



TEXAS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP 2017

June 16-18, 2017-Dallas Croquet Association, Lake Tawakoni and Lake Hubbard, TX

Championship Flight

- 1 Bob Chilton
- 2 Britt Ruby
- 3 John Dill
- 3 Scott Spradling
- 5 John Brown
- 5 Lee Hamel



Bob Chilton, Britt Ruby

First Flight

- 1 Conner Helms
- 2 Frank Vutch
- 3 Suzanne Spradling
- 3 Huston Huffman
- 5 Harold Menzel
- 5 Suzan Copeland

Conner Helms



Second Flight



- 1 George Blackburn
- 2 Jane Helms
- 3 Carl Archiniaco
- 3 Lisa Davoli

George Blackburn



The State Championship of CROQUET for TEXAS was held this past weekend ... June 16 – 18 2017 on the East side of metro Dallas. The court venues at Lake Tawakoni and Lake Hubbard were utilized for block play as well as the beginning of 1st round playoffs. On Sunday ALL players were on hand for preliminary playoffs and Finals at the Hubbard Court. Our THANKS to Bill and Suzan Copeland as well as Bob and Missy Chilton for their hospitality and court facilities.

We were privileged to enjoy a weekend with many old friends and several new friends in the family of CROQUET. The Dallas Croquet Association chose to accommodate 3 Flight levels of competitors in the 2017 tournament. We invited folks from around the great state of TEXAS and also offered folks in contiguous states to participate. We had players from seasoned veterans to really new individuals to our sport, seeking experience in the competitive arena. People came from Houston, Tyler, and Oklahoma City as well as locals from the D/FW metroplex.

The participant field was challenged as much by the weather as they were their adversaries. The heat index was over 100 every day including the Thursday practice session. Summer arrived in full force with no rain ... just high humidity. The great breezes across Chilton Point were our saving grace.

Friday evening after the first day of play ... the Championship Flight came back to Lake Hubbard after playing at Lake Tawakoni all day. The 1st Flight and 2nd Flight had been playing there throughout the day on Friday. Everyone gathered for the courtside dinner of catered Mexican food.

We actually held the social indoors for better comfort. As always folks enjoyed their food and liquid refreshment.

While participants and guests finished their sustenance, I offered a testimonial for the individual who was the inspiration for the traveling trophy honoring the STATE CHAMPION. Many people involved in the CROQUET WORLD in TEXAS identify with Aaron Cawley as the Father of Croquet in our State. He served the USCA in numerous capacities over the years and nurtured many croquet enthusiasts who ventured into the Texas Croquet environment or encountered him in other venues privy to croquet. He shared his knowledge of the Rules and Etiquette. He gave good advice relative to skills and strategy. He groomed a National Champion as well with regular practice sessions at his home court of 17 Acres Mallet Club in Arlington, TX. We pay homage to the man we emblazoned on the trophy known as "THE CAWLEY CUP". (Copies of testimonial on demand).

As an added flare, I had personalized Coca-Cola Bottles (pictured) made up and distributed to all previous winners of the Texas State Championship that were in attendance. Those that were not on hand will have one available to them on their next trip to play croquet in North Texas. (HINT, we want you to come and play.)



Saturday block play continued with many of the matches ending in final turn. An unusually high percentage of the games played were decided by one or two hoops. Only one person went undefeated for the entire weekend ... and many of his victories were in last turn.

Saturday dinner was at a Hibachi Steakhouse and folks gathered to share their exploits of the day. More food, fellowship, and liquid refreshment at hand. Since most everyone had freshened up for the evening, there was a timely photo opportunity. Pictures were taken of ALL and images shared from smart devices via air drop. Several got a cheap thrill from that activity.

Sunday was the semis followed by finals in three flights. 75% of the field were still playing on Sunday. As fate would have it, we achieved first time winners in all three levels of play. The weekend came to an end late afternoon with the final game being the Championship level dual. Once the match ended and congratulations were shared and equipment stored, we adjourned to the cooler indoor atmosphere for presentations. Also indicated in the pics attached are 1st and 2nd place trophies we listed as "A", "B", and "C" Flight awards.

2nd Flight ("C") saw George Blackburn of Dallas against Jane Helms of Oklahoma City. George prevailed and won his first State Championship at his level of play.

1st Flight ("B") awards came next. Frank Vuitch of Dallas battled Conner Helms of Oklahoma City for this title ... and the Oklahoma man WON (to the dismay of Texas fans ... kinda like in football) lol.

The Championship match saw the two gentlemen that received 1st round byes square off for the culmination of the tourney. They chose to add twenty minutes to the match and therefore played for 90 minutes. Unfortunately, many of the spectators became restless when the first 30 minutes of the game was simply the OUT GAME. Suddenly, the game opened up with aggressive activity, attacks, and breaks and the occasional errant shot. The advantage changed hands several times in the next hour with final turn and final ball coming up just short ...

As pictured Bob Chilton won every match of the weekend on his agenda. Britt Ruby came to the FINALS with his game face on and his skill shots polished ... yet some miscues plagued them both in the mid afternoon heat.



CONGRATULATIONS to Bob Chilton for his First Victory as TEXAS State Champion in the Championship Flight. He will retain the ""Cawley Cup" for the year and defend it in 2018.

We wish to THANK all our participants and acknowledge the spirit of competition and their social demeanor as well. A jolly time was had by ALL ... as expressed by the folks throughout their experience in North Texas. Thanks to all the DCA members that assisted in various roles to make this tournament a success.



John C Dill III, Tournament Director