



## LAWRENCE PARK LAWN BOWLING & CROQUET CLUB

[www.LawrencePark.Club](http://www.LawrencePark.Club)

### Lawrence Park Croquet Members Handbook

Welcome to 61 Alexander Muir Road, Toronto, ON M4N 0A3

We are always happy to welcome new members! This document is to provide new and returning members with some information about the club and the wonderful game of croquet.

### Club Membership

Club Membership includes:

- Use of greens, during regular club hours
- Use of club mallets (first year included in membership, additional \$20 for subsequent years)
- Membership dues paid to Croquet Canada (CC) on your behalf (this may not apply to new members joining late in the season). Croquet Canada is the organization that promotes the growth of croquet within our country. It provides insurance for member clubs and Croquet Canada members ([www.croquet.ca](http://www.croquet.ca)). CC sends out emails early in the season reminding members that their dues are owing. As the Lawrence Park club pays this on your behalf, **please ignore these emails**. We make 2 or 3 payments to Croquet Canada throughout the season, so you may get these emails as you have paid Lawrence Park, but we have not made a recent payment to CC. CC emails a newsletter called 'The Mallet' about 3 times a year, Spring, mid-summer and late November.

#### Associate Member

We do have a reduced rate for members who are a full members of another croquet club and have paid their Croquet Canada (CC) dues.

#### Waiver Form

As a condition of membership, you need to sign a waiver that basically says that you will not sue the club in case of injury and the club can use pictures of you or including you for promoting the club.

Guests must also sign a waiver. The form is located in the clubhouse attached to a clipboard hanging below the lawn bowling bulletin board.

## **Emergency Contact Info**

Emergency contact information is a requirement for all members and should be provided as part of the membership process. It is located on the kitchen bulletin board.

## **Accident Protocol**

First aid instructions are located on the kitchen bulletin board.

## **Dress Code**

It is not a requirement that members wear white, but it is encouraged. If you play in tournaments at other clubs, it is normally a requirement. Flat-soled shoes are required.

# **Playing the Game**

## **Playing Season & Regular Hours**

The season starts in early May and lasts until the end of October.

Our current regular playing times are Tuesday and Thursday evenings starting at 7:15 pm, and Saturday mornings starting at 10:00 am. We also play starting at 10:00 am on holiday Mondays in the summer.

We primarily play Golf Croquet (GC) and normally play until one team scores 4 wickets. At this time players should look to see if there are other people waiting to play, or if they can switch 2 players into another game that will be finishing soon. This ensures maximum participation by all players and a chance to make new friends.

We are currently looking at having competitive Golf Croquet (GC) singles on Wednesday evenings in 2018. We are also looking at having USCA Croquet and/or Association Croquet played on Monday evenings.

Members are welcome to arrange games or practice at other times. You need to know how to set up, put away the equipment and have a set of keys for access. Check the weekly club email for times when the courts are not available due to rentals or private functions.

## **Clinics, Tournaments Internal & External (timing)**

On Tuesday nights usually starting the last Tuesday in May, Gregg normally runs a set of 4 Golf Croquet (GC) sessions.

If you are interested in learning USCA or Association croquet (these are more complex versions of croquet), this is planned for Monday evenings in 2018.

Our club Golf Croquet (GC) championship is held Sunday prior to the August Civic holiday.

Our club USCA Croquet championship is held Sunday the weekend prior to the Labour Day weekend.

## **Mallets**

The club owns mallets that first year members can use at no charge. After the first year there is a \$20 usage fee for a club mallet

If you enjoy croquet and plan to play for several years, it makes sense to buy a mallet of your own. Starting at about \$200 you can get a mallet that should substantially improve your game. We normally have Oakley

Woods come from Brighton Ontario the Saturday after the long weekend in May. You can try their mallets and make a purchase if desired.

## Ground Care

### Weeding

When your ball goes into the gutter, you are asked to pull 2 weeds out of the gutter. This does not take too much effort and if everyone does this it is preferable than someone spending hours doing it.

