



Winterborne Valley Croquet Club

Welcome note for prospective members

A very warm welcome and thank you for considering Winterborne Valley Croquet Club (WVCC). We do hope you will join our friendly club. If you do, we are sure you will enjoy your croquet and our various activities.

This note provides a short overview of WVCC. You can find a lot more information about the club on our website at <https://www.wvcroquet.co.uk>

First, a bit of history. 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 new locations, we decided to move to Winterborne Stickland Sports & Community Club (as a club within a club). The club was renamed in October 2019 and Winterborne Valley Croquet Club was formed. We were offered the use of one half of a previous football pitch, which gave us sufficient space to form 2 full-size croquet lawns. After a lot of work by the committee, members and our groundsman, the first lawn was opened on 1st June 2020.

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

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 £135 payable from the beginning of the season. There is a sliding scale for those who join later in the season; you can find the rates in the Membership section of the website.

On joining WVCC, we will arrange for a member of the committee to meet you at the club to show you around and explain how the club operates. For new members who have not played before, we will arrange some lessons to introduce you to the two forms of the game – 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 club matches.

We have a number of 'club sessions' when members can turn up, names are drawn out of a hat and we all play with or against other members. Golf Croquet club sessions are held on Mondays at 10am and 1pm, and we run Association Croquet sessions at 10am on Tuesdays (short croquet). Outside of these times, members are able to reserve the lawns to play either form of the game. All players have to prebook time on the lawns using an online booking system. Details of the system and login details will be sent to you when you join.

The club also has teams, which play in the South West Croquet Federation 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 decide to join. And if you are not sure about anything, be sure to ask; we are a friendly lot!

If you have any questions about the club or membership, please contact the Membership Secretary via: membership.wvcroquet@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you on the lawns!

