

Florida Regional Golf Croquet Championship January 9-11, 2015 National Croquet Center West Palm Beach, Florida



Building on the momentum from last year's Florida Regional Golf Croquet Championship of 12 players, this year's tournament grew to a strong field of 22 players. In addition to competitors from Florida, there were players who traveled from Missouri and North Carolina to play in the tournament.

Friday began with block play with each player playing one 13-point game against each of the other players in their respective block. At the end of day one, the top two players in each block advanced to an 8-player Championship Knockout, while the third and fourth players moved into the First Flight 8-player Knockout, and the remaining players went into a Doubles Playoff.

Saturday's action began with an incredible display of shot making when Ian Harshman and Jeff Soo took to the lawn for the first quarterfinal match in the Championship Flight. Soo stayed steady to take the match 7-3, 7-4 and advanced to the semi-finals.

Peter Carlin and Doug Collier had a close battle with Carlin coming out on top 7-6, 7-6. The remaining quarterfinal matches saw Matt Griffith take out Johnny Mitchell 7-5, 7-3 and Stephen Morgan defeat Gil Flowers 7-4, 7-2.



Peter Carlin and Doug Collier

In First Flight action, a determined Diane Walker held on to win a long best of three game match against Mike Sexton 7-4, 0-7, 7-1. John Walker edged past William Sellers 7-6, 7-5, Sharon Blackington narrowly defeated Byron Hicks 7-4, 3-7, 7-6, while David McCoy found his form against Cheryl Bromley with a 7-5, 7-4 win.



Sharon Blackington and Bryon Hicks, ready for battle.

In the Championship Flight semi-finals, Peter Carlin put up a good fight against Jeff Soo capturing the first game 7-5. Soo took the next game 7-5 and then kept his momentum going to take the third game 7-3.

The other semi-final paired Matt Griffith and Stephen Morgan in what would prove to be a solid tune-up match before the two of them head to New Zealand in February to compete in the WCF Golf Croquet World Championships. Stephen came up with the shots he needed to

take the match 7-4, 7-5 as the sun set in the background.

The First Flight semi-finals saw the husband-wife matchup of John and Diane Walker with Diane winning 7-4, 7-4. David McCoy got past Sharon Blackington with a 7-3, 7-2 win.

In the Waterford Doubles, players switched partners after each game with the win-loss record and net points being tallied. At the end of the day Steve Jackson became the clear front-runner with two wins.

It was a sunny and breezy Sunday as the Third Place playoff matches got underway. Matt Griffith was solid against Peter Carlin to take Third Place in Championship Flight with a 7-3, 7-2 win. John Walker held on to earn Third Place honors in First Flight with a win of 7-4, 5-7, 7-3 against Sharon Blackington.

Then it was time for the marquee match of the day with Jeff Soo facing off against Stephen



Stephen Morgan in action during the Championship Final

Morgan in the Championship Finals. The amount of spectators grew as the highly anticipated match got underway. Soo settled in and took the first game 7-5. He led 5-2 in the second game when Morgan came to life with excellent clearances and placement. Morgan came from behind to take the second game 7-5. Without delay, the guys got the third game underway and it did not disappoint.

Showing no fear, both players hit spectacular clearing shots, used precision placement and smart tactics, and after 10 hoops, the score was tied at 5-5. Soo hit a clutch jump shot at hoop 11 to go ahead 6-5. Morgan stayed focused and tied the game at 6-6. At the 13th hoop the



Jeff Soo, Championship Flight Singles Winner

match came down to Soo hitting a 21' shot from the boundary to score the hoop and take home the Regional title. It was a thrilling finish to a great weekend of croquet.

In the remaining matches, Steve Jackson and Kevin Hansley were awarded top honors as Doubles Champions ahead of finalists Matthew Harders and Sam Orleans.

David McCoy and Diane Walker wrapped up the day with their First Flight Final match. McCoy used his experience to put together a solid 7-2, 7-3 victory to claim the title.

A complete listing of results can be found at www.croquetscores.com.

Submitted by Cheryl Bromley, Tournament Manager

Championship Flight Singles

1. Jeff Soo
2. Stephen Morgan
3. Matt Griffith
4. Peter Carlin
5. Johnny Mitchell
6. Ian Harshman
7. Doug Coller
8. Gil Flowers



Jeff Soo, Stephen Morgan

First Flight Singles

1. David McCoy
2. Diane Walker
3. John Walker
4. Sharon Blackington
5. Cheryl Bromley
6. Mike Sexton
7. William Sellers
7. Byron Hicks



Diane Walker, David McCoy, Cheryl Bromley

Waterford Doubles

1. Steve Jackson
1. Kevin Hansley
2. Matthew Harders
2. Sam Orleans
5. Zoe Van Wyck deRopp
6. Don Whalen



Kevin Hansley, Steve Jackson,
Matthew Harders, Sam Orleans, Cheryl Bromley