

# Association Croquet Skills Test

Each of the exercises 1 to 7 comprises 10 attempts. The aim is to steadily improve results by focussing practice on the lowest scoring exercises. A player with a high handicap may only score 1 or 2 out of 10 at first, whilst a player with a low handicap might achieve a success rate of at least 7 out of 10. A ten-minute warm-up, and a couple of practice attempts of some exercises are recommended before starting to record the day's results.

## Exercise 1 – Controlled Hoop Running

Task: Run a hoop from one mallet-head length directly in front of the hoop, then back and forth from wherever it ends up each time. Player counts how many successful consecutive hoop runs up to a maximum of ten. If a player consistently scores highly, they can start from two mallet-head lengths directly in front of the hoop.

Success: One point for each hoop run that clears the hoop by at least a mallet-head width.

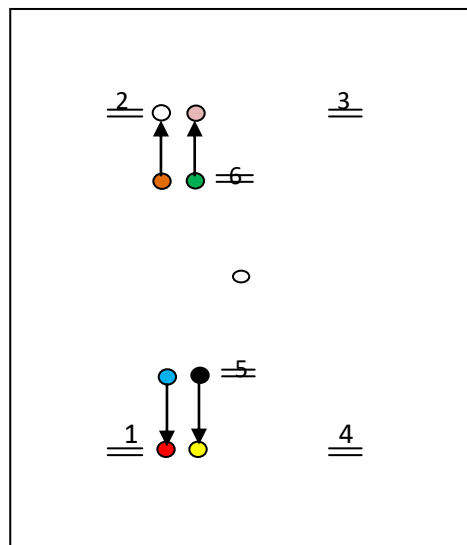
## Exercise 2 - Hitting-In

Task: Roquet a ball 3.5 yards away. This can easily be measured by placing two balls level with hoop 5 and the other two level with hoops 1 and 4. Repeat ten times.

Success: One point for each ball that is roqueted.

Alternatively: Place two balls level with hoop 6 and the other two level with hoops 2 and 3.

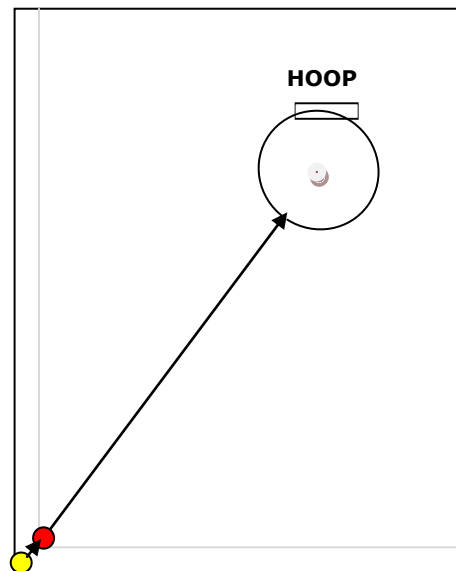
If a player consistently scores highly, they can start from level with the peg and aim at balls level with hoop 5 (or 6).



## Exercise 3 - Rushing

Task: Rush a ball 8 yards by rushing a ball on any corner spot to a marker peg placed one yard in front of the nearest hoop. The striker's ball should be placed one mallet-head length behind the other ball. Repeat ten times.

Success: The rushed ball must finish within one mallet length of the marker in any direction. One point for each.

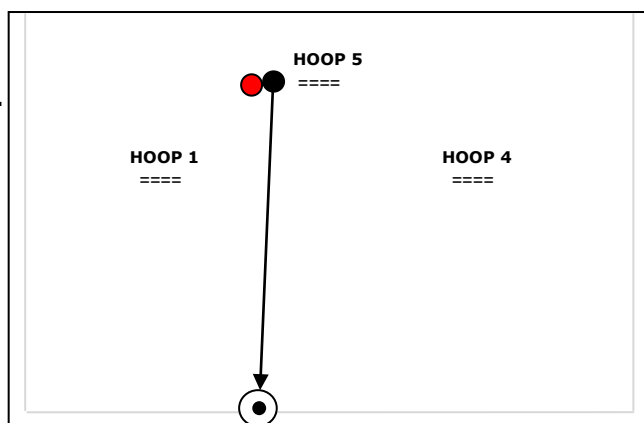


## Exercise 4 – 9.5 yard Take-off

Task: Take-off from a ball level with hoop 5 to a marker peg placed on the South boundary yard-line. Repeat ten times.

