



## *THE ROVER*

### THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CHICAGO CROQUET CLUB

#### IT'S CROQUET TIME!

The Courts are now open and some members have already started playing Croquet.

#### **Kickoff Party**



The club held its annual kickoff party in late January at the Pompeii Restaurant on Taylor Street. The new Board of Directors and Officers were announced and awards were presented for the 2006 leagues. The Directors for 2007 are Jeff Lee, David Van Osdol, Marie Trankina and Jan Viscum. The Officers for 2007 are Jeff - President, Marie - Treasurer and David - Secretary.

Jan was appointed Social Chair and Opening Day Chair. Awards for 2006 went to Jeff Lee who was Champion in both the Six-Wicket League and the

Golf Croquet League and Barney King who was second in both leagues. Pictured are the trophies awarded to Jeff and Barney.

#### **Opening Weekend**

Opening Weekend is scheduled for June 2 - 3. This year lessons will be provided by Jonathan Kirby who is a new member. While new to Chicago, Jonathan is an accomplished Association Rules croquet player. He played on the Great Britain team which won the

MacRobertson Shield in Australia in 2006. He won a bronze medal at the singles World Championship in 2005, and has reached the final of the British Open doubles and the semifinal of the British Open singles. Jonathan works as a research mathematician and currently

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splits his time between the University of Oxford and the University of Illinois at Chicago. Aside from playing, Jonathan also supports croquet as a coach, a referee, and is a member of the World Croquet Federation's world ranking committee. He is the 9<sup>th</sup> world ranked player in Association rules and 1<sup>st</sup> in the

United States.

I think you will all agree that we can learn a lot from Jonathan and should take advantage of the opportunity to take both group and individual lessons during the Club's Opening Weekend.

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The schedule for the weekend is:

Saturday, June 2

9:00 am - Sign-In & Continental Breakfast. Croquet Play: West Green: full court & practice hoops. East Green: small 6-wicket courts & one small 9-wicket court

10:00 am – Welcome by CCC President and introduction of Board Members, Officers and Committee Chairs

10:15 am - Group lesson by Jonathan Kirby: Basic stances, grips, shot-making, etc.

11:00 am - Break up group into smaller contingents, each headed by experienced

players to practice more shot-making and techniques. Introduction to Golf Croquet.

12 Noon - Lunch break & Golf Croquet

1:00 pm - Brief demonstration of American 6-Wicket rules

1:30 pm - Brief demonstration of Association rules by Jonathan Kirby

2:00 pm until finish - free play, private lessons from Jonathan Kirby on West Green.

Sunday, June 3

9:00 am - Jonathan Kirby will give individual lessons on the West Green for the remainder of the day.

Play on East Green for the remainder of the day.

12:00- Lunch Break

Individuals lessons with Jonathan are being offered at \$40 an hour.

As you can see, Opening Weekend represents a real opportunity to introduce your friends and family to Croquet as well as the opportunity to improve your game.

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### **New Members**

The Club would like to introduce the following new members:

Ken & Jan Anderson  
Gerald Bauman & Pauline Strohl  
Jonathan Kirby  
Laura O'Laughlin & Alexis Gagne  
Karen & Kevin Truitt

All current members should try to sign

up at least one new member in 2007. Not only does it bring new people into the sport, you can also reduce your dues. Remember, you will receive a 25% reduction in your dues for each new member and a 10% reduction for each year after the first year that the new member renews his, her or their membership.

