

President's Letter #2

TO OUR WONDERFUL MEMBERS

SO, you are stuck inside wondering how on earth you are going to improve your croquet skills during this “shutdown”.

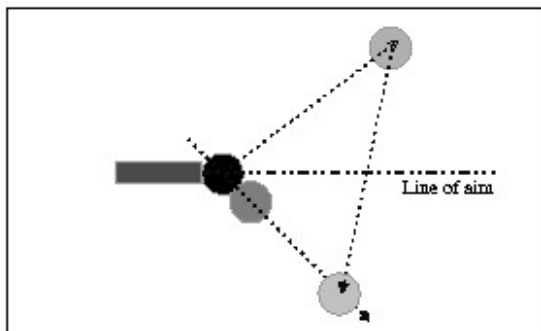
SIMPLE

1 IMPROVE YOUR ROQUETS. How? You need a pillow, a couple of old balls (need not necessarily be croquet balls – tennis balls will do), and some carpet. Place the pillow up against a wall. Put one of your balls half a metre in front. Place your striking ball at least a metre away and start to practice from one metre, then gradually increase the distance each time. Mind you, you have to make six perfect roquets before you increase the distance.

2 MASTER A SPLIT SHOT. What is that? It is an AC croquet stroke which I have successfully used in Golf Croquet games AND Pennants. In fact, a very pleased Jim Clarke not only made a perfect split shot but his own ball ran the hoop at the same time. SO it is worth knowing what to do.

What should we do? First of all you need a piece of carpet. Then get two golf balls (tennis balls will do). Place your “striking ball”, ie the ball you are going to hit with your mallet, behind the other ball. NOW, surprise No 1. Wherever you place your ball behind the front ball, that **front** ball will always travel **on a straight line** through the centre of both balls.

Now you would like your own ball to end up in another spot, say an angle of 45 degrees or even 90 degrees. See below.



Remember those wonderful geometry lessons at school where you bisected angles! Well, all you have to do is put your mallet on the half-way line and, **magic**, the balls split along those lines. The 90 degree split is the most satisfying.

ENJOY

Mary Gibson, President and Coach

31 March 2020