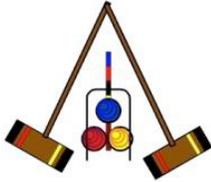


# TCCC



## Issue 131 February 2021

Website: [www.tegacaycroquet.com](http://www.tegacaycroquet.com)

### February 2021 Evens

#### Winter Men's Singles Golf Croquet Tournament Complete

*by Alan Bensch, TCCC  
Tournament Chair*

The fourth and final round of this Swiss Format event has just concluded. Damon Bidencepe took the top spot, although it did take an extra time, tie breaking shoot out against Terry Hunt in the third round to stay unbeaten. Finishing positions were determined by totaling wins, wickets scored and, in some cases, net wickets. The final standings are:

Final Results	Wins	Wkts
Bidencepe, Damon	4	27
Bensch, Alan	3	25
Powell, Frank	3	24
Webb, John	3	23
Fiegel, George	3	23

Hunt, Terry	2	25
Rizos, Nick	2	22
Kost / Jardine **	2	21
Barnes, Harry	2	21
Watson, Richard	2	19
Pike, Norm	2	19
McGuire, Jack	2	19
Misik, Jerry	2	18
Nicholson, Carl	1	17
Knotz / Terigino *	1	14
Bennett, Marvin	1	14
Rothman, Donald	1	12
Luciano, Frank	0	16

\*Robert Knotz played for Fred Terrigino when Fred was put on the PUP List

\*\*Ian Jardine played for Mike Kost in the 4<sup>th</sup> round when Mike was put on the Injured Reserve List.

Editor's Note: Jerry Misik beat your editor (Marvin Bennett) in the last round 7 to 1, with Jerry making four jump shots with my ball in the wicket each time. Great shots by Jerry and bad by me. I need to learn to follow through with my shots so that they do not get stuck in the wicket.

## **Alan Bensch Article for National Club Weekly Croquet Break: An Event for a Pandemic**

What does a club's social tournament director do when all tournaments have been cancelled due to a novel virus pandemic? I am that tournament director, and I was fortunate to find a novel event to solve the problem. This is a story of the way that event happened when a number of things came together at just the right time.

The majority of the Tega Cay Croquet Club members are in the age-related elevated risk category for the Covid virus, so there was very little resistance to the cancellation of the first, and then all, of the spring season club tournaments and social events. The city's municipal facilities were shut down, including the golf course and the croquet lawn, for the month of April. Everyone expected that the fall event schedule and our annual club championship would resume when things returned to 'normal' in the fall. And then they did not.

The precipitating event for this story was an article in the summer edition of *Croquet News* by Macey White describing the "Swiss System" that his facility has used to host one day non-elimination events. The main feature of this format is that all the players play the same number of games with the winner being the one with the best overall record.

Terry Hunt and I found the article very interesting and talked about how such a tournament would actually work. We tossed it around until we thought we understood the event Macey was describing.

With state and prudent personal restrictions keeping us at home over the summer, I was intrigued enough to look at it in more detail. Macey said that use of Excel spreadsheets helped the tournament director a lot. Having used spreadsheets to manage events myself, it became an intellectual challenge to see how they could be used in this case. It was also an opportunity to explore areas of Excel programming that I had not used before. Although it resulted in my spending more time on the task than was needed to get to a basic solution, I had the time and nothing more interesting to spend it on.

By the end of July, I developed a set of spreadsheets and underlying programs that seemed to work. It was a "neat" solution to a problem that didn't exist because we had no plans to hold an event like this. We still expected that we could resume a traditional fall schedule of tournaments.

It was at this time that the club decided that the risks of holding the usual fall events would still be too great. The fall season was cancelled. Most events cause too many club members to congregate for an extended time around our single court croquet lawn, either as players or as spectators.

By this time, the club had resumed its pre-Covid schedule of daily play. Even double-banked games meant no more than 8 players were on the court at any time, within the city's group limiting guidelines. The breakthrough came with the realization that while croquet games are naturally social distanced, we could avoid the presence of crowds by distancing games in time, spreading them out over days or weeks. All our players are local, so it was not a hardship to play just a few games per week. Most of our club tournaments are mixed doubles to maximize club member participation, so we used that format. To minimize contact risk between partners, couples were encouraged to enter as teams. Twenty teams entered, almost 40% of the club.

