

# THE GADFLY

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ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE • 60 COLLEGE AVE, ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401 • APRIL 16, 2016 • VOL. XXXVII • ISSUE 13

NEW!!!  
FUN SIZE  
CROQUET ISSUE

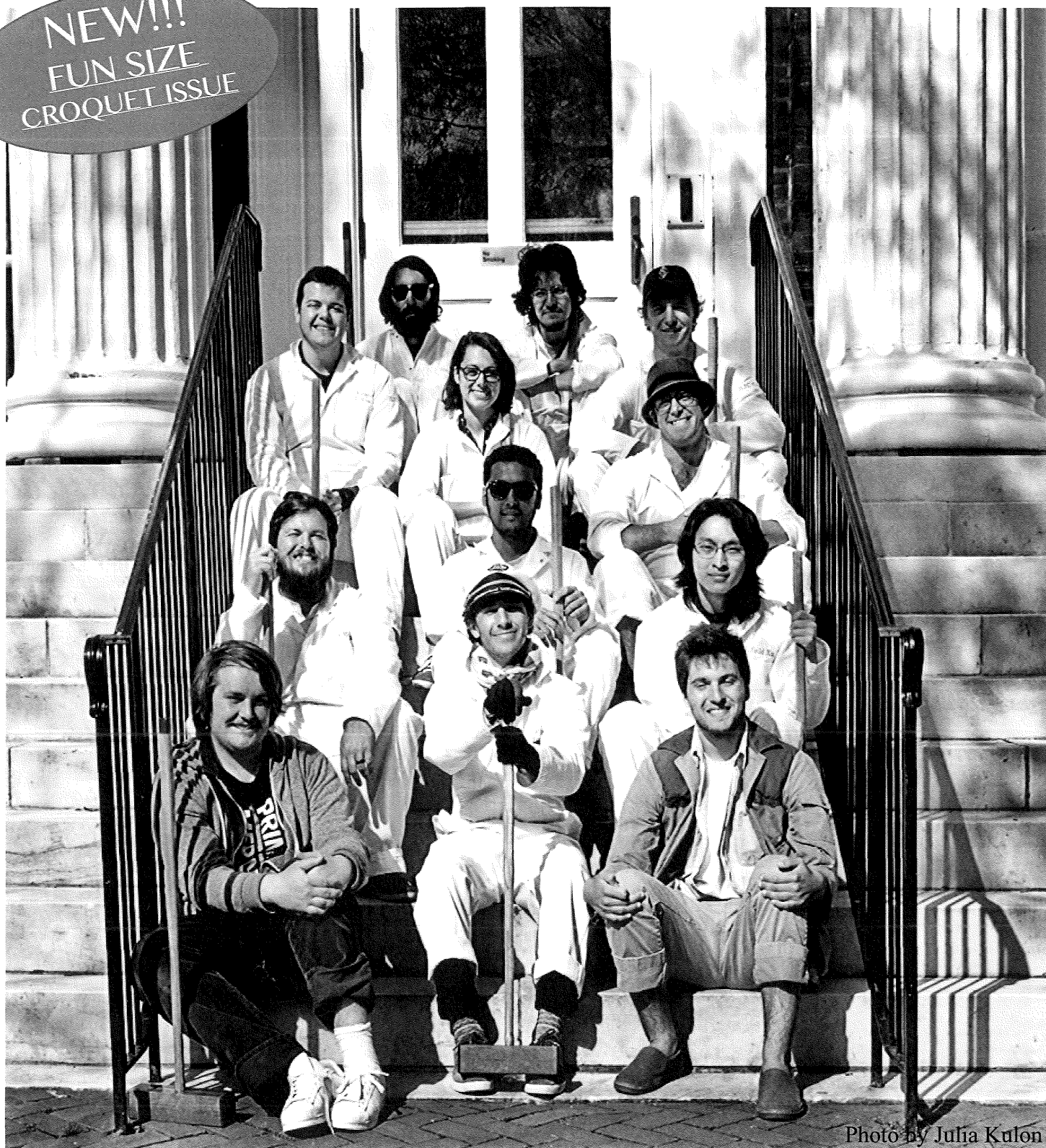


Photo by Julia Kulon

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER  
OF ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

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Founded in 1980, the Gadfly is the student newsmagazine distributed to over 600 students, faculty, and staff of the Annapolis campus.

Opinions expressed within are the sole responsibility of the author(s). The Gadfly reserves the right to accept, reject, and edit submissions in any way necessary to publish a professional, informative, and thought-provoking newsmagazine.

The Gadfly meets every other Sunday at 7 PM in the BBC. We always need editors, layout designers, illustrators, and organizers. Contact us at sjca.gadfly@gmail.com for more information.

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## From the Editors:

Hello Annapolis and visitors from parts beyond! Welcome to Croquet Day: the single most important event—not only for honoring crab cakes and cucumber sandwiches—but also for fostering goodwill between St. John's College and the United States Naval Academy, two of the finest schools in Maryland. Two teams, exemplifying their schools' piercing wit and endless dedication, going head-to-head at a game that refuses to apologize for being civilized. Loafers will be scuffed, seersucker stained with sweat and tears, and the earth soaked with spilled wine. But we should remember that no matter what happens, croquet manages to make everyone look good. Enjoy this humble publication, and enjoy the day!

-The Gadfly

# Spotlight on the Greenfield Library

## The Most Civilized Sporting Event in the World!

Happy Croquet, Annapolis!

