

AUDUBON INVITATIONAL 2016

Feb 25-28, 2016

Naples, Florida

CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT

- 1 Charles Perry
- 2 Joseph Zilligen
- 3 Richard Watson
- 3 Skip Babcock
- 5 Jan Balson

FIRST FLIGHT

- 1 Phil Parsons
- 2 Thelma Lyle
- 3 Clair Flinn
- 4 John D. Richardson
- 5 James McLaughlin

SECOND FLIGHT

- 1 Robert Ayers
- 2 Diane Walker
- 3 Larry Lammert
- 4 Dennis Lynch
- 5 Suzanne Parsons



AUDUBON INVITATIONAL

FEBRUARY 24 – 28, 2016

Well, they did it again. For the 22nd year the Audubon Country Club held their annual croquet invitational tournament on February 24th to the 28th in sunny but cold Naples, Florida.

Starting with a group of dedicated players, divided into three flights of five players, each, were off and running on Thursday morning. Having been driven indoors, by a cold front moving through the evening before, the opening party shifted from the scheduled poolside to the indoor comfort of the clubhouse. The remainder of the week the weather was clear, with great blue skies, but much cooler than most of us would like to see in southern Florida.

The social side was well covered; as usual, the opening party was followed the next evening with a wonderful house party, including cocktails and a buffet dinner at the Rupprecht's, followed by the traditional dinner-dance at the Club on Saturday evening.

Championship flight, playing on a full-size court, consisting primarily of 4.5's, evened out fairly well through the block, with Rich Watson and Chuck Perry ending up with three wins. As the block leader would get a double bye, the selection was to be determined by net points, however each had 9 net points, so it went to gross points and Chuck had scored five more wickets than Rich. Chuck also had defeated Rich in the block. Then Rich hurt his knee, and after playing two difficult games, and a trip to the emergency room, he finally had to stop playing. Joe Zilligen stepped into the void, and through the loser's side of the ladder met Chuck Perry in the finals. Chuck was not to be denied, and took his first win in this tournament after 21 years.

First flight, also playing on a full-size court, primarily 5's saw Thelma Lyle lead the block, having lost only to Phil Parsons. As the top seed, she needed one win to get to the finals. Defeating Phil Parson in the ladder sent him to the loser's side, where he won over Clair Flinn to meet Thelma again in the finals. This time he was successful in besting Thelma to take the title 14-10

Second flight saw undefeated Larry Lammert the block winner, and the recipient of the byes. While Diane Walker was working her way through the ladder to meet Larry, no one was watching Bob Ayers, playing his first tournament, working his way up the loser side. When Diane defeated Larry, who then lost to Bob, it was Bob Ayers and Diane Walker in the final. In last turn a ball through one back set the win for Bob 11-10.

The tournament was capped off with a fantastic Sunday brunch at the club, the trophies were awarded, the good-byes were said, and the players returned home, looking forward to next year.

**Submitted
Fred Jones
Tournament Director**

