

Strokestown Croquet Club - 2015

Four members of the Strokestown Croquet Club participated in the national golf croquet tournament held at Carrickmines the weekend of 12/13 September. We were all quite apprehensive about playing, but Simon Williams had insisted we try it. Upon arrival we were greeted warmly and taken on as partners and opponents in good spirit. The superb pitches look like rugs. The first balls we hit went flying past the wicket since we are accustomed to playing on longer grass.

Did we win any? One doubles, and some points. Where there was a lopsided game, our opponents/partners became our teachers. Paired with experienced competitors, we felt we had contributed. Everyone was very gracious in welcoming us newcomers.

Most weeks April through September about a dozen of our club of 18 members comes to the Walled Garden in Strokestown Park Wednesday mornings for very gentle games. Park visitors love it when we wear period dress on special occasions such as Heritage Week.

Our experience at Carrickmines was quite different. Being paired with top-notch players was a super experience. As relative newbies to competitive croquet, we all learned a lot. Now we want to share the fun of a more competitive style with the rest of our club.



Next year we hope to get weekend matches started in Strokestown. This would allow those who work weekdays to learn the game. We would also enjoy some interclub matches and hope that national competitions can be held in Strokestown, the site of the Irish National Famine Museum. While the lawn might not be quite up to snuff, the setting is outstanding!

Thanks to Strokestown Park for allowing us to play and host events in the Walled Garden,.