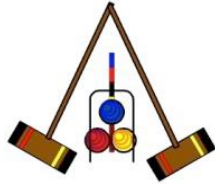


TCCC



Issue 140

November/December 2021

Website: www.tegacaycroquet.com

November/December 2021 Events 2021

December Holiday Social; December 30, 2021

Well over 50 members attended our December Holiday Social of Friday 12/3/2021. Games on the court, BBQ in the gazebo, sunshine and warm temperatures all came together to provide a spectacular day full of good cheer and comradery.



Future TCCC Events

We currently have no events scheduled for 2022.

TCCC Substitute List

For a Substitute List of members who are willing to substitute for a regular member contact Sally Bennett at sallyirishbennett@gmail.com. Also, if you wish to be added or deleted from the list contact Sally Bennett. A new list will be published and sent to all members if there are changes. This list is for TCCC members only.

Open Sessions

The TCCC has designated **Thursdays from 12 to 2 p. m. as open sessions** on the Tega Cay Croquet Court. Any adult can attend. You need not be a resident of Tega Cay or a member of TCCC to participate. Core croquet techniques are taught to beginners and all croquet equipment is provided by the TCCC. **Richard Watson** will coordinate these sessions in accordance with the TCCC Social Distancing Guidelines and arrange games for those who attend. **If you plan to attend one of these sessions, contact Richard in advance** at richwatson6@gmail.com or call him at (803) 295-3071. TCCC members, please tell your friends about these sessions.

Court Rental Contact

Marilyn Rhew is the court rental contact. To schedule a time, call Marilyn at 803-548-4840 or email her at <mailto:mrhew@comporium.net>. Court rentals will be affected by social distancing so are not likely at this time.

New Members

Donald Olson attended one of our Open Sessions in December, learned some of the basics of Golf Croquet and decided to join our club. He attended our Holiday Classic event and brought his application and first year's dues check. Please welcome him to our club by inviting him to sub in some of our Golf Croquet groups. His contact information is: Phone 843-3367-7350 and email dvolson@comporium.net (Sally is he on

our list of subs. If so we should just say he is now on the list of subs and not give his phone number and email in the newsletter)

If you have joined the club in the last year, please send me your biographical information to me at marvinebennett@gmail.com, including why you joined our club. We will include it in the newsletter

TCCC Website

The TCCC Website contains a wealth of information about our club, including a list of officers, membership information, substitute list, rules, contact information, and information about the Junior Croquet Program. The photo gallery contains photos and articles for recent events.

Gloria Bensch is the website editor. If you have questions about the website, contact Gloria at 978-337-4074 or email her: <mailto:gloriabensch@gmail.com>

The following is a copy of the email Gloria Bensch sent to all the members on December 27. I am repeating it here to make sure you all saw it and for you to provide your input and response.

Please help me by looking at the questions below regarding your experience with the TCCC website and sending your comments to gloriabensch@gmail.com. (Replies to the email go to the club website and may not get to me directly.) Thanks for your help, Gloria Bensch

The Tega Cay Croquet Club gets website services from GoDaddy. Our website is currently built on their platform using tools they provide. The company has improved their platform and tools and is phasing out support for the system we have been using. It may happen sometime next year. We will be forced to upgrade and rebuild the website for the new platform.

I'd like to find out if and how our members use the current website. You can find it at <http://www.tegacaycroquet.com>. This insight will help us improve the site as we rebuild it. I have listed some questions below as a guide, but if you think of anything else, feel free to add it.

As a refresher, here is a list of the information currently on the website.

- A link to the court reservation system
- Upcoming events
- Generic club information
- Photos and descriptions of recent events & tournaments of the club.
- Copies of the newsletters
- Names of board members and other positions
- Information of interest to potential new members, fees, forms, and list of benefits
- Rules, Rules of the Games and TCCC policies
- Photos and descriptions of recent events & tournaments of the juniors.

Here are some questions for that will help us update the website.

First consider your own usage of the site, don't speculate about what someone else would use.

1. How often do you go to the website? *Never* *Occasionally* *All the time*
2. What information do you go to look at, see the list above? *Future events?* *Recent events & photos?* *Newsletters?* *Other?* *(specific examples will help.)*
3. Is there anything that isn't there? *Contact info for members?* *for the sub list?* *Details about upcoming events?* *Other?* *(specific examples will help.)*
4. What is your overall impression of the site?
5. Is there anything that you would like to see on the Web site that is not there?
6. Is there anything that doesn't need to be there?

Now speculate on usage by others.

Is there anything you think other people would want or need?

