

Berkshire Invitational

June 2-5, 2016

Lenox, MA



Players and guests on finals day at the 2016 Berkshire Invitational

The Lenox Croquet Club hosted its 21st Berkshire Invitational on June 2-5, with a field of 21 players competing in three flights of singles and two flights of doubles.

In the Championship Singles final, Stuart Lawrence defeated LCC president David Ekstrom, pegging out after time expired to complete a run of seven 26-x wins in the six-player round-robin block and single-elimination playoff. The final was a rematch for Stuart and David, Lenox's top-ranked members, two weeks after they met in the final at Piping Rock.

First Flight Singles was dominated by Larry Cranfield of the West Hill Country Club near Syracuse, New York, playing off a handicap of 5. Larry went undefeated in the block with six wins and continued his winning streak in the playoffs, beating Dick Carlson in the final.



Championship Singles winner Stuart Lawrence and runner-up David Ekstrom.



First Flight Singles runner-up Dick Carlson, Stuart Lawrence (TD) and winner Larry Cranfield

As New England's only multi-lawn croquet club, Lenox is also a frequent host of the USCA Northeast Regional Championship.

This year's Northeast Regional will feature American 6-wicket singles play over three days, August 12-14, 2016.

Players are invited to come enjoy croquet in the Berkshires!

In the Second Flight Singles, John Priest, visiting from Virginia, racked up a convincing 5/1 record in the block, pegging out in three games under the 14-point variation (Rule 16.1) that was played throughout the tournament in both Second Flight Singles and First



Second Flight Singles winner John Priest, Stuart Lawrence (TD) and runner-up June Schneiweiss.

Flight Doubles. John's only block-stage loss was to West Hill's June Schneiweiss. Sunday's final saw John and June facing off again, with John's steady play earning him the first place trophy.

Doubles was played in two flights, with the Championship Flight (handicaps -2 to 7) playing four rounds of Waterford doubles and the First Flight (handicaps 8 to 15)

two groups, followed by a knockout for the top eight players, paired into doubles teams based on the block stage results (1&1, 2&2, 3&3, and 4&4). The First Flight hybrid format, with rotating partners in the first stage followed by assigned teams in the playoffs, combined the main advantage of Waterford doubles (i.e., no one has to carry one partner from the start of the

event) with the benefits of assigned-partner doubles (e.g., a true final match, a winning doubles team who have played together).

Pat Colt won the Championship Flight Doubles with three wins out of four games. Stuart Lawrence finished second, having also won three games but with fewer net points.

First Flight Doubles saw Dick Carlson and Denys Shorthouse take the top places in their groups over four Waterford doubles games, earning the right to pair up for the semifinals as the "1&1" team. Dick and Denys didn't disappoint in the playoffs, scoring 14-point pegout victories against Jeanette Bair-Tribby & Bobbi Shorthouse in the semifinal and Linda Taber and Lee Jorde in the final.

Off the courts, players and guests enjoyed several nicely catered evening events as well as daily continental breakfasts and lunch buffets served at the courtside pavilion.

The veranda of the splendid 19th- century clubhouse of the Lenox Club was the venue for an opening reception on Wednesday night, hosted by Bob and Joan Comeau. The tournament dinner on Saturday night was held in the Lenox Club's main dining space, the "Music Room," an impressive hall dominated by an enormous, elaborate brick and terra cotta fireplace dating to the 1880s.

The Lenox Croquet Club, while not large, is fortunate to have multiple lawns (with room for two full-size or a combination of full-size and scaled-down courts) in a peaceful setting, comfortable facilities, and a generous volunteer spirit among its members. As New England's only multi-lawn croquet club, Lenox is also a frequent host of the USCA Northeast Regional Championship. This year's Northeast Regional will feature American 6-wicket singles play over three days, August 12-14, 2016, and players are invited to come enjoy croquet in the Berkshires.



Left photo: First Flight Doubles winners: Dick Carlson and Denys Shorthouse and Stuart Lawrence (TD)
Right photo: runners-up Lee Jorde and Linda Taber and Stuart Lawrence (TD).

**CHAMPIONSHIP
SINGLES**

- 1 Stuart Lawrence
- 2 David Ekstrom
- 3 James Turner
- 4 David McCoy
- 5 Pat Colt
- 5 Lloyd Hadden

**FIRST FLIGHT
SINGLES**

- 1 Lawrence Cranfield
- 2 Richard Carlson
- 3 Lee Jorde
- 3 Denys Shorthouse
- 5 Thomas Tribby
- 6 Ted Hilles
- 7 Martie Ekstrom

**SECOND FLIGHT
SINGLES**

- 1 John Priest
- 2 June Schneiweiss
- 3 Bob Taber
- 4 Rita McNamara
- 5 Linda Taber
- 6 Ronald Rapuano

**CHAMPIONSHIP DOUBLES
(Waterford)**

- 1 Pat Colt
- 2 Stuart Lawrence
- 3 Lloyd Hadden
- 4 Martie Ekstrom
- 5 David Ekstrom
- 6 David McCoy
- 7 Thomas Tribby

FIRST FLIGHT DOUBLES

- 1 Denys Shorthouse & Dick Carlson
- 2 Linda Taber & Lee Jorde
- 3 Ted Hilles & Bob Taber
- 4 Jeanette Bair Tribby & Bobbi Shorthouse
- 5 Rita McNamara
- 6 Ronald Rapuano



Pat Colt

Stuart Lawrence, TD