### Divots

From time to time we will all occasionally make a divot. This is embarrassing, but does not really damage the lawn if it is **properly repaired immediately**. Some of the lawn will crumple when a divot is made. The correct thing to do is un-crumple the lawn, put it back in place and tap it down (and of course replace any pieces that may have gone flying). Please do not just step down on the divot, before fixing the lawn.

## Volunteering

The club is run by volunteers. Getting involved is the best way to get to know the club, your fellow members and to gain the most from your experience. Here are some of the things that you can do:

- help on the Spring club clean up/set up day
- setting up the courts
- helping in the kitchen, putting out snacks, coffee, cleaning up, loading and unloading the dishwasher
- bringing snacks
- painting is occasionally required (the boards around the greens)
- gardening, we have some very dedicated gardeners in the club, who would love some assistance
- barbequing
- buying kitchen/ barbequing supplies
- being on the social committee - helping with club dinners
- help teach croquet at the Gatsby Party held at Spadina House (late June)
- helping at club rentals
- Croquet greens committee, involved in moving wickets around, repairing where the wickets have been, interfacing with the club greens committee
- taking on special tasks, for example, organizing an order of club shirts
- participating on the club executive or on a club committee
- publicity and public relations
- newsletter
- take pictures for newsletter
- help with the Fall cleanup day

## Club Facilities

### Clubhouse

Just inside the main door on the left hand side is our Croquet bulletin board with information on club events, sign up sheets for tournaments and meals etc.

Pop and water are available for a small fee and usually snacks are available on Saturday mornings. Goodies are always welcome.

Lockers are available. If you have your own mallet you may want to consider storing it at the club. As there are a limited number of lockers that are big enough for this, please only use a big locker if storing a mallet. If you do not have a mallet you might want to use a small locker to keep a hat, sun screen, bug spray etc. You supply your own lock which must be removed at end of season.

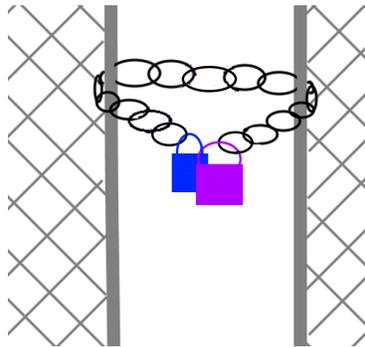
### The Gate & Keys

For a \$10 deposit a set of keys to the club can be obtained. Members must know how to set up and put equipment away before they get a set of keys.

One key unlocks all the doors to the clubhouse including the croquet equipment room.

New members will get a key only to the main double door gate that is located along the roadway.

LOCKING THE PARKING LOT GATE - there is 1 chain and 2 locks. When locked, each lock should be connected with one end of the chain and with the other lock, making a big loop.



- When you are the last ones leaving the club, you need to make sure the main and the gate by the parking lot are **both** locked. The main gate by the road is straight forward as there is only one lock.

### Setting Up/Putting Away

Any member will be happy to teach you what you need to know and there are complete directions posted in the equipment room

All members should assist setting up and putting away. Before leaving, ensure that those remaining are familiar with all procedures necessary, including

- clearing wickets and flags
- storage of ball sets
- turning off field and house lights
- locking all clubhouse and equipment room doors
- locking the gates

## **AND FINALLY.....**

### **Pub nights**

To keep in touch in the off-season we usually have a couple of pub nights.

### **Growing the Club**

It is in all of our best interests to grow the club - it ensures continuity of the club and croquet. As well it keeps our fees down and means that sufficient members should be out at our regular times so that games can be played. As our numbers grow we can add to our days and time of day that we have regular play (as we are doing in 2018). Think about asking friends, neighbours, colleagues and family to come out and try croquet.

**We do a great job of making guests, visitors and new members feel welcome, let's keep this up!**

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## Appendix 1 – Croquet Canada Championships

There are 3 ‘CrocCans’ - Canadian Championships, one for each version of croquet - Golf Croquet (GC), USCA rules and Association rules. In all the tournaments there are divisions/flights for the differing calibers of play.

The GC CroqCan is the one that will be of the most interest to our membership. It is held at The Cricket Club here in Toronto (on Wilson between Yonge & Avenue Road) and it is usually around the second weekend in June. It is a great way to immerse yourself in croquet for 4 days and meet other croquet enthusiasts. On the Thursday afternoon the courts are available for practice, and there is an opening reception. Play will start on Friday morning and continues on Saturday, with playoffs on Sunday.

