

# Golf Croquet (GC) Tournaments/Competitions

## A Brief Explanation

With our five wonderful lawns and with the invaluable help of volunteers , HCC is in the position of being able to host tournaments. **The income from these is vital to help pay for our running costs and to keep membership fees down.** The income comes from Croquet England for external tournaments and from entry fees for our internal tournaments. **Volunteers are essential** for us to be able to run them.

Once you have learned the basics we encourage you to enter some tournaments – it will help you to improve your game and enjoy the competition. A brief outline follows, but please feel free to ask committee members or other members who play in competitions for more details.

You will usually need a **handicap**. This is arranged initially by the **Club Handicapper, David Thirtle-Watts**. He will assess your starting point and give you a handicap card on which to record your results. It is very straightforward. 14 is the highest awarded at our club. Many people start on 12.

I am going to deal with our **internal club competitions** as they are the starting point for most new members.

- Most HCC internal competitions are run with the first person to score 7 hoops as the winner of a game. You may play between 5 and 8 games over the course of a day – the exact format is determined by the **Tournament Manager**.
- **Handicapped (H'Cap) Advantage competitions.** The person with the lowest h'cap has to give an advantage to a higher h'capped opponent. The advantage is determined by a chart. Eg the lower h'capped player may have a 2 hoop head start thus only needs to run 5 hoops to reach 7, or the stronger player may start on -1 so has to run 8 hoops to reach 7.
- **Level Play (LP) competitions.** No advantage is given. The scores start 0-0
- There are **Singles** (s) and **Doubles** (Db) tournaments
- Some of the Doubles tournaments are **'top and tailed'** – the strongest player is partnered with the weakest. This is a very good way for new players to start as the experienced player guides them round. It's a good way to learn how the rules are applied – out of bounds, double taps and crush shots...
- **Over 60s/Vets** This tournament is run over the course of 4 months - once a month on a Tuesday morning. As only 2 or possibly 3 games are played each round, it is ideal for those who find playing all day too physically demanding. It is a handicapped tournament.

All the club tournaments are listed on the calendar on the website and on the laminated monthly calendar on the board in the clubhouse.

Before each competition a list is posted in the clubhouse and reminders will be given before club afternoons. Simply add your name. **Gary Lewis** has very kindly offered to run the internal competitions this year.