

2ND Annual USCA Florida Regional Nine Wicket Championship November 8-10, 2013 West Palm Beach, FL



Back Row (l to r): Gerald Shugar, Bill Trower, Dale Locke, Gary Wilson, Bob Van Tassell, Harry Ketchum
Front Row (l to r): Carol DiFazio, Gail Rubin, John Warlick, Jeanne Branthover, Sharon Blackington, Byron Hicks,
Not pictured: Linda Weisheit

The 2013 USCA Florida Regional Nine Wicket Championship was held again this year at the spectacular National Croquet Center in West Palm Beach. The tournament started Thursday afternoon with a practice session on the 7 Nine Wicket Courts in the “Back Nine” of the NCC. Following practice, tournament participants were joined by NCC Club members for Thursday evening “happy hour” at the beautiful clubhouse. The USCA event was co-hosted by the National Croquet Club.

The tournament had players in two flights with singles being played on Friday and doubles on Saturday. Sunday semi-finals and finals preceded the awards presentations. Standard USCA Nine Wicket rules were used in seventy minute games with play options that included: all balls live when placed in starting position, carryover deadness, blocking, rover play and double last turns. The format is the same as expected at the December 8 - 10, USCA National 9 Wicket Championship, that will be held next month on the same NCC courts.

The Championship Flight was lightly attended but very competitive. Bill Trower played well to make the finals. John Warlick outlasted Bill in the singles final to win the regional title. Championship doubles play saw Bob Van Tassell and John Warlick overpower Trower and partner Carlo DiFazio in the “best of five” finals games.

First Flight was hotly contested in both singles and doubles play. In singles, the semi-finals pitted Jeanne Branthover against Byron Hicks and Gail Rubin vs. Harry Ketchum. Byron Hicks bested Gail in the final to take the title. Jeanne and Harry tied for third. The doubles finals found Gail and Jeanne playing Harry and Craig Danna. The game was back and forth with Harry Ketchum and Craig taking the title. Third place went to the team of Byron Hicks and Sharon Blackington.

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Tournament weather was pleasant and cooperative and everyone enjoyed the Friday night reception at Jack's in Lantana. Overcast skies on Saturday helped keep players cool - with only a few minutes of light rain. Each of the seven NCC 9-wicket courts has its own personality and every game was competitive. Please join us at the Nine Wicket Nationals next month - or the Regional next year.

~John Warlick, TD

Championship Singles

1. John Warlick
2. Bill Trower
3. Bob Van Tassell

First Flight Singles

1. Byron Hicks
2. Gail Rubin
3. Jeanne Branthover
3. Harry Ketchum
5. Carol DiFazio
5. Gerald Shugar
7. Dale Locke
7. Gary Wilson

Championship Doubles

1. John Warlick & Bob Van Tassell
2. Bill Trower & Carol DiFazio

First Flight Doubles

1. Harry Ketchum & Craig Danna
2. Jeanne Branthover & Gail Rubin
3. Byron Hicks & Sharon Blackington
4. Dale Locke & Gerald Shugar
5. Gary Wilson & Linda Weisheit

And the winners are:



Harry Ketchum, Bill Trower, Byron Hicks,
John Warlick, Bob Van Tassell, Gail Rubin, Carol DiFazio