

Taylor, Young, DiFazio, McCauley Take PGA National Club Titles

Sixteen members of the Croquet Club at PGA National met on their courts March 22-23 in our second annual Sanctioned Club Championship. The tournament kicked off with an opening cocktail party under the tents where players received their schedules and sized up the competition. With handicaps ranging from 1.5 to 14, the players were divided into four flights. Almost all had competed in the USCA Club Teams event and were in top playing form.

Block play began at 9 a.m. on Thursday and continued into late afternoon. Each flight had four players, playing three 75-minute matches in block play and 80-minute matches in the playoffs. With such a small field all of the players made it out of the blocks and into the playoffs.

Guy Brown edged Aaron Kurtzman to meet Jim Taylor in the finals. By a score of 26-7 Jim captured the Championship. Undaunted, Guy proclaimed, "I had a great time and I picked up 20 tracking points." Bob Yount, our Club Team captain, also played in this flight.

In first flight Victoria Albrecht went undefeated in block play. Her strong performance continued into the playoffs, where she defeated Robin Sweet, the third-flight Peyton Ballenger winner. By one wicket, Bob Young defeated Margo Stinson to advance to the finals. In a hard fought match, Bob was able to edge Victoria by 17-16.

Carol DiFazio also won all her matches in second flight, in both block play and playoffs, but it wasn't always easy. In the semifinals Missy Diack kept up with Carol only to lose by one wicket in last turn. In the other semifinal Monica Uhlhorn posted a one-wicket win over Anne Licursi. In the tight finals, Carol scored one wicket in last turn to win.

Tournament director Carla Rueck spent the entire two days on court three keeping tabs on the third flight. There Ray Swanson was among three women who are relatively new to singles tournament play. Add double banking into the mix and you have some wild action. Club president Rosemary Faulconer played fantastically on Thursday but couldn't handle new member Sheila McCauley. In a semifinal surprise Stephanie Hayes defeated Ray, and then Sheila took the third-flight honors with a 17-15 victory.

After play ended all of the players moved on to the Members Club for a victory celebration. A good time was had by all.

Submitted by Carla P. Rueck, club tournament director

Croquet Club at PGA National
Club Championship
March 22-23, 2012
Palm Beach Gardens, FL

Championship Flight

1. Jim Taylor
2. Guy Brown
3. Aaron Kurtzman
3. Robert Yount

First Flight

1. Robert Young
2. Victoria Albrecht
3. Margo Stinson
3. Robin Sweet

Second Flight

1. Carol Difazio
2. Monica Uhlhorn
3. Anne Licursi
3. Missy Diack

Third Flight

1. Sheila McCauley
2. Stephanie Hayes
3. Ray Swanson
3. Rosemary Faulconer