

## **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