



National Croquet Club - September 2013

NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE

- Message from the President
- New Members' welcome
- CFA - NCC General Manager- David's Corner. Bill Mead - The Lay of the lawns
- Other news

Check out our Committees:

Membership Committee

Clint Fowlkes, Chair
Ginger Fowlkes, Sec.
Linda Weisheit
Bob Alman
Gary Wilson
Gerald Shugar
John Warlick
David McCoy
Joe Pierotti

Croquet Committee

Bill Trower, Chair
Don Whalen, Sec.
Ruth Summers
Larry (Mac) McDermott
John Blamire
Dick Brackett
Dale Locke
Bill Mead
John Warlick

Social Committee

Nanci Hunt, Chair
Pat Muir, Sec.

Message from your President

The NCC is just winding down from one of the most active summers in years. Many more year round players are out on the lawns these days to enjoy our beautiful courts (thank you Bill) and a great "Summer League".

Dick Brackett organized the league for the 5th consecutive year. The turnout was terrific with more teams than ever taking part on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. The Golf Croquet games were combined with SandyJames' "Pub Night" socials in the beautiful NCC lounge.

Club membership continues to grow with the help of many and the dedication of Marie Sweetser. Saturday "Public Lessons" remain very popular and I thank the volunteer instructors for their tireless work. The Social Committee has been holding well attended parties with various themes. The monthly "Pot Luck" has scores of members and club friends sharing croquet play and great dishes. Thoughtful work from the Membership Committee and the NCC Board has helped to offer attractive introductory memberships to entice expansion and club growth.

The increase in active membership has spawned enough interest to start mini-clubs

NCC Tournaments

Major Tournaments

Major Tournaments	Dates	Tentative Managers
NCC Doubles Championship (own partner)	Nov. 23-24	Bill Trower
NCC Singles Championship (sanctioned)	Dec. 13-15	John & Anthea
NCC Open Singles (Winter) (sanctioned)	Jan. 18-19	John Warlick
NCC Golf Croquet Championship	Feb. 1-2	Don Whalen
NCC Open Singles (Spring) (sanctioned)	Feb. 15-16	John Warlick
Charles P. Steuber Tournament (sanctioned)	Feb. 20-23	TBD
NCC Hi-Lo Doubles Tournament	Mar. 29-30	TBD
NCC "Limit Three" Tournament (Archie Peck Tribute)	Apr. 4-6	Peter Just?

The Lay of the Lawns - Bill Mead

Arlene McDermott
Victoria Albrecht
Sandra Feeny
Carol DiFazio
Ray Liberti
Dale Locke (liaison to NCC Board)

Finance Committee
Clint Fowlkes Chair
John Warlick
David McCoy
Maryanne Brockley

Grievance Committee
Judy Just
Adriana Wyckoff
Joe Pierotti

Ad Hoc Committees

Gardens/Grounds Committee
Mary Shields, Chair
Lovejoy Duryea
Bobby Duryea
Sandra Feeny
Linda Weisheit
Bill Mead
John Warlick
David McCoy
Victoria Albrecht
Adrianna Wyckoff

Maintenance Comm
David Spivey
Dale Locke
Bill Mead
John Warlick

Welcome New Members

Cheryl	Harders
Robyn	Cohn
Anna	Cottrell
Pauline	Siefring
Shirley	Valentine
Osman	Arpad
Atif	

within the NCC for bridge, backgammon, chess, gardening and other activities. Please look around and see if there is something you may wish to participate in.

The Croquet Committee has a full season of tournaments laid out for your enjoyment. There are master calendars on our web site and in E-blasts to keep you informed of event dates and tournament information. Also, follow club news on Facebook (great effort by Ginger and Nancy – along with others).

Our Club Pro - Bill Mead continues with club lessons for beginner and intermediate players. He is also starting a more rigorous set of four weekly classes for members that are willing to invest in a serious croquet school experience. The “Ruth Brown” is always well attended (bless the Blamire’s!) and other six wicket beginner classes are being offered (Bill Trower and Dick Scherf).

The warmth of the summer season will now give way to cooling temperatures and a heat up of club activities as we approach the fall tournaments and the return of many seasonally resident members. Many games are being played daily and games/opponents can be arranged – use the court sign up sheet. Please remember the club policy to double bank whenever courts are at capacity. Six Wicket games should be doubled banked along with Six Wicket – and, Golf Croquet with Golf Croquet to avoid confusion.

