



## 2015 USCA GOLF CROQUET CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

December 12-14, 2015

National Croquet Center, West Palm Beach, FL

Given the increasing popularity of Golf Croquet throughout the world, this December the USCA was pleased to offer what will hopefully become one of the more sought after tournaments upon an already busy calendar. Fashioned after the annual Club Team Championships, this year's golf croquet version worked under similar guidelines and was greeted with equal enthusiasm by the players. There were 34 participants in all (17 doubles teams) with ten different Clubs in representation. This number would have certainly been larger were it not due to some last minute cancelations and numerous attempted entries which emerged just on the eve of the event. It is hoped, and almost feared, that both word of mouth and a full year of promotion will springboard this event into an overabundance of attendance next year. For those who did attend, the Nation Croquet Center greeted them with warmer than expected weather and well maintained lawns. Scattered showers did make an appearance the second day, but the games moved smoothly throughout. The format allowed for block matches of 13-point games leading to single elimination playoffs. No time limits were offered and five lawns were in use. Two Flights (certainly to increase in the future) were in play, and while 'flying' in golf croquet can be difficult, the overall breakdown worked well. Nearly 75% of the doubles teams made the playoffs. In the Championship Flight, both of the two teams who received byes after block play proceeded to gain a birth in the finals. Richard Brackett-Greg Thompson defeated (4-7, 7-4, 7-5) Michael Todorovich-Meg Macy in one bracket of the now best-of-three playoffs, while Matthew Griffith-Stephen Jackson had an easier time in the other side, Cheryl Bromley-Maureen Morrison sadly being forced to withdraw. The finals themselves lasted but two games, but they were good ones, Griffith- Jackson surviving some great shooting by their opponents to capture the inaugural title with 7-3 and 7-5 scores. The awards ceremony was quick as they then rushed off to make their happy flights home. The First Flight was competitive throughout. Byron Hicks-Sharon Hicks would be the only undefeated (7-0) team to survive block play, but would then fall (4-7) to the stubborn team of Jeff Baillis-Cathy Baillis in one semifinal. Tom Hankey-Paul Fecteau overcame (7-3) Pat Cunningham-Susan Cunningham in the other, and with the finals match now to be held as one 19-point game, stamina would be tested. In the end, Hankey-Fecteau developed a nice early lead and held on to capture the Title with a 10-6 victory. In regard to the overall Team Champion, points were awarded to each Club dependent upon the finish of its representative doubles teams. With only two flights in play, overall strength held a premium and attendance in general offered strength. In this case, a combination of both allowed the Cedar Creek Racquet Club to be the first name to be engraved upon the perpetual trophy. Congratulations go out to Michael Albert-Karen Connery Albert, Jeff Baillis-Cathy Baillis, Pat Cunningham-Susan Cunningham and Christopher Weihs-Karen Weihs for their fine showing! While the event itself was only three days, the participants found plenty of play, a multitude of competitive and close games and fantastic sportsmanship throughout. Held as a no-frills event, the time frame was appreciated by all, the entry price could not be beat and great lunches were discounted in the Clubhouse. The USCA hopes that everyone enjoyed this inaugural event and looks forward to see this wonderful event grow with each year!



## CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT



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|--|---------------------------|
| 1. Matthew Griffith-Stephen Jackson    | Kactus Creek Croquet Club |
| 2. Richard Brackett-Greg Thompson      | Palm Beach Croquet Club   |
| 3. Michael Todorovich-Meg Macy         | National Croquet Club     |
| 3. Cheryl Bromley-Maureen Morrison     | The Hillsboro Club        |
| 5. Michael Albert-Karen Connery Albert | Cedar Creek Racquet Club  |
| 5. George Enochs-Jane Enochs           | Lake Toxaway Mallet Club  |
| 7. Ron Millican-Deborah Millican       | Kactus Croquet Club       |
| 8. Terry Howatt-Doug Collier           | National Croquet Center   |
| 9. Michael Sexton-Jean Salem           | The Hillsboro Club        |

## FIRST FLIGHT



- |                                    |                                     |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Tom Hankey-Paul Fecteau         | The Hillsboro Club                  |
| 2. Jeff Baillis-Cathy Baillis      | Cedar Creek Racquet Club            |
| 3. Pat Cunningham-Susan Cunningham | Cedar Creek Croquet Club            |
| 3. Byron Hicks-Sharon Hicks        | Celebration Croquet Association     |
| 5. John Walker-Diane Walker        | Highlands Falls Croquet Association |
| 5. Christopher Weihs-Karen Weihs   | Cedar Creek Racquet Club            |
| 7. Robin Sweet-Antonia Gerli       | Croquet Club at PGA National        |
| 8. Janet Fisher-Ed Berge           | St. Andrews Club                    |

**CLUB TEAMS**

1. Cedar Creek Racquet Club	22	4 Teams
2. The Hillsboro Club	16	3 Teams
3. Kactus Creek Croquet Club	12	2 Teams
4. National Croquet Club	9	2 Teams
5. Palm Beach Croquet Club	8	1 Team
6. Celebration Croquet Association	6	1 Team
7. Lake Toxaway Mallet Club	5	1 Team
8. Highland Falls Croquet Association	4	1 Team
9. Croquet Club at PGA National	2	1 Team
10. St. Andrews Club	1	1 Team

TD: John Osborn