

# Country Club of Jackson Fall Invitational

## October 16-18, 2015

### Jackson, MS

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The weekend was all one could hope for: beautiful weather, first class facilities, fabulous reception, delicious lunches and Friday banquet meal, fast and true lawns, and a cordial atmosphere with great camaraderie and superb croquet!

With a one-year-old croquet program and lawn, The Country Club of Jackson (Mississippi) ("CCJ") held its first USCA sanctioned tournament on October 16-18, 2015. Greenskeeper Stanley Reedy, who oversees some of the fastest golf greens on the PGA tour, gives equal attention to the croquet lawn. It is a blazing fast TifEagle Bermuda lawn that rivals croquet greens anywhere. The 130' x 96' lawn comfortably configures as two courts of three-quarter size.

CCJ Croquet Committee chair and Tournament Director Mark Fields was assisted, telephonically, by Bob Kroeger. In addition to pre-tournament consultations, Bob "skyped" in at the Thursday night kick-off cocktail reception and greeted the contestants. During the entirety of the tournament, Bob was on standby, by phone, for any ruling appeals that might come up. But it was such a congenial group, none did! The onsite referees made use of slow-motion video (available as a smartphone app) to film any possible mallet faults such as crushes or double taps. Hey, football, baseball and tennis use the technology, why not croquet? "Slo-mo" gave amazing clarity to the shots.



L to R: Iris Shadrick, Frank Alley, Ed Becker, Mark Fields, W. Mike Campbell, Eddie Guillot, Robert Franks, James W. Woodall, Jr., Jim Woodall, Sr., Bill Aden, Michael McRee, Calvert Chaney, Rickard Boer, Warwick Alley, Ron Hendry, Jim Hall

The competition was 100% singles, American six wicket. The maximum possible field of 16 players was split into two flights - Championship and First Flight. Contestants played all seven flight opponents in block play. Then, four players from each flight advanced to their respective bracket play.

Ed Becker, a 6.0 handicap CCJ member, advanced unscathed into bracket play and continued his frolic to an undefeated victory. Pocahontas Mallet Club member Eddie Guillot played well, and improving his game as the event proceeded, finished second. Highlands, NC player Richard Boger, coming off of a recent Second Flight championship at New Albany (Columbus),

Ohio, placed third in CCJ's First Flight with a scorecard victory over Robert Franks of Shreveport, Louisiana.

The Championship Flight players were in captivated as little-known CCJ member James W. (JR) Woodall, Jr. beat all and annihilated most to finish block play without a loss. Previously, JR had a short but successful croquet stint as a teen (playing with father Jim Woodall, Sr.). But he hung up his mallet for college baseball, medical school, a busy medical practice and a growing family. However, when CCJ added a croquet court one block from his home, the courtship, if you will, was renewed.

While JR's croquet future looks very bright indeed, his happy ending for this tournament ends here and happiness starts for Maryland's Calvert Chaney! The crowd was awestruck as the number four seed turned the tide in an exciting semifinal match against JR.

But, the Woodall's weren't finished with Chaney. CCJ's Jim Woodall, who advanced to the finals with a narrow victory over Pocahontas Mallet Club's Bill Aden, was looking for a championship trophy of his own. It was not to be. In another down-to-the-wire match, Chaney captured his first Championship Flight victory.

CCJ is proud to announce Ed Becker and Calvert Chaney as first place finishers in its first ever sanctioned tournament. We could not have hand-picked two more worthy and gracious competitors. Congratulations to you both! Best wishes (and wickets) to all.

Mark Fields, Tournament Director

#### Championship Flight

1. Calvert Chaney
2. Jim Woodall, Sr.
3. JR Woodall
4. Bill Aden
5. Jim Hall
6. Ron Hendry
7. Mike McRee
8. Mark Fields



Jim Woodall Calvert Chaney JR Woodall

#### First Flight Singles

1. Ed Becker
2. Eddie Guillot
3. Dick Boger
4. Rob Franks
5. Mike Campbell
6. Warwick Alley
7. Iris Shadrick
8. Frank Alley



Ed Becker, Eddie Guillot