

2013 Florida Regional Golf Croquet Championship
October 11-13, 2013
West Palm Beach, FL



Back Row- Dick Brackett, Tom Hankey, John Warlick, Sergio Do Rosario, Mike Sexton, David Collie, Doug Collier.
Front Row- Bill Mead, Mike Albert, Karen Albert, Cheryl Bromley, Terry Howatt

The National Croquet Club hosted the first USCA Florida Regional Golf Croquet Championship, October 11 thru 13, 2013. Attendance was modest with a turnout of twelve competitors in two flights of singles and one flight of doubles. Tom Hankey won First Flight over Karen Albert by winning two of three in the finals match. Bill Mead was the Championship Flight Singles winner over "Never Say Die" Dick Brackett. Mead partnered with John Warlick, to overcome the formidable Brackett-David Collie duo in a grueling three and a half hour Championship Doubles final under sunny skies with temperatures in the low 80s.

Friday's Championship Doubles schedule was tight with five games in block and one best of three matches in the playoffs. Competitors in the top four positions advanced to the finals. The most common statement after the first day of play was, "My feet hurt". The Brackett-Collie team edged out Cheryl Bromley and Sergio Do Rosario, both from Hillsboro, for first in block play by defeating the team 7-6, an indication of the great play to follow. Team Albert, Michael and Karen, from Useppa Island and the glorious mountains of North Carolina, finished fourth in block play by defeating the new up and coming teams of Michael Sexton and Tom Hankey and the team of Doug Collier and Terry Howatt. Playoffs saw Sexton and Hankey finish off Collier and Howatt to take fifth place while team Albert tied with Bromley and Do Rosario for third place.

The Doubles best of three finals started early Sunday under the watchful eyes of Cheryl Bromley as

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Referee on Court (Cheryl was gracious to serve as Referee of Tournament). Bracket-Collie jumped out to a commanding 4-0 lead and coasted to a 7-3 victory in the first game of the match. Game two saw Mead-Warlick take an early 4-2 lead only to be challenged late. They evened the match with a 7-6 win.

The final game saw spectacular play time and again. Dick Brackett, scrapping back on wicket six, brought the crowd to its feet by double clearing Mead-Warlick from their blockade and scoring the wicket with a precision 60 footer. In the end Brackett was caught in a double bind with his ball jawed in rover. Mead had cleared Collie and advanced toward the tie breaking hoop so Brackett had Collie go to the east boundary just short of the penalty spot. Warlick then played to a 15 degree angled jump position threatening a win if Brackett chose to remain in his wicketed position. Brackett opted to score the tying hoop rather than risk the game, checkmate. Mead took a three foot position on the tie breaker. Collie narrowly missed the clear. Warlick opted to set up. Brackett's desperate 70 foot clearing shot knocked Mead off the wicket to the line. Mead then covered Collie's shot on Warlick and the wicket. Warlick scored the tie breaker for the Doubles Championship of the Florida Regional Golf Croquet Championship.

The singles finals proved anticlimactic as all players were physically spent after 16 hours of games the first two days. Tom Hankey defeated Karen Albert 2-0 in a well contested First Flight final. John Warlick overcame Cheryl Bromley's early lead. Bromley shot a rare double wicket shot to open their game going up 2-0. Great shot Cheryl!

John Warlick, the Tournament Manager, pulled off a wonderful event getting up before the sun each morning bringing in morning pastries and beverages, arranging for timely luncheons and facilitating après croquet libations on the lawns. He managed a sparse budget and created a well appreciated tournament. It was a great group of players which we all hope to see in upcoming events this season. Cheryl Bromley ably served as Referee of Tournament adding her expertise.

A heartfelt thank-you to all,
Bill Mead, Tournament Director

Championship Singles

1. Bill Mead
2. Dick Brackett
3. John Warlick
4. Cheryl Bromley
5. Michael Albert
6. David Collie

First Flight Singles

1. Tom Hankey
2. Karen Albert
3. Mike Sexton
4. Terry Howatt
5. Doug Collier

Doubles

1. Bill Mead & John Warlick
2. Dick Brackett & David Collie
3. Cheryl Bromley & Sergio Do Rosario
4. Mike & Karen Albert
5. Mike Sexton & Tom Hankey
6. Doug Collier & Terry Howatt



David Collie, Dick Brackett, John Warlick, Bill Mead