

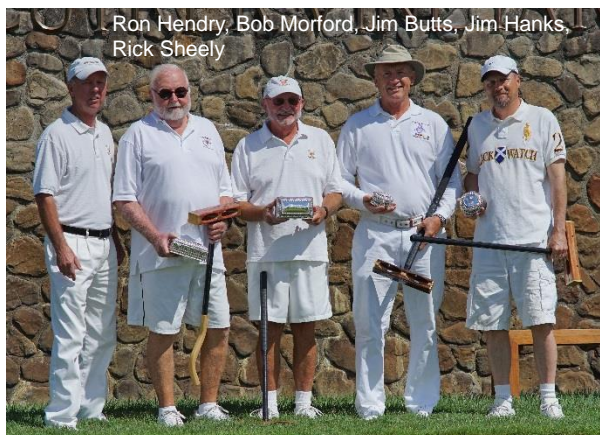
2014 USCA Western Regional Championship

July 9-12, 2014

Windsor, CA



A week of ideal northern California wine country weather was capped by a gorgeous final day at the Sonoma-Cutrer Winery. The doubles final pitted Jim Butts and Bob Morford against the top-seed team of Jim Hanks and Rick Sheely. The Hanks/Sheely team (nicknamed "The Shanks" by envious competitors) had been dominating in the doubles block, compiling a 4-0 win/loss record with +62 net and 94 gross. But the Hanks/Sheely march to the winner's podium was derailed with a 15-9 victory by Butts/Morford, giving the pair from the Mission Hills Croquet Club the 2014 Western Regional Doubles trophy.



Jim Hanks of the Sonoma Croquet Club ran away with the First Flight block. Entering the tournament with a putative 20 handicap (adjusted by the tournament committee to a conservative 6), Hanks compiled an unbroken string of 5 wins, +75 net and 113 gross. This winning streak was capped by a 26-1 victory over fellow club member Robert Coleman, a seldom-seen "half-Spooner", named after Neil Spooner the WCF Hall-of-Famer, who was the croquet pro at Sonoma-Cutrer in the 1980s. Spooner was the first to record a 26-1 score in a USCA-game at Meadowood Resort in the 1980s.



Four players came out of the six-player First Flight singles block. Hanks faced number 4 Antonia Marmo (2-3, -10, +79). Marmo was tenacious but couldn't overcome Hanks who emerged with a 26-15 win.

The block's second finisher, Florida's Bob Crouch, played third placer Robert Coleman and won 22-14. In the final game Crouch gave Hanks quite a run, but couldn't match the undefeated champion in the end. Hanks won the Western Regional First Flight Singles Championship with a 19-16 victory.

Minnesota's Rick Sheely was undefeated in the Championship block with +51 net and +112 gross. In the first game of the final ladder he faced fourth-place finisher Rick Alderson of Eugene, Oregon. Alderson had clawed his way in the final ladder with 2 wins, -36 net and 49 gross. He pulled off a big upset by defeating Sheely in a close game, 17-15.

Second place finisher Jim Butts (4-1, +25, 82) defeated third-placer Steve Scalpone of Portland, Oregon (3-2, +38, 96) setting up the unexpected final game.

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The championship singles game was close. It was a two-ball game for a while, with both Alderson and Butts battling for wicket one while running a race around the court with the other two balls. Toward the end all balls entered the game and Butts prevailed in a close game (16-13). Butts put his name on the John Taylor Western Regional trophy as the 2014 champion.

The Sonoma-Cutrer winery was, as always, an excellent venue for the tournament. With ideal wine country weather, welcomed by the refugees from the heat of the southern desert and the heat and humidity of the mid-west and Florida.



~Mike Orgill, Tournament Manager
Ron Hendry, Western Regional VP

Picture Credits:

Martyn Selman

1. Jim Butts
2. Rick Alderson
3. Jim Hanks
4. Bob Crouch

Mike Orgill

Doubles Teams

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Final Standings

Championship Singles Block:

	Wins	Net	Gross
1. Rick Sheely	5-0	+51	112
2. Jim Butts	4-1	+25	82
3. Steve Scalpone	3-2	+38	96
4. Rick Alderson	2-3	-36	49
5. Len Lyon	1-4	-33	57
6. Vincent Marmo	0-5	-48	38

Championship Ladder:

Rick Alderson defeated Rick Sheely 17-15

Jim Butts defeated Steve Scalpone 20-7

Jim Butts defeated Rick Alderson 16-15

First Flight Singles Block:

	Wins	Net	Gross
1. Jim Hanks	5-0	+75	113
2. Bob Crouch	4-1	+6	87
3. Robert Coleman	3-2	-19	58
4. Antonia Marmo	2-3	-10	79
5. Nancy Crouch	1-4	-26	57
6. Bob Morford	0-5	-21	66

First Flight Ladder:

Jim Hanks defeated Antonia Marmo 26-15

Bob Crouch defeated Robert Coleman 22-14

Jim Hanks defeated Bob Crouch 19-16

Doubles Block:

	Wins	Net	Gross
1. Rick Sheely & Jim Hanks	4-0	+62	94
2. Rick Alderson & Vincent Marmo	3-1	-13	50
3. Jim Butts & Bob Morford	2-3	-4	54
4. Bob Crouch & Nancy Crouch	1-4	-26	49
5. Steve Scalpone & Antonia Marmo	0-5	-29	39

Doubles Ladder:

Jim Butts & Bob Morford defeat
Rick Alderson & Antonia Marmo 13-12

Rick Sheely & Jim Hanks defeat
Bob & Nancy Crouch 26-7

Jim Butts & Bob Morford defeat
Rick Sheely & Jim Hanks 15-9

1. Jim Butts
2. Rick Alderson
3. Steve Scalpone
3. Rick Sheely
5. Len Lyon
6. Vincent Marmo



Ron Hendry, Rick Alderson

1. Jim Hanks
2. Bob Crouch
3. Antonia Marmo
3. Robert Coleman
5. Nancy Crouch
6. Bob Morford



Ron Hendry, Bob Crouch

1. Jim Butts & Bob Morford
2. Rick Sheely & Jim Hanks
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