



Croquet at Blewbury

2019 Playing calendar and events

Prepared by David Vincent and Joe King

Club co-captains

Contents

Overview	1
Regular bookings	1
Open Sessions	1
Free times	2
Team Practice Sessions	2
Scheduled maintenance	2
Internal competitions	3
Icknield Cup	3
Prebendal Manor Cup	3
Founder's Cup	3
Advanced and handicap play Scrambles	4
Short Croquet Egyptian ladder	4
Spring Doubles	4
Charity 1-ball	5
External competitions	5
All England Handicap Qualifier – GC	5
All England Handicap Qualifier – AC	5
Blewbury/Phyllis Court Handicap Tournament	5
Leagues and Friendly matches	6
SCF GC Level Play League	6
SCF GC Handicap GC League	6
SCF AC Advanced Play League	6
SCF AC B Level League	6
SCF AC Handicap League	6
Longman Cup	7
Watford AC Friendly	7
GC Friendlies	7
On-line Calendar	7
Coaching	8
Events	9
Mixing it up	10
Guidance for open GC sessions	10
Example calendar	11

Overview

2019 promises to be a busy year for croquet at Blewbury, with more members, more playing events and competitions and the lawns in prime condition. The committee has launched an initiative to establish a development plan for the club going forward and there'll be lots of opportunity for members to give their input.

We want to set out the different opportunities for you to get involved in playing croquet at Blewbury in 2019.

There are a number of internal tournaments for the GC and AC codes, as well as a number of external competitions, leagues and friendly matches that we will be participating in and organising for club teams and individual entries. We are also looking to provide coaching at novice and intermediate levels for existing and new members.

You will notice that there is also more planned for the weekends for those at work.

We have already introduced a new online calendar for members to see what is on each week, for volunteering for grounds maintenance and white-lining, and for arranging games with other members outside normal open session times.

For more information please speak to David Vincent (dgv@vertex-sl.co.uk) or Joe King (jwking.uk@gmail.com or 07768 182 885). If you are interested in playing in an event then please get in contact with the manager, or Joe King or David Vincent.

Regular bookings

Open Sessions

These are held each week as follows:

- Monday afternoons - AC (on one lawn), from 2pm
- Tuesday afternoons - GC, from 2pm
- Thursday mornings - GC, from 10am
- Thursday afternoons - AC, from 2pm
- Friday afternoons - GC, from 2pm

The format is flexible and is arranged by those who attend a particular session. It's a good opportunity from singles or doubles play, depending on how many come along. If you want to make sure others will be around, then you can use the 'Anyone for a game?' option on the online calendar.

Some suggestions for mixing up the format to provide variety are included at the end of this document.

Managers: David Vincent (GC) , Joe King (AC)

Free times

Evenings and weekends are normally open for members to book lawns and to arrange games. There will also be times on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays when the lawns may also be free.

As there are matches and other scheduled events already in the calendar, availability should always be checked on the online calendar. Bookings for a court are also done online. (See the section on the calendar later in this document).

Any questions: please contact Joe King

Team Practice Sessions

Members of the GC league teams are encouraged to attend a practice session aimed at skills and tactics development on Monday afternoons (on one lawn)

Manager: David Vincent

Scheduled maintenance

Each Tuesday morning the lawns are taken out of use to allow for cutting, treatments and remedial work. Volunteers are always welcome to take up tasks aimed at improving the facilities of the club.

If you are able to sign up for white-lining then this could be done on a Tuesday or at another time. You can book your slot on the new online calendar.

Friday mornings are kept as a reserve day in case of poor weather on a Tuesday delaying scheduled activities earlier in the week.

Organiser: David Seed

Internal competitions

Icknield Cup

The Icknield Cup is a club GC singles handicap competition leading to a final to be played in September and a cup awarded for a year to the winner.

The initial stages involve one or more group events in which all-play-all in single handicap games. The winners of the groups go forward to semi-finals then finals, which are played best-of-three. The number of group events depends on the number of entries.

Manager: David Vincent

Prebendal Manor Cup

This is the principal AC handicap tournament in the club, leading to semi-finals and final played on Finals Day on Saturday September 7th.

This year the Prebendal Manor Cup is going to be played as a double-life knock-out tournament during the course of the summer, with a consolation event for those who lose any of their first four matches. This is designed to give everyone two opportunities to progress in the competition and even if you lose, you will have at least 4 games during the season, and more if desired.

