

## For more information

For recommended equipment, clubs, clothing, books, videos and other resources: [jiminywicket.com](http://jiminywicket.com)

- My family's story: [jiminywicket.com](http://jiminywicket.com)
- Channel 9News story: [9news.com](http://9news.com) ("Creasey croquet")
- U.S. Croquet Association: [croquetamerica.com](http://croquetamerica.com)
- Alzheimer's Association: [alz.org/co](http://alz.org/co)
- My email: [james@jiminywicket.com](mailto:james@jiminywicket.com)



Maxwell Creasey

It's a great day to play croquet with someone who is dealing with dementia. Live well and enjoy your game!



## THROUGH HOOPS TO HOPE



Maxwell Rogers Creasey  
1922-2009

### Starting A Croquet Program For People Dealing With Dementia

alzheimer's  association™



## Welcome!

When I first learned to play croquet five years ago I never imagined it would create a new connection with my dad in the silence of his dementia. Conversation had become more intermittent. Sentences were a real effort for him. Golf had gone...too precise; ping pong... too fast; Scrabble, chess and Mah Jong...all too complex.

I knew the game needed to be kept simple, so I brought out two mallets and just two balls. And then there we were, playing in a way that I had longed for as a child. What joy! Dad may have been confused, post-verbal and not able to find his way down the corridor but with a little guidance he could play a cracking game of croquet.

I am forever grateful that my father taught me to play croquet with someone who is dealing with dementia. Together with my family on both sides of the Atlantic, we saw the mental, physical and social well being that we created by playing croquet with Dad.

Hosting a weekly croquet program in collaboration with your local Alzheimer's Association, allows you to serve your community, increase the visibility of your club and expand its membership.

Croquet's ability to create connections with people dealing with dementia is quite remarkable. Thank you for your participation.

James Creasey  
Special Programs Director  
Denver Croquet Club

April, 2010  
To read my story:  
[jimonywicket.com](http://jimonywicket.com)

## Comments from Early Stage Program, Denver

"We loved playing croquet. It was so energizing!"

**Betty, care partner**

"Playing croquet is a delightful experience...being in the open air with others who are facing the same challenges. We both looked forward to playing each time. It was sad when the weather changed and we weren't able to continue".

**Karen, care partner**

"I enjoyed it! I played croquet in the past and it was real interesting to learn this new version. I'd definitely do it again!"

**J with a dementia diagnosis**



Alzheimer's Association Early Stage Program players  
with James Creasey and Vickie Mohr, Washington Park Denver



## Comments from Maxwell's Family

"I watched my Dad come back, just a little, each time we played."

**Kate, daughter**

"I thought it was going to be a waste of time. Boy, was I wrong!"

**Pat, wife of 63 years**

"My shoulders sank and I began the long walk down the garden, past Grandpa and into the orchard to retrieve my ball. Then Grandpa did something which made me realize his competitive edge and humor were still with him. As I walked past him, we smiled at one another, he then lifted his hand, waved at me and said with a large grin on his face and a bounce in his step, 'Cheerio!' We both laughed out loud and carried on." **Tom, grandson**

"I had never played croquet before so we kept it very simple. It was good for both of us, physical and mental coordination, fresh air, exercise, concentration and much more." **Sarah, daughter**

"Croquet was a chance to enjoy summer evenings and winter days surrounded by love and companionship." **Maya, granddaughter**

"Croquet gave my father and his family, a way to connect that nothing else could. Put a croquet mallet in his hand and he would stand up straighter with a twinkle in his eye again." **Andrew, son**



Maxwell & James at the Nare Hotel

## Our Commitment

We will use croquet to foster new connections between people and their loved ones who are dealing with dementia. We will operate our programs with respect, compassion and generosity.

You provide the croquet lawn, equipment and instruction, along with a consistent weekly day and time to host the play. The Alzheimer's Association invites the participants and their loved ones, and incorporates this activity into their regular list of programs.

## How to Get Started

- Contact the Program Director at your local Alzheimer's Association to begin your collaboration.
- Schedule a regular weekly (same day and time each week) 1-2 hour event.
- See [jimonywicket.com](http://jimonywicket.com) for sample invitation.

