

2013 Big Lobster Croquet Tournament **September 4-8, 2013** **Ellsworth, ME**

The 2013 Big Lobster Invitational concluded on Sunday, September 8, 2013 after five days of spirited croquet play on the coast of Maine. The tournament, sponsored by the Woodlawn Croquet Program treated its guests to amazing views of Acadia National Park, delicious Maine lobster, and a unique blend of six and nine wicket competition in various Downeast Maine settings. This year, we had players from Massachusetts, Canada, Oklahoma, New York, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, New Hampshire, Vermont, Florida and our local players from Maine competing for the bragging rights to be Big Lobster champions.

The tournament got under way Tuesday evening with a reception and dinner catered by Big Cat's Catering at the Common Good Café at the seawall in Southwest Harbor. Heavy fog Tuesday evening spoiled the view of the Western Way and the gateway to the open Atlantic Ocean but it was warm and dry inside. The Common Good Café is the location of the former Annabelle's Restaurant and is now the home of the local soup kitchen which is the brainchild of our Master Croquet Guru Larry Stettner. It was a good time to get reacquainted with old friends, get the schedules for the week, and have the rules and venues explained to all the players. All participants received a Big Lobster jacket with the Big Lobster logo and the Woodlawn Croquet logo on the front.

Early morning light rain on Wednesday welcomed 38 nine wicket players but by mid morning, it had cleared and sun was the order for the next three days. The 2 days of nine wicket play were held on the two lawns of the Claremont Hotel overlooking Somes Sound, Larry Stettner's court, and the court at the home of Eileen Holberg in Southwest Harbor. Lunches for the two days were at the Boathouse on the pier at the Claremont Hotel. The Championship flight doubles had ten teams and the First flight doubles had nine teams and each team played five games and six games respectively in two days with the record over the two days determining the final standings. The winners in each flight were determined by the record in block play but the second and third place finishers had to be determined by the head to head and net points. In the Championship Flight, the father/son team of Roy and Stephen Morgan went undefeated to claim the top spot. The team of Jasmine Morgan and David Nelson came in second with four wins by defeating the team of Ron Huxtable and Ryan McGarty. Ron and Ryan won their first two games and on Wednesday night, Ron came down with a bad case of vertigo which prevented him from playing the rest of the tournament. Fill in players competed with Ryan who was playing in his first tournament and it so happens that the only game he lost was when he was playing with his mother Linda Huxtable. Local 9 wicket player David Nelson played a brilliant game by hitting in from the full court and then proceeded to run all the wickets, peeled his partner Jasmine through 6 hoops and then staked out his ball to end the game. Ryan and Ron took the third place finish in the Championship flight. In the First Flight doubles, Ray Liberti from West Palm Beach and Barbara Entzminger from Bar Harbor took first place winning 5 games out of six. Second place went to John Warlick and Gail Rubin from West Palm Beach, and third place went to Mary Shields and David Spivey from West Palm Beach. Four teams had a record of 4 wins and 2 losses and the tie breaker could not be determined by the head to head so the net points became the decider. The 9 wicket doubles awards were handed out during the lobster bake on Friday evening at the Common Good Café.

The tournament shifted to six wicket singles Friday morning with 32 players in five flights competing at Larry Stettner's court, Tina Hinckley's new artificial turf court, the two courts at Woodlawn, and at Tapley Cove, the home of Mary Gould and Marcia Chapman. Block play continued for two days with the Championship, First, and Second flight playing 5 games, Third flight playing 6 games, and the Fourth flight playing 4 games. The number 1 and number 2 place finishers in each flight played for the Championship on Sunday at the Woodlawn Full Court. In the Championship Flight, up and coming Stephen Morgan went undefeated and beat Neil Houghton in the final match by a score of 17 to 6. Linda Huxtable took third place. In the first Flight, Peter Oleson from Gaylesville, Maryland defeated the number 1 seed Webster Bull by a score of 19 to 15. Ruth Summers took third place in the first flight. The Second Flight championship game was won by the number 1 seed Charles Alexander from Ellsworth who defeated Roy Morgan by a score of 14 to 8. Charles earned 30 tracking points for the tournament lowering his handicap to 7. Dolores Gallagher from Toronto, Canada took the third place award. The third flight championship was won by Ray Liberti from West Palm Beach besting Janet Pearson from Surry by a score of 13 to 12 and not decided until the second overtime turn. They get the award for toughness as they played their entire game in pouring rain. In the fourth flight David Spivey defeated the number 1 seed Gail Rubin by a score of 15 to 8. Oakley Johnson from Sorrento came in third place.

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Tournament festivities included a lobster bake at the Common Good Café on Friday evening where the 9 wicket doubles awards were presented. After the morning rain on Sunday, the skies cleared by late morning and the players and guests were treated to delicious lobster rolls prepared by Sue Bennoch at Ben's Store in Ellsworth. The six wicket awards were presented on Sunday and everyone left for their final destinations with fond memories of playing croquet on the Coast of Maine which is "The Way Life Should Be."

Nine Wicket Doubles Final Standings:

Championship Flight Doubles:

1. Roy Morgan and Stephen Morgan
2. David Nelson and Jasmine Morgan
3. Ryan McGarty and Ron Huxtable
4. Jim Saunders and Stan Abrahamson
5. Ruth Summers and Peter Oleson
5. Stewart Jackson and Josie Jackson
5. Art Parsells and Pat Garner
6. Linda Huxtable and Don Lancto
6. Alan Madeira and Eileen Holberg
7. Lloyd Hadden and Webster Bull

Nine Wicket Doubles First Flight:

1. Ray Liberti and Barbara Entzminger
2. John Warlick and Gail Rubin
3. Mary Shields and Dave Spivey
4. Gerry Lancto and Dolores Gallagher
5. Carl Myer and Tina Hinckley
6. Diane Saunders and Jo Abrahamson
6. Tom Brock and Dorla Brock
7. Susan Savage and Peter Stevens
7. Ron Atkins and Betsy Atkins

Championship Flight Singles:

1. Stephen Morgan
2. Neil Houghton
3. Linda Huxtable
4. Art Parsells
5. John Warlick

First Flight Singles:

1. Peter Oleson
2. Webster Bull
3. Ruth Summers
4. Stan Abrahamson
5. Jim Saunders
6. Pat Garner

Second Flight Singles:

1. Charles Alexander
2. Roy Morgan
3. Dolores Gallagher
4. Lloyd Hadden
5. Ron Atkins
6. Carl Myer

Third Flight Singles:

1. Ray Liberti
2. Janet Pearson
3. Susan Savage
4. Peter Stevens
5. Jasmine Morgan
6. Diane Saunders
7. Jo Abrahamson

Fourth Flight Singles:

1. David Spivey
2. Gail Rubin
3. Oakley Johnson
4. Barbara Entzminger
5. Mary Shields
6. Gerry Lancto
7. Betsy Atkins

Perry Mattson
Tournament Manager



Championship Flight final with Linda Huxtable on the ground watching Neil Houghton attempting a jump shot over the ball he is dead on.