

New York State Golf Croquet Club Championship  
Central Park, New York  
August 19<sup>th</sup> through 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016



After a long hiatus of 4 years, the New York State Golf Croquet Championship has returned to the lawns of Central Park, NY. In this new format, co-managed by USCA officers with the permission of the New York Croquet Club, the tournament was expanded to focus on singles over doubles. Singles competition was designed with block play for Pro and Am flights leading to a single elimination knockout. Doubles was designed as a three-game guarantee modified double elimination ladder. All games were timed at 60 minutes with 7 points as the winning score. Tournament management and charts were handled by Mid-Atlantic Regional Vice President, Timothy Rapuano and direction and refereeing was

handled by New York Central District President, Francis Palasieski.



While August has been particularly rainy in New York City this season, we were all hopeful that the tournament would escape unscathed. Nearing the tournament, there was rain that canceled the Thursday practice session, but forecasts showed no more than 15% chance of precipitation for the next several days. The first day, Friday August 19<sup>th</sup> was excellent. 7 doubles teams worked their way through the ladder in the morning with double

banked singles in the afternoon. Most games took less than 40 minutes allowing some of Saturday's matches to be played on Friday. In the evening a nice cocktail party was held at Tallulah's on Columbus Avenue.

Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup> resumed with part of the doubles ladder. By midday the undefeated team of Justin Berbig and Timothy Rapuano had just sent the team of Francis Palasieski and Brian Davidson to the loser's bracket to face off against Eric Turner and Hal Denton. But after one round of singles, fast moving clouds brought in a surprise thunderstorm. During a lull in the weather, two more singles matches were completed before the torrential rains came, completely flooding the courts.



Sunday Morning, August 21<sup>st</sup>, the players gathered amidst another downpour to await the opening of the lawns. With the future unclear, it was decided that the doubles trophies would be awarded to the top two teams that lasted longest in the winner's bracket: Justin Berbig and Timothy Rapuano for first place and Francis Palasieski and Brian Davidson for second. Usually on a day following a weather-related court closing, the NYC Parks Department will often assess the lawn at 11am. At this time they speculated that they would come back by 12pm with a firm word. With the uncertain future, many participants dropped out of the championship. By 12:15pm both lawns were available to play on, but only a few came back to play the singles playoffs.



Out of 10 Pro flight singles players, only 3 participated in the playoff. Justin Berbig and Randi Cudlitz played a best 2 of 3 series with the victor going on to play the then currently undefeated Timothy Rapuano. Justin Berbig defeated Randi, 6-7, 7-3, 7-3 and went on to capture the NY State Champion title from Timothy, 5-4, 6-7, 7-5. Justin won \$250, Timothy \$100, and \$50 went to Randi for third place.

All of the 6 AM players came back, but at different times making it difficult to run a playoff. This resulted in a 4 person best 2 out of 3 playoff and a 4 person single game plate. In the playoff Ty Mortman defeated his mother, Sunghee Ahn, 6-7, 7-6, 7-1 and Nabil Azad beat his doubles partner, Claire Sanfilippo 7-5, 5-7, 7-6. In the AM finals Ty Mortman emerged victorious against Nabil, 6-7, 7-3, 7-3. 10 year old Ty Mortman took home a \$250 first prize, while Nabil received the \$100 second place prize.

Combining the losers of the AM playoff semifinals and other AM players who arrived afterward, a single elimination knockout was created for a plate event. Claire Sanfilippo

defeated Klaud Lucas (7-6) and Ezra Roth beat Sunghee Ahn (7-6). In the plate final Claire bested Ezra, 7-3 and took home \$50. Ezra, as the plate winner runner-up, received a limited edition New York State GC Championship Polo shirt (with art by Chris Kaas).

### Final Standings

#### Pro Singles

- 1 Justin Berbig
- 2 Timothy Rapuano
- 3 Randi Cudlitz
- 4 Hal Denton \*
- 5 Eric Turner \*
- 6 Jeff Baillis \*
- 7 Cathy Baillis \*
- 8 Francis Palasieski \*
- 9 Jim Collins \*
- 10 Brian Davidson \*

\* Order determined by block play

#### AM Singles

- 1 Ty Mortman
- 2 Nabil Azad
- 3 Claire Sanfilippo
- 4 Ezra Roth
- 6 Klaud Lucas
- 6 Sunghee Ahn

#### Open Doubles

- 1 Justin Berbig
- 1 Timothy Rapuano
- 2 Francis Palasieski
- 2 Brian Davidson
- 3 Hal Denton
- 3 Eric turner
- 4 Nabil Azad
- 4 Claire Sanfilippo
- 5 Louise Bozorth
- 5 Bettye Musham
- 6 Jeff Baillis
- 6 Cathy Baillis
- 7 Sunghee Ahn
- 7 Ty Mortman



Full Results reported at **Croquet**

#### **Scores:**

<https://croquetscores.com/2016/gc/new-york-state-usa-championship>