## Getting Ready

- 30 minutes prior to program, croquet club member(s) sets up for event.
- As participants arrive, provide each with a name tag and begin introductions.
- Line up partners facing each other, 15 feet apart and briefly instruct on swing and striking. Have the group practice skills, hitting balls back and forth, for 5 minutes.

## Other details

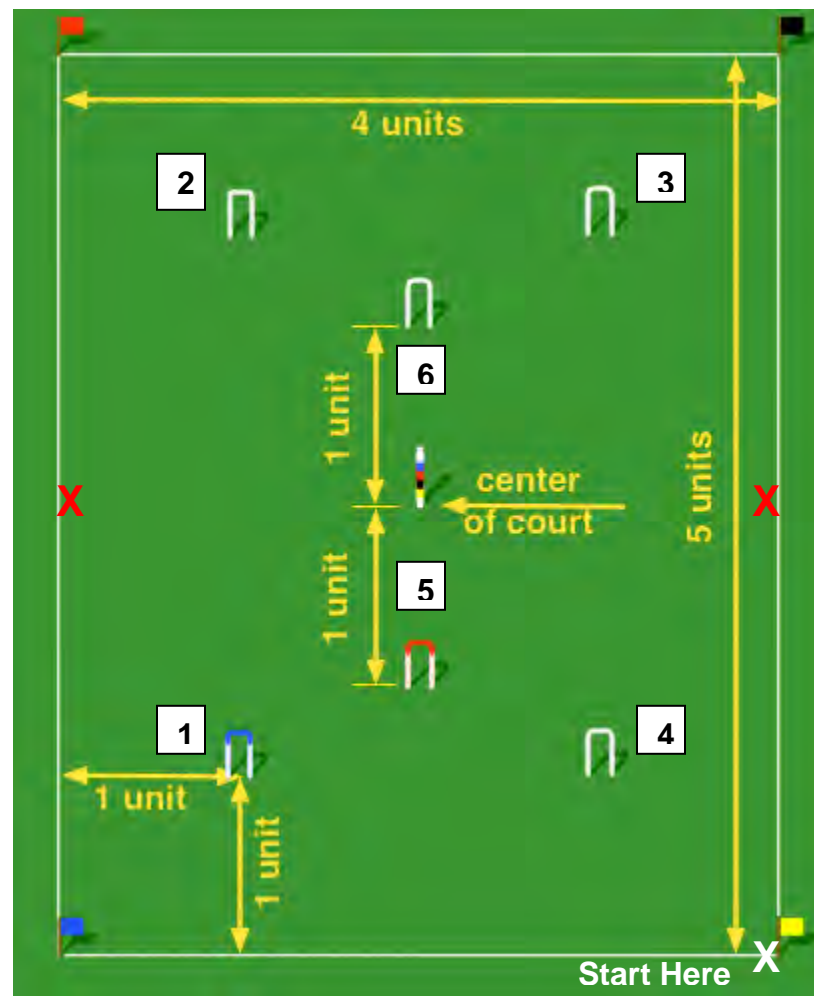
- Modified court size is optimal (40 feet by 50 feet).
- Participants donate \$5 per pair per week.
- The only requirement for attire is flat-soled shoes.
- Simple and consistent enables people with dementia to participate and enjoy croquet

## Let the Games Begin

- If you don't have space for a modified court (40' x 50'), use the diagram on the following page as a guide to the lay-out.
- Use clothes pins to attach numbers (1 – 6) to the hoops.
- Two sets of partners play against each other: blue and black versus red and yellow. If you have more partners and space then set up courts side by side. With just two players keep it simple and use two balls, blue and red.
- Explain the sequence and the goal of shooting through hoops as the game begins. Keep your explanations short and simple.
- Limit the game to a modified Golf Croquet:
  - a. One shot per player per turn.
  - b. Play through just 6 hoops. Center stake is the final point.
  - c. Once a wicket is scored, everyone moves on to the next one.
  - d. If a wicket is to be conceded, players can only go half way to the next wicket. If a player's ball goes beyond half way, then his/her next shot starts at the red X.
  - e. Wickets cannot be run backwards; no sending.
  - f. If a ball goes out of play, it re-enters where it left.
- After the first game take a short break. If time and interest permit keep playing.
- Keep it simple, offer encouragement and have fun!



Andrew, Kate, James and Sarah



### Sequence of play

