

# Lawn Repair – Find and Fix Guide

Apart from the birds, and rabbit runs, the biggest contributor to lawn degradation is mallet damage. We all do it at some time, so here are a few tips on how to fix them...

**ALWAYS** have your divot repair tool on you when playing any form of croquet, and make sure you know how to use it. If you don't have one, or are nervous about using it, then ask for help from one of the experienced players around you.



**BE AWARE** of any damage that you may be causing to the lawn caused by:

- jump shots (but banned in winter at our club anyway)
- dragging your mallet when moving across the lawn
- misshit shots when the mallet hits the ground before or during or after hitting the ball
- returning balls towards the cradle (or anywhere else for that matter!)

If you see other players ignoring their own damage, then politely let them know what they have done. Perhaps helping them to fix it may give them some confidence for future fixes.

And if you find an “unattended” piece of damage, please fix it.

## NOW LET'S FIX IT

Firstly, find the divot. It's either lying loose somewhere, or has been crushed into the lawn, and looks like a small accordion! If its crushed, then very gently tease it out into its previous shape! If the recovered divot is a good fit to the parental hole, then you can go ahead and fix it. DO NOT simply replace the divot, and welly it in with your foot, because it is highly unlikely to recover.

The aim is to roughen up the soil underneath into a small mound, so that there's a good chance that the divot recover. To do this:

1. use the tool, at a 45 degree angle, all around the OUTSIDE of the damaged area, about a quarter of an inch from the damage, and lever the grass upwards and inwards
2. then loosen the exposed soil, and raise it into a small mound, and place the divot on top
3. flatten the area carefully with the underside of a flat mallet (not a round one, or your foot)



In winter, this repair is fairly easy, but in very dry summer weather you will need to water in the repair in order for the roots to re-engage with the soil. Don't assume that the sprinklers will sort it out overnight, because the crows will have removed the dry divot by then.

If the wound is about the size of a one pence piece, or long and narrow, and no divot exists, then use the divot repair tool to lever the surrounding grass towards the centre of the damage, and flatten with your mallet. If the divot is unrepairable, please put an entry in the maintenance book