

## **FLORIDA REGIONAL 2012**

The 2012 Florida Regional was held April 11<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> on the three lawns of the Sarasota County Croquet Club in Venice, Florida. Also used, the first three days, was one lawn at The Oaks Club in Osprey, Florida. The weather was ideal, typical of Florida at this time of year. The days were mostly sunny (one cloudy afternoon), the temperature in the mid eighties. A constant breeze (sometimes a little windy), held throughout the week.

Thirty players, with fifteen from the local club, made for a good showing from other clubs in the region as well as a few players from Canada, New England, and other southern states. Amount of block play the first three days was dependent on the number of players in each of the three flights.

Championship with 12 players played five singles and five doubles matches, while First flight with 8 players also played five singles and three doubles, and Second flight, with 10 players played four single and five doubles matches. Saturday morning was devoted to a single elimination ladder for singles; the afternoon saw doubles teams in a single elimination ladder. Sunday morning was devoted to semi-finals for singles, finals for singles, and finals for doubles.

Programs were distributed at the opening party that included cocktails and dinner, poolside, at the home of Fred & Jackie Jones. Welcoming remarks were made by Jackie Jones, Tournament Manager and USCA District President; John Warlick, Florida Region Vice-President, and program for the week by Fred Jones, Tournament Director. On Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday following play, participants gathered under the awnings for "attitude adjustment" and croquet stories. Friday, the participant's dinner, commenced at 6:30 at the Left Coast Seafood Co. Restaurant, and those who chose the Parmesan encrusted tilapia say it was delightful. Prime rib was also an excellent choice.

Championship Singles, playing in two blocks of six, saw Bob Van Tassell Sherif Abdelwahab, and Jackie Jones emerge as the top three with four wins each. The single elimination ladder seeded the three plus Jack Montgomery with a bye. All but Abdelwahab, who lost to John Warlick were successful on their first game, then Montgomery fell to Van Tassell and Warlick fell to Jones. The final on Sunday was pretty much controlled by Van Tassell however, going into last turn Jackie picked up a three ball break with every

possibility of winning only to have an angle approach to one-back, and failing to make the wicket to lose 14 to 11. Bob Van Tassell the winner with Jackie Jones second. Tied for third were Jack Montgomery and John Warlick.

First flight Singles, playing in a block of eight, saw Dolores Gallagher #1 seed from the block with five wins, and Bill Losier seeded second in the ladder. The play-off was a stepped ladder with Dolores and Bill receiving double byes. The first games Sunday saw the two of them defeat Evan White and Roni Brazell, respectively. In a tough fought final Bill Losier was successful in defeating Dolores Gallagher to take the first flight honors 17-14.

Second flight singles with nine playing in an occluded block ended with Richard Zeck and Bob Fisher placing #1 and #2, and Arthur Olsen placing third. Seeding was such that all three received a bye, with Zeck and Fisher going down in defeat by Steffie Robertson and Dick Schleiter. The next round saw Olsen defeating Schleiter, to go up against Steffie in the final game. In the first major tournament for either player, Olsen defeated Robertson 13 to 11. Both were very pleased to leave the tournament with well deserved trophies in hand.

Doubles were intermixed throughout the first three days, with the size of the block play dependent upon the number of teams in each flight. All players emerged from the block to be seeded in the ladders.

Championship doubles, with six teams, seeded the team of Sherif Abdelwahab and Bill Grimsdale, as well as, the team of Dick Sullivan and Sandy Walsh as # 1 and #2 with byes. Their skill ran out as the # 3 team of Jackie Jones and Blaine Davis and the #4 team of Bob Van Tassell and John Warlick passed them to play in the finals. It was a fairly even match, but Van Tassell and Warlick appeared to have the edge. As the end drew near Jones ran a three-ball break splitting black the far side of penultimate only to stuff the wicket with yellow. Blue went to three back (Black's wicket). Red lying near four back roqueted blue from 60 feet to send blue near two back. Black hit yellow out, and went out of bounds near four back. Blue joined black on the boundary with a rush to three back. Black rushed blue directly out of bounds to end the game. Final Jones and Davis 15, Van Tassell and Warlick 13.

First flight doubles with four teams, went somewhat according to seeding, with the team of Sheila Davis and Glenn Bennett, seeded #1 went to the finals, meeting Dolores Gallagher and Roni Brazell, ending up defeating them 13-10 to take the honors.

Second flight doubles saw the team of Richard Zeck and Dick Schneider seeded #1 with a double bye, lose in the finals to the team of Bob Lentz and Steffie Robertson who had two previous wins in the ladder to take the trophy 13-9

But it appears that croquet was not the only interesting part of the tournament. Open evenings found many of the group at the Tiki Bar at Sharky's on the Pier enjoying the sunset and partying as well as the Drum Circle on the Gulf of Mexico Beach. Some of the players were observed dancing along with the belly dancers in the sand to the beat of the drums.

I would be remiss, not to thank the Sarasota Club for the entire volunteer work that went into making this tournament a success. Starting with Jackie Jones, as Tournament Manager was responsible for co-coordinating the entire affair, as well as hosting the opening party. The kitchen help, all volunteers, under the direction of Sue Doherty, who prepared and served breakfast, lunch and cocktail hours. My thanks to the ground crew, under the direction of Bob Lentz, who set up and stripped down the courts each day in the early mornings. The support of the Sarasota Parks Department who maintain the courts, and kept them cut early enough for us to start at 8:30. And the computer program developed by John Taylor, who made it possible for me to program and professionally run this invitational.

At the completion of the finals, the trophies were awarded to the deserving winners and the finalists on the croquet lawns, pictures were taken, luncheon was served and by 2 PM all had departed for home. A very successful regional was complete.

Submitted by,  
Fred Jones  
Tournament Director

**SINGLES**  
**CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT**

1. Bob Van Tassell

2. Jackie Jones
3. John Warlick
3. Jack Montgomery
5. Dick Sullivan
5. Sherif Abdelwahab
5. Bill Grimsdale
5. Ted Kemp
9. Blaine Davis
9. Chris Loat
9. Dale Poszgai
9. Conrad Rugart

#### FIRST FLIGHT

1. Bill Losier
2. Dolores Gallagher
3. Evan White
3. Roni Brazell
5. Christine Irwin
5. Sandra Walsh
7. Kay Schneider
7. Sheila Davis

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#### SECOND FLIGHT

1. Arthur Olsen
2. Steffanie Robertson
3. Dick Schleiter
4. Richard Zeck
4. Roxanne Rosetto
4. Bob Fisher
7. Norm Mulroney
7. Dawn Jupin
7. Bob Lentz

#### **DOUBLES**

##### CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT

1. Jackie Jones. & Blaine Davis
2. John Warlick & Bob Van Tassell
3. Sherif Abdelwahab & Bill Grimsdale
3. Dick Sullivan & Sandra Walsh
5. Dale Poszgai & Chris Loat

5. Ted Kemp & Jack Montgomery

FIRST FLIGHT

1. Sheila Davis. & Glenn Bennett
2. Dolores Gallagher & Roni Brazell
3. Bill Losier & Evan White
3. Chris Irwin & Kay Schneider

SECOND FLIGHT

1. Bob Lentz & Steffanie Robertson
2. Richard Zeck & Dick Schleiter
3. Roxanne Rosetto. & Dawn Jupin
4. Norm Mulroney & Joy Bandy
4. Arthur Olsen & Gary Anderson