

The Board Talk

News and Views
from the World
of Shuffleboard

Vol. 2 No. 6

The Board Talk is published by George & Donna Wilber, 421 E. Sheridan Road, Lansing, Michigan 48906; phone 517-371-2538.

June 1985

The Hammer

Guest Editorial By Roy Lembke, Bend, Oregon

The Hammer often ponders the question of what can be done to make shuffleboard more popular. I just returned from the Black Cat's annual Sweathog Tournament in Portland, Ore., and I think they have developed an answer. They handicap the players!

I didn't believe it before I saw it, but handicaps do work. Almost every game was close and there were lots of 15-14 games.

How they do it is simple. A committee rates the players and determines their handicaps after watching them play and by reputation. The handicaps are periodically revised to reflect the players' current status. The very top players are rated minus 3 (-3). All other players are given handicaps from -2 to +6 that would make for an even game if they were to play one of the top players. The highest handicap is a +6.

As an example, let's say that I was going to play Darrell Nelson, winner of last year's Las Vegas tournament. Darrell is a -3 and I am a +2, so I would mark up 2 points and he would owe the board 3 points when the game started. A normal game would then be played with the first player reaching 15 declared the winner.

The determination of a doubles team handicap is slightly more complicated. The two team members' individual handicaps are added together and if the total is a plus number, the total is divided by two to determine the team handicap. If the total is a minus number, the total is not divided by two; the total is the team handicap.

For example, if Team A were to play Team B, and Team A was composed of a +1 and a +5 (+1 plus +5 equals +6; +6 divided by two equals a +3 handicap) and Team B was composed of a +1 and a -3 (+1 and -3 equals a -2 handicap), the game would start with Team A marking 3 points and Team B owing the board 2 points.

As the minus handicaps are not divided, it almost forces the better players to look for a partner with a high handicap. The result is that the lesser players get to play with — and compete against — the better players. As you are only as good as who you play, the overall level of play is improved.

Is the tournament popular? It was scheduled for 32 singles and 24 doubles teams. Popular demand forced the doubles to be raised to 32 teams and there was still a waiting list for both doubles and singles. People came from over 200 miles to play. The Black Cat also runs a handicap league and on Friday nights they have a handicap round robin.

It's fun to play when you start out feeling like you have an even chance of winning. There is no reason why this handicap format shouldn't be widely used. It would do much for the game of shuffleboard.

Tourney Talk

ATTENTION, READERS:

To assure that notices of your tournaments are published on a timely basis, please give us plenty of lead time. The Board Talk deadline is the 20th of each month and it takes another week to 10 days for readers to receive the newsletter.

Readers are interested in who won your tournaments, so please make sure we receive that information. It should be the responsibility of the sponsor or tournament director to report the results or assign someone to do so.

Lakeside Lounge, Union Lake, Mich., June 1, June 8

The second annual Michigan women's state open singles and doubles will be held at the Lakeside Lounge, 9500 Elizabeth Lake Road, Union Lake, Mich. The singles will be played on June 1 and the doubles on June 8. \$5 per person entry fee for both events. Best two out of three matches, trophies and prize money. Calcuttas for both events are scheduled for 12:30 p.m. each day. For information, call 313-698-4104.

American Bar, Portland, Oregon, June 15

The American Bar, 211 W. Main, Portland, Ore., will host a shuffleboard tournament on June 15. Entry fee, \$20 per team, pays four places. Limited to 24 teams. Auction starts at 1 p.m. For information, call 219-726-9252.

Sport's Arena, Magnolia, Texas, June 22

A draw-partners tourney is scheduled for the Sport's Arena, 11528 W. Jones Road, Magnolia, Texas, June 22, starting at 4 p.m. \$50 entry fee, pays three places, 60%, 30% and 10%. Two championship boards, big calcutta, lots of good food, nearby lodging.

For information, contact David at 713-469-0345, Don at 713-356-6161, or the Sport's Arena, 713-469-0345.

