

## InterClub Croquet Challenge Tournament NCC Challenges PGA

October 1-2, 2011

We warriors of the NCC threw down the gauntlet, and after it had been picked up, all we had to do was play – and win!

Thus it was that, on two brilliant October days at the NCC, the first of many (we hope) InterClub Challenge Tournaments was played on the new, enhanced lawns now surrounding our beautiful Club House (they really are looking good!).

Saturday was devoted to a round of Waterford doubles. At each level, pairs of players representing the NCC took on similar pairs of PGA players. The rankings and pairings were totally decided by (a) known or admitted handicap of the participants, and (b) a rigorous mathematical formula that ensured no “funny business” in the selection of partners or opponents. Thus armed and ready - onto the lawns we went.

During the 9:00 am games it was clear that our PGA opponents were at an advantage, and when our loyal score keeper (Anthea) added up the total wins for both sides, a small black cloud drifted across a previously blue sky. NCC 2 wins – PGA 6 wins.

Undeterred, the warriors of the NCC came back in the second game by an equivalent amount and with all scores tied no one wanted to sit around the lunch tables, enjoying a Sandy James buffet, for any longer than it took to devour a plate of delicious chicken and pasta. It was back to the grass and back to battle.

During the afternoon games tension was high and scores rocked back and forth. Our score keeper was kept on her toes but as some of our expected heroes fell by the wayside, and unexpected heroes triumphed, the ledger began to tilt more and more in the direction of the NCC. By close of play on the first day the NCC were ahead 13 wins to 11 for PGA. It was far too early to celebrate, but a small pat on the back was quite appropriate.

Sunday was singles. Once again opponents were chosen by mathematical formula, substitutions and new players incorporated and the mallets began to strike. It would be unfair to choose among the many highlights of that day. But among matches that deserve some mention was one played by a strangely accented NCC player in a red hat and gray beard who, if he had not missed a couple of easy split rolls, might have possibly come close to beating one of the PGA all-stars and all-round great gentleman players - (BT). But, he didn't.

Our scurrying scorekeeper collected all the data, counted all the wins, wept over all the losses and prepared her final tally. At the awards ceremony later all the very important people who had contributed to the tournament were thanked. It gives me great pleasure to repeat those thanks here: The NCC social committee – Nanci Hunt, Maryanne Brockley, Victoria Albrecht, Pat Muir, Arlene McDermott

and Carol DiFazio who had organized the day and provided all the important bits and pieces we all enjoyed.

Special thanks should go to Harry Lloyd of PGA for all his 'above the call of duty' work getting and keeping the PGA team together and getting them to the courts on time. Many thanks Harry.

Anthea was our organizer of schedules (everyone got two personalized game schedules, which took hours to prepare by hand!), and was our scorekeeper. Any mathematical errors are not her fault and will be denied if challenged.

Of course, thanks to Sandy James and all the others who provided food on Saturday and Sunday.

So – who won?

The details are below but the all important final score was:

NCC 37 wins and PGA 32 wins.

The National Croquet Club goes into the history books as the very first holder of the new, InterClub Croquet Challenge Trophy.

Well done NCC and many, many thanks to all the PGA players who came along and made this event such fun. See you again.

**Saturday Doubles Results 9:00 am**

		<b>NCC</b>	<b>PGA</b>
Wassink/Warlick	Weltner G./Whitlow, C.	20	6
Just/Foy	Taylor/Taft	16	11
Blamire, J./Pierotti	Hamlin/Albrecht	12	13
Byers/Hammond	Whitlow, B./Weltner, B.	11	12
Blamire, A./Hunt	Dolan/DiFazio	7	11
Muir/Spivey	Lloyd, H./Robb	11	18
Shields/Cook	Diack/Faulconer	11	14
Locke/Bailey	Teichman, Lloyd, P.	10	22

