

California Cup Southern Test

27-28 January 2013 at Mission Hills Country Club

The California Cup pits Northern California against Southern California to decide the Association Croquet champions of California. Six-player teams play two tests of both singles and doubles; one test at each venue. Singles play is two three-player round-robin cross blocks. Doubles play is one three-pair round-robin cross block. Total wins in both tests determines the champion.

The northern test took place at Sonoma-Cutrer Winery, Windsor, CA, in October. Northern California prevailed 16-8 to bring an eight win lead to the southern test.

The southern test took place at Mission Hills Country Club, Rancho Mirage, CA, in January. The weather was cool, but beautiful. The lawns were in excellent condition, and fast.



*South (on left): Mary Rodeberg, Steve Mossbrook, Eric Sawyer, Jim Butts, Leo Nikora, Cameron Evans
North (on right): Tim Hanks, Bob Morford, Charlie Smith, Rob Coleman, Jim Hanks, Mike Orgill*

The South dominated doubles play, winning all nine games of the doubles block, and wiping out the lead the North had brought to the southern test. Northern California's Leo Nikora & Eric Sawyer pegged out every game, and held their opponents to but a single point twice.

Results	Charlie & Tim	Mike & Jim H	Robert & Bob	
Leo & Eric	26-1	26-1	26-8	3
Jim B & Mary	17-15	17-16	21-8	3
Steve & Cameron	21-18	15-9	21-18	3
	0	0	0	Wins

The two singles blocks were dead even; the South winning Block A by one, and the North winning Block B by one. Northern California's Charlie Smith had the largest winning margin when he defeated Leo Nikora 26-0. Northern California's Tim Hanks had the biggest upset when he defeated Leo Nikora 24-23 using two peels in last turn.

In the end, it all came down to the final match between Mary Rodeberg (South) and Bob Morford (North). During play, Mary asked, "Why is everyone watching this match? Does this mean I have to win?" When this was affirmed, she said, "I was afraid of that!" It was a close match, but Mary prevailed 20-14.

Results	Charlie	Mike	Tim	
Leo	0-26	26-8	23-24	1
Eric	10-16	26-0	26-5	2
Jim B	16-26	26-9	26-5	2
	3	0	1	Wins

Results	Robert	Jim H	Bob	
Steve	26-6	6-26	23-8	2
Cameron	15-21	23-26	26-13	1
Mary	2-26	12-24	20-14	1
	2	3	0	Wins

The South won the southern test 18-9, and the California Cup by the closest of margins – 26-25.

Results	Singles A	Singles B	Doubles	January	October	Season
North	4	5	0	9	16	25
South	5	4	9	18	8	26

See pictures of the California Cup in the [Mission Hills Croquet Club Photo Gallery](#).