

AUDUBON INVITATIONAL

February 27– March 2, 2014

The twentieth annual Audubon Invitational Tournament was played in Naples, Florida in cool but ideal playing, cloudy weather. Fortunately, we missed the rain. The four-day tournament, singles only, was block play in three flights each leading to a double elimination ladder for all participants. All flights played on half size courts at the one location at Audubon.

In Championship flight the eight players competed in a block leading to a double elimination ladder. Webster Bull was first out of the block with five of six wins, followed by a logjam of five players with three wins each. Net points put Skip Babcock in second place with Bo Menton in third. With everyone still in contention in ladder play, Webster continued to dominate with the only close game being the final in which Skip Babcock put up a gallant fight with the outcome in doubt several times. However, a two wicket lead going into last turn, and adding two additional points gave Webster a lead which Skip could not neutralize. Final score 17-15 in favor of Webster Bull. Skip second, with Joe Zilligen third.

In First flight, Dolores Gallagher and John Richardson easily took the block honors with five wins apiece. The double elimination ladder was an assist to Dolores as she lost her first game and then proceeded to work her way back through the loser side of the ladder. Three wins later she was ready to take on John Richardson, who had proceeded to the finals with no losses. The final game was spirited, but John had control most of the game, winning 22-9 to take the first flight title. Dolores was second, while Joe MacDonald finished third.

In Second flight, we again, had two players dominating the block with both Bob Worrell and Steve Howell each finishing with four wins and one defeat. In this flight, the block wins did not carry the two favorites through to victory. Both Bob and Steve lost their first ladder matches, quickly followed by a second loss in the loser bracket. Coming from 3rd and 6th seed Tom Stoner and R. David Owen worked their way to the finals, Tom undefeated in the ladder, while David proceeded through the losers side. Tom took the final 10-7, with Owen second, and Hal Denton third.

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Socially, as usual, the tournament was a success, with an opening party poolside under a clear starlit evening followed by a wonderful cocktail party 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 treated to a musical combo for the evening, plus an outstanding dinner featuring filet mignon. The wrap-up of the week was the Sunday brunch at the Club, and the awarding of the trophies.

Fred Jones, Tournament Director

THE RESULTS

Championship Flight

1. Webster Bull
2. Skip Babcock
3. Joe Zilligen
4. Eph Shulman
5. Jan Balson
5. Thelma Lyle
5. Chuck Perry
- DNF. Bo Menton

First Flight

1. John Richardson
2. Dolores Gallagher
3. Joe MacDonald
4. Jim McLaughlin
5. Keppy Babcock
5. Bruce Huber

Second Flight

1. Tom Stoner
2. R. David Owen
3. Hal Denton
4. Steve Howell
5. Bob Worrell
5. Larry Lammert