

Woodlawn Croquet Program
Mini Lobster Tournament
September 19-23, 2012



The 2012 edition of the Woodlawn Croquet Mini Lobster Tournament wrapped up Sunday afternoon under a bright sunny sky at the Woodlawn Croquet Court in Ellsworth. The tournament started Wednesday evening with a reception and dinner for 35 attendees at the Sleigh Barn on the grounds of the Woodlawn Museum. There were 22 players in four flights from Arkansas, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Maryland, Maine and Canada. Spirited play began on Thursday morning at the two Woodlawn courts and at the croquet lawn in Brooksville at the home of Mary Gould and Marcia Chapman on the shore of Tapley Cove on the Bagaduce River. The format for the tournament consisted of four games of Waterford doubles and then each player played singles games against each opponent in their flight. The final games in each flight were played on the championship sized court at Woodlawn on Sunday. Lunches on Sunday were delicious lobster rolls provided by Sue Bennoch at Ben's store in Ellsworth.

In the third flight, Don Parker, from Hancock Point and a new member of Woodlawn, playing in his very first six wicket tournament, won the championship by a score of 11 to 9 over Denys Shorthouse of Connecticut. Don received 39 tracking points for his stellar play and will move a step lower in his handicap rating. Don started playing six wicket croquet this year and will be a force to be reckoned with in the future. Barbara Entzminger from Bar Harbor received the third place award in the flight.

In the second flight, Charles Alexander from Ellsworth, won the championship by beating out Janet Pearson from Surry by a score of 18 to 12. Janet had played extremely well in her block games and had worked very hard in preparation for the tournament by practicing and playing every day at Woodlawn but Charlie played steady and cool in winning the flight. Fred Beck from Brooksville received the third place award for the first flight.

The first flight saw some of the best games played in the entire tournament. Jim Wright, from Toronto, Ontario, who was the second seed going into the playoffs, prevailed over Dan Bennett from Arkansas who had gone undefeated in the block play by a score of 17 to 12. Both Dan and Jim will be soon playing in the Championship flight based on their masterful play during the entire tournament. Lloyd Hadden from New Hampshire took third place in the first flight.

The Championship flight saw some great break play and it was soon apparent that the first one to make a mistake would pay a huge price as many breaks were run from wicket 2 to the rover wicket. Bob Van Tassell formerly from Mission Hills California, and now living in Massachusetts prevailed in the championship game over Neil Houghton from Northeast Harbor by a score of 15 to 13. Neil had previously beaten Bob in two out of their three singles matches in block play. Perry Mattson from Surry took third place honors in the championship flight.

Upon completion of the championship games, Perry Mattson, the tournament director, handed out the awards to the top three players in each flight. From all reports, everyone had a good time, played lots of croquet, in some cases, five games in one day, made for a very challenging tournament. Thanks to all the Woodlawn volunteers who helped make the tournament a success and to the players who traveled far and wide to join us on the coast of Maine for Croquet in September in Maine, "The Way Life Should Be." A special reminder for everyone to mark their calendars as the "Big Lobster" will return in September of 2013.

Perry Mattson

Photos courtesy of Sturgis Haskins

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Championship Flight:

1. Bob Van Tassell
2. Neil Houghton
3. Perry Mattson
4. Larry Stettner

First Flight:

1. Jim Wright
2. Dan Bennett
3. Lloyd Hadden
4. Dan Campbell
5. Dolores Gallagher
6. Peter Oleson
7. Jim McLaughlin

Second Flight:

1. Charles Alexander
2. Janet Pearson
3. Fred Beck
4. Tom Stoner
5. Calvert Chaney
6. Rodney Calver

Third Flight:

1. Don Parker
2. Denys Shorthouse
3. Barbara Entzminger
4. Bobbi Shorthouse
5. Harold Denton



(l to r) Charles Alexander, Bob Van Tassell,
Jim Wright, Don Parker

