

# THE ROVER

The Newsletter of The Chicago Croquet Club

## Upcoming Events

We'll let you know when a new date is booked!

## Send Us Your News

Members: send us your photos, links to articles, or write-ups of what's new in your croquet world.  
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## Our website

[www.chicagocroquetclub.org](http://www.chicagocroquetclub.org)



## Court Report

### *Important Park District Update:*

The Chicago Park District is currently in the process of updating its plan for Jackson Park. There are several developments in this plan, including the creation of the Obama Presidential Library, the reconfiguration of the golf courses and the expansion of Lake Shore Drive. There is very little information regarding the exact designs for these major initiatives, but the Park District has gone ahead with some planning scenarios for the rest of Jackson Park. On December 11, the Park District held a session at the South Shore Cultural Center, seeking community input. Tom O'Laughlin and some of the members of the Lake Side Bowling Club participated, and report that three possible scenarios were proposed. The Park District representatives emphasized that the scenarios





## Croquet Matters: Help Us Get Our Voices Heard

Let the Jackson Park planners know we want our courts to stay! See article at right and follow the link to leave your comments.

- Tell CPD that you are an active member.
- Let them know that you care about preserving our lawns.
- Tell them about our events that you have attended.

are for planning purposes and the final plan may include some elements of all three. Regarding the Bowling Green, the Park District is suggesting

1. to retain both courts
2. retain one court and put in a tennis court, or
3. remove both courts and put in tennis courts. They are proposing to put in artificial turf if they do retain the courts.

More details regarding the three planning scenarios can be found at

[https://southlakefrontplan.com/  
meeting-127-1211-potential-scenario-plans](https://southlakefrontplan.com/meeting-127-1211-potential-scenario-plans)

Follow the link above to leave feedback- **all members are strongly encouraged to leave comments.** Tom O’Laughlin spoke with Park District representatives and pointed out that the Bowling Green has been in continuous use since it was established in the 1920s and that it is used by 20 to 30 people every weekend from May through September. He also pointed out that there are dozens of tennis courts throughout the Park District but that this is the only Bowling Green/ Croquet Court. Also, if artificial turf is to be installed, the right type must be used, and it must accommodate removable wickets. Artificial turf appropriate for playing soccer will not work for lawn bowling or croquet.



# Ball in Hand - Away Games

## *Merion Invitational September 2017*

Club members Tom O’Laughlin, Barb O’Laughlin, Ellen Fox, and Luke Fox traveled to Haverford, Pennsylvania where they met Haverford resident Will Fox for the annually-held Merion Invitational last September. The event included three days of 6-Wicket play on the immaculately groomed lawns of the Merion Cricket Club, breakfasts and lunches, and a cocktail dinner.

Other competitors took notice of the strength of players from Chicago as they swept the awards in their flight. In sum: doubles winners Will and Luke were trailed by runners-up Tom and Ellen. Will took the top singles spot and Luke was the second highest scorer.

Victors Luke and Will with tournament directors Danny and Jan



View more at  
[www.chicagocroquetclub.org/  
photo-gallery.html](http://www.chicagocroquetclub.org/photo-gallery.html)



### *“Banned in Boston” - September 2017*

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual St. John’s College “Banned in Boston” (the name comes from the fact that the sport of croquet was banned in Boston in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century because the sport was thought to incite drunkenness and licentiousness in young men). The play was traditional 9 wicket that St. John’s and the Naval Academy play in Annapolis. Tournament between alumni croquet players (aka “The Rusty Wickets”) and the current student team was a terrific success. Chicago Croquet Club’s own Cameron Coats and his partner Micah Beck were the Champions of this year’s tournament! Jake Crabbs was missing from the tourney this year but hopefully next year he will compete. Josh Rogers and his partner from the Class of 1998 failed to make it out of the initial group stage round robin as they ran into a buzzsaw in the third match where their opponent went on a 11 wicket run and went rover with about 10 minutes left to play.

The weather was terrific and the front lawn at St. John’s was a terrific condition.

### *National Croquet Club Six Wicket Championship*

Tom and Barb O’Laughlin traveled to West Palm Beach in early January to participate in the National Croquet Club’s 2017-2018 Six Wicket Championship. The tournament was held at the National Croquet Center which has 12 beautifully maintained courts and included more than 40 players in four flights.



Tom with tournament director  
Tim McCormick

Barb and Tom played in third flight which included 10 players with handicaps ranging from 9 to 20. Tom dominated block play winning six out of six games and both Tom and Barb made the playoffs. Barb lost her first playoff game and Tom lost his semi-final match. He ended up taking the trophy for third place.

## Social Rovers

*Holiday Party December 20th*

Chicago Croquet members took time out of their busy schedules to get together at Salerno's in the southwest suburbs. We'll see everyone again in the Spring!

