



GRAND HAVEN INVITATIONAL PALM COAST, FLORIDA OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 3, 2012

Welcome to the seventh 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 Tuesday night, and left us with a clear sky and cool cold sunny days. The croquet committee, under the direction of the Tournament Manager, Gabriella Tuscano 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. Everyone played six games with the top three in each block competing in a single elimination ladder on Saturday.

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 evening master storyteller Nancy Avera treated us to a presentation. The subject was perfectly fitting – the story behind the croquet life of Archie Burchfield. The story was well researched and presented in a fine manner. It brought back memories to some of the old timers, and was a great story for the newer players. 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.

Saturday morning was the wrap-up with the top three 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, in Championship flight Rich Watson defeated Carol Burns, to meet Rich Burns in the final (Rich was undefeated throughout the block). Rich held true to his record and took Rich Watson 13-12 in a comeback from behind game.

First flight saw Les Avera lose to Richard Palmer in the semi-final, while Richard lost to Charlie Greer in the final 15-12. The Avera – Palmer game was an interesting game to watch, it being a game dominated by six-ball deadness and an opponent with both balls for one-back. The general play showed a weakness of strategy by the players at this level. Dorothy Fosse, who turned 93 this week, was in the audience. She was saving herself for her tournament next spring.

Second flight had Marilyn Heberling besting Jenny Dees in the semi-final by one wicket, and going on to lose to Bob Crouch 18-10. Marilyn, who has played in this tournament most of the years, moved up from last year, taking second, rather than third. Bob Crouch, in his first tournament play now has something to live up to.

Following play on Saturday, we all moved to the clubhouse for lunch and the trophy presentation. Fred Jones
Tournament Director

Championship Flight

1. Richard Burns
2. Richard Watson
3. Carol Burns
4. Mijai Pagano
5. Andree Bothe
6. Mike Conry
7. Don Lancto
8. Jim Pagano



Richard Burns, Carol Burns, Rich Watson

First Flight

1. Charlie Greer
2. Richard Palmer
3. Lester Avera
4. David Yurk
5. Gary Anderson
6. Charlotte Neagle
7. Terry Philcox
8. Bill Rinaman



Lester Avera, Charlie Greer, Richard Palmer

Second Flight

1. Bob Crouch
2. Marilyn Heberling
3. Jenny Dees
4. Lee Anderson
5. John Fitterman
6. Paul Beaulieu
7. Peter Stirrup
8. Gerry Lancto



Marilyn Heberling, Jenny Dees, Bob Crouch