

Meadow Club Invitational

August 2-6

Southampton, NY

Snapshot

by Patrick Foy

As someone who has been there for the past five years, let me say that the 2011 Meadow Club Invitational in Southampton (August 1st to August 6th) was as lively and surprising as ever. Tournament Director Archie Peck is the man in charge of the courts, ably assisted by local croquet aficionado Ted Quimby, who lives in Bridgehampton. Palm Beacher Dolph Cramer likes to call himself the overall "titular" chairman of the event, leaving his wife Beatty to do the heavy lifting. Fellow Palm Beacher Stuart Baker is co-chairman. His wife Alixandra is the social Chairman. These latter two hosted an amazing Lobster-fest at the Club midweek.

As for the results, the standouts were more Palm Beachers: Steve Warner from the Beach Club and Tim Bitting from the Everglades Club. Tim managed to beat the winner of the tournament, -2.5 handicapper Derek Wassink, twice on his way to the finals. As for Steve, he beat everybody except Derek. Steve beat me, Tim, Dick Sullivan and last year's champion, Ted Quimby. Steve came in third. Quite a tournament for someone whom I thought had been in a slump for the past two years. I was not courtside to see the two defeats of Derek by Tim, so I don't know how Tim did it. No one else could touch Derek, who was making his first appearance at the tournament. He played very much like a -2.5. In my own match against him, I found myself trying to hit in from vast distances at a single target, and in the process gifting him the 4th ball.

The ever-improving and always-intense Stuart Baker managed to outplay Sandy Walsh in the Championship "B" singles finals. It is not entirely clear to me how. I saw Stuart, in rapid succession, play out of turn, then play the correct ball, but go through the wrong (4th) wicket, which was the same one he had just tried to score with the out-of-turn ball, and then a few moments later, fail to clear his deadness when Sandy sailed through 1-back. I guess Sandy made more mistakes. She seems to do that under pressure in final matches. Stuart overcomes his own mistakes with good shooting when it counts.

See TD Archie Peck's report and the full results in the Bulletin Board and in Croquet News magazine. My own observations on this storied tournament will appear in the next edition of the National Croquet Calendar in the "Chatter" column. In the meantime, there is a selection of photographs in the [Photos](#) section.

Full Report

by Archie Peck

Stuart Baker and 15 year old Will Rainey go undefeated in The Meadow Club Invitational

Derek “Tiger” Wassink wins Championship Singles:

What a sensational 5 days we had at The Meadow Club Invitational played August 2nd through the 6th. 58 players with at least 25 ‘socials’ were involved the entire week. Beautiful weather prevailed throughout the week (84 degrees max). We had 8 lawns for the week – the regular 2 dedicated croquet lawns plus 8 of the grass tennis courts were converted to 6 croquet lawns. For the 6 lawns, we used colorful yellow string as boundary lines so there was no confusion for the players because some of the grass tennis court ‘painted’ lines were still visible. And, smartly enough the 2 regular lawns now have painted boundary lines instead of string. In the past there have been too many ‘accidental trips’ on the high string.

Derek “Tiger” Wassink (Princeton grad) won the championship singles over Tim Bitting in a very well played game by both players. Tim had 2 wins against Derek during block and double elimination draw events so Derek was cautiously ‘ready’ for the finals game. At least 70 people surrounded the finals lawn to watch and appreciate an excellent championship singles finals. Court #1 was the finals lawn and after ‘no mowing’ since Friday am the lawn was quite slow making it rather difficult to sustain a 3-ball break. Derek put himself quite comfortably ahead with some ‘come and get me if you dare’ leaves. Tim did attack when he should have but he had trouble keeping “the innings” which is vital at this level of play. In last turn the score was 17-9 for Derek. Tim had a chance to win but he needed 2 peels and go ‘out’ in the final turn.

Stuart Baker and young Will Rainey dominated their respective block play and elimination draws to win the Championship “B” singles and first flight singles. Late entry, Melissa Olcott, won the second flight singles in a close match against Missy Diack. Melissa had not played much croquet for a few years and finally decided to get her feet wet again. As the final result indicates, Melissa did not lose a beat during her ‘time off’.

