

Desert Classic

January 19 - 23, 2016; Rancho Mirage, CA

In a cooler than normal week in January, thirty participants gathered at Mission Hills Country Club to compete for the Marty Foroughi Desert Classic Perpetual Trophy and sizable monetary prizes for the top three finishers in each flight. Players were divided into three flights for the Association Rules Singles Tournament. Upon completion of round robin play in each block, eight players advanced to a double elimination playoff format. After a day and a half of playoff competition three players in the Championship, Challenger and Competitor Flights were left to battle for a total of \$4500 in prize money!

The Competitor flight found Mission Hills Croquet Club favorites Jean Engebretson and Toni Kemp battling for the championship playoff slot against Steve Baker from the Bayfield, Ontario, Canada Croquet Club. After a hard fought battle Baker emerged victorious over Engebretson in his first visit to the Mission Hills croquet lawns!

In the Challenger flight, Steve Mossbrook was left as the only home court favorite in the semi-final round of the playoffs against the Canadian contingent of Pierre Dunn and Bill Rowat. Rowat defeated Mossbrook but was unable to get the upper hand again Dunn took home the \$450 prize as Challenger Flight Champion!

In the Championship Flight Brian Cumming fought his way through the playoff bracket but was ultimately eliminated by Dan Pailas who consistently left his opponent with difficult hit-in opportunities in the finals Pailas was up against Leo Nikora, a seasoned veteran of playing on the Mission Hills croquet lawns. Nikora's consistent ability to run breaks on the Mission Hills croquet lawns was the critical feature in his victory for the Championship and a \$1900 prize!

Championship Flight

1. Leo Nikora
2. Dan Pailas
3. Brian Cumming
4. Jim Hanks
5. Jim Butts
5. Steve Scalpone
7. Ervand Peterson
7. Harper Peterson
9. Peter Bach
9. Ren Kraft

Challenger Flight:

1. Pierre Dunn
2. Bill Rowatt
3. Steve Mossbrook
4. Brian Wasylyk
5. Cameron Evans
5. Nick Gray
7. Mary Rodeberg
7. Russell Uhler
9. Robert Coleman
9. Wally Clark

Competitor Flight:

1. Stephen Baker
2. Jean Engebretson
3. Toni Kemp
4. Bill Fraser
5. Judy Dahlstrom
5. Patrick Dugan
7. Robert Morford
7. Jeffrey Hill
9. Tracey Roche
9. Richard Kennedy