

53rd Berton A. Coons Invitational Summary

52 teams braved oppressive heat for three days of play in the 2011 Invitational, spread across six flights, taking advantage of the hard and fast course conditions to post record-breaking scores. Once again, the course was the star of the show, the true-rolling greens garnering kudos from the entire field. Bert Coons and the committee that ran the last four iterations of the event passed the tournament torch on after this one.

Championship Flight

Catskill natives Tony Vizzie, Jr. and Rob Bogardus made a triumphant visit home this weekend, capturing the 53rd annual Berton A. Coons Invitational by four shots with a 54 hole total of 16 under par 200. Jim Hamburger and Steve Nosonowitz of McCann GC in Poughkeepsie finished second at 12 under, while first day leaders Dave Champagne and Tom Yannone of the host club ended up in third place at 9 under par. The hard and fast conditions, along with some creative course setup, made for a multitude of under-par scores.

The complete standings:

Tony Vizzie Jr. (Jacksonville, FL) - Rob Bogardus (Peoria, IL)	68-65-67 -- 200
Jim Hamburger - Steve Nosonowitz (Poughkeepsie, NY)	70-66-68 -- 204
Dave Champagne - Tom Yannone (Catskill GC)	67-68-72 -- 207
Andrew Deforest (Accord, NY) - Dave Shea (Watertown, CT)	73-68-69 -- 210
Jim Lacy (Catskill, NY) - Don Denyse III (Albany, NY)	69-70-72 -- 211
Seth Guterman (Atlanta, GA) - Fred Guterman (Greensboro, NC)	70-73-72 -- 215
Danny Powell (Catskill, NY) - Joe Clancy (Catskill, NY)	72-75-73 -- 220
Craig Garifo - Travis Haskins (Fayetteville, NC)	70-79-72 -- 221

First Flight

Cal Lacy and Bill Oravsky combined for a four under par total of 212 and a three shot margin of victory over Richie Lopez and Ray Legg. Rock Lacy and Tony Vizzie, Sr. overtook first day contenders Jeff Oles and Jack Bohnsack with a final round 71 to capture third place. The results:

Cal Lacy – Bill Oravsky	70-72-70 – 212
Richie Lopez – Ray Legg	68-75-72 – 215
Rock Lacy – Tony Vizzie, Sr.	74-75-71 – 220
Jeff Oles – Jack Bohnsack	69-77-76 – 222
Doc Silinovich – Steve Nickolich	76-79-72 – 227
Duane Esposita – Glenn Coons	77-75-75 – 227
Dave Lewis – Michael Snyder	81-72-81 – 234
Moe Mroczkowski – Gerry Diotte	79-77-80 – 236
Jim Valentin – Bob Snyder, Jr.	80-82-78 – 240

Second Flight

The Pilatich brothers, Jeff and Joe, took control with a final round 71 to cruise past Rip Englert and Gordie Johnson and win the flight by five shots. Mike West careened in a chip on the third hole of sudden death to prevail with partner Jim Miller for third place over Pete Verelas and Joe Landi. The scores:

Jeff Pilatich – Joe Pilatich	75-73-71 – 219
Rip Englert – Gordie Johnson	74-75-75 – 224
Jim Miller – Mike West	83-70-79 – 232 *
Pete Verelas – Joe Landi	74-77-81 – 232
Carl Jump – Kevin Breen	76-80-78 – 234
Jim Garafalo – Jeff Holliday	82-77-80 – 239
Bill McDonald – Doug Calkins	84-80-81 – 245
Dan Lacy – John Jacobs	87-84-77 – 248

* won playoff on third extra hole

Third Flight

Ian and Chris Quinn emerged from a six team dogfight in the final round to post a two shot win over Doug Johnson and Tom Zwoboda. Jim Mills and Andrew DeIeso were another two shots back in third place. The results:

Ian Quinn – Chris Quinn	78-75-77 – 230
Doug Johnson – Tom Zwoboda	78-77-77 – 232
Jim Mills – Andrew DeIeso	77-80-77 – 234
Steve Riley – Jim Riley	79-76-81 – 236
Russell Carlsen – Bob Snyder Sr.	77-79-82 – 238
Peter Distefano – Steve Nelson	76-80-87 – 243
Jeff Sweet – David McBride	84-83-79 – 246
Bert Coons – Pete Buckle	81-78-NC

Fourth Flight

Dick Churchill and Jim Quinn survived a final round charge from Ken and Larry Stewart to emerge with a one shot victory. An entertaining three-team playoff for third place saw Gary Barkman and Dave Crawford eliminate the teams of Anthony Mancino and Joe Granich on the first sudden death hole, and then overcome Jim Brown and Ken Wisner one hole later. The numbers:

Dick Churchill – Jim Quinn	77-80-82 – 239
Ken Stewart – Larry Stewart	81-82-77 – 240
Gary Barkman – Dave Crawford	85-79-84 – 248 *
Jim Brown – Ken Wisner	86-77-85 – 248
Anthony Mancino – Joe Granich	84-86-78 – 248
Jim Tibbetts – Dale Finch	81-80-89 – 250
John Van Wormer – Emil Leinau	85-83-83 – 251
Joe Bahnatka – Ralph Cautela	85-86-81 – 252
Bill Brewer – Doug Coons	83-89-81 – 253
Mike Marsh – Vince D’Antonio	82-86-86 – 254

* won three way playoff for third place

Fifth Flight

Peter McBride and Liam Carlos built a big lead over the first two rounds and survived a final round challenge from Paul Fenton and Tim Feeley to take the Fifth Flight. Russ Fenn and Rick Christensen moved up the board in the final round to take third place. The scores:

Peter McBride – Liam Carlos	83-82-90 – 255
Paul Fenton – Tim Feeley	89-88-81 – 258
Russ Fenn – Rick Christensen	92-86-81 – 259
Paul Moon – Wayne Kitchen	89-89-85 – 263
Mike Meo – Bob Meo	91-83-90 – 264
Joel Bohnsack – Tom Gunther	90-85-91 – 266
Greg Ursprung – Scott Ursprung	85-91-90 – 266
Nate Foote – Dave Johnson	92-89-92 – 273
Tony Granato – Ray Beatty	99-102-NC