

Sarasota County Croquet Club
SPRING GOLF CROQUET INVITATIONAL AND CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP 2017
Venice, FL-March 31 – April 2, 2017

CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT

1 Russ Cuccia
2 Hans Peterson
3 Michael Albert
3 William Hoffman
5 Diane Walker
5 Fred Jones
5 Doug Ledgett
5 Lee Anderson
9 Jackie Jones
9 Gene Raymond
9 Kenneth Tanguay
12 Kevin Galton

FIRST FLIGHT

1 Byron Hicks
2 Camelia Monteforte
3 Theodore Thelin
3 Gary Anderson
5 Richard Schworm
5 Larry Beaton
5 Jim Coling
5 Karen Connery-Albert
9 Bob Lentz
9 Jon Ayers
9 Arthur Olsen

SECOND FLIGHT

1 Clint Holdbrooks
2 Michael Kukla
3 Nancy Hart
3 Robert Merritt
5 Ron Doering
5 Anne Kukla
5 John Walker
5 Gillian Merritt

THIRD FLIGHT

1 Donna Finley
2 Virginia Combs
3 Harry Brown
3 Peter Shone
5 Christine Smith

It never rains in Florida during the winter season unless you plan an opening day for an invitational tournament. So on Friday morning, after the previous afternoon of last minute practice, and the conclusion of a Golf Croquet Club Challenge, we were greeted with a heavy downpour as a squall line crossed the state. Again, as usual, in Florida these storms tend to last for an hour or so, and then the weather turns cooler, windy, and sunny. And so it was for the remainder of the weekend.

Our second GC invitational of the season was very successful, with a turnout of 36 players, divided into four flights, the competition was well matched, and each flight had its trials and tribulations. Schedule was set with an anticipation of four games each of the first two days, and a single elimination ladder on Sunday, for each of the flights. Where the 2nd and 3rd flights did not have a full slate of players, modifications were made to the plans.

Championship flight saw some great play; with the four dominate players pulling ahead early in the schedule. As the ladder progressed Russ Cuccia defeated Michael Albert, and Hans Peterson defeated Bill Hoffman in the semi-finals, and with the final going 7-6 a couple of skillful shots and some luck brought Russ to the winners circle, while Hans took second.

First flight, showed a different approach. Byron Hicks, seeded 8th out of the block went through the ladder to meet Camelia Monteforte who had a much easier time of it, being seeded 2nd in the ladder. Again the final ended in a 7-6 match with Byron continuing his winning streak.

Second flight, with eight players, again showed that two players could dominate the field. Seeded #1 and #2 out of the block were Michael Kukla and Clint Holdbrooks. And through the ladder they went, the only upset being Clint winning over Michael in the final game. Clint Holdbrooks #1, and Michael Kukla #2.

Third Flight, the smallest of the flights saw five players in competition, but they played well, completing almost two round robins to have equal play with the other flights. Round and round they went, and with the ladder behind them Donna Finley outdid Virginia Combs 7-1 in the final game.

The level of play had vastly improved since the first tournament last fall, and the club does look forward to doing it again next season.

The tournament, although set on a low budget, managed to offer a continental breakfast and a cocktail hour each afternoon. Tournament trophies went to the winner and runner-up in each flight

Submitted April 8, 2017
By Fred Jones, Tournament Director