

Duelling in Des Moines

Mike Cassel, D14 GNT Coordinator mcassel19856@comcast.net

Three teams of Minnesotans prevailed in the just completed District 14 Grand National Team finals in Clive Iowa.

The Championship Flight included three teams. Last year's winners, Peg Kaplan's team did not survive to the final. Although Jade Barrett's squad: Karen Barrett, Mike Cassel & Barry Purrington were 2-0 on Saturday, they were soundly thrashed on Sunday by locals Val Laing and David Stark paired with captain Linda Lewis and her husband Paul. The 67% three team flight award: 24MPs

In Flight A, last year's semifinalists bested last year's winners. Only two teams of Minnesotans comprised the field. They played a 56 board match on Saturday for a 50% award (15MPs). Keith Connolly, Jonathan Cohen, and Charley Nauen were winners last year with Brian Crossley. Mark Krusemeyer replaced Brian this year and the team was augmented with one of last year's second place pairs: Terry and John Lijewski. Kerry Holloway's team: Joe Rice, Bjorquin Kristinsson and Kurt Schaeffer lost in last year's semifinal to Keith's team but turned the tables resoundingly this year to take the championship.

Nine teams competed in Flight B but the result was resounding familiar. Yet again the honors in Flight B go to an Eric Hendrickson squad, repeating with nearly the same crew as last year including Paul Gutterman & Richard Lawson. Sam Larson was the fourth member. Andy Caranicus was on the team a year ago. This is Paul's 3rd straight GNTB district championship and the victory was worth 26MPs. Leading after Saturday with a carryover of over 13VPs they were never headed.



The District honors in Flight C go to Bob and Cathy Sigafus, Gene Brandl, and Delbert Swanson. They were in the middle of the pack after the halfway point of the 5 team final, but had a strong second half to take down the title. The win was worth 3.75Gold and 11.25Red points.



The playing site, the Des Moines Bridge House, is a beautiful venue with a galley kitchen, an alcove for lessons, a nice bank of windows and excellent lighting. Hospitality over the weekend include many tasty baked goods and a beautiful and huge bowl of fresh fruit salad Sunday morning.



A more detailed report to follow.