

2013 PIPING ROCK INVITATIONAL

May 16-19, 2013

By John C. Osborn (TD)

FINAL ORDER

In a complicated world, it is nice to know that there are certain things that one can depend upon. In this case, we are talking about a venue and an event: The Piping Rock Club and its annual Croquet Invitational. It's almost dangerous, this certainty, but each year Piping Rock comes through by offering what might well be the best hospitality in the country, a site that is made for a postcard and an event that within which, for but a short four days, everyone feels like royalty.

Expectations for the week were high, both on and off the eight lawns, and met. The weather? Well, let's ease into that. The forecast was fantastic, but there is something about the Locust Valley area that apparently defies prediction. It would be warm in the morning, cold mid-day and then warm again in the afternoon. How does that happen? It is as though some years the weather attempts to punish the players, sometimes (such as last year) reward them and, in a first, occasionally just confuse them! It was hot when it should have been cold, chilly when it should have been warm, and at least they got it right by the last day...light showers throughout. The players, and everyone played the last day, were suddenly developing English accents! Still, there were no delays and overall the perplexing weather was but a backdrop to some great play and fantastic sportsmanship.

This year an extra Flight of Singles was offered, and thus everyone played well within their handicap range. A Plate Event was also on the schedule for those who failed to make the Playoffs, thus guaranteeing the participants plenty of action. Matches were timed at one hour and fifteen minutes, six rounds were scheduled until the final day, double-banking was eased for the lower Flights and the Waterford Doubles format gave everyone one doubles match per day. (That may be changed next year.) Everything ran on time and, while the casual nature of the affair left everyone at ease, this does not mean that some great and very competitive croquet was not emitted throughout the facility. Matches were so very close throughout.

Below you will find the Final Order of Finish and some additional information. An expanded version of this report may be seen in the next edition of The Croquet News. There you will find some interesting barbs sent toward many of the players who made an impression upon me. For those of you in attendance, you may or may not wish to be included within this document. Doesn't matter if you are concerned...I call them as I see them.

Once again, I do not have enough words to express how wonderful this event always is. The play is spirited, but it is the invisible vibrations that make everything work so well. These vibrations are created by an amazing, and I cannot write this enough, grounds crew, the entire staff of The Piping Rock Club and the inherent feeling that good company always outweighs even the best of play.

Special thanks going out to the Piping Rock staff: Bernie, the hostess with the mostest, Andy and Kim, who were in charge of making everything work, and a cast of characters who were always there should a need need to be met. Most importantly, great thanks go out to the entire Piping Croquet Committee, all of whom worked behind the scenes to make everything perfect. Special thanks go out to the Tournament Chairpersons, Elaine Postley and Jane Simonds - their hard work allowed everyone else the chance to, well, simply relax.

It was a great event and until next year...

CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT SINGLES

1. Tim Bitting (16-15 Final)
2. Dick Sullivan
3. Rich Curtis
3. John Hunter
5. Blaine Davis
5. Norris Settlemyre
5. Bob Chilton
5. Tim Rapuano
9. Rufus Bayard (Plate Winner)
9. Jane Simonds (Plate Winner)
11. Jack Montgomery
11. Tyler Thomas

CHAMPIONSHIP B SINGLES

1. Jodie Rugart (13-11 Final)
2. Geoffrey Mattison
3. Ceci Shiftan
3. Ron Shiftan
5. Stuart Baker
5. John Postley
5. Reine Bitting
5. Bill Simonds
9. Dave Cohen (Plate Winner)
10. Carol Mayo
11. Sheila Davis
11. Dolores Gallagher

FIRST FLIGHT SINGLES

1. Ralph Charles (14-8 Final)
2. Betty Crisler
3. Elaine Postley
3. Stephen Ely
5. Lucie Bard
5. Bruce Huber
7. Temp Peck (Plate Winner)
8. Jim McLaughlin
9. Ann Nolte
9. Jean Henry

SECOND FLIGHT SINGLES

1. Christine Sullivan (15-12 Final)
2. Carla Rueck
3. Brian Davidson
3. Randi Cudlitz
5. Penny Ferraro (Plate Winner)
6. Barbara French
7. Bob Duryea

THIRD FLIGHT SINGLES

1. James Collins (10-7 Final)
2. Joe Quintilian
3. Terry Moor
3. Sally McGrath
5. Franklin Perrell (Plate Winner)
6. Missy Chilton
7. Lovejoy Duryea
7. Cecily Greenaway

CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT DOUBLES

1. Blaine Davis
2. John Hunter
3. Jack Montgomery
4. Dick Sullivan
5. Rich Curtis
6. Tim Rapuano
7. Tim Bitting
8. Bob Chilton
9. Norris Settlemyre
10. Jane Simonds
11. Rufus Bayard
12. Tyler Thomas

FIRST FLIGHT DOUBLES

1. Jim McLaughlin
2. Bruce Huber
3. Dolores Gallagher
4. Sheila Davis
5. Zoe DeRopp
6. Bill Simonds
7. Dave Cohen
8. Ralph Charles
9. Ceci Shiftan
10. Carol Mayo
11. Temp Peck
12. Geoffrey Mattison
13. Reine Bitting
14. Stuart Baker
15. Ron Shiftan
16. Stephen Ely
17. Ann Nolte
18. Lucie Bard
19. Betty Crisler
20. John Postley

SECOND FLIGHT DOUBLES

1. Sally McGrath
2. Jean Henry
3. Bob Duryea
4. Randi Cudlitz
5. Terry Moor
6. Christine Sullivan
7. Barbara French
8. James Collins
9. Missy Chilton
10. Joe Quintilian
11. Carla Rueck
12. Franklin Perrell
13. Lovejoy Duryea
14. Brian Davidson
15. Cecily Greenaway
16. Penny Ferraro