In honor of the 34th Annual Croquet Match, Greenfield Library decided to shift a spotlight on the history of the development of croquet at St. John's College. For 2016 Annapolis Cup, we checked our archives and chose articles, material and pictures with the Croquet theme. Here are some of the suggestions from the Greenfield Library staff members:

Croquet: The Complete Guide to History, Strategy, Rules and Records by James Charlton & William Thompson (GV931.C44 1977 c.1);

Croquet: A handbook of all the rules, strategies, techniques, and tips you need to be a better player by Steven Boga (GV931.B6);

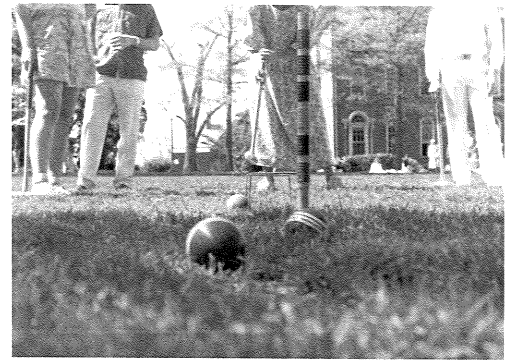
Croquet - Rules and Strategy for Home Play by Paul Brown (GV931.B7);

Queen of Games: A History of Croquet by Nick Smith (GV931.S6).

Do not forget to check out the old "Penultimate Issues" of The Gadfly and track the history of the Croquet growth on St. John's Campus all the way from 1983 back when croquet was not a big deal yet. Our top picks are The Gadfly issues from: April 21, 1988 (1987-88); April 20, 1993

(1992-93 c.2); April 25, 1994 (1993-94 c.2); April 25, 1998 (1997-98 c.2); April 26, 2007 (2006-07). The Gadfly is available in the periodical collection on the second floor of the Library.

Below take a look at Eva T. H. Brann's Address at the Croquet Match during her deanship on



Saturday, April 24, 1993 (The speech can be found and checked out at the Greenfield Library under Faculty File - BrannE053):

"I hereby open these ancient and venerable games. Here the navigators of the deep blue seas of nature face in glorious combat the negotiators of the high white sky of dialectic on the smooth green turf of our sacred earth. May the team least easily psyched out and best able to carry its champagne win and carry to its halls the splendid trophy of sweet victory."

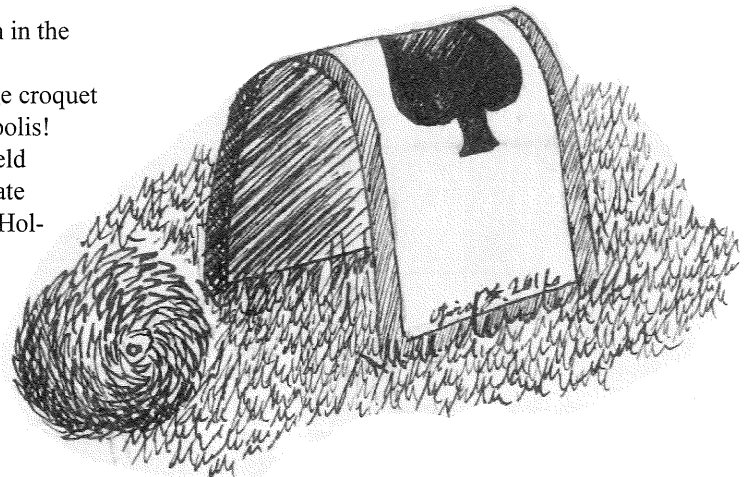
Let's be merry, root for the best team, and not forget - GO ST.JOHN'S! BEAT NAVY!!!

