

**Dorthy Fosse Invitational**  
**April 24 - 28, 2013**  
**Palm Coast, FL**



The setting was outstanding, the weather was fine, the players were gracious, the food was superb, and the Thirteenth Annual Dorthy Fosse Invitational played April 24th to April 28th at Hammock Dunes, Palm Coast, Florida was a huge success.

The grass on both courts was perfectly green and smooth, and the competition was keen. The courts are situated just outside the clubhouse, between the club and the Atlantic Ocean; a nice, but sometimes strong, ocean breeze kept everyone cool. The two additional courts that were used became available through the generosity of the golf course superintendent utilizing an unused practice tee area on the driving range at the Creek Course. The generosity and co-operation of the golf course personnel was deeply appreciated. This is the sixth year that these lawns have been available. The golf personnel maintain them to croquet quality. First, second, and third flights each spent one day on the Creek courts, and the remainder of the time at the Dunes courts.

With players from North and South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, the total of twenty-eight players ended up in two flights of eight and two flights of six.

Following a superb Wednesday evening opening party at the Main Club, consisting of cocktails and heavy hors d'oeuvres, play began Thursday morning in earnest. Unique at this club, at least in my experience, was the assignment of deadness board keepers, for each board for every game during the tournament. All were club members and croquet players, not playing in the tournament. What a wonderful way to learn the game. Also the

committee serving ice-cold bottled water both to the players and the board keepers throughout the tournament was a unique experience. Everyone involved appreciated both.



Championship flight played on the south full size court. The flight was led by Jackie Jones with a handicap of -1.5, and topped by Bill Hartmann and Jack Montgomery each with a handicap of 2.5. Ted Knopf did not play but did manage to keep many of the deadness boards for the flight. Block play was the order of the day Thursday and Friday with a double elimination ladder on Saturday and Sunday for all flights.

Steve Johnston went undefeated in the block, while Jackie Jones lost only to Steve. Linda and Ron Huxtable took a respectable third and

fourth. After winning the last two years, this was not to be John Curington's year, fifth out of the block he quickly was put down by Steve and Jackie. Saturday started sunny and warm, as is the rule at this time of the year' but Jackie started cold and lost to Bill Grimsdale in the opening play of the ladder. While Steve Johnston glided undefeated in the ladder to the finals, Jackie worked her way through the bottom half of the ladder, defeating Montgomery, Curington, Grimsdale and Linda Huxtable to match up once again with Steve. The game saw Steve mainly in control, until near the end when Jackie tied it up, only to lose by one in second overtime. Congratulations to Steve Johnston for playing the entire tournament without a loss. Linda Huxtable took third.



Dorothy Fosse & Steve Johnson

Jim Pagano of Grand Haven led first flight block play. Also with four wins were Rich Watson and Chuck Perry. With eight players with handicaps from 3.5 to 5 it was a well match flight, and everyone had at least two wins in the block. The ladder became a duel between Lester Avera and Rich Watson, with Rich managing to stay undefeated going to the final, defeating Lester in the quarter final, only to have him defeat Joe Zilligen and take the honors from Rich 12 to 11 in the final. Joe Zilligen finished third.

Second flight with six players, played a round robin block, with one added game to give every contestant six-block games. Bob Ralston, undefeated, led the block with Tom Shelko losing only to Ralston. Lee Anderson was third out of the block. To the ladder they went. Upsets: Bob Ralston defeated by Antonia Marmo on the opening game. Likewise Tom Shelko sent scrambling by Lee Anderson. From there it was Lee Anderson to the finals, with Bob Ralston working his way back to meet Lee for the first time in the ladder. Bob was successful, besting Lee 20 to 15. Antonia Marmo finished third

Third Flight was about one person. Dorothy Fosse, the Invitational namesake, at 93 years young, with a 9 handicap competed in the entire tournament. Seeded as number one in the flight, she went without a loss though the block and the ladder to take her first ever flight-winning trophy. While doing this, she pegged out twice, and had wicket counts of 24, 23, 21, and 20. As the Fosse's are relocating to the Chicago area, this should be the last time she will compete, after



playing all thirteen Fosse Invitationals. But rest assured, if there is a will and a way, we might see her once again. Not in the limelight, but playing very well, and making it to the finals was Marilyn Heberling. Peter Stirrup finished third.

Friday evening saw us in the main dining room of the club for an evening of cocktails and dinner, steak filets or salmon, your choice, followed by a barbeque dinner at the Creek Club on Saturday evening.

Sunday, following the finals that were scheduled to wrap up at 1:00 PM (and did) a delightful buffet luncheon was served, with strawberry sundaes for desert, culminating with the awards ceremony. Trophies this year, were lost wax castings of turtles and were awarded to the top three finishers in each flight.

Plans are in the works for next years Invitational, scheduled for the last week in April 2014

Fred Jones  
Tournament Director



Dorothy Fosse in front seated.

From left to tight front row: Rich Watson, Marilyn Heberling, Peter Stirrup, Antonia Marmo, Linda Huxtable, Jackie Jones, Lee Anderson, and Bob Ralston.

Second Row Joe Zilligen, Steve Johnston, and Lester Avera.

#### Championship Flight

1. Steve Johnston
2. Jackie Jones
3. Linda Huxtable
4. Bill Grimsdale
5. John Curington
5. Bill Hartmann
7. Ron Huxtable
7. Jack Montgomery

#### First Flight

1. Lester Avera
2. Rich Watson
3. Joe Zilligen
4. David Yurk
5. Vincent Marmo
5. Chuck Perry
7. Mijai Pagano
7. Jim Pagano

### Second Flight

1. Bob Ralston
2. Lee Anderson
3. Antonia Marmo
4. Tom Shelko
5. Gary Anderson
5. Terry Philcox

### Third Flight

1. Dorothy Fosse
2. Marilyn Heberling
3. Peter Stirrup
4. Dorla Brock
5. Bo Bohannon
5. Gerry Lancto