Entries by 1st May. Manager: Joe King

Founder's Cup

This is the principal advanced play AC tournament in the club and will be contested over Saturday July 6th, with a format giving two or three games for each entrant. It is recommended for handicaps 6 and below.

Entries by 15th June. Manager: Joe King

Advanced and handicap play Scrambles

We are introducing eight one day mini AC tournaments for club members and visitors this year, giving the opportunity for some competitive play and 3 or 4 (or more) games during the day. They are being held on the first Wednesday and the third Saturday of May-August. Four will be predominantly for handicap play and four predominantly for advanced play, although we will be flexible and accommodate those who register.

The format will encourage lots of games, including shortened games, during the day and entries will be limited to 8 each time.

- Advanced play Wednesday May 1st, July 3rd
 Saturday June 22nd, August 17th
- Handicap play Wednesday June 5th, August 7th
 Saturday May 18th, July 20th

Entries by 1 week before event: Manager: Joe King

Short Croquet Egyptian ladder

Short Croquet, played with the full bisque handicap AC code on half sized lawns and short 14pt games is a good opportunity to hone your skills and is tremendous fun. Games usually last less than an hour. Once a month we'll be focusing on a short croquet ladder on a Monday afternoon during which participants will have opportunity for 3 games.

The Egyptian format enables players to challenge anyone else on the ladder, earning ladder points for wins. Games can be played in the short croquet sessions or at your leisure during the week. The winner at the end of the season will be the player who has earned the most ladder points.

Entries at any point during the season: Manager: Joe King

Spring Doubles

The opening event of the year is the AC handicap spring doubles to be held on Saturday 27th April. Played as doubles it is a good opportunity for less experienced and novice players to partner a more experienced player. We use the shortened 14pt format to ensure each player gets lots of play during the day. GC players wanting to have a first go with the AC code are most welcome. This event is also open to visitors and non-members.

Entries by 20th April: Manager: Nick Butler

Charity 1-ball

Each year we raise money for a worthy cause with a 1-ball competition. This year the event is on Saturday May 4th. The £5 entry fees goes to the charity. Format is flexible during the day and it is a lot of fun with short, quick games.

Entries by April 27th: Manager: Nick Butler

External competitions

All England Handicap Qualifier – GC

The All England GC Handicap Competition starts with club level heats. The winner(s) of each heat can go on to area finals and the winners of these can go to the national final. There is no obligation to go on to later stages. We hold a club heat in June which involves playing a number of singles handicap GC games, and will provide an experience similar to many open tournaments.

Manager: David Vincent

All England Handicap Qualifier – AC

The club qualifier is to be held on Sunday June 9th and is open to all members and visitors. The winner will go forward to the regional and national rounds of the competition.

Entries by May 18th: Manger: Paul Wolff

Blewbury/Phyllis Court Handicap Tournament

The annual AC tournament is to be held on Wednesday 26th June (at Phyllis Court) and Thursday 27th June (at Blewbury) and is open to all members and visitors.

Entries by May 18th: Manger: Paul Wolff

Leagues and Friendly matches

If you would be interested in being involved with any of these events, please contact the organiser for more details and to register your name.

SCF GC Level Play League

We have recently started to enter one team in this league. The standard is high and we play our best available players, so far with limited success, but we like a challenge.

Organiser: David Vincent

SCF GC Handicap GC League

This year we have entered two team in this league to give more players the chance to play competitively. There are four players in each team, and each plays a handicap singles game against each of the opposing team. As the games are played with handicaps, everyone has a reasonable chance of winning.

Organiser: David Vincent

SCF AC Advanced Play League

Our regional advanced level league team with 2 players per match. For lower handicap players.

Organiser: Nick Butler

SCF AC B Level League

Our regional B-level league team is played with advanced rules and has 3 players per match. It is for those with handicap 0 and above.

Organiser: Paul Wolff

SCF AC Handicap League

Our regional handicap league team has 4 players per match and is open to players of all handicaps.

Organiser: Bruce Gallop

Longman Cup

A national AC tournament for CA clubs played with handicap play on a knock-out basis. Teams of 4 compete. It is open to players with a handicap of 3½ or higher.

Organiser: Steve Fisher

Watford AC Friendly

Each year we play a friendly against Watford. It's a 1-day format with a game in the morning and another in the afternoon. Players can play the morning, the afternoon or both. We need 4 players for each set of games.

Organiser: Paul Wolff

GC Friendlies

Friendly matches provide opportunities for more players to experience competitive play against other clubs. The doubles-only level play format suits those not comfortable with singles or handicaps. The aim is to ensure that everyone who would like to play in these matches has a chance to do so.

