

**Massachusetts State Croquet Championship**  
**May 16, 2015**  
**Lenox, MA**

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**Martie Ekstrom wins 2015 Massachusetts State Championship**

It was a beautiful day, slightly overcast, but NO Rain! We had a field of 10 players ranging from 5 to 14 at the Lenox Croquet Club in Lenox Massachusetts plus several guests. Only a week before we had our spring meeting and started cleaning up the lawns and Pavilion after a very long, cold winter and several feet of snow. It wasn't until the end of March could we see the lawn. This was also the first tournament in the Northeast that our new Regional Vice President, Kathleen Dainton participated.

The tournament consisted of two blocks of 5 players each with the outcome being the best of four games.

Continental breakfast was available with Martie Ekstrom's famous coffee cake, blueberry muffins plus coffee, juice and fresh fruit. Lunch was catered by the Lenox Club with handmade sandwiches, potato salad and chips. Following all the games we gathered at the Pavilion for some refreshments and snacks before adjourning to The Lenox Club for the tournament dinner and award presentation. Special thanks to Bobbi Shorthouse who helped with the charts and set up for lunch and snacks.

We welcomed two new players to competitive playing, both received a lot of training at Sarasota Croquet Club in Venice, FL over the winter. They are Karen Kay and Theodore Thelin. While they were not sure they would like competitive play in tournaments, they soon found their way and got better and better as the day went on. Karen while not winning any games gave her opponents a lot to worry about scoring quite a few wickets and losing one game 18/17. Ted was the highest handicap in Block "A" winning two games picking up 16 tracking points and lost two games by very narrow margins.

Most of the games were very close in both blocks. Martie persevered with 3 wins in Block "A" and picking up 6 tracking points. Edward Gardella, in Block "B" came back strong eking out two other players with 3 wins each with the net points determining the winner.

The tournament was played on two full courts at the Lenox Club. Abbott C. Combes III our head referee, deadness board assigner, and score recorder was on hand. Now in his 96<sup>th</sup> year, his love and commitment to croquet is much to be admired. Old and new friends enjoyed meeting and sharing talks with him.

--David R. Ekstrom, TD, & President Lenox Croquet Club.

## Results:

### Block A"



1. Martie Ekstrom
2. Theodore Thelin
3. John Dainton
4. Priscilla Lamond
5. Kathleen Dainton

### Block "B"



1. Edward Gardella
2. Denys Shorthouse
3. George Blagden
4. Thomas Gilbert
5. Karen Kay