Log Cabin Bar, Howell, Mich., July 4-7

Combine a family vacation in Michigan's water wonderland with *The Board Talk's* first national tournament at the Log Cabin Bar, Howell, Mich., July 4-7. Lots of shuffleboard events and opportunities for family fun. The Log Cabin Bar will provide shuffleboarders and their families with a private room for activities plus an enclosed patio for horseshoe competition or just plain sitting in the sun and visiting with shuffleboard folks from other states.

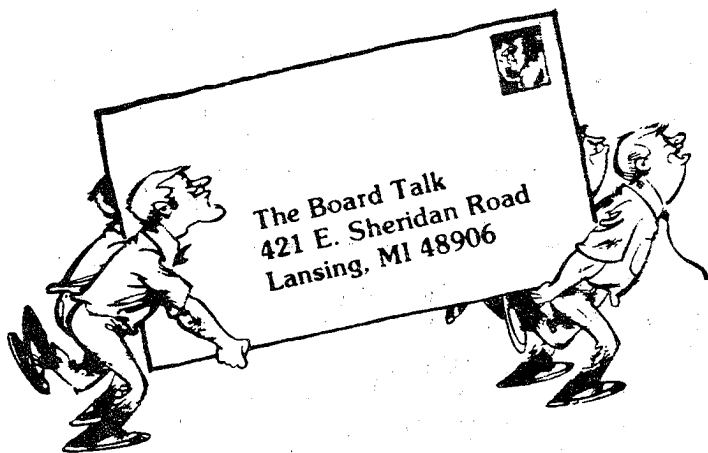
Read the "Paradise to Hell" article in this issue and then use the enclosed registration form to reserve your spot.

Hot-N-Tot Tavern, Portland, Oregon, July 20-22

The second annual Hot-N-Tot doubles and singles tournament will be held July 20-22. Entry fee for the double elimination tourney is \$25 per team for the doubles, \$100 for the singles. The singles will start Friday at 8 p.m. with the doubles beginning at noon on Saturday. Calcutta on Friday, July 20. First place pays 60%, second 30% and third 10%.

The Hot-N-Tot, located at 736 N. Lombard in Portland, has four boards. For further information, contact owners Betty and Lew Wolf, 503-289-4711.

(continued on back page)



Letters to the Editor

Fox Fire, 348 N. Nellis Blvd.
 Brass Monkey, 840 N. Decatur Blvd.
 Gin Mill, 2570 E. Tropicana Ave.
 Chubby's Pub, 4702 E. Flamingo Road
 Cal's Jackpot, 3012 Griswald Ave.
 Cooler Lounge, 1905 N. Decatur Blvd.
 Wounded Thumb, 6250 Mountain Vista
 The Escape Lounge, 4821 Spring Mountain Road
 Duffy's, Gera's and the Delux provide the most action.
 We have a whole bunch of young players coming up and they really show promise.

Obviously, shuffleboard is here to stay in Las Vegas!

Balboa Ron
 Las Vegas, Nev.

Editor's Note: Thanks for the update, Ron. We're sure your listing will be used. Any shuffleboarders planning a visit to Las Vegas can reach Ron at 702-459-2846.

Send your shuffleboard news and views to The Board Talk, 421 E. Sheridan Road, Lansing, Mich. 48906. The deadline is the 20th of each month.

Sponsors Wanted

We are extending the deadline for sponsors of activities/prizes at the 1st annual *Board Talk* national tournament, scheduled for Howell, Mich., July 4-7, to June 15. In exchange for sponsorship, businesses will receive national recognition through advertising space in the July issue of *The Board Talk* and the printed tournament program.

Sponsors to date include: Al Stewart's A & M Amusement Service, El Monte, Calif; Triangle Bar, Anderson, Ind.; Elias Brothers Big Boy, Howell, Mich.; and Wendy's, Howell, Mich.

Our appreciation to these sponsors for their generosity. We hope many more will join them in making our national tournament an enjoyable, exciting event.

