

AUDUBON INVITATIONAL FEBRUARY 23– 26, 2012

The eighteenth 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 originally eight players each leading to a double elimination ladder for all participants. All flights played on half size courts at the one location at Audubon. A late cancellation and unforeseen medical problem on the first day dropped the participant numbers to twenty-one.

In Championship flight six players competed in a block leading to a double elimination ladder. Eph Shulman was first out of the block with four of six wins, followed closely by Pat Colt and Ruth Nicolaci. With everyone still in contention in ladder play, Ruth went down quickly, while Eph and Pat met in the quarterfinals, with Pat going to the loser side. Then determined to win Pat Colt pegged out against Dolores Gallagher (who finished third) to come back and peg out against Eph to win 26-14, leaving Eph with a second place finish.

In First flight, Rich Watson and Keppy Babcock were the dominating players in the block taking five of six games each. The ladder play was a mixed play for the three contenders (Thelma Lyle took third in the block). Rich Watson was doing well until he met and was defeated by Keppy, fresh from a win over Thelma. Then Rich fell to Thelma in the loser side, and Thelma was back to challenge Keppy in the finals. The Rich-Thelma game picked up excitement, as Rich closed a scoring gap, and tied the game going into last turn. In a final struggle at one back and two back, in front of a fairly large group of spectators the match see-sawed back and forth for a run of three last turns, with the deadness accumulating, until an angle shot at two-back careened across the face of the wicket and left Thelma in position to make said wicket to make the winning wicket 14-13. The final game was also well played by both Thelma and Keppy, but Keppy pulled it out 16-15, again in the last minutes of the game.

In Second flight, Don Rupprecht controlled the block with 5 of 6 wins, with Roxanne Rosetto and Ted Hilles close behind with 4 wins. Going into the ladder, Larry Lammert, finishing last in the block, with one win, found his game and decided it is nicer to finish near the top, rather than last. So, he started winning, first Roxanne, then Ted, then Kelso Sutton, then Don Rupprecht who was coming back from the loser side to go undefeated in the ladder to win. Final score Larry 12, Don 11.

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 Tricia and Don Rupprecht 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.

Fred Jones, Tournament Director

Final Standings and Tracking Points

Nbr	Name	Hndcp	TrkPts	Croquet Club		
CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT						
1	Pat Colt	4	6	Croquet Club of Vermont		
2	Eph Shulman	4.5	22	Croquet Club of Vermont		
3	Dolores Gallagher	5	21	Caledon Croquet Club		
4	Chuck Perry	4.5	-3	Naples Croquet Club		
5	Ruth Nicolaci	3	-13	Marion Mallet Club		
5	Skip Babcock	5	-1	Audubon Croquet		
FIRST FLIGHT						
1	Keppy Babcock	6	32	Audubon Croquet		
2	Thelma Lyle	6	20	Naples Croquet Club		
3	Rich Watson	5	5	Green Boundry Club		
4	Joe Zilligen	6	13	Grand Haven Croquet Club		
5	Jim McLaughlin	5	-18	Strawberry Banke Croquet Club		
5	John Richardson	6	-7	Audubon Croquet		
7	Norma Shaughnessy	7	-5	Audubon Croquet		
7	Joe Mazur	8	-8	Audubon Croquet		
SECOND FLIGHT						
1	Larry Lammert	11	24	Bald Head Island Croquet Club		
2	Don Rupprecht	10	18	Audubon Croquet		
3	Kelso Sutton	10	0	Westhampton Mallet Club		
4	Jane Osgood	12	16	Croquet Club of Vermont		
5	Roxanne Rosetto	9	-8	Royal Palm Yacht & Country Club		
5	Ted Hilles	10	-1	Croquet Club of Vermont		
7	Stephen Howell	9	-13	Audubon Croquet		