

The Board Talk

News and Views
from the World
of Shuffleboard

Vol. 2 No. 3

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

March 1985

The Hammer

In a recent shuffleboard tournament, Feb. 16-18 at the Dublin House, Detroit, I was an official and allowed myself to become a target of the most controversial action of any in shuffleboard — calling a line judgement on a puck. Is it a deuce or a three?

Consider this: (1) it's the final game of a best three out of five; (2) first place is at stake; (3) a difference of nearly \$2,000 in prizes is at stake between first and second places.

Here's the situation — it's early in the final game. I ruled in favor of the puck being a three which made the score 6-2. The game ended with a five point difference, but what if it had ended with a one point difference? What if the team I ruled against complained that they were forced to depart from their game plan because of the call which may have upset their strategy? Worse yet, what if it had happened with the score, 14-12, with the puck belonging to the 12?

The biggest thing in my favor in making the call was that I didn't know who was red and who was blue so I couldn't be accused of showing favoritism.

The reason I'm writing this is that after making my call, I was talking to Bobby Voorhis, whose judgement I value highly. He said he thought it was a deuce.

I go by the theory — you have to see all of the line, but who is to say even the same person can look over the top of a puck a second or third time and have their eye-to-table location exactly the same. Short of inventing a mechanical device to take all the human elements out of it, such as showing favoritism, not being able to see as well considering the environment, being tired from the long weekend, or whatever else enters into it. . . .

Here is my suggestion: use five or even seven of the most qualified persons there. Do not allow them to make an oral call, but have each write down their opinion and then compare. I don't like oral calls because they have a tendency to sway opinions.

If it sounds like a lot of bother, consider what's at stake for the players. I'm not afraid to make a call because in my own mind I know I will make the most unbiased, honest call possible. But it's just not fair to the participating players nor to a lone judge. What do you think?

George Wilber

Editorial Salutes

•The Board Talk editors salute Bill Melton, Oklahoma, for providing us the most new subscribers in one batch — 11! Bill is a super salesperson for *The Board Talk* and for the game of shuffleboard.

•Hats off to the players and the Dublin House (Detroit) who presented us with a telephone answering device during their recent tournament. Their gift will enable us to respond to the calls we receive during the day while we're at our fulltime jobs. We're very grateful and not a little overwhelmed by your generosity.

(continued on page 3)

Tourney Talk

St. Pat's Day Tourney, Springfield, Oregon



Celebrate St. Patrick's weekend at one of the nation's top shuffleboard locations — the Palm Steak House and Tavern in Springfield, Oregon. The Palm's owner, Joni Jones, will host a tournament on March 15, 16 and 17, giving you the opportunity to compete against the best players in the U.S.

Round robins will start at 7 p.m. on Friday with players deciding the amount of entry, from \$10 to \$50. On Saturday morning, double elimination, two person team event starts, with \$25 per person entry fee. The pot will be split three ways, 60%, 30% and 10%.

The Palm has three boards and the bar is open 24 hours a day. A "big feed" is scheduled for Sunday. Tournament directors will be Darroll Nelson and Glen Davidson.

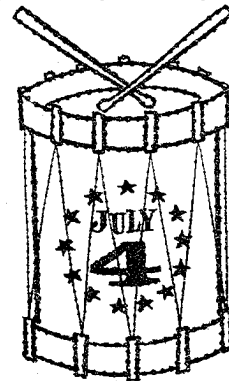
Located at 136 N. 4th St. in Springfield, the Palm is near the Angus Inn Motel, 503-342-2121, and the Village Inn Motel, 503-747-4546.

Make your reservations now for lots of fun and prizes! Call Darroll at 503-687-8476 or the Palm, 503-746-6267.

Shuffleboarders' 4th of July Family Holiday, Michigan

This will be the first national tournament sponsored by *The Board Talk*, so the editors are going all-out to make it a weekend to remember. Request your vacation time now for July 4-7 and come to the nation's water wonderland state for this "first." Plans are still tentative, but lots of shuffleboard action plus fun for all the family is guaranteed.

A search is underway for sponsors of activities and prizes that will make shuffleboarders glad they came to Michigan. Distributors and suppliers interested in getting national recognition for sponsorship should contact *The Board Talk*, 421 E. Sheridan Road, Lansing, Mich. 48906, phone 517-371-2538.



Central Indiana Action

On Jan. 5 at the Palace Bar, Fairmont, 21 teams competed for a pot of \$1,625. Winners were Bobby Voorhis and Jerry Warr, 1st; Steve Hart and Emmett Wilcox, 2nd; Tom and Bob Vorndran, 3rd; and Rom Hennis and Dave Boaz, 4th.

(continued on page 3)



Battle of the Sexes

We recently had a misadventure tagged as "Battle of the Sexes" at the Lakeside Lounge (Union Lake, Mich.). It involved a challenge match between the men's team from the Majestic Bar, Pontiac, and the women's team from Lakeside.

Extra tables were put in the back and with large posters hanging on practically every wall; anticipation among players and patrons was high.

