

2015 Croquet Week GOLF CROQUET TOURNAMENT

National Croquet Center, West Palm Beach, FL

March 14-16, 2015

With great weather and a well-balanced field, the golf croquet portion of what is commonly referred to as 'Croquet Week' proved to be one of the best ever. The participants were split into two Flights and battled through a round-robin, the top four finishers in each division proceeding to the Playoffs. Three wickedly fast lawns were in use and with the addition of some gusty winds, the conditions were challenging for all.

In that this tournament is short in duration, and with so many matches to play, time limits were in place during the preliminary rounds. Block games were timed at one hour, with each ball given two more shots once this time had expired. To allow for maximum play, 19-point matches were on the menu with the first to ten wickets deemed a winner. Interestingly enough, with the conditions being what they were and with such a high level of ability, only about 5% of the games reached that magic '10' number. On the other hand, the winning score for about 75% of the games was seven and above. The lowest score on the charts was 4-3, though this was somewhat due to 'unhurried' play. The Playoffs consisted of the standard best-of-three (13-point games) in the Championship Flight. The First Flight Semis were one 19-point match to completion with the Finals identical to that of the Championship Flight.

Almost all of the Playoff matches were tight throughout. In the First Flight, Stephen Jackson defeated Maureen Liccardi (10-7) in one Semi while Sandra Walsh outlasted (10-8) Matthew Harders in the other. Sandra would then take things up a notch and home with a 7-3, 7-4 victory over stubborn Stephen.

Games within the Championship Flight were even closer...and a treat for the spectators. In the first Semi, Matt Griffith snuck past Cheryl Bromley (7-3, 2-7, 7-6) while David McCoy had an even more difficult time in defeating (3-7, 7-6, 7-6) Michael Albert. In what seemed like a marathon, Matt would eventually capture (7-3, 7-5) the Title with some consistent play.

The group of players this year was fantastic; the play was somehow competitive though casual. While this was a 'no frills' event, it seems as though everyone had a great time both on and off the lawns. The USCA hopes to see even more players next year and thanks everyone for their participation this past week.

CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT

1. Matt Griffith
2. David McCoy
3. Cheryl Bromley
3. Michael Albert
5. Gil Flowers
5. Johnny Mitchell
7. Peter Carlin
8. Don Oakley

FIRST FLIGHT

1. Sandra Walsh
2. Stephen Jackson
3. Matthew Harders
3. Maureen Liccardi
5. George Saad
6. Debra Bradley
7. Paul DuVivier

-John C. Osborn (TD)