

THE 2013 GREEN GABLES CAROL NEVES PALM BEACH TOURNAMENT
The Beach Club, Palm Beach, Florida
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For many year the members of the Green Gables Croquet Club have taken their love for croquet beyond the state borders of New Jersey. Why shiver in February when green grass, great lawns and a warm climate seductively offered compelling competition within the welcoming State of Florida? With such a common-sense thought in mind, this year twenty-four Green Gables Members, along with a few friends, brought their croquet talents to the three beautiful lawns offered by The Beach Club. And since they were there, why not throw in a few fantastic social events to make everyone feel right at home?

While the actual croquet may have been but a backdrop to the four day event, great and festive play was demonstrated upon the courts throughout. Singles used a block-to-ladder format with most of the field making the Playoffs. Doubles worked under the strict Waterford format and the matches were timed at one hour and fifteen minutes. And as a far cry from the temperatures up North, the weather was awesome.

Conrad Rugart, amongst the entertaining players about him, stood alone by winning the Championship Flight with a 16-10 score over bubbly Cynnie Cagney. Conrad, though recovering from a touch of the flu, looked fantastic throughout, especially pleased with a 26-2 victory over an unnamed opponent in block play. Kevin Moran, a last minute fill-in, made the best of his opportunity by capturing the First Flight with his 23-16 victory over the steady Carole Lembo. Eileen Fell, though struggling within the block, regained form by sneaking by the determined Hildegard Jones (12-11) after some wonderful overtime action.

The Doubles competition proved to be tense throughout, with almost all of the matches leading toward last-turn heroics. In both Flights, four of the twelve players finished with 3-1 records, thus letting net points determine the winners. Jodie Rugart took top honors in the Championship Flight (+25) while Herb Roemmele (+17) received the runner-up trophy. Bob Spiotta and Jerry Luecke came close and finished in a tie for Third Place. Animated Alina Porter (+8) captured the First Flight while John Croddick (+2) snuck into Second Place, not by net points but by gross points, ahead of Claire Boasi (+2) and Eileen Fell (0). Who says one wicket doesn't count?

Perhaps the spirit of this event may well have occurred after hours, with cocktail parties and dinners highlighting the schedule. And, as always, Saturday's 21st Annual "Herb's in Florida" dinner/dance, hosted by Herb Roemmele, offered one of the best social events of the year! Even the 18-piece band enjoys this one, and everyone making the Sunday Playoffs showed signs of the great times had the night before.

Great thanks go out to many...Club President Clair Flinn for keeping the wheels greased and overseeing the entire event, and Jodie Rugart, serving as the Tournament Manager, for arranging or having a hand in just about everything! Appreciation also goes out the The Beach Club for the great service and the use of the wonderful facility, as well as Mathew and Peggy Matthews for host the Opening Reception. A five day celebration takes work, and for everyone who lent a hand in making this adventure so perfect, thank you!

Green Gables, one of the five founding 'father' Clubs of the USCA, hopes to keep the tradition going again next year, thanks all of this year's participants for their sportsmanship on court and friendship beyond, and hopes that everyone will be able to make next year, if possible, even more memorable!

Below please find the Final Order of Play:

CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT SINGLES

1. Conrad Rugart
2. Cynn timer Cagney
3. Jodie Rugart
3. Doug McKeckneay
5. Jerry Luecke
6. Molly Goodman

FIRST FLIGHT SINGLES

1. Kevin Moran
2. Carole Lembo
3. Clair Flinn
3. Beatty Cramer
5. Don McLaughlin
6. Connie McQuade

Also played:

Kit Crowley

Eileen Holberg

SECOND FLIGHT SINGLES

1. Eileen Fell
2. Hildegard Jones
3. Mary McLaughlin
3. Jeanne Spiotta
5. Alina Porter
6. Millie Brogan

CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT DOUBLES

1. Jodie Rugart
2. Herb Roemmele
3. Bob Spiotta
4. Jerry Luecke
5. Doug McKeckneay
6. Beatty Cramer
7. Ann Ix
8. Clair Flinn
9. Molly Goodman
10. Conrad Rugart
11. Cynn timer Cagney
12. Zoe deRopp

FIRST FLIGHT DOUBLES

1. Alina Porter
2. John Croddick

3. Claire Boasi
4. Eileen Fell
5. Lou Fusz
6. Dolph Cramer
7. Hildegard Jones
8. Jeanne Spiotta
9. Elmer Matthews
10. Mary McLaughlin
11. Don McLaughlin
12. Herb Porter

-John C. Osborn (TD)