

THE STICKY WICKET

APRIL 2023



David McCoy

NCC RE-ENVISIONED

Bigger, More Functional, More Beautiful Than Ever

By year's end, the National Croquet Center will have **some eye-popping new features** and many more in the works. David McCoy, Croquet Foundation of America Chairman, updates and outlines below CFA's exciting short and long-range plans for growing the beautiful facility we call home. The Phase I plans for new courts and parking are **awaiting approval by Palm Beach County**, a process that is taking much longer than expected, but we hope work can begin in **May, with new courts playable by the first quarter of 2024 or before.**

PHASE I in Progress

NEW CROQUET COURTS: Increase Court Capacity by 50%.

- Add FIVE New Courts in the Area Beyond the Current Lawns.
- Includes Remote Bathrooms and New Pavillions
- Roughly 10,000 Cu. Yds. of Soil and Sand Required to Bring Level with Current Courts.
- Add ONE New Court South of Court Two By the Pond
- Same "Tiff Dwarf" Grass Used on Existing Courts
- Replace Canopies on Pavillions

PARKING: Add 27 Parking Spaces to the North Parking Lot, a 30% Increase.

24 ELEGANT NEW ALUMINUM DEADNESS BOARDS Arriving soon!

- Will Show Stripes and Solids for Each Current Court.
- Feature Attractive Sponsor Recognition Panels on Each Board.
- Funds Will Help Pay for New Courts
- Pricing and Court # Availability to be Announced Soon.

2.3 ACRES PURCHASED FOR \$1.1M: Adjoins NCC Property on the SE Boundary

- House Will Be New HQ for SandyJames Office Staff and Storage.
- SandyJames Rental Income Largely Offsets the Carrying Cost of the \$880k Mortgage.
- Scott Reiser and the Kitchen/Wait Staff Remain at the NC Clubhouse.
- Room to Add Four Additional 6-wicket Championship Courts.
- Grass Nursery Planned for Court Repairs.
- Over 50 New Parking Spaces Planned

COURT LIGHTING:

- LED Stadium Lighting of Five Perimeter Courts is \$360K; \$770K for all courts; Funding Not Yet Available.

CLUBHOUSE: Renovations & Redecoration to Retain Existing Caribbean/Colonial Style.

Implementation Depends on Fundraising Success. Early Priorities Include Upgrading with Beauty and Style to make you say WOW!

- Install a 3-Screen Recognition Wall Featuring Hall of Fame, Donors, and Activities.
- Redecorate and Expand the Bar; Refurbish the Leather Chairs/Sofa.
- Redecorate Bathrooms, Locker Rooms and Ballroom on Second Floor
- Enhance Entrance Hall; New Chandelier.
- Re-tile Veranda.

PHASE II, longer-range plans

Timing depends on fundraising and financing:

SECOND STORY VERANDA Directly Above the Current Veranda.

- Enclosed by Folding Glass Doors for Inclement Weather; Includes Bar
- Adds Superb Event and Club Entertainment Capacity & Increases Revenue.
- Provides Exceptional Viewing of Tournament Play

SECOND STORY KITCHEN

- Increases Service Capacity for Club & Outside Functions.

SECOND STORY OFFICES Directly Above First Floor Offices and Pro Shop

- Allows Pro Shop Expansion by Moving Storage and Office Needs to Second Floor.
- Includes Conference Room

ADJOINING CHURCH PROPERTY (South of Court 1)

- CFA has First Option to Buy – Probably Available in 3 to 5 years. Provides Needed Parking and Other Flexibility

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\$3M CAPITAL CAMPAIGN STARTS SOON

The CFA and our Club have a synergistic relationship. The CFA owns the facility; Club members pay very modest dues but get to enjoy one of the most beautiful croquet venues imaginable. The success of this plan will depend on support from croquet players nationwide. ALL players with means are urged to support the CFA's efforts to enhance Croquet's National Home. It's time to give thanks ... and money! We hope those **who are able will step up with leadership gifts**. Some already have. Everyone is asked to contribute what they can and/or volunteer some time to assist where needed. **Make a difference for the Club you love!**

HOW YOU CAN HELP!

