

**NINTH ANNUAL AUTUMN LEAVES INVITATIONAL  
CHATTOOGA CLUB, CASHIERS, N.C.  
October 2-6, 2013**

The Ninth Annual Autumn Leaves Invitational tournament was held October 2nd to the 6th at the picturesque setting in the mountains of southwest North Carolina. Hosted by the Chattooga Club in Cashiers, NC, the setting was everything anyone could want. Using three courts set just below the open pavilion and Lodge with a backdrop of two mountains across the valley. This year the weather was near perfect. Sunny or partly cloudy was the order of the day. There was no rain during the entire tournament. The temperature was in the low 70's, great for croquet.

Speaking of the courts, they are probably one of the finest playing surfaces in the Eastern United States. The grass is without a blemish, the speed is ideal (9.5 on the speed meter), and the near perfect level is a pleasure to play on.

Open practice on Tuesday afternoon preceded the opening party on the Pavilion, set just off the courts. The format this year would be block play singles leading to modified double elimination in all three flights. Championship with twelve players at minus one point five to plus three handicaps, average 0.6; First flight, eight players from three point five to eight handicaps, average 5.7; and Second flight twelve players from eight to fourteen handicaps, average 10.5.

Championship fight, as did all flights, played five singles games in the block. The flight was divided into two blocks, with Bob Chilton winner of block one by record against over Michael Todorovich, and John Hunter winner of block two over Mike Zuro. All four players with four wins in block play. The ladder was seeded with the top six with a double life, and the remaining six with a single life. Starting Saturday morning, after the last doubles game, everyone was guaranteed at least one singles game on Saturday. Ladder play followed pretty much the predicted path, with Mike Zuro slowly and steadily progressing to the finals, taking Jackie Jones 17-9 on the last game Sunday. The most exciting finish was in the semi-finals where John Hunter with one ball pegged out left Jackie Jones down by six going into last turn. With some excellent strategy, Jackie ran five wickets using both balls, then pegged out blue to tie the game. With both players needing to make the same wicket, one back, a mental deadness error on John's part allowed Jackie to go to position and make the winning wicket.

First flight had eight players, playing five games in block play, leading to a four by four seeded ladder, four with double life and four with single life only. Rich Watson went undefeated in the block, followed by Mark Fields, Calvert Chaney, and George Bagwell, each with three wins. The ladder was the same story for Watson, going undefeated to win the flight. Again, the top seeds in the ladder tend to finish in the money. In this case George Bagwell played the final match after coming up through the loser's side of the ladder.

Second flight, with twelve players divided into two blocks of six was a little more relaxed. Michael Albert led block one with five wins, while Hal Cottingham in block was also undefeated, but followed closely by Tom Stoner with only one loss. The ladder seed in this flight was six with double life and four with one life only. Again the top four seeds ended up in the top four positions. However, Tom Stoner moved through the group to win in the finals over Michael Albert 11-9.

Waterford doubles consisted of four flights, three with eight players, and one with nine. Play was scheduled for the first game each day through Saturday, with an additional game at 10:00 AM on all days. Played socially as well as competitively, it started the day off with a warm up and a friendly voice. A total of four games were played in each flight, with the following results: In

Championship (A) Bob Chilton won with Ron Huxtable second there were no play-offs. Championship (B) flight saw Tom Moss and Rich Watson coming in first and second respectively. First flight went to Michael Albert, with Calvert Chaney second. Second flight ended up with Hal Denton, first, and Dick Boger second.

The food, as usual, was a culinary delight, starting with the opening party Tuesday evening with cocktails, and hors d'oeuvres at the Pavilion. Two roaring fireplaces provided the background for the Wednesday evening, cocktails and Alfresco Dinner. Thursday evening we were invited to a cocktail and buffet dinner party at Tom and Lynette Moss's home. The view from the home halfway up the mountainside was majestic. If you were a "mountain" person, this was the place to be.

Friday saw an open evening, when the players were able to try out the fine local eating establishments, or if they wished they could sign up for dinner at the club. Saturday evening as in previous years, the Club hosted the traditional players' cocktail party and dinner at the Lodge. This years menu included smoked oysters, bacon wrapped dates and lamb carpaccio for hors d'oeuvres, a Chattooga Salad, followed by Prime Tenderloin of Beef, poached lobster tails, potatoes, green beans. Sunday brunch included about everything you could think of. A complete breakfast awaited us each morning in the Lodge including omelets to order. Lunch was served on the porch overlooking the courts and one had a choice of the daily menu.

Everyone enjoyed the tournament, and we look forward to another next year.

Submitted by  
Fred Jones  
Tournament Director

Calvert Chaney

Jackie Jones

Bob Chilton



George Bagwell



Mike Zuro



Singles:

**CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT**

1. Mike Zuro
2. Jackie Jones
3. John Hunter
4. Bob Chilton
5. Michael Todorovich
5. Hans Peterson
7. Ron Huxtable
7. Linda Huxtable
9. Geoffrey Mattison
9. Bill Hartmann
11. Mike McRee
11. Tom Moss

**FIRST FLIGHT**

1. Rich Watson
2. George Bagwell
3. Calvert Chaney
4. Mark Fields
5. Betty Crisler
5. Ed Becker
7. Vincent Marmo
7. David Trigiani

**SECOND FLIGHT**

1. Tom Stoner
2. Michael Albert
3. Antonia Marmo
4. Hal Denton
5. David Owen
5. Hal Cottingham
7. Peter Stirrup
7. Linda Guthrie
9. Meg Macy
9. Liddy Chaney
11. Missy Diack- Chilton
12. Judy Freeman

Doubles:

**CHAMPIONSHIP "A" FLIGHT**

1. Bob Chilton
2. Ron Huxtable
3. Michael Todorovich
4. Mike Zuro
5. Jackie Jones
6. John Hunter
7. Linda Huxtable
8. Hans Peterson

**CHAMPIONSHIP "B" FLIGHT**

1. Tom Moss
2. Rich Watson
3. Mike McRee
4. George Bagwell
5. Vincent Marmo
6. Geoffrey Mattison
7. Bill Hartmann
8. Mark Fields

**FIRST FLIGHT**

1. Michael Albert
2. Calvert Chaney
3. Antonia Marmo
4. Ed Becker
5. Betty Crisler
6. Joy Diesel
7. David Trigiani
8. Linda Guthrie

**SECOND FLIGHT**

1. Hal Denton
2. Dick Boger
3. Missy Diack-Chilton
4. Tom Stoner
5. Peter Stirrup
6. Judy Freeman
7. Liddy Chaney
8. Meg Macy
9. David Owen



Second Flight-Fred Jones TD, Tom Stoner winner, Antonia Marmo 3rd place, Michael Albert runner-up, Joy Diesel Club Pres.



Championship Flight-Jackie Jones 2nd place, Joy Diesel Club President, Mike Zuro winner, John Hunter 3rd Place, Fred Jones TD



First Flight-Fred Jones TD, Rich Watson winner, Joy Diesel Club Pres., George Bagwell runner up