

Virginia/West Virginia State Championship

June 12-19, 2013

Redart, VA

The Virginia West Virginia Croquet Championships were played on the three full sized courts of the Middle Peninsula Croquet Club in Redart, Virginia from June 12 through the 19th.

By the time we found out about the various hospitalizations and altered plans, it was Wednesday and time to rewrite the schedule for a second time. That's what makes Croquet so darn much fun. Did I mention that the National Weather Service had issued a severe weather alert for the entire East coast for Thursday afternoon? That's the good news. You only have to have the schedule fixed through Thursday so you'll know what doesn't get finished when it starts to rain.

As it turned out, nineteen players finished the full Thursday schedule in a slightly abbreviated time frame before nature turned out the lights in the late afternoon. The courts had absorbed almost eight inches of rain just four days earlier and there was a very real fear of flooding. Fortunately, the winds were high but the rainfall was light and play was able to continue without major problems for the rest of the weekend.

By noon on Sunday, Rodney Lassiter of the River View Croquet Club and Jim Coling of the Middle Peninsula Club had beaten Tommy Harrington (River View) and Jack Chase (MPCC) for the Championship Flight and Ward Lefler (Greenbrier) and Ken James (MPCC) had beaten Dennis Koziol and Carl Johnson (both of MPCC) for the First Flight Championship.

After lunch, the First and Second Flights were completed with Ken James beating Marie Haas (River View) and Dennis Koziol beating his doubles partner Carl Johnson.

The Championship Flight final was a true battle of Titans. Newcomer to the Virginia's Mark Goodwin has brought his one handicap to the Middle Peninsula club and faced Tommy Harrington, also a one handicap (from River View). Both players struggled in block and had to play in and through to reach the finals. It was certainly the fastest paced match since Darryl Turner held the title for eight consecutive years starting back in the early 2000's. Both players attacked at every opportunity but the match remained close until about the ten minutes remaining when Mark made a good break from his attack to extend his lead, then had to hold on at the end for the Win.

Players,results,handicaps, home clubs:

CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT

1. Mark Goodwin 1 (Middle Peninsula Croquet Club)
2. Tommy Harrington 1 (River View Croquet Club)
3. Rodney Lassiter 2.5 (River View Croquet Club)
4. John Lee 6 (Middle Peninsula Croquet Club)
5. Jack Chase 4 (Middle Peninsula Croquet Club)
6. Conrad Haas 4.5 (River View Croquet Club)

FIRST FLIGHT

1. Ken James 8 (Middle Peninsula Croquet Club)
2. Marie Haas 6 (River View Croquet Club)
3. Jim Coling 9 (Middle Peninsula Croquet Club)
4. Rick Darnell 11 (Middle Peninsula Croquet Club)
5. Ward Lefler 8 (Greenbrier Croquet Club)
6. Robert Lankford 9 (Confederate Hills Croquet Club)

SECOND FLIGHT

1. Dennis Koziol 14 (Middle Peninsula Croquet Club)
2. Carl Johnson 15 (Middle Peninsula Croquet Club)
3. Carter Richardson 13 (Middle Peninsula Croquet Club)
4. Conor Johnson 15 (Middle Peninsula Croquet Club)
5. Connie Coling 15 (Middle Peninsula Croquet Club)
6. Bob McCreary 15 (Middle Peninsula Croquet Club)
7. Becky Lazos 20 (Middle Peninsula Croquet Club)

CHAMPIONSHIP DOUBLES

1. Rodney Lassiter and Jim Coling
2. Tommy Harrington and Jack Chase
3. Mark Goodwin and John Lee
4. Conrad and Marie Haas

FIRST FLIGHT DOUBLES

1. Ward Lefler and Ken James
2. Dennis Koziol and Carl Johnson
3. Dick Darnell and Carter Richardson
4. Conor Johnson and Bob McCreary
5. Connie Coling and Becky Lazos



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