

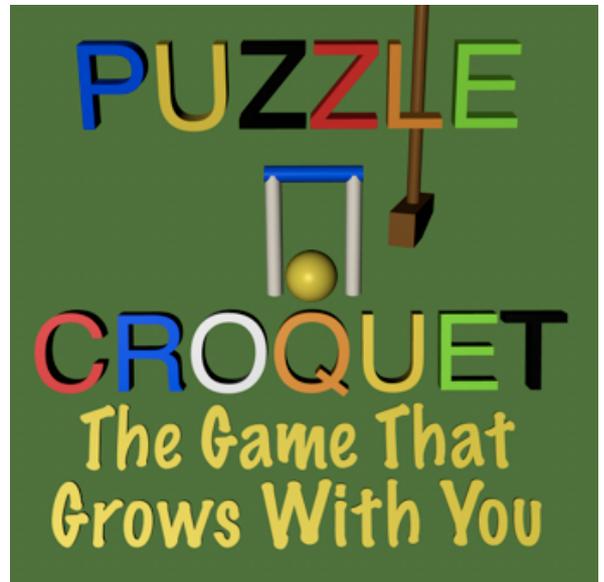
'PUZZLE CROQUET'

A New Malletsport for Coaching towards Association Croquet
and a possible game in its own right.
AUGUST 2009 (C) 2009 Lowen Clarke

PUZZLE CROQUET IS AN ASSOCIATION
CROQUET GAME DEVELOPED BY COACH
LOWEN CLARKE AS A USEFUL
INTRODUCTION TO ALL THE
MALLETSPTS.

IT ALSO CONNECTS OUR SPORT TO THE
'BRAIN TRAINING' ERA.

NOTES FOR COACHES AND CLUB ADMINISTRATORS



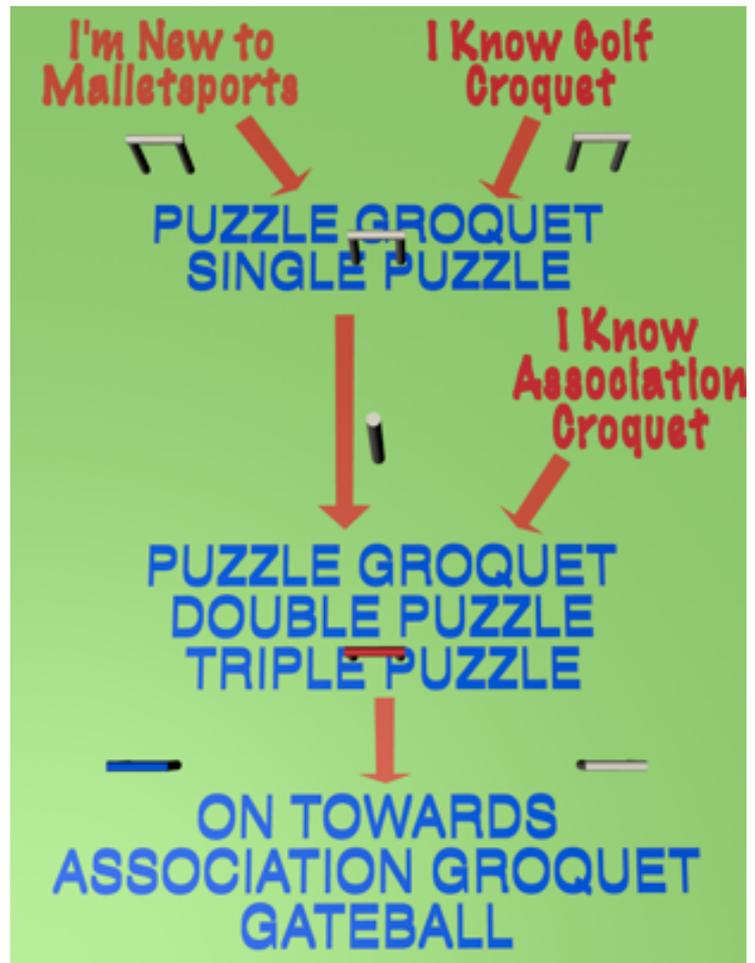
Created by Lowen Clarke, who
brought you "Malletsports" !

'I bought the sport and Association
Croquet extra time to develop by
creating the 'Malletsports' concept.
I put that time to work on a game that
today's market might enjoy, and be
attracted to.

