

# **THE MERION CRICKET CLUB INTERCLUB CROQUET TOURNAMENT April 27-28, 2013**

The 18<sup>th</sup> running of The Merion Cricket Club's Interclub tournament was held on April 27-28. Ten teams from seven croquet clubs competed for the iconic Merion Bowl and pro shop certificates for the winning team's members.

This is a team tournament. A team must have a minimum of four players to be eligible to win the tournament; teams with fewer players are welcome to play. Seven games – four doubles and three singles – are played during Saturday and Sunday morning. There are no flights. Singles opponents are scheduled to have similar handicaps. The doubles partnerships are various high-low handicap arrangements with partners not necessarily from the same team, and bisques are computed according to the USCA Bisque rule. Each win by a player – singles or doubles – scores +1 for the player's team; each loss scores a -1

The teams participating, and the number of players per team, were SUNY – New Paltz Alumni (5); Baltimore (6); East Penn (4); Merion 1 (5); Merion 2 (5); New York Black (7); New York Blue (5); West River Wickets Blue (5); and West River Wickets Red (6). Two players from Oklahoma Wesleyan, who accompanied the school's students who were playing in the USCA Intercollegiate tournament, also held this weekend on Merion's Great Lawn, also played. The handicaps of the 50 competitors ranged from 0 to 16.

The weather cooperated wonderfully for the tournament, with clear sunny skies, mild temperatures, and a light breeze. The contrast with the weather for the 2011 tournament was notable, when Saturday afternoon play that year had to be cancelled because of the cold, the freezing rain mixed with snow, and the blustery winds.

The defending champs – the recent graduates from the State University of New York at New Paltz – again took the measure of their older competitors and finished with the strong score of +15 net points. Two players on the team – Bobby Lowery and Jason Sztarkier – were undefeated in the seven games each played. Tim Rapuano, playing for the New York Black team, lost just one of his seven games.

The final standings and the net points were:

SUNY-New Paltz Alumni	+15
Merion 1	+2
East Penn	+2
New York Blue	-2
West River Blue	-2
Baltimore	-3
West River Red	-3
Merion 2	-5
New York Black	-5

The Oklahoma Wesleyan team, with two players, was +1

In addition to plenty of croquet during this short tournament, the players enjoyed Merion's well-known hospitality, which included continental breakfasts Saturday and Sunday, buffet lunches both days, and dinner with beer and wine Saturday evening. All this for only \$115 – one of the great bargains in USCA tournament play.

## The Players

SUNY-New Paltz Alumni	Randi Kerri Bobby Jason Eric	Cudlitz Dornicik Lowery Sztarkier Turner	New York BU	Ralph Sean Templeton Peter John	Charles Hartley Peck Timmins Woodside
Baltimore	Hugh Jake Will Tom Ed Eric	Collie Crabbs Field Hughes O'Laughlin Purdy	OK Wesleyan	Wendell Ian	Thompson Whitley
East Penn	Ben Dan John Hank	Lowry Maguire Oehrle Schilling	West River BL	Rodney Calvert Liddy Hal Byron	Calver Chaney Chaney Denton Lee
Merion 1	Bob Iris Neil Bill Joan	Chenoweth Chenoweth Houghton Hyland Ronan	West River RD	Cynthia Roy Jasmine Peter Barbara Eugenia	Chess Morgan Morgan Oleson Pittman Wilkie
Merion 2	Jim Tunia Rilice Mary Ed	Armour Hyland Lefton Tatnall Wilford			
New York BK	Micah Jim Don Doug Tim Carla John	Beck Collins Heerens Moore Rapuano Rueck Seidler			