



COMPTON CROQUET CLUB

MEMBERS' HANDBOOK 2023

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WELCOME

Croquet has been played in Eastbourne since the 1860s and at The Saffrons ground since 1898. Compton is affiliated to the Croquet Association (the CA, the sport's governing body in the UK) and to the South East Croquet Federation (SECF, the regional body). Compton prides itself on having a friendly atmosphere with all standards of players actively welcomed to the Club. Some members want a relaxing game and pleasant social times, others are keen competitive players and some fall into both categories. All are welcome.

We hope this handbook will help you get the most out of the Club. Details are accurate at the time of writing, but if there is anything that you think should be updated or added, please do not hesitate in contacting me in the first instance.

Jill Manton, Membership Secretary

comptonccmembership@gmail.com

Committee membership 2023

Chair	Andrew Fall	Chaircomptoncc@gmail.com
President (Fund raising)	Marjorie Platt	
Vice President	Roger Wood	
Vice President	Michael Clarke	
Treasurer	Gilly Gajdatsy	comptoncctreasurer@gmail.com
Secretary	Fiona Fall	comptoncc.sec@gmail.com
Membership Secretary	Jill Manton	comptonccmembership@gmail.com
Competition Secretary	Tony James	
Committee (General)	Pat Sandell	
Committee (Lawns)	John Crisford	
Committee (General)	Alan Dodds	

Note: other emails are on the club noticeboard.

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1. MEMBERSHIP

In 2023 the new season starts on 1 March. Membership takes effect when an individual has fully completed and signed the application form for membership for the relevant period and the appropriate subscription fee is paid.

There are five categories of membership with differing subscription rates. The subscription period for the coming 12 months is 1 March 2023 to 29 February 2024.

The appropriate level of fees for each category are shown on the membership application form and displayed in the clubhouse. It is always possible to upgrade to a higher category during the year if you wish. If joining later in the season, subscription fees are charged pro rata.

Membership fees are currently due on the 1 March. New members' fees are due when they join at which point they are able to enjoy all membership privileges that are applicable to their category of membership. There are no

additional charges for lawn use or club competitions unless additional entry fees are advertised when competitors apply for entry to a competition.

Membership Numbers

It is obviously very important if the club is to remain viable that membership numbers are kept at a healthy level. One way in which all members can help in this regard is to keep a supply of club fliers handy, eg at home, in handbags, cars, etc, so they can attract people of their acquaintance to consider learning about croquet and ultimately joining the club. There is usually a stock of these fliers on the small table in the clubhouse and members are encouraged to take a few and use them.

2. MEMBERSHIP ENTITLEMENT

All members are entitled to use the club's equipment and facilities and to play on available lawns in line with their membership category.

Restrictions to lawn use may apply when a pre-arranged event, lawn repairs or maintenance is taking place, or when specific lawns have been taken out of use. Advance notice of matches and of lawns/gardening sessions will be provided whenever possible on the website, via email and on our notice boards. It is every member's responsibility to ensure they are aware of such restrictions or amendments to scheduled sessions. Lawns can be 'booked' in advance by one of these two ways: For lawns 1 or 2, by making an entry in the diary maintained in the clubhouse. For lawns 3,4, and 5 these can be booked online via the website. But please check where there is a pre-arranged designated club event taking place which appears on the Club Calendar which should be prebooked in the diary or the website (but please check on the calendar which is kept on the noticeboard to the left of the Ladies changing room entrance).

Equipment is defined as club mallets, playing equipment, chairs and lawn equipment. Members are responsible for all club equipment that they use, and this must be returned to the clubhouse in good order after each use. Any damage must be reported to a Committee member.

3. CLUB MALLETS AND BALLS

Mallets are allocated on a first come first served basis for all players.

Balls are kept in a padlocked shed. Please ask a member of the committee to share the current number with you.

