Prospective Member Guide

Brighton Croquet Club – a great club for a fun game!

Welcome everyone to our Club in the heart of Brighton. For those who may be considering croquet as a new sport, or for those already experienced in holding a mallet, you are welcome to come along and enjoy a game.

Croquet is a sport for all ages and abilities. Games can be played socially or competitively, providing excellent mental, physical and social stimulation. Croquet is also a truly 'equal opportunity' sport, supporting mixed teams in social and tournament play.

The Club was founded in 1911 at a meeting of Brighton's Croquet enthusiasts headed by Elizabeth Bleazby, the first female Councillor of the City of Brighton and daughter of former Premier of Victoria The Hon. Thomas Bent. They purchased a site in Male St, bordering the railway line near Middle Brighton Station.

A hundred years later we are still at the same site. The original horse paddock has long gone, but with our three lawns and newly renovated clubhouse, enthusiasm for the game is undiminished. In addition to playing two forms of croquet, Golf and Association, we host many social events throughout the year enjoying our Clubhouse and its manicured surrounds.

Where is the Club?

The Club has 3 lawns located at 6 Bleazby Ave, Brighton, just off Male St.

When do you play?

We play social games every Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. Members can also arrange to play at other times throughout the week.

Do you cater for beginners?

Absolutely. We provide introductory instruction and include new players in games, with assistance from our more experienced members. We offer 5 introductory sessions to prospective members, only charging the green fee for each visit. Ongoing coaching is also available to all members.

We also offer an Introductory / Interim Membership for those who would like to try the game for 3 months prior deciding whether it's the sport for them.

Do I need my own mallet?

We have a range of mallets for use by players. Many members progress to buying their own mallets when they feel the time is right.

What is the dress code?

Flat shoes are essential to protect the lawns. When representing the Club, team members wear white, with some optional sky blue.

How do l book a game?

We do not have a formal booking system. Social play is currently held each Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday at 9.45 am and Sunday at 1.15 pm. If you come at these times you will get a game – but don't be late! Members can also organise their own games at other times.

How long is a game?

A Golf Croquet game takes approximately 40 – 50 minutes, and multiple games are played during a session. An Association Croquet game generally lasts 2 – $2^{1}/_{4}$ hours, though it can be shorter as agreed by the players.

What types of membership are offered?

- Introductory / Interim - for those who would like to play or try croquet for 3 months
- Full – for those who play throughout the year
- Social – for those who wish to join the Club but not use the lawns

How much does it cost?

Introductory / Interim membership is $100 for 3 months, plus $10 Green fees per visit.

Full annual membership (July 1st – June 30th) is $575.00, including insurance and affiliation fees. Green fees are $10 per visit, or alternatively members can pay an annual green fee of $400. Pro-rata subscriptions are available for joining mid-year.

Social membership is $100 for the year

Does the Club run any competitions?

Yes we run competitions and tournaments for members of all levels and abilities. Pennant competition against other croquet clubs is available, plus occasional inter-club (friendly) matches.

Do you hold social events?

We plan croquet and social events throughout the year, including 'twilight' croquet during the summer.

What is croquet?

At Brighton we play two forms of croquet – Golf and Association. The game is played with 4 balls, and the lawn is set with 6 hoops plus a centre peg and whichever side 'runs' the most hoop wins the game.

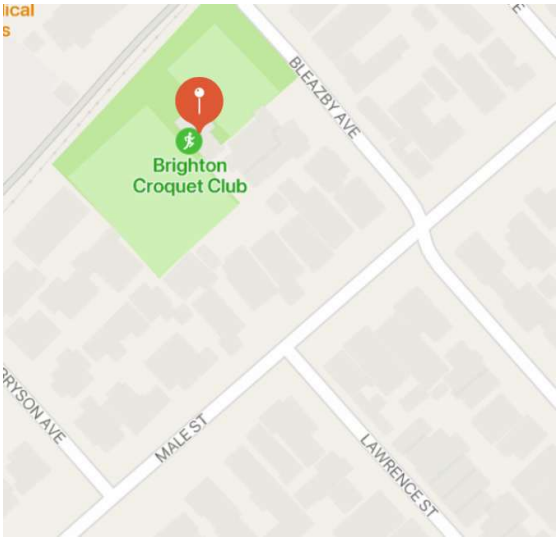
Golf Croquet - this form is played by two sides each with two balls. All players try in successive turns to run hoop 1. As soon as any player completes the running of hoop 1, then the hoop point is scored for that side. All players then move on to contest hoop 2, and so on around the court. The side that scores the most hoops wins the game.

Association Croquet – this form can be played as singles or doubles. The aim is to score more hoops than the other side by 'running' their balls through each hoop in sequence. Unlike Golf croquet each side must 'run' a hoop before moving on to the next hoop.

Each side takes turns to play; a turn consists initially of one stroke only, but further strokes can be earned in two ways:

- If the player's ball runs a hoop, they are entitled to another stroke
- If the player's ball hits another ball (this is called a 'roquet'), they place their own ball in contact with the struck ball before hitting their ball again (this causes both balls to move and is called a 'croquet'). After this the player is entitled to one further stroke.

The winner is the side with the highest number of hoops scored within a set time (e.g. 2 hours) or fully completes the course with both balls.



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