



23RD ANNUAL MOUNTAIN LAUREL INVITATIONAL THE CHATTOOGA CLUB June 3-7, 2015 CASHIERS, NC



Singles Winners/Runner-ups: Mark Fields, Michael Kline, Scott Spradling, Paul Embry, Hal Denton, Suzanne Spradling

The twenty-third annual Mountain Laurel Invitational was held June 3rd to the 7th at the picturesque setting in the mountains of southwest North Carolina. Hosted by the Chattooga Club in Cashiers, NC. The setting was everything anyone could want. Three courts set just below the open pavilion and lodge with a backdrop of the mountains across the valley were used. This year the weather was not as nice as previous years, with thunderstorms anticipated each afternoon, however, other than the first day which saw several lightning delays, and a slight shower one other afternoon we escaped most of the predictions. Of interest was the hail storm during a cocktail party, almost covering the ground with white ice, followed by a quick flooding of all the courts, followed by fast drainage, proving how well the courts were designed.

Play consisted of three, six person, flights of singles playing in a round robin block the first three days, and a double elimination ladder on Saturday and Sunday. Two flights of doubles, each with nine players, played four games, early each day, with the block winners taking the trophies. The Waterford Doubles winners were Scott Spradling in Championship, and Ed Becker in First flight.

Championship Flight Singles with handicaps ranging from 0.5 to 4.5 saw Paul Embry pass through the block undefeated, following closely by Scott Spradling. They were to meet once again in the ladder as well as in the finals. The skill of Paul was evident, but the luck was against him from the start, falling into defeat with Scott 16-11, and 18-9 in the finals. Calvert Chaney posted a respectable third.

First Flight singles was Mark Fields all the way. Seeded #3 out of the block, he went straight to the finals without a defeat. Michael Kline, working his way through the loser's side, lost to Mark twice in the ladder to end up second. Ed Becker was third.

Second Flight Singles was a repeat of First Flight. Hal Denton seeded #3, also ran the block without a defeat, to overcome Suzanne Spradling in the finals 20-6. Roxanne Rosetto finished third.

The food, as usual, was a culinary delight, starting with the opening party Tuesday evening and continuing through to the Sunday brunch. An addition to the Club this year was the new Bear Bar, added to the south end of the pavilion. It became the favorite watering hole for the tournament. Two roaring fireplaces provided the background for the Wednesday night dinner at the Pavilion. After an open evening, we were again hosted by Lewis and Judy Freeman to a house party at their lovely home at the top of the mountain. The weather cooperated, giving us a nice view, some black rain clouds, some very low mountain clouds, some heavy rain, followed by sunshine and sunset which made for a picturesque evening.

Saturday evening, the traditional Saturday dinner party was held in the main dining room. The menu consisted of salad, filet with lump crabmeat sauce, mashed potatoes, and asparagus, followed by desert. As is custom the doubles awards were presented during the dinner.

Sunday was the wrap-up of quarterfinals, semi-finals, and the finals in all flights. Following the final games, the awards were made courtside, with everyone then adjourning to the Pavilion for Sunday brunch.

Submitted by,
Fred Jones
Tournament Director

Championship Singles

1. Scott Spradling
2. Paul Embry
3. Calvert Chaney
4. Michael McRee
5. Donald Smith
5. Harvey Geiger

Second Flight Singles

1. Hall Denton
2. Suzanne Spradling
3. Roxanne Rosetto
4. Tom Stoner
5. Liddy Chaney
5. Patricia Cunningham

First Flight Singles

1. Mark Fields
2. Michael Kline
3. Ed Becker
4. Kiehner Johnson
5. David Trigiani
5. Kenny Lovett

Waterford Doubles:

Championship Flight

1. Scott Spradling
2. Paul Embry
3. Mark Fields
4. Jackie Jones
5. Donald Smith
6. Kiehner Johnson
7. Michael McRee
8. Harvey Geiger
9. Calvert Chaney

First Flight

1. Ed Becker
2. Roxanne Rosetto
3. Joy Guernsey-Diesel
4. Michael Kline
5. David Trigiani
6. Hal Denton
7. Suzanne Spradling
8. Tom Stoner
9. Liddy Chaney



Ed Becker, Mark Fields, Roxanne Rosetto, Paul Embry, Joy Guernsey-Diesel, Scott Spradling