The NCC Club Nine Wicket Tournament is coming in October – followed by the Florida Regional (November) and National (December) Nine Wicket Championships. Please give the nine wicket game a try – it is a lot of fun and our club is the best in America. We need you to give it a try on our eight Nine Wicket Courts.

I want to close with the acknowledgement of the outstanding work that Mary Shields, Joe Pierotti, and Adriana Wyckoff (as well as others) have been doing to help greet, orient and assimilate our precious new members.

This summer we just completed our first aeration of the croquet courts. This is done to make the courts healthier to survive through the winter dormant season. It is a messy job with all of the sand, but necessary for healthy turf. We did one aeration and plan another partial aeration in early September. We would like to thank the members that donated much needed funds for this purpose.

We will follow up with verticutting. This procedure cuts very thin zones through the grass pulling out thatch while cutting the vertical roots of the Tif Dwarf (our type of Bermuda grass) lawns. This process will create a bit of a mess with all of the thatch raised to the surface but will disappear over a couple of days. Thank you all for your good words and understanding.

David Epps, Carl Epps

Bill Mead, Club Pro.

Garden Committee Notes

The summer has been hot, humid and rainy. But the good part is that plantings have thrived, orchids have bloomed and butterflies have been abundant. The north side by court #12 is now filled with Passion Vines, Sky Vine, Bromeliads and Plumeria. All plants have been donated by members. A visiting raccoon has been disturbing some of our plantings by the pond, but Bill Mead and our chef JoJo assisted in relocating him to more suitable surroundings off the NCC property. Bill has also been busy with ground improvements to the far south where red Ixora flowers have been planted and look striking by the taller foliage. That area also has been upgraded with a nine wicket court! It will be beautiful when more flowers are added. Court #1 has been improved by removing trees that have provided too much shade for our court grass. All courts continue to be dressed up with the yellow marigolds at the base of each deadness board. Bill painted the deadness boards dark green and the yellow flowers really “pop” against the dark green. Adriana Wyckoff has been steadfast in watering the flowers and keeping them happy. Soon they will need to be replaced, however. We do have work to do in the front entrance way. Begonias need to be cut back as well as the plantings behind them. One day at a time. **We would love to have more volunteers on our team, so if you would like to join us please call Marie and we will find a project for you to work on!**

Mary Shields

SandyJames Fine Food and Productions

The Croquet Grill will open on Tuesday October 1, 2013

Lunch will be served Tuesday thru Saturday

11:30 am – 2:00 pm.

Pub night will remain on Thursday evenings offering the

Isil Arpad
 Bodil Burnett
 William Rueck
 Susan Cushing
 Dana Diskin
 Maria Veith
 Roxanne Rosetto
 Anne Destefano Alterman
 Toby Alterman
 Joan Thorne
 BernadetteTieff
 Rebecca Thorton
 Mary Connors
 Craig Dana
 Gail Giebler
 Sandi Lutz
 Norman Nelson
 Robin Nelson
 Sallie Haywood
 John Canning
 Rene Valentine Canning
 Michael Tieff
 Marc Ulanowski
 Kaye Broadway
 Alvin Segal
 Aleco Bravo
 Pamela Schefrin
 Selma Elterman
 Doug Collier

I hope to see everyone out on the courts, or in the lounge, enjoying our fantastic club and great set of diverse members.

Play well – John Warlick

New Board 2013



Clint Fowlkes,Treas; Ruth Summers, Jodie Rugart, David McCoy, Dale Locke, VP; Mary Shields, Sec; John Warlick, Pres

CFA - NCC General Manager

First of all, a hearty “Welcome!” to all of the new members of the National Croquet Club this past year! If you have specific talents or interests and would like to be more involved with the Croquet Foundation of America (CFA -- owner of the Center), please let Victoria Albrecht (Assistant General Manager) or me know. For the Club, please let Marie Sweetser (Membership), or John Warlick (President) or any Committee Chairman know. The Club and the Foundation both depend on volunteers, in fact, Victoria and I are both volunteers.

