

Spring Croquet by the Bay Invitational 2017

Middle Peninsula Croquet Club

Hartfield, VA - May 26-28

Championship Flight

1. Jim Coling
2. Rodney Lassiter
3. Russ Cuccia
4. Gene Raymond
5. Ted Theilin
6. Lee Anderson

First Flight

1. Conor Johnson
2. Jeff Morrison
3. John Priest
4. Carter Richardson
5. Jane Koziol
6. Gary Anderson

Second Flight

1. Carl Johnson
2. Nancy Hart
3. Hunt Thompson
4. Dennis Koziol
5. Bob McCreary
6. Connie Coling
7. Mike Sumrall

This club has had some weather challenges in the past and they continued. Four days of rain prior to the tournament start forced us to move the play to Chesapeake Bay Croquet Club, about 10 miles from our courts. Macey White, the president of that club, was very gracious, and allowed us to play on his excellent courts for the entire tournament. It was finally sunny Friday and Saturday, and then we had clouds and light rain on Sunday. Temperatures were very mild, in the 70's most of the time.

The tournament was very successful with 19 players participating, divided into three flights. The competition was well matched, and each flight had upsets and tight games. The divisions had five or six games over the first two days which were followed with the single elimination ladder on Sunday.

Championship flight saw some very tight games and then some breakout contests. Both top players lost early in block play. During the ladder, Jim Coling and Gene Raymond progressed to the semifinals against the two top players. Jim Coling beat Russ Cuccia in a late surge to gain the finals. Rodney Lassiter played a strong game against Gene Raymond. In the final game Jim Coling defeated Rodney Lassiter with a late run of wickets, 23-13.

First flight played out differently. Conor Johnson came from 5th seed on the ladder to win two games, the second against the top seed in the ladder, Carter Richardson, gaining him a spot in the finals. Jeff Simmons won a very consistent game against John Priest. In the finals, Conor won by one wicket, a real nail biter, 13-12.

Second flight was very evenly matched. Many of the matches were one or two wicket margins. In the ladder play, the 4th seed won two games, the second against the 1st seeded, Dennis Koziol, to progress to the final. Carl Johnson won two high scoring games to forge ahead. In the final, Carl played a very impressive game against Nancy Hart to win the flight, 19-9.

The tournament provided an opening with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, salad, and pizza at a small local restaurant. The following night was a catered dinner near the courts. Excellent Chesapeake Bay seafood was the basis for the dinner. Seven guests were hosted by the MPCC members in their homes. Eleven players were from Sarasota County Croquet Club.

