

SPRING INVITATIONAL April 5-7, 2013 SARASOTA COUNTY CROQUET CLUB

The Sarasota County Croquet Club held its spring invitational on April 5-7, 2013 using three full size courts in Venice, Florida. Weather wise (One always talk about the weather in Florida) the players looked forward to a soggy tournament, with a cold front and rain expected, but were presently surprised when the front went through early, and the rain ended just as we began to play. The remainder of the weekend was cool and cloudy, with some sun on Saturday.

Twenty-two players participated. Friday and Saturday consisted of Block play in three flights. Sunday finished block play, and six players from each flight played single elimination ladders.

In Championship, with seven players, Hans Peterson dominated the field, wining the six matches in block play and two matches in the ladder to win the flight. Hans had been threatening to get his old form back and play at a much higher level. He ended up pegging out in five of the eight games, with the opponents scoring only 30 points in the five games. Bill Hartmann, with a reasonable showing in the block, came in second, losing to Hans in the final 26-3.

First flight also had seven players; with Frank Buzerak leading at the end of block play, followed closely by Charlotte Neagle. The ladder became the downfall for Frank, when he lost to Dolores Gallagher in the semi-finals, who in turn lost to Charlotte 17-15.

Second flight, with a field of eight, playing six games saw Webster Bull take five, as well as Ralph Curtis also taking five. The match up continued through the ladder, with each taking the semi-final; however the final was not a close match. Ralph gave way to Webster's better play, losing 18 to 8 with the top trophy going to Webster.

Third flight saw Julie Schworm come through the block undefeated in six games, working the ladder to meet Antonia Marmo in the final match, in an extremely hot morning, and losing to Antonia 18 to 9.

The opening reception was held at the Plantation Clubhouse. Cocktails and a potluck dinner set the tone. Friendships renewed, schedules handed out, and questions were answered. The other social event was a sit down dinner Saturday evening at Ophelia's Restaurant in Venice. With soup, salad, wine, and a choice of several entrees, plus desert, everyone enjoyed the meal, and the croquet stories ended over coffee.

Lulu Rodick and Sue Doherty and her "kitchen cuties" served continental breakfasts, delicious lunches courtside each day, followed by "Attitude Adjustment" after play. And as usual, thanks to Bob Lentz and his crew for setting up the courts each day.

Fred Jones, Tournament Director

CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT

1. Hans Peterson
2. Bill Hartmann
3. Henry Vaughan
3. Ralph Moore
5. Vincent Marmo
5. Glenn Bennett
7. Jack Montgomery

FIRST FLIGHT

1. Charlotte Neagle
2. Dolores Gallagher
3. Richard Palmer
3. Frank Buzerak
5. Dawn Jupin
5. Richard Zeck
7. Michael Albert

SECOND FLIGHT

1. Webster Bull
2. Ralph Curtis
3. Arthur Olsen
3. Lee Anderson
5. Antonio Marmo
5. Bob Lentz
7. Gary Anderson
8. Roger Measel

Bill Hartmann



Webster Bull



(1 to r) Hans Peterson, Bill Hartmann, Charlotte Neagle, Dolores Gallagher, Webster Bull, Ralph Curtis



Hans Peterson



Charlotte Neagle, Dolores Gallagher