

NORTHERN CROQUET ACADEMY

Scarcroft Green
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Hosted by York Croquet Club



Northern Croquet Academy, York Course Programme 2025

Summary

Dates 2025	Course	Course Leader	Cost
Weds 23 April	GC GC Tips and Technique	Penny Clark	£40
Sat-Sun 26-27 April	AC/GC Become a Croquet England Club-Level Coach	James Hawkins	£75*
Tues 29 April	AC Winning Ways (1) to a Single Figure Handicap	Dave Kibble	£40#
Weds 30 April	AC Winning Ways (2) to a Single Figure Handicap	Dave Kibble	£40#
Tues 6 May	AC Moving On in Advanced AC	Mary Knapp	£40
Weds 7 May	AC/GC Back to Basics	Alan Locket	£40
Sat 10 May	GC Classic Golf Croquet Skills and Tactics	John Crossland	£40#
Sun 11 May	GC Golf Croquet Skills and Tactics in Practice	John Crossland	£40#
Weds 14 May	AC Short Croquet Tactics	S Custance-Baker	£40
Thurs 15 May	GC Every Shot is Tactical	S Custance-Baker	£40#
Fri 16 May	GC GC Improvers Development Day	S Custance-Baker	£40#
Tues 3 June	GC/AC Learn Short Croquet in One Day	John Harris	£40
* Croquet England offers subsidies towards course costs. Some Federations may be able to provide additional support.			
# £75 if booked as a pair (Kibble+Kibble or Crossland+Crossland or Custance-Baker+Custance-Baker)			

In detail

GC Tips and Technique – Wednesday 23 April 2025

This one-day course is for Golf Croquet players with handicaps from 8 to 12 looking to improve their game. The day will include useful tips on technique to promote confident and focused play in the context of typical play situations. We shall 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. Supervised games will give opportunity to practise new skills. 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 26-27 April 2025

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

Winning Ways (1) To A Single Figure Handicap – Tuesday 29 April 2025

One of two complementary one-day courses for intermediate-level AC players (handicaps 10-16) who have enjoyed success and now aspire to push their handicap down into single figures. The days can be booked separately or, for the full experience, together. The two days as a whole consolidate the fundamentals of the game with a practical romp through everything that really matters, whilst offering a smorgasbord of tips and tricks to give you the competitive edge you need. Topics over the two days include break management (keep it going and get back on track when things start going wrong), play around the hoops (angled and difficult hoops, getting in front from impossible positions, hampered continuation), openings (what they are about and how to take advantage), leaves (pros and cons of standard leaves and how to make them reliably), 3-ball endings, practice routines, an introduction to peeling, and more! Topics will be distributed between Day 1 and Day 2 as the course leader determines. After attending both days you will know how to play breaks better, get yourself out of trouble, make planned leaves reliably and make better tactical decisions.

Cost: £40 – special price of £37.50 if booked with 'Winning Ways (2)' (Wednesday 30 April)

Course leader: Dave Kibble

Winning Ways (2) To A Single Figure Handicap – Wednesday 30 April 2025

This is the second of two complementary one-day courses for intermediate-level AC players (handicaps 10-16) looking to play breaks better, get out of trouble, make planned leaves reliably and make better tactical decisions. Details above.

Cost: £40 – special price of £37.50 if booked with 'Winning Ways (1)' (Wednesday 29 April)

Course leader: Dave Kibble

Moving On in Advanced AC – Tuesday 6 May 2025

This one-day course is for players with AC handicaps of 5-12 who may have some experience of Advanced Rules AC and are now ready to consolidate their understanding and develop their game. It is being planned to include opening moves in Advanced Rules, revision and practice of standard first-break and second-break leaves, practice in accuracy of several shots central to successful Advanced play, digging balls out of corners, successful 4-ball break routines with analysis of breakdown points, and discussion of specific match situations. As much time as possible will be on the lawn with plenty of opportunity for consolidating new learning through practice and individual guidance.

Cost: £40. Course leader: Mary Knapp

Back to Basics – Wednesday 7 May 2025

Getting the basics right can make all the difference to your game. This practical one-day course is designed to help you understand the principles of a good stance and grip, how to play roquets or clearing shots, and how exactly to master hoop running. AC and GC players will then be coached separately in shots specific to each game. The day will be largely outdoors and will offer plenty of opportunity to put principles into practice. The day is for both AC and GC players and is for players of all abilities. Get your technique right and start being a winner!

