

## Nipsy

**James Masters, England - [www.tradgames.or.uk/games/knur-spell.htm](http://www.tradgames.or.uk/games/knur-spell.htm)**



The picture in the 'Afterword' of *CHOULE - The Non-Royal but most Ancient Game of Crosse* representing a group of players with special bats around a small seesaw, shows people playing a game called 'nipsy'. This game was fairly popular, especially in southern Yorkshire in England. Variants are still played in the areas around Bolton and Barnsley in Lancashire.

The picture is made by a certain George Walker in 1817. The game is a kind of 'longest drive'. A ball is placed on one side of a small seesaw. When you hit on the other side, the ball will jump up. The player will then hit with his bat the ball as far as possible. The little stake is one of a series for measuring the distance achieved. Good players can hit the ball as far as 200 meters. The shape and size of the bat and the rules of the game vary from region to region as do the little seesaws. Also in France, more specific in the Picardie region (north-western France) a variant of the game was popular in days long gone, under the name of 'jeu de la tapette'.



*Jeu de la tapette, a popular game in Picardie in the long gone past.*