

SARASOTA COUNTY CROQUET CLUB 2017 WINTER INVITATIONAL

February 2-5, 2017 – Sarasota, FL

Championship Flight

1st Place: Alan Cottle

- 2 David Ekstrom
- 3 Colin Irwin
- 4 Jackie Jones
- 5 Jack Montgomery
- 6 Rodney Lassiter
- 6 Geoffrey Mattison
- 8 Bob Worrell
- 9 Avril Rangoni-Machiavelli

Championship "B" Flight

1st Place: Jim Coling

- 2 Oakley Johnson
- 3 Chris Barley
- 4 Paul Phoenix
- 5 Ted Thelin
- 5 Mark Masselink
- 7 Arthur Olsen
- 7 Gene Raymond
- 9 Robert McQuinn
- 9 Martie Ekstrom

First Flight

1st Place: William Hoffman

- 2 Michael Kukla
- 3 Jeannine Bedard
- 4 Dick Schleiter
- 5 Roger Measel
- 5 Jim Mclaughlin
- 7 John "Mac" McDermott
- 7 Bob Lentz
- 9 Doug Ledgett
- 9 Mark Claff

TD: Fred Jones

Sarasota County Croquet Club Winter Invitational Tournament 2017

Sarasota County Croquet Club's Winter Invitational tournament was held February 2nd through the 5th on their six courts in Venice, Florida. With a final total of 29 players competing, the courts were busy and double banking was not required in the majority of the matches.

In the singles only, three-flight tournament, the flight handicap spread was fairly close. Championship flight with handicaps -2.5 to 2.0 with an average of -0.2 demonstrated some fine play for the rest of the players. First flight consisted of 3.0 to 6 handicap players, while second flight had 7 to 9 handicaps

The Florida weather was ideal, nice and warm and sunny with a light breeze every day.

The croquet lawns were in excellent shape, true, level, and with speed of 7.5 on a stempt meter. Under the direction of Colin Irwin, the wickets were all set with a close and equal clearance. All set-up and take down of the courts, as well as the food service and attitude adjustment is organized and handled by club volunteers. First flight had the honor of being the first group to play a tournament on the recently opened three additional courts.

The opening party was combined with the monthly potluck dinner normally held by the club. Included were cocktails and a full buffet dinner for seventy-seven members and players, with never ending desserts.

On Saturday evening, players and their guests were able to watch the sun set over the Gulf of Mexico on the beach at the Manasota Beach Club in Englewood. With a cocktail hour preceding a private four-course dinner at the club, a great evening capped off the social side of the tournament.

In Championship flight with nine players, Alan Cottle and Jackie Jones dominated the block play; Alan had three peg-outs with no losses, and Jackie's only loss to Alan. Colin Irwin following close behind was third with two peg-outs. The double elimination ladder started with Alan with a double bye, Jackie with a single bye, and Colin playing the complete ladder. In the third session Colin defeated Jackie, and then lost to Alan. In the loser bracket Jackie lost to Davis Ekstrom, who in turn then defeated Colin to play and lose to Alan in the final 17-15. Colin third and Jackie fourth.

Ten players in Championship "B" flight led by Paul Phoenix who went undefeated in block play with Chris Barley close behind. Third place out of the block was Oakley Johnson. In ladder play, Jim Coling, starting as fourth seed, defeated Ted Thelin, Paul Phoenix, Oakley Johnson, and finally Oakley Johnson a second time to take the flight undefeated 12-9. Final Jim Coling first, Oakley second, and Chris third, with Paul Phoenix fourth.

First flight, with 10 players, saw Bill Hoffman sweep the field in block play with five wins, closely followed by Michael Kukla. Both Bill and Michael started the ladder with a double bye, and in their first matches bested Jeannine Bedard and Dick Schleiter respectively, and the rest was a battle between the two players. Michael took Bill 15-14 in the quarterfinals, and then Bill took Jeannine 18-12 in the semi-finals, then back to Michael beating him 11-10 to win the flight

This was the second and final invitational for the season. February and March will see the Club Championships in singles and doubles. With a membership close to 200, there is play and competition every day on the courts. If in the area call ahead and join the fun.

The City council of Venice and the County Commissioners of Sarasota County had previously approved the request of the Croquet club to add two additional courts adjacent to the three existing courts. These courts are now completed, and are a great addition to the complex at Pinebrook Park in Venice, Florida. The club is funding a large portion of the expense.

Fred Jones
Tournament Director