

Beginner Croquet Coaching: LESSON 3:

This lesson covers:

Revision

The Drive

Split Drives

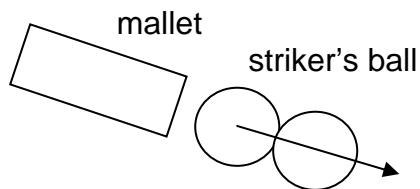
REVISION

The grip, the 5 “S’s”, take-off and leave-behind shots, rushes.

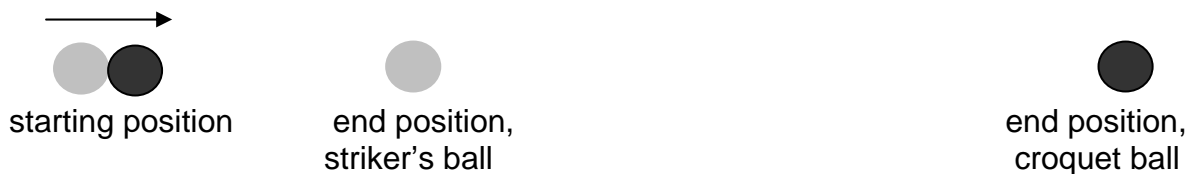
THE DRIVE

The drive is the basic croquet shot. A croquet shot is one where you strike a ball in contact with another, after a roquet.

For the straight drive, you swing along the line of centres, and both balls go in the same direction. The front ball will go much further than the striker’s ball.



The distance each ball goes depends on your individual style, and the mallet you are using. Generally, the front ball goes between three and four times the distance of the striker’s ball.



The ratio of distances should stay the same for different strengths of shot.

Thus, a gentle shot may send the striker’s ball two metres and the croquet ball six metres if your ratio is 3:1.

A stronger shot, achieved by a longer backswing, might send the striker’s ball five metres, and the croquet ball fifteen metres – again a ratio of three to one.

Later, we will learn how to change the ratio that the balls travel.

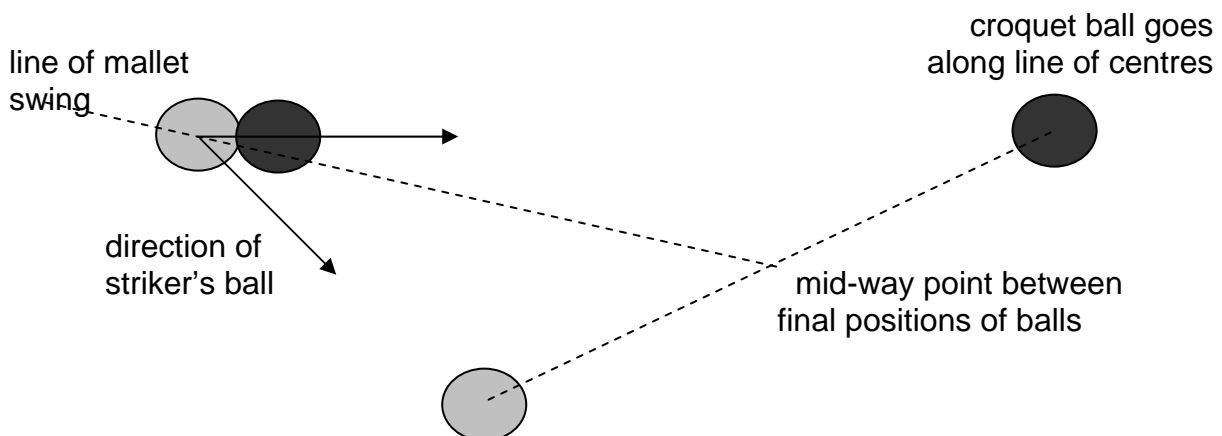
SPLIT DRIVES

If you do not swing your mallet along the line of centres, the two balls will go in different directions.

The croquet ball (the front ball) will always go along the line of centres.

The direction of the striker's ball depends on the angle between the line of mallet swing, and the line of centres.

The diagram below shows the geometry:



With a split shot, the striker's ball goes further than in a straight drive, and the croquet ball does not go as far.

Some more croquet rules:

If you hit a ball (either your own, or another ball) over the boundary, it is placed on the 'yard line' opposite the point where it went out. The yard line is an imaginary line which is one yard inside the boundary.

If you hit another ball to a point inside the yard line, it is placed on the yard line opposite to its position.

When playing a **croquet shot**, if you hit either your own ball (the striker's ball) or the croquet ball over the boundary, it is the end of turn.

If your own ball is inside the yard line at the end of your turn, it is replaced on the yard line.