Elizabeth Akhvediani (A'17)  
Greenfield Library Student Assistant

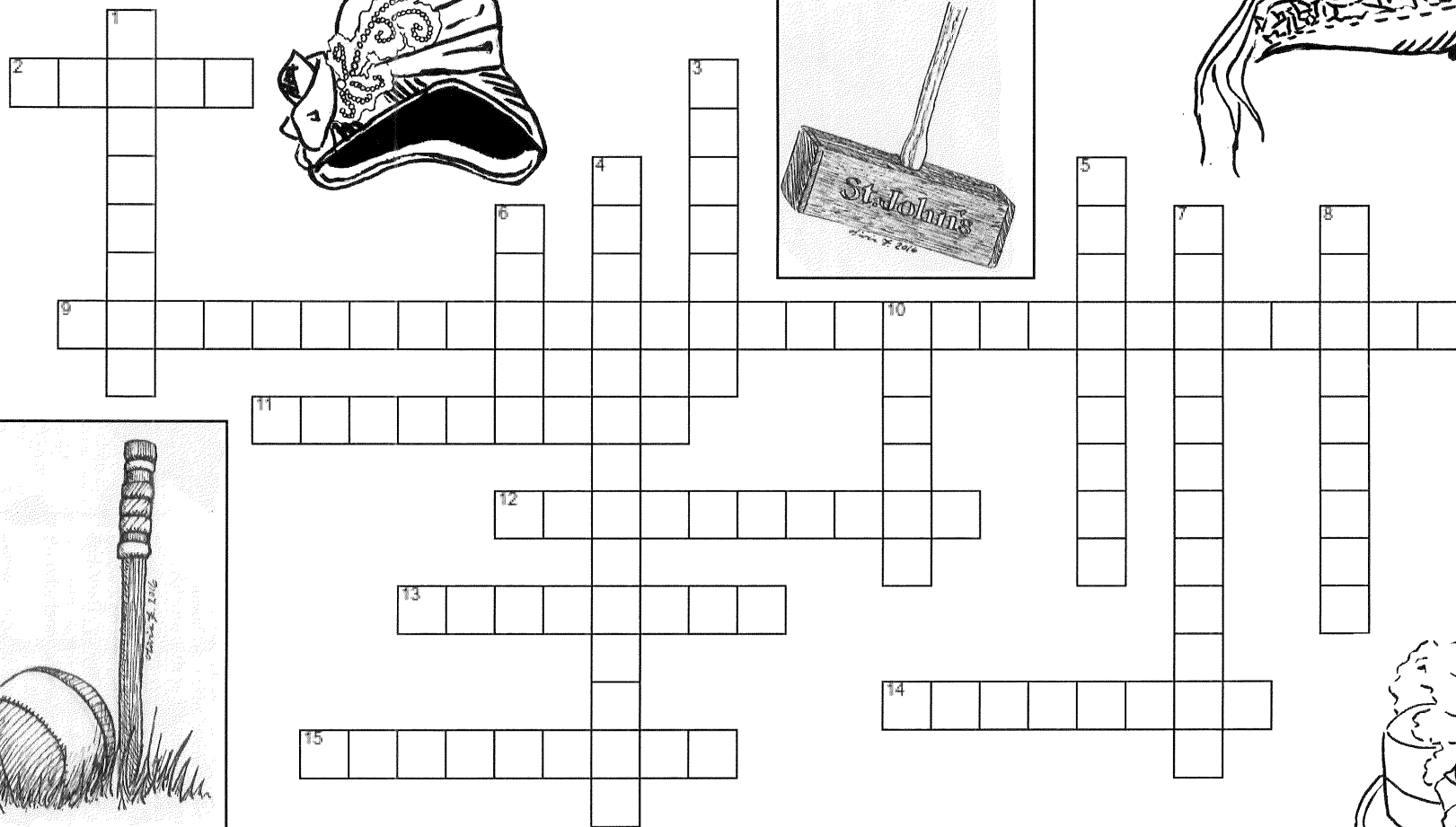
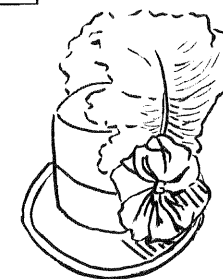
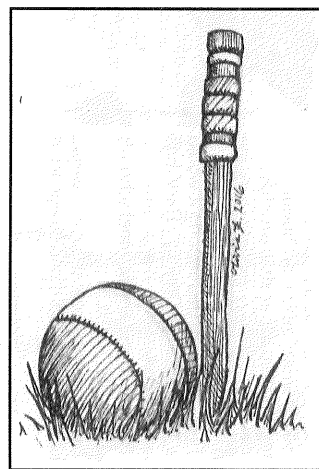
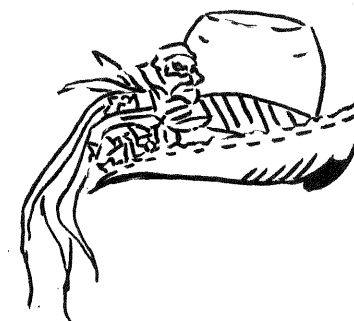
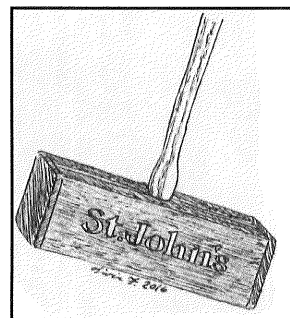
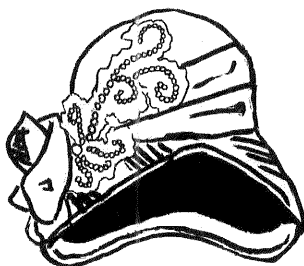
## 10 Fun Facts About Croquet

Stuart Lombard A'19

1. It has been said that only tobacco smoke spread faster throughout the British Empire than croquet.
2. *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* features a mad game of croquet.
3. Extreme Croquet has no bounds and is subject to Acts of Dog!
4. In the 1800's tight croquet allowed for young men and women to enter the bushes to search for a croquet ball...
5. At the 1904 Olympic Games in St. Louis, the USA was the only nation to participate in croquet... we won.
6. Before Wimbledon became the home of tennis, it was the home of croquet.
7. In 2012, British scientists in Antarctica celebrated the Queen's Diamond Jubilee by playing croquet on ice.
8. Croquet has not been in the Olympics since 1900.
9. The St John's College croquet team is the best in Annapolis!
10. In 2008, P Diddy held a croquet party to celebrate receiving his star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.



# Annapolis Croquet 2016



## ACROSS

- 2 The typical material of the court.  
 9 The six ball colors in standard order.  
 11 A small, breaded, fried food roll containing mashed potatoes or ground meat.  
 12 The formal style of "backyard croquet," the most common casual style in the US and Canada.  
 13 The traditional croquet practice uniform.  
 14 A more casual form of Croquet invented in the 1980s.  
 15 A more formal croquet style endorsed by the US Croquet Association

## DOWN

- 1 One of Croquet's potential ancestors, played in France in the 1600s.  
 3 Another of Croquet's potential ancestors, played on the beaches of Brittany.  
 4 The two types of points in Croquet.  
 5 A ball that stays in the game after it has scored all of its wickets.  
 6 The multi-colored stick the players try to hit.  
 7 How you gain most points in Croquet.  
 8 What you get when your ball scores a wicket or hits the turning stake.  
 10 A croquet hoop.





- When I hold a croquet mallet, I think of nothing but croquet. It's a great time to get away from my hectic Academy schedule.
- If I had \$10, I would buy as many McDonald's chicken nuggets as possible.
- The best place in the world is my bed.
- Everybody always compliments me on my hair.
- If I had my own theme song, it would be "Go The Distance" from Hercules.
- If I could attend any fictional school, it would be Horace Green Preparatory School with Mr. Schneebly.
- In my acceptance speech, I would thank my parents, family, and all my friends I have encountered throughout

- My favorite sea shanty is Drunken Sailor.
- If I had to eat 300 pounds of something, it would be McDonald's chicken nuggets.
- If I could summarize my life philosophy in three words, it would be "Love, Protect, and Sacrifice."

