

Expressions and proverbs

Avoir des jambes comme des fûts de crosse

Having thin, straight legs like the shafts of a crosse
Spindle legs

Laisser la soule dans l'haie

Leave the choulette in the hedge
It is better to end the discussion

Au coup de choulette

With a strike of the choulette
At a stone's throw

Vous lui avez mis a biblette

You have put the choulette on the 'biblette'
(small delicate piece of twisted grass, like a golf tee)
You have taken something very easily

By courtesy of Ovide Canselier, manager of the 'Musée La Vie rurale' (country life museum) at Huissignies, Belgium (2002)



Ène chole su ène abeule (Bouvignies)

Putting a small choulette on a big tee
Putting a small hat on a big head
Something very funny

'No v'là co quitte comme des bons crocheux (from Ath)

We part like good crosse players
When two parties have settled a problem to mutual satisfaction

Des yeux comme des cholettes (Walloon Brabant)

Eyes as big as choulettes
Being flabbergasted

Soulettes

Not well cooked potatoes, beans or peas

In 'Wallonia, recueil de littérature orale, croyances et usages traditionnels' (Wallonia, miscellany of verbal literature, beliefs and traditional customs), mentioned by Jules Dewert (1900)

A comic view: a small ball of about 4 centimetres on a tee of nearly 25 centimetres



Not all tees are very reliable. A twisted piece of grass can easily disintegrate in seconds.

Le mettre à biblette

To use a biblette (tee)

Rely on something insecure or unstable

Cela lui a prit comme un coupe de choulette

Somebody who makes a fast action like the strike of a choulette

Somebody who surprises with a swift action

Laisser la soule dans l'haie

Leave the choulette in the hedge

Creating problems for the people who are coming after you

Du crossage après le pignon

Trying to reach a goal that is hidden by the house front

Doing something that is doomed to fail

By courtesy of Alain Fagnot, secretary of 'La Cellule d'Avis et Information sur le Patrimoine chièvrois' (Advice and information group for the heritage of Chièvres), Belgium (2002)

Tapè à côté de s'cholett' (from Frasnes)

Making an air shot

Missing a chance because of arrogance or shallow action

Travailler comme de crocheux au nuit

Working like playing crosse at night

Working without any direction

In 'Ath et le Pays (Country of) des Collines – Mémoires de Wallonie' by Roger Cantraine and Jean-Pierre Ducastelle (1991)

Other expressions and proverbs we have come across:

Cholète

Nickname given around 1900 by boys from the city of Ath to girls who apparently switched easily from one boy friend to the other (from one crosse to the other)

Avoir maille à partir avec quelqu'un

Fighting each other with clubs

Being at loggerheads with someone

Ch'est comme au jeu d'croche, qui s'y boute, s'y loche

It is like jeu de crosse: if you start to play, you get hooked

It is like jeu de crosse: if one is interested one will be unable to stop

Mettre (lever) la crosse en l'air

To put the club in the air

Surrender

Autant pour les crosses

Admit defeat

All has been in vain

Chercher des crosses à quelqu'un

Looking for a club to hit somebody with

Picking a quarrel