

THE MERION CRICKET CLUB INTERCLUB TOURNAMENT, APRIL 16-17, 2011

The Merion Cricket Club's 12th annual Interclub tournament was played April 16-17 under unusual weather conditions. Generally scheduled for the last weekend in April, the event was played a week earlier because of the Easter weekend holiday.

The weather forecasts for the weekend were for rain, cold and strong winds – and the forecasts were right on. It was cold, cloudy and windy on Saturday morning when 46 hardy participants gathered on Merion's Great Lawn at 9:30 – and by noon the rain (mixed with some snow) was coming down steadily. The first two games of the tournament, scheduled for the morning, were completed, but the afternoon schedule of two more games was largely abandoned.

This is a club team tournament, requiring at least four players per team to be eligible to win the event. Nine teams from six clubs competed, including an Alumni club of recent college graduates. The other clubs represented were Delaware Croquet, East Penn, Merion, New York and West River Wickets – the last three represented by two teams each.

The tournament schedule called for three singles games, with the opponents' handicaps approximately the same, and four doubles games with the combined handicaps of the opponents approximately even, as with Waterford doubles. Bisques were awarded in the doubles games in accordance with USCA bisque rules. Doubles partners were not necessarily from the same team.

Although four games – two singles and two doubles – were scheduled for Saturday, only the morning half of the tournament was fully completed. Those wishing to play their afternoon singles were given the option of doing so or cancelling – only 14 hardy souls braved the elements. The afternoon doubles were cancelled. The rain fell steadily and hard all afternoon, and by 6 pm Merion's five acre Great Lawn was completely under water.

But the rain stopped by midnight and Merion's ground crews were on the job by 6:30, sweeping and screening, and by the 8:30 start time the courts were quite playable, with conditions improving through the morning, so that all of the scheduled Sunday games were played.

Scoring for this tournament is on the basis of games won or lost by each player. A win – singles or doubles – scores a +1 for the player, while a loss is scored as a -1.

The tournament winner was the A-team from West River Wickets of Annapolis. The five players on the team reaped a net total of +20 wins, which is a record for the tournament. West River was also last year's winner. The only other team to

net a plus score was the Alumni team, whose five players netted a +5. Two players on the winning team – Ed O’Laughlin and Calvert Chaney, were undefeated in their singles and doubles games.

The rainy weather did not affect Merion’s usual excellent food service. A continental breakfast was available before play each morning, and a fine buffet lunch was served each day. The dinner Saturday night, preceded by beverages and snacks, was at the level that croquet tournament players at Merion have come to expect.

The teams and scores, and their players, were:

Alumni: Net wins +5

Micah Beck
Kerri Domick
Bob Lowery
Eric turner
Victoria Tutino

Delaware Croquet Club: Net wins -4

Rufus Bayard
Will field
Barry Gibson
Lindsay Grigsby
Tom Hughes
Craig Smith

East Penn Croquet Club: Net wins -3

Tom Krause
David Lyon
Dan Maguire
John Oehrle
Cathie Oehrle
Hank Schilling

Merion Cricket Club A: Net wins -3

Neil Houghton
Al Paul Lefton
Rilice Lefton
Wendell Thompson (Tulsa Croquet Club)
Connie Van Housen

Merion Cricket Club B: Net wins 0

Jim Armour
Bob Chenoweth
Iris Chenoweth

Mary Tatnall
Frank Tatnall

New York Croquet Club Black: Net wins 0

Ralph Charles
Stuart Lawrence
Tim Rapuano
Carla Rueck

New York Croquet Club Blue: Net wins -5

Don Heerens
Ben Morehead
John Seidler
Jane Simonds

West River Wickets A: Net wins 20

Calvert Chaney
Bill Krause
Stephen Morgan
Ed O'Laughlin
Tom Stoner

West River Wickets B: Net wins -10

Rodney Calver
Lin Irely
Roy Morgan
Nancy Morgan
Peter Oleson
William Brewer