- DONATE. Cash or Appreciated Stock.
- SPONSOR a Court or Other NAMING OPPORTUNITY.
- MAKE A MAJOR LOAN at Market Rate Secured by a Mortgage on the NCC - \$1M+
- VOLUNTEER to Fundraise or Provide Your Know-how as Needed on Projects.
- INCLUDE A BEQUEST in Your Estate Plans.

WHY DONATE?

- Think of How Croquet Has Improved and Brought New Friends to Your Life.
- Croquet is an Exceptionally Healthy, Fun Sport For Physical and Mental Health.
- **Donating NOW Will Accelerate the Availability** of These Welcome Improvements.
- Life is (too) Short! Leave a LEGACY to Make Your Family Proud.

To Donate and Discuss any of these Opportunities to Make a Difference, See David McCoy.

THANKS TO ALL WHO ARE DONATING AND WORKING TO MAKE THESE PROJECTS HAPPEN! ALL WILL BE RECOGNIZED.



2022-23 Volunteers Honored. See below.

NC Club President's Column



Tom Lindley

The term of an elected Board officer is only one year. That is a short time to accomplish anything and especially short if you want to accomplish a lot. Club members join us in making things happen by volunteering on committees where real work gets done. **This year the Board established our Committees and Task Forces earlier than usual. I want to begin by thanking these volunteers.**

Finance: Chair and Liaison Bill Sadowski; Anne Licursi; Kat Robertson; Lenore Warren; and Larry Lynch.

Membership: Franck Meunier (Chair); Suzanne Turner (Liaison); Bob Broadway; Joni Cherbo; Dr. Phil Robinson; and Louis Tyrrell.

Croquet: Priscilla Flowers (Chair); Nanci Hunt (Secretary); Bob Rochedieu (Liaison); Bob Van Tassell (Education); Tim McCormick (Tournaments); Caryl Firth (Saturday Volunteer Coordinator); and Dave Spivey (Equipment).

Social: Lois Clay (Chair); Ruth Summers (Liaison); Kaye Broadway; Trudy Crowetz; Mary Galasso; Barbara Bailey; and Pam Groh.

Grievance: This year we re-established the Grievance Committee as a stand-alone committee. **Bruce Fogel (Chair);** Lynda Sudderberg (Secretary); John Bannister; Steve Mednick; Dick Sullivan; and me (Liaison).

Task Force re Board Transparency: This TF makes recommendations regarding increasing the transparency of the Club's leadership; its report is due by May. **John Strasser (Chair);** Tate Russack; Pam Heyer Groh; Kat Robertson; Bruce Fogel; Michael Miller; and me (Acting Secretary and Liaison)

Task Force re Revision of By-Laws: This TF makes recommendations regarding updating our bylaws; its report is due by June. **Suzanne Turner (Chair);** John Bannister; David McCoy; John Warlick; Nancy Sansalone; John Strasser; and me (Liaison).

Our members tell me that they want to see good sportsmanship and that **"the point of all this is to have fun!"** I agree. These goals are met in part by members who serve on the committees necessary to keep our Club functioning and improving, and in part by the many **wonderful volunteers** who help us meet our obligations to the CFA by helping at events. Our thanks to all of you!

Tom Lindley



Volunteer Recognition Lunch

Bon Voyage Snowbirds

Volunteers are a Club's lifeblood. They engage, they organize, they collaborate, they save money, they energize. The Croquet Committee and the NC Club Board celebrated those volunteers who gave generously of their time this year. We thank and honor them.

Since it was March 30, we wished all those heading north a fond farewell--till next year!



Jim Grady retires with grateful thanks for many years of teaching newbies.



Dick Brackett awarded "Super Star" recognition for his many years running the Summer League. What a success!



If It's Friday Morning, It Striker Time!

