

National Croquet Club Championship Singles

January 16-18, 2015

West Palm Beach, FL

Fifty players started this year's National Croquet Club (NCC) Championship Singles tournament under cloudy skies and a hint of rain. Five players walked away with their names added to the NCC Champions Roster and a copy of the "History of Croquet" cartoon awarded to the winners in all flights. In the three days it took to determine these winners everyone fought, struggled, won-some and lost-some in what has become one of the better singles croquet tournaments this season.

Championship Flight was particularly strong. Pat Colt played above his grade, David McCoy and Johnny Mitchell struggled more than expected, and amazing Stephen Morgan looked unstoppable, until he met Mike Todorovich in the final. In a game that will be long remembered, Mike came from behind and in a once-in-a-lifetime "double" break with both his balls, snatched victory from Steve Morgan by capitalizing on a stuffed wicket.

In First Flight Ian Harshman was undefeated through block play and the single elimination playoffs, but was sweating a bit when he met Bill Trower in the semi-finals. Charles Alexander is clearly someone to watch and is a strong contender for next year, when Ian should have moved up a flight. Bill Trower, the NCC President, is poised for the long roquet that will take him places and Dick Scherf - last year's winner in this flight - won't be far behind.

Dave Spivey in Second Flight started off the tournament stuttering in his games, which surprised everyone, but finished very strongly to no one's surprise. He won the flight in true NCC fashion. Ann Licursi and Steve Grassbaugh gave him serious competition, and Harry Lloyd once again plugged all the holes.

In Third Flight the darling of the NCC, Linda Harris, performed to perfection shadowed by Missy Chilton and a very professional performance by Tim McCormick, who only lost the important games. Mark Ski, who had flown down from New York City to play in this tournament kept Nanci Hunt occupied, but we lost Roger Ally after the first day. He was a previous winner.

Fourth Flight suffered from some confusion during the playoffs, when two players forgot to come and play in the finals. This did not stop newcomers Kevin Hansley and Sam Orleans for putting on a very respectable showing for their first tournament of this kind, but Bill Sadowski and Clint Fowlkes were the ones to beat, and few did. Bill Sadowski took away the cartoon and our applause.

We would like to thank Bill Mead for his outstanding role as tournament director and Anthea Blamire for her usual perfection in keeping all the scores and tallying all the results. See you next year.

Championship Flight Singles

1. Mike Todorovich
2. Stephen Morgan
3. Bob Van Tassell
3. Derek Wassink
5. Johnny Mitchell
6. Pat Colt
7. David McCoy
7. John Warlick
9. Bob Chilton
9. Geoffrey Mattison

First Flight Singles

1. Ian Harshman
2. Charlie Alexander
3. Gerry McCauley
3. Bill Trower
5. Dick Scherf
6. Vincent Marmo
7. Bob Sasser
7. Lynda Sudderberg
9. Jake Johnson
9. Betty Crisler

Second Flight Singles

1. David Spivey
2. Steve Grassbaugh
3. Anne Licursi
3. Harry Lloyd
5. Antonia Marmo
6. Charlotte Hapak
7. Gerald Shugar
7. Carla Rueck
9. Joy Bradford

Third Flight Singles

1. Linda Harris
2. Missy Chilton
3. Gail Rubin
3. Tim McCormick
5. Bob Harris
6. Mark Ski
7. Diane Sadowski
7. Nanci Hunt
9. Mary Shields
10. Roger Ally

Fourth Flight Singles

1. Bill Sadowski
2. Clint Fowlkes
3. Linda Grady
3. Gerry Eubanks
5. Kevin Hansley
6. Rosemarie Maccario
7. Pat Muir
7. Eugenia Bytner
9. Meg Macy
10. Tina Hinckley