

2012 NEW YORK CROQUET CLUB - OSBORN CUP

Central Park, New York City

September 20-23, 2012

It was somewhat unexpected, the beautiful weather which blanketed the four NYCC lawns throughout the 2012 Osborn Cup. Thirty players were in attendance, and with the atmospheric conditions close to perfect, the setting was prime for the great time had by all. Six rounds were played each day and matches were timed at one hour and fifteen minutes, double banking the norm for the four Flights of Singles. The Championship Flight Doubles offered permanent partners throughout while the First Flight Doubles utilized the Waterford format until assigned partners were then determined for the Playoffs.

While all of the matches ran on schedule, the croquet balls themselves did not necessarily run as planned. After months of confusing and extreme weather, the lawns welcomed the participants with, well, a hostile attitude, acting almost like an additional opponent within each game. Play was cautious, and this being the case, only one of the hundred-plus scheduled matches was completed before time. Scoring twenty wickets was a guaranteed victory. Simply put...it was fun!

Out-of-towners faired well throughout, first-timer Derek Wassink (-3) doubling up on Rich Curtis (-2) in the high-scoring (16-8) Championship Singles Final. Anne Frost Robinson (4.5), another Osborn Cup virgin, captured the First Flight honors with a 15-12 victory over George Blake (2). Templeton Peck (6) impressed everyone with by demolishing John Seidler (9) 7-2 in the Second Flight and David Isaacs (10) snuck past Steve Grassbaugh (10) 13-12 in the multiple last turn Third Flight Finals.

In what must be consider to be somewhat of an upset, Art Parsells-Geoffrey Mattison overcame Derek Wassink-Templeton Peck (12-10) in the 'deadness fiesta' Championship Flight Doubles while Betty Crisler-David Isaacs outlasted (14-12) Carla Rueck-Philip Hedger in the First Flight version.

As is always the case, social activities rolled throughout the event with no bumps involved. The Annual Meeting/Opening Reception was held Wednesday night at the Racquet and Tennis Club while Jeanne Branthover hosted and impromptu cocktail party Thursday evening. Friday offered cocktails and a casual outing at The Emerald, the 'second Clubhouse' for the NYCC. Saturday night's fantastic Players Dinner was held at the Orsay Restaurant. Lunches throughout the event were wonderful and the NYCC hospitality was the true star throughout.

Of course, special tournament thanks have to be offered to numerous individuals: Norris Settlemyre for his loving care of both the equipment and lawns, Karen Kaplan for trophies and all miscellaneous items, David Isaacs for his assistance with the set-up and take-down each day, George Blake for always being there and willing to do anything asked and, most importantly, Sara Low, for captaining the ship and both overseeing and organizing all of the many oars each Club Member is willing to employ. The list goes on, an on, and if ever a sense of enthusiasm, determination and volunteerism could be best demonstrated, the Members of the New York Croquet Club are the model to follow.

While the weather would allow for several more weeks of play in the Big Apple, in what is certainly an impressive gesture, the NYCC has opted to close for the season, simply so that a major remake of the lawns can begin in an optimum fashion. It started

the day after the completion of the event, and next year expect not only the great hospitality the NYCC is known for, but matches which end with the sound of balls against wood. Be there...there is nothing like croquet in New York.

CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT SINGLES

1. Derek Wassink
2. Rich Curtis
3. Chris Patmore
3. John Osborn
5. Norris Settlemyre
6. David McCoy

FIRST FLIGHT SINGLES

1. Anne Frost Robinson
2. George Blake
3. Art Parsells
3. Geoffrey Mattison
5. Sara Low
6. Pat Garner

SECOND FLIGHT SINGLES

1. Templeton Peck
2. John Seidler
3. John Woodside
4. Betty Crisler
5. Joy Bradford
5. Rebeca Bergofsky

THIRD FLIGHT SINGLES

1. David Isaacs
2. Steve Grassbaugh
3. Carla Rueck
3. Lynda Sudderberg
5. Martine Fournage
5. Philip Hedger
7. Jeanne Branthover
7. Patricia Spratt

CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT DOUBLES

1. Art Parsells - Geoffrey Mattison
2. Derek Wassink - Templeton Peck
3. George Blake - Anne Frost Robinson
3. Norris Settlemyre - John Woodside
5. David McCoy - Pat Garner
6. Rich Curtis - Sara Low

FIRST FLIGHT DOUBLES

- 1. Betty Crisler-David Isaacs**
- 2. Carla Rueck-Philip Hedger**
- 3. Lynda Sudderberg-Lee Little**
- 3. Wendy Ward-John Seidler**
- 5. Karen Kaplan-Martine Fournage**
- 6. Steve Grassbaugh-Joy Bradford**
- 7. Sharyl Forster-Jeanne Branthover**
- 8. Patricia Spratt-Rebeca Bergofsky**

-John C. Osborn (TD)