

SEVENTH ANNUAL AUTUMN LEAVES INVITATIONAL
THE CHATTOOGA CLUB, CASHIERS, N.C.
October 6-9, 2011

The Seventh Annual Autumn Leaves Invitational tournament was held October 6th to the 9th at the picturesque setting in the mountains of southwest North Carolina, hosted by the Chattooga Club in Cashiers, NC. The setting was everything anyone could want. Using two full size courts set just below the open pavilion and Lodge with a backdrop of two mountains across the valley. The weather cooperated, with cool clear days reaching the 70's each day except for some clouds on Sunday. The rain came just after the tournament was completed. Long pants and sweaters were the accepted method of dress,

Play was doubles only, with Thursday and Friday devoted to Waterford doubles in two flights, with trophies awarded to the winners and runner-ups in each flight. Saturday and Sunday saw a single high-low flight with seven teams playing four games in a block arrangement, with the two top teams taking home trophies.

Championship flight Waterford doubles saw #1 seed Jackie Jones go undefeated to take the honors, while #2 seed Jim Hall tumbled to last place. Joy Diesel took the #2 spot just edging out Tom Moss at the end of the second day.

In First flight David Owen edged out Hal Cottingham to win the trophy. Players were reasonably well matched, with six of the eight players winning at least 50% of the games.

Both flights were combined into one for the Saturday and Sunday high-low doubles block play. #1 seed Jackie Jones, partnered with #14 Dawn Jupin, the tennis pro, and the new croquet pro at Chattooga (Dawn did not play the first two days, and was therefore seeded #14) There were two drop-outs after the first two days, and their spots were quickly filled. Kathleen Rivers, a 4.5 croquet player, who has been absent from the game for some time, rejoined the ranks to fill the other opening on the week-end.

The food, as usual, was a culinary delight starting with a courtside champagne party on Wednesday that served as a wrap-up of the afternoon wine and wickets (Not actually part of the tournament) and the opening of the Autumn Leaves tournament. Thursday was an open evening, when the players could try out the local establishments, or sign up for dinner at the Club.

Friday evening cocktails and dinner were held at Louis and Judy Freeman's new home. If you are interested in a beautiful view of the Carolina Mountains and valleys, build your home on the top of a mountain as the Freeman's did. The food, catered by the Club, was outstanding consisting of sliced Filet Mignon, baked scallops, baby lamb chops, shrimp (and at this point, I lost track of the food available) Discussion consisted mainly of the past two days events, plus the draw for the high-low upcoming event.

Saturday evening as in previous years, the Club hosted the traditional players cocktail party and dinner at the Lodge. This year's menu consisted of Roasted Butternut Squash Soup, prime tenderloin of Beef, Lobster Mousse Griddle Cake, Steamed Asparagus, Chateau Potatoes, followed by Key Lime pie, Whipped Cream and Berries.

A complete breakfast awaited us each morning at the Lodge including made to order omelets, bacon and sausage, oatmeal and grits, rolls and sweet buns, hash browns, etc. Lunch was served on the porch overlooking the courts each day and one had a choice of the daily menu.

After the awards on Sunday, we all joined in on the Sunday Brunch. The dates for next year's tournaments were discussed, and will be announced soon. The Mt Laurel Invitational is scheduled for June, and the Autumn Leaves for October.

Submitted
Fred Jones
Tournament Director

WATERFORD DOUBLES
Thursday & Friday

- Championship Flight
- 1 Jackie Jones
 - 2 Joy Diesel
 - 3 Tom Moss
 - 4 John Joseph
 - 5 Jennifer Joseph
 - 6 Jim Hall

- First Flight
- 1 David Owen
 - 2 Hal Cottingham
 - 3 John West
 - 4 Judy Freeman
 - 5 Louis Freeman
 - 6 Conrad Ahrens
 - 7 Michael Albert
 - 8 Karen Albert

BLOCK PLAY
Saturday & Sunday

- 1 Jackie Jones & Dawn Jupin
- 2 Jim Hall & Judy Freeman
- 3 Jennifer Joseph & Louis Freeman
- 4 John Joseph & Conrad Ahrens
- 5 David Owen & John West
- 6 Kathleen Rivers & Michael Alpert
- 7 Joy Diesel & Karen Alpert