All invitational tournaments require lots of effort from “the committee” to ensure success. This year’s tournament was no exception – hard work by all committee members produced a real winner in all respects. Dolph Cramer was Chairman with Stuart Baker and James Olcott as Co-Chairmen. Secretary was Beatty Cramer (when Beatty speaks you best pay attention). Treasurer was Monica Unger and Social Chairman was Alixandra Baker. They all did their jobs to perfection. All players and social attendees were treated to marvelous daily lunches and every evening was carefully planned to be different and special. Tuesday night was a barbecue dinner on the Meadow Club Terrace, Wednesday night a Clambake at The Meadow Club hosted Alixandra and Stuart Baker, Thursday night the participants were treated to a buffet Dinner Dance at Whitefields Music Room hosted by Julia Wallace and Friday night was a buffet dinner Dance at The Meadow Club. Then, of course, the finals awards luncheon at 1pm on

The Meadow Club Terrace. And, in the mornings before matches the players were treated to a continental breakfast. Does not get any better than this !! The committee produced and all of the players were very grateful indeed. Somehow I was wondering if the players entered the tournament for the social events or did they really enter to play croquet. They did both and truly appreciated all of the work that it took to put on such a successful event. That's why for the second year in a row we had at least 58 entries. Next year the field will be limited to the first 60 entrants, with a waiting list I'm sure. So, when you receive your invitation for the 2012 tournament I suggest you act quickly and send in your acceptance well before the deadline.

We played Waterford doubles in 3 flights. Championship doubles included championship "B" players. Victoria Albrecht won the Championship doubles, Peter Timmins won the first flight doubles and the combined team of Lyn and Warren Hamer won the second flight. The Hamers alternated games.

Finally, I must thank Carol and Tony Mayo for putting me up at their 'farm' for the 9th straight year. Tony always tapes baseball games and serious movies for us to watch after attending one of the evening functions. Other residences of the house include 2 dogs, 2 cats and 5 horses in the barn. I usually get up at 6am to prepare for the day and the first thing I do is open up the glass door to a very large deck on the 2nd floor where I watch many deer and wild turkeys having their morning snack amidst the 50 plus acre farm. Very peaceful indeed.

Results

Championship Singles

1. Derek Wassink
2. Tim Bitting
3. Steve Warner
4. Dick Sullivan
5. Ted Quimby
6. Patrick Foy

Championship "B" Singles

1. Stuart Baker
2. Sandy Walsh
3. Kiehner Johnson
4. Peter Timmins
5. Doug McKechney
5. Lucie Bard
5. Reine Bitting
5. Victoria Albrecht
9. Carol Mayo
9. Beatty Cramer
9. Mark Benincase

- 9. Charlotte Hapak
- 13. Tony Mayo
- 13. Louis Norris
- 13. Jack Montgomery
- 13. Jim Tiberg

First Flight Singles

- 1. Will Rainey
- 2. Jennifer Thomas
- 3. Carla Rueck
- 4. Lyn Hamer
- 5. Anne Licursi
- 5. Kelso Sutton
- 5. Rocco Mango
- 5. Spencer Hood
- 9. Colleen Rogers
- 9. George Mathys
- 9. Hildegard Jones

First Flight Singles

- 1. Will Rainey
- 2. Jennifer Thomas
- 3. Carla Rueck
- 4. Lyn Hamer
- 5. Anne Licursi
- 5. Kelso Sutton
- 5. Rocco Mango
- 5. Spencer Hood
- 9. Colleen Rogers
- 9. George Mathys
- 9. Hildegard Jones

Second Flight Singles

- 1. Melissa Olcott
- 2. Missy Diack
- 3. Denis Dwyer
- 4. Warren Hamer
- 5. Julia Wallace
- 5. Franklin Perrell
- 5. Jane Mango
- 5. Herb Mallard
- 9. Freear Pollard
- 9. Sally Mc Grath
- 9. Barbara Missett

Waterford

Championship Flight Doubles

1. Victoria Albrecht
2. Dick Sullivan
3. Steve Warner
4. Derek Wassink
5. Jodie Rugart
6. Stuart Baker
7. Patrick Foy
8. Ted Quimby
9. Jack Montgomery
10. Louis Norris
11. Lucie Bard
12. Mark Benincase
13. Tony Mayo
14. Carol Mayo
15. Tim Biting

First Flight Doubles

1. Peter Timmins
2. Doug McKechney
3. Kiehner Johnson
4. Jim Tiberg
5. Colleen Rogers
6. Rocco Mango
7. Will Rainey
8. Beatty Cramer
9. Shanda Stephenson
10. Spencer Hood
11. George Mathys
12. Charlotte Hapak

Second Flight Doubles

1. Lyn & Warren Hamer
2. Mary Robb
3. Karen Heckman
4. Herb Mallard
5. Sally McGrath
6. Warren Phillips
7. Carla Rueck
8. Anne Licursi
9. Freear Pollard
10. Hildegard Jones
11. Missy Diack
12. Denis Dwyer
13. MaryAnne Mathys
14. Melissa Olcott

15. Eugenia Wilkie
16. Kelso Sutton
17. Franklin Perrell
18. Pat Barile
19. Jane Mango
20. Emily Schelter
21. Julia Wallace
22. Nicholas Kirkbride
23. Barbara Missett