PLEASE NOTE After unlocking and locking the shed please return all the numbers on the padlock to zero. It is advisable to give the padlock a tug after locking the shed to ensure completed locking. This is to ensure the pass numbers cannot become known outside the club. Please also

check if you are the last person leaving the club that the shed is closed and padlocked. Thank you.

4. LOCKERS AND KEYS

Individual lockers are available to hire for an annual fee (£10). Keys to the clubhouse and side gate can be bought (£5). Please contact the Pat Sandell, to enquire about lockers and keys.

5. TEAS AND COFFEES

Please help yourself to teas or coffees in the kitchen. This is run on an honesty basis and is not free but contributes towards club funds. The cost is £1 for a drink and biscuit. The tea money box is in the kitchen drawer behind the hatch.

6. LAWN CARE

Members must take care not to damage the lawns, especially when playing jump shots, and should bear in mind that damage can constitute a fault during play. Damage to grass must not be 'trodden in', but should be repaired using a divot reparer which are available free from the table opposite the main door. Please report all damage promptly to a committee member so that they may show you how to use the reparer.

Only plastic markers should be used on the lawns (these are available free from the table opposite the main door on the clubhouse); coins and other metal markers should never be used. It is good practice to only take one coin with you onto a lawn (to use for tossing up at the start of a game), and to check that you have this in your pocket when you leave the lawn. Coins and other metal objects (including divot repairers) dropped on the lawn are a hazard to those mowing and working on the lawns.

Facilities to practise jump shots are available beside Lawn 1.

When worm casts or heavy dew are visible on any lawn, please swish the *whole* lawn, if you are physically able to, before play begins. If you are not physically able to swish the lawn it would be greatly appreciated if you could either double bank on lawns already swished or play later in the day.

Care must be taken not to tread worm casts into the lawn, as this kills grass and causes bald patches.

Please could members also make use of all the lawns and not just use the ones nearest the clubhouse to prevent overuse of those lawns causing compacting and damage to the playing surface.

Please note that our lawn contractors, Aaron Fitt and Richard Clarke, work to a maintenance and mowing programme agreed with the committee lead on lawns (currently John Crisford) and the Chair (currently Andrew Fall). Members should not make complaints or observations about the condition of the lawns or maintenance/mowing work directly to Aaron or Richard, but instead raise these with John, Andrew or another committee member.

7. BOOKING A LAWN

Members may book Lawns 1 and 2 in the diary which is on the table in front of the main door. Lawns 3, 4 and 5 can be booked via the 'Lawn Booking' tab on the website. The app has a record of your email. Once you enter that you will be able to access the site using your own personal password. Competitions and fundraising events are written in the diary and booked via the website and are on a printed copy of the Club Calendar on the noticeboard which is updated regularly. A regular email newsletter is distributed to all members as well as information being available on the website. It is each member's responsibility to be aware of any updates to events during the season.

Introductory members are encouraged to join with others to book a lawn and play. Only by playing and practice will play improve. Also look out for coaching sessions offered at the club once you have joined. Contact details of members are available from the Membership Secretary and the Competition Secretary will give more information about coaching.

8. PLAY

Members are free to play whenever the lawns are available. The regular social games organised on Thursday and Sunday afternoons are very popular – just turn up on the day (see para 10 below). Internal club competitions fall into three categories. These are currently being reviewed:

1. The Gala, Shield and One Ball.
2. One-off events held on one particular date or weekend – same noticeboard.

3. Competitions which run throughout the season (GC and AC). Entries are taken at the beginning of the season and result sheets are on the noticeboard to the right of the gents' changing room.

In addition the club hosts a number of open tournaments on behalf of the CA and occasionally is chosen to host international events.

The full official rules of Association Croquet (AC) and Golf Croquet (GC) will be applied to all friendly games as well as competitive matches. Rule books for both AC and GC are kept in the clubhouse for reference.

9. COMMUNICATIONS

Use the website: comptoncroquetclub.org.uk, or Facebook: Compton Croquet Club, and keep an eye on your email

The club committee will normally communicate confidential information (eg state of our bank account) with members via email. All important information will also be posted on the website, Facebook and the club's noticeboards. It is every member's responsibility to check for such information, and ensure that they are aware of any lawn restrictions and so on.

