

**PROSPECTIVE NEW MEMBERS INFORMATION**

We welcome you and thank you for choosing and/or considering to join Winterborne Valley Croquet Club. We hope you will enjoy playing croquet with us and taking part in our activities. A lot of information about our club is available on our website https://www.wvcroquet.co.uk

Firstly, a bit of history about the club. The club was formed in 1987 as Kingston Maurward Croquet Club playing at Kingston Maurward Agricultural College, near Dorchester. In the spring of 2019 the College gave us notice that we had to leave at the end of September 2019. After considering various options for new locations, in October 2019 the members decided we move to Winterborne Stickland Sports & Community Club as a club within a club and that the croquet club would be renamed Winterborne Valley Croquet Club. WSSCC offered us the use of half of a previous football pitch to form 2 full-size croquet lawns. After a lot of work by the committee, members and our groundsman in preparing the ground including the need for a rabbit-proof fence, the first lawn was opened on 1st June 2020.

To join the club we would ask you to complete the Membership Form, which you can download from the Membership section of our website and pay the membership subscription, which is currently £110 payable from the beginning of the season or £80 if joining after 1st July.

Our season runs from April until the end of October. It may be that the committee will allow some play during the winter months but that would depend on the condition of the lawns and the weather at the time. The lawns are open for play each day of the week from 10am to 8pm.

On joining the club we will arrange to meet with you at WVCC so that one of the committee can show you around and explain how the club operates. For new members who have not played before we will arrange for you to have lessons to show you how to play the two forms of croquet – Association Croquet and Golf Croquet. All equipment is provided, including mallets – you just need a pair of flat-soled shoes.  There is no particular dress code while playing at the club – white clothing need only be worn for matches and tournaments.

At present we have to play under the Government’s Covid-19 Regulations and the guidelines provided by the Croquet Association. The committee has prepared Safe Play Instructions with which all players must comply while at the club. A copy of the Instructions will be sent to you separately.

All players have to prebook time on the lawns using the Fastcourts booking system available on our website. When the Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted and we can meet together again, without social distancing, we will re-introduce Club Days when members can turn up, names are drawn out of a hat and we all play with or against other members. Tuesday 10am and 2pm will be Association Croquet Club Sessions, Wednesday 10am & 2pm and Thursday 10pm will be Golf Croquet Club Sessions. Outside of these times, members will be able to reserve the lawns, to play either form of the game.

The club also has teams, which play in the South West Federation of Croquet Clubs leagues. Friendly matches are also arranged against other clubs. Whatever your standard you will have the opportunity to play in a team should you so wish.

Don’t worry too much about having to remember all this, as it will all be explained to you when you have your initial induction meeting at the club. If you are not sure about anything be sure to ask, we are a friendly lot!

We hope you enjoy your time playing croquet with us at WVCC.

IAH 04.06.2020

