



2018 USCA CROQUET WEEK Club Team Championship

National Croquet Center – West Palm Beach, FL
(American Rules)

March 14-18, 2018

CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT SINGLES

1. Sherif Abdelwahab
Palm Beach Polo Golf & CC
2. Scott Spradling
Oklahoma City Golf & CC
3. Conner Helms
Oklahoma City Golf & CC
3. Randy Cardo
Beach Club
5. Danny Huneycutt
Beach Club
5. Robert Van Tassell
National Croquet Club
5. Richard Sullivan
National Croquet Club
5. David Ekstrom
National Croquet Club
9. Bob Chilton
National Croquet Club
10. David Isaacs
New York Croquet Club
10. Kevin Hansley
Westhampton Mallet Club
10. Pat Colt
National Croquet Club
10. Sandra Knuth Walsh
Palm Beach Polo Golf & CC
14. David McCoy
National Croquet Club
14. William Trower
National Croquet Club



Carla Rueck, Sherif
Abdelwahab, Sara Low



Conner Helms



Randy Cardo



Carla Rueck, Scott
Spradling, Sara Low

FIRST FLIGHT SINGLES

1. Richard Boger
National Croquet Club
2. David Spivey
National Croquet Club
3. Jeff Morrison
National Croquet Club
3. Jeanne Branthover
Beach Club



Carla Rueck, Dick Boger, Jeff
Morrison, Sara Low

- 5. Martie Ekstrom
National Croquet Club
- 5. Vickie Johnston
National Croquet Club
- 5. Geraldine McCauley
National Croquet Club
- 5. Richard Carlson
National Croquet Club
- 9. Thomas Tribby
Beach Club
- 9. Penny Ferraro
Westhampton Mallet Club
- 11. Carla Rueck
New York Croquet Club
- 11. Suzanne Spradling
Oklahoma City Golf & CC



Carla Rueck, David Spivey, Sara Low



SECOND FLIGHT SINGLES

- 1. Arlene Stevens
National Croquet Club
- 2. Missy Chilton
Westhampton Mallet Club
- 3. Lovejoy Duryea
Beach Club
- 3. Sheila McCauley
Westhampton Mallet Club
- 5. Carl Archiniaco
Oklahoma City Golf & CC
- 5. Jane Helms
Oklahoma City Golf & CC
- 5. Bob Duryea
Beach Club
- 5. Lynn LeBlanc
Bombay Mallet & Wicket Club
- 9. Jeanette Tribby
Beach Club
- 9. Freear Pollard
Westhampton Mallet Club
- 11. Sam Orleans-Hansley
National Croquet Club



Carla Rueck, Missy Chilton, Sara Low



Carla Rueck, Danny Huney Cutt, Jodie Rugart, Sara Low

CHAMPIONSHIP DOUBLES

- 1. Danny Huneycutt-Jodie Rugart
- 2. Sherif Abdelwahab-Sandra K Walsh
- 3. Randy Cardo-Stewart Jackson
- 3. David Ekstrom-Bob Chilton
- 5. Bob Van Tassell-Richard Sullivan
- 5. Pat Colt-Bob Yount
- 5. Scott Spradling-Suzanne Spradling

- Beach Club*
- Palm Beach Polo Golf & CC*
- Beach Club*
- National Croquet Club*
- National Croquet Club*
- National Croquet Club*
- Oklahoma City Golf & CC*

- 8. William Trower-David Spivey
- 9. David Isaacs-Carla Rueck
- 9. David McCoy-Hal Denton

National Croquet Club
National Croquet Club
National Croquet Club

FIRST FLIGHT DOUBLES

- 1. Richard Boger-Jeff Morrison
- 2. Kevin Hansley-Vickie Johnston
- 3. Stephen Warner-Richard Carlson
- 3. Conner Helms-Jane Helms
- 5. Beverly Cardo-Jeanne Branthover
- 5. Gerry McCauley-Martie Ekstrom
- 7. Josie Jackson-Ellen Hall
- 8. Lucille Maresca-Bernie Pattie

