

AUDUBON INVITATIONAL FEBRUARY 27– March 3, 2013 Naples, FL

The nineteenth annual Audubon Invitational Tournament was played in Naples, Florida in cold, cloudy weather. Fortunately, we missed the rain. The four-day tournament, singles only, was block play in three flights of originally eight players each leading to a double elimination ladder for all participants. Format was changed prior to the tournament to eight, nine, and seven players to balance handicaps. All flights played on half size courts at the one location at Audubon.

In Championship flight the eight players competed in a block leading to a double elimination ladder. Jim Pagano was first out of the block with four of six wins, followed closely by Don Bridges and Jim Dushek with the same number of wins. With everyone still in contention in ladder play, Pagano went down quickly, while Bridges was dispatched almost as quickly. Mijai Pagano, emerging from 5th place worked her way in the undefeated ladder to the finals. Dushek had a relatively straight shot to the finals until he met Mijai in the quarterfinals, defeated he then won against Skip Babcock to meet Mijai in the finals. Where most of Jim Dushek's matches had been won or lost by three wickets, he maintained his lead by three in the final to best Mijai Pagano 17 to 14.

In First flight, Don Oakley was the dominating player in the block taking five of the six games, followed by three players with four wins each. The ladder format was set for eight players, with the 9th player being seeded into the 2nd flight ladder in the #1 slot. This made all three ladders identical. Oakley took two games before being defeated by Brenda Quanstrom (#2 from the block), and then losing to Keppy Babcock, in the loser's ladder. Keppy had won only two games in the block and became a late sleeper, having lost her first ladder game to Don Oakley. But determined as she was she won four games in a row, the last defeating Oakley in the semi-final, to end up in the finals. On a cold Sunday morning, with a late sun, and both bundled up with enough clothing to be hardly recognizable, Keppy defeated Brenda Quanstrom 18-10 to take the honors.

In Second flight, Don Rupprecht controlled the block, going undefeated with 6 wins, with Kelso Sutton close behind with 5 wins. Going into the ladder, it was Don and Kelso all the way. As the seeding went, they met each other in the second round, and Don took Kelso 17 to 8. Kelso then worked through the loser ladder to end the run to play Don in the finals. Don Rupprecht again took the game 16 to 8, in a match that did not show the potential of Kelso, but did show Don's quick mastery of the basics of the game. Handicaps were adjusted on both players who do belong in a stronger flight.

Socially, as usual, the tournament was a success, with an opening party at the clubhouse, followed by a wonderful cocktail party on the lanai around the pool, plus indoors around the fireplace at the home of Tricia and Don Rupprecht on Thursday evening. To top off the week, Saturday saw the group at a cocktail party and dinner dance at the Club. We were not only treated to a musical combo, but what was a pleasure to watch, the ballroom dancing of Eph Shulman and his wife. The wrap-up of the week was the Sunday brunch at the Club, and the awarding of the trophies.

Fred Jones, Tournament Director

CHAMPIONSHIP FLIGHT

1. Jim Dushek
2. Mijai Pagano
3. Skip Babcock
4. Joe Zilligen
5. Don Bridges
5. Dolores Gallagher
7. Chuck Perry
7. Jim Pagano

FIRST FLIGHT

1. Keppy Babcock
2. Brenda Quanstrom
3. Don Oakley
4. Dana Quanstrom
5. Thelma Lyle
5. Bruce Huber
7. Jim McLaughlin
7. Roxanne Rosetto

SECOND FLIGHT

1. Don Rupprecht
2. Kelso Sutton
3. Pat Bridges
4. Don McLaughlin
5. Rita Kay
5. Larry Lammert
7. Martine Fournage
7. Dennis Lynch