

2013 BOCA GRANDE INVITATIONAL

March 8-10, 2013

The eleventh annual Boca Grande Invitational was played on three Gasparilla Inn courts and one court at Boca Bay. There was a full house of thirty-two players divided into four flights; the courts were in splendid shape. The grass was without a blemish. Court speed measured 7.5 on the speedmeter. The weather co-operated throughout the entire tournament. It could have been warmer, however the sun kept the rain away.

Championship flight was seeded with nine players with handicaps from minus 1.0 to plus 2, average 0.5. Block play was the order of the day. Contestants would play seven games in two and one half days, the block winner taking the trophy. It became a contest between Jackie Jones and Alan Cottle, seeded one and two respectively, as they both went undefeated the first day. The second day saw Jackie maintain her unbroken win record, while Alan fell to Jackie 14 to 9. With two games left on Sunday, Jackie went 6 wins for seven games, losing the last game to Kelley Newton. Alan finished with wins, which left both players tied at six wins each. Tournament rules specified that in case of tied wins, record against would prevail, giving Jackie the top trophy, with Alan second. Kelley Newton was third, with Blaine Davis fourth. Jackie maintains her status as the #1 woman player in the United States, with a minus one handicap.

First flight with handicaps 2.5 to 4.5 consisted of seven players. Bill Cole was the ultimate winner, winning five of the six games played in the round robin block play. Geoffrey Mattison took second place with four wins.

Second flight, with handicaps from 5 to 7, saw Dolores Gallagher also finish with five wins to take the trophy, with Lucie Bard come in second with a close four wins.

Third flight, with handicaps from 7 to 16, became a little more divided. Gary Anderson managed to win 6 of 7 games to take first place. Runner-up was not as clean. There were three players with 5 wins each, Jim McLaughlin, Lee Anderson, and Lucinda Sullivan, all played well, but the decision by net points went to Lee Anderson, with Jim third, and Lucinda fourth.

As there are several members who have joint membership in the Gasparilla Mallet Club and the Sarasota County Croquet Club, it was noted that there were ten members of the Gasparilla club playing and seventeen members of the Sarasota club in attendance, Local support is of great advantage, but the players who traveled some distance to play are appreciated and welcomed.

As usual, the hosts, Gasparilla Mallet Club and the Boca Bay Croquet Club, wined and dined the participants throughout the three-day tournament. An opening party courtside on Thursday set the stage. Friday evening cocktails and dinner at the Gasparilla Inn was an evening to remember. With a delightful menu, consisting of a Gasparilla Salad, a choice of Filet of Beef, or Pan Seared Wild Salmon followed by bread pudding served in the private Pelican Room this was to be the delight of the tournament.

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Watching the sun go down on the Gulf of Mexico, with a cocktail in hand is a great way to start an evening. In fact so great that on Saturday evening, we watched the sunset, overlooking the Gulf from the Boca Bay Beach Club, cocktail in hand. Heavy hors d'oeuvres, baby lamb chops, shrimp, stuffed mushrooms and chicken sticks were the order of the day.

Not to be outdone, after three rounds of play Sunday morning, the awards luncheon was held in the Pelican Room, Gasparilla Inn, adjoining the courts. The "luncheon" took second only to the dinner Friday evening. After lunch, and while finishing the key lime pie and coffee, the awards were presented to the winners and runner-ups of the respective flights.

Kudos to Blaine Davis, President of the Gasparilla Mallet Club, Boca Bay resident, and Tournament Manager for a job well done.

Submitted
Fred Jones
Tournament Director
March 11, 2013

CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT

1. Jackie Jones
2. Alan Cottle
3. Kelley Newton
4. Blaine Davis
5. Ron Huxtable
6. Dale Poszgai
7. Linda Huxtable
8. Robert Bake
9. Tyler Thomas

FIRST FLIGHT

1. Bill Cole
2. Geoffrey Mattison
3. Ken Northrop
4. Jack Montgomery
5. Carl Kruse
6. Sheila Davis
7. Chuck Perry

SECOND FLIGHT

1. Dolores Gallagher
2. Lucie Bard
3. Jake Johnson
4. Dawn Jupin
5. Betty Crisler
6. Kay Schneider
7. Bruce Huber

THIRD FLIGHT

1. Gary Anderson
2. Lee Anderson
3. Jim McLaughlin
4. Lucinda Sullivan
5. Jean Henry
6. Rob Elwell
7. Sidna Mitchell
8. George Lynch