

VS



GOLF CROQUET TEST MATCH

Friday 17 to Sunday 19 June 2022





WELCOME

...to the 2nd Golf Croquet Test between England and Spain.

Following discussions between the two countries in 2018, it was agreed that a bilateral Golf Croquet Test Match would be held annually, to be hosted alternately by each country.

The inaugural Test was held in Spain at the Real Club de Pineda in Seville 15 to 17 March 2019. It was a 21-point Test (12 singles, 9 doubles) and after 3 days of highly competitive croquet in magnificent surroundings, the Test was won by England 13-8.

The 2nd Test was due to be held in 2020 at The Hurlingham Club but was postponed that year and in 2021 due to Covid.

We are delighted that we are now able to hold the Test and we are very grateful to The Hurlingham Club for hosting the event.

Whether you are a player, a supporter or a spectator, I hope you enjoy it.

Quiller Barrett

President, The Croquet Association



THE EVENT

The Test is played over 3 days. There are 27 matches (18 singles, 9 doubles). Each match is the best-of-three 13-point games. You can find more information about Golf Croquet later on in the programme.

The teams of 6 were selected in April and the players then seeded by world ranking grades on 31 May 2022. For the doubles, team captains decided their pairings, which were then seeded based on the combined grades for each pairing.

The outline programme is below. The detailed order of play can be found on the centre pages.

OUTLINE PROGRAMME:

Friday 17 June:

Opening Ceremony	12noon
Round 1:	3 x Doubles matches
Round 2:	3 x Doubles matches

Saturday 18 June:

Play Commences:	9.30am
Round 3:	4 x Singles matches
Round 4:	4 x Singles matches
Round 5:	4 x Singles matches
Evening:	Dinner

Sunday 19 June:

Play Commences:	9.30am
Round 6:	3 x Doubles matches
Round 7:	6 x Singles matches
Prize-giving Ceremony	Mid-afternoon

Whilst all spectators will be most welcome, please beware of hard-hit croquet balls. Be vigilant around the lawns and please keep young children out of harm's way when play is in progress.





JOHN-PAUL MOBERLY (C)

John-Paul has been ranked around the world's top 10 for the last six years. After discovering croquet at his local club Croquet Durham in 2011, John-Paul entered the GC circuit in 2014 and has since won numerous national tournaments. He is a three times First Eight (Ricki Savage Memorial) champion and four times British Open runner-up. He has competed in the last three GC World Championships, finishing 10th overall in 2017. As captain, he led England to a bronze medal in the 2020 Openshaw Shield. Professionally, John-Paul is a Hydraulic Engineer for United Utilities.



ASTON WADE

Aston started playing Association Croquet in 2016 during his first year at Winchester College. He later learned to play Golf Croquet at Hamptworth Croquet Club in the summer of 2020. The following year he won the 2021 GC British Open at the age of 18 and, in May 2022, he won the European GC Championship. This event marks Aston's debut for the England GC team. He is also playing for this year's England teams at both the AC and GC Home Internationals and he has been selected to represent England in the GC World Championships in the summer.



WILL GEE

Will started playing Croquet at Nottingham, originally playing only Association Croquet, but eventually making a complete shift to Golf Croquet. Will fondly remembers 2011-2016; during that time, he won several ranking competitions, including two English Championships, played for England in the first two GC World Team Championships and received a Croquet Full Blue at Oxford University. But his time for Croquet almost completely evaporated when he started a PhD in sleep deprivation. After briefly pursuing an academic career in Melbourne, Will returned to his hometown in 2019 and now hopes to play more regularly.



STEPHEN MULLINER

Stephen, 68, discovered competitive croquet as a Cambridge undergraduate in 1975 and began playing in tournaments in 1976. In Association Croquet, he has won the British Open Championship three times, the World Championship in 2016 and has represented Great Britain or England in the MacRobertson Shield on eight occasions since 1982. Stephen took up Golf Croquet seriously in 2000 and has won the British Open Championship eight times and reached the World Championship semi-finals three times. He has represented England in the Openshaw Shield three times and is the current English National Singles Champion.



STUART M SMITH

Stuart started playing croquet in 2016 and won the Spiers Trophy for the Most Improved Player in 2018. He has subsequently won the GC A Level Series twice (2019 & 2020), The English National GC Doubles Championship in 2020 and the Second Eight in 2019. In 2021, he captained the successful England team in the GC Home Internationals. Stuart moved to Devon in 2019 with his family and is now captain of the newly formed Devon County GC team. He is a member of Budleigh Croquet Club and has close ties with Sidmouth Croquet Club.



