

## **2012 BOCA GRANDE INVITATIONAL**

### **March 9-11, 2012**

The tenth annual Boca Grande Invitational was played on three Gasparilla Inn courts. There was a full house of twenty-four players divided into three flights; the courts were in splendid shape. The grass was without a blemish. The weather co-operated throughout the entire tournament. It was warm and sunny with enough breeze to keep everyone happy.

Championship flight was seeded with eight players with handicaps from minus 0.5 to plus 3. Consisting of the best players, it included local club members Blaine Davis, Kelley Newton, and Bob Bake. Play started at 8:30 each day, and finished around 6:00 PM. Block play preceded a single elimination ladder on Sunday. Jackie Jones who was the top seed finished the block in third place, with Blaine Davis second and Alan Cottle first.

Sunday was the beginning of elimination ladder play. Jackie fell to Dale Poszgai who then went on to defeat Blaine Davis, ending up playing Alan Cottle in the Championship finals. The final game was the game to watch, with the major plays being a multi wicket run by Dale to end with his yellow ball to the peg. Alan then commenced a similar run taking his blue ball to the peg, but also picking up the yellow ball along the way and pegging out the opponent ball. Dale stayed off the probable loss with several long hit-ins, but ultimately his luck and skill lost out to Alan's competitive advantage Alan took the match and the title 22 to 20 in a thrilling match.

Championship "B" with handicaps 4 to 5, also consisted of eight players, Sheila Davis the lone local representative, but included six players from the Sarasota County Croquet Club, located locally in Venice, Florida. Glenn Bennett and Ralph Moore were #1 and #2 at the end of block play on Saturday. Sunday saw the same ladder arrangement, as the other two blocks, with #3 seed Jack Montgomery taking out Roni Brazell, then Ralph Moore, and finally Glenn Bennett to win the flight 15-13. Sheila Davis tied with Ralph Moore for third place.

First flight with eight players, handicaps 5 to 10, and three players were from Venice, and three players from Oyster Bay, New York. In a contest between the two cities, the two left to play off the finals were John Postley from NY, and Jim McLaughlin who winters in Venice, but hails from New Hampshire. John Postley won over Jim 16-10 to take the trophy. John and Elaine Postley and Ann Nolte, commented, as they have in previous years that the stay at the Gasparilla Inn is a strong attraction to entice them to return year after year to compete in this tournament

As usual, the hosts, Gasparilla Mallet Club and the Boca Bay Croquet Club, wined and dined the participants throughout the three-day tournament. An opening party courtside on Thursday set the stage. Friday evening cocktails and dinner at the Gasparilla Inn was an evening to remember. With a delightful menu, consisting of a Gasparilla Salad, a

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choice of Angus Beef, or Pan Seared Wild Salmon followed by bread pudding served in the private Pelican Room this was to be the delight of the tournament.

Watching the sun go down on the Gulf of Mexico, with a cocktail in hand is a great way to start an evening. In fact so great that on Saturday evening, we watched the sunset, overlooking the Gulf from the Boca Bay Beach Club, cocktail in hand. Heavy hors d'oeuvres, baby lamb chops, shrimp, stuffed mushrooms and chicken sticks were the order of the day.

Not to be outdone, after three rounds of play Sunday morning, the awards luncheon was held in the Pelican Room, Gasparilla Inn, adjoining the courts. The "luncheon" took second only to the dinner Friday evening. After lunch, and while finishing the key lime pie and coffee, the awards were presented to the winners and runner-ups of the respective flights.

Kudos to Blaine Davis, President of the Gasparilla Mallet Club, Boca Bay resident, and Tournament Manager for a job well done.

Submitted  
Fred Jones  
Tournament Director  
March 13, 2012

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Standing	Name	Hndcp	TrkPts
CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT			
1	Alan Cottle	0	5
2	Dale Poszgai	2	20
3	Blaine Davis	0	1
3	Bob Bake	2	14
5	Jackie Jones	-0.5	-2
5	Ken Northrop	3	19
7	Kelley Newton	0	-15
DNF	Vic Lawrence	1	-1

### CHAMPIONSHIP "B" FLIGHT

Jack

1	Montgomery	4	9
2	Glenn Bennett	4.5	12
3	Sheila Davis	4.5	7
3	Ralph Moore	5	15
5	Chuck Perry	4.5	7
5	Roni Brazwell	5	-1
7	Sue Lawrence	5	-4
8	Dolores Gallagher	4.5	-14

### FIRST FLIGHT

1	John Postley	6	10
2	Jim McLaughlin	5	-5
3	Jake Johnson	6	6
3	Ann Nolte	7	10
5	Kay Schneider	9	15
5	Lucinda Sullivan	10	18
7	Bruce Huber	8	2
8	Elaine Postley	6	-21