

If you are reading this article, I am going to assume that you have some level of affection for croquet. Because of my passion for the game, croquet will inevitably come to the forefront of many of my conversations with people. Most people think back with a smile to summer days playing backyard croquet and then are pleasantly surprised to learn the game of croquet is alive and well and played throughout the world.

What I love in particular about golf croquet are the many layers that can be uncovered. Sure, it doesn't take long to get started with some basic technique and a few rules, but don't be fooled because there is a lot more to the game and so much more to learn.

Layer I - Because you can play with men and women of various ages and athletic prowess, I have learned very quickly to never underestimate an opponent regardless of their age or gender. As the saying goes, "looks can be deceiving!"

Layer II - Croquet is the great equalizer. Even if you have a substantial lead, your opponent always has a chance to get back into the game and vice versa. One good shot can change the entire momentum of a game.

On the topic of age, one of my favorite stories to tell is about watching an 8-year old boy paired up with his 80-year old grandfather playing in a family croquet event at our club. I can't think of too many sports where this combination is possible.

Layer III - So let's say that you've played a fair amount of social croquet and have developed some control on your shots and added some specialty shots to your game. Your stop shot is effective, you can set up a block, roquet a ball from a good distance, and maybe even have an impressive jump shot.

What's next?

Layer IV - My suggestion is to start entering some tournaments. I have found this to be one of the best ways to gain experience and improve and not to mention, a way to really understand all the rules in action.

Layer V - The people I have met through playing golf croquet have been extraordinary and unique to other sports I participate in. Croquet has broadened my horizons and I hope it will do the same for you. It truly is a sport of a lifetime.