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Croquet Foundation of America, Inc.
700 Florida Mango Road
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

For Immediate Release:



Marie Sweetser, General Manager
National Croquet Center

The Croquet Foundation of America (CFA), owner of the beautiful National Croquet Center in West Palm Beach, is pleased to announce the promotion of Marie Sweetser to General Manager of the Center. For the time being, Marie will also continue her duties as Membership Director for the resident National Croquet Club, and Manager of Guest Services for the Center.

Marie, a longtime Florida resident and Pittsburg native, is the former owner of Golden Dart Fast Italian Jet Yachts of Italy. She spent years handling large luxury yacht sales and service for the Codecasa Shipyards of Viareggio, Italy. After returning to the States, Marie spent several years in the public relations department of the PGA National Resort in Palm Beach Gardens.

Marie spent many years living between residences in Switzerland and Milan, Italy. As a licensed Florida Realtor, she also enjoys working with high-net-worth international clients coming to the Palm Beaches from throughout Europe.

Previous to her promotion, Marie most recently served the CFA as Assistant General Manager and Director Guest Services at the National Croquet Center, also handling Membership under a contract with the resident National Croquet Club. She joined the Center in October of 2012.

With her appointment as General Manger, the Croquet Foundation of America looks forward to utilizing her knowledge, infinite patience, persistence and integrity to raise public awareness and popularity of the sport. In her tenure at the Center, Marie contributed greatly to the membership growth of the National Croquet Club, while providing all of our guests with outstanding service. As Assistant General Manager She made significant contributions to operations and management of the Center.

Marie succeeds W. David McCoy of Wellington, FL, President of the Croquet Foundation of America, who has held the General Manager position as a pro-bono volunteer since 2008. He will now focus his efforts on the Foundation itself and its mission (see below).

The Croquet Foundation of America (CFA) is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt charitable and educational organization dedicated to promotion and development of the sport. They also use croquet-related programs to serve the community. Programs include the Croquet Special Olympics, Florida Senior Games, Senior Health & Fitness, a Wounded Veterans' program, and youth programs among others. The Foundation also provides event space at the National Croquet Center to any other charitable organization at a significant discount through its ownership of the Center. For more information, see www.cfacroquet.org.

The National Croquet Center is the largest and finest dedicated croquet facility in the world. Set on ten acres, its 19,000 square foot Caribbean Colonial Clubhouse houses the Foundation headquarters, as well as the headquarters of the **United States Croquet Association** (management and regulation of the sport in the US – www.croquetamerica.com), and the **National Croquet Museum**. Several croquet clubs utilize the space and the courts, including the **National Croquet Club** (www.nationalcroquetclub.com) -- the largest croquet club in the US. The Center is also home to **Sandy James Fine Food & Productions** (www.sandyjames.net), one of the top caterers for Palm Beach and vicinity. They are the resident caterer for the Center.

Free “golf croquet” lessons to the general public are available every Saturday morning at 10:00 AM by calling 561-478-2300 Ext. 3. For more information about the facility and its capability as a destination event space, see www.croquetnational.com or call Scott Reiser at 561-478-2300 Ext. 2.

“Croquet” can refer to any of four separate and distinct versions of the sport. Best known is the 9-wicket, “backyard” game. While there are courts for this version at the Center, the majority of the activity there and at most clubs nationwide is focused on the three 6-wicket games -- sometimes referred to as “Serious Croquet.” They are all played on a laser-level lawn (same surface as a putting green) that is 105 feet by 84 feet for a regulation court. The balls are heavy-duty, one-pound solid plastic; mallets can be extremely hi-tech and weigh about two-to-three pounds; the wickets (also called hoops) are solid steel; and the clearance between the ball and the wicket is roughly the thickness of a quarter.

It is a game of strategy akin to chess and with skills required akin to billiards. Players of all three games are given either a world ranking, or in the case of the American Rules game, a personal handicap, as with golf. The other two versions of the sport are Association (International) Rules, and "Golf" Croquet (a single shot game that can be learned in a few minutes, but with increasing complexity as skills improve). Croquet Clubs can be found throughout the US at both public facilities (e.g. NYC, Sarasota, et al.) and at many of the finest golf and country clubs. Additional information about all of these games may be found on the USCA website.

For additional information, contact W. David McCoy at 646-342-3221, or Marie Sweetser at 561-478-2300 Ext. 3.