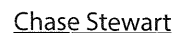


- When I hold a croquet mallet, I think of freedom.
- If I had \$10, I would bury it and leave a map.
- The best place in the world is...Huntington Beach.
- Everybody always compliments me on my dancing and clever rhymes.
- If I had my own theme song, it would be Watch Out by 2 Chainz.
- If I could attend any fictional school, it would be Hogwarts.
- In my acceptance speech, I would thank friends and family.
- My favorite sea shanty is the F.U.N. song from SpongeBob.
- If I had to eat 300 pounds of something, it would be Scooby Doo fruit snacks.
- If I could summarize my life philosophy in three words, it would be "I always say."



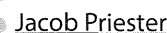
- When I hold a croquet mallet, I think of soaring eagles above the Nevada skies, the Statue of Liberty, and Ron Swanson's face in front of a faded American flag- blowing in the wind.
- If I had \$10 I would have a total life savings of \$10 and 37 cents.
- The best place in the world is where there is world peace, no hungry children, and you never stub your toe.
- Everybody always compliments me on my innovative new yoga poses.
- If I had my own theme song it would be "You Make My Dreams" -Daryl Hall & John Oates.
- If I could attend any fictional school it would be St. John's.
- In my acceptance speech I would like to thank my Lord and Savior Jesus

- My favorite sea shanty is "Look Down" -Les Miz
- If I had to eat 300 lbs of something, it would be lucky charms mixed with the tears of my enemy.
- If I had to summarize my life philosophy in three words, it would be "Shake and Bake".



- When I hold a croquet mallet, I think of nothing; I have reached my Zen moment.
- If I had \$10, I would spend it all on Capri-Sun juice.
- The best place in the world is Ohio, the greatest state in the Union.
- Everybody always compliments me on my Stroke
- If I had my own theme song, it would be... Work B\*\*\*h by Britney Spears.
- If I could attend any fictional school, it would be Pacific Coast Academy.
- In my acceptance speech, I would thank... My loving family and the Almighty.
- My favorite sea shanty is In the Navy (Village people).
- If I had to eat 300 pounds of something, it would be Goldfish to go along with the Capri Sun I bought

• If I could summarize my life philosophy in three words, it would be "Go Every Time."



- When I hold a croquet mallet, I think of the United States' naval forward presence among the vast oceans in which my mallet traveled to reach our great, capitalist country.
- If I had \$10, I would treat my momma to a nice meal at McDonald's.
- The best place in the world is anywhere in the borders of this great nation.
- Everybody always compliments me on my Just For Men Touch of Grey salt and pepper hairstyle.
- If I had my own theme song, it would be "The Fightin' Side of Me" by the greatest of men, Merle Haggard. R.I.P. Hag.
- If I could attend any fictional school, it would be Bunker Hill Military Academy from Taps.
- In my acceptance speech, I would thank Theodore Roosevelt, Johnny Cash, and John Wayne.
- My favorite sea shanty is "Roll the Old Chariot."

- If I could summarize my life philosophy in three words, it would be "Love one another" -J.C.



- When I hold a mallet, I think of the sport cricket.
- If I had \$10, I would put it in the bank to save it.
- The best place in the world is Spanish Town, Jamaica.
- Everybody always compliments me on my hair.
- If I had my own theme song, it would be "Many Men" by 50 Cent.
- If I could attend any fictional school, it would be Hogwarts, Harry Potter.
- In my acceptance speech, I would thank Kobe Bean Bryant.
- My favorite sea shanty is Anchors Weigh.
- If I had to eat 300 lbs. of something, it would be Vanilla Ice Cream.
- If I could summarize my life philosophy in three words, it would be "Live, Laugh, and Learn"



Stephen Roberts

- When I hold a croquet mallet, I think of how it must of felt to be John Henry.
- If I had \$10, I would buy a cigar.
- The best place in the world is Colorado.
- Everybody always compliments me on my stature.
- If I had my own theme song, it would be "I'll Make A Man Out Of You" – Mulan Soundtrack.
- If I could attend any fictional school, it would be Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.
- In my acceptance speech, I would thank my parents for having a magic child.
- My favorite sea shanty is "Mama, Mama Can't You See."
- If I had to eat 300 pounds of some-

- If I had to eat 500 pounds of something, it would be avocados topped with sour cream and tobasco.
- If I could summarize my life philosophy in three words, it would be, "service to Him"



Derek Moore

- When I hold a croquet mallet, I think of how Navy Croquet is soon to avenge last year's Annapolis Cup.
- If I had \$10, I would...give it to a Johnny and double their net worth.
- The best place in the world is...8th Wing of Bancroft Hall, which will soon be the permanent home of the Annapolis Cup.
- Everybody always compliments me on my ability to still look cool while playing croquet.
- If I had my own theme song, it would be "Boats n'...Ships."
- In my acceptance speech, I would thank Quincy Page for graciously allowing ALL of the Navy Croquet Team to participate in this year's Annapolis Cup.

- My favorite sea shanty is...is the one we will sing after beating St. Johns.
- If I had to eat 300 pounds of something, it would be very bad for my naval career.
- If I could summarize my life philosophy in three words, it would be: "no regrets."

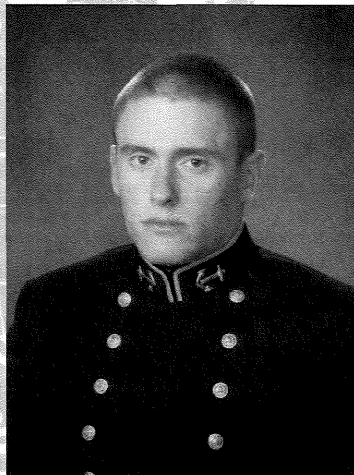


Jacob Lindsev

- When I hold a croquet mallet, I think of outrageous fun
- If I had \$10, I would help pay off Kanye West's \$53 million of debt.
- The best place in the world is Texas.
- Everybody always compliments me on my hair.
- If I had my own theme song, it would be "Believe" by Cher.
- If I could attend any fictional school, it would be Tree Hill High School.
- In my acceptance speech, I would thank Kenny Powers, for changing my outlook on life.
- My favorite sea shanty is, "I gave my love to Erin" sung with Detective Allen Gamble.
- If I had to eat 300 pounds of something, it would be gluten, sweet sweet

gluten.