Light breakfasts are provided as well as lunch. On the Saturday there is a formal dinner held at the club. The cost has been \$226 the past couple of years, but Croquet Canada will subsidize your first time entry into a ‘CrocCan’, making it only \$126. **This is a great deal and highly recommended that all of our members participate.**

### LP POY & COY

When competing, in addition to meeting other Croqueteers and the thrill of competition, you earn points for yourself and for the club. These points count towards the POY (Player Of the Year) and COY (Club of the Year). In recent years, the club and members have done well as shown in the table below.

	<b>Club of the Year (COY)</b>	<b>Player of the Year (POY)</b>
2017		John Richardson – GC Blue POY
	LP – GC Red COY	Peter Shone – GC Red POY
	LP – USCA Red COY	Phil Parsons – USCA Red POY
2016	LP – GC Blue COY	
	LP – GC Red COY	Ian MacGregor – GC Red POY
	LP – USCA Red COY	Phil Parsons – USCA Red POY
2015	LP – GC Blue COY	John Richardson – GC Blue POY
	LP – USCA Red COY	Phil Parsons – USCA Red POY

## Appendix 2 – Hoops and Greens

In Golf Croquet (CG) they are called ‘Hoops’ in Association Croquet (AC) and the US version (USCA) of croquet they are called ‘Wickets’.

The lawn areas are called “greens”. To clarify instructions in this document, the green beside the tennis club is the croquet green and the one beside the parking lot is the Lawn Bowlers’ green.

### Types of Hoops

We have 2 types of hoops:

1. The first are called ‘Tournament’ or ‘Championship’. They have fins that go into the ground making a ‘+’ shaped hole. These wickets have flat disks (feet) that should sit just above ground level. These hoops are only used on the croquet greens, never on the lawn bowlers’ green.
2. The second are called ‘Foxy’ hoops, they are the ones that make pencil sized holes in the greens. We have 2 sets of Foxy hoops, one has rings/washers (feet) on them that when put in should be just above the level of the green. These are primarily used on the lawn bowlers’ green.

### Placement Of The Hoops

The croquet green is sprayed with small dots indicating where the hoops go in. These dots make it much easier to find the holes. The dots are an inch or 2 on the tennis club side of where the hoops go in.

On the croquet green, the 3/4 court closest to the tennis courts is marked with yellow dots. The other 3/4 court on that green is marked with red dots. We only use Tournament hoops on this green. The hoops have their fins spray painted red or yellow, so that they are kept as sets and are used on the same court. (There are directions attached to the lid of the storage box that you can refer to).

If setting up a full court on the croquet green look for white dots.

The dots last about 2 weeks, and then have to be re-sprayed. If they have disappeared, you will have to search for the holes.

Colour coding for the Lawn Bowlers’ green will be posted in the equipment room should we continue to expand our use of this green.

Each set of 6 hoops has one hoop with a blue crown and one with a red crown. The ‘blue’ hoop is the first wicket run in a game, and the ‘red’ hoop is the 5<sup>th</sup> hoop run (so it is the middle hoop at the same end as the blue hoop - it is the final hoop run in AC and USCA).

The hoops should be moved every couple of weeks, because of ‘rabbit runs’ (the wearing of the grass in the middle of the wicket) and the wickets becoming loose. When the hoops are moved, the old holes should be filled with sand and then a sand/seed mixture at the top. So if you see sand on court, look closely and you will probably find new fresh holes that should be used.

## **NEVER**

- **NEVER HAMMER THE WICKETS SO THE FEET ARE BELOW THE SURFACE OF THE GREEN** - doing this causes big holes in the lawn. This is a problem if you are playing on a full court and you have several 'holes' in the green from half courts or vice versa (as well as causing more of a problem when the hoops are moved).
- **NEVER** use Tournament Hoops on the Lawn Bowlers' green
- **NEVER** use Foxy Hoops in the Tournament hoop holes (it should be a rare case that the Foxy Hoops are used on the croquet green)

## **Removing hoops**

When removing hoops lift with your legs. If the hoops are in tight, use the rubber mallet to tap them up if necessary. Place a foot 1 or 2 inches on either side of the hoop, parallel to the wicket when pulling the wicket out. This prevents pulling up a lot of sod/dirt and obliterating the holes when you pull the wickets out. If there is a lot of dirt on the fins when the hoop is removed, knock the soil off in and or around the holes.

