

Coffee and Croquet Update

Courtside News February 2014

Flamingos vs. Snowbirds

It was all **Janet Catalano's** idea over a year ago. And, it was a great idea! This fundraising effort for the Croquet Foundation of America brought in enough money to provide us with the long-awaited court night lighting. **Victoria**

Albrecht, Assistant General Manager, worked behind the scenes to make it happen along with **Carla Rueck** who volunteered to be the tournament director.

Shown above are some of our more outrageous Flamingos and Snow Birds:

Arlene Mc Dermott, Victoria Albrecht, Carol DiFazio, Bill and Carla Rueck, Nanci Hunt, Ruth Summers and Ray Liberti.

At the end of the tournament, the Flamingos were awarded the victory. This will become an annual winter fund raising event for the Croquet Founda-

tion of America. It's rumored that the Snowbirds have proposed to hold the 2015 tournament in Boston next year.

Are they serious?



Photo courtesy of Bobby Duryea

From the NCC Board of Directors

The Board of Directors was elected in January 2014 at the National Croquet Club's annual meeting. Three members, **Dale Locke, David McCoy and Ruth Summers returned from the 2013 Board. Linda Harris, Bill Trower and Don Whalen** were newly elected. **Missy Chilton** was appointed by the Croquet Foundation of America as its third representative joining David and Ruth. Bill Trower was elected as president, Dale Locke as vice president, Linda Harris as treasurer and Don Whalen as secretary.

The Board has met twice since being elected. First order of business was to convene the committees that do the majority of work for the club. The committees have been convened and the Board approved the selections at the February 25, 2014 meeting.

Thanks to our outstanding increase in membership over the last two years, the Board has some issues to resolve, These are great problems to have. We are addressing usage of the courts during peak times; increasing the days of operation in the lounge; the luncheon menu; and adding more variety in the social activities offered to our members, in consideration of the diverse interests of our expanded membership.

If you have any questions, suggestions or want to volunteer, please speak with any of the Board Members or committee heads. I will keep you informed in future notes of what is happening and being decided by your Board of Directors.

Respectfully,

Bill Trower, President

see List p. 3

Improving Your Game

No matter what your handicap, players are always trying to get better. The United States Croquet Association (USCA) located on the 2nd floor of the Center has a good selection of materials not only to get you started, but take you to the championship level. Here are some of my favorites for American 6-wicket play.

- *Bob and Ted's*

Croquet Videos. I like these as you can view them for years and always learn something new.

- *USCA Shot-Making*

Instruction Manual, by Bob Kroger

- *The Official Rules of the USCA American Six Wicket Game* *cont. on p. 3*

New Lawn Chairs !

They're in the works, thanks to the generosity of these long standing super volunteers shown on right with Croquet Foundation of America President, **David McCoy**. **Larry McDermott**, **Anthea Blamire**, **John Blamire**, **Arlene Mc Dermott**, **Nanci Hunt** and **Victoria Albrecht** each donated \$100 to help with this improvement effort.



Who's Who on the Courts And on the Sidelines



Barry Sales
NCC Golf Croquet
Championship
February 1st –2nd

Barry Sales took first place in the Second Flight with his wife **Lois** coming in second in the Second Flight. Their home is Canterbury, England. The volunteer TD for this event was **Don Whalen** with **Carla Rueck** serving as an advisor. Some of our new members seen participating in this event were **Ian Harshman**, **Tom Parisaleti**, and **Shirley Valentine**.



Ultra Conservative
Sandy Walsh

Plays in the Steuber
NCC member **Dr. Sandra Knuth Walsh** knows how to liven up a tournament. In real life she tackles the serious problems of identifying lethal abnormalities as a radiologist. But on the courts, life is to be enjoyed! She brings a smile to all of us. Her hometown is Robinson, Illinois.



It's Official!
Bill Trower, NCC Board President, and **Linda Weisheit** are engaged.
Congratulations!

Stuart Joseph and the Brass Menagerie

I met Stuart a couple of years ago at one of our Sunday Pot Luck Golf Croquet gatherings. My husband (Dave Spivey) and I sat intrigued by his story of being a percussionist and playing in the Tommy Dorsey band years ago. Time went by and I would see Stuart now and then on the courts with a big smile and beautiful lady at his side. Her name was Arlene Faust and she was a new member too. To make a long story short they married on February 14, 2013 at the National Croquet Center



Stuart and Arlene Joseph

Valentine's Day ceremony.

Last December I finally heard Stuart and his group, *The Brass Menagerie*, play. What a performance! What Music! What Fun!

Don't miss this event on Friday, March 28th. All National Croquet Club and USCA members are invited and their guests.

