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BROWN, OLESON WIN GOLD IN FIRST MARYLAND SENIOR OLYMPICS TOURNAMENT



Bill Krause, 91, (left) and Albert Brown, 94, consider strategy in the Masters final. *Photo: Peter Stevens*

(ANNAPOLIS, MD, October 1, 2013) – Ninety-four-year-old Albert Brown, of Annapolis, and Peter Oleson, 68, of Galesville, struck gold at the inaugural Maryland Senior Olympics Croquet Tournament which concluded in Annapolis on Sunday (Sept 29).

Contestants for the three-day event were divided into two groups – Masters (for those over 80) and Seniors (for those aged 50 to 79).

Brown, of Baywoods Annapolis, won gold in the Masters. The silver medal went to Bill Krause, 91, of Ginger Cove, Annapolis. The bronze medal was won by Dwight Bartlett, 82, also of Ginger Cove.

Oleson won the gold in the Seniors division. The silver medal went to Peter Bell, 79, of Annapolis. The bronze was won by Cynthia Chess, 77, of Annapolis. All three medalists are from the nationally-recognized West River Wickets croquet club, which co-hosted the event with Ginger Cove, Annapolis' premier life-care retirement community.

Maryland is the first state to include croquet in its senior Olympic games and Ted Wroth, Executive Director of the Maryland Senior Olympics, presented the awards after the finals at Ginger Cove on Sunday.

“This tournament demonstrated that croquet is not just a young person’s game,” said West River Wickets imperial wicket, Rodney

Calver. “The croquet was of a very high standard and the games closely contested. A great deal of strategy goes into the game, often described as a mixture of golf, billiards and chess. These seniors clearly show no signs of slowing down on the lawn.”

Players, 50 years or older, from the state of Maryland took part in the Waterford doubles, nine-wicket tournament. Games were played on Friday and Saturday at Ginger Cove, Annapolis and West River. The finals were on Sunday at Ginger Cove.

The rules of the United States Croquet Association were used and the games were officiated by Ted Prentis and Bob Kroeger, tournament directors from the Florida-based United States Croquet Association.

By Rodney Calver, West River Wickets

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