

# Blue Crab Open Middle Peninsula Croquet Club August 28-30, 2015 Redart, VA

Blue skies, temperatures in the mid 80's, a sea breeze every day, steamed crabs and croquet. Life doesn't get much better. So was the fate of the August 28-30 Blue Crab Open tournament at the Middle Peninsula Croquet Club (MPCC) in Redart, Virginia. Twenty-six players from all over the country and Canada enjoyed the food, the Chesapeake Bay area and some fine croquet. Social events included a Thursday evening boat ride on an authentic Chesapeake Bay dead rise captained by 84 year old waterman, Ali Walton, who has been working the bay for over 60 years. The ride was punctuated with stories of life on the water and the rich history of the area. Friday night was a steamed crab feast and Saturday everyone gathered in a local restaurant to share stories and get the lineup for the playoffs on Sunday.



MPCC's courts were for the most part well-groomed and moderate speed. The tournament had 4 flights with 7 players per flight. Everyone played everyone else in their flight and everyone went to the playoffs on Sunday.

In Championship Flight Richard Schiller from Michigan fended off local MPCC player Macey White by one point in last turn to make it to the finals and Matthew Griffith from Kansas City defeated Rodney Lassiter from North Carolina. Griffith and Schiller had a well fought and entertaining dual for the Championship with Griffith being crowned winner.



Macey White, Matthew Griffith

In First Flight MPCC player Rick Darnell defeated Tom Schick from Bald Head Island, NC to make it to the finals. Jim Coling of MPCC lost a heartbreaker to Doug Nagel, also from MPCC, in a well-played match by both. In the finals, Darnell stuffed a few wickets and that was all it took for Doug Nagel to go ahead and take the win.

In Second Flight Stephen Jackson from Kansas City overcame a broken mallet and with a courtside repair sailed through John Priest of MPCC in the semis. Carter Richardson from MPCC defeated a very

good Val Terry from Michigan in the semis and then defeated Jackson in a close battle for the Second Flight Champion.

Third Flight was populated with rising stars in the croquet world. Folks, look out for Linda and Bob Taber who both played well in their first tourney ever. Also look out for Case Western Reserve University recent grads Eric Purdy, Ben Guengerich and Peter Schiller. Schiller squeaked by Guengerich to make it to the finals to play Purdy who edged out Linda Taber. Schillo was the ultimate victor and took home top honors in Third Flight.

Fun and good times were had by all and the Middle Peninsula Croquet Club hopes to see all of our competitors again in the future. Look for more great croquet action at MPCC in the near future.

On October 1-4 MPCC is hosting a training tournament (Oysters-by-the-Bay) focused on helping higher handicap players with tournament play. MPCC is looking for higher handicap players who would like this experience and lower handicap players who can come and act as coaches. Players handicapped 10 or above will be offered a coach they will help and give advice during tournament play. Thursday, October 1, is a croquet clinic day and MPCC will have coaches on hand to help with all aspect of play.

There will be separate flights for the lower handicap players. Any lower handicap player who comes and volunteers to help as a coach will get a \$50 discount on the tournament entry fees.

The big social event will be an OYSTER ROAST! The Oyster Roast dinner will also include southern fried chicken, slow roasted pork and STEAMED CRABS!!!!

#### RESULTS:

##### Championship Flight Singles

1. Matthew Griffith
2. Richard Schiller
3. Macey White
3. Rodney Lassiter
5. Anne Robinson
5. David Spivey
5. George Peterkin III

##### First Flight Singles

1. Doug Nagel
2. Rick Darnell
3. Jim Coling
3. Tom Schick
5. Gary Anderson
5. Georg Dej
5. Lee Anderson

##### Second Flight Singles

1. Carter Richardson
2. Stephen Jackson
3. Val Terry
3. John Priest
5. Lee Little
5. Mary Shields
5. Connie Coling

##### Third Flight Singles

1. Peter Schillo
2. Eric Purdy
3. Ben Guengerich
3. Linda Taber
5. Bob Taber



Doug Nagel, Rick Darnell



Macey White, Richard Schiller



Peter Schillo, Eric Purdy



Stephen Jackson, Carter Richardson