Another Vote for Shuffleboard Directory

I was enthused to see in your last newsletter that you're considering publishing a national shuffleboard directory.

Along with listing locations of boards around the country, I think it also would be important to include some brief comments about the level of use and competition, bar atmosphere, etc. Unfortunately, we all know that some board's sole use is a place for the pool players to set their drinks!

I personally will be happy to contribute to such a directory for the Southern California area.

Good luck!

John McGinnis
 Santa Ana, Calif.

Editor's Note: The idea for a shuffleboard directory seems to have broad appeal. Our challenge now is to determine whether its publication and distribution should be financed by players, locations, a combination of both, or other sources. Let us hear your ideas.

Where the Action is in Las Vegas

Since my last report, the number of shuffleboards in Las Vegas has risen to approximately 36. New boards seem to spring up every day. Here's a listing of the best dozen places:

Duffy's Tavern, 4420 E. Charleston Blvd.
 Gera's Saloon, 4900 E. Tropicana Ave.
 Delux Tavern, 2820 E. Lake Mead Blvd.
 Tumbleweed Tavern, 2589 S. Nellis Blvd.

Best Place in the U.S. for Shuffleboard Action

Tolo Tavern, 7878 Blackwell Road, Central Point, Ore.
Nominated by Evie Wechter, Eugene, Oregon

Where the hell is Tolo Tavern?

That's what it says on the shirts of shuffleboard enthusiasts at Tolo Tavern and they'll gladly answer that question.

It sits in the midst of the beautiful Rogue River Valley with the Cascade Mountains on the East, the coast range on the West, and the Siskiyou Mountains on the South. The winter temperatures dip only slightly below freezing and the summer averages slightly below 90 degrees.

In this little country tavern 3½ miles from downtown Central Point, you will find the most active group of shuffle-

board players in Oregon.

Every Memorial Day week-end, Tolo owner Patti hosts a tournament with three fast boards and lots of work by a husband and wife team, Dennis and Doreen Detering. Twelve teams of six people per team compete for trophies and cash awards. We all park around the tavern and enjoy the wildflower covered fields and go fishing while we wait for our next game. We all just enjoy this well-organized tournament and the great group of shuffleboarders.

Tolo also hosts a singles each year. This year's tourney was won by Lee Gifford with Larry Balyer in second place. Art Elliff finished third and Butch Robinson came in fourth.

Registration Form

1st Annual Board Talk National Shuffleboard Tournament July 4-7, 1985 — Log Cabin Bar, Howell, Michigan

DATE	EVENT	COST	# PERSONS
July 4	Shuffleboard Family	\$3.00 per person	_____
	Reunion Picnic		
	Draw Your Partner	\$10 per person	_____
	Doubles	\$20 per team	_____
July 5	Rise & Shine Breakfast	\$2 per person	_____
	Women's Doubles	\$20 per team	_____
	"Best in Nation"	\$2,000 per team	_____
July 6	Continental Breakfast	\$1 per person	_____
	Singles	\$20 per person	_____
	Recognition Dinner	\$5 per person	_____
July 7	4-Person Team	\$40 per team	_____
	"Safe Trip Home"	\$2 per person	_____
	Sandwich Board		

TOTAL COST \$ _____

Make checks payable to Board Talk National Tournament. Send along with this form to The Board Talk, 421 E. Sheridan, Lansing, Mich. 48906.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Board Talk's 1st National Tournament Offers Everything from Vacation Paradise to Hell (Mich.)

Quiz:

1. Are you an avid shuffleboarder?
2. Do you think special holidays should be shared with the family?
3. Would you like to make both of the above mentioned happy?
4. Do you like participating in "firsts"?
5. Do you like summer sports other than shuffleboard?
6. Would you like to take a chance on winning enough money to help pay for your vacation?

If you answered "yes" to four or more of the above questions, you really should consider coming to Michigan for the 1st Annual Board Talk National Tournament.

