

## **Sarasota County Croquet Club's Fall Invitational December 6-8, 2012 Venice, FL**

Sarasota County Croquet Club's first Invitational Tournament of the season was held December 6 thru 9 on four croquet courts in Venice, Florida. With a total of 37 players competing, the courts were busy and double banked throughout the weekend. Ten games were played early to allow the out-of-town players full use of the courts.

In a singles only, four-flight tournament, the flight handicap spread was fairly close. Championship flight with handicaps from -1 to 4, with an average of 1.2 demonstrated some fine play for the rest of the players. As the club is noted for encouraging beginners and higher handicap players to compete, first flight consisted of 4.5 to 7 range, second flight consisted of 8 to 10 handicaps, and third flight 10 to 12 handicaps.

The Florida weather co-operated with warm sunshine laced days. The two new permanent shelters, installed just four days before the tournament added to the two existing shelters at the ends of the courts added to the comfort of the players. Lunches, put together by the fabulous red apron ladies (The approved "kitchen crew") as usual, were served buffet style under the new shelters, followed at the end of play by "attitude adjustment" courtside.

Also new this year was the complete re-installation of the croquet lawns. The old grass and the hills and valleys were removed during July and a new base, laser leveled, and new sod delivered and professionally installed. The club now has extremely level (no edge run-off) and fast courts. Speed is approaching 8 on a stempt meter.

The opening party, Thursday, was combined with the monthly potluck dinner normally held by the club, and hosted by Jackie and Fred Jones at their home in Waterford. . Included were cocktails and a buffet dinner for seventy-five guests. Saturday evening saw the group at Left Coast Seafood restaurant, with a menu choice of meals that capped off the social side of the event.

In Championship flight, Jackie Jones seeded #1 and Linda Huxtable seeded #2 in the block, finished the block in that order each with five wins in six games. In the ladder, both with a bye, they again met in the finals. Same order, Jackie winning over Linda 14 to 8.

First flight, with ten players, went a little different. Charlie Greer and Rich Burns from Grand haven finished 1 and 2 at the end of block play. However they faltered along the way losing to Bill Cole and Charlotte Neagle, with the winner in the finals being Bill Cole over Charlotte 20 to 8.

Second flight, with twelve players, was divided into two blocks; all but one player was local. The one player was Tony Dos Santos from Grand haven who took the honors in

block play, with Kay Schneider winning the other block. The top six players in each flight were seeded into a single elimination ladder. With two blocks only half the players were able to advance. By finishing positions it allowed three players to advance from each block. In a well-played final Tony Dos Santos took the trophy home to Grand Haven, leaving Rich Zeck in second place 17 to 14

Third flight, with eight players, six from clubs other than Sarasota, saw the strength of the Grand Haven contingent playing in the tournament. Paul Beaulieu and Bob Crouch finished the block as the top two players. However Linda Dos Santos, in her first tournament took out Paul in the semi-finals, losing to Bob Crouch in the finals. All three from Grand haven.

The club schedules three invitational tournaments a year, along with club championships in singles and doubles. Currently with a membership of 150 players, there is activity most every day on the courts. If in the area call ahead and join the fun.

Submitted  
Fred Jones  
Tournament Director

#### Championship Flight

1. Jackie Jones
2. Linda Huxtable
3. Russ Cuccia
3. Jack Montgomery
5. Ron Huxtable
5. Ted Kemp
7. Geoffrey Mattison

#### First Flight

1. Bill Cole
2. Charlotte Neagle
3. Rich Burns
3. Charlie Greer
5. Joe Zilligen
5. John Donohue
7. Dolores Gallagher
8. Frank Buzerak
9. Richard Palmer
10. Betty Crisler

#### Second Flight

1. Tony Dos Santos
2. Rich Zeck
3. Kay Schneider
3. Lee Anderson
5. Jim Feorino
5. Gary Anderson
7. Ron Truman
8. Bob Lentz
9. Arthur Olsen
10. Norman Mulrone
11. Roger Measel
12. Hedy Stoy

#### Third Flight

1. Bob Crouch
2. Linda Dos Santos
3. Paul Beaulieu
3. Linda Zeck
5. Mike Kline
5. Pat Cunnington
7. John Fitterman
8. Barbara Caiafa

*Picture of winners below*



L to R: Bob Crouch, Linda Dos Santos, Tony Dos Santos, Jackie Jones, Charlotte Neagle, Bill Cole, Rich Zeck