

**EIGHTH ANNUAL AUTUMN LEAVES INVITATIONAL
CHATTOOGA CLUB, CASHIERS, N.C.
October 3 – 7, 2012**

The Eighth Annual Autumn Leaves Invitational tournament was held October 3rd to the 7th 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 three courts set just below the open pavilion and Lodge with a backdrop of two mountains across the valley. This year the weather was something to watch and to hold your breath. The day before the opening, Monday saw 3 ½ to 5 inches (depending on who you talked to) of rain come down in tropical fashion. Clearing Tuesday morning, the sun held out through Saturday when another cold front with rain was due to pass through. Cloudy but no rain Saturday, rained hard Saturday night, and clear Sunday morning for the semi finals and finals. The temperature was in the low 70's, great for croquet.



Speaking of the courts, they are probably one of the finest playing surfaces in Eastern United States. The grass is without a blemish, the speed is ideal (9.2 on the speed meter), and the near perfect level is a pleasure to play on.

Open practice on Tuesday afternoon preceded the opening party on the Pavilion, set just off the courts. The format this year would be block play singles leading to modified double elimination in Championship and First flight Block play and double elimination in Second flight. Participants were divided into three flights, Championship with ten players at minus point five to plus four handicaps, average 2.2; First flight, ten players from three point five to eight handicaps, average 6.5; and Second flight nine to fourteen handicaps

Championship flight, as did all flights, played five singles games in the block. Jackie Jones finished first and Rufus Bayard second, each with four wins. The ladder was seeded with the top six with a double life, and the remaining four with a single life. Starting Saturday morning, after the last doubles game, everyone was guaranteed at least one singles game on Saturday. Jackie and Rufus with a bye. In her second game Jackie defeated Rufus to send him to the loser's ladder. Meanwhile John Phaneuf who was seeded third, lost his first match against Mike McRee, and started his long climb on the loser side. The saying goes "If you want to play a lot of games lose your first game in double elimination." Four games later John had reached the finals, defeating Rufus on the way

The final game saw strategy dominate the play. Black and Yellow out for 25 minutes. Jackie ending up five ball dead with black at 2-back and blue on 2. John played red and yellow to 1 back each, and decided not to clear. As Jackie tried for position, John drove her out of bounds with out deadness. In an attempt to block Jackie into the blue corner, John had all four balls in the corner. Black only alive on Blue, tapped it, and managed to take off to 2 back, clear the wicket and go to the yellow corner. Later made 3 back, and missed 4 back, dead on partner. With two minutes left in the game John peeled red and



John Phaneuf, Jackie Jones

yellow through one back with a perfect forward rush to 2 back. His swing ended hitting the wicket and not the yellow ball. Jackie cleared both balls, blue hit black in the yellow corner, took off across court made two and three, set up black to make rover (she had previously made four back and penult in one ball shots to tie the game). John missed a long roquet, and Jackie made rover and pegged out in last turn to win 16-14.

First flight saw a group from Grand Haven Club dominate the block play. Out of the block Rich Burns, Carol Burns, and Joe Zilligen, one, two and three in that order. Rich with an undefeated five wins. Same format as Championship, with Rich defeating Carol to move to the finals. Mark Enderle, rusty from not have played recently, and seeded sixth, was defeated by Carol, and then finally returning to his better playing days, bested Antonia Marmo, Joe Zilligen, and Carol Burns to meet Rich Burns in the finals on Sunday. A close match but Enderle the winner at 20 to 18.

Second flight, with only seven players was a little more relaxed. Mark Fields, with a listed 20 handicap, but carried as a 9, took all five matches in the block. Hal Cottingham took a close 2nd with 4 wins. Mark, defeated by David Owen in the ladder, came back to defeat David, as he made the losers side, having been dropped by Mark. The final saw Mark Fields defeat Hal Cottingham 17-15.

Waterford doubles consisted of three flights, each with eight players. Play was scheduled for the first game each day through Saturday, with an additional game at 10:00 AM on the first day. Played socially as well as competitively, it started the day off with a warm up and a friendly voice. A total of five games were played in each flight, with the following results: In Championship Jackie Jones ruled with five wins, with Rufus Bayard second with four wins. The next five players each had two wins. There were no play-offs. First flight ended up with six of the eight players having three wins each. Net points gave the win to Geoffrey Mattison, with Carol Burns coming in second.

Second flight saw David Owen with four wins the winner of the flight. Hal Cottingham was second.

The food, as usual, was a culinary delight, starting with the opening party Tuesday evening with cocktails, and hors d'oeuvres including quail breasts, and bacon wrapped quail legs, jumbo lump crab cakes, chilled prime beef, vegetable display, rut and artisan cheese display and assorted cookies and petite fours. Two roaring fireplaces provided the background for the Wednesday evening, cocktails and Alfresco Dinner. Thursday saw an open evening, when the players were able to try out the fine local eating establishments, or if they wished they could sign up for dinner at the club. Friday evening we were invited to a cocktail and buffet dinner party at Linda Pridgen's home "Mulberry" Saturday evening as in previous years, the Club hosted the traditional players cocktail party and dinner at the Lodge. This years menu included smoked oysters, bacon wrapped

dates and lamb carpaccio for hors d'oeuvres, a Chattooga Salad, followed by Prime Tenderloin of Beef, Blackened Gulf Shrimp, potatoes, baby vegetables with sauce Bearnaise Sunday brunch included about everything you could think of.

A complete breakfast awaited us each morning in the Lodge including omelets to order. Lunch was served on the porch overlooking the courts and one had a choice of the daily menu which on Friday included steamed mussels.

Everyone enjoyed the tournament, and we look forward to another next year. Mark your calendar. The dates are October 1st to the 6th 2013. Play begins on the 2nd

Submitted,
Fred Jones
Tournament Director

Championship Flight

1. Jackie Jones
2. John Phaneuf
3. Rufus Bayard
4. Bill Hartmann
5. Mike McRee
5. Geoffrey Mattison
7. Paula Phaneuf
7. Jack Montgomery
9. Bob Yount
9. Vincent Marmo

First Flight

1. Mark Enderle
2. Rich Burns
3. Carol Burns
4. Joe Zilligen
5. Betty Crisler
5. Antonia Marmo
7. Jake Johnson
7. Rich Zeck
9. Dawn Jupin
9. David Trigiani

Second Flight

1. Mark Fields
2. Hal Cottingham
3. David Owen
4. Linda Guthrie
5. Anne Montgomery
5. Linda Zeck
- DNF. John West

Waterford:

Championship Flight Doubles

1. Jackie Jones
2. Rufus Bayard
3. Bill Hartmann
4. Mike McRee
5. Paula Phaneuf
6. Bob Yount
7. Jack Montgomery
8. John Phaneuf

First Flight Doubles

1. Geoffrey Mattison
2. Carol Burns
3. Dawn Jupin
4. Joe Zilligen
5. Vincent Marmo
6. Betty Crisler
7. Rich Burns
8. Jake Johnson

Second Flight Doubles

1. David Owen
2. Hal Cottingham
3. Antonia Marmo
4. Mark Fields
5. David Trigiani
6. Linda Guthrie
7. Linda Zeck