Names and contact details of members who form the Club's Committee are displayed at the beginning of this handbook and on the club noticeboard with details of their respective responsibilities.

The committee usually meets once per month and the minutes of these meetings are sent to all members by email as soon as possible after the following meeting.

10. CLUB AFTERNOONS AND SOCIAL EVENTS

Members are encouraged to join the club sessions which are at present on Thursday and Sunday afternoons. Please arrive at 1.45pm promptly for a 2pm start during the summer months. Times during the winter months will be moved forward so please enquire or note the times in the diary.

The club has a number of social events in addition to croquet activities. This year in May there is an Open Afternoon and Plant Sale. In the summer we hold a barbeque and at Christmas meet for a festive lunch and presentation of prizes. Other events may include a quiz night, cards, a book sale, all accompanied by tea and cake or sometimes fish and chips. You are encouraged to join in and also to volunteer to help in visitor events.

11. HANDICAPS

As in many other sports, croquet has a handicap system, the primary purpose of which is to enable players of differing abilities to play on equal terms. Handicaps in both AC and GC are an important measure of progress and ability in both Association Croquet and Golf Croquet, and help the committee, the competition secretary and captains of club teams to make squad selection and coaching decisions.

There is a national automatic handicapping scheme, administered by the Croquet Association. Every player is provided with a handicap card on which to record the results of all games (other than friendlies). On the basis of accumulated results recorded in this way, a player's handicap can go up or down. For new players a club handicapper will allocate a starting handicap and provide a handicap card which also contains information on the detail of how the scheme works.

You must have a valid and up-to-date handicap card, signed by a club handicapper each year, if you are selected to represent the club in a competitive match or tournament. Your card must be available for the event manager and/or opposing teams' captain(s) to inspect before play begins.

All clubs appoint members to act as club handicappers. The role of the Club Handicapper is:

- to ensure the Handicapping System works as intended at Club Level and to issue every member who wants it a handicap card
- to assign handicaps to new members and record them on their handicap cards
- to ensure any player from their Club who plays in an event has a validated handicap card
- to check all club handicap cards before the new season
- to set a new player's handicap, the player should do the *Three times round* the lawn method under supervision and then reviewed within the next five weeks or so.

Club handicappers may change the handicap of their own club members only, within strict limits set by the Croquet Association. All members will be requested to submit their handicap cards for review early in the season.

Golf Croquet: Tony James, Tony Lewis, Andrew Fall and Mike Jay will concentrate on GC players' handicaps though Hilary Smith and Richard Platt will also contribute.

Association Croquet: Richard Platt, Hilary Smith and Mike Cockburn will concentrate on AC players' handicaps.

The Chair, Andrew Fall, co-ordinates the work of the handicapping committee, which meets regularly to review handicaps and handicapping policy. No decision to alter an individual's handicap can be made by one handicapper acting alone, but is made by consultation among the members of the handicapping committee.

The club runs regular handicapping sessions at the beginning of the season, but if you want to discuss your handicap or are unsure of any aspect of handicapping (including filling in your handicap card), please contact Andrew Fall, Tony James or Tony Lewis.

The strongest players in both GC and AC have negative (minus) handicaps. At Compton the highest handicaps are 12 for GC and 24 for AC.

This year the Croquet Association and our regional South East Croquet Federation are introducing 'Advantage' croquet to replace higher handicaps having extra turns. There will be briefing and practice sessions on this early in the season.

12. COMPETITIONS

All paid up members are entitled and indeed encouraged to enter club competitions. There may be additional fees for some particular competitions.

All paid up members are also encouraged to enter external competitions, details of which will be publicised. Check the CA and SECF websites.

Please contact the Competition Secretary or look at the noticeboard for details.

