

# West Indies Croquet Championship

## October 24-27, 2013

### St. Croix, USVI

The 2013 West Indies Croquet Championship was played October 24 - 27 under sunny skies at the Tennis Club of St. Croix.

The first crisis hit before the first ball was struck. New York's Doug Moore left his eyeglasses  in a taxi in San Juan en route to St. Croix. Luckily, he had built in a leisure day on the island before the start of the tournament and so with the help of Karen Heckman and her local medical connections was able to score a new pair in time for the first game.

A couple nights later, the aforementioned Doug Moore volunteered to pick up the dinner tab for the assembled players at the Bombay Club. One slight problem - he couldn't find his wallet . Karen and the Commissioner to the rescue on the tab. Wallet subsequently found. Wallet back in tow, money later won at the casino.

Oh yes, croquet was played. Owing to the small field, all games were played at the Tennis Club - maybe games next time on the Duggan's Reef beachside court with its excellent view of Buck Island and scenic sand dune inside the beachside boundary.

Format was high-low doubles with assigned partners, block play to a seeded single elimination ladder. The tournament schedule was light, allowing for late sleeping, morning beach or pool time, doing odds and ends, or, for the unfortunate working locals, work.

At the end of it all, The Commissioner and his novice, tournament rookie partner, Buccaneer Hotel Tennis Pro Don DeWilde, finished first with a hard fought 19-18 double overtime final win over Dan Lawrence and Lynn LeBlanc. Lynn staked out, Don made #6 to tie, then the Commissioner staked out to win. Dan, three ball dead with no chance to score, watched helplessly.

Doug gave a spirited, if  unsuccessful tournament effort, but at least did not lose his . He was successful in separating the casino  from some of its cash. The casino, as well as other local watering holes, were successful in separating Doug from some (actually, many) of his brain cells.

Post-tournament, Bernie-the-Attorney returned to practicing in his mind.

Norm and Linda Pike won the Boardkeeper Volunteers of the Tournament award. USCA Caribbean District President Flavia Logie pronounced it all good.

Next up on the St. Croix tournament calendar will be the Lee Platt Memorial, played for the coveted Gladys Milnes Trophy, scheduled for Presidents' Day Weekend in February.

The Commissioner

1. Les Kelley/Don DeWilde
2. Dan Lawrence/Lynn Leblanc
3. Norm Pike/Flavia Logie
4. Doug Moore/Linda Pike
5. Bernie Pattie/Karen Heckman