

2013 PALM BEACH CROQUET CLUB INVITATIONAL

The National Croquet Center

January 16-20, 2013

In celebrating the 45th year of The Palm Beach Croquet Club Invitational, there was much to remember and much to celebrate. As you all know, our dear friend, Archie Peck, pegged out this past June. Archie, President of the Club for longer than most can remember, and a driving force within the PBCC since day one, was always both the smile and determination which propelled life into the croquet scene, both within Palm Beach and beyond. Through his magnetic personality and his love for life between the boundary lines, this tournament has become a symbol of all that is good about this wonderful game. Good friends, great sportsmanship and a few well-made drinks has always been a wonderful mix. And Archie's belief: a little competitive croquet always goes far to fill any vacancy found within the 'not-quite-full' glass of life.

Likewise, Archie, Director of Croquet at the facility since it opened over a decade ago, has been the breath of the National Croquet Center, and the Croquet Foundation of America...his attitude, desire and devotion giving birth to the spirit that we see there today. While it was originally decided to let this event rest for a year, in Archie's honor, the Croquet Foundation of America correctly pointed out that the show must go on, as Archie would have wished. And with that thought in mind, this year the Palm Beach Croquet Club and The National Croquet Center joined forces to celebrate Archie's life by offering a time to play and a moment to reflect, great times both on and off the lawns.

With little time to promote and organize the event, the thirty-two players who could make time in their schedules and attend the event were more than pleased to have done so. Social activities were plentiful throughout, starting with an Opening Reception/Dinner - memories and stories echoing throughout the room as players, family and friends shared the good memories they had of their times with Archie. Cocktail parties, dinner/dances, lobster bakes and a wonderful Finals Brunch rounded out this warm and heartfelt adventure. Special thanks were also given to those who have been instrumental to the NCC today, a nice appreciation to those who continue the mission.

If it sounds as though actual croquet took a second seat, that is far from the case. Four Flights of Singles and two of Doubles ran from dawn-to-dusk throughout, and the competition was well-fought from the first coin toss. As is always the case with this special tournament, the Singles players fought to reach the double-elimination Playoffs and the Doubles offered permanent partners...both a rarity in the active world of croquet today. Matches were timed at one hour and fifteen minutes, double-banking was normal throughout the Singles portion of play and both the lawns and the weather were wonderful.

By Sunday, the field within the Singles had been narrowed down to twelve active players. In the Third Flight (The Harold Brown Trophy), semi-rookie Richard Scherf continued to impress by defeating Lynda Sudderberg. Lester Avera looked awesome throughout the event and capped off a great week with a victory over Dean Sanders in the Digby Bridges Second Flight Singles. The unpredictable David Collie, after a rough start within block play, captured the First Flight (President's Trophy) by ignoring the flamboyant play of Sandy Walsh-Knuth. And, as though on cue, and since all of the Single's Finals were played simultaneously, it comes as no surprise (thanks Archie) that

the Championship Flight Finals (Tankoos Trophy) was in no rush to finish. Ahead by the score of 23-3, veteran and USCA President, Johnny Mitchell, as well as everyone else on hand, could only watch as Derek ("Dimples") Wassink added an extra 23 points to his score....all in last turn! What is somewhat special and worthy of note, Derek, who has limited days off from work, took some valuable time just to play in this event. With that in mind, amongst another series of good reasons, he was also awarded the Ruthie Trophy, one given out for the player exhibiting the best spirit and sportsmanship throughout the event.

In the Doubles competition, John Osborn-Ruth Summers teamed up for the first time in seventeen years to capture the Championship Flight (Supper Cup) with a 16-12 victory over Johnny Mitchell-Gerry McCauley. Lynda Sudderberg-Russ Dillely took the First Flight (Lawford Trophy) honors by defeating Lester Avera-Bob Duryea in an 18-9 landslide. A lot of handicap adjustment being considered throughout!

Overall, this event has always been unique, in terms of format, attitude and approach...the history of the Club but a wonderful backdrop - the long list of the esteemed names engraved upon the trophies a memory of both why we play and how we got here. Archie would have been proud of this event, and was there with every stroke.

It was also wonderful that two very separate organizations joined hands together to offer an event in celebration of one man's life. Both The Palm Beach Croquet Club and The Croquet Foundation are both in debt to the efforts made by John Archibald Peck. Both the Club and The Center will continue on, and both will be better for Archie's ongoing presence. Handicaps change and tracking points come and go. And let's not forget to thank those whom today hold a torch...Ruth Summers as the PBCC President and David McCoy, as the GM of CFA and The Charles Steuber National Croquet Center. Keep your head down and feel safe in the knowledge that someone is always watching your back.

FINAL ORDER

CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT SINGLES

1. Derek Wassink
2. Johnny Mitchell
3. Sherif Abdelwahab
4. David McCoy
5. John Curington
5. Rhys Thomas

FIRST FLIGHT SINGLES

1. David Collie
2. Sandy Walsh
3. Vincent Marmo
4. Victoria Albrecht
5. Ken Northrop

5. Harvey Geiger
7. Jake Johnson
8. Geraldine McCauley

SECOND FLIGHT SINGLES

1. Lester Avera
2. Dean Sanders
3. Tad Richardson
4. Ray Liberti
5. Marti Ekstrom
6. Steve Grassbaugh

THIRD FLIGHT SINGLES

1. Richard Scherf
2. Lynda Sudderberg
3. Russell Dilley
4. Huston Huffman
5. Mary-Stewart Regensburg
5. Carla Rueck

CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT DOUBLES

1. John Osborn-Ruth Summers
2. Johnny Mitchell-Gerry McCauley
3. Rhys Thomas-Vincent Marmo
3. Derek Wassink-Harvey Geiger
5. David McCoy-David Collie
5. Sherif Abdelwahab-Sandy Walsh
7. John Curington-Ken Northrop

FIRST FLIGHT DOUBLES

1. Lynda Sudderberg-Russell Dilley
2. Lester Avera-Carla Rueck/Bill Duryea
3. Ray Liberti-Richard Scherf
3. Jake Johnson-Jane Osgood
5. Steve Grassbaugh-Anne Licursi
5. Victoria Albrecht-Huston Hudson
7. Dean Sanders-Ted Hilles
7. Tad Richardson-Mary-Stewart Regensburg

-John C. Osborn (TD)