

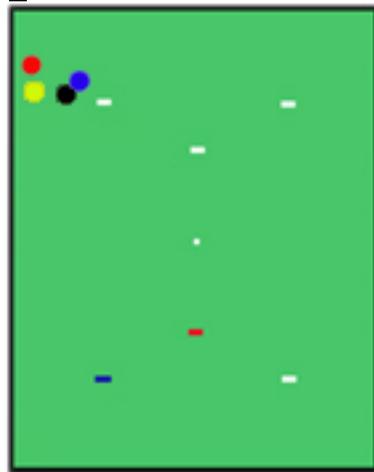
Bob and Ted On Tactics

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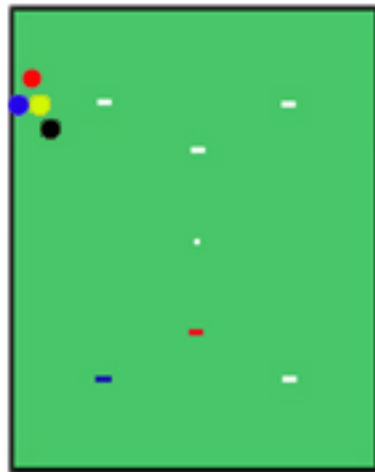
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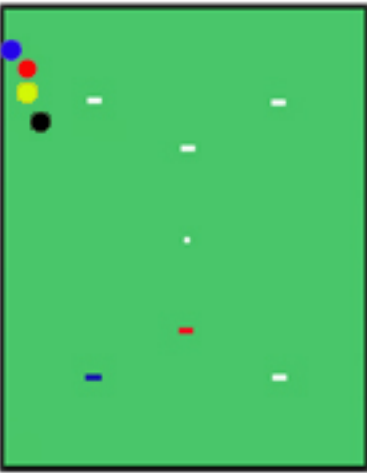
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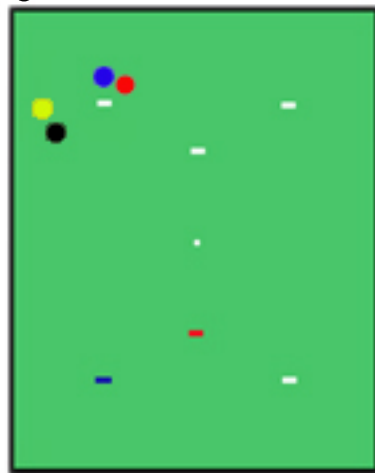
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Last column we covered the take-off to the attack. We stated that it was a less preferable form of attacking and usually done out of necessity rather than design. This column we will look at the 'rush to the attack', the preferred method of attacking. The reason it is preferable is that it allows for a rush of the partner ball toward the opponent balls rather than a long take-off by the striker - often towards opponents on the boundary. As we stated, getting the take-off to land near the opponents can be very challenging. The challenging shot in the rush to the attack is the initial long cut rush from the boundary. In Diagram 1 we see ball positions that would be more common to middle and high handicap players (First and Second Flights). Championship players would likely be occupying the first and fourth corners because the positions in Diagram 1 would be too easy for experienced players to exploit. In Diagram 2, we see blue cut rush partner black near red and yellow near #2 on the west boundary. The idea here is to have blue get black near yellow (the spent ball) while blue also gets to yellow. Depending on where the rush lands will determine the type of croquet shot used - here about a 3/4 roll to full roll. ***You want to be careful not to put either the croqueted ball or the striker ball out of bounds on this shot!!*** You are trying to leave black an uneventful gentle roquet on yellow as near the boundary as possible and leave yourself (blue in this instance) a gentle roquet on yellow. Diagram 3 shows a successful shot and Diagram 4 has blue roquet red gently and setup a take-off to the danger ball red. If the boundary doesn't slope and red is very near yellow, often the striker can get a rush on red to #2. If it's too dangerous to try - DON'T DO IT!!! Just settle for a roquet on red. Diagram 5 shows blue getting the rush on red. If blue didn't get the rush it would send red down the lawn far away on its croquet shot while blue would go to #2 hopefully getting position and if not position, taking position on the continuation shot. Another important detail when sending the danger ball away is that it has an open shot on the black and yellow near the boundary to avoid a wire. If you are fortunate, blue can take a position at #2 where it's wired on red. This is something Championship players can do routinely but is less common with First and Second Flight players. In Diagram 6 blue rushes red well to #2 and in Diagrams 7 and 8 gets position putting red to the northeast of #2 and then runs the wicket. Assuming black has the skills to play a break blue should not worry about making #3 even if it attains a rush to there. It's better to stay focused on task - leave black a nice play. Blue would then send red away (described above) and finish the turn at #2 for black. Stop by our website (address at the top). We have lot's of useful educational materials available through the USCA.