

SARASOTA COUNTY CROQUET CLUB
WINTER INVITATIONAL
January 27 and January 30 thru February 2, 2014

The Sarasota County Croquet Club held its winter invitational on January 27th and January 30th through February 2nd using three full size courts in Venice, Florida. The additional day on Monday saw local entrants playing off thirty-one games to allow all players sufficient games during the weekend. Thursday saw the opening of the tournament, and unusually cold and wet weather. Temps in the high 40's and steady rain throughout the day is not the weather that Florida is noted for. Hats, earmuffs, and heavy sweaters and jackets were the dress of the first two days. But winter in Florida only lasts two days, and by Saturday we were back to the normal temperatures, not sunny but partial cloudy, during the remainder of the weekend.

The opening party was combined with the monthly club potluck dinner and was held at the Bay Indies Club House, hosted by the members residing at that community. The food, wine, and other spirits flowed freely and were enjoyed by close to 90 in attendance. Schedules handed out, friends reunited, and attitudes adjusted, the players looked forward to the following days.

Participation this year consisted of thirty-five players, divided into four flights. Thursday and Friday consisted of Block; while Saturday and Sunday was basically a double elimination format; with all players advancing from block to ladder play.

In Championship Flight, with seven players, handicaps from -1.5 to 2.5, Alan Cottle and Colin Irwin who are both from Great Britain, members of the club and wintering in Venice, as well as Jackie Jones, dominated both in block and ladder play. Playing six block games all three were tied at five wins each. Net points determined ladder seeding. Colin went undefeated in the ladder, taking Alan 26-3 and Jackie in the final 12 to 11. Spectators were treated to some excellent play, in both running breaks as well as deadness strategy.

Championship II, also with seven players in handicap range 2.5 to 5, followed the same format as Championship. Webster Bull and Carl Kruse controlled the block play with five wins each. Carl faltered in the ladder allowing Richard Schiller to run the winning side of the ladder, facing Webster (whom he had just defeated and was sent to the loser side of the ladder) in the finals. Webster came back and took the trophy 15-13. Cynnne Cagney starting a weak position fought her way through to finish third.

First flight with nine players (handicaps 5-8) was a wide-open block, with Frank Buzerak winning five of six games, while the next four players came in with four wins each. Frank had an easy double bye, while Christine Irwin, placing third in block, worked her way through the ladder to meet Frank in the quarterfinals. Defeated 17-16, Christine was to play Lee Anderson in the loser side. Besting Lee 21-14 she returned to the final game to again play Frank, but was unsuccessful for the second time losing 15-10 to Frank. So Frank, first, Christine, second, and Lee Anderson, third.

Second flight, twelve players, (handicaps 9 to 15) in two blocks of six, were seeded in a serpentine sequence. The results of block play saw Bob Worrell and Gary Anderson leaders in Block One and Jim Coling and Mac McDermott leaders in Block Two. All but Mac made it to the quarterfinals, but the story of the day was Bob Worrell, defeated in the first ladder game he started his loser side run, defeating Oakley Johnson, Doug Ledgett, Elsie Maxim (who gave him his first loss), Roger Measel, Gary Anderson, and Jim Coling in the final to win his flight 15-13. Jim Coling was runner up while Gary Anderson came in third

Socially, in addition to the opening party, continental breakfasts and lunches prepared by the club "Kitchen Cuties" were served courtside each day, The many volunteers who make up the "kitchen cuties" as well as the volunteers who set up and roll the courts are what makes the club such a success. "Attitude Adjustment" followed play daily.

Saturday evening everyone gathered for dinner at the Saltwater Cafe, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, followed by an excellent meal. First time this restaurant had been selected, and will now be a favorite.

Submitted,
Fred Jones
Tournament Director



Frank Buzerak, Christine Irwin, Bob Worrell, Jackie Jones, Jim Coling, Richard Schiller, Webster Bull, Colin Irwin

Championship I

1. Colin Irwin
2. Jackie Jones
3. Alan Cottle
4. Ken Northrop
5. Art Parsells
6. Ted Kemp
6. Jack Montgomery

Championship II

1. Webster Bull
2. Richard Schiller
3. Cynn timer Cagney
4. Dawn Jupin
5. Geoffrey Mattison
6. Carl Kruse
6. Betty Crisler

First Flight

1. Frank Buzerak
2. Christine Irwin
3. Lee Anderson
4. Jim McLaughlin
5. Jim Feorino
6. Dolores Gallagher
6. Richard Schworm
8. Kay Schneider
8. Bob Lentz

Second Flight

1. Bob Worrell
2. Jim Coling
3. Gary Anderson
4. Roger Measel
5. Elsie Maxam
5. Mac (John) McDermott
7. Julie Schworm
7. Doug Ledgett
9. Donald McLaughlin
9. Oakley Johnson
9. Sidna Mitchell
9. Connie Coling