

Helping players with colour vision problems

A paper regarding the problems for those members with Colour Vision Deficiency (“colour blindness”) was circulated to Council in October 2015, and a proposal made to establish a small working group to see what could be done. A Gazette article illustrating the problem was printed in the December issue. It was a shock to find that the 8 balls on a croquet lawn could be so hard to tell apart, with red, brown and green in particular hard to distinguish for the majority of those affected by CVD. About one in 12 of the male population is affected.

We set out to see what could be done in time for the 2016 season. A panel of 8 members affected by CVD have helped steer solutions, and there has been great support from a number of CA committees. Council is now asked to approve the following:

1. The duties of the **tournament manager** – set out in tournament regulation M1 – will now include the allocation of 1st Colour balls whenever possible to a player who has told the manager they have CVD. This will apply henceforth to managers of all CA events - we hope that federation and club tournament managers will also include this in the many things the TM has to juggle. [Thanks to the AC & GC Tournament Committees]
2. How should players let the TM know they have a CVD difficulty? The paper **entry form** in the 2016 Fixtures Calendar has been updated to include a CVD tick-box, and the player profile on the CA website will include this question - any **on-line entries** the player makes will then carry the information through to the entry list the TM receives. [Thanks to CA Office Manager and CA Webmaster]
3. Brighter colours are being recommended to re-paint AC clips – which makes them clearer for all players - and specifically **club equipment officers** are asked to add a white dot to green clips and a diagonal white stripe to brown clips – so that red, green and brown clips may be distinguished by those with CVD. The detailed spec for the colours and markings will shortly be on the CA website. [Thanks to the Equipment Committee]
4. A new approved laws variation has been added to the tournament regulations (L5) which clarifies that in AC Law 47 and GC Rule 8, the information on **the state of the game** which a player, if asked, must tell the opponent includes information about any of the balls and clips in their game, and also the colour and position of clips and balls in any double- or triple-banked game. [Thanks to GC Rules Committee and AC Laws Committee]
5. Clubs will be asked (via the Gazette and Equipment webpage) to think of players with CVD when picking plastic pegs to use as **GC scoring clips**. There is no specification for these clips in the rules, and their use is optional, but it would help to avoid red clips for the Red and Yellow side (use yellow only), and to only have one of green or brown in use too for the Green and Brown side. [Thanks to the Equipment Committee]

These actions will make it much easier for croquet players who have a colour vision deficiency to concentrate on their play and to avoid confusion.

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CA Council CVD working party