Call Marie Sweetser for reservations and dining options. 516-478-2300 Ext. 3

Mary Shields

2014 Board and Committee Chairs

Board

President: Bill Trower william_trower@hotmail.com

Vice President: Dale Locke dalelocke1@att.net

Secretary: Don Whalen deacdonw@gmail.com

Treasurer: Linda Nelson Harris ljnelson0503@att.net

Committee Chairs

Croquet: John Blamire anthea52@comcast.net

Finance: Linda Nelson Harris ljnelson0503@att.net

Garden: Tom Pariseleti twpariseleti@yahoo.com

Grievance: Judy Just judithjust01@hotmail.com

Membership: Tom Tribby thomastribby@tribbyart.com

Social: Cheryl Harders cl614@msn.com

Judy Just judithjust01@hotmail.com

*"If you have any questions, suggestions or want to serve on any of the committees please contact any one of the above board Members or Committee Chairs. I will keep you informed in future notes of what is happening and being decided by your Board of Directors."
Bill Trower, Board President*

RESERVATIONS: 561-478-2300 EXT. 3
required membership.director@croquetnational.com

DATE: MARCH 28, 2014

THE BRASS MENAGERIE

Join us for an evening of listening and dancing to the music of your life—a swing band with a big band feel. Sounds from the 40's to the 80's, Big Band, Pop, Jazz and Latin. Featuring these Master Premier Musicians: Wally Besser, Phil Fedchak, Stu Joseph, Joe Lemms and Danny Zale.

Time: 7:00 to 10:00 PM. Bar open at 5:00 PM.

National Croquet Center
700 Florida Mango Road
West Palm Beach, Fl. 33406

Cover Charge \$20.00 pp
Seating: Limited.
Invitation Extended to: National Croquet Club, USCA members and their guests.

*Now offering: Optional Pre-paid dining menu, [Click Here](#)

The Brass Menagerie is the first of what will become a regular feature event of the 2014 Cultural Series benefitting the Croquet Foundation of America.

From Improving Your Game. P. 2

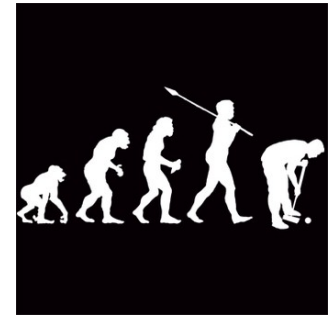
- *The Mount Desert Island Croquet Club Book of Puzzlers* by Larry Stettner
This is an "illustrated" book on 6 wicket strategy. It's great for visual learners like myself. If the USCA doesn't have it, the Coffee and Croquet group sells a "booklet" of 25 puzzlers as a fundraiser.

It's an Improvement and Work of Art!



Tim McCormick and Charles Alexander know an improvement opportunity when they see one. Do you remember what this area looked like before? We'd all like to forget. Tim, a skilled wood-working craftsman when not on the courts, has created this artistic solution to the previous "mallet round-up" that we have lived with far too long. *Bill Mead* has suggested that when you see Tim and Charlie, you buy them a drink, or maybe a gourmet meal or trip to the Galapagos. I think Bill Mead is very pleased and you will be too!

Tim and Charlie hail from Ellsworth, Maine where they are active in the Woodlawn Croquet Club.



The Unofficial History of Croquet

by
John Blamire
A "must read."

Just "google" the title and there it is!

About "Coffee and Croquet"

This idea came from **Linda Grady**, who joined about a year ago. "We needed a way to better connect with new members and make them feel welcome." Linda was right. So every Friday morning we have a couple of courts reserved and invite new and old members to share a cup of coffee and conversation. **Joe Pierotti** makes it all happen as a seasoned member of this club. It was Joe's idea to create the newsletter and I try to put it all together. We'd love to have your input and involvement with our newsletter and coffees. Please join us Friday mornings from 9:00 –11:00 am in the dining room. *No reservations needed!*

Mary Shields
Coffee and Croquet Volunteer
amalachite@comcast.net

FYI New Players



YES!

In tournaments, we play in the rain! Always bring a change of clothes when playing in a tournament. This was day one of the Flamingos vs, Snowbirds tournament.

Help Wanted

Volunteers

You may feel like you have no time for committees and meetings—not to worry. But here are some ways you could get involved *now and then*, and still make a positive impact on the NCC/CFA:

- **Corporate Events Volunteer.** Show and tell the basics of Golf Croquet. Usually runs about 2 hours or less. You definitely need to enjoy people and help them have fun.
- **Ruth Brown volunteer.** Arrive earlier on Tuesday mornings and insure that courts are set up with balls, clips etc. Work under the guidance of **John and Anthea Blamire.** E-mail Mary for further non-committee types of volunteer opportunities or information:
amalachite@comcast.net.