



40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
1977 - 2017

## 2017 USCA GOLF CROQUET EIGHTS

October 20-23, 2017 - Sarasota County Croquet Club, Venice, Florida

### FIRST EIGHT

1. David Maloof
2. Matt Griffith
3. Jeff Soo
4. Stephen Morgan
5. Rich Lamm
6. Alan Cottle
7. Cheryl Bromley
8. Michael Albert

### SECOND EIGHT

1. Macey White
2. Hans Peterson
3. Peter Carlin
4. Colin Irwin
5. Stephen Jackson
6. Bill Hoffman
7. Russ Cuccia
8. Eileen Soo

### THIRD EIGHT

1. Gil Flowers
2. Ted Thelin
3. Gene Raymond
4. Avril Rangoni-Machiavelli (DNF)
5. Nancy Hart
6. Judy Carlin
7. Mac McDermott
8. Byron Hicks



David Maloof (photo by his wife, Mieke)

With the first annual USCA Golf Croquet Eights, the USCA has added a top-level GC tournament to the calendar, while the newly-expanded Sarasota County Croquet Club has debuted as a major tournament venue. The twenty-four player field included many SCCC club members, joined by players from across the country.

### HALL OF FAME PLATE

1. Fred Jones
- 2= Nancy Hart, Gil Flowers



Similar to the USCA Selection Eights, the format for this event is blocks only, no playoffs except to break a first-place tie. Every match is important, and players are assured a slate of peer-level play. The Third Eight was a double-round-robin of single-game matches, while the First and

Second Eights were single blocks, but with best-of-three-games matches. All games were 13-point (score 7 to win), no time limit. Double-banking was used throughout. Players were encouraged but not required to use scoring clips, and this helped players and spectators alike to keep up with matches. One game in the First Eight, played without scoring clips, ended when the players walked off the lawn thinking the score was 7-1, when it was actually 6-2.

The tournament began with an afternoon of practice, followed by tournament players joining the club for its monthly potluck supper. This was just one of the ways SCCC made the visiting players feel as though they were part of the club. Club members also hosted visiting players, and provided daily breakfasts, lunches, and post-play "attitude adjustment" toast and tallies.

The club also worked hard to bring the lawns up to tournament conditions, and the players were impressed with the results. The lawns were very true, and played at a consistent medium pace throughout the tournament.

Another unusual feature of the tournament was the Pro-Am, pairing top-level players with youngsters the SCCC has been working with as part of the Warehouse program for disadvantaged youth. This brief event was one of the high points of the week for many of the participants.

Gil Flowers lost his first game, 5-7 to Avril Rangoni-Machiavelli. He then won twelve games in a row to win the Third Eight by a healthy margin. Ted Thelin finished second, on nine wins.



Rangoni-Machiavelli withdrew due to illness after two days, and Fred Jones stepped in as a substitute, to allow all players to play their full complement of games. Because these games could not be used in the standings of the Eight, they were treated as a separate event, dubbed the Hall of Fame Plate. Jones won most of his games to win the Plate.

Macey White played consistently well throughout the event, winning all seven of his matches to win the Second Eight. He was notably effective with jump shots. Hans Peterson and Peter Carlin won five matches each.

The First Eight started with Matt Griffith beating three of the four top seeds in the first two days of play. Rich Lamm was the only one of the top group to escape the giant-killing Griffith, in a thirty-nine point match: 7-6, 6-7, 7-6. David Maloof and Jeff Soo also enjoyed a thirty-nine point match, Maloof winning. Maloof beat the other top seeds to win the eight with six match wins.



L-R: Steve Morgan, Fred Jones, Mike Albert, Rich Lamm, Jeff Soo, Cheryl Bromley, David Maloof, Matt Griffith

The tremendous volunteer support from SCCC was coordinated by Hans Peterson and Michael Albert. Jeff Soo handled scheduling and scoring as the Tournament Director.

**Photos:** Nancy Hart