The tournament is scheduled for July 4-7 at the Log Cabin Bar in Howell, Mich., Livingston County. The major expressways of I-96, U.S. 23 and M-59 make all of Livingston County easily accessible to travelers. It's just minutes from Detroit and Lansing, two of the state's hottest shuffleboard spots.

The Log Cabin Bar is located between Howell and Brighton, Livingston County's most active communities. Nearby vacation spots include a 585-acre area with cottages, campsites, swimming, fishing, golf, boat rentals, playgrounds, tennis, nature trails and other attractions.

Whether you win or lose during *The Board Talk's* first national tournament, you can always tell the folks back home that you were in Hell. Hell, Mich., is located in — you guessed it — Livingston County. Nothing will capture atten-

tion like a T-shirt that proclaims, "I've been to Hell."

Because *The Board Talk* editors wanted to make this first annual national shuffleboard tournament a family vacation for you, we selected a family bar for the site of this event. The Log Cabin Bar is not what you'd call a shuffleboard "hot spot." In fact, owners Nick and Harry are new to the game and a bit overwhelmed that people would travel across the country to participate in a tournament at their place. What they have to offer is, first of all, hospitality; second, a special place for us — a room of "our own" with an outside patio for all our fun and games; and third, a location that offers you the opportunity to enjoy Michigan's water wonderland with easy access to the state's shuffleboard "capitals."

With all the opportunities for family fun, *The Board Talk* editors have also tried to develop a shuffleboard agenda with something for everyone: draw your partner, doubles, women's, singles, 4-person events, and what we think is a "first" — "Who's the Best in the Nation" 6-person event.

The "Who's the Best in the Nation" tourney will be an attempt to surface a true national championship team. The entry fee, \$2,000, will make winning worthwhile and there may be "home bars" that would be willing to make a sponsorship investment in gaining a national title.

The six persons on each team, plus subs, must reside within the geographic areas listed in the tentative agenda. A Rules Committee will verify and approve each team roster and will have the authority to disqualify any player who does not meet the area residence criteria.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

THURSDAY, JULY 4

Registration and Early Bird Hospitality Hour — Enjoy "eye-openers" for half price while you register for prizes and specials, practice the boards, greet old friends and meet new ones.

Shuffleboarders Family Reunion Picnic — Pig roast with all the trimmings, welcome, introductions, ground rules, questions and answers.

Draw Your Partner Tournament — \$10 per person entry fee, calcutta, pays 3 places, double elimination.

FRIDAY, JULY 5

"Rise and Shine" Breakfast Buffet Special — Boards open for practice or competition, horseshoe tournament.

Women's Doubles Tournament — \$20 per team entry fee, calcutta, pays three places, double elimination.

"Who's the Best in the Nation" 6-Person Team Event — \$2,000 entry fee, calcutta, round robin, point system, nine games per match. Roster of team members to be turned in and approved by Tournament Committee in advance, predetermined geographic areas for team make-up, first six teams paid eligible for participation, more than one team per region allowed. Geographic areas: *Northwest* — Alaska, Oregon, Washington, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, North & South Dakotas, Nebraska; *Southwest* — Califor-

nia, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Hawaii; *North Central* — Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio; *South Central* — Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama; *Southeast* — Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, North & South Carolinas, Georgia, Florida; *Northeast* — New York, Vermont, Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Delaware, New Jersey.

SATURDAY, JULY 6

Continental Breakfast Special — Boards open for practice or competition, horseshoe tournament.

Singles Tournament — \$20 per person entry fee, calcutta, pays three places.

"Who's the Best" Tourney continues.

Recognition Program Buffet Dinner — Recognition of reporters, sponsors, tourney winners (to date), nomination for 2nd annual *Board Talk* tourney site (a representative from potential site must be present to make nomination).

SUNDAY, JULY 7

4-Person Team Event — \$40 per team entry fee.

"Have a Safe Trip Home" Sandwich Board — Boards and horseshoe pits open for play.