48 Players, No Problem. Out of Chaos Comes Order

On any given Friday at 9:30 am, the NCC veranda is crowded with some 48 players of all levels eager to get started on a two-game morning. What seems like sure chaos soon becomes a **smooth, well-organized esprit de corps** of players who hit their courts promptly, already paired, and awaiting the coin toss for who goes first. **It works so well, the group is now branded with a name, and a logo.** The Strikers have arrived. How is this feat possible?

"Club members were asking for competitive GC games," says Priscilla Flowers, the mastermind behind the program. "I developed a system based on handicaps, and then expanded to people who had no handicap, but who wanted to learn. The first game is high/low, pairing a newer player with a more advanced player. The second game pairs players of more or less equal ability. **To achieve competitive pairings, Priscilla, who is a certified USCA Pro, Instructor and Referee must know players and abilities, temperaments, and adjust last minute for late arrivals and the occasional no show.**



Priscilla Flowers

While Priscilla makes it sound relatively simple, it most certainly is not. Over the last two years, she points out, the Strikers has evolved to meet three measurable goals of the **Croquet Committee, which she chairs.** They are:

1. Promote player introductions and collegiality.
2. Instruct players on rules, techniques and strategies.
3. Build confidence to compete in tournaments.

Instructions are important. Whether it's **double banking, crushes, double taps, or wrong ball hits**, sessions often begin with a short lesson on some of the fine points of GC that often cause confusion.

Success can be measured by Strikers testimonials, which are easy to come by.

• "Priscilla made me a better player, and prepared me for tournaments. The pairings are really well done." **Nancy Sansalone**

• "Priscilla is the most amazing teacher and organizer. We have fun! We have the best group for so many reasons." **Barbara Weltner**

• "Frankly, Friday mornings are a highlight of the week for Golf Croquet. Sarah and I sign up and show up, and know we will have two good games to enjoy. Thank you, Priscilla!" **Nigel Billingham**

Nor is success limited to the NC Club. The word is out. Already **two other clubs have reached out** to Priscilla to inquire how to run these competitive games. On March 15, 2023, **The United States Croquet Association awarded Priscilla Flowers a Certificate of Appreciation for her outstanding volunteer contributions to further the sport of croquet.** Thank you Priscilla, and come play!

Mary Galasso

**WELCOME TO OUR
NEW MEMBERS**

Violet Frizzell, Ken and Robin Heim, Linda Phillips, Linda Pikula, Douglas Simmons

**The upcoming New Member Mixer is on
May 7 at 2pm at the NCC**



Strikers get a lesson

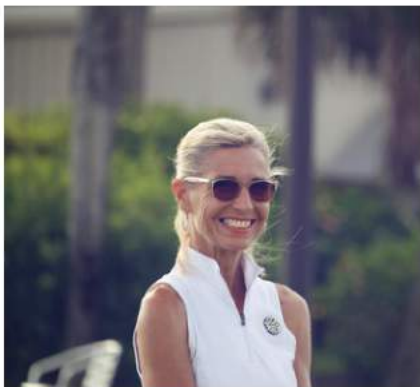
Harriet
By Lovejoy Duryea



I may have lost the game,
but I am not a loser!

2023 Club GC Doubles Tournament

48 Players, Winners and non-Winners
Camaraderie, Triumph, Joy and Anguish, It's All FUN!



"A community that is engaged and working together can be a powerful force"
-Idowu Koyenikan

March 2023 A6W Club Teams Tournament Congratulations NC Club Winners



Jeff Morrison and Yen Sullivan 1st Flight Winners with David Isaacs and Carla Rueck, USCA Managers



Bob Van Tassel and Dick Sullivan (Championship Flight)



Hit the rum bottle and it's yours!



Cheering on the NCC Teams

NCC

NATIONAL CROQUET CENTER PRO SHOP

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- Dawson Balls ● Sunshiny Balls
- Pegs ● Flags ● Clips
- & MALLETS Galore



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