

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual New York Croquet Club Championship

August 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> , 2011

One thing that is consistent with the NYCC Club Championship....upsets. After many threats from the weather prognosticators to the contrary, we actually ended up with solid weather all weekend in Central Park. Luckily Mother Nature didn't get upset until the following week. She then dropped an earthquake and a hurricane on us, so don't worry, she was going to get upset soon enough. Back to croquet....As in past years, the tournament is a modified double elimination bracket with USCA sanctioned play starting on Sunday. Let's start with the Plate.

Both our Plate Finalists had a number of upsets on their way to the finals. After a couple of past Club Champions were defeated, Ralph Charles squared off against John Seidler. Ralph seemed dead set on going six ball dead and to his credit, ended up achieving his goal. The board did get cleaned up a little and Ralph and John were able to keep the fans from falling asleep with some very long hit-ins. As time was winding down, a tricky boundary close to the infamous "acorn corner" foiled back to back attacks by both Ralph and John. In last turn, John was left with a 12 foot wicket shot to keep his chances alive....he missed, Ralph prevailed 10 – 9. Congratulations to Ralph Charles, our 2011 Plate winner.

On to the championship finals. Norris Settlemyre had to upset Chris Patmore to get there and Simon Male had to upset Doug Moore (which is no upset, since even Randi Cudlitz beat me last year). Anyway, you know the saying you can't keep a good guy down? This was more like you can't keep a good deadness board clean. Norris went three ball dead early and pretty much over rolled wicket two about 15 times. After about 20 minutes, the fans were sure that Simon had this one locked up. Thinking back, I'm still not sure how it happened, but all of a sudden Norris was running a four ball break with the ball that was totally dead a moment ago. I suspect voodoo had a hand in the sudden turn of events. After totally checking out of his break after one back, it looked like the Voodoo gods had stopped watching the game. The very next shot Simon made a hell of a hit in, but don't get too excited, he played the wrong ball. Had the clown gods taken over? Well Simon did end up making a heck of a run, but broke down at four back in last turn and left Norris with a wire. Norris' good future did not last long (let's just leave it at that). Simon ended up capturing the Tiger Wicket trophy and the 2011 NYCC Club Championship 12 wickets to Norris' 10.

Congratulations to both Ralph and Simon. Thanks to Norris Settlemyre and George Blake for all of the help with the courts and thanks to Blair Stuart for the homemade cookies. I hope everyone had a great time, looking forward to next year.

-Doug Moore, Tournament Director

RESULTS:

1.Simon Male

2.Norris Settlemyre

3.Chris Patmore

4.Doug Moore

5.Tim Rapuano

5.George Blake

7.Sara Low

7.Rich Greulich

9.Ralph Charles (Plate Winner)

10.John Seidler

11.Preston Stuart

11.Randi Cudlitz

13.Ryan Thompson

13.Rebeca Bergofsky

13.Peter Timmins

13.Karen Kaplan

17.David Isaacs

17.Bettye Musham

17.Martine Fournage

17.Thomas Myers