

# The Country Club of Jackson 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Croquet Invitational



(Yes, we had a little rain)

The Country Club of Jackson's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Invitational, American Rules Croquet tournament was contested November 2 – 4, 2018 in one day of chilly temps, one day of mild temps and beautiful sunshine, to finish day 3 with steady, cool drizzle. The Club rolled out its finest for a full field of fabulous players. Comforts included a cocktail party reception, gourmet lunches, court-side snacks and refreshments, a spectacular Saturday Night Banquet and the club's signature Sunday Brunch. Additionally, players and their guests gained access to the club's spa and fitness facilities!

The challenge was all singles, with seven players in Championship Flight and 8 in First Flight. **Mark Fields** and CCJ Director of Croquet **Joe Moore** served as Tournament co-Directors. On-sight referees, **Joe Moore** and **Arthur Olsen** were ably assisted by off-sight referee **Bob Kroeger**. Moore utilized slow motion video in judging possible crush shots, double taps and the like. The videos proved remarkably reliable for providing absolute certainty of referee calls.

## Results

**Championship Flight** played a round robin (RR) block with contestants playing 6 games spread across Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning. Four players advanced to semi-finals. Arthur Olsen emerged 5-1 with Britt Ruby and Mark Fields close behind at 4-2. After an uncharacteristically slow 0-3 start in RR, George Cochran rallied to 3-3 and eeked out Ed Becker's record to advance to the semi's. Of note,

Becker, a home-town darling and a 3.5 handicap, notched impressive wins against the two -2 handicaps.

In semi's, Ruby withstood an attempted come-back to down Fields 17-12 while Cochran, now fully in touch with his game, took out Olsen 26-8.

This set up a predictably competitive, hard-fought match between the two top seeds coming into the tournament. Playing in a steady, cool drizzle, both players provided ample opportunities to one another, and then each seized opportunity in a way that swapped momentum from one contestant to the other several times. The contest included all of the championship drama that one might hope for, including some out-game strategy, an opponent peel through one-back, long roquet hit ins and brave attacks. The soaking wet audience was entertained and spell-bound. None left for warmer, dryer environs.

In first ball, last turn, Ruby made an advance towards Cochran's lead, but broke down by croqueting Cochran's spent ball into the 3-back wicket Ruby needed. Not deterred, Ruby set an opportunity for his partner ball. Cochran's 60-foot shot to thwart Ruby's leave just missed. Ruby continued, built a 2-wicket lead, and left Cochran a near-impossible leave. Cochran needed two wickets to tie and his last ball was already through rover. His attempt to get to his partner ball on the south boundary so he could peel it all the way through # 6 proved too much. Ruby prevailed 19-17!

#### **CHAMPION FLIGHT SINGLES**

- 1 Britt Ruby**
- 2 George Cochran**
- 3 Arthur Olsen**
- 4 Mark Fields**
- 5 Ed Becker**
- 6 Bev Cardo**
- 7 Calvert Chaney**



**Championship Flight Winner Britt Ruby, Tournament co-Director Joe Moore and runner-up George Cochran**

**First Flight** played a round robin (RR) block, with contestants playing 7 games. Four players advanced to Sunday's semi-final round. CCJ Director of Croquet, Joe Moore came on strong in his debut USCA sanctioned tournament with a 6-1 showing in block play. Veterans Rob Franks and Warwick Alley each notched 5 wins and Scott Kennedy grabbed 4 wins to qualify for the semifinal round. In semi-finals, Warwick Alley, who entered the tournament as an 8 handicap bested Rob Franks (5) in a hard fought 16-14 match. Meanwhile, Joe Moore defeated Scott Kennedy 15-10 to advance. The First Flight final match was played on court 2, while the Championship final was played on court 1. Seemingly, Moore wanted to watch the championship match, as he made short work by pegging out with approximately 15 minutes to play. The final score was 26 – 4, Joe Moore

#### **FIRST FLIGHT SINGLES**

- 1 Joe Moore**
- 2 Warwick Alley**
- 3 Rob Franks**
- 4 Scott Kennedy**
- 5 Frank Alley**
- 6 Michael Harris**
- 7 Neville Boschert**
- 8 Linda Trifone**



**First Flight Runner-up Warwick Alley, Winner Joe Moore and  
Tournament co-Director Mark Fields**



Becker, Jim Woodall, David Trigiani and Harris  
Happy Campers.



Calvert and Liddy Chaney – staying dry



CCJ Tournament co-directors Fields and Moore  
with Croquet Committee Chair Linda Trifone



George Cochran – Down, but never out!

*Mark Fields*