

Nelson and Pearson are '99 Masters Champs

By Dwayne Dibley

For 18 years, the Fir Cone Tavern in Shelton, Washington, has been hosting the Masters Shuffleboard Tournament. That's at least as far back as Fir Cone recorded history goes. There are, however, a few fossils around that claim that the Masters has been going on for 20 years. But, it's hardly worth arguing over two years -- unless it's the two years that Dan Hitt and Al Pease won back to back (1997-1998).

This year's Masters, held on Feb. 20-21, started off with a single elimination open draw on Friday night. Larry Pearson and Dan Hitt took the first prize by beating Loren Lampley and Mel Hohn in the finals.



Saturday started off with a real bang (provided by Loren Lampley's home made drum). Sales have a whole new twist when they are done to a beat. This has the makings of a tradition that could catch on.

Once the juke box is filled with 12 hours of rock and roll, courtesy of Rick Gindt with a little help from his friends, action is ready to start.

This year's Masters was a virtual "Who's Who of Shuffleboard in the Northwest." Jeanette Hohn, owner of the Fir Cone, said this was the best field of teams she has ever seen. Picking a favorite to win would be impossible.



Darrol Nelson and Larry Pearson won the winners bracket and were forced to a second set in the finals by Grant Manning and Mel Hohn before winning it all and becoming the 1999 Masters Champions.



Mel Hohn and Grant Manning had to settle for second.



Loren Lampley and Jim Foran divide third place money.



Tom Campbell and Billy Powell finished fourth.

Fifth place was a tie between Dan Hitt and Al Pease and the team of Mike Thorpe and Nels Anderson.

Once again a wonderful feast was provided. The Shelton Shuffleboard Community is made up of so many wonderful people, it is difficult to thank them personally. Without the support of these people, the tournaments in Shelton would not be as popular as they are.

The next event at the Fir Cone is its first Div. II Tournament on April 10-11.

The Fir Cone is a member of The Board Talk's national shuffleboard network.