

AUDUBON INVITATIONAL FEBRUARY 24– 27, 2011

The seventeenth annual Audubon Invitational Tournament was played in Naples, Florida with ideal weather, not too sunny, not too cloudy, no rain, and just warm enough to enjoy.

The four-day tournament, singles only, was block play in three flights of eight players leading to a double elimination ladder for all participants. Championship flight played on a full size court, while first and second flight played on half size courts. One at Audubon, and a second court at the Bentley complex.

In Championship flight eight players competed in a block leading to a double elimination ladder. Bill Daigle and Chuck Perry first out of the block, with five of six wins, followed Jim Dushek closely. With everyone still in contention in ladder play, Dushek was upset by #8 seed Don Bridges, and again defeated in the first game in the losers bracket by Jan Balson. Bill Daigle continued his winning ways in the ladder ending up undefeated into the finals on Sunday. Harvey Geiger #5 out of the block, won two in the ladder, then defeated by Daigle, in turn defeated Chuck Perry in the loser side, to return to the finals, and bested Daigle to take the title 17-14.

In First flight, Pat Colt was the dominating player in the block, going undefeated. In ladder play he proved the old adage “If you want to play a lot of games lose the first game in a double elimination ladder” Pat managed to win five games in a row in the losers ladder to win the flight, defeating Don Oakley in the finals 22-9. Don remarked that he did well up to the final game, and he then somehow “lost it”.

In Second flight, Steve Howell controlled the block with 5 of 6 wins, with Ted Hilles close behind with 4 wins. There were also two additional players with four wins: Tad Richardson and Don Rupprecht. As expected the four players, dominated the ladder with Ted Hilles going into the finals undefeated, meeting Don Rupprecht. In a close contest, neither player showed any of the skill that they had used through the tournament, and Ted Hilles pulled it out 8-7 for the win.

Socially, as usual, the tournament was a success, with an opening party at the clubhouse, followed by a wonderful cocktail party on the lanai around the pool, plus indoors around the fireplace at the home of Ann and Steve Howell on Thursday evening. To top off the week, Saturday saw the group at a cocktail party and dinner dance at the Club. We were not only treated to a musical combo, but what was a pleasure to watch, the ballroom dancing of Eph Shulman and his wife. The wrap-up of the week was the Sunday brunch at the Club, and the awarding of the trophies.

Submitted
Fred Jones
Tournament Director