National Croquet Club
Westhampton Mallet Club
Beach Club
Oklahoma City Golf & CC
Beach Club
National Croquet Club
Beach Club
Bombay Mallet & Wicket Club

FIRST FLIGHT DOUBLES

- 1. Diane Sadowski-Anne Licursi
- 2. Carl Archiniaco-Joseph Warren
- 3. Thomas Tribby-Jeanette Tribby
- 3. Lynn LeBlanc-Jeff Lawlor
- 5. Bob Duryea-Lovejoy Duryea
- 5. Sheila McCauley-Frear Pollard
- 7. Penny Ferraro-Missy Chilton
- 7. Mary Shields-Sam Orleans-Hansley
- 7. Robin Sweet-Mary Robb
- 10. Arlene Stevens-Eugenia Wilkie

Westhampton Mallet Club
Oklahoma City Golf & CC
Beach Club
Bombay Mallet & Wicket Club
Beach Club
Westhampton Mallet Club
Westhampton Mallet Club
National Croquet Club
Bombay Mallet & Wicket Club
National Croquet Club



Carla Rueck, Sandra Knuth Walsh, Sherif Abdelwahab, Sara Low



Carla Rueck, Diane Sadowski, Anne Licursi, Sara Low



Carla Rueck, Joseph Warren, Carl Archiniaco, Sara Low

Whether you came to comprehend or conquer, events and activities were again abundant this year during what the USCA often refers to as: Croquet Week. Actually spanning beyond the conventional definition of a week, Schools were offered in multiple flavors, including traditional six-wicket American Croquet, Golf Croquet, and the always popular Tournament Prep School. The Golf Croquet Tournament, always competitive, began the competitive portion of play and the Club Teams finished things off with both excitement and suspense.

It is interesting to note that the Golf Croquet Tournament actually has no bearings upon the Club Teams final results, and maybe it should, but this stand-alone event always brings a quality field, usually serving as a great practice vehicle for those continuing on to the main event. This year only a couple of those playing did continue, and while this may have been odd in nature, it did create for a more enthusiastic event.

The format was quite simple, with block play leading to a single elimination ladder, the Finals Match being a best-of three slugfest. David McCoy, as expected, grabbed one of the two byes after the blocks, but his progress was quickly halted when Stephen Jackson, having already removed John Warlick (10-6) from the Quarter Finals, continued to roll onward with a very exciting 10-9 victory in this Semi. On the other side of the draw, steady Sandy Walsh-Knuth got past Terry Howatt (10-7) in the Quarters, but fell equally short (7-10) in her match against Dylan Goodwin, the other bye within the Playoffs. The Finals itself, well...within a match, Stephen Jackson probably shows more animation than anyone I have ever met. He might curse beneath his breath, but it may well be the loudest silence ever uttered. And while most of this might work to inspire him, there was no getting past the solid play that Dylan Goodwin had exhibited all weekend. The match lasted two games, with Dylan proving to be the true champion with impressive 7-3, 7-0 scores, numbers which well accented his solid play throughout. A round of applause also goes out to David Paukovich, capturing the First Flight with a nail-biting victory (10-9) of his fellow club member, Edmund Giancola.

After a day of rest from all of the others activities, the Club Team Championships began in a fashion previously unseen. After decades of being held as a strictly Doubles event, Wednesday saw the first matches of Singles, an experimental addition offered in hopes to promote entry and add an interesting twist to the Club Teams concept. To make matters more interesting, those competing were allowed to play with official tracking (handicap) points counted, or not. And while this addition did drop the Doubles competition by a day, it did make the overall finish of the individual Clubs more intriguing.

