



## ***Northern Croquet Academy, York Course Programme 2026***

### ***Summary***

***Availability as at  
1 December 2025***

| <b>Dates 2026</b>                                                                                                        | <b>Course</b>                                   | <b>Course Leader</b>      | <b>Cost £</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Sat 21 March                                                                                                             | AC/GC Become a Croquet England Grade 1 Coach    | Ian Burridge              | 40*           |
| Weds 15 April                                                                                                            | AC/GC Firm Foundations                          | Penny Clark, Lionel Stock | 40            |
| Tues 21 April                                                                                                            | GC Sharpen Your Shots in GC                     | Penny Clark               | 40            |
| Sa/Su 25/26 Apr                                                                                                          | AC/GC Become a Croquet England Club-Level Coach | James Hawkins             | 75*           |
| Tues 28 April                                                                                                            | AC More Winning Ways in AC (1)                  | Dave Kibble               | 40#           |
| Weds 29 April                                                                                                            | AC More Winning Ways in AC (2)                  | Dave Kibble               | 40#           |
| Thurs 30 April                                                                                                           | AC/GC One-to-One Coaching with Dave Kibble      | Dave Kibble               | 40            |
| Tues 5 May                                                                                                               | AC/SC Getting Going in AC                       | John Harris               | 40            |
| Weds 13 May                                                                                                              | AC Breaks and Bisses                            | Lionel Stock              | 40            |
| Sat 16 May                                                                                                               | GC Classic GC Skills and Tactics                | John Crossland            | 40#           |
| Sun 17 May                                                                                                               | GC GC Skills and Tactics in Practice            | John Crossland            | 40#           |
| Weds 20 May                                                                                                              | A// Croquet for Fun!                            | Academy Team              | 40            |
| Weds 3 June                                                                                                              | GC Become a Croquet England GC Referee          | Ian Cobbold, Ian Shore    | 40            |
| * Croquet England offers £25 subsidies towards course costs. Some Federations may be able to provide additional support. |                                                 |                           |               |
| # £75 if booked as a pair (Kibble+Kibble or Crossland+Crossland)                                                         |                                                 |                           |               |

### ***In detail***

#### ***Become a Croquet England Grade 1 Coach – Saturday 21 March 2026***

Coaching others to a higher level can greatly improve your own game. This course is for qualified Club-Level Coaches who now want to develop their coaching skills and upgrade their qualification to either Grade 1 AC or Grade 1 GC status. To become a Grade 1 AC Coach you are expected to have a handicap of 12 or below; to become a Grade 1 GC Coach the threshold is 6 or below. This is a blended learning course. In preparation for the day, candidates are required to study a Pre-Course Pack closely and take an online test in either the Laws of AC or the Rules of GC. The day itself will include elements of coaching for coaches, practical exercises and assessment. A subsidy of £25 per person is available for CqE subscribers who have not already received the subsidy. Some Federations may also be able to offer further support.

*Cost: £40. Course leader: Ian Burridge*

#### ***Firm Foundations – Wednesday 15 April 2026***

At Club level and beyond, games are won or lost as much by technique as by tactics. So getting the basics right can make all the difference to your game. This practical one-day course is for both AC and GC players. The fundamental principles of stance, grip and swing are explored, together with tried and tested procedures for reliable positioning of any shot in GC and AC play. The day then considers a wide range of other techniques including two-ball shots (GC players need them too!) and jump shots (surprisingly useful in AC!). This course is for players of all abilities. It will be largely outdoors and will offer plenty of opportunity to put principles into practice. Get your technique right and start winning!

*Cost: £40. Course leaders: Penny Clark and Lionel Stock*

### ***Sharpen Your Shots in GC – Tuesday 21 April 2026***

This one-day course is for Golf Croquet players who have achieved some success, have handicaps around 8 to 12, and now want to move their game to the next level. We will consider the essential points of successful stroke play, accuracy and tactics, with common strengths and weaknesses guiding the direction of the practical demonstrations and practice exercises. The day will include tips on technique to promote confident and focused play in the context of typical game situations. There will be plenty of opportunity to practise new skills, including through supervised games. Most of the day will be spent outside. Wider aspects of play will also be explored including preparation, play and court etiquette.

