



# Sidmouth Croquet Club

Fortfield Terrace

<https://www.sidmouthcroquet.co.uk/>



## 2025 NEW SEASON INFORMATION

### THE SUMMER SEASON

Our summer season starts on April 1<sup>st</sup> when we expect all four lawns to be in use (dependent on the weather) from 10am. At this stage the grass is still vulnerable and we continue the winter rules of no double banking until 21<sup>st</sup> April.

### LAWN CARE

Please remember that flat shoes must be worn at all times. The Groundsman has to close the lawns at various times – please check the on-line booking. Andrew Thomas is the first point of contact for any lawn issues.

### LAWN BOOKING

Lawns can be booked for friendlies and internal tournaments but not normally for practice. Lawns are bookable electronically through the club website. Click on the lawn icon to start. New members will be issued with a temporary password and instructions on how to personalise this by Philip Harris who can help if you have problems with the system. You may ask another club member to book a lawn in your name. The bookings are in one and a half hour sessions.

You should be aware that:

- 1) you can only have two sessions booked in your name at any one time. Later in the season, when tournament games are played, additional sessions may be booked for matches.
- 2) a lawn may be booked for practice after 4pm (except Fridays). Only one practice session to be on the booking system at any one time
- 3) where SW Fed league matches are booked until 4pm, you may book to play from 4pm on the understanding that you might be delayed if the match over-runs
- 4) lawns cannot be used for the duration of CA tournaments
- 5) lawns can be used for practice if not booked when the session is due to start
- 6) lawns are available from 10am until sunset unless required by the groundsman.
- 7) AC cannot be double banked with GC

### CLUB SESSIONS

Weather permitting the lawns will be fully open on April 21<sup>st</sup>. From then on games can be double banked.

The Golf Croquet (GC) club sessions are on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 10am. The Friday afternoon session will start promptly at 4pm for a roll-up when full 13 point games will be played. From June 14<sup>th</sup> onwards 2 lawns will also be booked on a Saturday morning for GC club sessions when there are no tournaments.

The Association (AC) club sessions are on Wednesdays at 1pm and 2.30 pm promptly and, when lawns are available, on a Friday at 1pm and 2.30 pm.

When the lawns are closed on Friday afternoons for lawn preparation prior to a weekend tournament, the Friday club sessions are moved to the mornings from 10am. Two lawns are allocated for GC and two for AC.

### HANDICAP CARDS

The handicap committees will have issued members who play competitively with updated handicap cards. Players must then maintain their cards for all internal tournament matches and SW Fed league matches etc played, during the season. When a trigger point is reached, the new handicap needs be authorised on the card by a member of the handicap committee. They will then ensure that the membership list or displayed tournament blocks are amended.

(for Association – Handicap committee members are Philip Harris (lead) / Jane Babbage / Kelvin Dent

(for Golf – Handicap committee members are Tony Anthony (lead) / John Coombes / Christine Bowler.

### **GOLF CROQUET ADVANTAGE FOR HANDICAP MATCHES – NEW AND IMPORTANT**

Nationally and in the South West Federation a change has been adopted in the way GC handicap games are played. There are no longer extra strokes, but in a match the lower handicap player will have more hoops to run than the higher handicap player. For consistency we are trialling this in our internal tournaments. Any player entering the GC handicap singles or doubles competitions should please attend the training to be led by Philip and Peter on Saturday May 3<sup>rd</sup> in the afternoon. The morning session will be on more general skills. Players in the GC handicap SW Fed league will be offered earlier training in readiness for their first SW Fed league match.

### **THE CHARITY ONE BALL COMPETITION – WED 16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**

GC players with some experience as well as AC players are encouraged to participate. A donation is requested to be paid on the day; this year all proceeds go to the Alzheimer's Society. If you wish to play you can add your name to the list in the hut 3. Please bring a packed lunch. Coffee, tea and biscuits will be available all day. Wear whites with something light blue - the colour of the charity.

### **SHORT CROQUET / HALF LAWNS**

Short Croquet has become popular, especially at the start of the season. This is a 14-point Association game on a half-size lawn with both players having bisques. We hope that some GC players will give this shorter Association game a try. Half lawns will be set up for practice and coaching in advance of a one day tournament on Friday 16th May. The half lawns not only encourage short croquet but are helpful for beginners and those transitioning to AC.

### **PARTICIPATION CARDS**

We are unlikely to need to fill out participation cards from April 2025.

