

The Short Croquet Handicap System

With Reference to 'The World of Croquet' by McCullough and Mulliner

History

Short Croquet was launched by the Croquet Association 1985 to provide a small lawn Association game which could be played on unused tennis courts (hence the odd size court of 24x16 yards) with the 50 minute duration required for a 1 hour TV programme with adverts. It was also hoped to tempt younger players in their lunch hours if they were fortunate enough to have a lawn at work.

1986 saw the first televised Croquet tournament sponsored by the Royal Bank of Scotland at Granada TV's headquarters in Manchester. Television coverage was very short lived but the game survived, being a good stepping stone for beginners before moving up to the full game. The NW Federation in particular runs a very active Short Croquet league with several clubs participating.

Variations from Normal Association Croquet Rules:

- (a) An opponent's ball may not be wired from its partner ball otherwise a wiring lift is conceded.
- b) Players with Short Handicaps below '2' must complete a certain number of mandatory peels.
- (c) Short Croquet is a 14 point full bisque handicap game played on half lawns (28x17½ yards).

Definition of a Short Croquet Qualifying Game:

Singles games in Short Croquet Club Competitions and Short Croquet Federation Leagues.

The Handicap System

Short Croquet handicaps range from 10 to 0 to 3 peels. There are no minus numbers. Handicaps can only be adjusted in accordance with the 'Short Croquet Automatic Handicapping System' (SCAHS).

The Short Croquet Automatic Handicapping System (SCAHS)

Because standard 'Handicap Cards' are also used for Short Croquet, two cards are required for players intending to compete in both 'Normal' and 'Short' Qualifying Game. It is very important to clearly mark one card SHORT CROQUET, or use a separate section of the normal card (the back page for instance, clearly marked and well separated from the normal Association Croquet section). SCAHS works in the same way as the normal AHS but a Short Croquet handicap is also the actual number of bisesques a player receives per game. Indexes simply increase by 1 for a win and decrease by 1 for a loss. Handicaps are automatically triggered by an aggregate of 5 wins or 5 losses.

Short Croquet handicaps are directly related to Normal handicaps, as set out in the table below, but the correspondence is one way only.

Normal Handicaps must never be adjusted or set on the basis of Short Croquet

Normal to Short Croquet Handicap Conversion Table

Handicap		Handicap		Handicap	
Normal	Short	Normal	Short	Normal	Short
- 2 to -1	3 Peels	5	1½	14	5
-½ to ½	2 Peels	6	2	16	6
1 to 1½	1 Peel	7	2½	18	7
2 to 2½	0	8 to 9	3	20	8
3 to 3½	½	10 to 11	3½	22	9
4 to 4½	1	12	4	24	10

This table must only be used to derive a Short Croquet Handicap from a Normal Handicap

A Guide to Completing a Short Croquet Handicap card

With Reference to the CA Publication 'Principles of Handicapping' by Bill Lamb

Short Croquet Handicap Trigger Points Table

Handicap	Index	Handicap	Index	Handicap	Index
3 Peels	115	1½	85	5	55
2 Peels	110	2	80	6	50
1 Peel	105	2½	75	7	45
0	100	3	70	8	40
½	95	3½	65	9	35
1	90	4	60	10	30

OPPONENT		GAME		INDEX	
Name	Hcp	h/l	Res	+/-	New
James Collier	1	h	-14	-1	59
Katrina Stuart	8	h	+ 9	+1	60
Joyce Atkins	2P	h	-14	-1	59
Mary Jackson	9	h	+10	+1	60
Julian Pearce	0	h	+ 2	+1	61
Brenda Scott	10	h	+13	+1	62
Richard Bramley	10	h	+14	+1	63
Fred Bamford	½	h	-12	-1	62
Joan Scott	7	h	+ 1	+1	63
Carl Shultz	2½	h	+ 2	+1	64
Helen Ford	8	h	+ 6	+1	65

New Handicap

5
4 (Trigger Point)
4
4
4
4
4
4
4
4
5 (Trigger Point)

Column 1: Enter your opponent's name.

Column 2: Enter your opponent's 'Short Croquet' handicap.

Column 3: Enter 'h' as there is no level play in Short Croquet.

Column 4: Enter the final score. If you win with 14 points and your opponent has 8, the Res(ult) is + 6. If your opponent wins with 14 points and you have 1, the Res(ult) is -13.

(Enter the letter 'T' after the score if the game was ended by a time limit).

Column 5: Enter +1 if you win the game or -1 if you lose.

Column 6: Enter the new index after adding or subtracting 1 in column 5.

Note that an 'Official Handicapper' will not normally adjust a 'Short Croquet' Handicap. Handicap changes take place at the end of the day if a new trigger point is reached or crossed

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