13. GUESTS

Guests such as friends or family are welcome, although no one individual may play as a guest on more than **six** occasions during any one subscription period. A committee member must always be advised in the event of invited guests attending. A green fee is payable on each separate occasion that a guest or two guest together play. The current charge is £10 a lawn per session (may be all day). This has been reduced from £10 per person per lawn. Please sign in guests in the book on the table in front of the main entrance and pay the appropriate fee before commencing play. (Separate box in kitchen drawer under hatch).

14. EXPECTED ETIQUETTE AND PLAYING GUIDELINES

All members are asked to kindly abide by the club's etiquette guidelines.

Dress code

1. Suitable flat shoes must be worn by all members and guests whenever using the lawns. There are no restrictive dress codes other than for all club and inter-club matches when whites must be worn.

When playing

2. Take care not to damage the lawns. But when accidents happen please repair using your free divot reparer if you have been shown how, or report any damage immediately so that you can be shown.
3. Smoking is not permitted on the lawns. It is only permitted on the grounds well away from other members.
4. Mobile phones must not be used during play on the lawns.
5. Please always play in groups of four whenever the lawns are busy.
6. Stand still and remain quiet while fellow competitors take their shots. Do not distract others by standing close to or in the sight line of a player taking his or her shot, aiming, stalking or taking practice swings when it is not your turn, or talking to your partner during doubles games.
7. Slow play is to the detriment of all. So please move briskly between shots, and always be ready to play your shot in turn.
8. Always ask permission when playing across or through another game on the same lawn, and before marking the position of a ball belonging to another game. Never use coins to mark the position of a ball; these can damage our lawnmowers if left on the lawn. Always carry and use plastic markers, which are available in a jam jar by the diary in the clubhouse.
9. Feel free to consult senior players with regard to croquet rulings, but only at an appropriate time (i.e. not when they are taking a shot).
10. Jump shots should only be played by those with a reasonable level of competence achieved by practising off the lawns.
11. Outside club sessions where there are more members than lawn space available then competitive games will take priority over friendlies and practice.
12. No more than eight players can play on any lawn at any one time. If there are four members playing doubles on a lawn, an individual player may also practise on that lawn provided that s/he does not impede the ongoing game in any way.

Pre-match and post-match (including internal club competitions)

When arranging matches please be prepared to be flexible with regard to times and dates.

13. Having arranged or agreed a fixture please ensure you attend on time, if necessary giving yourself plenty of time to set up.
14. Prior to play, please try to ensure the lawns are cleared of any worm casts, leaves, twigs or other mess.

When not playing

15. Never walk on or across any lawns unless you are currently playing a match.
16. Other than when participating players invite a 'referee' to assist, no-one who is not playing in a game on a lawn should go onto that lawn at any time under any circumstances. This includes committee members.
17. Never walk on ground under repair, even to inspect it, unless you are the groundsman.
18. Never shout at, or to players from the side lines. Your intent may be helpful but you may also unintentionally distract other players on other lawns.

Winter croquet

19. Winter croquet, if and when played, will have additional rules to the above
 - A) no jump shots.
 - B) If the lawns become unplayable due to adverse weather conditions e.g. frost or snow the membership will normally be advised by email/website/FB and the hoops may be removed from the lawns

Thank you for abiding by these simple but effective guidelines

15. DISPUTES AND DISCIPLINARY CODE

Members must treat others with respect at all times. Any disputes, both on and off the court, should be resolved politely, calmly and amicably. (Where this is not possible, the committee may take action to resolve matters using the club's disciplinary procedure. This procedure can be found in the Club Rules (Rule 11: see the noticeboard, look on the club's website or ask the Chair or Club Secretary).

All **disputes** (Rule 13) must be referred to the Secretary to investigate, and by him or her to the Committee, whose decision will be final.

16. VOLUNTEERING

Please note that membership fees do not meet the full costs of running the club. Members are encouraged to join in the very valued voluntary work for the club. The Club needs help to maintain our lawns and grounds, as well as other fund raising and visitor events.

CCC/8 Feb 2023