

# THE 2013 BEACH CLUB INVITATIONAL

January 23-27, 2013

Numerology. I looked it up because, well, I'm not sure why I did, but here is what I found: "Numerology is any study of the purported divine, mystical or other special relationship between a number and some coinciding observed (or perceived) events." It went on to say that: "Today, numerology is often associated with the paranormal." With this newly found knowledge, it was now time to reflex over the list of names lurking quietly upon my desk. And there were a lot of names, one hundred to be exact. Ten squared if you think of it in a spatial way. I looked at the definition again and deemed it to be more than appropriate. I then glanced back at the list. That's a boatload of names, I mumbled, though the nautical reference was replaced by something more, well, less divine.

Via phone I checked with Stewart Jackson, the Tournament Manager, in hopes of investigating how this had happened. Was there something going on beyond my comprehension? Had The Beach Club offered frequent flyer miles, or cash-back incentives? "No," said Stewart, "we simply offer a phenomenal event with unparalleled social activities at an extraordinary venue." Hmm, I thought. "Sounds mystical" I replied. "Yes," he said, paused and then added, "But it is a 'tanker's' load of players!"

Satisfied that the entry list was valid, and despite how paranormal it both seemed and felt, I immediately went into full throttle mode and came up with a plan. There would be five flights of singles and four of Waterford doubles. Eleven lawns would be used (including eight at The National Croquet Center), matches would be timed one hour and fifteen minutes and six rounds of play would be completed each day. And poof, the charts were done. Until the matches began, there was little to do now but dive into the special number 144...that's 12 squared for those who enjoy 'liquid' thoughts.

Speaking of which, the Opening Reception was again held at The Old Guard. It was the first of many events which drifted throughout the week, the tide eventually leading the 100 sailors back to The Beach Club - Sunday's Grand Brunch always the perfect end to such a wonderful trip. Cocktails and great cuisine came in and out of the schedule, like beautiful waves, and the incredible Croquet Committee made certain that everything went without complication.

While I did not have the pleasure, or the time, to partake in the nocturnal activities, I did have the chance to see a lot of croquet! Located at the NCC venue while Stewart oversaw The Beach Club courts, I found the Waterford doubles the most interesting to watch. Naturally, this format also gave me another chance to tumble, well, another 'boatload' of numbers. In the Championship Flight, Michael Todorovich (4-1) out-calculated Danny Huneycutt (4-1) by eight net points to take top honors. Douglas McKechney and Victoria Albrecht each finished 5-1 in the First Flight, in this case with Douglas victorious with 17 net points to spare. David Spivey (5-0) made things easy in the Second Flight by being the only undefeated player while Charlotte Hapak (4-1) captured the runner-up position by out-netting three others. Apparently David keeps good company, for Mary Shields (5-0), in the Third Flight, also went without a loss, Missy Diack-Chilton (4-1) breaking a log jam to capture Second Place by two net points.

If you would like to hear about some exciting singles results, I had best continue on with Missy. Okay, she may not have put big numbers on the board, but was victorious within a tension filled (8-7) Third Flight Finals over Huston Huffman. Dick Scherf's steady play was good enough for Second Flight honors in a 16-10 game over Scott Spradling while Larry McDermott took the First Flight Title in a 10-5 'lovefest' against Victoria Albrecht. (Cough.) I missed a small part of it, but several security guards, I mean referees, tell me that the play was 'spirited' throughout. The much improved Michael Todorovich, who just a paragraph ago captured the Championship Flight doubles, also claimed the Championship Flight singles in a well played 17-14 victory over the determined Patrick Foy.

For those of you keeping score at home and get the feeling that I have failed to report a singles Flight somewhere along the line, fear not. Given the mystical nature of numerology, and perhaps emerging from its paranormal depths, with this year's invitational came the introduction of the "Super Championship Flight"! In effect, this was the best of the best without capes. Sadly, super powers do not always offer those without them super viewing, as demonstrated within the one-sided Super Championship Flight Final. Mike Gibbons, who really didn't play a bad shot the whole game, watched. Danny Huneycutt, who hates to sit still, waltzed. Poof. The final score was 26-2, probably the nicest numbers to be found in a USCA match.

By late Sunday afternoon the coast was clear, the tide of players having moved on to the airport, or their homes, or to put more numbers on a clipboard at the next event. I was home doing paper work, putting lucky or unlucky numerals next to the name of each player. Before I had left The Beach Club I asked Stewart how he would have graded the tournament. Rubbing his chin, and almost as though he was thinking out loud: "We started with 100. Isn't that the perfect score?" And to me: "How do you think I would grade it?" And I didn't have to answer. It was an A+ in every way. Ah, numerology, I thought as I now headed toward the fridge.