Thus, an event, during an otherwise eventless year, was created; the first, and hopefully last, annual *Covid-19 Memorial Mixed Doubles Golf Croquet Tournament*. Each of the 10 games per round was played during a 10-day window at a time convenient to the individual teams. The tournament director set the game pairing for the first round. Pairings for subsequent rounds were determined by the cumulative results of games completed. Given the relaxed schedule, the tournament director was able to compete. A single undefeated team emerged after 4 rounds of play and was declared the winner.

Special trophies with a Covid theme were created by George Fiegel, a

member of the club; a masked mallet driving a Covid virus. First and second places were awarded trophies (there was a 3-way tie for second place). Token entry fees were returned to teams as token prizes according to their finishing order.

I have taken away several things from the experience of this event. Even though ours is a club that views an all-day tournament as more of a reason to get together to party than as an intense competition, I noticed that play in the organized event was different from casual weekly games. Perhaps it should not have been surprising, but as people paid more attention, they played better, they enjoyed the experience, and they maintained interest in the progress of the matches even as the games were spread over many weeks. A non-elimination format works even when games are separated in time because everyone is involved from the beginning to the end of the event. The club abided with prudent restrictions on the number of people gathered at the same time and the players had the benefit of playing at a time of their choosing.

The format worked so well that we may make it part of our 'normal' schedule of events, if we ever get back there. The club is currently holding a men's singles Swiss Format event and is looking forward to a women's event when the weather gets warmer.

## **A Tribute to George, by Terry Hunt**

In 2008, George Fiegel was one of the founding members of the Tega Cay Croquet Club. He has held many positions in our Club and volunteered for many assignments. One of his favorite hobbies is building things like trophies, plaques, mementos, parade floats, etc. for the TCCC and other croquet clubs. He has a very talented imagination. Go to the TCCC Website, [tegacaycroquet.com](http://tegacaycroquet.com), to see a large number of photos about George.

## **TCCC Substitute List**

Contact Sally Bennett at [sallyirishbennett@gmail.com](mailto:sallyirishbennett@gmail.com) if you wish to be added or deleted from the list. A new list will be sent to the membership if there are changes. This list is for TCCC members only.

## **Future TCCC Events**

**Anderson Cup Tournament;** 10/20 through 10/22/2021

Details for each TCCC event will be sent to all members nearer to the date of the event.

## **Open Sessions**

For more than a year, Alan Bensch, Terry Hunt, and George Fiegel have been teaching the basics of croquet every Thursday at noon in a 2-hour time

block called Open Sessions. The instructions have been very effective at making current members better players, and it has encouraged new people to join our club. Keep this in mind and consider giving it a try on some Thursday in the near future.

## **Court Rental Contact**

Marilyn Pendleton is the new 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**

No new members joined this month.

## **TCCC Website**

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

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

Our reservation system is set up so that you can see the times that are available and easily obtain the croquet times you want. If you haven't done it already, please register as follows to use the reservations system.

1. Go to the Tega Cay Croquet Club Website, scroll down, and select: **Croquet Court (Gold Tab)**.
2. Go to Sign In and click on **Create Account**.
3. When the **Profile** screen appears, fill in all the information requested, including your name and valid e-mail address.

In addition to the benefits described above, all registered players listed in your reservation will receive an email

notifying them of the play date and time. (Note, each player must have a valid email address in the reservations system to receive the email.)

The Buddy Management system allows you to create a list of team players. In addition, "My Reservations" (shown under your sign-in name at the top-right of the reservations screen) shows all your scheduled play dates through year-end.

Let's be sure we are all ready for the new year activities. Sign up today!

## ***President's Corner***

*On February 2nd the groundhog (Punxsutawney Phil, as he is known) saw his shadow so what does it mean? The legend is simple: the groundhog's shadow on Feb 2 predicts the weather for the next six weeks, until the start of spring. A sunny day means the groundhog will see his shadow - thus six more weeks of wintry weather; a cloudy day means the opposite.*

*Personally, with all the hoopla plus lighting around the groundhog he cannot help but see his shadow each year. Well, we seem to be experiencing a combination of sunny, rainy, cold and cloudy days. So let's jump at the chance to play on the acceptable days.*

*Remember to visit the gazebo to view the sketch for the proposed storage facility. Your participation on this matter is forthcoming, so be informed. Mike Kost is the primary contact for questions, as well any committee member.*

*Happy Croquet!*

*Barbara Williams  
TCCC President*