

Nottingham Croquet Club: Double banking protocols and etiquette (including relevant COVID-19 infection precautions) – August 2020

From August 24th onwards we expect to have only lawns 1 to 5 in service. This could lead to more double banking (sharing a lawn between two games, one using first colour balls, the other using second colours) so here are some guidelines, which will be a reminder to some and new information to others.

Don't attempt to have GC and AC on the same lawn – it doesn't work out well. Also in AC, singles games are better for sharing a lawn than doubles games.

Equip yourself with at least 2 plastic ball markers. There is a pot of these in the pavilion but please wash your hands before helping yourself, and retain them for your own future use, don't return them or share them. Never use metal markers or coins; they sometimes get forgotten or dropped and can cause huge damage to a lawn mower.

During play, when starting your turn, always stop before you step onto the lawn to check that you are not walking across the path of a person from in play in the other game. Be aware of the other game whilst in play too. It is easy to become so engrossed in your game that you become oblivious to the other game and inconvenience them.

If a ball from the other game is at risk from your next stroke, you may obtain permission from the person in play to "mark" it (that is, to mark its position and then temporarily remove it). If in any doubt as to whether it is at risk, mark it; balls do not always go where you intend. However if the other game believe the ball is in a critical position, wait until they move it, or if that would hold up your game too much, then it may be marked by agreement very carefully, preferably by a referee.

Before removing and after replacing a ball from another game, clean your hands. Alternatively ask a player from the other game to mark and replace the ball.

Mark balls accurately; e.g. by using two markers, one on either side of the ball, and checking the view from directly above. People who have been on referee courses will know other accurate methods.

Replace any marked balls before you play your next stroke and let the players from the other game know.

If both games are in the vicinity of and approaching the same hoop then give way to the person there first. (In AC, there is no need for one game to postpone their start until the other game has "cleared hoop 1". Pause only if and when it becomes necessary.) If both games arrive at a hoop together, then give way to the person most likely to get out of the way first. In AC, if one of the two games is near to their time limit, give way to that game. If it is unclear, give way to the game with the least

marking to be done. In AC usually a player trying to set up a break should give way to a player who is in a break.

If, despite all the above, one of your balls does collide with a ball from the other game, apologise, then try to replace their ball where it was by agreement with their players, and then try to place the ball from your game where it would have gone by agreement with your opponent.

Further details on Double Banking can be found in the Laws of Association Croquet - LAW 52.

(Text partly based on an online article by Julie Horsley of Sidmouth Croquet Club)