

2014 PIPING ROCK CROQUET INVITATIONAL

Locust Valley, New York

May 15-18, 2014

It is difficult to trust time, or to hold onto memories as though they were pin-point true. But we do. It may take an hour to form an image, or a second to capture an emotion. All are perhaps off a bit, but they become our reality...we sort and file these images and feelings into hiding places within our heart...we withdraw them as we need.

I began teaching at The Piping Rock Club about 30 years ago. No, I don't remember the day, or even the year, but I fell in love with the Club from the moment I first stepped foot upon its property. The beauty comes without assistance, and as I became more accustomed to the facility, both the staff and the Members became an extended family.

Croquet and the players are treated with respect here, as it always has been. Two permanent and beautiful lawns sparkle as you look out from the Clubhouse, and 6-8 pre-season tennis courts are converted for the annual Invitational. On-site rooms are available for the event, but even if you are staying 'off-campus', the hospitality of The Piping Rock Club makes it difficult to ever wish to leave. From dawn to dusk, food and drink is within a hand's reach. As it is at the Opening Reception, the Player's Dinner and the famous and awesome Lobster Bake; these are reasons enough to be in attendance.

Yes, there is plenty croquet to play: four flights of Singles and three of Doubles. And everyone plays Sunday. Again, respect is the nature of the game, especially at Piping Rock, and with that, there were some players who exceeded beyond the expected, thus earning an extra degree of such honor. Enjoying the good weather and taking home some well-earned trophies simply came along with the ride.

In the Championship Flight, Stuart Lawrence, after some overseas experience, always looked much the best, defeating Jim Houser in the Finals. Randy Cardo, a temporary visitor in the First Flight, won it with ease while Bruce Huber and Gary Neal captured the Second and Third Flights. Stuart also captured the Championship Doubles while Randy repeated in the First Flight Doubles. Missy Chilton took honors in the Third Flight Division.

And so there we all were, at the last moments of one of the most respected tournaments in the country, lingering courtside and not wishing to leave. We looked out at the golf course, one of the most historic and beautiful in the country. We glanced at the Clubhouse, within which hangs a large array of pictures from years past. We shuffled feet but showed no desire to move. And somewhere, within the lack of movement, the same feeling I experienced 30 years ago came back to me. And I chose not to let it go now either.

I apologize for the lack of detail in this report, but I have space limits to deal with. It would be more interesting if I told you how Stuart Lawrence almost lost the Final by doing something very stupid. Which he did. Or how Norris Settlemyre brought a hat and how everyone is now using pictures within that hat as a Facebook picture. I guess that is one of those 'had to have been there' situations, but that also somehow sums up the Piping Rock experience...you have to be there at least once to feel the sense of relaxation and bask within the memories as they form. It is time spent wisely.

A list of all those to thank is too long for the space provided. Jane Simonds, the Tournament Manager, deserves a world of credit. Bernadette, who supervised everything social from the Club's position, remains more famous than most croquet players. Most importantly, the Tournament Committee as a whole, once again, delivered a picture perfect event. That was no surprise, as it will not be next year when so many will return for another magical weekend. For me, it will be like going home.

CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT SINGLES

1. Stuart Lawrence
2. Jim Houser
3. Tim Rapuano
3. Donna Dixon
5. Ted Quimby
5. Jack Montgomery
7. Norris Settlemyre
7. John Hunter
7. Jane Simonds
7. Ken Northrop
11. Blaine Davis
11. Bill Hartmann
13. Bob Chilton

CHAMPIONSHIP 'A' SINGLES

1. Randy Cardo
2. Ralph Charles
3. Cynn timer Cagney
3. Dave Cohn
5. Mary Rodeberg
5. Temp Peck
7. Sheila Davis
7. John Postley
9. Jake Johnson
9. Oakley Johnson
11. Beatty Cramer
11. Jim McLaughlin

FIRST FLIGHT SINGLES

1. Bruce Huber
 2. Lucie Bard
 3. Arthur Olsen
 3. Vickie Johnston
 5. Elaine Postley
 5. Carla Rueck
 7. Ann Nolte
- Dnf: Jim Wyer

SECOND FLIGHT SINGLES

1. Gary Neal
2. Missy Chilton
3. Randi Cudlitz
3. Bobby Duryea
5. Franklin Perrell
6. Sally McGrath

CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT DOUBLES

1. Stuart Lawrence
2. Ken Northrop
3. Tim Rapuano
4. Bob Chilton
5. Jim Houser
6. Bill Hartmann
7. Jack Montgomery
8. Norris Settlemyre
9. Donna Dixon
10. Blaine Davis
11. John Hunter
12. Ted Quimby

FIRST FLIGHT DOUBLES

1. Randy Cardo
 2. Dave Cohn
 3. Ann Nolte
 4. Temp Peck
 5. Cynn timer Cagney
 6. Oakley Johnson
 7. Jake Johnson
 8. Lucie Bard
 9. Sheila Davis
 10. Arthur Olsen
 11. Jim McLaughlin
 12. Ralph Charles
 13. John Postley
 14. Beatty Cramer
 15. Mary Rodeberg
- Dnf: Jim Wyer

SECOND FLIGHT DOUBLES

1. Missy Chilton
2. Carla Rueck
3. Bobby Duryea
4. Gary Neal
5. Hildegard Jones
6. Randi Cudlitz
7. Franklin Perrell
8. Sally McGrath

-John C. Osborn (TD)