**Saturday Doubles Results 10:30 am**

		<b>NCC</b>	<b>PGA</b>
Wassink/Just	Whitlow/Taft	19	11
Warlick, Foy	Weltner, G./Taylor	17	14
Blamire, J./Byers	Albrecht/Weltner, B.	17	12
Pierotti/Hammond	Hamlin, Whitlow, B.	8	10
Blamire A./Muir	DiFazio/Robb	14	12
Hunt/Spivey	Dolan/Lloyd, H.	7	20
Shields/Locke	Faulconer/Lloyd, P.	21	19
Cook	Diack, Teichman	21	14

**Saturday Doubles Results 1:00 pm**

		<b>NCC</b>	<b>PGA</b>
Wassink/Foy	Weltner, G./Taft	26	5

Warlick/Just	Whitlow, C./Taylor	17	12
Blamire, J./Hammond	Hamlin, Weltner, B.	18	10
Pierotti, Byers	Albrecht, Whitlow, B.	8	13
Blamire A/Spivey	Dolan/Robb	12	13
Hunt/Muir	DiFazio/Lloyd, H.	6	15
Shields	Diack, Lloyd, P.	16	15
Cook/Locke	Faulconer/Teichman	26	24

### Sunday Singles Results 9:00 am

NCC		PGA		NCC		PGA	
Wassink, D.	19-7	Whitlow, C.		Warlick, J.	16-10	Weltner, G.	
Just, P.	14-18	Taylor, J.		Just, J.	15-9	Dilley, A.	
Blamire, J.	19-21	Taft, B.		Pierotti, J.	14-13	Hamlin, J.	
Byers, M.	14-11	Whitlow, B.		Hammond, L.	8-17	Albrecht, V.	
Blamire, A.	10-16	Weltner, B.		Hunt, N.	5-12	DiFazio, C.	
Muir, P.	0-0	Dolan, R.		Spivey, D.	13-14	Lloyd, H.	
Robb, M.	16-24	Uhlhorn, M.		Shields, M.	16-15	Swanson, R.	
Locke, D.	14-16	Faulconer, R.		Cook, J.	11-12	Diack, M.	

### Sunday Singles Results 10:30 am

NCC		PGA		NCC		PGA	
Wassink, D.	26-3	Weltner, G.		Warlick, J.	26-5	Whitlow, C.	
Just, P.	26-2	Dilley, A.		Just, J.	13-26	Taylor, J.	
Blamire, J.	15-10	Hamlin, J.		Pierotti, J.	11-15	Taft, B.	
Byers, M.	16-15	Albrecht, V.		Hammond, L.	15-12	Whitlow, B.	
Blamire, A.	13-12	DiFazio, C.		Hunt, N.	8-13	Weltner, B.	
Muir, P.	8-21	Lloyd, H.		Spivey, D.	0-0	Dolan, R.	
Robb, M.	10-14	Swanson, R.		Shields, M.	8-16	Uhlhorn, M.	
Locke, D.	14-21	Diack, M.		Cook, J.	16-11	Faulconer, R.	

### Sunday Singles Results 1:00 pm

NCC		PGA		NCC		PGA	
Wassink, D.	26-4	Dilley, A.		Just, P.	26-1	Weltner, G.	
Just, J.	18-17	Whitlow, C.		Warlick, J.	26-9	Taylor, J.	
Blamire, J.	17-13	Albrecht, V.		Byers, M.	13-11	Hamlin, J.	
Pierotti, J.	11-9	Whitlow, B.		Hammond, L.	12-16	Taft, B.	
Blamire, A.	16-11	Lloyd, H.		Muir, P.	8-11	DiFazio, C.	
Hunt, N.	0-0	Dolan, R.		Spivey, D.	12-15	Weltner, B.	
Robb, M.	17-16	Diack, M.		Locke, D.	9-26	Swanson, R.	
Shields, M.	17-16	Faulconer, R.		Cook, J.	7-16	Uhlhorn, M.	