



Crake Valley Croquet Club New Members Pack

FOREWORD

This pack has been prepared for you as an introduction to the Club, how it operates and the most important information you need to know at this stage of your membership. More detailed information is contained in The Constitution which can be found on the Club's website <https://crakevalleycroquet.org.uk/> and a copy is in the clubhouse.

The pack aims to provide you with information on practical day-to-day activities, and if you have a query which is not covered, please speak to a Committee Member who will be more than willing to help.

We strive to be an accessible, welcoming and sociable club, run by members for members, which means that we keep subscriptions at an affordable level and we don't have lots of rules and regulations: those we have are restricted to good housekeeping and the management of croquet play. We are passionate about the game and proud of our excellent facilities and achievements over the last 125 years with 2022 being our anniversary year.

A very warm welcome and we hope that you will enjoy many years of croquet with us, making new friends and enjoying our wonderful grounds and club facilities.

CVCC Committee

INTRODUCTION

Crake Valley Croquet Club (CVCC) is an amateur sports club located in a picturesque setting at Greenodd in the south Lake District. The land is owned by the Penny Bridge Estate and leased to the club. It was formed in 1897 and is still located on the original site. A book celebrating our glorious history can be ordered via the Club's website. It's a fascinating read and highly recommended to you.

CVCC is proud of its heritage, many awards and tournament achievements including most improved club (twice) awarded by the Croquet Association and a memorable double league success in 2021. Club members have also been successful in regional and National tournaments and a Guinness World Record for 24-hour croquet!

CLUB'S AIMS

The aims of the Club are set out in the constitution. Briefly, they are to:

Maintain and develop club facilities;

Encourage links with other clubs;

Promote and develop the club;

Improve standards of play;

Develop and encourage links with schools and the local community.

CONSTITUTION

The Constitution details the requirements that are necessary to run the Club. This document cannot be amended outside of either an Annual General Meeting (AGM) or a Special General Meeting (SGM). A copy of this document is available from our website or clubhouse.

EQUALITY POLICY

Membership is open to all sections of the community irrespective of ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, religion or beliefs, or of age, sex or disability.

CLUB COMMITTEE

Your Club has an elected President who does not sit on the Committee. Annually, at the AGM, the membership elects a Committee in accordance with the Constitution, comprising three officers, Chair, Secretary and Treasurer who are joined by a number of elected Members. A list of the current Committee Members can be found on the notice board and on the Club's website.

CLUB ACCESS

Upon entry to the clubhouse, you must enter your name(s) in the diary. This requirement is a record of attendance and for insurance and safety purposes.

You will receive instructions about how to access the Club's grounds and facilities from the Club Secretary or a Committee Member. A gate and door code and a key for the equipment store will be provided (with a deposit of £5) and instructions given on the procedures for entry and exit from the Club, and for setting up a lawn to play croquet.

With the exception of days when the Club is booked for tournaments or other events, members may use the club between 9:00 am and dusk. The last person to leave the club must ensure that all the windows, clubhouse door, garage and equipment stores are locked. All lights, electrical appliances (with the exception of the fridge) and taps are off, and that the Club and grounds are secured properly.

CLUB MEMBERSHIP

A list of members and their contact information is maintained by the Club Secretary. Due to General Data Protection Regulations a list of members is not posted on the notice board but, for those wishing to be included, a list of contact details is posted on the members restricted area of our website.

VISITORS & GUESTS

We welcome all visitors and guests: enquiries from individuals or groups can be made using details given on our website. Such enquiries often lead to fun sessions where participants get acquainted with the game of croquet at minimal cost (just £5 per person for a 2-hour session). Many then may progress to competitive croquet taking advantage of the Club's coaching facilities.

Please be aware that minors (aged 16 and under) must be accompanied by an adult at all times whilst within the Club's grounds and clubhouse.

AFFILIATIONS

THE CROQUET ASSOCIATION (CA)

As described on their website (www.croquet.org.uk), the Croquet Association (CA) is the national governing body for the sport of Croquet (including both [Association Croquet](#) and [Golf Croquet](#)) in England, and is responsible for promoting and regulating the game in that area.

In conjunction with the [regional Federations](#) and its [Member Clubs](#), it supports croquet at all levels, from games [played in the garden](#) and local play at clubs, through to regional and national [tournaments](#) and international matches. The CA is a non-profit-making organisation, funded through club levies, individual subscriptions, and donations.

CVCC maintains full club affiliation to the CA and has benefited from that membership in a number of ways, including direct financial support and entry into national inter-club tournaments.

All club members who are not already Premium Members in their own right, are encouraged to become Standard Members of the CA so they may participate fully in

CA's activities; these include club tournaments that are listed in the CA Fixtures calendar. Further details are available from our tournament Secretary.

CVCC is also a member of the North West Federation of Croquet Clubs (NWFCC) which comprises 22 clubs in the North West. The Federation's primary activities are to assist clubs by providing coaching support and organising leagues and tournaments in our region.

WEBSITE REGISTRATION

As a new member, you will be able to register with the Club website, giving access to the Members Area page. The website manager will provide login information and an initial password, together with details of how to change the password to one of your choice. The Members Area allows you to book lawn time and find contact details of other members to arrange games.

