



Sandwich Croquet Club

Sandwich Hollows Golf Club, 1 Round Hill Road, Sandwich, MA

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Fall 2016 Newsletter

With the cold winds blowing and the equipment put away, it is time to reflect on the 2016 croquet season. Our membership totaled 36 and we were able to offer 79 days of organized play; 8 of which were cancelled due to weather. Although open play is always available to members, the play of choice was group play.

In addition to the regular Tuesday afternoon, Wednesday early evening, and Saturday morning play, we had 2 well-attended golf croquet tournaments. The 6-wicket tournament was cancelled due to weather. We anticipate the tournaments will continue to be a popular Club activity.

Teaching remains an important component of the Sandwich Croquet Club. Maureen Villiotte taught American 6-wicket skills to members on Wednesdays throughout the summer. Nancy Spalding organized and taught a golf croquet introductory course to interested community participants for \$20 per person for the series. Several of those participants then joined the Club. Nancy and Bob Spalding also taught a golf croquet series to an adult special needs social group. Ed Gardella assisted with all of the teaching programs. We expect to offer the same sort of teaching sessions next season.

Bob Kroeger conducted 2 clinics that were well attended. The clinics covered 6-wicket skills, 9-wicket rules, and golf croquet strategies. Those clinics prompted many more people to become interested in both 6-wicket and 9-wicket games. We were regularly setting up the 3 large courts to make all three games available during group play.

Besides the fun of tournaments, we had a well-attended August beach picnic on Sandy Neck Beach. It was a beautiful evening with a low tide and stunning sunset. We treated ourselves with pizza delivered to the Beach and had a nice bonfire. The annual meeting was at the British Beer Company and was, again, well attended. Joyce Hurst provided us with special table decorations. Our Christmas gathering will be at the home of Bob and Nancy Spalding.

We were able to spend some time revising the Club bylaws so that they were better suited to our Club. The revised and approved bylaws are posted on our website.

A thank you goes out to Peter Owens for continuing to maintain our website and to all the faithful croquet captains who made sure the courts were ready each and every organized play day. A special thank you to Ed Gardella for the many extra tasks he does for the Club.

The Board members for the upcoming year are Courtenay Barber, Mike Bjornholm, Ed Gardella, Joyce Hurst, Nancy Spalding, Maureen Villiotte, and Heather Welch.

We wish all members a happy and healthy winter season. Look for our 2017 mailings in March.