

The 2016 Croquet Club of Vermont Invitational

The 2016 Croquet Club of Vermont Invitational was held at the Woodstock Health and Fitness Center July 14 – 17 using the club's two bentgrass croquet lawns (one ¾ sized, the other 2/3). The weather was great except for rain/lightning the last round of play Thursday necessitating pegging down the four games in progress. Wickets were set to championship standard – firm in the ground with about 1/16" total clearance for the ball. This was a singles only event with two flights – Championship (1 – 5 handicap level) and First Flight 5 – 8. Each flight had a full round robin block of eight players leading to a single knock out semi-final followed by a final. Both flights had a good amount of break play with the best break play being performed by a First Flight player Larry Cranfield (5). Larry will no doubt be making his way into the Championship Flight soon - he has a solid single ball shot technique. Speaking about single ball shot technique, many players in both flights showed great form in this regard. The First Flight final featured the above mentioned Larry playing nearly a perfect game with two all around breaks winning by a score of 26-4. Keppy Babcock (6) had a great tournament to play against Larry in the finals. Championship Flight featured two players who had met each other in previous finals of this event - Skip Babcock (4.5) and Harvey Geiger (3.5). This final was a real nail biter throughout with both players showing fine play. Skip was the winner in the end (having won this tournament before). Notable tracking point gains were as follows: Harvey Geiger (3.5) +18 points, Skip Babcock (4.5) +32 points, Lloyd Hadden (4.5) +17 points, Keppy Babcock (6) + 10 points, Clair Flinn (7) +18 points, and Jim McLaughlin (8) +13 points.

Social events featured a reception for the players Wednesday evening, a spectacular buffet at the beautiful home of Eph and Helen Shulman Thursday night, a dinner at the Woodstock Country Club Saturday night, and a trophies presentation/brunch, also at the Woodstock Country Club Sunday afternoon following the finals.

Championship Flight

- 1 Skip Babcock III
- 2 Harvey Geiger
- 3 Pat Colt
- 4 Bill Hamilton
- 5 Lloyd Hadden, Jr.
- 6 Richard Watson
- 7 Thelma Lyle
- 8 Charles Perry



Championship Flight Winner Skip Babcock

First Flight

- 1 Lawrence Cranfield
- 2 Keppy Babcock
- 3 Terry Moor
- 4 Robert Coleman
- 5 Clair Flinn
- 6 Kathleen Dainton
- 7 John Dainton
- 8 James McLaughlin



First Flight winner Larry Cranfield

The Tournament Manager was Eph Shulman with assistance from Pat Colt and Terry Moor. The Tournament Director and Scheduler was Bob Kroeger.