



2014 HANDICAP League

Firstly, welcome to “Fromus” and “Wrest Park” in joining the league.

With the croquet season upon us I will try to explain how various changes *positively* affect this years Handicap league.

New C.A. Handicaps for 0 to 3's

From the start of this season a new set of handicap regulations have been introduced by the C.A. on a one year trial basis, in my opinion this is a much improved system.

It gives players previously with handicaps from '0' to '3' *new* Level Play handicaps now extending to -2 to account for varying abilities at the top end of the game. With these, a further reduced “*effective*” handicap is allocated (for use in handicap games) respectively down to -6. For example, previous ‘scratch’ players that remain as ‘0’ for level play will now be -4 in handicap games, making it much harder for top players to win Handicap games and is likely to discourage their participation in them at all.

League Rules

a) Due to these changes there is no longer a need to consider excluding the best players from the Handicap league, for example, the player with the highest index in last years competition would no longer play off of '0' but instead be a '-5'!

b) Players with handicaps of 11 and 12 will play off their actual handicap and no longer be reduced down to 10.

- with these two points in mind, I feel there is no longer a need for a minimum team total of 20, handicaps are now much fairer so *any* four players can now play;

- this in turn eliminates the need for the '7 day' rule regarding handicap changes.

c) With an increase from 50 to 60 minutes this year, even with the likelihood of increased bisques, there should be **plenty of time** for most games to be completed.

This 10 minute increase is NOT designed for players with bisques to **waste time**, this is unlawful - so I strongly urge these players to **avoid slow play at all costs** as it is often seen as a ploy to affect the outcome of a match in their favour.

d) Handicap Cards: Players should be mindful that when they hit a trigger point lowering their handicap from say 12 to 11 (in this case by hitting 50 points), that to then go *just below* 50 points does not put them back to a 12 - instead their points would have to go all the way back to ZERO for this to happen.

- *If* a players handicap turns out to be lower than that declared, all five of their results are forfeit. ie. that individual relinquishes all their wins to the other team - so beware!

e) All fixture dates for matches will be shown on the website, so if possible please **text results to me directly after a match finishes** (not compulsory). I can then immediately update the website, allowing other clubs to access results as they happen.

Finally, there is now a clear distinction between the Handicap and the Level Play Leagues, and so this years Handicap competition will give all clubs of all abilities a real chance to win this trophy, so... “Play Fair, Good Luck and Happy Croq’s!!”.

Jason.