

## THE ROVER

### THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHICAGO CROQUET CLUB

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#### Lawn Update

The club would like to extend special gratitude to everybody who assisted with weeding the west lawn towards the end of the season. Thank you for your efforts!

#### Board Update

After several years of serving on the board, Michael Minieka has decided to step down to pursue a leadership role with another charity not for profit. The club thanks him for his service and wishes him luck in his new roles.

Joining the board are Ellen Fox of Wilmette, IL, and George Saad of Chicago, IL. Ellen will be responsible for digital marketing and communications, while George will edit the newsletter and organize events.

These two enthusiastic tournament players are excited for this opportunity to grow the game of croquet in the Chicago!

#### Mixed-Up Doubles

On September 26, the Club held its Mixed-Up Doubles Six Wicket event run by Michael Minieka. Competition was fierce. Eight competitors each played three 45 minute games of six wicket, each game with a different partner. Ellen Fox walked away with the top prize, a bottle of French champagne, being the only player to win all three of her games. Four players won two games, with ranking determined by point differential. Rick Cooper took second place followed closely by Barb O'Laughlin. Tom Dooley took fourth and Ken Anderson was in fifth. Tom O'Laughlin, John Fox, and Susie Kealy rounded out the competition. Everyone was a winner able to play croquet under a warm sun with a beautiful view of Lake Michigan.

#### End of Season Event

On a Saturday, October 24, several members came out to enjoy a day of croquet to end the season. In sometimes rainy weather, games of six wicket and golf croquet were played on the east lawn, and nine wicket was enjoyed on the west lawn.

As a token of appreciation for a great season, door prizes were awarded to those in attendance. Jeff Lee won a Starbucks card, Dave Fox won a bottle of wine, and Rick Cooper won a box of Fannie May chocolates.

### Houston Invitational

Club member George Saad played in the 2015 Houston Invitational on December 12 . A former member of the Houston club, George played in his first tournament in Championship flight, defeating eventual champion Bob Hafner in the singles block, but then losing his other matches. Croquet can be cruel.

George and Bob then teamed up for doubles, and won first place, going undefeated.

This was a wonderful tournament. The courts at Houston have recently been resurfaced, and the Houston Croquet Association was a very gracious host. George would like to encourage everyone to support this fellow Midwest club in future tournaments.



### National Croquet Club Singles Championship

Tom and Barb O'Laughlin took a quick trip to West Palm Beach to participate in the National Croquet Club's Championship Singles Tournament from January 15-17. While they enjoyed some beautiful weather, play had to be suspended for an hour and a half on the first day when the tornado warning sirens went off.

Tom and Barb aptly represented the Club during the tournament. There were eight participants in third flight and the first two days consisted of block play. Everyone advanced to the playoffs in two divisions. Tom and Barb both advanced to the trophy division. Tom won both his playoff games and took first place in third flight and Barb placed third.

The courts were extremely fast and it took some getting use-to after playing on the Jackson Park courts. They both encourage anyone interested in tournament play to participate in this event next year.

### **Chicago Croquet Club Board of Directors**

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