Overall, seven Clubs were in the running for the Lyons Trophy, a trophy awarded to the Club with the best overall and cumulative finish. Not meaning to confuse the issue, but there are actually three Divisions within this event, an individual Club falling into a bracket determined by the number of Teams/Players sent. Any Club could win the Lyons Trophy, but there is power with numbers, and these numbers set up an interesting showdown, come Sunday, between The Beach Club and The National Croquet Club.

Play within the event broke down into three Flights of both Singles and Doubles. Games were timed at one hour and fifteen minutes and the standard format of block play leading to a single elimination ladder prevailed. The lawns played extremely fast and six rounds of play were held each day. The weather, overall, was great. What didn't make sense or calculate was, well, Rick Landry. Having mowed Thursday (day 2) morning, for some reason yet to be explained,

the NCC Professional, Rick, decided to take a casual and social event and turn it into a little shop of horrible hoops. All day long mallets were thrust into the air as ball, after ball, after ball refused to find the width to complete its way through a wicket. Set. Reset. Repeat. And I am certain we have all had these dreams...now being played out in the fields of nightmares! Oh, the horror!

Well, by day three things had found their way back to normality, and by late in day four, the Playoffs had been set. The Beach Club and the NCC were neck and neck in their search for the Lyons Trophy, and perhaps the first sign of trouble for the Beach Club came when, after a less than stellar block performance, Sherif Abdelwahab was scheduled to play, in the first round of the Singles Playoffs, against the favorite Danny Huneycutt (-4 Beach Club). Things did not go well for Danny (3-26). Things did, though, go very well for the Oklahoma! Sherif (-3 Palm Beach Polo) would wind up winning the Championship Flight Singles, over an inspired Scott Spradling (.5 Oklahoma). Connor Helms (2 Oklahoma) and Randy Cardo (-2.5 Beach Club) would tie for Third. But you have to love the longshots!

The National Croquet Center would continue to dominate the First Flight, with Dick Boger (4.5 NCC) and David Spivey (3.5 NCC) taking the top two spots. Arlene Stevens (10 NCC) defeated Missy Chilton (8 Westhampton) for Second Flight honors. Please note that while the Singles results were not of the same value as those finishing well in the Doubles, the points that were allotted did prove to have a significant effect on the final totals.

By Sunday afternoon, with the Doubles Finals now underway, the dye had pretty much been cast for the Lyons Trophy. In the Championship Flight, Danny Huneycutt-Jodie Rugart (Beach Club) looked much the best (20-10) over defending Champions Sherif Abdelwahab-Sandy Walsh (Palm Beach Polo). Dick Boger-Jeff Morrison (NCC) snuck by (15-14) Kevin Hansley-Vickie Johnston (Westhampton) in what actually was an important match. Diane Sadowski-Anne Licursi (Westhampton) took another important match over (18-17) Carl Archiniaco-Joseph Warren (Oklahoma) to capture the Second Flight. While both the First and Second Flight matches may have had no bearing upon the Lyons Trophy, they did have a great deal to do with the Divisional Titles.

Overall, the National Croquet Center held onto the Lyons trophy...but barely. Westhampton, oh so barely, withstood the Oklahoma charge in Division 2. And it is good to see the Palm Beach Polo & Country Club taking Division 3, since most of the best Club Team battles were held upon their courts. It is not my place to say whether the addition of Singles was a positive or not...I have heard from both sides of that fence. But I will say that a great time was had by all, as it always is during the Club Team Championships. Both the NCC staff and, in particular, the USCA staff worked hard to make this event(s) special, as they do each year, and it showed.

Finally, if there was anything missing this year, it had nothing to do with the sound of a coin flipped onto a lawn. Or a sigh expressed just loud enough to understand. Or the crash of balls confronting one another, or a curse to which everyone could relate. Not even a clock announcing the end of play. We got all of that. No, it had everything to do with the story you never did or will never hear again, from Ted Prentis. It had everything to do with the bottle of rum not tossed, and the smile not offered, by Les Kelley. Those were the empty sounds and sights missing. And the reasons to be there again next year.