Organiser: David Vincent

On-line Calendar

Finding the calendar

The new calendar is now on the club website and can be found online at the web URL: <https://teamup.com/kstk6ocbmdpbuva6qe>. The link can also be acquired electronically from Joe King.

The new calendar provides all the court bookings for matches, open sessions and other events, as well as a means of finding other players interested in a game and booking courts for play and practice. It also has the opportunities for volunteers to sign up to help in grounds maintenance.

Using the calendar

The calendar can be seen on the club website, or it can be accessed from a web browser on a PC, or an app or browser on a smart phone or tablet. An iCalendar fee can also be integrated into your preferred electronic calendar whether this be in Outlook, Google or some other system.

You can also set up notifications so that you receive an email when there are changes made.

The Teamup calendar website has full and easy to use instructions. But please let Joe King know of any questions, requests or suggestions.

We hope that this will be a useful facility for those wanting to make sure the lawns are free before turning up.

Coaching

We have a good number of qualified coaches in the club and we want to provide more coaching this year for those wanting to improve their croquet skills and tactics, for both GC and AC.

Introductory days

Following the Open Day on April 13th there will be beginner coaching on 4 Saturdays at 9:30-10:30. The dates are:

- Saturday April 27th, May 4th, May 11th, May 18th

Organiser: Joe King

Coaching

We also plan to arrange sessions for higher handicappers and mid-range handicap players to help to develop skills and tactics. If you'd be interested in participating, please register your interest so that we can select the most convenient times for everybody.

More details: Paul Wolff, Joe King or David Vincent

Events

There are other events going on in the calendar that you may like to make a note of:

Intercounties Championships – AC

Played at Southwick in Brighton and Compton in Eastbourne over the May Bank Holiday (May 25-28). Berkshire enters a team each year, with 5 of the 7 players coming from Blewbury.

Intercounties Championships – GC

Played at Southwick in Brighton and Compton in Eastbourne this will take place over the weekend of August 18-19.

Roger Cambray Shield + BBQ

This is a fun 1-ball competition at Blewbury played during the course of a relaxed day. This year we intend to combine it with a BBQ – and everyone is welcome to come along for croquet, the BBQ or both! The date is Sunday June 16th. Please contact Paul Wolff for details

National Croquet Day

We will be staging an event at Blewbury on May 12th to mark National Croquet Day. Please speak to Paul Wolff if you'd like to help.

BBC Country File Live

Croquet will be on show during the 4-day event at Blenheim Palace. (August 5-8)

Mixing it up

Guidance for open GC sessions

As the club develops and we have more players, it is important to ensure that new members feel welcome and less experienced players get chance to learn from more experienced players.

An important way of achieving this is for there to be adequate mixing of players during the general club sessions. This can easily fail to happen if when one group finishes a game, then, since other games are still in progress, the players start another game. Since games generally do not finish at the same time, no mixing occurs. The following is suggested guidance for use in club sessions.

1. To encourage mixing:

As people arrive at the start of a session, they should form into game groups in order of arrival. During the sessions games may be doubles, threes (one singles against a doubles pair) or singles, depending on players and court space. Newcomers should be invited to fit in wherever there is a space, e.g. with a three or to a singles making it a three.

When you finish a game and there are others still playing their game, let them know you are ready to mix in when they finish then

- have a coffee
- do some practice (few of us practice enough)
- start a new game but be prepared to stop when the other game stops

2. To help ensure everyone gets a good game:

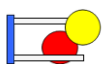
When deciding pairings for doubles try to get balanced teams by pairing experienced players with less experienced players.

Use Handicaps. If we can make handicap play normal in club sessions this will ensure everyone has a chance to win and the better players are still challenged. Handicaps add a new dimension to the game.

If anyone has no handicap assume 10, but encourage them to get an initial handicap assessed.

For more information please speak with David Vincent

Example calendar



Blewbury Croquet Club Court Booking

Administrator

Scheduler Day 4 Days Week 4 Weeks Month Year Agenda List

Number of months: 6

April 2019

M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S																																																																																																																																					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30					

May

June

July

August

September

Filter

Getting started

if you are new to this calendar, please check out the Guidelines for Members or the Getting Started Guide.

© London Powered by teamup

This is a snapshot of the calendar events for April-September, showing days on which there are bookings.

The different events are colour coded for different sessions, home and away matches and maintenance.