In case you see our resident “Croquet Pro,” Bill Mead, playing croquet with friends or in a tournament or just relaxing, you may be wondering, why isn’t he working? The fact is that is that Bill almost always works over 50 hours a week, and often over 60 hours. When he began, he often worked on property seven days a week to improve the grounds and help meet member needs. As a manager and member of senior staff, he does not get overtime. He is allowed, however, to give paid lessons as part of his compensation. So the next time you see Bill enjoying himself playing

Pub Menu and Happy Hour pricing from

5:00 – 7:00 pm.

“The staff of SandyJames is excited for a busy season and looking forward to serving the members of the NCC” said James Bartle, owner SandyJames Fine Food and Productions.

Saturday morning free public lessons in golf croquet

Bring your friends and family to introduce them to this wonderful sport.

Reservations required!

Pro Notes

Often times our swing abandons us. You were hitting just fine, nice and straight and then from out of nowhere you cannot hit a ball two feet away. There are two main causes of this malady. One is using your wrists rather than your arms/shoulders. Are you standing too close to your ball? If you are, you cannot get a full back-swing which causes you to bring your wrists into the swing to achieve distance. The second cause of a bad swing is swinging too fast – especially “punching” or pushing the forward swing. This typically ruins the line of the shot and causes us to tighten our grip during the swing, which causes the mallet head to turn. This is easily solved; just slow your back swing and your follow through swing – the old saying is true: “Let the mallet do the work”. When under pressure or attempting long shots we can, and do, try too hard. Swinging too fast and trying too hard make us lose accuracy.

Here is a suggestion for practice. Shoot four balls at the center peg from in front of wicket one. Note your accuracy as to distance and how straight your shots were. Now return to the same spot and take four more shots consciously slowing your back-swing and follow through. You may need to follow through a bit more to achieve the same distance. You ball should roll slower and more accurately to the center peg.

Remember; only stalk the shots you want to be successful.

Latest News

Have you been having great fun at the National Croquet Club? Have you dressed up in outfits you thought you would never wear? Have you danced to a great variety of different music? Have you met wonderful new people? Have you tried new and exciting food deliciously prepared by SandyJames? Have you called and emailed your friends telling them about this peaceful sanctuary where you're having more fun than you could have imagined doing something you never thought you would ever do, and then asking them to

Bonnie	Mayerson	croquet, or teaching a lesson or just relaxing on property, please be assured that he isn't shirking his duties whatsoever – he is taking a well-deserved break – or he may be staying late so a member can get in some after-work croquet.
Barbara	Neiman	
Tom	Tribby	
Jeannette-Bair	Tribby	
Robert	Broadway	
Jim	Pollock	
Muriel	Strosberg	
Elaine	Strosberg	
Mary-Sue	Owen	
Houpt	Geri	
Heather	Heitmueller	We have had many unexpected emergency repairs this year – veranda tiles, electrical outlets, plumbing breaks and clogged toilets, air conditioning units, roof leak, etc., in addition to other cost increases. So when you receive a request from the CFA to make a tax deductible donation to assist in maintaining the National Croquet Center as a world showplace for the sport, please be generous.
Susan	Greene	
Richard	Walgrove	
Ercelia	Walgrove	
Caryl	Firth	
Maurice Mark	Castellano	
Diane	Halperin	
Marilyn	Jenner	
Thomas	Graham	
Carina	Graham	
Jutta	McInnis	Meeting our operating cost needs is very difficult, especially in the summer and fall. The National Croquet Club fee for sharing our facilities and services (coming from your membership dues) only provides about 25% of the essential operating cost of the Center, so we depend on the voluntary contributions of croquet players everywhere, including the CFA Board, to help close the gap.
Thomas	Pariseleti	
Sunghee	Ahn	
Barbara	Perlman	
Sandra	Lucca	
James	Moyer	
Sandy	Dickerson	
Allen	Dickerson	

Events and court rentals to the USCA and other clubs also provide a significant portion of our revenues, so please be understanding when court availability has to be restricted for these purposes. If you cannot afford to donate, even pre-paying your dues in the summertime will help with the cash flow issue. Any support you provide will help us to keep the Center (your home) as the premiere croquet venue in the world.

**Bill's normal days off are Tuesday and Wednesday, so he should not be called on those days. You may see him there anyway, depending on what is going on, and he may, as a result, take other days off. Alternatively, he may simply be there playing croquet and enjoying himself on his days off."

