

# AUDUBON INVITATIONAL

February 22 – 26, 2017-Naples, FL

## CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT

- 1 Rich Watson
- 2 Phil Parsons
- 3 Gene Raymond
- 4 Donald Parker
- 5 Thelma Lyle
- 5 Chuck Perry

## FIRST FLIGHT

- 1 Diane Walker
- 2 Tad Richardson
- 3 Don Rupprecht
- 4 Clair Flinn
- 5 Jim McLaughlin

## SECOND FLIGHT

- 1 Larry Lammert
- 2 Suzanne Parsons
- 3 Bob Ayres
- 4 Dennis Lynch



L-R:

Fred Jones, Tournament Director, Phil Parsons, Tad Richardson, Diane Walker, Suzanne Parsons, Larry Lammert, Rich Watson, Don Rupprecht, President of Audubon Croquet Association

Well, they did it again. For the 23rd year the Audubon Country Club held their annual croquet invitational tournament on February 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> in sunny and warm Naples, Florida.

Starting with a group of dedicated players, divided into three flights of six, five, and four players, they were off and running on Thursday morning. Championship and First flight would share a full size court for the weekend, while Second flight had a two-thirds court to themselves, with no double banking on their part for the entire weekend.

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, consisting primarily of 5's, but with a 2 and a 3.5 followed the seed with Rich Watson and Donald Parker taking #1 and #2 out of the block, and both earning a bye in the double elimination ladder. The ladder would tell a different story, Rich went on to win the flight while Donald lost early on to Gene Raymond, who playing well went to the quarter finals before losing to Phil Parsons, who spent most of the time in the loser's side to end up playing in the finals. Rich was not to be defeated and took a very interesting game, ending with a 14-13 win. Phil was second, and Gene took third.

First flight saw Don Rupprecht get the double bye in a five-player double elimination ladder. However he was not successful in making it to the final game as Diane Walker romped through the ladder going undefeated to the finals, and then emerging as winner of the flight. Diane, using skills learned in her golf croquet career, was deadly accurate on her long ball hit ins, as well as wicket shooting.

Second flight saw undefeated Larry Lammert the block winner. In the ladder he lost only to Suzanne Parsons in the quarter finals, then to come back and meet her in the finals, taking a decided win 20-8 to take home the winner trophy once again. Looks like Larry will move up a flight next year.

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