CALENDAR

The annual Calendar is maintained and displayed in the clubhouse. You should regularly check the calendar for scheduled matches and tournaments. The on-line lawn booking system, available via the Members Area page of the website must be used when booking play. This calendar will let you know if lawns are closed for seasonal maintenance or whether matches and tournaments are scheduled.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Club days are held on Tuesdays and may be used for a social event where members are free to socialise, play fun games such as pétanque or play croquet with other members.

HEALTH & SAFETY (H&S)

You are responsible for your own safety and that of members and visitors to the Club. Please be aware of your surroundings and the position of other players and the progress of other games on a shared lawn.

Any H&S matters should be reported to a Committee Member as soon as possible. A regular H&S review is performed by a nominated Member who reports to the Committee. The Club's First Aid Box is located in the clubhouse. Please ensure details of all injuries are entered into the Accident Book. The nearest A&E department is situated at Barrow Hospital. There are a few warnings we need to share with you.

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

Hitting an ankle due to poor technique;

Tripping over hoops can be very dangerous. Never walk backwards without being absolutely sure there isn't a hoop waiting to trip you up;

Lifting hoops takes real strength and that is why you must only use the hoop lifting device to save injury to your back and damage to the lawns. This device is available from the equipment store;

Hoops are heavy so do not carry more than is comfortable for you;

All stop boards must be in place as they are there to ensure that balls do not leave the lawns and take care when moving them or stepping over them.

COACHING

The Club has two accredited CA coaches. Please talk with any Committee Member who will put you in contact with our coaches about improving your game. As a new member you will receive a two-hour coaching session as part of your induction.

CROQUET HANDICAPS (Competitive Play)

Croquet handicaps are maintained by players using handicap cards to record points gained or lost during official singles matches (i.e. Club, Croquet Association (CA) and NWFCC tournaments, Inter-club competitions and matches versus other clubs). There are separate handicap cards for Association Croquet and Golf Croquet. Handicap cards are available from our Club Captains who will allocate you a handicap score.

ETIQUETTE & CUSTOMS

Dress: When using the lawns you must wear flat-soled shoes at all times, preferably not sandals to avoid injury to feet. "Whites" should be worn for all Club Competitions, Matches and Tournaments. Other clubs may have different rules, so it's best to check if visiting.

Respect for games in progress and avoid interfering in any way.

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 marking and lifting their balls, and inform the players when the balls have been replaced; agree with the other players on the lawn which player should go first when you are both playing in or towards the same hoop or part of the lawn.

CLOTHING

We do not stock any clothing bearing the Club's Logo. Should you wish to purchase clothing with an embroidered badge items these are only available from a local supplier, for details talk to a Committee Member.

SMOKING & VAPING

All players, visitors and guests are not permitted to smoke or vape on the lawns or in and around the clubhouse.

LAWN BOOKING

You are strongly advised to book lawns, checking the on-line lawn booking calendar for notification of booked lawns, tournaments or other matches. During tournaments the lawns may be closed to all non-competing Members.

HOW TO SET OUT A LAWN

The lawns are numbered 1 to 4 with a small practice area 2. The layout of the lawn is displayed in the equipment store. You will also find mallets, centre pegs, hoops, balls, flags and corner markers. All hoops are marked and should always be placed in the ground according to the instructions in the annex. The equipment store contains a selection of Club mallets but we encourage purchasing your own mallet and are happy to let you have details of suppliers.

CLUBHOUSE CATERING

Tea and coffee and soft drinks are available to members for a small charge on an honesty and self-service arrangement. When we are required to provide catering for certain tournaments, your assistance in either preparation or clearing up is most welcome. If you feel you can help please talk to a Committee Member.

CLUB MAINTENANCE

Where possible, all maintenance work is carried out by club members. At various times in the year, request may be circulated to members to assist with certain tasks required to keep the Club neat and tidy. If you feel able to volunteer for these 'working parties', your help would be much appreciated.

MEMBERS FEEDBACK

Your suggestions are welcomed and we conduct periodic surveys. At any other time you are welcome to put forward suggestions to any Committee Member.

NEW MEMBERS

We are always 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 you to introduce friends.

ANNEX

LAYING OUT LAWNS (SETTING & STORING HOOPS)

These instructions are designed to ensure that each hoop and peg is always set in the same position on the same lawn. This will avoid problems arising from the random placement of hoops and pegs causing their different shapes and sizes to enlarge the holes in the lawn.

Instructions:

Hoops are located in the equipment store and are stored on wall mounted brackets that indicate the Lawn number. Please ensure that you take and return them to the correct lawn. Care must be taken on removal or storage

When setting out the lawns hoops must be placed in the holes and tapped-in using a mallet. This is located in the equipment store. Under no circumstances should you use your foot or any other implement as this may cause damage to the hoops and/or injury to you.

When removing hoops, the hoop-lifter must be used. This is located in the equipment store. Under no circumstances should you try to pull out, wriggle or use your foot to loosen the hoop. All hoops must be placed in the pre-drilled holes.

USEFUL LINKS

<https://www.crakevalleycroquet.org.uk/>

<https://www.croquet.org.uk>

<http://www.croquetnw.co.uk>