I walked the Majestic team with their entourage. Drinks were served and lineups filled out. That's when the trouble began. The men assumed they would be playing under league rules which award an extra point for totals after each three game series. The women wanted to play the best five out of nine. As "Sure-ly" Collins from the women's team put it, "I don't want to lose the match on a point that no one played." Sounds reasonable to me.

The men didn't have any specific complaints about the new format other than they smelled a "hoodwink." Because there aren't any rules "etched in stone" governing these situations, negotiations broke down and the match was called off.

I realize that the "sexes" have been at odds about one thing or another since before the Stone Age, but this seemed utterly ridiculous to me. Naturally, this should have been worked out before the match began, but I thought the current crop of shuffleboard players were more liberal and contemporary than to let a small dispute like this spoil the evening for everyone.

Best Place in the U.S. for Shuffleboard Action

Dear Readers: In the May issue of *The Board Talk*, Canadian shuffleboarder Michael Jacoby, contemplating a trip across the border, asked the question, "Where would be the best location in the U.S. for shuffleboard action?" We offered readers the opportunity to nominate their favorite locations so he could make the "right" decisions. Since that time, we've had nominations in almost every issue.

We hope this will be an ongoing column, even after Mike makes his trip to the U.S. It gives shuffleboard establishments some very effective free advertising and gives readers information they want.

If you have a "Best Place" nomination, send information to *The Board Talk*, 421 E. Sheridan Road, Lansing, Mich. 48906.

Letters to the Editor

I don't know who was right or wrong, but it's apparent we haven't moved as far away from the base of the tree as I thought.

Jeff Dugau
Michigan

We whine a lot about shuffleboard not receiving the same recognition as other sports. In our opinion, the sport will not receive that recognition until its players grow up and start acting like professionals. You have highlighted one instance that proves we're not ready for the "big leagues" yet; there are many more examples. Whether we ever will be ready depends upon the players. There are times when being on national television would embarrass us all.

Rule Clarification Wanted

Watch out, Big Boys! North St. Louis, Missouri, is moving up. We don't have the class of Billy Chiles or Bob Miles here yet, but we will have someday. Just as I helped get the names above started in shuffleboard back in the 50s and early 60s, I'm helping to get some potential big names going now.

Those guys may or may not remember all the help I gave them back then. I was one of the guys you fellows always beat. I was one of the guys they practiced on so they could get good enough to beat someone with a big name in shuffleboard back in those days.

If North St. Louis doesn't produce some players of this magnitude, it won't be the fault of the taverns. It seems that about every bar has a shuffleboard now. A year ago, you could hardly find one here.

Now, *Board Talk* readers, I would like a clarification on a rule and, at the same time, plug some of my favorite places to play shuffleboard. Meyers Tavern and Marjo's Lounge both play the long foul line. Elwood's Majic Lounge and Tharps Tavern play the foul line nearest the shooter. Please spell this rule out in laymen's terms.

Woodie Cockrum, Missouri

Readers: Do you have an answer for Woodie? If so, send it to *The Board Talk*, 421 E. Sheridan Road, Lansing, Mich. 48906, and we'll print it in the next issue.

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Nominated by R. D. "Johnnie" Johnston

Pinocchio's is a very nice, enjoyable, medium-sized tavern in the heart of central Oregon.

The owners are a pair of sisters you will like as soon as you meet them. They went to a lot of trouble to get a board so we would be able to enjoy our favorite pastime. Thursday evenings seem to bring out the players in force!

Just in the past couple weeks, we have had the pleasure of your Oregon reporter Jolene Lembke and her husband, Roy, giving the locals some pretty good competition and some incentive to play a much different game.

Whatever you do, step in when you are in this part of the country. We would really like to give you a "go."

Tourney Talk

(continued from page 1)

On Jan. 12 at the Hide-A-Way, Anderson, 23 teams vied for prize money of \$1,480. Winners were Bobby Voorhis and Jerry Warr, 1st; Steve Hart and Emmett Wilcox, 2nd; Randy Rice and Dave Boaz, 3rd; and Dale Smith and Pete Peters, 4th.

The Sportsman's Lounge, Muncie, attracted 23 teams with a pot of \$1,460 on Jan. 19. Rom Hennis and Randy Valentine took first; John Spillman and Connie Langolf, 2nd; Bobby Voorhis and Jerry Warr, 3rd; and Bobby Brown Jr. and Mel Sanders finished 4th.

Fourteen teams participated in the tourney at Wertz's Place, Anderson, on Jan. 25, with prize money of \$1,075. Winners were Tom and Bob Vorndran. Ron Wilborn and Bobby Voorhis were 2nd; Norm Morrison and Dave Boaz, 3rd; and Steve Hart and Emmett Wilcox came in 4th.

Twenty-two teams vied for a pot of \$1,360 on Feb. 2 at the American Bar in Portland. First place went to Jim DeWitt and Red; 2nd, George Schounce and Dave Welch; 3rd, Bobby Brown Jr. and Mel Sanders' and 4th, Bob Voorhis and Chuck Caster.

