

## **Sarasota County Croquet Club Doubles Championship**

The Sarasota County Croquet Club held the first portion of its annual Club Championship series, with the SCCC Club Doubles Championship Tournament over February 15-17, 2019.

The Club's (54) member participants, comprising (27) doubles teams, played on four full size courts and one 90% court, divided into (4) flights: Championship Flight - (7) teams, First Flight - (8) teams, Second Flight- (7) teams, and Third Flight - (5) teams.

Championship, First and Second Flights played in Block format with flight winners determined by win record, unless the top teams tied based upon wins, which then resulted in a playoff game(s) to determine the Flight Champion. Third Flight played in Block format, followed on Sunday with a Single Elimination Ladder based upon the Block play results. Play began on Friday at 8:30AM under seasonal cool conditions, which warmed quickly into the upper 70's with bright sunlight. Saturday's games continued under sunny skies and low 80's. Sunday's scheduled games were played under sunny and warm conditions, with gusty winds. Wellfield Park, Venice, home of SCCC, had a major Lacrosse tournament event and the start of the area softball leagues games on Saturday resulting in croquet players and support personnel claiming early morning parking spots near the courts, staying the day, bringing personal lunch boxes or specially arranged lunch combos delivered from a local business to avoid leaving and losing their "valuable" parking spots. Championship Flight ended block play with a tie, each of the top two teams winning (4) games. The playoff match resulted in the team of Webster Bull/Gene Raymond defeating the team of Matt Griffith/ Hans Peterson for the Championship. First Flight was won by the team of Bill Hoffman/Roger Vorraber with (6) wins, being undefeated until their last block play game on Sunday, losing to the second-place team of Ted Thelin/Roni Brazell with (5) wins. The team of Michael Kukla/Carl Johnson also placed second with (5) wins.

Second Flight was won by the team of Camelia Monteforte/Lulu Rodick with an undefeated record of (6) wins. Second place went to the team of Rita McNamara/Connie Coling with (5) wins.

Third Flight block play set the seeding for the Single Elimination Ladder played on Sunday. The team of Ellie Griffith/Merle Berkshire led after block play being undefeated with (4) wins and received a bye until the final game of the Ladder play. The block play second place team of Chris Smith/Ellen Goldener played through the ladder to the Finals game, losing to the winning Championship team of Ellie Griffith/Merle Berkshire.

All flight winners will have their names inscribed on the Club Doubles Championship plaque mounted in the SCCC Clubhouse.

A special "Thank You" to all the volunteers who manned deadness boards, handled court set-ups, provided light breakfast items and afternoon refreshments, including Anne Kukla who led the "kitchen staff and Russ Cuccia for arranging the lunch combos.

Doug Ledgett was the Tournament Director for the Doubles Tournament and Gary Anderson was Tournament Manager.

### **Final Order**

#### **Championship Doubles**

1. Webster Bull / Gene Raymond
2. Matt Griffith / Hans Peterson
3. Fred Jones / Bob Worrell
3. Alan Cottle / Avril Rangoni-Machiavelli
3. Arthur Olsen / Ken Northrop
6. Russ Cuccia / Dale Poszgai
6. Jim Coling / Paul Phoenix

#### **First Flight Doubles**

1. Bill Hoffman / Roger Vorraber
2. Ted Thelin / Roni Brazell
2. Michael Kukla / Carl Johnson
4. Doug Ledgett / Nancy Hart
4. Mark Claff / Bob Lentz
4. Dick Schleiter / Anne Licursi
4. Mac McDermott / Mare McDermott
6. Gary Anderson / Dennis Koziol

**Second Flight Doubles**

1. Camelia Monteforte / Lulu Rodick
2. Rita McNamara / Connie Coling
3. Bob Merritt / Gillian Merritt
3. Jon Ayers / Ron Doering
5. John Goldener / Jim McLaughlin
5. Bob Taber / Linda Taber
7. Anne Kukla / Jane Koziol

**Third Flight Doubles**

1. Ellie Griffith / Merle Berkshire
2. Chris Smith / Ellen Goldener
3. Nona McGinnis / Nancy Wonson
4. Maria Petrola / Sidna Mitchell
5. Harry Brown / Nora Rainone