

**2014 CROQUET WEEK – GOLF CROQUET CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
**National Croquet Center, March 8-10, 2014**

And so, if you are a married man or, like me, feel as though you are one, has your significant other ever asked you the simple question, “What the bleep were you thinking?!” I bet so, and if you are like me, after scanning the room for potential weapons, you realized that you were thinking of, well, nothing at all. And that’s the problem.

Each year the USCA hosts, for a small fee, one of the best Golf Croquet events of the year. It occurs just before the ever-popular Club Team Championships, lasts three days and offers both great competition and an ever changing cast of characters. This year, the event featured beautiful college girls, slow moving old guys and a bunch of stuff in the middle. There was plenty of play, and I know what you are thinking right now: why did I eat potato chips, watch golf and fall asleep instead of enjoying some great golf croquet? And doesn’t that sound like a familiar question?

I understand that to compete in both the Golf Croquet and the Club Teams would be a nine day journey, but it would have been worth the effort. This year, with twelve entrants, one cross-block was played, merging both the Championship and First Flights. Block games were played to 19-points or, simply put, the first player to 10 won. And while that may sound easy, multiple games lasted well beyond two hours, testing the endurance of all. The Playoffs in the Championship Flight were of the best-of three (13-point) format and the First Flight differed only with one 19-point Semi-Finals.

In the First Flight Semis, Michael Sexton politely dismissed of newcomer Anastasia Peregrin (10-2) while injured Bill Bromley survived a better fight (10-5) against Jennifer Koontz. Sexton would then overcome Bill Bromley in the best-of three Final with 7-4, 7-1 results.

In the Championship Flight, Justin Berbig almost went suicidal after missing a winning wicket from two inches (probably two feet but the story grew with time) in game two of his best-of-three Semi against David McCoy. David took advantage of the wounded animal and won the match with 7-6-and 7-6 scores! Good stuff! Next door, Matt Griffith was taking charge over the usually steady Cheryl Bromley, taking his Semis with some surprising 7-3, 7-2 scores. Both players denied post-game interviews.

Aside from the courtside concern about the mental health of Berbig and Bromley, the Finals was a joy to see. It only took two, but McCoy used all of his energy wisely, defending his Title by defeating Griffith with 7-5 and 7-6 scores. When asked about his devastating defeat, Griffith responded: “It’s cold where I live. I’m happy!” McCoy said, well, a lot of words, but mostly asked for donations to the Croquet Foundation of America. He then went back to his office, to work or nap. It was a long day, and either way was fine with everyone lucky enough to be here for a great and tiring event.

This is an awesome event and the USCA hopes more put their egos on the line to participate. I asked my girlfriend why anyone would not be part of such a great competition. “Shoe shopping,” she said. And with that I let the event speak for itself. Till next year....

**CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT**

1. David McCoy
2. Matt Griffith
3. Justin Berbig
3. Cheryl Bromley
5. David Collie
6. Doug Coller
7. Ian Harshman
7. Anders Theiste

**FIRST FLIGHT**

1. Michael Sexton
2. Bill Bromley
3. Jennifer Koontz
4. Anastasia Peregrin

-JCO (TD)