W. David McCoy – General Manager, National Croquet Center

come join you?

If you answered yes to any or all of the above questions, then you can thank The National Croquet Club and its Social Committee, a group dedicated to making sure your time at the Club is a fun and memorable experience. . And the fun has just begun for new members as well as our more seasoned members.

The August 25 Pot Luck Golf Croquet Classic was a big success, and as summer draws to an end (hard to believe, isn't it?) the Social Committee has already planned events through February 2014. You'll want to get out your calendars and mark the dates.

On October 25, there will be a Country & Western party, complete with a line dance instructor/country DJ. So start polishing your boots and shaping your cowboy hat.

On November 14, we will welcome back our snowbird members with an Hawaiian Luau, hula girls, leis, and all. Are you looking for your coconut bra and grass skirt? You have just enough time to grow a new one.

On December 11, Santa will make an early visit to the Club, and the Holiday Season and all of its joy will abound. We usually get dressed-up for this one.

On February 13, St. Valentine's Eve, what could be more romantic than a French Cabaret night replete with romance and a young French singer setting the mood.

The committee has more events planned as well...Game Night and Pot Luck Golf Croquet parties among others.

Before the season is over, you will be able to answer yes to all the above questions.

And don't forget to say thank you to the Social Committee.

Nanci Hunt

Chairperson, Social Committee

Dick Brackett's

Palm Beach County Summer

Golf Croquet League 2013

The finals of the fifth annual Palm Beach County Summer Golf Croquet League were played in August at the

Charles P. Steuber National Croquet Center

The 68 teams (a record number) played during July and August on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.

In the Championship division Jim Moyer, Joe Pierotti, Mary Anne Brockley and Barbara Weltner from The Incredibles, winners of the A block on Tuesdays defeated Linda Weisheit, Bill Trower and Rose Williams from Three Dog Wicket, winners of the A block on Wednesdays.

In the Amateur division, Maxine Bodman, Yvonne Andrews, Noel White and Sue Barnett from Four

Sept 2013

Celebrate at the NCC!

The clubhouse is the perfect place to host your own private event. Celebrate a birthday, anniversary, or any special occasion with us!

Sandy Coto extension 2!

Croquet Grill

The Grill will start the season on October 1, Offering lunch

Tuesday thru Saturday

11:30 -2:00

New menu and ordering options are planned to make your lunch time more enjoyable.

The Croquet Lounge is open also during the lunch time hours.

Thursday Pub Night

1/2 price drinks 5-7 pm

Delicious pub menu!

Dear Members:

We have sadly lost 3 of our members over the summer.

Mary Schuyler Campbell of South Hampton, NY. An avid player who enjoyed her her on our lawns every season she came to us.

Joseph Fioretti, who a couple of years ago at the age of 89 started to play croquet.

Dale Coenen, who with his wife Joan have been members of the NCC this past year.

Many condolences to there families.

Members Organized Games

Tues: 9:30 am.

Ruth Brown- 6-wicket

Thur 3:00 pm.

Twilight-Golf Croquet

Sign up required

Lucky Ladies, winners of the B block on Tuesdays defeated Rosemarie Maccario, Danielle Englander and Sandra Lucca from Triple Play, winners of the B block on Wednesdays (6 to 4).

Each of the 68 teams registered a team name. An award for the best new team name was presented to Cynthia Gofvert, Paul McGinnes, Lara & Kris Esterson for their team, Roquet Science. Roquet is a croquet term signifying that the striker's ball has hit another ball.

The Youngest Players Award went to Fritz Heitmueller (7) and his sister Greta (9) from The Despicables team. Fritz was credited with "discovering" the NCC for his family as they were driving by one day. Entrants in the Golf Croquet League represented all the other age groups as well, from teens to eighties.

The Team Spirit Award went to the Kiss the Sky team of Randall, Mary, Rachel and Sarah Morgan. The Highest Finishing Beginners Award went to Sarah Hunter and David Creef from the Penny Foolish team. The Most Improved Team award went to Shirley Moslo and Paul Calhoun from the Hot Shots team. A Sportsmanship Award was presented to Rosemarie Maccario from the Triple Play team.

Dick Brackett

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