- If I could summarize my life philosophy in three words, it would be "the dude abides."



Danny Thompson

- When I hold a croquet mallet, I think of a Firetwizel.
- If I had \$10, I would take her out for a nice meal.
- The best place in the world is the Naval Academy.
- Everybody always compliments me on my split shot.
- If I had my own theme song, it would be "Schiebe," by Lady Gaga.
- If I could attend any fictional school, it would be Hogwarts. SLYTHERIN.
- In my acceptance speech, I would thank Poppa Bill.
- My favorite sea shanty is "Anchors Aweigh."
- If I had to eat 300 pounds of something, it would be Lucky Charms.

- If I could summarize my life philosophy in three words, it would be "Winning. That's it."

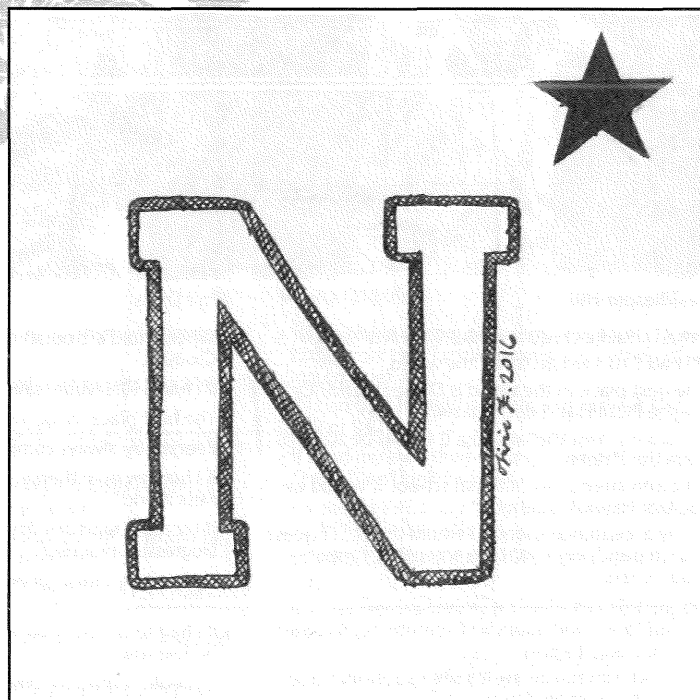


Joseph Roberts

- When I hold a croquet mallet, I think of avoiding splinters mostly.
- If I had \$10, I would buy guac for my Chipotle burrito the next 5 times I go. Because that's that good-good.
- If I had my own theme song, it would be "Gas Pedal" by Sage the Gemini and lamsu! as covered by Crescendudes, the University of Central Florida Men's Varsity A Capella Group.
- If I could attend any fictional school, it would be Joe Roberts School of Learning How To Crochet Using Nothing But 2 Chainz' Hair, offering minors in the study of how to write the word chainz in the possessive tense.
- In my acceptance speech, I would thank the dean of my fictional school for rejecting my application even though it was to my own school. I

wouldn't have come to Navy without her. Bless up.

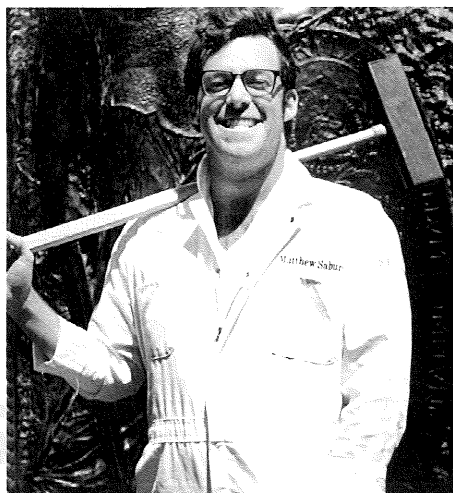
- My favorite sea shanty is “Yo Ho and A Bottle of Chipotle Guac.”
- If I had to eat 300 pounds of something, it would be a bowl of nails. Without any milk.
- If I could summarize my life philosophy in three words, it would be “If life gives you lemons, make lemons; if life gives you limits on word lengths, ignore them.”





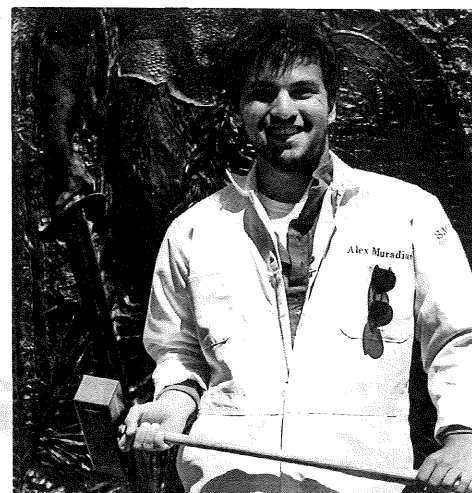
Max Khanjari

- When I hold a croquet mallet, I think of my dear mother back home in Greenland.
- If I had \$10, I would hire a \$10/hour pool cleaning service. I don't have a pool.
- The best place in the world is the spot in front of this seal.
- Everybody always compliments me on my stocking cap, apparently.
- If I had my own theme song, it would be "Eye of the Tiger" on eternal loop since 1982.
- If I could attend any fictional school, it would be any school filled with pop culture archetypes.
- In my acceptance speech, I would thank nobody. I don't need anybody to succeed.
- If I had to eat 300 pounds of something, it would be helium so I can fly!
- If I could summarize my life philosophy in three words, it would be "always answer questionnaires."



