



USCA Western Regional Tournament

(Association Croquet)

July 26 – Aug 1, 2015

Sonoma Croquet Club

Windsor, CA

First Day: First Flight Doubles

Sunday, July 26 was a perfect day for croquet here in wine country in Northern California. The doubles teams were set as hi/lo based on DGrade with Karl-Heinz Kempfer (1) and Jeffrey Hill (4) playing against Robert Morford (2) and Ian Sidey (3). The title was decided in a best 2 of three game format. 2 1/2 hour time limits were used.

The games were each very competitive right up to last turn. Karl-Heinz and Jeffrey each had enough breaks to win the first game 16-12. Robert and Ian came back and pulled away at the end of the second game to even things up with a 13-10 win. The rubber match was extremely close throughout with the hoop differential never more than 1 or 2 hoops. As last turn approached each player had a chance to pad their score. Finally on last turn Karl-Heinz scored a hoop to extend their teams lead to 12-10 but in the process he gave Ian and Robert's team a lift. On last turn, Ian took the lift and hit-on on a 12 yard hit-in shot. He then got an excellent rush to his hoop, leaving a pioneer behind at his next hoop. After making the score 12-11, he had a choice of taking off to his next pioneer to safely tie the score or going for a big split shot trying to load his next hoop while going to pioneer. Ian went for the big shot but was slightly off on the angle and needed to hit a 7 yard roquet to keep his team's hopes alive. He hit the roquet but knocked the pioneer about 7 yards from his hoop. His 7 yard take-off left an angled 4 yard hoop shot which he center cut to tie the score. He then hit a ball about mid court and took off 12 yards to the next hoop and scored it for the very exciting last turn win!



Karl-Heinz Kempfer, Jeffrey Hill

Congratulations to Robert and Ian for winning the Western Regional First Flight doubles championship. And also to Karl-Heinz and Jeffrey the runner-ups. The set of three games couldn't have been closer with both teams scoring the same number of gross hoops for the 3 games.

A great start to the Western Regional Championship week!!

Final Standings:

1. Robert Morford & Ian Sidey
2. Karl-Heinz Kempfer & Jeffrey Hill

First Flight Doubles	KK&JH	BM&IS	Matches	Net Games	Games	Net Hoops
Karl-Heinz Kempfer and Jeffrey Hill		16 10 12	0	-1	1	0
Robert Morford and Ian Sidey	12 13 13		1	1	2	0



Robert Morford



Ian Sidey

Second Day: First Flight Singles

Another near perfect day in wine country saw all players getting into the win column and keeping their hopes alive for the championship going into the final day of singles play.

Karl-Heinz easily beat Jeffrey 26-1 in the first round as Jeffrey was tinkering with different mallets. In the other first round game Robert and Ian went into last turn tied. Robert made a hoop on his last turn to take the lead only to have Ian hit in and make two hoops to win 14-13.

In round two games, Ian set the stage for another last turn win. Karl-Heinz, after trailing the entire game had finally taken a one hoop lead on his last turn, but in the process had given Ian a lift. Ian again hit in and had all the balls on the court. Lady Luck however ran out this time as he slightly over-rolled his hoop shot and missed a near impossible angled jump shot to give Karl-Heinz the well-earned win 15-14. In the other game Robert comfortably beat Jeffrey 15-3 as Jeffrey continued to try alternate mallets.

In the 3rd round Jeffrey finally seemed to settle on a mallet and played aggressive breaks throughout to beat Ian 16-7. In yet another barn burner, Robert, down 2 hoops on last turn, ran his ball to peg to take a 3 hoop lead. Karl-Heinz hit in and also ran his ball to peg on his last turn to tie the score. Both players were for hoop 3 in sudden death. While pegging out his back ball, Karl-Heinz had croqueted his front ball to a position near hoop 3. On Robert's first extra turn, Robert hit this 12 yarded and was able to run the hoop for the exciting 16-15 win.

Quite an exciting first day of play!

Third Day: First Flight Singles Finals

Day 3 was scheduled as a second round robin to determine the First Flight singles Champion. Again we had some great games. Jeffrey played his strongest game of the tourney aggressively building many 3 & 4 ball breaks. He was in the running until the end against the top seed, Karl-Heinz before finally losing 16-11. Robert and Ian continued their close rivalry, this time Robert beating Ian 13-12 on last turn.

Karl-Heinz held on against Ian and Robert beat Jeffrey to set up a final between Karl-Heinz and Robert who were both 4-1. Karl-Heinz led throughout and appeared to be headed towards the championship as the game time ran down, before Robert hit in and started a last turn break. He needed 10 hoops to tie and could have taken a 2 hoop lead by pegging out. He built a perfect 4 ball break and scored 6 hoops to close the gap to 19-15 before missing the comeback shot after making 2b.

Congratulations to Karl-Heinz Kempfer on his First Flight singles championship and to Robert Morford for his strong effort as runner up and all players in the first flight for their aggressive tactical play building breaks and going for multiple hoops!!

First Flight Singles	KK	BM	IS	JH	Wins	Net Hoops
Karl-Heinz Kempfer		15 19	15 19	26 16	5	40
Robert Morford	16 15		13 13	15 14	4	19
Ian Sidey	14 13	14 12		7 11	2	-7
Jeffrey Hill	1 11	3 4	16 2		1	-52

Final standings:

1. Karl-Heinz Kempfer
2. Robert Morford
3. Ian Sidey
4. Jeffrey Hill

Fourth Day: Championship Doubles

On the 4th Day of the Western Regionals the championship doubles were contested. Each of the 3 doubles teams entered played a 2 1/2 hour match against the other two teams.

