

2015 USCA CLUB TEAMS CHAMPIONSHIPS

The National Croquet Center

West Palm Beach, FL

March 18-22, 2015

This could not have been much better. Really! After five days of beautiful weather and plenty of excitement, The Club Teams Championships ended with thrills not only within the individual matches, but within the overall battle for the coveted Lyons Trophy! I won't really get into the details, but to summarize: doubles teams representing individual Clubs are given points depending upon how they fair by the conclusion of the event. There are three Divisions, determined upon by how many teams each Club sends. The Lyons Trophy, which goes to the Club with the best overall score, claims victory, and thus the more doubles teams a particular Club sends, the better opportunity they have to claim the overall Title. Each individual Division has its own battle incorporated within. Got it? Okay, maybe not, but stay with me...

There is some history here, and this is where things get really interesting. The Bombay Mallet & Wicket Club, a few years back, dominated the competition. They played it smart, poaching players from everywhere, and dominated the field. But then, realizing that numbers counted, the home Club, the National Croquet Club (NCC), flooded the field. They were virtually unbeatable by sheer numbers. Smaller Clubs dominated smaller Divisions by loading up with their own inventive teams. So here is where things got interesting...

This year the NCC offered 11 teams, while a relaxed Bombay Club sent a total of 6...the always successful West River Wickets, combining with Baltimore, tossing in their best 4 combos. But what added to the fire was that The Croquet Club of Bermuda, small in general by offering only three teams, were still in the running coming into the last day! Bermuda? And Bombay playing so well? Well, after the quarter and semi-finals were completed Sunday morning, it came down to two key Finals within the four available Flights...Bermuda vs. Bombay in the First Flight and Westhampton vs. the National Croquet Club in the Third Flight. The NCC and Bombay were tied, so many things could have occurred. And to make things simple:

CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS: Bent-Loving beat Morgan-O'Laughlin 20-17

FIRST FLIGHT: Berbig-Harders beat Kelley-Pattie (Bombay) 12-10

THIRD FLIGHT: McCumber-Lawrence beat Fulmer-T.Cooley 13-12

FOURTH FLIGHT: Rueck-Chilton beat Nelson-Irey (NCC) 13-11

To simplify all of that: The National Croquet Club and The Bombay Mallet & Wicket Club tied in their claim for the Lyons Trophy. A win by either Club in the pivotal matches would have changed that. Bombay regains its honor under the tutelage of the Commissioner, Les Kelley. The Bermuda Croquet Club claims a spot on the perpetual trophy and David Bent & Chuck Loving embellish their Championship Flight Trophy by claiming the Third Division honors. Nothing but excitement and drama!

If you were there, all of this will make sense. If you have been there in the past, you will also understand. If you have never played in the Club Teams Championships, shame on you...and a more detailed reason as to why you should be there will be published in the next

hardcopy Croquet News. For now, as the Tournament Director, I am trying to simply get the 'easy' news out fast. Overall, I will say...the event was so much fun! It is, without a doubt, the social affair of the year, and no matter how the participants fared within the competition, you will find it hard to locate one who did not have a fantastic time. Thanks go out to the incredible work offered from the USCA office and the hospitality of the National Croquet Center. Until next year, please dissect and enjoy the result of this year's competition:

CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT

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| 1. David Bent-Charles Loving Jr. | St. Andrews Club |
| 2. Stephen Morgan-Edward O'Laughlin | West River Wickets/Baltimore CC |
| 3. John Young-Doug Moore | Croquet Club of Bermuda |
| 4. Mike Gibbons-David McCoy | National Croquet Club |
| 5. Derek Wassink-Josie Jackson | National Croquet Club |
| 5. Stewart Jackson-Bob Chilton | The Beach Club |
| 7. Peter Just-Johnny Mitchell | National Croquet Club |
| 7. Richard Brackett-David Collie | National Croquet Club |
| 9. Sherif Abdelwahab-Sandra Walsh | International HOF Croquet Club |
| 10. David Theiste-Guy Brown | Heatherwood Hills Croquet Club |

FIRST FLIGHT

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|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Justin Berbig-Cheryl Harders | Croquet Club of Bermuda |
| 2. Les Kelley-Bernie Pattie | Bombay Mallet & Wicket Club |
| 3. Geraldine McCauley-Hal Denton | National Croquet Club |
| 4. Templeton Peck-Peter Timmons | Croquet Club of Bermuda |
| 5. Calvert Chaney-Roy Morgan | West River Wickets/Baltimore CC |
| 5. Rich Watson-Sheryl Phillips | Green Boundary Croquet Club |
| 7. Robert Yount-Diane Sadowski | Croquet Club at PGA National |
| 7. Dick Scherf-Lynda Sudderberg | National Croquet Club |
| 9. Judy Just-Barbara DuVivier | National Croquet Club |

SECOND FLIGHT

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|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Myron McCumber-Dan Lawrence | Bombay Mallet & Wicket Club |
| 2. George Fulmer-Ted Cooley | Bombay Mallet & Wicket Club |
| 3. David Spivey-Stephen Grassbaugh | National Croquet Club |
| 4. Sara Low-Karen Kaplan | New York Croquet Club |
| 5. Lee Hanna-Lynn LeBlanc | Bombay Mallet & Wicket Club |
| 5. Michael Kline-Harry Lloyd | National Croquet Club |
| 7. Beth Anne Theiste-Robin Sweet | Heatherwood Hills Croquet Club |
| 7. Charles Alexander-Tim McCormick | Woodlawn Croquet Program |

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| 9. Jeanne Branthover-Karen Heckman | Bombay Mallet & Wicket Club |
| 10. Andre Bothe-Flavia-Logie | Bombay Mallet & Wicket Club |

THIRD FLIGHT

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|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Carla Rueck-Missy Chilton | Westhampton Mallet Club |
| 2. Linda Nelson-Lin Irely | National Croquet Club |
| 3. Freear Pollard-Sheila McCauley | Westhampton Mallet Club |
| 4. Rodney Calver-Jay Graham | West River Wickets/Baltimore CC |
| 5. Brian Cooke-Erinn Cooke | West River Wickets/Baltimore CC |
| 5. Bradley Smith-Jeff Reynolds | Cary Mede Croquet Club |
| 7. Dale Haessly-Jennifer Haessly | Swift Creek Croquet Club |
| 7. Anders Theiste-Kristen Veenstra | Heatherwood Hills Croquet Club |
| 9. Julie Wallace-Mary Lou Wagner | National Croquet Club |

DIVISION ONE

	<u>TEAMS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1. National Croquet Club	11	14
1. Bombay Mallet & Wicket Club	6	14
3. West River Wickets/Baltimore CC	4	8

DIVISION TWO

1. Croquet Club of Bermuda	3	10
2. Westhampton Mallet Club	2	8
3. Heatherwood Hills Croquet Club	3	0

DIVISION THREE

1. St. Andrews Club	1	5
2. New York Croquet Club	1	2
3. The Beach Club	1	1
3. Green Boundary Croquet Club	1	1
3. Cary Mede Croquet Club	1	1
6. International HOF Croquet Club	1	0
6. Croquet Club at PGA National	1	0
6. Woodlawn Croquet Program	1	0
6. Swift Creek Croquet Club	1	0