

BOCA GRANDE INVITATIONAL MARCH 3-6, 2016

The weather was great, sunny and warm, just right for the annual Boca Grande Invitational held March 3rd to the 6^h on the courts at the Gasparilla Mallet Club in Boca Grande, Florida.

The big upset was in the Championship flight. Players are normally seeded by their relative strength, as indicated by their handicaps. The flight with eight players opened with Alan Cottle, seeded number one playing Bob Worrell seeded number eight, as is typical with any tournament. But Bob Worrell decided to beat Alan 15-14 in a major upset. From that point Alan proceeded to show his strength winning the next five games, pegging out in four and scoring only 24 points in the fifth game. However Bob was not to be slighted, winning the next five games as well, thereby going into the ladder undefeated. Jackie Jones was close behind with four wins in six, losing only to Alan and Bob.

In Championship, as well as the remaining flights, all players would advance to a seeded double elimination ladder. Bob, seeded #1 had earned a double bye, so the first three rounds of the ladder saw Alan proceed to the Sunday morning game against Bob on the winner's side, while Jackie, losing one game proceeded up the loser side to meet Alan who had lost again to Bob Worrell, and was now in the semi-finals playing against Jackie, winning in last turn with an angled wicket shot from 15 feet, to win 14-13, and proceed to play Bob once again in the finals. Again, in a well-played game, Alan lost 14 to 13. So the Championship winner was Bob Worrell, with Alan Cottle second, and Jackie Jones third.

While the other flights were not quite as exciting, there were some excellent games played. In First flight, Oakley Johnson, seeded #1, went through the block undefeated, to earn the double bye. Chuck Perry and Joe Zilligen, seeded #2 and #3 in the ladder, worked their way through, with Joe losing to Oakley in their first meeting, and then losing to Chuck in the semi-finals so that Chuck and Oakley met in the final match of the day. Oakley, had learned from Worrell, that it is just as easy to go undefeated for the entire tournament if you play smart and accurately. Oakley Johnson bested Chuck Perry 12-9 to take home the trophy, undefeated for the tournament. Jpe Zilligen took third.

In Second flight Ralph Curtis did not do quite as well in the block as the two other flights, coming out with 5 wins out of 6. Close behind were Gary and Lee Anderson, who had excellent block records, but were soon to fall in ladder play. Coming from behind was Mac McDermott, fighting his way through both sides of the ladder to meet Ralph in the finals. Again, another close one, with Mac edging out Ralph 12-11. Jim McLaughlin was third.

On the social side, this is one wonderful tournament, start off with an intimate court-side cocktail party at the end of the first days play, setting the stage for the traditional semi-formal dinner in the Pelican Room of the Gasparilla Inn. Opening with Mushroom soup,

followed by a choice of Filet of Beef or Wild Salmon, the meal was not complete until we were served Gasparilla Inn Bread Pudding for desert. The selection of dinner wines complemented a wonderful dinner.

Saturday, as per tradition, we all gathered at the Boca Bay Club house, overlooking the Gulf of Mexico to watch the sun set in the west. With a clear sky, the sun put on a beautiful display, at the exact time requested. Heavy hors d'oeuvres complimented the evening

Members of the Gasparilla Mallet Club turned out in force to compete in the tournament. Also in attendance were several members of the Sarasota County Club, located in Venice. Adding to this list were several who have traveled great distances to play each year, and are considered part of the mainstay of this Invitational

Thanks go out to all who worked so hard to make this event the success that it is. Blaine Davis, for organizing to tournament, and all the functions that go with it, The Gasparilla ground crew for maintaining the courts in great shape, the Gasparilla for the food and beverage, as well as the location, and last, but not least the players who competed for four days.

Next year, same time, same place (The first week-end in March). See you then.

FINAL RESULTS

CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT

- 1 Robert Worrell
- 2 Alan Cottle
- 3 Jackie Jones
- 4 Bert Myer
- 5 Blaine Davis
- 5 Ken Northrop
- 6 Robert Bake
- 8 Jack Montgomery
- 8 Tyler Thomas

SECOND FLIGHT

- 1 John McDermott
- 2 Ralph Curtis
- 3 James McLaughlin
- 4 Lee Anderson
- 5 Dick Schleiter
- 5 MaryAnne McDermott
- 7 Gary Anderson
- 7 Jean Henry

FIRST FLIGHT

- 1 Oakley Johnson
- 2 Charles Perry
- 3 Joeseeph Zilligen
- 4 Mark Masselink
- 5 Ann Myer
- 6 Sheila Davis
- 6 Kiehner Johnson

**Submitted
Fred Jones
Tournament Director**

