

# The Board Talk

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## 11th Grand Masters Plus: Another "Very Darrol" Event!

The 11th Annual Grand Masters Plus was held at the Whistling Oyster, Quilcene, Washington, on Aug. 1-6, hosted by Bill Bailey and Sandee VanWagenen. This year's events attracted 75 entries vying for a share of the \$19,000 total pot. In addition to the "regulars," there were a number of new players from Washington and Oregon, plus visitors from Florida, Arizona, California, Idaho and Nebraska.



"The Pit" -- As usual, serious shufflers showed up a week in advance to try out the boards and find a prime spot in the "pit," site of good times and shuffling camaraderie day and night, located behind and below the Whistling Oyster.

Director Bill Bailey called the 11th Grand Masters "a deja vu of the last 10 years....It was a very Darrol year -- again!"

### ON THE INSIDE....

Will a Table Shuffleboard Hall of Fame become a reality? See Pages 6-9  
Ron & Debbie Bowers, Hal Perry to be honored at North American Shuffleboard Championships. See Pages 5 & 10

Who is the "winningest" player at the Whistling Oyster, 11 years in a row?



None other than the "Grand Master of Shuffleboard," Darrol Nelson of Oregon, with six out of eight firsts in the singles and seven out of eleven in the open doubles with four different partners.

"Thank you, Darrol, not just for being the greatest shuffleboard player I have ever met in over 20 years, but for being one of the nicest people that Sandee and I have ever had the pleasure to be associated with," said Bill.  
(Editor's Note: A lot of people agree with that sentiment!)

The kick-off event, an A-B bring partner, started on Tuesday, Aug. 1, with 17 teams competing for close to \$3000. And the winners were Darrol Nelson and his partner, Mickey Byers, in his first appearance at the Whistling Oyster.



A very close second was the team of Loren Lampley and Jeff Kersting. Loren (left) also shared top honors in the Grand Masters with Darrol.

(continued on Page 16)

**Grand Masters** (continued from Page 1)

Mike Waters and Terry Woodward finished third in the A-B bring partner.

The A-B-C draw was held on Wednesday with nearly \$1,000 in prize money. The winners were Mike Waters' team with Alvin Orcutt and Paulette McKinney. Taking second place honors was the team of Chuck Norris, Gwyn Orsi and Jane Reddinger.

There were 25 players vying for a cut of the \$4700 pot in the two singles event, which started on Thursday afternoon and finished on Friday. In the open singles, it was (guess who!) Darrol Nelson taking top honors. Also finishing in the money was Loren Lampley, 2nd; Doug Buhl, 3rd; and Al Pease, 4th.

The mixed doubles started on Friday evening with 18 teams and \$2550 to be divided up between the top four.



Winners of the mixed doubles were Al Pease and Junelle Schrum.

Darrol Nelson and Paulette McKinney took second place honors.



Mike Waters and Cheri Schrum took third place. Mike also took third in the A-B bring partner with Terry Woodward, and his team finished first in the A-B-C draw.



Taking first place in the Div. II singles was Mickey Byers (left) of Oregon, shown with sponsor Don Stallsworth. Mickey also took first in the A-B bring partner event with Darrol Nelson.



Bob Hurst (left) took second-place honors and Bill Walker (right), shown with director-host Bill Bailey, finished third.



Terry Woodward took fourth in the Div. II singles.



Larry Pearson and Gwyn Orsi took fourth place. Larry also finished second with partner Chuck Norris in the Grand Masters.

Saturday -- the BIG day -- and the final event of this week-long event starts: The Grand Masters! Because of the small field of entries in the Div. II event, it was agreed to run them together with a graduated entry. When the smoke cleared, it was Darrol Nelson and Loren Lampley who claimed the 2000 Grand Masters crown. It was no easy feat;

they had to double-dip Larry Pearson and Chuck Norris to put them in second place.

Others who took a share of the \$7700 pot were: Doug Buhl and Mike Thorpe, 3rd; Mike Waters and Vern Gonzales, 4th; Les Burt and Alvin Orcutt, 5th; Jim Foran and Doug DeBois, 6th.

"We hope everybody had a good time," said Bill Bailey. "I want to say a special thanks to Terry Woodward, Vincent (Moses) Bell and Gary Middleton for the extra mile. Also thanks to our staff and the others who pitched in to make this another successful tournament. I hope we can do it again."



Barry McClean and Kathy Ring of Florida made the local newspaper when a reporter stopped at the Whistling Oyster to cover the tournament.



California visitors Jim Olson and Lorraine Bingham chat with Art Eliff from Oregon.



Then, there were the "party girls" -- Dru Ensworth, Tina Olson and Norma DuBois.

**CLASSIFIED ADS**

**FOUND:** Set of weights and a pager after the Extravaganza at the Season Ticket in Spokane, Washington. For information, call John Fisher, 509-484-1906.

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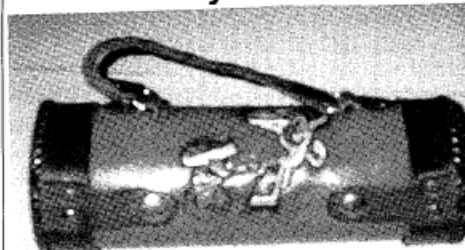
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