

Ocean House Invitational

August 19-21, 2014

Watch Hill, RI

The 2014 Ocean House Invitational was held under beautiful sunny skies Tuesday, August 19 through Thursday, August 21. This singles only tournament featured 22 players in three flights: Championship, First, and Second. Two venues were used - each with two lawns - Ocean House and Weekapaug.

Second Flight had some extremely competitive games with two players using break play effectively - Jeannine Bedard (10) and Mike Kearns (10). After a full round robin block of eight players, Bradley Smith (10) just inched out Mike to play the very dominant and rapidly improving Jeannine Bedard in the finals. In that game, Jeannine continued her very strong play beating Bradley and earning 21 tracking points for the tournament. Brand new player Ted Thelin (12) picked up 11 tracking points in his first tournament ever.

The First Flight of the tournament had 8 players competing against each other with only the top 2 advancing to the finals. In the early stages of block play it appeared the low handicaps Roy Morgan (7) and Bob Seelert (8) would cruise past the competition. Cynthia Wouters displayed consistent play and derailed Morgan's winning streak with a 1 point victory. Victories by Pat Spratt over the top seeds Morgan and Seelert threatened to propel Spratt to the playoffs instead of the early favorites. Block play ended with a 4 way tie for wins between Morgan, Spratt, Seelert, and Wouters. Ultimately Morgan and Seelert advanced with the most net points. Spratt and Wouters were rewarded for their good play by earning enough tracking points to lower their handicaps from 10 to 9. Spectators assembled at the Ocean House verandah and by the court side Lawn to enjoy an interactive finals match. Block Island was clearly visible in the distance behind the full size court overlooking the beach. Roy Morgan controlled his deadness and had several multiple wicket scoring turns. Timely attacks stifled Bob Seelert's efforts to counter with his own breaks and Morgan was Victorious.

The Championship Flight had 6 players competing in block play for playoff seeding. The top 2 finishers Sean Hartley and Harvey Geiger earned byes in a closely contested block. Every player in the block earned either 2 or 3 wins and there was no clear favorite heading into the playoffs. Only one game went to 26 with the honor going to Ian Harshman over Mary Ellen Keating in a 26-24 thriller. Mary Ellen would avenge her loss in the first round of the playoffs defeating #3 seed Harshman. The low handicaps of the tournament Ceci Shiftan (3) and Sean Hartley (4) found their stride in the playoffs and faced off in a competitive final. Shiftan was able to build a lead with superb wicket shooting and effective strategy. Hartley was unable to pull off the last turn heroics necessary to defeat Shiftan. Congratulations to Ceci for winning the Championship Flight.

The opening party was held at the beautiful home of Ocean House Mallet Club (OHMC) member Kevin Hoben, there was a players' dinner at the Weekapaug Golf Club Tuesday night, and a delicious brunch on Thursday on the patio of the Members Club at Ocean House. OHMC member Pat Spratt did an excellent job as Tournament Manager while Ocean House Croquet Pro, Stephen Morgan and Bob Kroeger co-directed. Stephen Morgan did the scheduling.

Championship Flight Singles

1. Ceci Shiftan
2. Sean Hartley
3. Harvey Geiger
4. Mary Ellen Keating
5. Ian Harshman
6. Bruce Huber



Ceci Shiftan

First Flight Singles

1. Roy Morgan
2. Bob Seelert
3. Pat Spratt
4. Cynthia Wouters
5. Kevin Hoben
6. Bob Prosser
7. Judy Prosser
8. Joy Bradford



Roy Morgan

Second Flight Singles

1. Jeaninne Bedard
2. Bradley Smith
3. Mike Kearns
4. Peter Wood
5. Theodore Thelin
6. Andrew Parsons
7. John Knutson
8. Louise Walsh



Jeaninne Bedard