

Chris Roberts' buying a croquet mallet advice

Buying a new mallet? - which type to buy? - what weight, head size and shaft length? - how to purchase? - how to save money?

NEW Addition to this advice document - Mike Percival Mallets

Handmade mallets from croquet player Mike Percival in South Suffolk – these are very attractive mallets at good prices.

The Mike Percival entry level mallet - at approx. £155 - is now my first choice 'value for money' recommendation for first time mallet purchasers.

Mike's entry level wooden handled mallet is similar in style to the CA George Wood 'Original' (see below) and he also offers made to measure carbon fibre handled mallets in a lovely choice of woods.

In March 2022, no less than 20 Phyllis Court members bought Mike Percival mallets, and the vast majority were of the above type - which means there are plenty of them about for you to see at club mix-in days. Many more members have bought from him since.

Mike also produces mallets with metal heads which are quite striking in appearance and loved by their owners (including a few Phyllis Court members).

See Mike Percival's extensive range on this website here - <https://www.croquetmallets.co.uk/index.html>

Give Mike a call on – 01787 828464 or 07780677943

Alternatively, there is the George Wood range (from New Zealand), which is stocked by **Croquet Association Shop** and can be ordered by phone, on-line, or visiting appointment at Cheltenham CC).

(members happy to spend more – please read right to the end)

- 1 – The George Wood “**Original**” – basic design - wooden head, wooden shaft – fine as an entry level mallet for social players – good value from **£ 210***
Competitive players may wish to get something better:
- 2 – The George Wood “**Discovery**” – Same wooden head as the ‘Original’ but much improved flexible carbon-fibre shaft with a two-part grip
– well priced from **£262* (RECOMMENDED)**
- 3 – The George Wood “**Evolution**” – Same wooden head as the ‘Original’ but metal end facings for a better contact with the ball (see the photos attached).
– It also has ‘better still’ flexible carbon-fibre shaft with an excellent grip that covers the whole shaft top to bottom.
– Very worth the extra money from **£294* (HIGHLY RECOMMENDED)**

All three are available on-line or by telephone order, from the Croquet Association (CA) Shop - click here: <https://www.croquetengland.org.uk/product-category/croquet-mallets/club-mallets/> - or phone: 01242 233 555

*** Prices are correct as of 19th March 2023.**

How to save money - Nearly all Phyllis Court Croquet Club members are also members of The Croquet Association so you can claim a discount!

Most of you are ‘Standard’ members – so you can save 2%.

If, however, you upgrade your membership to 'Premium' – you will save 10% - rather worth doing BEFORE you buy a mallet and bag for it!
(Premium membership has other benefits too, like an on-going free paper copy of the bi-monthly Croquet Gazette, and money off tournament entry fees)
Upgrading to premium membership costs just £20 in year 1, and can be done really easily here: <https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=ca/JoinTheCA>

Mallet specifications:

Head size – everyone should go for 10"

Weight – all Men 3 lb, Smaller ladies might prefer 2.14 lb or 2.12 lb

Overall mallet length – depends on the way you hold the mallet (Solomon, Standard or Irish grip – if you don't know which grip you have, please ring me Chris on 07973 787710)

- Solomon and Standard grip: you need a mallet that is at least as high as you belly-button and preferably a couple of inches higher – if in doubt, buy 'longer'.

- Irish grip: you need a much shorter mallet. Stand up straight, hands down together in front of you as if holding your mallet, elbows straight, get someone to measure the height from ground to the top of your top hand – this is the length of mallet you need.

**The rest of this document is for members who don't mind spending some more money because you want the 'Rolls-Royce' of mallets:
Good!**

There are several but these two makes stand out:

- **The Dave Trimmer Mallet** – More top players have this mallet than any other type – it is the world leader mallet and is hand-made precision engineered by croquet player Dave Trimmer in Dorset.

It's made from carbon fibre and Kevlar, beautifully balanced, and frankly the best mallet you can buy – Several of our top players and other ambitious Phyllis Court members have 'A Trimmer' and I'd have one too if I could afford it! - There is a waiting list (that is how popular Trimmers are!) – order now for the earliest delivery from - <http://davetrimmermallets.moonfruit.com/home/4590310836> or 01747 824822 - from **£ 410**

- **The PFC Hoopmaker Mallet** – Made my croquet player Peter Coles in Australia – This is the all metal mallet with the holes in it! – its owners rave about it and it has plenty of devotees amongst the top players. It is an acquired taste – there is the 'ping' sound it makes as the ball leaves the mallet for a start - but a lovely mallet it certainly is. Our member Richard Peperell has one of these and you may have seen him wielding it at Phyllis Court or High Wycombe. - See the PFC website - <https://croquetmalletmetal.com/> - prices around the same as a Trimmer above.

That's it, please ring me if you think I can help you some more.

Regards,

Chris - 07973 787710