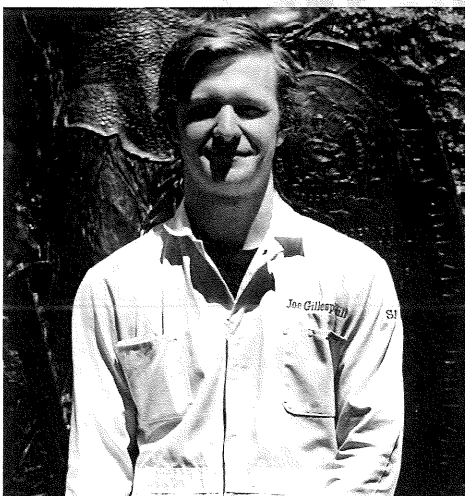
Matthew Saburn

- When I hold a croquet mallet, I think of beating Navy.
- If I had \$10, I would go to Harry Browne's.
- The best place in the world is a watery place to greet and part from the sun.
- Everybody always compliments me on my boisterous belly laugh.
- If I had my own theme song, it would be "Don't Dream It Be It" - Rocky Horror Picture Show.
- If I could attend any fictional school, it would be Durmstrang.
- In my acceptance speech, I would thank my family, my friends, my bartender.
- If I had to eat 300 pounds of something, it would be Original Cheddar Flavor Cheez-Its.
- If I could summarize my life philosophy in three words, it would be "laugh, death nears."



Alex Muradian

- When I hold a croquet mallet, I think of upgrading to a +2 iron maul.
- If I had \$10, I would kill 99 lesser hellbeasts, and then use the gold to upgrade to a +2 iron maul.
- The best place in the world is a firm place to stand my ground against the undead.
- Everybody always compliments me on my instant healing ability.
- If I had my own theme song, it would be "Through the Fire and the Flames" by DragonForce.
- If I could attend any fictional school, it would be The Paladin Academy of the Outlands. It's a bit of a schlep, but man is it worth it.
- If I had to eat 300 pounds of something, it would be stacked potions of damage.
- If I could summarize my life philosophy in three words, it would be "always answer questionnaires."



Joe Gillespie-Hill

- When I hold a croquet mallet, I think of Gary.
- If I had \$10, I would travel the world.
- The best place in the world is Disney World? Or maybe Pizza Hut? I don't know.
- If I had my own theme song, it would be screams from the haters.
- If I could attend any fictional school, it would be the U.S. Naval Academy.
- In my acceptance speech, I would thank... I guess that depends on what I am accepting. Probably God I guess.
- My favorite sea shanty is "Sicut Cervus."
- If I had to eat 300 pounds of something, it would be assorted vitamins.
- If I could summarize my life philosophy in three words, it would be "Always Be Closing."



Rhys Davis

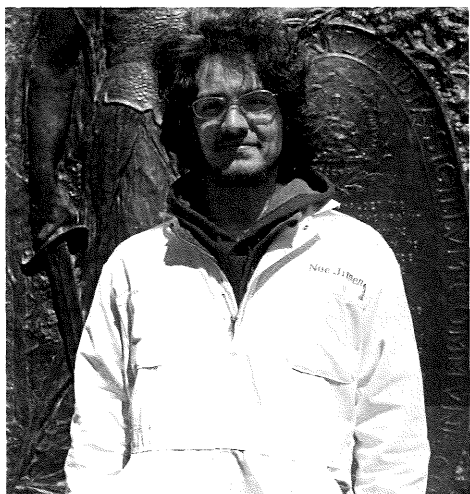
- When I hold a croquet mallet, I think of playing Croquet.
- If I had \$10, I would save it for a rainy day.
- The best place in the world is Virginia.
- Everybody always compliments me on my looks.
- If I had my own theme song, it would be "Hole-Miss World."
- If I could attend any fictional school, it would be Degraffi Junior High.
- In my acceptance speech, I would thank my family & friends.
- If I had to eat 300 pounds of something, it would be foie gras.
- If I could summarize my life philosophy in three words, it would be "zone chilling nonstop."



Stephanie Hurn

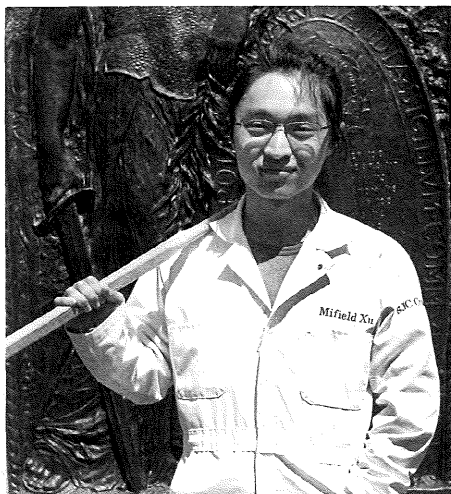
- If I had \$10, I would get some of that cheap red!
- If I had my own theme song, it would be "Africa" by Toto. Too easy.
- If I could attend any fictional school, it would be Jordan College from The Golden Compass.
- In my acceptance speech, I would thank Toto, for their inspiration.
- My favorite sea shanty is "Africa" by Toto. Again, easy.
- If I had to eat 300 pounds of something, it would be... Are you insane? 300 pounds?! Why would I eat 300 pounds of something EVER??? ..... Final answer: Nachos.
- If I could summarize my life philosophy in three words, it would be "dreams come true."





