



Southeast Regional Tournament

May 14-17, 2015
Bluffton Area, SC



Once again Coastal Croquet Clubs (CCC) was host to the USCA Southeast Regional Tournament. The CCC is a federation of croquet clubs consisting of Palmetto Bluff, Sun City, Spring Island, Port Royal and Wexford. The play at this year's tournament was at Palmetto Bluff and Sun City with the finals played at Dataw Island. This tournament was also marked a transition. Avril Nicholson, who has held the post of Southeast Region Vice President has ended her tenure as and passed the baton to me. We thank Avril for her dedicated service and wish her all the best. I am sure we will see her around the court.

The majority of players in the tournament were from local clubs, some from North Carolina and Travis Watson and his son, Zack, traveling from Virginia. The turnout was smaller than usual which in some ways made tournament logistics easier. The very busy croquet schedule in April and May might have prevented some potential participants entering the tournament. All in all there were 17 participants: 10 Championship Flight, (ranging in handicap from 0-4.5) and 7 First Flight, (ranging in handicap from 5-12). For minimal logistics and maximum play time, the Championship Flight was organized into one block with each player having three singles games each of the three days of competition. To add to the mix, there were one to two doubles games during each day. The First Flight played two singles and one to two doubles each day. All contestants got their money's worth in play time!

In Championship Flight the first competition was keen and the top four ranked played each other in the semi-finals. Robert Roth (4th ranked) played Simon Jenkins (top ranked) while Bill Escher (3rd ranked) played Zack Watson (2nd ranked). Both semi-finals were good matched games with Jenkins beating Roth and Watson prevailing over Escher. In the finals it was Zack Watson winning over Simon Jenkins to take the Championship. Zack played well and seemed to get stronger as the tournament progressed. He is a young player and I believe we can expect a lot of Zack in the future. In doubles competition the Championship match was a family affair. The Huneycutts, (Danny and Dana,) playing against the Watson's, (Travis and Zack), with the Huneycutts prevailing over the Watsons.

In the First Flight competition there were more surprises. Carter Richardson, (10 handicap), and Conor Johnson, (12 handicap), were thrown into the First Flight singles fray and were able to hold their own with Johnson ending up fourth and Richardson ending fifth! The top ranked player, John Donohue, (5 handicap), played steadily and made the finals to play Dana Huneycutt (handicap 7). In doubles it was the team of George Fulmer and Art Thomasson winning over Margaret Cramer and John Donohue. Cramer is to be commended for playing in both championship and first flight with not only playing up to five games a day, but traveling to different venues to play doubles!

In closing, this was my first time in the Hilton Head area and I was very impressed with the beautiful venues that were available. Each venue had something unique to offer and it made the commute quite enjoyable. Thank you Coastal Croquet Clubs for hosting the Regionals!

Final Standings below:

Championship Singles

1. Zack Watson
2. Simon Jenkins
3. Bill Escher
4. Robert Roth
5. Harvey Geiger
6. Donald Smith
7. Richard Watson
8. Travis Watson
9. John Schoo
10. Margaret Cramer

First Flight Singles

1. John Donohue
2. Danna Huneycutt
3. Art Thomasson
4. Conor Johnson
5. Carter Richardson
6. George Fulmer

Championship Doubles

1. Danny & Danna Huneycutt
2. Zack & Travis Watson
3. Simon Jenkins/Robert Roth
4. Richard Watson/Donald Smith
5. Bill Escher/John Schoo

First Flight Doubles

1. George Fulmer/Art Thomasson
2. Margaret Cramer/John Donohue
3. Carter Richardson/Conor Johnson



Championship Winner – Zack Watson



Championship Doubles Winners
Dana and Danny Huneycutt



First Flight Singles Winner – John Donohue



First Flight Doubles Runner-up
Marge Cramer and John Donohue



Dataw Club Court 1



Dataw Club Court 2