honorary Life Membership in recognition of outstanding services to the Club.

### **Financial year**

The club's financial year runs from 1 November until 31 October the following year.

Registered charity number 1191519