

# Green Gables Invitational

## July 10-13, 2014

### Sea Girt, NJ



The 29<sup>th</sup> Green Gables Croquet Club (GGCC) Invitational took place July 10-13 under beautiful sunny skies. GGCC's home is at the New Jersey National Guard and State Police Barracks in Sea Girt, NJ and the players were treated to some life like police training "**put your hands up - do not move!!!!**" It is undoubtedly the best guarded croquet facility in the world! Like the 2013 tournament, three full sized lawns were used, but unlike all previous events, this was a singles only event in four flights - 30 players total.

Third Flight singles featured a block of nine players with handicaps ranging from 8-12. There were three stand out players -- Vickie Johnston (8), Carole Lembo (8), and Don McLaughlin (9), with Carole inching out Don to play the dominant Vickie in the finals. Vickie didn't give an inch and won a convincing victory going undefeated throughout the whole tournament. Vickie received 8 tracking points, Carole 11, and Alina Porter (12) earned 19. Keep your eye on Vickie in First Flight - she's coming your way!



Second Flight singles had a block of six playing a double round robin (all 7s and one 8). In the final we saw Molly Goodman (7) do battle with Bruce Huber (7) and Bruce took top honors. For his hard work Bruce picked up 8 tracking



points, while Hamm Shippee received 14 points and Brenda Pollock 19!! Well done Brenda! This was a very balanced flight.



First Flight had nine players (everyone a 5 except one 4.5) and the standard of play was superb. This flight could easily have been called Championship B which usually ranges 3.5 to 5. Players in this range have moments of good break play and then stuff happens, making for good back and forth interactivity - a hall mark of fun to watch USCA 6 Wicket Croquet in this author's opinion. The final two players were Loretta Cooper (5) and Ray Liberti (5), the two most dominant during the week in their flight. Boy did they put on a show in the final with a 15-14 nail biter - Ray coming out on top. Ray picked up 25 tracking points, Loretta 18 points, and Beatty Cramer (4.5) 13 points.

Championship Flight had six players and was extremely competitive with handicaps ranging from 1 to 2.5. With all players playing a double round robin, the top two players to meet in the final were the low seed Conrad Rugart (2.5) and the top seed Murray Pollock (1). Like First flight this was an edge of your seat affair with Murray squeaking through 11-10 - a GREAT game. Conrad picked up 40 tracking points and went from a 2.5 to a 1.5 - a huge leap. Murray earned 12 tracking points and Jack Montgomery (1.5) received 16.



The wickets were very challenging which required many shots to be watched by a referee. Tournament Director Bob Kroeger used his slow motion video camera to make certain the correct calls were made. The players appreciated this knowing how difficult it is for even the most experienced referee to make the correct call because things happen so quickly and not being able to rely on sound in every instance.

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Social events included an opening party Wednesday night in Spring Lake at the Essex and Sussex (a magnificent condominium complex), cocktails and dinners at the Bath and Tennis Club in Spring Lake (Thursday indoors and Saturday night on the deck).

As always, GGCC assigns a person to recruit deadness board keepers and Karen Leoncavallo handled this beautifully. Special thanks to all the GGCC members who contributed to the success of this event.

The tournament was expertly managed by Murray Pollock, tournament scheduler was Ted Prentis, and tournament director was Bob Kroeger.

~Bob Kroeger

#### **Championship Singles**

1. Murray Pollock
2. Conrad Rugart
3. Jack Montgomery
4. Tom Cooper
5. Doug Moore
6. Ruth Summers

#### **First Flight Singles**

1. Ray Liberti
2. Loretta Cooper
3. Bill Cole
4. Beatty Cramer
5. Thelma Lyle
5. Richard Palmer
5. Jerry Luecke
5. Charlotte Neagle
9. Ellen Hall

#### **Second Flight Singles**

1. Bruce Huber
2. Molly Goodman
3. Ham Shippee
3. Clair Flinn
3. Brenda Pollock
6. James Wyer

#### **Third Flight Singles**

1. Vickie Johnston
2. Carole Lembo
3. Don McLaughlin
4. John Croddick
5. Carolyn Meyer
5. Alina Porter
7. Connie McQuade
7. Jeanne Spiotta
9. Barbara Missett