### **Six Wicket League**

The Six-Wicket league will be run this year by Tom O'Laughlin. If there are enough players, the league will be divided into two flights. First flight will be 9 handicap and below and second flight will 10 handicap and above. The members which have indicated an interest in participating are Ken Anderson, Judy Busch, Jonathan Kirby, Jeff Lee, Barbara O'Laughlin, Tom O'Laughlin, and Dan Whalen. It is anticipated that a number of other members will join the league and therefore that there will be enough for two flights. Another change for this year is that unless the players agree otherwise in advance of a game, handicap play will be allowed and bisesques will be used. A

bisque is an extra stroke allowed during a game to a higher handicap player. The number of bisesques is determined by subtracting the lower handicap from the higher. For instance, a 15 handicap player would be entitled to three bisesques during a game from a 12 handicap player. League play will begin after Opening Weekend in order to allow other members to join the league. Participation in the league is open to all members and anyone can join at any time. The Club's six-wicket league is an excellent opportunity to learn more about six-wicket croquet. Contact Tom O'Laughlin (773-631-2422) if you wish to participate.

### **Golf Croquet League**

by Marie Trankina

The format for the Golf Croquet League will remain the same for 2007. However, a new eligibility rule has been passed by the Board of Directors. Only players with a handicap of 8 or above are eligible to play in the Golf Croquet League.

A match will still consist of one game of thirteen wickets. The first person to score seven wickets will win the match and the match is over. The league standing will be determined by the total number of wickets scored in all the matches played.

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Depending on the number of players, the league may be initially divided into two flights, seeded according to last year's standings. The top three players in each flight will then continue into a championship round.

Please sign up for the league with Marie Trankina (708-246-6709) as soon as possible so that play can begin immediately after the Opening Day weekend.

### **Doubles League**

The Club is sponsoring a doubles league this year to be run by Dan Whalen. High and low handicap players will be paired up to play six-wicket croquet. The doubles pairing will be assigned by Dan and will depend upon the number of members who participate. Dan will pair up weaker players with stronger players. The league will be run over three

Saturdays and the dates and times of play will be emailed to the participants. Bisesques will not be used. Points will be assigned for wins and losses but a forfeit will subtract points from the total score. There will be prizes awarded at the annual Kickoff party. You can sign up during Opening Weekend or by contacting Dan (773-467-8582).

### **Tournaments**

The Club sponsored Windy City Classic tournament will be held August 10-12. Anyone participating in the Club's Six-Wicket league should consider signing up for the tournament. It provides an excellent opportunity to play in a tournament environment and to improve your game without having to leave Chicago. Further details will be provided in late June. Jeff Lee will be

the Tournament Director. Contact Jeff (708-579-1180) if you have any questions

The USCA Midwest Regional Championships are being held June 20-24 at Bon Vivant Country Club in Bourbonnais. The entry deadline is June 6. Contact the USCA directly if you wish to participate.

### **Wednesday Evening Croquet**

The Club will continue its practice of offering hot dogs (Vienna All Beef), rolls and condiments for Wednesday evening play. The Club has purchased two hot machines for use by Club

members. Wednesdays are also a great opportunity to introduce your friends and family to croquet. Please feel free to bring your guests to Wednesday evening croquet.

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## Playing Times

The Club would like to remind you that the courts are shared with the Lakeside Lawn Bowling Club. The following are

the scheduled playing times for each club.

### Reserved playing times for both lawns

Chicago Croquet Club: Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat & Sun: 4:30 pm – 10 pm

Lakeside Lawn Bowling Club: Tues: 7 pm – 10 pm; Thurs: 11 am – 4 pm;  
Sat & Sun: 1 pm – 4:30 pm;

### Open playing times which are first come first served

7 am – 4:30 pm All weekdays except Thursday

7 am – 11 am Thursday

7 am – 12:30 pm Saturday & Sunday

The times are also posted on the Club's web site at [www.chicagocroquetclub.org](http://www.chicagocroquetclub.org).

## Board Members

The Board is always pleased to hear from any of the members regarding ideas for the Club. Please feel free to contact

any of the Board members. Their names are on the Club's Web site and below:

Jeff Lee, President 708-579-1180

Marie Trankina, Treasurer 708-246-6709

David Van Osdol, Secretary 312-446-7926

Jan Viscum, Social Chair 312-440-9811

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