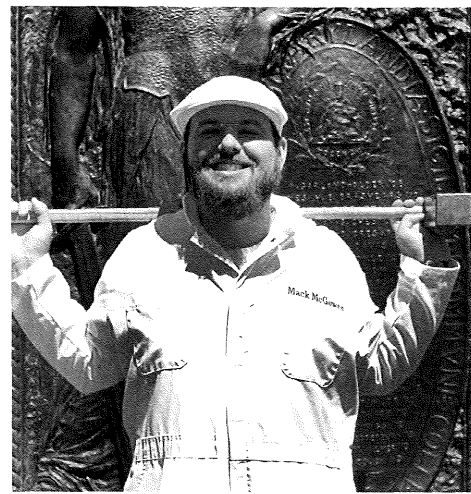
Noé Jimenez (Imperial Wicket)

- When I hold a croquet mallet, I think of Sam Collins.
- If I had \$10, I would Sam Collins.
- The best place in the world is Sam Collins.
- Everybody always compliments me on my Sam Collins.
- If I had my own theme song, it would be Sam Collins.
- If I could attend any fictional school, it would be Sam Collins.
- In my acceptance speech, I would thank Sam Collins.
- My favorite sea shanty is Sam Collins.
- If I had to eat 300 pounds of something, it would be Sam Collins.
- If I could summarize my life philosophy in three words, it would be "Sam Collins."



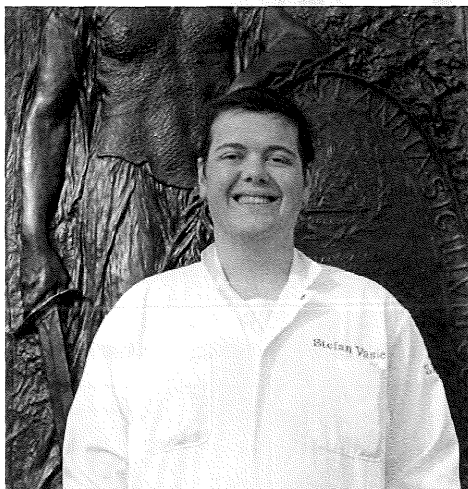
Mifield Xu

- When I hold a croquet mallet, I think of whatever soccer players think of when they wear cleats.
- The best place in the world is wherever I am at the moment. Changes are difficult to deal with.
- If I had my own theme song, it would be "Waldesnacht" by Arnold Schönberg.
- In my acceptance speech, I would thank everyone who has ever put me down. If they were right, then they taught me something I hadn't known about myself. If they were wrong, then they taught me that people can be jerks.
- My favorite sea shanty is... "Does Look Down" from Les Mis count?
- If I had to eat 300 pounds of something, it would be whole, unsalted cashews, or cracked (but still unsalted) pistachios.
- If I could summarize my life philosophy in three words, it would be "organized but unkempt."



Mack McGowen

- If I had \$10, I would... I just hope it's enough to buy a miracle, that's all.
- The best place in the world is... Well, one thing I will say. The fire swamp certainly does keep you on your toes.
- If I could attend any fictional school, it would be Dread Pirate Robert's school of etiquette where I could be learning to fence, fight, anything anyone would teach me.
- My favorite sea shanty is the song of the shrieking eels. They always grow louder when they're about to feed on human flesh.
- If I had to eat 300 pounds of something, it would be locane powder. It is odorless, tasteless, dissolves instantly in liquid, and is among the more deadly poisons known to man. I would space it out over 2 years so I could build up an immunity.
- If I could summarize my life philosophy in three words, it would be: as you wish.



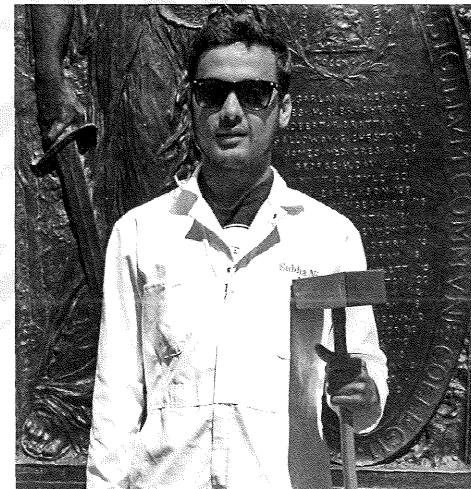
Stefan Vasic

- When I hold a croquet mallet, I think of Virgil Solizzo trying to muscle in.
- If I had \$10, I would give it to a widow so she can pay rent, after making the landlord lower the rent significantly.
- The best place in the world is Corleone, Sicily.
- Everybody always compliments me on my offers that they can't refuse.
- If I could attend any fictional school, it would be Fat Clemenza Culinary School.
- In my acceptance speech, I would thank Fat Clemenza, Don Tommasino, and Ezio the Baker.
- If I had to eat 300 pounds of something, it would be cannolis.
- If I could summarize my life philosophy in three words, it would be "Eat, Pray, Slay."



Shane Hettler

- When I hold a croquet mallet, I think of listening to Mojo Nixon.
- If I had \$10, I would spend it on tickets to a Mojo Nixon concert.
- The best place in the world is a Mojo Nixon concert.
- If I had my own theme song, it would be "Tie My Pecker To My Leg" by Mojo Nixon.
- If I could attend any fictional school, it would be The United States Naval Academy.
- In my acceptance speech, I would thank Mojo Nixon.
- If I had to eat 300 pounds of something, it would be mustards
- If I could summarize my life philosophy in three words, it would be "Mojo, Pecker, Nixon."



Subha Niroula

- When I hold a croquet mallet, I think of... All the homework that I could have done instead of playing croquet.
- If I had \$10, I would gamble and make it \$20 or \$22 or \$47
- If I had my own theme song, it would be "One of These Days" by Pink Floyd
- If I could attend any fictional school, it would be: St. John's College, Nepal.
- In my acceptance speech, I would thank Mr. Abbott
- My favorite sea shanty is... What the hell does this mean?
- If I had to eat 300 pounds of something, it would be... Why would I do this?
- If I could summarize my life philosophy in three words, it would be live fast, die .

