



## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Rochester Croquet Club Invitational (American Rules) August 17-19, 2018

### Championship Flight Singles

1. Richard Laging
2. Arthur Olsen
3. Steve Grassbaugh
3. Richard Alderson

### 1<sup>st</sup> Flight Singles

1. Ryan Thompson
2. Leon Leither
3. Lee Anderson
3. Gary Anderson

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Flight Singles

1. Byron Hicks
2. Norm Pike
3. Linda Bowers
3. Christine Smith
5. Anne Licursi
5. John Webb
5. Peter Bowers
5. Mike Romano

### High/Low Doubles

1. Rich Curtis & Linda Pike
2. Richard Alderson & Peter Bowers
3. Lee Anderson & Mike Romano
4. Arthur Olsen & Linda Bowers
5. Ryan Thompson & Byron Hicks
6. Richard Laging & Christine Smith
7. Leon Leither & John Webb
8. Gary Anderson & Norman Pike



TM Sue Sherer, Art Olsen Champ 2<sup>nd</sup> Place,  
TD Rich Curtis, Rich Laging Champ 1<sup>st</sup> Place



TM Sue Sherer, Leo Leither 1<sup>st</sup> FI 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, TD  
Rich Curtis, Ryan Thompson 1<sup>st</sup> FI 1<sup>st</sup> Place



Byron Hicks 2<sup>nd</sup> FI 1<sup>st</sup> Place, TM Sue Sherer, TD  
Rich Curtis, Norm Pike 2<sup>nd</sup> FI 2<sup>nd</sup> Place

A hot and humid practice day on Thursday yielded to comfortable temperatures and a slight breeze for the remainder of the Rochester Croquet Club's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual American Rules Invitational held August 17-19 in Rochester, NY at G&T SportsPark. The tournament is a United States Croquet Association-sanctioned tournament and the only sanctioned Club in the area. With 18 participants playing on two three-quarter size courts, almost all games were double-banked, with block play seeding to semi-finals and finals in Championship and 1<sup>st</sup> Flight; with more players in 2<sup>nd</sup> Flight,

block play seeded to play-offs prior to the semi-finals and finals. High/Low Doubles used wins and net points to determine the Doubles Finals players.

The pastoral setting of the courts at Grace & Truth SportsPark, a privately owned venue owned by First Bible Baptist Church, set a relaxed and congenial atmosphere for the tournament. Club members provided delicious homemade food for each meal. As part of Western NY Croquet days, the Rochester tournament followed the Buffalo tournament from the prior weekend, with 10 people playing in both locations. "It definitely makes it more worthwhile when players are going to spend time and money to travel to a tournament to have these two on back-to-back weekends," remarked Sue Sherer, tournament manager. "There are so many great attractions in the area, including Niagara Falls, that filling the three days between tournaments is no problem. With participants this year from Oregon, Ohio, North & South Carolina, Virginia, Florida and from across New York state, saving on travel costs by having the two tournaments together really helps."

Rochester has consistently had one of the more unusual tournament prizes: limited-edition framed watercolor prints done by Cordell Cordaro ([cordellcordaro.com](http://cordellcordaro.com)), a local artist and editor of Art House Press. "We find that there are people who wish to collect all of them and will drive some distance to purchase one of the few additional prints we have made each year," Sherer noted. "Both Buffalo and Rochester had waiting lists," notes Sherer, "and I have advised folks to get their registrations in early next year if they wish to be included in both venues."

For three players, it was their first USCA tournament. Mike Romano of Fort Mill, SC, was one of those and remarked what a great experience it was for him: "Everyone was terrific about sharing strategy tips and being courteous on the courts. It was a wonderful tournament experience and I learned a great deal."



Photo 1 (to right): The winner of Championship Flight singles, Rich Laging of Hilton, NY on the left, shakes hands with second place winner Arthur Olsen of Lancaster, VA at the end of their match.



Photo 2 (to left): Tournament Director Richard Curtis gets a bird's eye view during a match, trying to determine if there is a ball that is "wired" from hitting a ball on which it is not dead. L to R: Participants Mike Romano of Fort Mill, SC; Christine Smith of Venice, FL; Rich Laging of Hilton, NY; and John Webb of Tega Cay, SC speculate on the outcome of the call.

Photo 3 (to right): Linda Bowers of Hilton, NY has a most unique way of reminding herself to clear a ball of deadness after the opponent has run one-back.





Photo 4 (to left): Taking first place in 1<sup>st</sup> Flight singles, Ryan Thompson of Buffalo, NY carefully places his balls for the croquet.

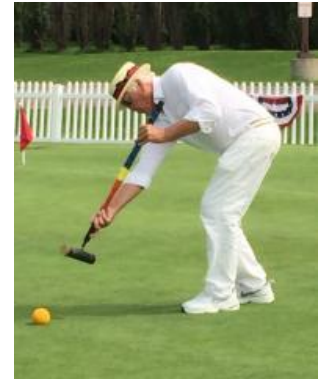


Photo 5 (to right): Arthur Olsen of Lancaster, VA shows great form during the tournament.



Photo 6: Tournament Participants – Front Row, L to R: Rich Laging, Peter Bowers, Ryan Thompson. Middle Row: Sue Sherer (TM), Linda Bowers, Linda Pike, Lee Anderson, Christine Smith, Anne Licursi. Back Row: Leo Leither, Mike Romano, John Webb, Steve Grassbaugh, Rich Curtis (TD), Art Olsen, Gary Anderson, Byron Hicks, Rick Alderson, Norm Pike.

Submitted by Tournament Manager, Sue Sherer

Photos by Sue Sherer

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