



THE UNITED STATES CROQUET ASSOCIATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STARK CUP IS ON THE LINE FOR U.S. PLAYERS

Mission Hills Club is hosting its third national championship of the season

America's best croquet players are set to invade Rancho Mirage, California on February 6-11 to compete in the international version of the sport known as Association Laws croquet. The USCA's Association Laws National Championship will host nearly 40 players at the Mission Hills Croquet Club which will be putting on its third national championship in just four months. The club previously hosted the U.S. Rules Championship in November and the U.S. Golf Croquet Championship in December.

For the upcoming Association Laws championship, top-ranked U.S. players like Ben Rothman, Danny Huneycutt, Jim Bast, Doug Grimsley, Rich Lamm and Jeff Soo will be on hand to compete for the Stark Cup, which is named after U.S. croquet legend Jerry Stark who passed away in 2010. Stark was a key figure for the U.S. on the international croquet scene for decades as he competed in every single MacRobertson Shield competition for the American team prior to his death in 2010. The Stark Cup was first presented to last year's champion Stephen Mulliner of Great Britain.

On the courts, several players will be looking their second USCA Association championship, but two-time champion Danny Huneycutt will be looking to become the first three-time winner since Leo McBride accomplished the feat in 2003. Huneycutt has previously claimed the U.S. Association title in 2005 and 2009. Damon Bidencope is the only other three-time winner accomplishing the feat by winning three straight during 1988-1990.

In America, serious players split time between the U.S. version of six-wicket croquet and Association Laws croquet which is the most popular tournament version of croquet worldwide. In fact, the upcoming WCF World Association Singles Championship is considered the pinnacle of the sport in singles play and it will be held April 28 to May 6 in Adelaide, Australia. This USCA Association Championship will serve as a warm-up for several U.S. players that will play in the World Championship including Stuart Lawrence, Leo Nikora, Jim Houser and Peter Bach.

Players at the event will also be treated to a visit from incoming USCA President Johnny Mitchell, who will be playing in the tournament. Mitchell is set to take over the presidency in March as current USCA President Gene Young concludes a three-year term.

Championship finals for the event are scheduled for Saturday, February 11. Spectators and guests are welcome and should contact Ron Hendry at 760-567-6236 or croquetca@gmail.com for additional information. Press inquiries and/or photo requests should be directed to Hendry or Dylan Goodwin at 913-636-7231 or croquetnetwork@gmail.com

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Additional Resources:

USCA Website: www.croquetamerica.com

Mission Hills Croquet Club: www.missionhillscroquet.com

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