The Berkshire Invitaional

Denys Shorthouse was a determined man on the day before The Berkshire Invitational, a four-day tournament played on four courts with three flights of singles and two of doubles. He had done well enough for a player new to tournament play in the Mass State a few weeks earlier, but he wasn't satisfied. So he was out as soon as the court opened practicing hoops and splits. He was determined. Players new to the Berkshire showed up from West River Wickets—Tom Stoner, Rodney Calvers, and the Chaneys, Calvert and Liddy. Chris Loat was down from Canada. Maine contributed Perry Mattson, Henry Vaughan, and Fred Beck. Jim McLaughlin was in from New Hampshire and Jim Turner stopped off on his way from California to the Vineyard. David McCoy came to represent the NCC. And the cast was set with LCC members David and Martie Ekstrom, Bobbi Shorthouse, Priscilla Lamond, Nancy Fremont, Tom Gilbert, and John Woodside.

Readiness was all as we repaired to the home of Bob and Joan Comeau for a lavish cocktail spread and a chance to catch up with old friends and get to know our new ones.

Early the next morning play began after a continental breakfast at the courtside pavilion. Doubles in the morning and singles in the afternoon with lunch up the hill at the Lenox Club. The weather held off until the end of block play and sadly we had to abandon the ladders scheduled for Saturday. We had our last breakfast as we watched the courts puddle. There was no way to play on.

But Denys's determination had paid off as he took four of his five games accumulating 27 tracking points to win second flight handily. Tom Stoner came in second on the strength of his net points, the most in that flight. Meanwhile in first flight, Calvert Chaney, John Woodside, and Jim McLaughlin were all headed for five out of six records. Jim edged John by three net points to finish first. Calvert had to content himself with third and a second in first flight doubles, partnered with Tom Stoner. West River was making themselves felt. Jim Turner was the clear victor in Champs where he went four of five, while David McCoy took runner up over last year's winner Perry Mattson, who finished third. As a consolation, Perry paired with Kristine Sprague to take a first in Champ doubles. David Ekstrom and Jim McLaughlin rounded out the prizewinners with runners up trays.

Congratulations to all who won and all who played. It was closely fought and great fun. We hope to see all our friends from near far again next year.

John Woodside, TM

Champion Flight Singles

Jim Turner	1
David McCoy	2
Perry Matson	3
David Ekstrom	4

Henry Vaughan	5
Chris Loat	6

First Flight Singles

Jim McLaughlin	1
John Woodside	2
Calvert Chaney	3
Priscilla Lamond	4
Martie Ekstrom	5
Tom Gilbert	6
Fred Beck	7

Second Flight Singles

Denys Shorthouse	1
Tom Stoner	2
Nancy Fremont	3
Rodney Calver	4
Bobbi Shorthouse	5
Liddy Chaney	6

Championship Doubles

Kristine Sprague/Perry Mattson.	1
David Ekstrom/Jim McLaughlin	2
Chris Loat/Priscilla Lamond	3
Jim Turner/Pete Broderson	4
David MCcoy/Henry Vaughan	5

First Flight Doubles

Fred Beck/Tom Gilbert	1
Rodney Calver/Tom Stoner	2
John Woodside/Bobbi Shorthouse	3
Calvert Chaney/Liddy Chaney	4
Martie Ekstrom/Denys Shorthouse	5