

Buffalo Croquet Club
6 Wicket Invitational
August 4 - 6, 2017

Championship Flight Singles

1. John Young III
2. Chris Patmore
3. Jim Wright
4. Patrick Little
5. Russell Brown
6. Douglas Moore
7. James Erwin
8. Chris Loat
9. Peter Timmins
10. David Isaacs

First Flight Singles

1. Lloyd Hadden Jr.
2. Kevan O'Connor
3. Richard Laging
4. Ron Millican
5. Ryan Thompson
6. Anne Frost Robinson
6. Deborah Millican
6. Courtney Green
6. Jim McLaughlin

Second Flight Singles

1. Robert Gannon
2. John Bolla
3. Randi Cudlitz

4. Paul Strada
5. Paul Neubecker
6. Josh Mergler
6. Nancy Elia
8. Kathleen Green
8. William Vrooman

Championship Flight Doubles

1. Jim Erwin / Jim Wright
2. John Young III/ Russell Brown
3. Douglas Moore / David Isaacs
4. Chris Patmore / Peter Timmins
5. Chris Loat / Patrick Little

First Flight Doubles

1. Rich Laging / Ryan Thompson
2. Lloyd Hadden / Deborah Millican
3. Anne Frost Robinson / Peter Sherer
4. Ron Millican / Jim McLaughlin

Second Flight Doubles

1. Paul Neubecker / John Bolla
2. Paul Strada / Josh Mergler
3. Courtney & Kathleen Green
4. Bob Gannon / Nancy Elia
5. Randi Cudlitz / William Vrooman

(Second Flight Singles cont'd)

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For those of you that have never played this event...it never disappoints. In my opinion, one of the most interesting, intriguing, and just down right fun events you can put on your croquet calendar (keep it in mind for 2018). It's a three day event that fills up months in advance that takes place in Olmsted designed Delaware Park in Western New York State. The courts are slightly less than full size but always in great condition....and they have lights! Nighttime play does happen.

This year we had a cast of characters from all directions...Kansas City, New Hampshire, New York City, Boston, Montauk, Canada and Bermuda. Play was structured around three flights and assigned partners for doubles was opted for this year. Rain played a significant role in this year's event...games were delayed, courts were closed, courts were cleared for lightning, an extra round was added (the usual total mayhem that storms cause during croquet tournaments). Quite frankly, unbelievably enough, every scheduled game was played to completion (just not exactly according to schedule).

I can't say enough good things about the social events that BCC President Bill Rupp and Tournament Manager Ryan Thompson put together. The President's dinner is something not to be missed...for those of you that have been there, you know exactly what I'm talking about. Thank you to all of the Buffalo Croquet Club and all its volunteers...you really put on an A+ event.

Finally...on to the croquet...Second flight had a bunch of new faces (at least for me) and very competitive play. Some handicap adjustments are on the way. Flight favorite Randi Cudlitz was upset in the semi-finals and BCC member Paul Neubecker went undefeated in all the games that he showed up for, yet failed to make the play-offs. Paul, alarm clocks work (just a tip for next year).

First Flight doubles finals brought quite a gasp from the crowd when Rich Laging came through rover wicket and missed the stake, by what I would say, the width of a penny with a solid 20 minutes left in the game. Ryan Thompson and Rich Laging did go on to win the match 16-8.

I could write several pages about the Championship Flight singles match between John Young III and Chris Patmore. Let's just say when John missed a short shot on yellow at three back but hit it hard enough to hit his pioneer red at

four back to keep the break alive...we all thought the game was a wrap. Not so fast...as John takes about 230 casts on his corner to corner ball shot and lets time expire to errantly start last turn with his ball AND shoots his ball into the corner of Chris' wicket...the comeback of all comebacks was set. To make a long story short...Chris just fell short at three back only scoring 11 (with his last two balls) of the 15 wickets he needed to win (if he pegged out he would have won by one with last ball in last turn). Great effort Chris, so close and just outstanding to watch. A truly epic game of croquet. John "Just as I planned!" Young III is the 2017 recipient of the Bronze Buffalo. Congratulations to my "last turn brain dead" best friend.

Douglas P. Moore
Tournament Director