# The Future of Croquet

Sebastian Barajas A'17

Of all the issues at stake for Americans today, there are few as important or as divisive as the future of croquet. "When people think of America, they think of croquet," noted sports historian Jiff Teddy told reporters, "That and Twinkies. I'm telling you, this is the bald eagle of sports: the future of croquet is the future of America, and the future we'll be handing to our children. Now is the time to really invest in the game."

Despite the push to invest, many teams have found this difficult. It's no secret that the median salary of professional croquet players has dropped from \$2.8 million in 2005 to a bare \$96,500 in 2015. Competition from the emerging cornhole and bocce ball leagues have forced many croquet teams to make cutbacks, replacing their traditional wooden mallets with mailboxes filled with sand, and substituting beluga caviar with the less expensive salmon roe as the centerpiece of their mid-practice hors d'oeuvres.

But competition accounts for only some of the croquet industry's losses. As the tastes of fans edge towards more physical, fast-paced, poorly refereed sports, the quiet dignity of croquet has been pushed by the wayside. "I think people want to see blood," said retired Imperial Wicket Davis Slendermack, speaking from his Malibu home, "Not necessarily physical blood, you understand. Though that was the way in Roman times. What the savage masses want is to see people like them: savages. They want to see athletes collide like trucks and argue like barroom brawlers. And that's not what we croquet players are about. Mostly, we're about good sportsmanship, sun hats, and stiff handshakes."

In response to the pressures of the modern audience, the Council of Wickets convened for the first time in over a century. In October, three hundred Grand Imperial Wickets from all over the world met in Reynolds Tavern in Annapolis, MD. Although they spent over four and a half hours in negotiation, and consumed two pots of tea apiece, they ultimately reached the verdict that the sport was "quite alright after all," and took no new action to secure its future.

However, there still seems to be hope that croquet will be rescued: stockholders plan to hold a meeting next month in Las Vegas, NV, and bring about the changes that the Council of Wickets neglected.

But according to E.R. Dunham, controversial croquet theorist and speculative science fiction writer, the sport will have to become a very different game from the one we know and love today if it is to survive. "Mallets will be supercharged, moving at relativistic speeds" he told reporters, "So the balls will only be able to take one or two hits before they shatter or collapse into singularities. Plays will be a lot shorter too, lasting between two and three hundred nanoseconds. That's still longer than most football plays. That'll leave plenty of time for ads, or for players to stage arguments

with the refs."

Whatever the future of the sport holds, it is clear that Annapolis will continue to be the Silicon Valley of croquet technology development, and the heart of what sports historian Jiff Teddy calls, "America's other pastime." ♦

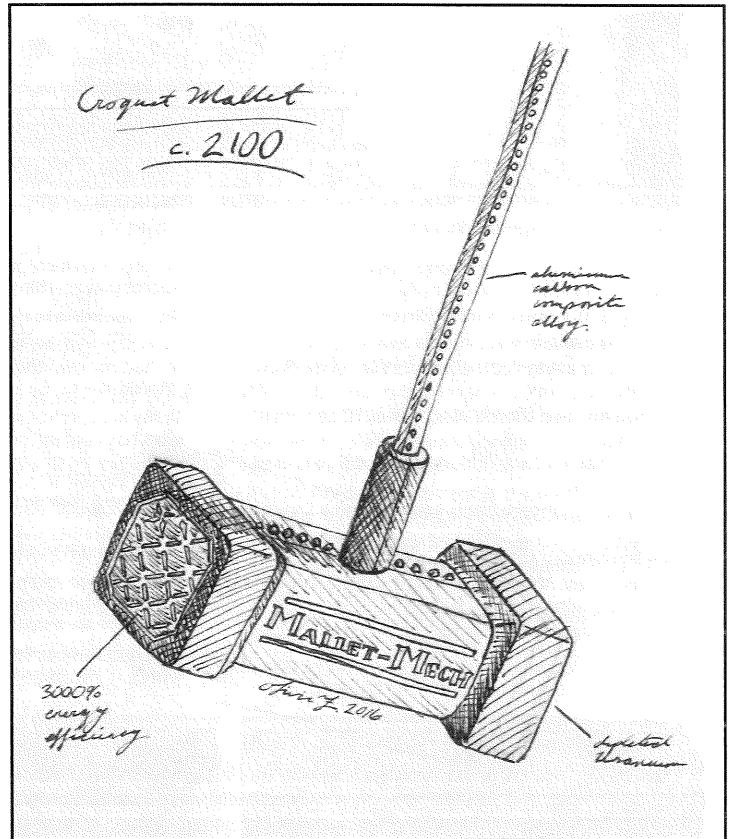


Fig. 1: Croquet mallet c. 2100. Handle is made of an aluminum-carbon composite alloy. The head is made of depleted uranium, with striker plates made of a non-Newtonian substance called super graphene, which returns three thousand percent energy efficiency on blunt force compression.

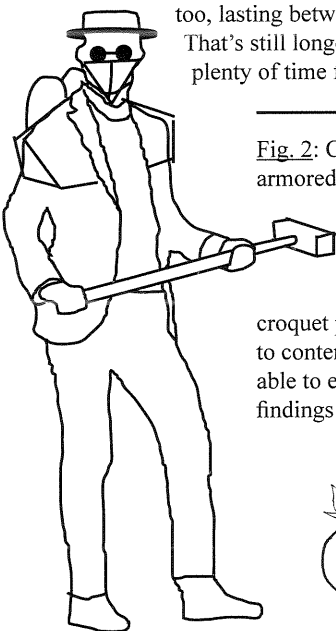


Fig. 2: Croquet multi-environment armored hazard suit (reminiscent of the HEV suits from the Half-Life video game franchise) used for tackling the new volcano and ice arenas croquet players of the future will have to contend with. They will also be able to earn their teams extra points by findings hats along the way.