'I am happy to share it with clubs and
coaches who may be interested in
trying it out. Marketing will be a lot
easier with this attraction.'

It is a great Coaching Game, for players
on their way to Association, but also a
game that both Golf Croquet Players
and Association players can play
together, with just a little coaching.

It is a genuine Association Croquet
game which both Association and Golf
Croquet players can enjoy.



**PUZZLE CROQUET = ASSOCIATION + CONTACT + SINGLE HOOP CONTEST
= ASSOCIATION - FIRST ROQUET - BREAKS**

PUZZLE CROQUET = GOLF + CROQUET SHOTS + ASSOC 6 SHOT SEQUENCE

IT'S A COMPLETE COACHING SYSTEM AND A NEW MALLETSPORET

In this booklet, I want to suggest what some of the points about the Puzzle Croquet Coaching System, and about Puzzle Croquet as a game.

It is early days yet, and I really hope for feedback and workshops with other coaches and administrators on the use of it. I will update this booklet as time goes by.

As far as possible, I will try to work with those Coaches who want to use the system and help them to a standard of understanding.

Once the game developed as Association Croquet without the roquet or breaks, (or as Association with Contact and Contests), some aspects like Housekeeping and keeping it at various levels of expectation became apparent. So, around the core of the game, there are a few added aspects. Some of them are already known to Golf Croquet players.

Aspects of the Puzzle Croquet Coaching System

Aspects of Puzzle Croquet as a Game

The system is based on the latest educational insights : experiential, group and peer learning, co-operative learning, discovery driven, and problem solving. It is completely up to date with modern thinking of coaching, and learning.

These concepts may seem new to coaches :

Getting people to play some two ball shots in the first few minutes of being introduced to croquet

Croquet as Football

Croquet as Puzzle

Using Posts instead of hoops

Rush as 'Transport'

Group work

Alternate Shots

Draws

Stencils to get the two ball shot up and away.

Degrees of difficulty

Housekeeping

Puzzle Croquet creates no feelings of incompetence or exclusion

Puzzle Croquet ensures equal activity

Puzzle Croquet is friendly

Puzzle Croquet can allow people to develop

Puzzle Croquet allows players of different skills and experience levels to compete - as it has a very good Equalisation method.

A Game of Puzzle Croquet for beginners is probably good at 6 hoops and may take 30 to minutes. A highly contested game may go to 50 minutes. Players may then want more contest hoops in games in due course. 12 hoops is a longer length of game.

(C) 2009 Lowen Clarke (8/09) NOTES FOR COACHES AND ADMINISTRATORS

Puzzle Croquet is designed to avoid any psychological or group dynamic problems in the sport, and avoids any of the faults of either Association or Golf.

Puzzle Croquet can attract a modern following, and participants.

Puzzle Croquet will 100% support people to then move on and play full Tournament level Association.

Puzzle Croquet can compete with the popularity of Golf, and be an enjoyable game, with some mental benefits.

THE NAME :

The name 'Puzzle Croquet' is subject to Marketing research. I am happy to hear other alternatives.

COURT MARKING : You might paint circles at 2 and 3 metres from the Peg, and a 'perforated' line from Hoop One to Two, Two to Three, Three to Four and Four to One.



For a player who is new to Malletsports, I think that a program of about four sessions is enough to get them playing Puzzle Croquet, at the level of Single Puzzle, with a take off take off takeoff sequence.

I let them play around a bit, then I set up the Stencil in two shots : a corner square, and a peel.

The first session is about the game, and how it is like many other games in that the aim is to get control of a ball and find a pathway to a goal post, for us, a hoop, and stash the success away as a score - a point.

So, I set up with large football like hoops, just two of them, and then explain, and play very basic game sequences. Players play in pairs and take alternate shots. This is for a lot of groups dynamics that I won't go into here.

On the second session, I add the hoops, and gradually take away the posts.

By the end of the second sessions, they may be making the pathway to Hoop One.

I give them free time to play around with the Two Ball shots. For the moment, in any game, take off will be enough.

By the time of the 3rd and 4th lesson, they can play the full puzzle, and will understand the Housekeeping.

Gradually, over a few more sessions, with some knowledge of the croquet shots both the new and golf croquet players can learn double puzzle. But, no pressure to play it yet.

By stressing the Housekeeping rules, they will realise that they can fulfill their obligations through the two ball shot, and they take charge of what ball goes where. The advantage of putting the opponent's ball near the peg will soon become apparent. Then, they want to introduce the more sophisticated croquet shots themselves.

