

## CROQUET STOP NET CONSTRUCTION

The nets consist of diamond shaped netting strung top and bottom, approx 125mm high with an anchor and tensioner on the ends. (I use 1.6mm stainless steel wire on top at Nailsea as the squirrels often cut the nylon top rope). The ball passes between the ropes, net expands, then contracts returning the ball.

### Materials required per net.

1. Fruit cage netting from ebay.
2. Fence tensioner (as photo)
3. 6mm nylon rope or baling twine doubled.
4. 20mm tube, x 1m. ( steel or copper or strong plastic.)
5. Plate, 3mm x 300-400 wide x 300 long. (material to be compatible with sleeve. Use as a baffle to stop adjuster sleeve being pulled through soft earth under tension ).
6. 12mm threaded or plain bar 450mm.
7. 1m of 6mm threaded bar + nuts.

### Method.

The tensioners needs to be secured to the 12mm x 250mm bar. (I fashioned hard wood to fit behind the tensioner drums}, drill 8.5mm holes and fit a nut and bolt to clamp it tightly together.

The tensioners need to be fitted so that the top cord winds on to the top of the drum and the other winds on to the lower side of the drum.

I have not been able to find the ideal height of net so I purchased net 2m wide and cut it down to 400mm when stretched. Then thread the rope/ twine along top and bottom and fix to anchor and tensioner.

Cut strip and tube into 150mm lengths. Block off one end of the tubes and secure to the steel strip using screws and ties or weld.

Bore 25mm hole where end of nets are to be sited and tap in to below ground level.

It will be necessary to support the top rope at 8-10m spacings. I used 6mm threaded bar, fashioned a loop from plastic sheet for the top, held loosely between washers and nuts plus tubing over the threads to protect the balls. For the bottom place a nut at half way and secure loosely with tie. Do not clamp the net as the support may need to move.

Cut tube to 150mm lengths, blank-off one end and fit to below ground level at appropriate points for the supports.

The adjusters may cause damage to people or balls, so they need to be covered. Take a 2litre milk carton, cut off the top part and discard, make a slit and slip it over the ropes to ground level then tether it.