Members: Be Sure You Are Registered on the Croquet Reservation Website

Our reservation system is set up so that you can see available times and easily obtain the croquet times you want. If you haven't done it already, please go to our website. Alan Bensch has drafted some information about the Croquet Court Reservation System that gives

instructions on how to use this on-line system. The link to this information is now on the TCCC website home page in the left column of the home page -- go to Court Reservations and click on the green button. You can also send Alan an email alanbensh@gmail.com and he will send a pdf copy of the instructions to you.

George Fiegel- 14 years teaching and playing croquet. By George Fiegel

Over the next 3 months I will be moving to Michigan. I will be rejoining my wife of 23 years to live out our lives there. You may not have known everything related to our marriage, but we are happily planning for a long life together and lots of fun for many years to come. This move is not without some sadness about leaving croquet. I have enjoyed the many experiences of croquet games, parties, friendships, and and don't regret a single thing.

I will be giving up my Vice-president's position, knowing that someone will fill it and become president next year. Although played by excellent players who have many years of experience, each year the club needs good guidance so it will not fall into a mood of contentment and forget that external changes occur that require constant change and improvement.

I've taught what I have learned. I believe I play a fairly good game and I see so many people trying to get better without structure or discipline or observations that would actually lead to changes to their stance and swing and follow-through. I guess that this attitude and approach will always be there for others to follow.

I have fond memories of all the people I have met, all the courts I have played, and all the wins and losses that I have had. I can remember when we played on a soccer field, without white clothes, and with other impediments to a good croquet game. We had professional croquet players come and teach croquet even though the setting was a soccer field. We had to search grassy fields next to the court for balls that were hit harder than we thought possible. We took pictures that we laugh at today because of their crudeness and our innocence. All that practice and games were played with no previous experience and no known professional guidance. Now we have good, qualified croquet experts as members of our club who can help us play better.

I can remember when we started the club without any professional or croquet experts, we sought legal advice and croquet experience. I can remember going to a lawyer to check that the by-laws were done right. Ron had the job of getting our by-laws through IRS gates. Tom Anderson was truly the mainstay and cheerleader for our new club. He knew how to cheer people on and how to sell croquet. I have included the picture because he was the true leader of the effort.

It was many years later that we branched out into other croquet vistas. The two experiences for the club and me were the trips to Hilton Head and trips to Macey White's courts in Virginia.

The trips to Hilton Head were to initiate croquet tournament between our two organizations. For a while we would travel to their site for a tournament, and they would visit with us. Besides building trophies for the winners, I made a sustaining trophy for the winning city to have. Lately,

for many reasons, the competition has diminished.

Macey White has 8 courts on his property in Virginia for USCA tournaments. Although we don't attend many, this is where the experts in the US go for all levels of croquet tournaments. It gives you the opportunity to watch others play and to improve your own game. It also gives you the opportunity to play against the best in the world. Each year Macey makes his tournaments and courts more usable and attractive. You have your meals on the property, and you can meet and talk with the best in the game.

Another court of renown is found at the USCA Headquarters in Florida. A number of us took a 3-day training course in golf croquet there. I took it twice to assure myself that what I was teaching was good croquet.

The other pleasure that I've had is in building croquet trophies. I think I now have done this for 7 years. I started small, then bigger, and this year I have made trophies for the most prestigious tournaments in the nation. Trophies are about 9 inches high. I have built over 100 trophies this year, and they have been used in 4 USCA tournaments in three different cities and, of course, in our tournaments. I am happy to say that my trophies have been given to the best croquet players in the USA. I have made trophies for the younger folks in our club and for the golf game played with our sponsorship.

A set of my trophies are about 3 inches tall have been a success of sorts. Other clubs ordered those smaller trophies 50 at a time. These miniatures were also handed out at our 10-year anniversary (all 82 of them).

We also build a float for the Tega Cay July 4 parade. It was fashioned after our trophies, and it won best float that year. The wicket

on the float stretched 18 feet in the air. We had trouble on Tega Cay drive with low hanging trees.

I have ordered and distributed t-shirts with "TCCC" on them. I've probably ordered over 100 t-shirts for club members, and I own about 20 of those t-shirts. For a while we had to order 12 t-shirts at a time, but now people can go to the shop where they are printed and order one shirt at a time. I have also made earrings, with about 5 different designs. Making them requires a calm hand and a sharp eye. With the right materials anyone can make earrings. I've probably made 400 - 500 of them for croquet players all over the US and England over the last 10 years. They were sold by the USCA in Florida on consignment for a while. I can remember being stopped on croquet courts that I have visited, and people asked, "Are you the guy who makes the earrings?" I just sent out an order for 150 earrings last month. I will probably not continue making them. I also made medal badges with people's name on them. I converted them to magnet-held type when people found they rusted when they put them through a clothes washer/dryer.