The March schedule includes: March 2, Palace Bar, Fairmont; March 9, Hide-A-Way, Anderson; March 16, Sportsman's Lounge, Muncie; March 23, Wertz's Place, Anderson' and March 30, American Bar, Portland.

All are Saturday calcuttas with the auctions starting at noon. Anyone is welcome, says Steve Hart, Indiana reporter.

Missouri Action

Jim Hammond and Harold Merkle won a recent doubles tournament sponsored by Meyers Tavern, 12470 Old Halls Ferry Road, St. Louis, Mo. Gene Best and Ben Lafkowitz finished second.

Starting at noon on March 2, Tharps Tavern, 8745 Jennings Sta. Road, North St. Louis, Mo., will host a round robin tournament every Saturday.

Michigan Action

The best two out of three double elimination tournament at the Dublin House, Detroit, on Feb. 16-18 was won by

Phil McGrew, Oregon, Ohio, and Louie Herfi, Detroit. That winning combo beat out second place winners John McDermott of Detroit and Dave Ingram. Third place went to Bobby Voorhis and Ron Welborn, Fairmont, Ind., and fourth place to Wayne Reist and Bobby Lopez, Lansing, Mich.

A recent horse collar tournament held at the White Lake Inn, Union Lake, was won by Gary Giegler, White Lake Inn, with Jeff Dugau of the Lakeside Lounge in second place.

The Lakeside, Union Lake, will host a mixed doubles, double elimination tournament on March 30-31. Entry fee is \$10 per team. Two boards. For more information, call 313-698-4104.

Oklahoma Washington's Birthday Tourney

In the draw-your-partner tournament at the Spurs Club in Oklahoma City, first place finishers were Sam Summers of Oklahoma City and Billy Mays, Kemp, Texas. Second place honors went to A. Z. Turnbo, Morgan Hill, Calif., and Darrell Nelson, Eugene, Ore. In third place were Dave Williams, Ft. Worth, Texas, and Gil Carter, Omaha, Neb.

In the team doubles event, the winners were Sam Summers and Ed Graves of Oklahoma City; 2nd, Joe Laven, Marysville, Calif., and Earl Kelly, Dallas, Texas; 3rd, Glen Davidson, Oklahoma City, and Billy Mays, Kemp, Texas; 4th, Hal Perry, Rolinda, Calif., and Karl Speckelmier, Malibu, Calif.

The total purse was \$16,500.

Ohio Doubles April 13

The Hostess Nite Club, Toledo, Ohio, will host a double elimination doubles tournament on April 13. The \$25 entry fee may be sent to The Board Talk, 421 E. Sheridan Road, Lansing, Mich. 48906. Limit of 24 teams. The Hostess has two boards. For more information, call Jim or Lynn at 419-698-9251.

Indiana Doubles

On Feb. 9, a doubles tournament drew 22 teams at Town Tavern, Summitville, with first place going to Dave Boaz and Dick Riley; 2nd, Gerald Sheperson and Rick Siberson; 3rd, George Schounce and Ron Riggs; 4th, John Hume and John Spillman.

Editorial Salutes

(continued from page 1)

•A tip of the editorial hat to Bill Melton and Glen Davidson of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and John McDermott of Detroit, who served as tournament directors (see Tourney Talk) this past month. Being a tournament director is not just a weekend job. Lots of preparation and promotion are required prior to any tournament.

Their respective tournaments were unique, because unknown to each other, they were both set up for the same weekend, both were best two of three double elimination and both ran a day longer than scheduled. But don't blame the tournament directors for that! Again, the reasons paralleled. Play was very slow and deliberate and because of the keen competition, 90% of the matches went the full three games.

•Hats off to Lansing, Michigan's, Rudy Stober of Stober's Cocktail Lounge, long-time player, sponsor and promoter of shuffleboard. On Feb. 9, he was inducted into the Michigan Softball Association's Hall of Fame for the many Lansing and state titles his teams have captured.

Jokes of the Month

•Besides *The Board Talk*, what's the best way to meet new shuffleboard players? Crowd ahead of them when they are next in line to play!

•Detroit's Jimmy the Cop, who now resides in Florida, made a trip to Las Vegas and stopped off to visit with Al Stewart in California, before showing up at the Feb. 16 Dublin House tourney in Detroit. He shared a strange experience he had on his trip. One morning he sent his shoes out to get shined. When the shoes were brought back, Jimmy complained, "How come one is black and the other is brown?" The shoe polisher said, "That is wierd. It's the second time it's happened this morning."

Classified Ads

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Wanted: Your News

We're getting inquiries: What's happening in those shuffleboard "hot spots" like California, Texas, Illinois, the Northeast and other states? We don't know because nobody is telling us. PLEASE share your news and views with Board Talk readers; they really want to know!

You may send your information either to your state reporter, if you have one, or directly to *The Board Talk*, 421 E. Sheridan Rd., Lansing, Mich. 48906. The deadline is the 20th of each month.

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