In the first match Tim Hanks and Jim Hanks took on Steve Scalpone and Eric Sawyer. In this game Eric and Tim quickly built 4 ball breaks that took each team to 4b. Steve and Jim got into a tactical struggle trying to get the second balls going. After several missed opportunities by both teams, Jim finally got his

ball around to 3b on last turn where he missed the hoop with Steve's ball right there. Fortunately for Jim, Steve missed the first roquet after hitting in giving Tim and Jim a 17-10 win.

In game 2, Steve and Eric were matched against a couple of legends of the game, Jim Bast and Ervand Peterson. Steve quickly recovered from game 1 and ran his first break to 4b. The game then developed into a series of tactical maneuvers to try to keep both Eric's and Jim and Ervand's bills from building breaks. Jim and Ervand and Eric all missed several opportunities to keep breaks alive before Eric finally sustained a break and ran it through rover on last turn securing Steve and Eric a 22-4 win.

In game 3 Jim and Tim took on Ervand and Jim. Ervand hit in on the 3rd ball and started a 3 ball break that broke down at 3. Tim hit in and was able to take his ball to 4b. Ervand's hit in failed and Jim started the second ball break. After trying and failing to peel Tim's ball at 4b after 3, 5 & 6, Jim gave up on his triple peel options but put his break at risk as he broke down at 1b. Ervand was able to hit in and take his ball to 4b but failed to set a good leave when his short roquet near the peg failed. It took Jim and Tim several turns to finish from here but eventually Jim pegged the two bells out for the championship 26-9.

Congratulations to Tim and Jim for winning their first Western Regional doubles championship and to Steve and Eric for their runner-up finish.

It was particularly special for me to win the title with my son Tim!

Priceless!!

Championship Doubles	JB&EP	TH&JH	SS&ES	Wins	Net Hoops
Jim Bast & Ervand Peterson		9	4	0	-35
Tim Hanks & Jim Hanks	26		17	2	24
Steve Scalpone & Eric Sawyer	22	10		1	11

Final Standings:

1. Tim Hanks & Jim Hanks
2. Steve Scalpone & Eric Sawyer
3. Jim Bast & Ervand Peterson

Fifth-Seventh Days: Championship Singles

The weather cooled a bit so we had perfect weather for the 3 days of singles. Play throughout was at an extremely high level with 33 of 37 games going to peg during the singles run while double banking with a 2 1/2 hour clock.

Many of the games were decided on last turn or overtime with some truly fantastic finishes. After the round robin, Tim Hanks and Jim Bast sat atop the standings with 6-1 records with Tim holding the top seed due to his head to head win over Jim. Jim Hanks was 3rd with a 5-2 mark. Steve Scalpone took the 4th seed with a 3-4 record. Martyn Selman, Ron Hendry, Ervand Peterson, and Eric Sawyer all finished in a tie for 5th with 2-5 records. The games were so close that any of the players could, with a break here or there, could have had a couple more wins.



Jim Hanks, Steve Scalpone, Erv Peterson, Martyn Selman, Ron Hendry, Tim Hanks holding Wesley Hanks, and Jim Bast

On Saturday, after the round robin, the top 4 seeds played another round robin. The cumulative record would determine the champion. Steve Scalpone, started in a big hole, but probably played the best during the final round losing narrowly to Tim Hanks in the first game, before beating Jim Bast and Jim Hanks in the final round to secure 4th place with a 5-5 record. Jim Hanks starting a game behind made a run at the title by beating Jim Bast and Tim Hanks in his first two rounds. Steve Scalpone beat him in the 3rd round leaving him with a 7-3 record. Tim Hanks, after beating Steve in the first round, needed one more win in his remaining games but lost to both Jim and Jim and also

the first round, needed one more win in his remaining games but lost to both Jim and Jim and also

finished 7-3. Jim Bast, after losing his first two games, to Jim Hanks and Steve Scalpone, needed and got a win over Tim to join the group at 7-3.

The tourney tiebreaker was 1) wins 2) head to head 3) net hoops.

With 3 tied at the top and no clear head to head results, the final order was determined by net hoops. This tie breaker gave the title to Jim Bast with Tim Hanks finishing second.

Championship Singles	JB	TH	MS	SS	RH	ES	JH	EP	Wins	Net Hoops
Jim Bast		22 26	26 TP	26 21	26 TP	26 TP	26 3	26	7	108
Tim Hanks	26 9		26	26 26	26	26	19 11	26	7	62
Martyn Selman	7	10		0	26 TP 26	19	22	16 26	4	10
Steve Scalpone	14 26	10 23	26		10	26	22 26	26	5	51
Ron Hendry	1	6	0 2	26		19	26	12 5	2	-106
Eric Sawyer	11	2	10	1	24		20	26	2	-69
Jim Hanks	0 26	26 26	23	23 0	13	26		26	7	4
Ervand Peterson	0	8	26 3	9	26 26	21	10		3	-60

Final standings:

1. Jim Bast
2. Tim Hanks
3. Jim Hanks
4. Steve Scalpone
5. Martyn Selman
6. Ervand Peterson
7. Ron Hendry
7. Eric Sawyer

Jim Hanks-Tournament Director