

Scalpone's Name Reappears on Victoria Day Croquet Tourney's Hal Sisson Cup

Oregonian Steve Scalpone didn't set a foot wrong in the final of 2019's Victoria Day Association Croquet Tournament, besting Scotland's top woman player, Jane Morrison, 26-13. Scalpone won in 2017 as well, but did not enter the Victoria Day event in 2018.

Third place in the competition went to Canadian Pacific LBC's Chris Percival-Smith, who defeated CP's Michael Dowling 26-10. Percival-Smith won the event in 2018; Dowling came in second in both 2017 and 2018.

This year's competition also featured a flight for less-experienced "B" players. Top finisher in this battle was Lorne Oakes, of both CP and the Victoria LBC, who beat CP's Keir Corder 15-12. Jason Torla of Seattle took third place, holding off Vancouver's Mark Dix-Cooper for the win.

The competition took place over the Victoria Day "long weekend", Saturday through Monday, featuring two pleasant and sunny days – and one cool and rainy one. The event was co-hosted by Victoria, BC's two homes for croquet, the Canadian Pacific and Victoria Lawn Bowling Clubs. Both lawns were in fine condition, drawing praise from our overseas visitor. A very tight schedule resulted in a few delays in game starts, pushing each day's final rounds into the evening hours. Sunday's final round didn't conclude until after 8:00pm, as suggested by the long shadows in the accompanying photo.

On the Friday before the tournament, three experienced players presented workshops for less-experienced players. Florida's Michael Albert, winner of this year's US Western Regionals, focused on "Building a Break"; tournament director Pierre Dunn discussed "How Handicap Play Will Improve Your Croquet," and Campbell River's Brian Wasylyk mined the lode of "John Riches' 'Next Break' Concept". Developing the skills and understanding of B players, and encouraging their participation in regional competitions, has become an effort shared by tournament organizers throughout the Northwest.

The tournament ran successfully thanks to contributions by many volunteers, including Chris Percival-Smith and Brian Wasylyk coordinating court setup each morning, Donna del Torre and Deanna Germain overseeing the provision of courtside sustenance for the combatants throughout the three days, Gordie March and Chris Rogal shuttling players from venue to venue when needed, and croquet players and bowlers stopping by to watch the competition. Six hundred dollars in prizes were awarded, and another six hundred went to each club to help fund future efforts.

Final standings for the entrants:

A-Flight

1. Steve Scalpone, Portland OR
2. Jane Morrison, Edinburgh, Scotland
3. Chris Percival-Smith, Victoria BC
4. Michael Dowling, Victoria BC
5. Michael Albert, Sarasota FL
6. Gary Anderson, Seattle WA
7. Pierre Dunn, Victoria BC
8. Conor Broderick, Vancouver BC
9. Brian Wasylyk, Campbell River BC

B-Flight

1. Lorne Oakes, Victoria BC
2. Keir Cordner, Victoria BC
3. Jason Torla, Seattle WA
4. Mark Dix-Cooper, Vancouver BC
5. Steffen Preusser, Victoria BC
6. John Destry Adams, Vancouver BC