Cost: £40. Course leaders: Alan Locket and Penny Clark

Classic Golf Croquet Skills and Tactics – Saturday 10 May 2025

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 11 May)

Course leader: John Crossland

Golf Croquet Skills and Tactics in Practice – Sunday 11 May 2025

This course complements the course on 10 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 10 May)

Course leader: John Crossland

Short Croquet Tactics – Wednesday 14 May 2025

This one-day course is for AC and Short Croquet players with handicaps in the SC 4-8 or AC 12-20 range. After a brief clarification of the laws specific to SC, the day will look in detail at a range of opening moves and responses to them; rules of thumb for making best use of bisques; tactics when playing against players with mandatory peels; and specific Short Croquet tactics including exploiting and avoiding wiring lifts and 4-ball breaks with no pivot. The day will include detailed explanations with examples, practice on the lawn, and a good range of recommended exercises for later consolidation and practice.

Cost: £40. Course leader: Stephen Custance-Baker

Every Shot is Tactical – Thursday 15 May 2025

This one-day course is, like its companion course the following day, for GC players with handicaps from 5 to 9. It draws on the course leader's book 'Every Shot Is Tactical' and is designed to help developing players understand the benefits of forward thinking in GC. Four specific technical aspects will be covered: five-shot thinking (planning this stroke and your next by predicting opponents' most likely actions); partner play (making optimum use of partner and his/her position and playing ability); 'transferring the hamper' (hampering the opponent, and seizing the initiative from a hampered position); and percentage play (assessing the odds and making decisions accordingly). Each session will include explanations with examples, practice on the lawn, and recommended exercises.

Cost: £40 – special price of £37.50 if booked with 'GC Improvers Development Day' (Friday 16 May)

Course leader: Stephen Custance-Baker

GC Improvers Development Day – Friday 16 May 2025

This one-day course complements 'Every Shot Is Tactical' the previous day, and, like it, is for GC players with handicaps from 5 to 9. It aims to develop skill and understanding in a number of key areas: running and visualising angled hoops; using an imaginary ball in rushes; clearances and ricochets; when and how to use extra strokes, and when not to; and making confident and purposeful use of two-ball strokes in GC. As with 'Every Shot Is Tactical', each session will include detailed explanations, with examples on the lawn, and a good range of recommended exercises for further use.

Cost: £40 – special price of £37.50 if booked with 'Every Shot is Tactical' (Thursday 15 May)

Course leader: Stephen Custance-Baker

Learn Short Croquet in one day – Tuesday 3 June 2025

This one-day course is open to players of both codes, but should appeal particularly to GC players who want their skills to give them a head start in Association Croquet. It is also for coaches looking for a straightforward way of introducing this accessible version of AC into their own clubs. The day covers distinctive aspects of the AC game including croquet shots and building a break; it offers a full introduction to Association Croquet and aims to help participants play with understanding and pleasure. The day will include guidance on how the skills of AC can be easily learned, a supported game, and plenty of opportunity for individual help and guidance.

Cost: £40. Course leader: John Harris

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

To make a booking

Please reserve a place via the Northern Croquet Academy website
www.northerncroquetacademy.org.

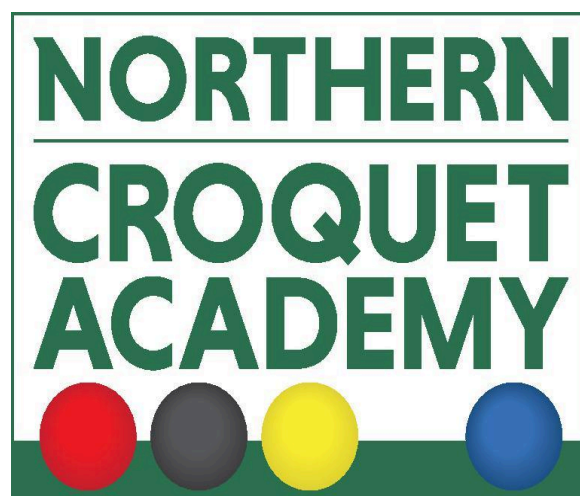
Use the menu tabs 'How to Apply' and '2025 Courses'.

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. Please note that any bookings made outside the handicap advisory range will be subject to review.

Payment will secure your booking and receipt of payment will be confirmed by email.

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