

2012 Marty Foroughi Desert Classic

In a sport with an average age over fifty we are often reminded that life is fleeting. Marty Foroughi was a very active and supportive member of Mission Hills Croquet Club who beat the odds and survived well past predictions and even played in croquet tournaments while in treatment. A few weeks before the 2012 Desert Classic our croquet members received this email from Marty's wife, Sheri:

On December 30th at 3:55pm, Marty lost his courageous three-and-a-half year battle with cancer. While he fought hard, we are comforted in knowing that he passed peacefully in his home, surrounded by his loved ones. He inspired all of us with his courage, perseverance, and passion for life.



Sheri & Marty Foroughi

Sheri Foroughi chose to honor Marty's wishes by not only playing in, but sponsoring the Desert Classic, pushing the purse over \$8,000 and commissioning a Marty Foroughi Cup. The gesture was not lost on the participants and the tournament was renamed the Marty Foroughi Desert Classic.

The tournament brought out Mission Hills members from all over the country including Rich Lamm (Colorado), Steve Mossbrook (Wyoming), Donna Dixon (Texas), and Peter Bach (Idaho) as well as a gaggle of Canadian snow birds ready for fun in the sun. Lengthy games of 2 or 3 hours allowed for more reliable results and a pegout in nearly every championship game (and a few first flight games).

Rich Schiller went undefeated through the First Flight block, but slipped in the playoffs against Steve Mossbrook and lost his "holder" position in the double Elimination. Some of the best Female players in the country knocked each other around in the loser's bracket with Mary Rodeberg defeating Sheri Foroughi only to lose to Donna Dixon (who knocked Sheri to the loser's bracket in the first place). Donna almost broke the glass ceiling but Rich Schiller edged her out by 2 points at the buzzer to earn a rematch against Mossbrook in the final. Steve Mossbrook proved to be the kryptonite to the otherwise untouchable Schiller and exposed any weakness in Rich's game to win the flight (and the money) with a healthy ten point lead.

In Championship flight local pro Ben Rothman and Chris Percival-Smith, visiting from Vancouver, BC, tallied triples throughout the tournament. Chris took the early lead and had 4 triple peels in his 7 block wins, but Rothman had 6 (including a quintuple peel) in his 9-0 block winning performance. Rich Lamm remained strong with 2 triples in his 6 wins while Leo Nikora tied for 3rd in the block with 6 wins. With triples as the tie-breaker, sorting the playoff seeds was simple. Ron Hendry and Jim Butts rounded out the final six.

Leo Nikora, formerly of Maui Croquet Club, was making waves by defeating Mission Hills Croquet Club President Ron Hendry and then taking game one against the club pro with a perfect 7th turn triple. Ben answered with two triples in-a-row sending Leo to play for third place. Jim Butts dominated Rich Lamm 26-0 before Rich had to withdraw from the tournament with vision issues.

Rich had eye surgery this year but was able to recover his vision in time for the Nationals two weeks later. Jim continued to fight, but lost two close games to Chris “Percy” Percival-Smith (+9, +6).

Jim and Leo played a very interactive match for third place and Jim Butts continued his rebound from the 2011 season with a convincing finish (+10, -6, +21) over one of the representatives in the upcoming World Championships Leo Nikora. The actual final was predictably boring, but notable. There was a roquet on every turn except the first two of each game. Every leave was hit, and they were good leaves. Rothman scored a 5th turn triple in game one, but only after “Percy” hit the lift and took his own break around (Rothman hit the lift to finish). In game two, “Percy” hit third turn, but had to set a leave so Rothman took the first break again. The pattern began to repeat after Chris hit the lift, but a slight drift of the ball near hoop 5 caused the only missed roquet of the game from a mere 5 yards. Ben continued the hitting fest and won on 6th turn with the most interactive 11 turn match in recent history.

Championship

1st: Ben Rothman (\$3,000)
 2nd: Chris Percival-Smith (\$2,000)
 3rd: Jim Butts (\$1,000)
 4th: Leo Nikora (\$700)

Challenger

1st: Steve Mossbrook (\$500)
 2nd: Rich Schiller (\$400)
 3rd: Donna Dixon (\$300)
 4th: Mary Rodeberg (\$200)

Plate

1st: Judy Dahlstrom (\$100)
 2nd: Cameron Evans
 3rd: Bob Morford

CHAMPION FLIGHT SINGLES

NAME	PLACE
Ben Rothman	1 st
Chris Percival-Smith	2 nd
Jim Butts	3 rd
Leo Nikora	4 th
Rich Lamm	T-5 th
Ron Hendry	T-5 th
Peter Bach	T-7 th
Mike Orgill	T-7 th
Martyn Selman	T-7 th
Russell Uhler	T-7 th

FIRST FLIGHT SINGLES

NAME	PLACE
Steve Mossbrook	1 st
Rich Schiller	2 nd
Donna Dixon	3 rd
Mary Rodeberg	4 th
Sheri Foroughi	T-5 th
Aviv Katz	T-5 th
Marvin Salles	T-7 th
Dick Engebretson	T-7 th
Judy Dahlstrom	T-9 th
Cameron Evans	T-9 th
John Destrý	T-9 th
Jean Engebretson	T-9 th
Toni Kemp	T-13
Richard Wright	T-13

PLATE EVENT SINGLES

NAME	PLACE
Judy Dahlstrom	1 st
Cameron Evans	2 nd
Bob Morford	3 rd
Karl-Heinz Kempfer	4 th
Nick Gray	T-5 th
Pat Dugan	T-5 th
John Destrý	T-5 th
Karen Comeau	T-5 th