



SARASOTA COUNTY CROQUET CLUB

Fall Invitational 2018

December 7-9, 2018

Sarasota County Croquet Club held its annual Fall Invitational on December 7-9, 2018 on four courts in Venice, Florida, with a field of 28 players, divided into three flights. The first two days were ideal, warm and sunny. However Sunday was to be different. The temperature dropped, and the rain started. The rain lasted throughout the day, with a couple of moderate rain periods. Although there was some muttering by a few players, all games were played as scheduled, and the tournament finished about on time. The courts were without a blemish, level and fast (Reading eight plus on the speed meter)

Championship flight (Handicap -2to 4.5) consisted of twelve players, divided into two Blocks. Winning four of the five games played were: Chris Barley, Colin Irwin, Oakley Johnson and Bob Worrell. In the single elimination ladder on Sunday, it was all Chris and Colin. With Chris winning all three games 26-5, 26-10, and 26-6, and Colin winning two of the three 26-11, and 26-1, followed by a loss in the finals Chris 6-26. For those who were there to watch, there was some fantastic croquet played.

First Flight (Handicaps 6-8) with nine players saw Bill Hoffman undefeated through the block, and through the ladder to win the flight, beating out Tony Dos Santos in the finals 18-14. Mark Claff and Bob Funk tied for third.

Second flight (Handicaps 8-13) with seven players in the flight; saw Rick Chace from Orlando edge out John Goldener 12-10 in the finals.

As the trophies did not arrive on time, it was necessary to improvise. As the pictures will indicate, there are several items in the clubhouse that may be used, if necessary, as stand-ins.

Socially, the tournament was a success, starting with a wonderful evening at the Manasota Beach Club including a cocktail and social hour on the new patio followed by a four course meal including soup, salad, choice of Prime Rib, Herb Seared Tuna Fish, Sautéed Chicken Veronique, or Braised Veal Osso Bucco and to finish off the meal, coffee and dessert.

And of course, continental breakfast each morning, nice lunches, and attitude adjustment every afternoon under the direction of Anne Kukla and her staff. With the finals starting at 1:00 PM Sunday, and finishing with the awards all on our way by 3:00 PM and looking forward to the next tournament.

Championship Flight

1 Chris Barley
2 Colin Irwin
3 Bob Worrell
3 Linda Dos Santos
5 Jackie Jones
5 Oakley Johnson
5 Jeff Morrison
5 Mijai Pagano
9 Lynda Sudderberg
9 Stephen Grassbaugh
9 Bob Crouch
9 John Schoo

First Flight

1 William Hoffman
2 Antonio Dos Santos
3 Robert Funk
3 Mark Claff
5 Nancy Crouch
5 Gary Anderson
5 Dick Schleiter
5 John McDermott
9 Robert Lentz

Second Flight

1 Richard Chace Jr.
2 John Goldener
3 James McLaughlin
3 Connie Coling
5 Louise Mercuro
5 Jon Ayers
5 Ellen Goldener

Submitted: Fred Jones, Tournament Director