RICHARD BILTON

Richard won his first open tournament in May 2018 and finished the year by winning the English National Singles Championship, his first GC 'major'. Richard was part of the winning England team in the inaugural GC England v Spain Match. He came 5th in the 2019 GC World Championship and went on to play for England in the 2020 GC World Team Championships in New Zealand, in which England came third. Richard won the GC British Open Doubles Championship in 2021 while partnering Reg Bamford.



Test Match Referee - Frances Colman

FRIDAY 17 JUNE
(play starts after Opening Ceremony at 12noon)

ROUND ONE	MATCH (Seeding)	LAWN	ENGLAND	SPAIN
	Doubles (2 v 3)	2	Aston WADE & Stuart M SMITH	Basilio IGLESIAS & Pedro LOZANO
	Doubles (3 v 1)	3	Stephen MULLINER & Richard BILTON	Manuel ÁLVAREZ-SALA & Andrés ÁLVAREZ-SALA
	Doubles (1 v 2)	4	John-Paul MOBERLY & Will GEE	José ÁLVAREZ-SALA & Gonzalo ÁLVAREZ-SALA
ROUND TWO	Doubles (3 v 2)	2	Stephen MULLINER & Richard BILTON	José ÁLVAREZ-SALA & Gonzalo ÁLVAREZ-SALA
	Doubles (1 v 3)	3	John-Paul MOBERLY & Will GEE	Basilio IGLESIAS & Pedro LOZANO
	Doubles (2 v 1)	4	Aston WADE & Stuart M SMITH	Manuel ÁLVAREZ-SALA & Andrés ÁLVAREZ-SALA

SATURDAY 18 JUNE
(play starts at 9.30am)

ROUND THREE	MATCH (Seeding)	LAWN	ENGLAND	SPAIN
	Singles (4 v 6)	1	Stephen MULLINER	Pedro LOZANO
	Singles (6 v 4)	2	Richard BILTON	Basilio IGLESIAS
	Singles (1 v 3)	3	John-Paul MOBERLY	José ÁLVAREZ-SALA
ROUND FOUR	Singles (3 v 1)	4	Will GEE	Manuel ÁLVAREZ-SALA
	Singles (6 v 5)	1	Richard BILTON	Gonzalo ÁLVAREZ-SALA
	Singles (5 v 6)	2	Stuart M SMITH	Pedro LOZANO
	Singles (3 v 2)	3	Will GEE	Andrés ÁLVAREZ-SALA
ROUND FIVE	Singles (2 v 3)	4	Aston WADE	José ÁLVAREZ-SALA
	Singles (5 v 4)	1	Stuart M SMITH	Basilio IGLESIAS
	Singles (4 v 5)	2	Stephen MULLINER	Gonzalo ÁLVAREZ-SALA
	Singles (2 v 1)	3	Aston WADE	Manuel ÁLVAREZ-SALA
	Singles (1 v 2)	4	John-Paul MOBERLY	Andrés ÁLVAREZ-SALA

SUNDAY 19 JUNE
(play starts at 9.30am)

ROUND SIX	MATCH (Seeding)	LAWN	ENGLAND	SPAIN
	Doubles (1 v 1)	4	John-Paul MOBERLY & Will GEE	Manuel ÁLVAREZ-SALA & Andrés ÁLVAREZ-SALA
	Doubles (2 v 2)	3	Aston WADE & Stuart M SMITH	José ÁLVAREZ-SALA & Gonzalo ÁLVAREZ-SALA
ROUND SEVEN	Doubles (3 v 3)	2	Stephen MULLINER & Richard BILTON	Basilio IGLESIAS & Pedro LOZANO
	Singles (1 v 1)	4	John-Paul MOBERLY	Manuel ÁLVAREZ-SALA
	Singles (2 v 2)	3	Aston WADE	Andrés ÁLVAREZ-SALA
	Singles (3 v 3)	2	Will GEE	José ÁLVAREZ-SALA
	Singles (4 v 4)	1	Stephen MULLINER	Basilio IGLESIAS
	Singles (5 v 5)	5	Stuart M SMITH	Gonzalo ÁLVAREZ-SALA
	Singles (6 v 6)	6	Richard BILTON	Pedro LOZANO



MANUEL ÁLVAREZ-SALA

Manuel started playing croquet at a very early age in Gijón (Asturias). Selected for two consecutive years as the Spanish player with the highest annual progression (2018 and 2019), he has been Spanish GC Singles Champion (2021), Spanish Doubles Champion on three occasions (2015, 2020, 2021) and Spanish Champion with his club on four occasions (2018, 2019, 2021, 2022). He has represented Spain more than 150 times and was part of the Spanish Team promoted to Tier I in the GC World Team Championship in October 2021.



