



Sandwich Croquet Club
Sandwich Hollows Golf Club
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Newsletter: July – September 2014

It has been a busy summer for the Sandwich Croquet Club, with special croquet and social activities plus the addition of the 9-wicket game to our offerings of Golf and American-Rules Croquet. Please do visit our web site to enjoy descriptions and pictures of these happenings, and other information, thanks to our webmaster Peter Owens.

We held two Golf Croquet (GC) tournaments directed by Nancy Spalding, and an American-Rules tournament directed by Ed Gardella. This year we invited members of other croquet clubs to help fill out our rosters, and were pleased that members from the Marion Mallet and Ballymeade Croquet clubs joined these informal (non-sanctioned) events. A selection of prizes (provided by Debbie Crowell) were awarded to the top three finishers. The GC tournament on July 12 with 20 players: Jim Feeney (1); Debbie Crowell (2); Maureen Villiotte (3). The American-Rules tournament on August 24 with 10 players: Ed Gardella (1); Ed Rose (2); Ware Cady (3). The GC tournament on September 13 with 19 players: Nancy Spalding (1); Debbie Crowell (2); DJ Zirbel (3). Refreshments provided by several club members along with wonderful weather enhanced our playing pleasure.

The potluck dinner at Debbie's home, with lawn games (including croquet, of course), delicious food, cooperative weather, and great company, made for glorious fun. We are looking forward also to our annual dinner on Thursday October 2 at the Old Yarmouth Inn, beginning at 5:00 PM.

Bob Kroeger visited the Club again this year (July 26), to teach us the fine points of strategy for both Golf and American-Rules Croquet. Bob always manages to make his visits with us informative for both the experienced and newer players of our sport.

Total membership is holding at 28 for 2014. We will be making a push to recruit new members in the future, and hope to install permanent signage to aid in this effort. Attendance patterns this year on the three days of scheduled group play, has been similar to the previous year, with Saturdays having the highest average attendance, followed by Tuesdays and Wednesdays. We had several guest visitors join us on occasion during regular group play. Some were friends of Club members, but others traveled as far away as Connecticut to play, which we feel is a tribute to our membership in the national croquet association (the USCA) and to the exposure our wonderful web site gives the Club.

Wednesday croquet play this year is no longer offering early one-hour instruction, and beginning October 8 will run from 4:00 to 6:00 PM because of shortening daylight hours.

The major equipment purchased this year included another set of Championship wickets, plus a stake and three more Foxy wickets to support the 9-wicket game. We have recently obtained an old storage bin from the Heritage Croquet Club, and this is being used to store some of our more bulky items, thereby freeing up space in our main storage unit.

The Club finances remain in good shape. The increased membership dues, plus donations, tournament and guest fees, has kept the balance sheet in the black, with enough funds remaining to start the 2015 season. Of course this can only happen with the continued volunteer efforts of many of our members. So please let us pat ourselves on the back for all this interest and work.

Remember our last day of scheduled club play is Saturday, November 2. Until then, let's get out there and keep the balls rolling!