

**GRAND HAVEN INVITATIONAL
PALM COAST, FLORIDA
NOVEMBER 9-11, 2011**

Welcome to the sixth annual Grand Haven invitational. The welcome mat was out, and the players were treated royally, as has been the custom during the previous years. A cold front (But we don't have cold fronts in Florida) went through Thursday night, and left us with a clear sky and cool cold sunny days. The croquet committee, under the direction of the Acting Tournament Manager, Rich Burns came up with a pleasant mix of croquet and social events to keep the most discriminating player pleased. Special recognition went to Yvonne Croizer for her untiring devotion to duty. Fred Jones controlled the on court activities.

Using an oversize court, divided into two, three flights competed for three full days, and Saturday morning to complete a round robin in each flight. Due to a couple of last minute cancellations, we were able to give the First flight a full round robin, a block of 8 playing 7 games, then all emerging to a single ladder play-off Second and Third flights, played six games in the block with four playing off on Saturday. The majority of the players were repeats from previous years, and the mix of locals and guests worked well.

The opening party was held at the home of Pat Williams, where schedules and favors were handed out, and the liquid and solid refreshments never seemed to end. All had a great evening.

The traditional dinner party was held at the Golf Club on Friday evening, again the food, drinks, and comradely were first class. This was preceded Wednesday evening by a buffet dinner at the clubhouse courtside conceived and served by Yvonne Croizer. What a wonderful meal and a pleasant evening.

When it became time to play croquet, the courts were lively, but without incident. The games went smoothly, and on time, with board keepers supplied by the club, both by the players and by non-participating members. What a pleasure, not having to coerce people to help.

The first of the eliminations started Friday afternoon, when we pared 8 players to 4 in First flight. Saturday morning was the wrap-up with the top four players from each flight playing in a single elimination ladder, designed to finish by 1:00 PM so the group might move indoors for a nice lunch and the award ceremonies

What happened? Well, Cassandra Gaisor won over Joe Zilligen in first flight. Rich Burns undefeated in block play dropped to third place.

Second flight was decided when Dave Yurk, who went undefeated throughout the entire tournament, including the ladder topped Tom Shelko in the final. Dorthy Fosse, always a competitor, was third.

Les Avera, a new member of Grand haven and also a member at Lake Toxaway, who went undefeated through the block and the ladder, who out played Terry Philcox 17-16 to take the win, dominated third flight. Marilyn Heberling, a perennial at this tournament, took third place

The shot of the week was Jake Johnson, playing yellow, attempting a jump shot a #1 wicket, making it, and at the same time knocking black 8 feet in a right angle roquet.

Trophies were awarded following the Saturday luncheon.

Fred Jones
Tournament Director