

North American Amateur

Sonoma Croquet Club

July 14-17 2016

Eleven Players entered the 2016 North American Amateur. The weather was perfect, except for a couple of hot afternoons and everyone had a great time. The tourney, North American Amateur, is limited to DGrade of <1700 with many players getting their first tourney experience in the first flight. Winners of the first flight are bumped up to the Championship flight next year. Winners of the North American Amateur earn an entry into the next year's North American Open Championship.

Amateur Championship Flight: The flight was somewhat limited due to several issues beyond players control but did include last year's Amateur champion and the 2014 and 2015 First Flight winners. Karl-Heinz Kempfer, winner of the first flight in 2014, finished 3rd in the Amateur in 2015, continued his fine play, winning the 2016 Amateur Championship with a perfect 6-0 record. Each of Mike Orgill's and Karl-Heinz's games were decided by only a few hoops and went to last turn. Jeff Hill playing in his first amateur championship flight, and was competitive in every game.

Amateur Championship Flight

1. Karl-Heinz Kempfer
2. Mike Orgill
3. Jeff Hill

First Flight: The first flight had two first time tourney entrants, a strong showing from the new Ashland Oregon Club as well as entries from Mission Hills and the local Sonoma Club. The matches were very competitive. Chris Layton, (6-1) from Sonoma, earned the top seed in the round robin and Bill Brown (5-2) from Ashland finished second. They were joined in the quarter-finals by Kory Teoman from Mission Hills and Larry Lennox from Sonoma. Larry edged out Dick Titus from Ashland on net hoops after Dick lost each of his games by just one hoop, two on last turn in overtime. Dick very easily could have been 10-0 this week!

In the semi-finals, Kory and Larry stepped up and knocked off the top seeds. Bill Brown beat Chris Layton to finish 3rd. In the best 2 of 3 final, Kory and Larry split the first two games before Larry squeaked by in the 3rd and final game to win the First Flight championship. The game was tied with 6 minutes to play so went down to last turn. A great showing for Larry and a great tourney for Kory. The first flighters are glad that Larry will be bumped up to the amateur championship flight next year.

In the 5th place tourney, Dick, Nancy and Janet all finished 2-1, knocking each other off, to finished tied for 5th. Diana Hill, in her first competitive matches fought hard in every game.

First Flight

1. Larry Lennox (Sonoma)
2. Kory Teoman (Mission Hills)
3. Bill Brown (Ashland)
4. Christopher Layton (Sonoma)
- T5. Dick Titus (Ashland)
- T5. Nancy Chapman (Sonoma 1st tourney)
- T5. Janet Quarters (Sonoma)
8. Diana Hill (Sonoma, 1st tourney)



Karl Larry Lennox, 2016 North American Amateur First Flight Champion



-Heinz Kempfer, 2016 North American Amateur Champion



First Flight Players:

(L-R) Nancy Chapman, Dick Titus, Christopher Layton, Janet Quarters, Kory Teoman, Diana Hill, Larry Lennox, Bill Brown, & Jim Hanks (Tournament Director)

Jim Hanks
Tournament Director