

Press Release

England's junior croquet players use lockdown to hone world-beating skills

The Croquet Association's National Junior Programme was launched virtually on Monday 15th June. Participants aged 10 to 22 are being mentored by coaches and top players, including current England captain, J-P Moberly, with the hope of representing their country one day.

Croquet is an ideal social distancing sport and has surged in popularity over lockdown, as youngsters and parents stuck at home seek new activities to challenge themselves physically and mentally. This tactical mallet sport is often described as 'snooker on grass', and requires accuracy, touch and mental strength to defeat your opponent.

Junior Programme participants are making full use of lockdown to practise new skills at their local croquet club, which are open for play. **COVID-19 has delayed the World Championship schedule for croquet by a year, providing these youngsters more time to prepare for the next U21 World Championship, now postponed to 2022.**

Nottingham Croquet Club hosted the [U21 Worlds](#) in 2019, with 24 competitors from 8 countries. With New Zealand claiming 7 of the 12 ranking places, England will be working hard with their new Junior Programme participants. They will be hoping to emulate the golden generation - players with nicknames such as Cruncher, The Beast and Bunny, are now in their 50's yet still dominate the world game. Will these young guns be able to leverage 'lockdown advantage' to topple the established order?

<https://www.croquet.org.uk/>

FB/Twitter/IG: [@croquetengland](#)

Contact: Alison Maugham - cainfo@croquet.org.uk 07766 720830

U21 Golf Croquet World Championship Final - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vltbGIXEDD8&t=7813s>

Photograph by Rob Edlin-White

--END--