## **FINAL RESULTS**

### **SUPER CHAMPIONSHIP SINGLES**

1. Danny Huneycutt
2. Mike Gibbons
3. Johnny Mitchell
3. Sherif Abdelwahab
5. Peter Just
5. Chris Patmore
5. David McCoy
5. John Hunter
9. Barry Gibson
9. David Ekstrom
9. John Curington
9. Tim Bitting
13. Jane Simonds
13. Missy Ramey
15. Bob Chilton
15. Rufus Bayard
17. Ted Quimby
17. Tom Hughes

### **CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT SINGLES**

1. Michael Todorovich
2. Patrick Foy
3. Conrad Rugart
3. Guy Brown
5. Bill Whitman
5. Jim Dushek
5. Jodie Rugart
5. Steve Warner
9. Chuck Perry
9. Geraldine McCauley
9. Jack Montgomery
9. Reine Bitting
13. Geoffrey Mattison
14. Don Heerens
14. Ephraim Shulman
14. Pat Colt
14. Stuart Baker
- Dnf: Harvey Geiger

### **FIRST FLIGHT SINGLES**

1. Larry McDermott

2. Victoria Albrecht
3. Kevan O'Conner
3. Sandy Knuth-Walsh
5. Douglas McKechney
5. Joe Knoll
5. Louis Norris
5. Martie Ekstrom
9. Betty Crisler
9. Jake Johnson
9. Templeton Peck
9. June Ryan
13. Nancy Reynolds
14. Carl Myer
14. John Joseph
16. Ron Atkins

#### SECOND FLIGHT SINGLES

1. Richard Scherf
2. Scott Spradling
3. Beatty Cramer
3. Kevin Moran
5. Carla Rueck
5. Christine Sullivan
5. David McNamara
5. Ted Hilles
9. Charlotte Hapak
9. Gerald Shugar
9. Joan Novell
9. Joy Bradford
13. Bill Trower
13. David Spivey
13. Hildegard Jones
13. Penny Ferraro
17. Carol Lembo
17. Don Novell
17. Herb Mallard
17. Jane Osgood
17. Jennifer Joseph
17. Kelso Sutton
17. Thomas Tribby
24. William Duryea

#### THIRD FLIGHT SINGLES

1. Missy Chilton
2. Huston Huffman
3. Franklin Perrell
3. Sally McGrath
5. Jeanette Tribby
5. Lovejoy Duryea
7. Suzanne Spradling
- dnf: Pam Geiger

#### CHAMPIONSHIP DOUBLES

1. Michael Todorovich
2. Danny Huneycutt
3. John Hunter
4. David McCoy
5. Jodie Rugart
6. John Curington
7. Barry Gibson
8. Chris Patmore
9. Tom Hughes
10. Rufus Bayard
11. David Ekstrom
12. Pat Colt
13. Sherif Abdelwahab
14. Bob Chilton
15. Jane Simonds
16. Geoffrey Mattison
17. Missy Ramey
18. Jack Montgomery
19. Guy Brown
20. Ted Quimby
21. Peter Just
22. Don Heerens
23. Tim Bitting
24. Johnny Mitchell

#### FIRST FLIGHT DOUBLES

1. Douglas McKechney
2. Victoria Albrecht
3. Larry McDermott
4. Templeton Peck
5. Jim Dushek
6. Geraldine McCauley
7. Bill Whitman
8. Herb Roemmele
9. Martie Ekstrom
10. Chuck Perry
11. Stuart Baker
12. Carl Myer
13. Nancy Reynolds
14. John Joseph
15. Sandy Knuth-Walsh
16. Jake Johnson
17. June Ryan
18. Ron Atkins
19. Zoe Van Wyck De Ropp
20. Ephraim Shulman
21. Reine Bitting
22. Joe Knoll
23. Kevan O'Conner
- dnf: Harvey Geiger

#### SECOND FLIGHT DOUBLES

1. David Spivey
2. Charlotte Hapak

3. Beatty Cramer
4. Gerald Shugar
5. Christine Sullivan
6. Penny Ferraro
7. Richard Scherf
8. Lee Little
9. Eileen Holberg
10. Joy Bradford
11. Scott Spradling
12. Tom Tribby
13. Betty Crisler
14. Kevin Moran
15. Carla Rueck
16. Louis Norris
17. Lou Fusz
18. C.A. Knoll
19. Josephine Stetson
20. Bill Trower
21. Kelso Sutton
22. William Duryea
23. Herb Mallard
24. Sandra Feeney

#### THIRD FLIGHT DOUBLES

1. Mary Shields
2. Missy Chilton
3. Huston Huffman
4. Arlene McDermott
5. Warren Phillips
6. Sharyl Forster
7. Suzanne Spradling
8. Jeanette Tribby
9. Sally McGrath
10. Hildegard Jones
11. Mary Robb
12. Lovejoy Duryea
13. Pat Barile
14. Franklin Perrell
15. Lisa Brown
16. Louise Collins
- dnf: Pam Geiger

-John C. Osborn (TD)