

Surbiton Croquet Club Beginners' Coaching, Lesson 4
Introduction to Association Croquet (3 of 4)

Aim: to build upon the introduction to Association Croquet made in Lesson 3 by teaching and playing the full range of croquet shots.

Session 1 (30 mins): Straight croquet shots

Introduce roquet, croquet continuation by reference back to Lesson 2

Demonstrate full drive croquet, stop-shot and roll; pupils mark distances for each ball with bisques

Explain ratio depends on shaft, hands, follow-through

Explain faults

Apply (without casting) in pairs 6 yds apart, croquet to one another as drive, stop and roll

Repeat over 10 and 15 yds.

Session 2 (30 mins): Split croquet shots

Introduce as a way to get 2 balls to different targets, refer to thin & thick take-offs

Demonstrate as drive split to approach hoop, run and then make roquet

Explain aiming at mid-point between target positions, weight of hit, pull and faults

Explain and check pupil understanding of aligning contact line, the importance of contact, aiming into contact ball, ball must move, the weight of shot and gaining extra shots.

Apply in pairs with a coach, standing in triangle 2 yds apart; each pupil in turn splits one ball to the coach and the second to the partner; reverse the balls to practice strikers ball being on different sides of the ball being croquetted.

Repeat with each pupil following roquet, split, hoop run, roquet sequence.

Mid Session break (10 mins)

Session 3 (30 mins): Break building – show 4-ball break

Position 2 balls in standard positions: 1 metre left of peg and as pioneer for hoop 2

Set “dolly” rush to hoop 1

Demonstrate by making first 3 hoops; explain need for rush out of hoop, continuation shots and opportunities to take bisques productively.

Session 4 (30 mins): Supervised 4-ball break for 2 hoops.

Use additional coaches and lawns to allow each trainee to try this – taking extra time if necessary.

Introduce next lesson: it will build upon this one by playing four-ball short croquet

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