

North American Amateur October 22-25, 2015 Sonoma Cutrer Croquet Club Windsor, CA

We had perfect fall weather here for this year's North American Amateur at Sonoma Croquet Club at the famed Sonoma Cutrer croquet lawns. Again we had two divisions, with the first flight a mix of new tournament players and recent enthusiasts of the Association "AC" form of the great game. This tourney is designed as an entry level tourney in the First Flight with winners graduating to the Amateur Championship Flight the next year. The Amateur division flight is limited to players with <1700 DGrades and winner is guaranteed a spot in the North American Open the following May.

This year's field was dominated by a strong showing from the brand new Ashland, Oregon Croquet Club. Last year the club, in their initial year, sent two players to the tourney. This year they doubled that to four. Not only did they have a strong showing with Bill Brown, ended up the runner-up but Ken Grudger, in his first tournament and Dick Mastain, still going strong at a very young 90 years of age, tied for 3rd. Jeffrey Hill, a Sonoma Club member who finished 5th a year ago in this flight, was nearly perfect, finishing with a 9-1 record and sweeping the semi-finals and finals to take the First Flight trophy and earn his promotion to the Amateur Championship flight next year.

First Flight Results:

1. Jeffrey Hill 10-1
2. Bill Brown 8-3
3. Ken Grudger 3-5
3. Richard Mastain 3-5
5. Christopher Layton 4-6
5. Dick Titus 4-6
7. Janet Quarters 2-8



In the Amateur Championship flight, Steve Mossbrook dominated the double round robin play, as he did last year with a near perfect 7-1 record and entered the semis as the top seed against 4th seeded Karl-Heinz Kempfer. Mossbrook dismissed Kempfer in the semis in two straight games and advanced to this year's Championship against Mike Orgill who outlasted Gary Anderson in the 3rd deciding game. It was truly an amazing finish as Anderson had a 2 hoop lead on last turn with the balls spread to the four corners. Orgill miraculously hit in. Then took off toward a ball bear hoop 3. He needed a long split to 1b and ended up with a 6 yard angled hoop shot from near the North boundary. This also was true. He got a long rush to 2b which ended up right behind the hoop only 2 yards from the South boundary. Orgill's take-off rolled backwards through 2b giving him a perfect shot on the tying hoop. After making that Orgill took off for a ball on the South boundary near corner 4 and amazingly it stopped between the ball and boundary and gave him a rush to 3b which he made for the win. Earlier in the double round robin against Anderson, Orgill had come from 8 hoops down on last turn to also beat Anderson. Anderson earned the nickname snakebit in this tourney due to

these miraculous finishes by Orgill and has vowed to work on his closing skills for next year. The final was a closely contested final. After Orgill won the first game and Mossbrook the second, it came down to a closely played strategic struggle in the 3rd. Mossbrook and Orgill were tied going into last turns when Orgill hit in and was able to run a hoop to win the championship by 1. Kempfer, after winning the First Flight last year, and getting promoted to the Championship flight, beat Anderson in the 3rd place game to have a very successful move up tourney! Notably, Bob Morford was the only player able to take a win off of Steve in the double round robin!!

1. Mike Orgill 9-5
2. Steve Mossbrook 10-3
3. Karl-Heinz Kempfer 4-7
4. Gary L. Anderson 5-7
5. Bob Morford 4-7

Jim Hanks
Tournament Director