## **Storing hoops**

The Foxy hoops are stored on the bottom rail of the storage box, and the Tournament wickets on the top rail. The rails have been sprayed with the same paint as the hoops (fins & pencils) so it is easy to know where they go. As well there are storage directions attached to the top of the storage box.

## Appendix 3 - Corner Flags

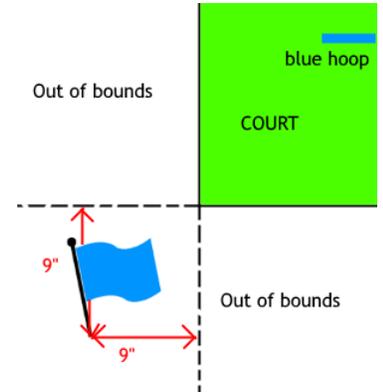
Corner flags help mark out the court. They are very useful in the American version of the game as frequently from the far side of the court you want to put your ball right in the corner so that it is more difficult for your opponent to attack and get your ball (ask someone who plays USCA if you really want to understand this). In Golf Croquet (GC) they are not as important as you do not deliberately hit your ball out of bounds in a corner.

### Placement

The GC rulebook says that they can be placed anywhere from touching the boundary or up to 12 inches outside the court. I like to put them 9 inches back from both boundary lines.

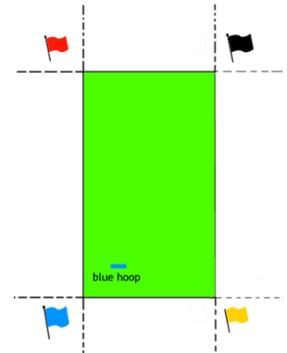
Some people like to put them closer, or right on the corner, but I find that interferes with play too frequently, especially in the yellow corner where GC games are started. Flags can be temporarily removed if they are interfering with play.

I use 9" as that is the length of a standard mallet head. If 2 courts are set up side by side, this also allows for both flags to be seen. (When we play on the Lawn Bowler's green where the boundary line is not marked, the flags are usually placed on the actual corner to assist players in determining the boundary lines.)



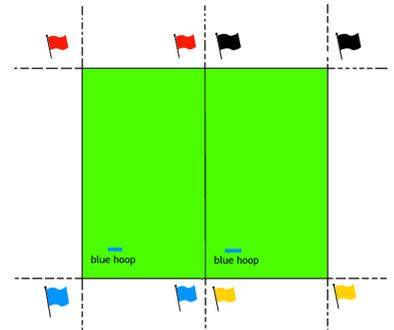
### Order

The order of the flags is the same as the order of the balls - blue, red, black and yellow. The corner with the hoop with the blue crown, is the first corner that you play to (you start in the yellow corner but play to the blue hoop in the blue corner), so it gets the blue flag. You then go around the court placing the flags accordingly.



### Two Court Confusion

Many or most people will get confused when setting up the flags for 2 courts side by side. My recommendation is to think of each court separately - if you were setting up just the one court where would you put the flags, then think of the other court.



## Appendix 4 – Improving Your Game

Here are a couple of suggestions on how to improve your croquet game:

- Practicing will improve your game much more than playing games - you can practice shots until you get them right, you can hit many more balls in 20 minutes than you can in a game. You can practice on the sidelines, or on a court in an area where you will not interfere with the game(s) being played
- Play with as many different partners and opposition as you can, observe their strategies
- Play on a full size court when you can
- Participate in Gregg's golf croquet clinics (start at the end of May and run for 4 consecutive Tuesdays)
- Buy a mallet that is of higher quality than the club mallets
- Play in tournaments
- Watch videos on croquet (YouTube)
- Learn the rules and play by them
- Ask the more experienced players for pointers, direction and constructive criticism
- Always stalk your ball