Success: Striker's ball must finish within a mallet length of the marker in any direction, but must not touch or pass the boundary line. One point for each.

Alternatively: Use hoop 6 and the North boundary yard-line.



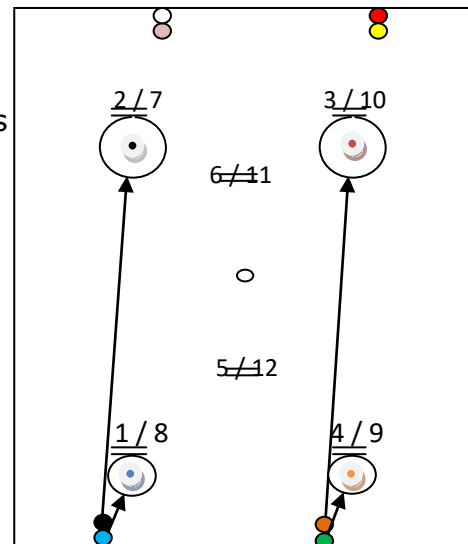
### Exercise 5 – Stop-shot ratio

Task: Use a stop-shot from the South boundary yard-line one yard to the side of straight in front of hoop 1 (or hoop 9) aiming the striker's ball at a marker peg placed two mallet-head lengths directly in front of hoop 1 (or hoop 9), and the croqueted ball at a marker peg placed two mallet lengths directly in front of hoop 2 (or hoop 10). Repeat ten times.

Success: Striker's ball within one mallet length of the marker in any direction, and the croqueted ball within two mallet lengths of the marker in any direction.

One point if both balls are successful, a half point if only one.

Alternatively: Player may use North boundary and hoop 3 (or hoop 7) and hoop 4 (or hoop 8).



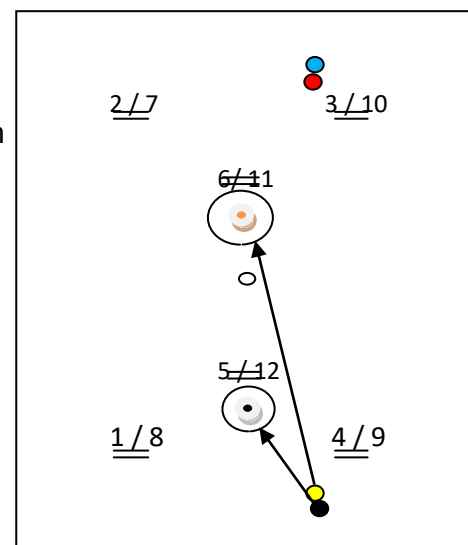
### Exercise 6 – Split Drive ratio

Task: Use a drive stroke from three mallet lengths South and one mallet length West of hoop 4 (place a marker) aiming the striker's ball at a marker peg placed one mallet length directly in front of hoop 5, and the croqueted ball at a marker peg one mallet length directly in front of hoop 6. Repeat ten times.

Success: Striker's ball no more than two mallet-head lengths of the marker in any direction, and the croqueted ball within two mallet lengths of the marker in any direction.

One point if both balls are successful, a half point if only one.

Alternatively: Player may use markers directly in front of hoops 11 and 12 from a starting point three mallet lengths North and one mallet length West of hoop 10.



### Exercise 7 - Split-shot hoop approach

Task: Use a split-shot croquet stroke from one mallet length in front and one mallet length to the side of a hoop (place a marker) aiming the striker's ball at a marker one mallet-head length directly in front of the hoop, and the croqueted ball to go past a marker two mallet lengths beyond the hoop. Player must then run the hoop and roquet the reception ball waiting on the other side. Repeat ten times.

Success: Striker's ball in hoop-running position no more than two mallet-head lengths from the hoop marker, and the croqueted ball must go past the marker on the other side of the hoop before the player runs the hoop and roquets the reception ball. A half point for a hoop run and a roquet, and an extra half point if the croqueted ball went past its marker.

