

Dear Members,

It's a wrap! The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Carolyn Lumber Championship is in the bag!

It was a fun and filling two weeks of tennis, food and friends and now we can all go back to our regular daily lives, yet continue to bask in the memories, glow and glories of our great victories, or our "good losses," as I am one to believe in, in a "positive spin/glass half full/moral victory" sort of way.

There were a total of 24 Finals and Consolation Finals finished Saturday, too many to dissect completely here as I am one reporter who has hit the wall. But there were a few memorable snippets and performances to note. And here they are:

- Erica Coughlin-Glaser and young Gus Krauel were each doubles winners of same day singles and doubles Consolation Finals in their respective 3.0 and Open divisions.
- To top that, Jon Steinhoff won both the 3.5 and 3.5 55+ Doubles divisions with respective partners Ed Vranizan and Chris Thomas over opponents who would rather remain unnamed.
- And to top even that, Chris Thomas additionally won the 3.5 Singles title, making him the eldest winner ever in this bracket (in the modern era.) He was also one of three Chris' playing at the same time along with Kayser, his opponent, and Valverde on the next court over, so it was easy for everyone to cheer for any Chris they wanted without looking like they were playing favorites, which can be awkward when you have friends playing each other. Am I right?
- Cris and Walter finally met their match in Josh Schweitz and Nick Walrod who came out of nowhere to earn the top spot in the Open division in their first Club Tournament together. The good news for Open players next year is that they have to break-up now. The bad news for the fans is that they were amazing to watch. I'm sure they still will be with whomever their new partners are next time.
- During the Chris-a-thon, Barb passed out the tickets for the tournament's final Late Night Raffle. Like that one kid who comes to your door on Halloween and grabs a big handful of candy from the bowl, Jamie Fenner plucked a pile of tickets from her hand while the rest of us politely took one each. Guilt free, Jamie hung onto them all and with a seemingly huge advantage proceeded to win zero prizes. Jamie is great with a tennis racquet, but he apparently sucks at raffles. (In Jamie's defense, he thought he was only taking one ticket and there was a bunch stuck together. But he did keep them)
- Speaking of raffles, last night's featured another number of high quality prizes, many of which were purchased, packaged and donated by Ashleigh Kayser. Thank you Ashleigh for taking on the task and bringing the goods that keep people in and on the edge of their seats with each called out number.

And thank you to everyone else who threw something cool in the pot. I think the raffles come in a close second to the tennis on the fun factor meter. And of course, a big thank you to the Folens for again donating their fine vacation home as the Grand Prize. Your generosity every year is very much appreciated!

Terry and Ashleigh faced off against each other in the 3.5 Doubles Final with respective partners Mary Logsdon and Kira Dennison Capen (who almost won the 4.5 Singles Final before falling to Tracy Bardell in a long and grueling three set tie break match. Hey, wait. She's 3.5? Way to step it up Kira!)

Ashleigh and a refueled Kira (playing for Deb Naugler who helped them to the Final) topped Terry and Mary in a tight 2 setter. Way to go ladies!

Walking onto the court for the 4.0 55+ Final John Poppelwell and Roger North asked to see the ID of Ed Schwartz (but not me—I apparently looked old enough). Upon Ed's proof that he was actually 55 the match began and Roger and Pop promptly got down to giving us youngsters a swift lesson on tournament tennis. Like stealing candy from babies, points were taken at will on their way to yet another championship title. Eddie and I did manage to get to a 2<sup>nd</sup> set tie-breaker, and we were pacified by this example of one of those "good losses" that I continually hang my hat on. In the end it was a pleasure to just be on court at the same time with a couple of ITC legends.

In the 4.0 55+ Ladies Final more ID's were checked at the Court 1 door prior to the match between #1 seeds Mary Elliot and Kathleen Goodfriend and #2 seeds Mary Logsdon (there she is again) and Donna Roisom. This final was chock full of precise lobs and swift two-on-two volley exchanges, of which if you tried to follow the ball back and forth from the bleachers you could have pulled a neck muscle. That was high quality stuff, ladies. Congrats to good friends Mary and Kathleen for taking the prize.

The 3.0 Men's Final had Willis Boyer sprinting and leaping and lunging and smashing his way easily through the first set against Paul Burkhart, who had his guard down while still strutting around basking in his glory of "Best Male Wig" award from five days ago. Once Paul realized this match might be more important than that (depending on your values) he calmly turned the tide and used his experience and A LOT of sweat to take the second set and tie breaker and the Winner's trophy—which this year is labeled the same as the Finalist and the Consolation prize. This is good if you didn't win the Final because it looks like you did to others who see you drinking from it from now on.

By the way, Willis was awarded the "Player of the Tournament" prize by the Pros for his overall performance and most awesome socks over the past two weeks. Nice tournament, man. Sorry you won't ever be able to win the 3.0 or 3.5 bracket because at your rate of rise you will be 4.0 by next year.

The 3.0 Ladies Doubles Final had #1 seeds Kathy Rogers and Susan Hope keeping #2 seeds Andrea Brown and Katy Seabright at net's length for two straight sets to seal the deal. Doesn't Susan seem to keep winning this bracket with different partners? Both Rogers and Hope picked partners very well this year. The 3.5 ladies should watch out for this pairing should they jump up next year. Congrats ladies!

The final two Finals to finish were the 4.0 Men's and Women's. The skill, smarts, athleticism, good looks and overall je ne sais quoi were on full display.

Side by side, by side by side, these gentlemen and ladies put the final and finishing touches on club tournament tennis at its finest. On Court One Tara Hendrickson and Jan Rotherth exquisitely backed up their sensational semifinal win the night before with a victory over Jill Lee and Noriko Satake, while on Court Two Clint Benson and Jim Ringelberg emphatically fended off Steve Wilker and John Poppelwell in the third set tiebreaker with a tournament winning and ending overhead smash into the rafters. What a finish! Well done everyone!

And well done to all who came and played and stayed to share in the good tennis and good times over the past two weeks. It all started with a fun party that didn't ever really stop til late Saturday night.

Thank you to the Pros, Walter and Cris, for putting on the great event, to Barb for managing the house, to the Tournament Committee folks for all the prep work, to the Front Desk crew for the service and support, to the Teams for ALL of the great meals, to the reporters—Mark M, Keith J, Adam R, Chris K, John W and Blythe K--for immortalizing the action in truth, and fiction, and thank you to Blythe and Pam McHugh for managing the media so well. We are a lucky bunch to have such a great group effort.

So, here we are. It's Monday morning and we're back to reality. One reality for me is that my term as a tournament promoter, reporter and committee member is coming to a close. For the past five years or so I've enjoyed bringing some of the word to you all and being on the tournament team that brings, I think, a fair amount of joy to the membership a couple times every year. Thank you for your kind comments and feedback and help along the way. It's been really fun.

See y'all around the Club.

Peace, out.

Ron

PS. See all of the final results [HERE](#).