ANDRÉS ÁLVAREZ-SALA

Andrés was born in Madrid in 1986 and is a corporate lawyer. He enjoys a wide range of sports (croquet, golf, tennis, skiing, boxing and football). He has been Spanish Singles GC Champion twice (2012, 2019), Spanish Doubles GC Champion five times (2013, 2015, 2018, 2020, 2021) and Spanish Champion with his club four times (2018, 2019, 2021, 2022). In 2017 and 2018 he won the German GC Open and in 2018 came fifth in the European GC Championship. He has represented Spain on 172 occasions and was part of the Spanish Team promoted to Tier I in the GC World Team Championship in October 2021.



JOSÉ ÁLVAREZ-SALA (C)

José started playing croquet as a child in Asturias. He has been the Spanish Golf Croquet Champion twice (in 2008 and 2018) and won the European GC Championship in 2017. He has won the Spanish AC Championship eight times and was runner-up in the 2009 Emerging Countries World AC Championship in Miami. José has represented Spain more than 120 times and is one of only three players in Spain who has managed to move into the first division in the 2nd AC World Team Championship and also in the GC World Team Championship in Vista Hermosa (Spain).



BASILIO IGLESIAS

Basilio lives in El Puerto de Santa María and is an architect. He started playing croquet in 2014. Since then, he has won numerous local tournaments: the Andalusian Championship (2015, 2020, 2021); the Ansorena (2015, 2019); the Vista Hermosa Open in 2016; and the Vista Hermosa Grand Prix in 2016 and 2017. He won the Spanish Doubles Championship in 2017. International competitions include the Open de Portugal in 2015 and 3rd place in the European GC Championship 2017. He was in the Spanish team promoted to Tier I in the GC World Team Championship in 2021.



GONZALO ÁLVAREZ-SALA

Gonzalo, 33, was born in Madrid and lives in Palma. He studied economical sciences at the Complutense University of Madrid and works as a consultant in an international company. Besides croquet, his hobbies are padel tennis, golf and most of all football. He started playing croquet as a child in Asturias with his brothers and cousins, and in recent years he has been Spanish Singles Champion (2015, 2016), Spanish Doubles Champion (2014) and Spanish Champion with his club on four occasions (2018, 2019, 2020, 2022). He is currently ranked No. 6 among Spanish players.



PEDRO LOZANO

Pedro started playing croquet in the Real Club Pineda (Sevilla) in 2017. Since then, he has participated in numerous national championships and has won 42 trophies. He came 3rd in the Mexico GC Open in 2018, his first international event. This year (2022) he has won the Cheltenham GC Open Championship and the 1st GC Copa Giralda Sevilla. He is the Captain of the Real Club Pineda Team in the Spanish inter-club championship that has come in third place for three consecutive years.



ABOUT THE CROQUET ASSOCIATION

The Croquet Association (CA) is the national governing body for all forms of the sport of Croquet in England. In conjunction with the regional Federations and its Member Clubs, it promotes, regulates and supports croquet at all levels, from games played in the garden and local play at clubs, through to regional and national tournaments and international matches.

