



# The Game of Croquet

Croquet arrived in England from Ireland in the 1850s.

At the end of the 19th century, it was more popular than tennis. Tennis eventually came out on top, largely because of croquet's unsavoury reputation.

In America it became associated with gambling, drinking and philandering to such an extent that it was once banned in Boston as an immoral practice.

Herbert Swope, the American newspaperman, on whose estate Groucho Marx and Dorothy Parker were said to have played with unsportsmanlike rivalry, said, "croquet gives release to all the mischief in you. It makes you want to do bad things... it is a great game".

Croquet has been played on Hove Lawns for over a hundred years now and we try to keep the spirit alive. The motto of our club is 'to cause mistrust and resentment among even the best of friends!'



# Hove Beach Croquet Club

Hove Beach Croquet Club was established in 2010, at a time when there was a lot of talk of the 'big society'.

We came up with a model for a club run by a small group for the benefit of the whole community.

Our aim was to create a relaxed and friendly environment where anyone could come along, take a deckchair, chat to members and watch, learn or play croquet.

Last year, a local reporter wrote about her experience of the club: '... Throughout August and September, I discovered a little oasis of lazy days, easy laughs, curious people, interesting conversation, scrabble (not sure about that one), oh and croquet!'



# Business and Corporate

Throughout the summer, local businesses and organisations use the croquet club for engagement days, team building events or just as a social activity staff can do together - it is the perfect evening after work.

You can book from 6pm or earlier if necessary and most groups who come along are still playing when the sun goes down.

We'll set up the pitches, get the deckchairs and tables out and provide whatever coaching you need to get started.

You also have a great cafe which stays open until after 8pm and a bar which is open all night (£1 membership required but well worth it for anyone having more than one drink).

To reserve a pitch or both pitches for an evening is £15 per pitch per hour, irrespective of how many are playing.

To make a reservation, just email Graeme - [Hovebeachcroquetclub@gmail.com](mailto:Hovebeachcroquetclub@gmail.com).

