

THE SNOWBIRDS AND FLAMINGOS CFA GOLF CROQUET BENEFIT TOURNAMENT

Results

February 15th, 16th, 17th, and 18th, 2018

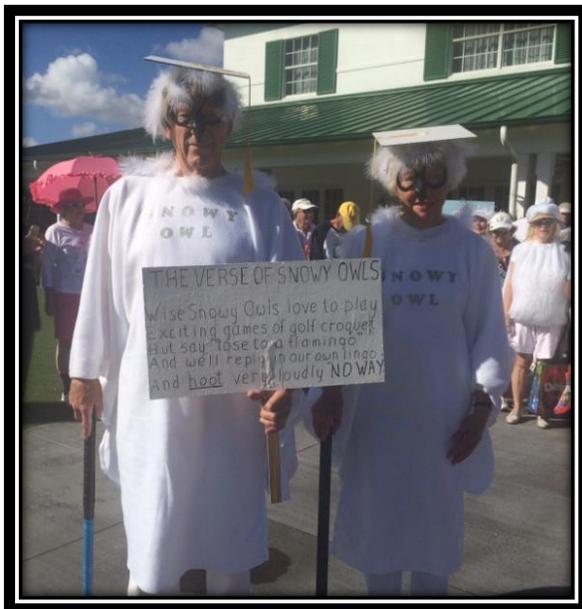
Thanks again to Janet Catalano for sponsoring this tournament and generously donating all the prizes and paying for morning snacks and a beverage station on all four days. Your total contribution, as always, will be used to enhance your future playing experience at the National Croquet Center. And this year.....Well, well, well, after three long years of losing to the Snowbirds, the Flamingos have finally prevailed. Yes, the Flamingos finally won.....There are so many statistics....Also, this year's tournament included the first ever sanctioned Golf Croquet singles. It all started well. The weather was absolutely beautiful every day. Players from all over, including Palm Beach, Palm Beach Gardens, Sarasota, Deerfield Beach, Georgia, Kentucky, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Rhode Island, Canada, England, etc. , played for the Snowbirds and the Flamingos gathered at the National Croquet Center defending their honor.



The Costume Competition was full of variety and lots of pictures were taken.....Independent judges selected the top costumes for voting later.



The final winners were chosen by the volume of hoots, hollers and clapping of the crowd as measured by the judges....and it was close, so close that after a few tries, the judges and some selected extras conferred and decided it was a tie, for the first time in five years. Barry and Lois Sales once again had an ingenious costume. They came as Wise Owls, dressed in sheets with Barry carrying a sign that read **“ THE VERSE OF SNOWY OWLS” Wise Snowy Owls love to play exciting games of Golf Croquet. But say “lose to a Flamingo” and we’ll reply in our own lingo and hoot very loudly NO WAY.** It just goes to show their huge talent with a simple idea. The husband and wife teams of Chris and Karen Wiehs and Clint and Marilyn Price were just as innovative.....They came dressed as a flock of Four snowbirds.....Just look at them.....so hard to decide, but decide they did. Everyone else who created a costume did a wonderful job and we hope to see more of the same next year!!



The Doubles play then began in earnest, contestants playing four games each on both Thursday and Friday. The competition was sooo tough. One team of Dianne Pelletier and Ginny Coyle won their game with a score of two wickets.....the losers Barry and Lois Sales making just one wicket! There was a seven to zero game, but only one. And on the other hand we saw some really long jump shots and incredible clearing shots.

In the end the total scores were pretty close. At the end of Thursday the Snowbirds accumulated 32 wins and a total of 316 points while the Flamingos had 37 wins and 380 points.....This has happened before...The Flamingos would have a slight lead in the beginning and then the Snowbirds would come back and take over. But not this year. At the end of the Doubles play on Friday the Snowbirds had 69 wins, 609 points and 4 wins not counted towards this total because these games were play against other Snowbird teams, and the Flamingos had 78 wins and 757 points with 10 wins not counted towards this total because these games were play against other Flamingo teams, making the Flamingos the winners of the Doubles part of this competition.

There were several last minute drop out and no shows unfortunately....Thankfully we had lined up some substitutes just in case, and then had to call in people who just happened to be standing on the veranda. It creates a great hardship on any tournament when this happens and all players should recognize this and endeavor to arrange for their replacements instead of disrupting the tournament and making serious extra work for any tournament director and the other players.

The Doubles winners were announced on Friday after the eighth game.

In Championship Flight:

First Place: Kevin Hansley and Disk Carlson
Second Place: Billy Harper and Michael Devine
Third Place: Bill Trower and Rosemary Faulconer

The Doubles winners in First Flight:

First Place: Peter Carlin and Bob Clark
Second Place: A perfect tie between the teams of: Barry and Lois Sales and
Rosemarie Maccario and Jean Bytner
Third Place: Eugenia Wilkie

On Saturday, for the first time Sanctioned Singles games were added and played for two days. Again, the total wins and points of all eight games [except those played against each other] were added to the total number of wins and points for the Snowbirds and Flamingos Trophy. All the games counted towards each player's number of wins for the individual awards by flight.

Once again there were a number of outstand shots being made and a few skunks. Fortunately the number of dropout were manageable, but if the number of wins were closer, this could have turned the tide in the competition. There were fewer ties in the number of wins in the Singles games, and the numbers began to point towards a Flamingos win for the first time in years, and in the end the Flamingos persevered.

We tried to give the giant beautiful glass penguin donated by Missy Chilton to the biggest loser and then in the last game she won, making her the losing loser with the Trophy Snowbird going to Sam Orleans-Hansley who played valiantly throughout the games; she learned a lot of new strategy after playing in the championship flight.

The Singles winners were announced on Sunday after the eighth set of games.

In Championship Flight:

First Place: Bill Trower
Second Place: Brian Mitchell
Third Place: David Ekstrom

In First Flight:

First Place: Clint Dawkins
Second Place: Clint Price
Third Place: Jeff Morrison

And now the great total score everybody has been waiting for”

Snowbirds Doubles 609 points and 69 wins with 4 wins not included as each was played against another Snowbird. Snowbirds singles 689 points and 58 wins with 5 wins not included as each was played against another Snowbird

Thus a total of 127 wins and 1,298 total points for the Snowbirds

Flamingos Doubles 757 points and 78 wins with 9 wins not included as each was played against another flamingo. Flamingos Singles 847 points and 106 wins with no wins against another flamingo.

Thus a total of 184 wins and 1,604 total points for the Flamingos

So, This year the Flamingos won, making the current tally

Snowbirds 3 and Flamingos 2

This was an outstanding performance by both sides. Thank you all for playing in the Croquet Foundation of America’s Golf Croquet Benefit Tournament. See you next year.

Submitted: Victoria Albrecht