

# National Croquet Club Singles Tournament December 13-15, 2013 West Palm Beach, FL

It was the weekend that the 3D movie *The Hobbit - Part Two* opened in local movie theaters. Box office results were lower than expected and the reason was not hard to find - that was also the weekend of the National Croquet Club annual Championship Singles Tournament and the competition was fierce! For three days the best players of the NCC battled it out for the club bragging rights, their name on a unique trophy and a special award/prize donated by the artist; a framed print of a popular croquet cartoon character.

Starting with two days of block play in an expanded five flights each day brought new surprises; Gerald Shugar went undefeated on day one, Charlotte Hapak had a real battle with Harry Lloyd in second flight, David Spivey had "brain freeze" at a crucial, winning moment on day two and lost a vital match to Ray Liberti and had his name scratched from the trophy he won two years ago, Vickie Johnston, a brand new player, fought her way through the final playoffs to win the first wooden spoon ever awarded at the NCC and Bob Van Tassell was superb in style and substance, but could not best the new (and old) Club Champion - Derek Wassink - whose grace and talent with a croquet mallet has often been compared to a masterpiece by Tiger Woods.

Three days in the mild, warm, slightly cloudy Florida winter weather was a welcome interlude for out of towners who competed magnificently in several flights, but it was Lynda Sudderberg who carried off the award in Second Flight, beating Ray Liberti, and took home the framed cartoon print and left her name on the trophy. In First Flight Judy Just and Parker Reid engaged in a "Mexican Standoff" during their playoff game, which Judy cunningly played to an eventual win, leaving Jerry Luecke to strike back at just the right moment, after a slow block play, to win the wooden spoon in his flight. Jerry is a great chef and will honor the award!

At the top, in Championship Flight, erudite Derek Wassink could (almost) not be beaten by anyone but himself. His matches were all different, interesting, crushing or tense - he was the player to watch all the way to the finals. This was achieved on grass cut and rolled to super-fast performance and through new steel wickets set to exacting standards by Pro Bill Mead, who took no prisoners. In this flight special thanks go out to Bill and to John Warlick who graciously stepped in to take the places of two no-shows and keep the flight competitive - thanks John and Bill.

Thanks should also go to Carl and David for their extra special work on the lawns and grass, and to Marie Sweetser, the hidden resource that pens all the paperwork, counts the money and administers gracefully and cheerfully through all difficulties.

## RESULTS

### Championship

- 1) Derek Wassink
- 2) Bob Van Tassell
- 3) Mike Todorovich
- 4) Bill Mead
- 5) Bob Chilton
- 6) John Warlick
- 7) Geoffrey Mattison
- 8) Robert Yount
- 9) David McCoy



Bob Chilton, Robert Van Tassell, Derek Wassink

### First Flight

- 1) Dick Scherf
- 2) Judy Just
- 3) Parker Reid
- 4) Bill Trower
- 5) Jerry Luecke
- 6) Templeton Peck
- 7) Charles Alexander
- 8) Betty Crisler
- 9) Gerry McCauley



Jerry Luecke, Judy Just, Dick Scherf

### Second Flight

- 1) Lynda Sudderberg
- 2) Ray Liberti
- 3) C.J. Jefferies
- 4) David Spivey
- 5) Harry Lloyd
- 6) Charlotte Hapak
- 7) Steve Grassbaugh
- 8) Carla Rueck



Ray Liberti, Harry Lloyd, Lynda Sudderberg

### Third Flight

- 1) David Owen
- 2) Tom Tribby
- 3) Linda Harris
- 4) Gerald Sugar
- 5) Vickie Johnston
- 6) Tim McCormick
- 7) Missy Diack-Chilton
- 8) Mary Shields



Vickie Johnston, Tom Tribby, David Own

### Fourth Flight

- 1) Roger Ally
- 2) Genie Bytner
- 3) Rosemarie Maccario
- 4) Pat Muir
- 5) Al Muren
- 6) Sue Levin



Genie Bytner, Roger Ally