There were about 3 different designs. I have also made and given away scoring strings that can be hung on your belt. They are used mostly by the women in the club. The design was done by Betty Worrell.

I also carried croquet into the Tega Cay Senior Games. We included Men, Women, and Mixed tournaments where players won Senior Games medals (from the city).

I think every Tega Cay croquet player should join (or be required to join) the United States Croquet Association (USCA). There are a few benefits including knowing what is happening in the world of croquet. They also have a magazine. The USCA

asked people to submit short articles pertaining to Croquet in general. Terry, Alan, and I submitted articles. One of the articles written by one of the best croquet players in the world was "It's All Practice". I consider Jeff Soo a friend and he helped better my playing and coaching. Here are some ideas he professes:

Short excerpts from his 'It's All Practice' paper:

"Practice is learning by repetition, training your body and your brain to perform an action using "muscle memory". You train yourself every time you swing a mallet. Playing easy shots well is good practice. Playing difficult shots poorly is worse than ineffectual: it is training yourself to play poorly...practice powerful swings on short shots. But that leaves a dilemma: how to practice difficult shots without practicing failure. A long shot is necessarily a more powerful shot, and players don't spend enough time practicing that swing. You train your mind every time you practice, whether or not you realize it. Actual tournament play is the best practice of all...it's all practice."

I've learned a lot about croquet, education, people interactions, and humility during my time with Tega Cay Croquet. I hope I've done the right thing and some of you take away a little of what I have taught. The game is not about me or you, it's about "did I leave the game and it's people better off?"

George

I've concluded with a copy of one of the club's first meeting minutes. You can see the beginnings of an ambitious effort, which grew into something spectacular.

We met on the second floor of Mary Doty's house. I can remember the room. *[Note: I typed the words from the this first meeting below because I could not get George's copy to fit the format of the newsletter, Marvin Bennett Editor]*

Board Meeting Minutes from September 16, 2008

Next Meeting to be held on September 23rd at 3 PM at the Community Center.

Officers-The board appointed the following officers who will serve for a 1-year term.

President/Project Manager-Tom Anderson

Vice President- George Noeth

Secretary – Mary Doty

Project Manager- Tom Anderson

Membership Coordinator- Howard Miller (maintain membership database and be contact person for new members).

Equipment and Field Coordinator- George Noeth (course set up, dismantling of the course after play, play supervision and player orientation)

Play Supervisor- George Fiegel

Scheduler- Tom Anderson (contacting people for play)

Club Name- It was decided that the name on our new club would be called Tega Cay Croquet Club

By-laws- George Fiegel has agreed to work on the by-laws for the new Tega Cay Croquet Club.

Ron Jordon agreed to do the paperwork to get permission for a croquet booth at the fall festival.

Howard Miller agreed to put together a handout at our booth that would be given to interested people. He along with others, will also recruit others to manage the booth. A raffle of a mallet is to be held.

President's Corner

Seasons greeting. Hope everyone had a happy, healthy and safe Holiday season.

A lot has happened over the past two months. Two Linda Burns memorial benches arrived and were placed on the court. I want to thank Harry Barnes, Jack McGuire, and Bob Knotz for picking up the benches at Lowes, assembling them, and placing them on the court.

The Holiday Classic Social Event was a huge success. Special thanks go out to Allen Bensch for developing and managing a successful croquet challenge. And, also to Natale Lawson for providing food and refreshments. Everyone I spoke to enjoyed the festivities.

Hopefully the drainage problem in front of our gazebo is finally solved, Chuck promised me that he would complete the project before the start of the new year and he and his staff finished before Christmas.

All of you have probably heard that one of our original members, George Fiegle, is leaving the area to again marry and be with his ex-wife Judy. You can't say enough about George. He has done so much for our club, building trophies, training new members, serving on the Board as Vice President and on and on and on. He will surely be missed

Which now brings me to a very important item. Since George is leaving the area, he had to resign as The Board's Vice President. We are now in desperate need for a replacement. If you are a willing member, who would like to help grow the club, please send me your name, and I will forward it to the nominating committee.

Mike Kost, President

When you do nothing, you feel overwhelmed and powerless. But when you get involved, you feel the sense of hope and accomplishment that comes from knowing you are working to make things better.