

# THE 4<sup>th</sup> FAMILY CHALLENGE CROQUET TOURNAMENT: SUMMER 2026



**It's BACK.... it's BIG....it's BOLD...and it's still *THE BEST THING SINCE SLICED BREAD!***

**The now well-established Family Tournament is aimed at inspiring the next generation of croquet players to stop spending their days glued to their mobile phones... and give them the chance to discover the joys of Golf Croquet instead!**

- Do you have a son, daughter, or grandchild/great grandchild (!) who would (or could) partner you in our annual Golf Croquet Doubles competition?
- If the answer is '**YES**', why not enter Year Four of this RTWCC tournament to be played during the summer of 2026?

## **HOW IT WORKS:**

1. Recruit a son/daughter or grandchild and give your team an appropriate name (The Tunbridge Wells Tornados? The Rusthall Rovers? The Calverley Crusaders? – your choice, but please be creative)

Your doubles partner must be a novice Golf Croquet player, not currently a member of the club and relatively new to the joys of golf croquet – i.e. they can have played a little before, but must not be a 'ringer' wearing a fiendish disguise. Please play fair.....i.e. Derek and Dan Crocombe playing together and wearing false beards would not be allowed!

If you don't have a convenient team member available, you can - by arrangement- 'borrow' a child or grandchild from another club member, but they must be from at least the next generation. No transfer fees can be charged or levied.... and this is not an unintentional child-minding service, however appealing that might sound!

Alternatively, the novice player in your family team can change from match to match, as this might make it easier for you to field a team when necessary, bearing in mind one Child/Grandchild might not be able to fulfil all your team's fixtures logistically, for whatever reason.

2. Your team will be entered 'Champions League'-style into a qualifying preliminary league, where every team plays all other teams once, with 3 points awarded for a win.

The number of preliminary qualifying leagues will depend on how many teams choose to enter – i.e. one league, two leagues, or even three, depending on starting numbers and the number of preliminary games required as a consequence.

The competing teams in the preliminary leagues will play a single game, whereas the semi-finals and the final will adhere to a best-of-three format.

3. You can play your preliminary league fixtures at any time by individual arrangement, but if previous years are anything to go by, most teams will opt to attend one -or both- of the two 'Super Saturday' sessions, where multiple matches can be completed over the course of each special day between all the teams that have chosen to attend a 'Super Saturday' session.

The dates for the **Super Saturday** sessions this year will be:

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July      Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August**

With play commencing at 10am

4. The competition will be 'Level play' – no handicaps will apply.
5. The top 4 teams in the preliminary league(s) will then proceed to the semi-finals, with the winners progressing to the Grand Final. The dates for these are 'TBA' and will be negotiated with the semi-finalists.
6. The magnificent '**GOLDEN CROQUET BALL TROPHY**' will be awarded to the winning team, while a magnificent...



**£50 PRIZE**

will be presented to the team's 'novice' member. The losing finalists will receive a Big Wooden Spoon instead, as consolation for their ignominious defeat.



This is an informal tournament – no 'whites' required for any of the matches, including the final.

7. If you have any questions about the format, or queries about eligibility, please contact Trevor Houghton-Berry, preferably by email ([thehbs@btinternet.com](mailto:thehbs@btinternet.com))
8. Trevor will act as referee, should such a role prove necessary. He will also wield red and yellow cards, should any individual game unexpectedly turn violent. A sin bin will also operate, should temporary sanction need to be taken for ungentlemanly/ungentlewomanly conduct from competitors, or indeed spectators! No VAR system will be utilised and the TV rights are still available at the time of writing.

## **REGISTRATION PROCESS:**

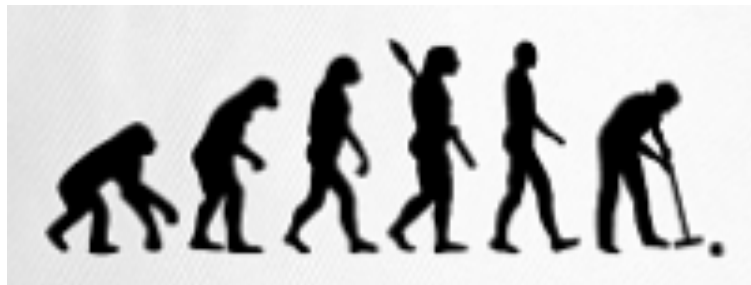
**Step 1:** *If you would like to enter, please email me ([thehbs@btinternet.com](mailto:thehbs@btinternet.com)) and tell me your official team name and who makes up your team. If the novice player is likely to 'fluctuate', please also flag this to me, just for information.*

**Step 2:** *Please also confirm an email address for your team's principal contact, noting this email address will be circulated by me to the principal contacts in every other team, so arranging matches becomes as straightforward as possible for those who want to play outside the 'Super Saturday' schedule. I will also use your email to keep you up to speed on how the competition is progressing and plan the proposed 'Super Saturdays'.*

**Step 3:** *Please also give me some indication as to whether you are likely to want to attend one or both of the 'Super Saturday' sessions. This doesn't need to be a firm commitment at this stage, but it would be useful to get some idea as to how popular these sessions will be, so I can plan accordingly.*

*If you have any further questions, please contact me directly and I will hopefully be able to assist you.*

**THE CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES IS FRIDAY 29<sup>th</sup> MAY 2026**



**A tense moment during the inaugural RTWCC Family Tournament back in 1905**