**I Know Golf
Croquet**

**PUZZLE GROQUET
SINGLE PUZZLE**

Again, the four sessions, but they will do the take offs and rushes very readily, as they have learnt touch and also do the rush as a Stun shot anyway. So they come already equipped with the shots. As far as possible, use the Golf Croquet terminology. Some Golf Croquet players do amazing take off shots effortlessly !

**I Know
Association
Croquet**

**PUZZLE GROQUET
DOUBLE PUZZLE
TRIPLE PUZZLE**

Association Players can learn Double Puzzle. Many existing Association Players may enjoy it enough to opt to play it as a Club Game as well.

At first, they can take it easy, and gradually be playing at levels of greater expectation.

**ON TOWARDS
ASSOCIATION GROQUET
GATEBALL**

I believe that this approach will produce capable players, who can think through the problems and challenges Association Croquet produces.

It will also produce Gateball players capable of taking up either Captaincy, or highly skilled Team Membership.

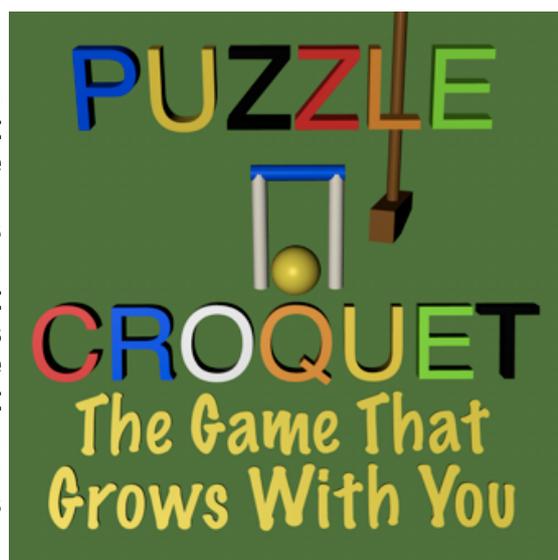
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August 2009 (C) Lowen Clarke 2009

PUZZLE CROQUET IS AN ASSOCIATION CROQUET GAME DEVELOPED BY COACH LOWEN CLARKE AS AN INTRODUCTION TO ASSOCIATION CROQUET. IT IS A POWERFUL NEW TOOL TO HELP COACHES INTRODUCE PLAYERS TO THE WONDERFULLY RICH GAME OF ASSOCIATION CROQUET. IT ALSO ADDS ANOTHER GAME TO THE RANGE OF MALLETSPOUNTS CODES. IT IS A GAME FOR TODAY'S 'BRAIN TRAINING' AGE.

Double the fun.

Puzzle Croquet achieves a combination of the best of Golf Croquet and the best of Association Croquet. It has all the involvement of Golf Croquet in that all players are on the lawn together. It keeps all the social capacity of Golf Croquet. All players are in the game together and just as in Golf Croquet, as soon as a hoop is scored, it becomes 'dead', and the players then focus on the next hoop. But here's where it gets really interesting. Puzzle includes all the best association shots. Players use croquet shots, rushes and continuation shots.



Why Puzzle Croquet? The ancient sport of croquet with its roquets, croquets, one backs, rovers, lines of swing, ratios and divided angles is a real challenge.....and that's why it's so loved. But, from a beginner's perspective, it's a real nightmare. Generations of players have struggled with the concepts of croquet. Here at last is a practical and fun way to teach groups and individuals the skills and concepts behind the game. No more struggling with players who get left behind; everybody stays together in a group, learning together. No more missed roquets with players left out of the game and the learning curve. No more impossible combinations of ball movements to get to the vital learning. It's fun, easy and, at last, easy to coach.



Lowen is a Level Two Coach, and has been the State Team Coach, coaching Victoria to a National win. In Puzzle Croquet Lowen introduces to players some of his knowledge and experience in developing good play. Players learning Puzzle will find that without even realizing it they have developed a great understanding of croquet.

'I have spent a great deal of time considering how to create an Association Croquet game that will appeal to today's market. I hope I have achieved that with Puzzle Croquet.'

Contact Lowen for more information on Puzzle Croquet, or to introduce Puzzle Croquet to your Club Phone : 0414 745 731, or email Lowen direct at lowenclarke@iprimus.com.au