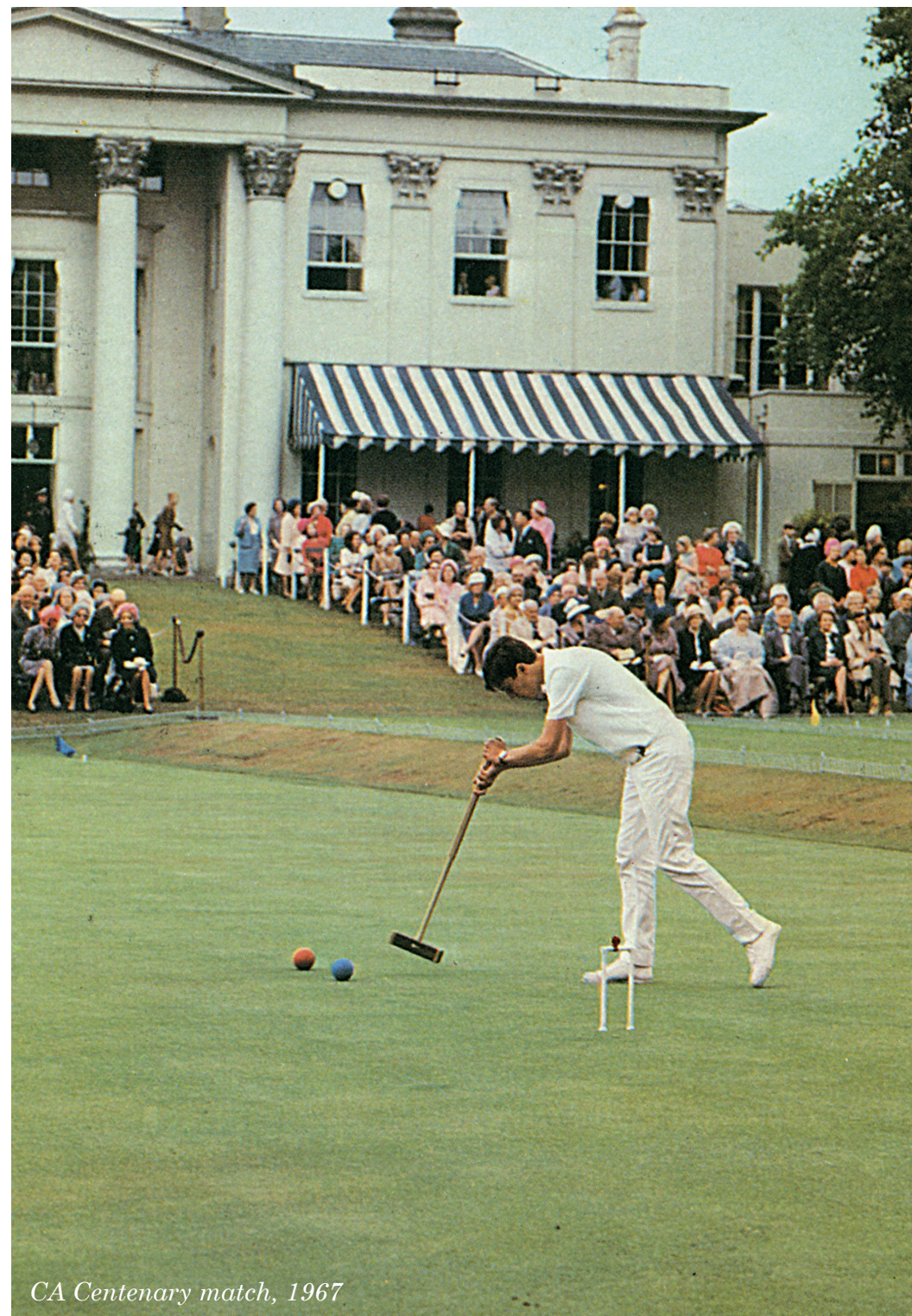
The CA is a not for profit organisation, funded through club and tournament levies, individual subscriptions and donations; most of its accomplishments are through voluntary effort. It works on aspects of the game that need national coordination and development, such as governance, grants for infrastructure development, laws and rules, publicity and communications, handicapping and ranking, coaching, championships and inter-club competitions, selection of representative teams and the presentation of awards.



THE HURLINGHAM CLUB

Situated in 42 acres of landscaped grounds adjacent to the River Thames in south west London, Hurlingham is recognised as one of the world's finest private member clubs. From its opening in 1869 it has been a sought-after destination for exclusive sporting and social activities.

Croquet has been played at the club since 1898. With ten high quality lawns, the Club has hosted premier croquet events for many years, including the centenary of the first ever croquet tournament in 1967; the first of multiple World Croquet Championships was held in 1989. The Club continues to host international events, welcoming players from all over the world, in its magnificent surroundings. The club is delighted to host this second bilateral Test match between England and Spain.