*Cost: £40. Course leader: Penny Clark*

### ***Become a Croquet England Club-Level Coach – Sat-Sun 25-26 April 2026***

This two-day course, led by the author of 'Complete Croquet', is for both AC and GC players aiming to develop their coaching skills and seeking Croquet England accreditation to coach within their own club. Coaches also find that coaching others can help them significantly develop their own game. To complete their qualification candidates go on to coach five sessions at their own club. You are expected to have a basic working knowledge of the Laws of AC or the Rules of GC. A subsidy of £25 is available for Croquet England subscribers. Some Federations may also offer further support.

*Cost: £75. Course leader: James Hawkins*

### ***More Winning Ways in AC (1) – Tuesday 28 April 2026***

These two complementary one-day courses are for intermediate-level AC players (around handicaps 8-16) who now aspire to push their handicap down into single figures, or who have already achieved single figure handicaps and now want to develop their game. The days can be booked separately or, for the full experience, together. Topics will be distributed between Day 1 and Day 2 as the course leader determines. Over the two days the course is being planned to include such topics as break hygiene, making reliable leaves, three-ball breaks and endings, strategies against low handicappers, defensive play, peeling, the mental game, tips and tricks to hone your competitive edge, and more!

*Cost: £40 – special price of £37.50 if booked with 'More Winning Ways (2)' (Wednesday 29 April)*

*Course leader: Dave Kibble*

### ***More Winning Ways in AC (2) – Wednesday 29 April 2026***

This is the second of two complementary one-day courses for intermediate-level AC players (around handicaps 8-16) looking to develop their game. Details above. Book the day on its own or book both days as a pair.

*Cost: £40 – special price of £37.50 if booked with 'More Winning Ways (1)' (Tuesday 28 April)*

*Course leader: Dave Kibble*

### ***One-to-One Coaching with Dave Kibble – Thursday 30 April 2026***

Boost your playing power with an hour of individual tuition with Dave Kibble, a widely experienced coach in both AC and GC and a Referee and Examining Referee. Use the time to work on any aspect or aspects of croquet strategy, technique, Laws/Rules or mindset that you choose. One-to-One Coaching is open to both AC and GC players. Please contact the Course Secretary before booking to discuss timings.

*Cost: £40 per one-hour session: £50 for two people sharing the same one-hour session.*

*Course leader: Dave Kibble*

### ***Getting Going in AC – Tuesday 5 May 2026***

This one-day course is open to players of both codes, and should appeal both to those starting out in AC, and also to GC players who want to diversify into AC play and use their skills to give them a head start in the original game. It is also for coaches looking for a simple way of introducing AC into their own clubs through Short Croquet. The day offers a full introduction to both AC and SC, covering distinctive aspects including croquet shots and building a break, and helping participants play with understanding and pleasure. It will include guidance on how the skills can be easily learned, a supported game, and plenty of opportunity for individual help.

*Cost: £40. Course leader: John Harris*

### ***Breaks and Bisques – Wednesday 13 May 2026***

Ever felt you don't make the best of your bisques? Not always sure how to build a break, or how to put it right if it goes wrong? If so, then this one-day course is for you. It is designed for higher-handicap AC players familiar with basic technique who want to play more sustained breaks and improve their bisque use – essential for winning games. The day covers when and how to successfully set up a break with bisques, including bisque openings, bisque budgeting and identifying break opportunities. It also considers where and how to best place balls to create breaks and sustain them. Participants will be encouraged to discuss the concepts and will have ample opportunity to practise them on the lawn.

*Cost: £40. Course leader: Lionel Stock*

### ***Classic Golf Croquet Skills and Tactics – Saturday 16 May 2026***

This one-day course is for Golf Croquet players with higher handicaps (around 10 and above) who want to develop their understanding of the basic tactical moves; would like to know how to play accurate clearances, jump shots and so on; and want to run hoops successfully. The day will look at the classic tactical shots, the skills required, and principles of tactical play, while also moving towards some of the more advanced aspects of play.

