

**TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL MT LAUREL
INVITATIONAL
THE CHATTOOGA CLUB, CASHIERS, N.C.
June 15-19, 2016**

The twenty-fourth annual Mountain Laurel Invitational was held June 15th to the 19th at the picturesque setting in the mountains of southwest North Carolina. Hosted by the Chattooga Club in Cashiers, NC. The setting was everything anyone could want. Three courts are set just below the open pavilion and lodge with a backdrop of the mountains across the valley. The weather was outstanding throughout the week, warm, sunshine, with no rain, and a gentle breeze.

Play consisted of three flights of singles playing in a round robin block the first three days, with a double elimination ladder on Saturday and Sunday. Three flights of doubles played three games, early each day, with the block winners taking the trophies. Winners were Macey White in Championship, Steve Grassbough in First flight and Jeff Baillis in Third Flight

Championship flight with handicaps ranging from -1.5 to 4 saw Jackie Jones pass through the block undefeated, following closely by Bob Van Tassell whose only loss was to Jackie. The ladder started as a repeat of last year when Scott Spradling again took out the #1 seed, and the losers side of the ladder saw the downfall of both Jackie and Macey White. Meanwhile Donna Dixon had progressed to the finals without a ladder loss. After Donna had defeated Bob Van Tassell, in the semi-finals, he came back to meet her in the finals. Bob was not to lose again, taking the final 26-7. Macey White finished third.

First flight saw Michael Kline go through the block undefeated. But, as has happened in previous years he was not to take any silver. The final ended up with Lee Anderson playing against Ed Becker. In what would have been an uneventful game, Ed managed to get three ball and partner dead. Meanwhile Lee advanced one of her balls to the peg, and then proceeded to play a near flawless "rover ball" game, holding Ed off for at least twenty minutes to win 15 to 8.

Second flight, with five players, was pretty much a match between Patricia Duncan and Diane Walker, both through the block and the ladder and with Diane knocking out Patricia in the semi-finals. Without much fanfare, and not being noticed Suzanne Spradling fought her way through the loser's side, to take out Patricia just before meeting Diane in the finals. Continuing her march, Suzanne took the finals 10-9

The food, as usual, was a culinary delight, starting with the opening party Tuesday evening and continuing through to the Sunday brunch. Two roaring fireplaces provided the background for the Wednesday night dinner at the Pavilion. After an open evening, we were again hosted by Linda Pridgen at her lovely home. Saturday evening, the traditional Saturday dinner party was held in the main dining room. The menu consisted of salad, filet with lump crabmeat sauce, mashed potatoes, and asparagus, followed by desert. As is custom the doubles awards were presented during the dinner.

Sunday was the wrap-up of quarterfinals, semi-finals, and the finals in all flights. Following the final games, the awards were made courtside, with everyone then adjourning to the Pavilion for a Father's day Sunday brunch.

Championship Flight

- 1 John Hunter
- 2 Robert Van Tassell
- 3 Donna Dixon
- 3 Macey W. White
- 4 Scott Spradling
- 5 Jackie Jones
- 5 Lynda P. Sudderberg
- 7 Mark Fields

First Flight

- 1 Lee Anderson
- 2 Ed Becker
- 3 Michael H. Kline
- 4 Stephen Grassbaugh
- 5 Gary Anderson
- 5 Kenny Lovett
- 7 Anne Licursi

Second Flight

- 1 Suzanne Spradling
- 2 Diane Walker
- 3 Patricia Duncan
- 4 Roxanne Rosetto
- 5 Jeff Baillis
- 5 Sheryl Phillips

**Submitted
Fred Jones
Tournament Director**