CA Centenary match, 1967

HOW GOLF CROQUET IS PLAYED

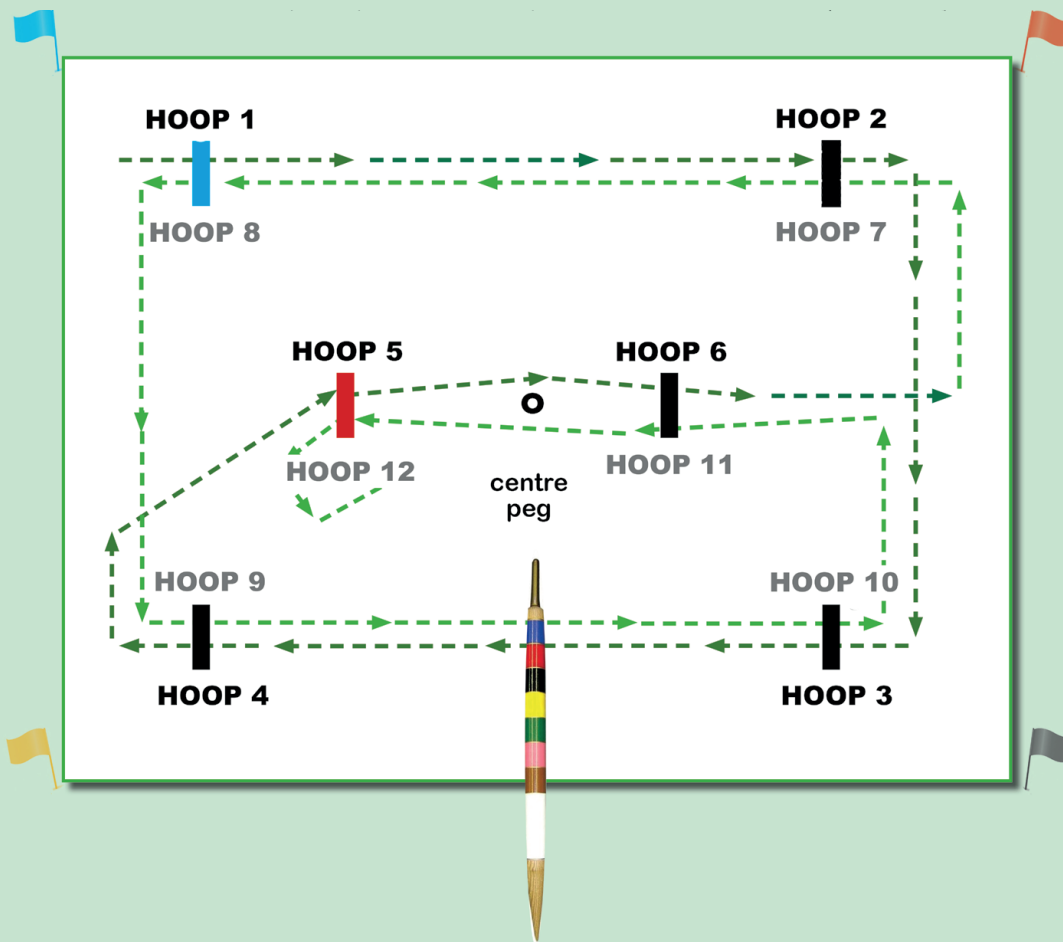
The opposing sides each have two balls: Blue and Black against Red and Yellow. Each side may be one or two people (i.e. singles or doubles). Each side plays alternately in rotation: blue, red, black, yellow, as shown by the sequence of colours from the top of the centre peg.

Each turn consists of one stroke: no extra stroke is gained by running a hoop or hitting another ball (unlike Association Croquet). The winner of a coin toss chooses whether to play first or second. The side that plays first plays blue and black, and blue always starts. The opening strokes are played from within one yard of Corner IV (nearest hoop 4), and the players aim to run the hoops in order from 1 to 12.

The winner of a single game is the first to reach 7 points. A deciding hoop (hoop 3 again) is run if the scores are equal after 12 hoops, making 13 in all. The winner in top competition typically has to win two out of three consecutive 13-point games.

To score a point, a ball must run completely through the hoop in the correct direction. In marginal situations, a ball has run a hoop if none of the ball is visibly protruding from the playing side of the hoop. It may run the hoop in more than one turn, or be knocked through by another ball. If a ball should go through two hoops in order in the same stroke, both points are scored. A hoop may be won with a jump shot through the hoop over an opponent ball in the jaws of the hoop, provided the jawed ball is not also pushed through the hoop in the course of the jump shot.

The side that first gets a ball through Hoop 1 scores that point and then all balls go for the next hoop in order (i.e. Hoop 2). All players contest the same hoop. A player may play towards the next hoop before the previous hoop is run. However, subject to certain exceptions set out in the detailed rules, the opponents may ask that any ball more than halfway towards the next hoop when the current hoop is actually run, is brought back to a penalty area halfway down the east or west boundaries.



*Live streaming of some of the play and all information can
be accessed via the club's website*

www.hurlinghamclub.org.uk/hurlingham-home/croquet-test-match