### **SOUTH WEST FEDERATION**

Sidmouth teams are entered for AC and GC tournaments which are played against club teams in the South West. Team lists will be displayed in hut 3. Match fees will not be required; the nominated driver(s) will be able to claim travel reimbursement for away matches. A list will be displayed in hut 3.

### **COACHING**

Experienced players will often be prepared to offer coaching if requested. More intensive coaching courses may be offered by Budleigh Croquet Club or elsewhere. Details will be displayed in hut 3. Various Croquet books are available to borrow. Please sign the loans sheet in hut 3 and return the book within 2 weeks. A comprehensive set of coaching manuals on strokes and strategy can be found on [www.oxfordcroquet.com](http://www.oxfordcroquet.com).

### **PLAYERS WANTING TO TRY THE AC GAME**

Half lawns will be set aside on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> May for two half days of tuition for those GC players who might like to have an introduction to the AC game. Sign up details will be posted nearer the time. We also expect to set lawn 4 as half lawns during AC Club sessions for AC beginners and those new to AC to practice their game.

### **MALLETS / INSURANCE**

By your second year it is expected that you have your own mallet. The club have a number of refurbished second-hand mallets for sale. Alternatively, you can buy one privately from an existing member or buy a new mallet. A pamphlet describing various makes of mallet is in hut 3.

If members own mallets they wish to sell, please post details in the mallet room and hut 3. Sometimes former members donate their mallets to the club; these are passed to Andrew Thomas so a decision can be made as to whether to sell them for club funds or tagged and used as club mallets.

Mallets and personal items left in the mallet room or any of the huts are not covered by the club's insurance; they are left there at the owner's risk. Personal mallets should be kept in the mallet room or taken home after a game leaving hut 3 for club mallets only.

### **JUMP SHOTS/DIVOT REPAIR**

Our lawns are precious. If Jump shots cannot be guaranteed to be played without damage to the lawn, they must not be attempted. Any damage from this or mallet faults must be repaired immediately using the tool hanging outside hut.3. A hoop for practice purposes is alongside hut 3.

### **ETIQUETTE**

Please refresh your memory on etiquette details displayed in hut 3. Double banking needs special care. White clothing should be worn for all whole day club tournaments. For a single session block match the two competitors can agree whether or not to wear whites. For club sessions and friendlies, the dress code is more casual.

### **GUESTS**

Members may bring a guest. The fee is £5 / person for a lawn up to 3 hours (£2.50 for juniors). Envelopes for payment are pinned to the noticeboard. Guests are restricted to playing on 4 occasions in the season. Members of other clubs joining a club session are asked to pay £3 / person.

### **HUT 2 / HUT 3**

Members are asked to leave the huts clean and tidy. Croquet balls can be washed and then cleaned with the towels available. Refreshments are available supported by an honesty box system with a minimum of 50p recommended for a cup of coffee or tea and a biscuit. Please do your own washing up. A spring clean of hut 3 and its contents will take place on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 9am. Please come to help if you can.

### **SECURITY**

We are all responsible for keeping the facilities secure. If you are the last player using the roadside lawns please ensure the hut kettle switches are off, lock the door, return the keys to the key safe and scramble the code. If using lawn 1 and there is no one following on please lock the mallet room door and (if there are no tennis players playing) drop the catch on the other doors of the pavilion.

### **DATA PROTECTION**

A list of members and telephone numbers will be circulated and displayed in hut 3. If you do not wish your number to be included, please notify the membership secretary, Jon Ball.

### **FIRST AID KIT / DEFIBRILLATOR**

There is a small first aid kit in hut 3. A more comprehensive kit can be found in the main pavilion near the telephone. Please replace any items used. A defibrillator has been mounted outside the pavilion in a yellow box. This is available for club members and the public to use. Several individuals are trained in its use. To access the defib just open the box and also phone 999.

### **ASSISTANCE NEEDED**

There are many jobs undertaken throughout the playing season – hoops to be re-set / the huts to be cleaned and tidied / benches to be kept clean / help with provision of refreshments for tournaments / assistance with record keeping for the Open GC tournaments / the Chairman's Garden to be maintained. If you can assist with any of these please make yourself known to any of the committee and/or look out for notices placed in hut 3.

### **CROQUET WEBSITE**

The croquet website is regularly updated with photos and information on recent events. It can be found at [www.sidmouthcroquet.co.uk](http://www.sidmouthcroquet.co.uk) Please send any items for the website to Chris Donovan [chris@navonod.plus.com](mailto:chris@navonod.plus.com)