*Cost: £40 – special price of £37.50 if booked with 'Golf Croquet Skills and Tactics in Practice' (Sunday 17 May)*

*Course leader: John Crossland*

### ***Golf Croquet Skills and Tactics in Practice – Sunday 17 May 2026***

This course complements the course on 16 May and, similarly, is for GC players with higher handicaps (around 10 and above). The day will centre around a series of coached games, with players grouped by handicap and with coaches taking opportunities during play to discuss technique, tactics and available options in situations arising in each game. You should be familiar with basic technique and classic tactical moves such as clearing, blocking and promoting, and now would like to develop your understanding of how these and other moves can best be put to work in practice.

*Cost: £40 – special price of £37.50 if booked with 'Classic Golf Croquet Skills and Tactics' (Saturday 16 May)*

*Course leader: John Crossland*

### ***Croquet for Fun! – Wednesday 20 May 2026***

This one-day course looks at the lighter side of croquet and offers a potpourri of accessible games ideal for visiting groups, for Club summer dos and socials, and for light-hearted pleasure to fill any spare time at the end of Club sessions. Pirates is not the only alternative! We will also play a range of short games which successfully engage children in mallet sports – all proven to appeal to adults too. The day is for GC and AC players alike, and for players of any ability. Ramp up your sense of fun and be an ambassador for friendly, easy-to-learn games that bring a smile to the croquet lawn!

*Cost: £40. Course leaders: Debbie James, Lionel Stock and John Harris*

### ***Become a Croquet England GC Referee – Wednesday 3 June 2026***

Becoming a GC Referee brings its own rewards. It improves your knowledge and understanding of the Rules, builds your confidence on the lawn, and helps others play to the rulebook. To help candidates learn the Rules, a 16-session WCF Online GC Rules Study Pack is available here: <https://worldcroquet.org/online-rules-training-and-study-pack/> As an essential step in this blended learning course, candidates must also, before attending on 3 June, pass the two parts of an online, self-study, open book, multiple choice, immediate feedback, GC Rules Theory test which can be retaken if needs be until a pass is achieved: <https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=games/golf/rules/RulesQuiz> The day of the course itself will be largely on-lawn and will include practical sessions on how to apply the Rules in various scenarios, followed by a short multiple choice Basic Test, and an on-lawn practical test. A pass in both the written exam and the practical test leads to a qualification as a registered Croquet England GC Referee and a red GC Referee badge.

*Cost: £40. Course leaders: Ian Cobbold and Ian Shore*

## ***To find out more***

To discuss a course further, to request an accommodation list or with any other questions, please contact the Course Secretary: Debbie James, Mobile tel: 0777 277 8232, email [northerncroquetacademy@gmail.com](mailto:northerncroquetacademy@gmail.com)

## ***To make a booking***

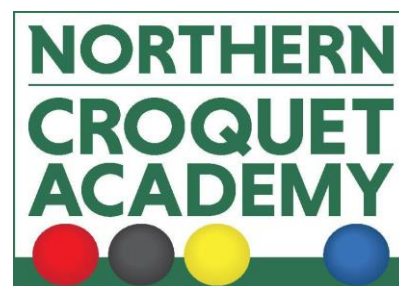
Apply via the Northern Croquet Academy website

[www.northerncroquetacademy.org](http://www.northerncroquetacademy.org)

Use the menu tabs 'How to Apply' and '2026 Courses'.

Once you have found your chosen course(s),  
click on the Register button to apply.

Payment by bank transfer will be requested by email once your booking registration is received. Payment will secure your booking and receipt of payment will be confirmed by email. Please note that any reservations made outside the handicap advisory range will be subject to review.



If you are unable to pay by bank transfer, please indicate in the Comment box on the electronic registration form. All further communication will wherever possible be by email.

## ***Course booklets***

***are offered with all one-day or two-day Northern Academy courses***

**[www.northerncroquetacademy.org](http://www.northerncroquetacademy.org)**