

Berkshire Invitational June 11-14, 2015 Lenox, MA



Top row - Left to right- Rita McNamara, Bobbi Shorthouse Carla Rueck, David McCoy, Pat Colt, Paul Phoenix
2nd row - Martie Ekstrom, John & Kathleen Dainton, Terry & Susan Moor, Jeanne Bedard, Ted Hilles
Front row - Ware Cady, Denys Shorthouse, Stuart Lawrence, David Ekstrom

We were blessed with wonderful weather this year. Our opening reception buffet the evening before competition began was again hosted by Joan & Bob Comeau at their lovely home overlooking a Berkshire Valley. Continental breakfast provided my club members, catered lunches, toast & tallies and this year we introduced a pizza night that everyone enjoyed.

Play consisted of three flights. Championship with 6 players, handicap from -1.5 to 3; First Flight had 5 players with handicap from 3.5 to 7 and Second Flight with 5 players with mostly 9 handicap to 10. Championship Flight had 5 games leading to a single elimination playoff. Stuart Lawrence led the pack undefeated and pegged out 4 of his 5 games. Following a bye in the ladder he went on to defeat James Turner and Pat Colt in the finals. Again pegging out both games. Unfortunately, after winning all these games, he only picked up 7 tracking points.

First Flight play was designed for two rounds of croquet leading to single elimination ladder. Terry Moor (6) went undefeated in block play and proceeded to win the flight picking up 25 tracking points to lower his handicap to a 5. Martie Ekstrom came in second. We were fortunate to have volunteer members jump into the fray and sub for player who withdraw due to illness.

Second Flight was evenly matched with both Jeannine Bedard and Ted Hilles each winning 4 games leading to the playoffs. Unfortunately, Jeannine lost to Carly Rueck while Ted Hilles overcame Denys Shorthouse to set up the finals where Ted won over Carla 14-10. Denys came in third over Jeannine 12-11.

We had two flights of same partner doubles. In Championship Martie Ekstrom and Stuart Lawrence went undefeated through block and ladder play to win the flight. W. David McCoy and Paul Phoenix came in second. In First Flight Ted Hilles and Denys Shorthouse came out of the block number 1; however, they lost to Kathleen Dainton and Ware Cady who went on to win the doubles flight over John Dainton and Carla Rueck 14-8. Third place went to Hilles & Shorthouse over Terry Moor and Rita McNamara who filled in as a sub 11-10.

Saturday evening we had our traditional tournament dinner at the Lenox Club and were treated to Carved Prime Rib and Pan Roasted Salmon with hollandaise sauce, garlic mashed potatoes and Haricots Verts in butter sauce. Topped off with a desert of chocolate cake with whipped cream and ice cream.

Sunday we wrapped up the doubles and single finals followed by a BBQ courtside consisting of Baby Back ribs, hot dogs, burgers, potato salad, cookies and watermelon. Following lunch the awards were presented which were a beautifully designed 20th anniversary glass trays by Kaas Glassworks in NYC. Many player are looking forward to returning in August when the Lenox Croquet Club will host the North-east/Mid-Atlantic Regional tournament August 12th-15th.

Submitted,
David Ekstrom, TD & President Lenox Croquet Club

Championship Singles

1. Stuart Lawrence
2. Pat Colt
3. Paul Phoenix
4. Jim Turner
5. David Ekstrom
5. W. David McCoy



Stuart Lawrence, David Ekstrom

First Flight Singles

1. Terry Moor
 2. Martie Ekstrom
 3. Kathleen Dainton
 4. John Dainton
- DNF Ruth Nicolaci



Terry Moor, David Ekstrom

Second Flight Singles

1. Ted Hilles
2. Carla Rueck
3. Denys Shorthouse
4. Jeannine Bedard
5. Ware Cady



Ted Hilles, David Ekstrom

Championship Doubles

1. Stuart Lawrence/Martie Ekstrom
2. W. David McCoy/Paul Phoenix
3. David Ekstrom/Ruth Nicolaci
3. James Turner/Pat Colt



Martie Ekstrom, Stuart Lawrence

First Flight Doubles

1. Kathleen Dainton/Ware Cady
2. John Dainton/Carla Rueck
3. Ted Hilles/Denys Shorthouse
4. Terry Moor/Rita McNamara



Ware Cady & Kathleen Dainton