Tourney Talk

(continued from page 1)

Local Team Wins Edgewood Event

The six-man team event held at the Edgewood Inn, Bellflower, Calif. on April 12-14 was won by the local team of Karl Spickelmier, Joe Muniz, Ted Zariphes, Ron Cash, Troy and Jack. The Los Angeles All Stars took second place and the Las Vegas team finished third.

The doubles event which followed the six man team play was won by Doug Buhl and Darrell Nelson.

C.J.'s, Kalamazoo, Mich., Hosts Tourney

The first annual C.J.'s Lounge doubles tournament, sponsored by Old Style Beer, was held April 20 in Kalamazoo, Mich. The tourney was a double elimination with trophies awarded to the first three finishers. The team of Junior Sinclair and Bill Maholic defeated Bobby Vickery and Gus Ignatoski in the finals.

Monarrez Takes Sweathog Singles Title at Black Cat

Georgian Monarrez, with a +4 handicap and superb playing, made a clean sweep of the Sweathog singles handicap tournament at the Black Cat Tavern in Portland, Ore., on April 26-28, taking first place over 32 of the Northwest's finest players. In second place was Galen Gaunce (-3), with Clara Kenney (0) of Tacoma, Wash., finishing third.

The doubles was won by Lee Vachter (+1) and Gary Mullen (-1). Sheila Murphy (+4) and Don Mitchell (-3) took second over Bob Myers (0) and Bob Moody (+5).

Note: Be sure to read Roy's editorial in *The Hammer* explaining the handicap system.

Thomison-Turpin take McCleer's Title

Bruce Thomison, DeWitt, and Jim Turpin, Lansing, teamed up to win the pro doubles tournament at McCleer's Saloon, Lansing, Mich., on May 11-12. Second place honors went to Betsy White and Dana Gray of Lansing.

Dublin House Tourney Attracts Name Players

The doubles tourney at the Dublin House in Detroit over the Memorial Day weekend attracted big name players from several states, but it was the local team of John McDermott (Michigan) and Bud Broka (Ohio) that took first place honors. In second place were Texan stars Billy Mays and Earl Kelly. Bill Melton of Oklahoma and Bill Valley of Pennsylvania took third place with John Tischler and Tom Teacher, Michigan, finishing fourth.

In a singles event following the doubles, Bill Melton battled it out with Billy Mays to take the pot back to Oklahoma.

Board Talk's Tourney Offers Everything

(continued from page 3)

PLACES TO STAY

Brighton Recreation Area — A 5,000 acre park located approximately 50 miles northwest of Detroit. Facilities include two large picnic areas and swimming beaches, concessions and boat rental, seven miles of marked hiking trails, riding stable. There are 10 lakes within the park with excellent fishing for pan fish, bass, pike and rainbow trout. For information on rates for campsites and reservation procedures, contact: Brighton Recreation Area, 6360 Chilson Road, Howell, Mich. 48843, phone 313-299-6566.

Burroughs Farms — 585 acres of fun — golf, swimming, hiking, fishing, playgrounds, boat rentals, tennis, etc. One, two and three bedroom cottages and duplex units available for renting. Features classy roadhouse for dining. For rental rates and reservation information, contact: Burroughs Farms, 5341 Brighton Road, Brighton, Mich. 48116, phone 313-227-1381.

Motels:

Burk's Woodland Lake Motel
8029 W. Grand River
Brighton, Mich. 48116
Phone: 313-229-7093

Grand View Motel
5474 E. Grand River
Howell, Mich. 48843
Phone: 517-546-2690

Smith's Motel Briggs Lake
11290 E. Grand River
Brighton, Mich. 48116
Phone: 313-227-7441

Lexington Motel
1040 S. Old U.S. 23
Brighton, Mich. 48116
Phone: 313-227-1271

Island Lake Resort Motel
6269 Academy Dr.
Brighton, Mich. 48116
Phone: 313-229-6723

Holiday Inn
125 Holiday Lane
Howell, Mich. 48843
Phone: 517-546-6800

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