

THE 2014 CHUCK STEUBER OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

National Croquet Center, West Palm Beach, FL

February 19-23, 2014

There was something for everyone during this year's Chuck Steuber Open Championships. Held over the span of five days, the first two were devoted to Golf Croquet, prize money awarded to the top finishers in the more advanced of the two Flights. The long weekend saw three Flights of USCA croquet and one Division of Association Rules, prize money offered (and taken) within the Association group. The weather was wonderful throughout and the courts were in fantastic shape.

Many of those players enjoying the weekend play found the Golf Croquet competition a great warm up. Twenty participants were split, and in both Flights block to ladder was the format, the top four in each reaching the Playoffs. Russ Dilley overcame Doug Collier in the First Flight while Brian Cumming cashed in a \$750 check (American money) with his victory over Stephen Morgan (\$500) in the Championship Division.

In USCA Rules play, matches were timed at one hour and thirty minutes for the first two Flights and fifteen minutes short of that for the non-double-banked Second Flight. In all cases, a Round Robin was followed by single-elimination ladders.

Russ Dilley, favored going into the event, earned his reputation with his decisive 15-9 victory over the easily excited Carla Rueck in the Second Flight. George Bagwell improved with each match and withstood the eternal flamboyance of Sandy Walsh; he captured the First Flight in a close 17-15 battle. In the Championship Flight, David McCoy played a heart attack-maker last turn to sneak by (18-17) Ted Quimby.

Association play, where the big money was, consisted of two blocks of six, the top two players in each block moving on to the Semi-Finals. Games were timed at two hours and thirty minutes with the Playoffs conducted in the best-of-three format. (Seven and a half hour time limit.) A Plate/Swiss was offered to those failing to reach the Playoff stage, and that stage proved to be harder to reach than expected. After block play, three players were tied for the final Playoff spot, and after the prevailing one-ball shoot-out, Brian Cumming was the last man standing amongst a group also including Stephen Morgan and Simon Jenkins.

In the Semis, Brian's luck would not continue, for after winning the first game against Danny Huneycutt, Danny captured the next two to reach the Finals (-25, +21, +25tp). In the other half of the draw, Sherif Abdelwahab defeated Stuart Lawrence with +12 and +11 scores.

In the Third Place match, Brian would prevail (+26tp, +15) over Stuart and thus pick up another quick \$500. Similarly, the Finals match would last but two games, and this time Danny offered fewer errant shots and with some steady play captured the Title with +15tp and +13 scores. Danny bank \$2000 for his fine efforts and Sherif pocketed half that amount.

The Croquet Foundation of America would like to thank all of those in attendance and hopes that everyone enjoyed the Opening Reception, the morning Omelette Stations and the wonderful Sunday Brunch. More so, the Foundation expresses its appreciation for all of the continued support, hopes everyone enjoyed the variety of events offered and looks for another incredible event next year!

FINAL RESULTS:

ASSOCIATION

1. Danny Huneycutt
2. Sherif Abdelwahab
3. Brian Cumming
4. Stuart Lawrence

Plate Winner: Martyn Selman

Also played:

Mike Taylor
Hans Peterson
Martyn Selman
Paul Embry
Stephen Morgan
Harper Peterson
Simon Jenkins
Michael Todorovich

USCA CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT

1. David McCoy
2. Ted Quimby
3. David Collie
3. Bill Hartman
5. Pat Colt
5. Rufus Bayard

USCA FIRST FLIGHT

1. George Bagwell
2. Sandy Walsh
3. Temp Peck
3. John Schoo
3. Dick Scherf
5. Gerry McCauley

USCA SECOND FLIGHT

1. Russ Dilley
2. Carla Rueck
3. Lynda Sudderberg
3. Steve Grassbaugh
5. David Owen
6. Don Molitor
7. George Mathys
7. Mary Anne Mathys

GOLF CROQUET CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT

Top Four:

1. Brian Cumming
2. Stephen Morgan
3. Stuart Lawrence
4. Paul Embry

GOLF CROQUET FIRST FLIGHT

Top Four:

1. Russ Dilley
2. Stephen Morgan
3. Ian Harshman
4. James Creasey