

The Board Talk

News and Views
from the World
of Shuffleboard

Vol. 2 No. 11

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

November 1985

The Hammer

We're on the threshold of beginning our third year of trying to be a "voice of shuffleboard" in the U.S.

Nearing that landmark prompts us to look at the progress we've made during the past two years, and to the future which, at this point, looks pretty bleak. A third year means it won't be just us looking at the red ink; the IRS, in its infinite wisdom, has some rules about operating a venture at a loss for more than two years.

We started *The Board Talk* two years ago with visions of a 12-page (or more) publication with lots of ads so every shuffleboarder could afford a minimal subscription fee. It would generate enough income, we dreamed, so we could cover every major tournament and chase down every viable news lead for features on the special people who make up the World of Shuffleboard.

So far, we're a long way from that goal. Approaches to advertisers have fallen on disinterested ears. Faithful subscribers share their paid-for *Board Talks* with those who don't feel the need to subscribe as long as they can read someone else's. Cost-cutting measures — going to a lower class mailing permit, limiting travel and depending instead on volunteer reports, limiting the number of pages — have not been enough to put us in the black.

Frankly, we would have given up months ago had it not been for those faithful few who, along with us, believe in the concept of a national communications network for shuffleboarders: our two lone regular advertisers (they're in this issue), the new subscribers and those who have renewed their subscription for another year, our typesetter/graphics designer who has gone unrewarded for the past several months. They're the ones who have kept us going and hoping for better days ahead.

It's not easy to share these concerns, but the time has come to set pride aside. We need help. How can you help? First, if your subscription has run out, renew it. Second, you can use the coupon inside to order a Christmas gift subscription for another shuffleboarder. Third, you can encourage your favorite shuffleboard establishment to become an advertiser (there's a special Christmas/New Year's ad offer inside). Fourth, you can convince your tournament host bars to buy ads to complement the free editorial space they get. Fifth, you can stop sharing your *Board Talk* with those who are getting a "free ride" on your paid subscription. Instead, tell them what they're missing and give them the subscription coupon from your newsletter.

Finally, if you know of someone who can do this better than we can, who is willing and able to take a gamble, tell them *The Board Talk* is for sale.

We assure you, we won't abandon our subscribers. One of the above options will assure that.

George & Donna Wilber
Publishers

Tourney Talk

Thanksgiving Weekend Doubles at Stagger Inn, Bellflower, Calif.

There's still time to enter the big Thanksgiving Weekend Doubles Tournament at the Stagger Inn, 9108 Alondra Blvd., Bellflower, Calif., Nov. 29-30, Dec. 1. Al Stewart, A & M Amusement Services, is co-sponsoring the tourney.

Entry fee is \$250 per team. There will also be a singles tourney if time permits, with an entry fee of \$150. Double elimination, four boards, 100% payback — 60%, 30% and 10%. Auction will start at noon on Friday.

Two new motels are within a block of The Stagger Inn with rooms available from \$26 to \$28 per night.

For tournament and lodging information, call Ray Hogan today: 213-866-9311 or 213-866-0900.

Mixed Doubles, Wagon Wheel, Nov. 30-Dec. 1

The Wagon Wheel in Lake Orion will host a mixed doubles tournament on Saturday, Nov. 30 and Sunday, Dec. 1. \$25 per team entry fee. Double elimination, two-game knockout. Calcutta starts at 1 p.m. on Saturday. Pays 50% — 25% — 15% — 10%. For information, call 313-693-6789.

Canadian Championships Decided at Manitoba

The Manitoba Shuffleboard Association hosted the Canadian Shuffleboard Championships on Oct. 9-12 (see article). Winners of the mixed doubles were Terry Burns and Darlene Docile of Vancouver. Mike Harley of New Brunswick won the men's singles and Faye Serofin of Manitoba won the ladies' singles. Karen Kammerer and Sherri Clark of Saskatchewan were winners in the ladies' doubles. Mike Jacoby and Harvey Groleau of Manitoba won the men's doubles. Grand Aggregate winners were Manitoba.

3rd World Championship Tourney Hosted by Corporate Image

The 3rd Annual World Championship Shuffleboard Tournament was held at the Corporate Image, 5418 Bretwood Stair Road, Ft. Worth, Texas, Oct. 11-14.

In the draw partners event, David Williams of Ft. Worth (continued on page 3)

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the next issue — renew
your subscription today!**



The Green House: Where the Action Is!

Thanks for the great job of covering our sport!

The Green House Lounge, 1102 Scurry, Big Springs, Texas, is where the action is out here in West Texas. We recently had our annual city tourney. First place went to Bob Shaffer and Larry Conway. Second place was won by me and J. T. Tonn (defending champs for the past two years).

Bill Moore
Big Spring, Texas
USSA Life Member #9

Only Calcutta League in the World?

Our league has started its fifth year with three different winners in the last four final tournaments. To be eligible for the final tourneys, you have to play once at each spot and play at least 12 tournaments of the 24. There is a consolation tournament excluding anyone who finished first or second.

Starting time is 12 noon with an entry fee of \$20 per team; \$5 of that goes in a fund for the final and consolation tournaments. Last year's final had \$6,555 in it. We pay 50-25-12½-12½ on the entry. This year we started paying 40-20-10-10-5-5-5-5 on the calcutta. We hope this will keep the younger, less experienced shooters coming back.

Our first tournament drew 22 teams with a \$2,000 calcutta. We think we could have the only organized calcutta league in the world.

For anyone wanting more information, write or call me.

Bobby Voorhis
224 E. First, Fairmont, Indiana 46928
Phone 317-948-4931

Richard Kennedy Leaves Great Winning Heritage

Normally a local league championship would not be considered newsworthy for a national publication. But this one was a little different.

I recently reported on the death of Richard Kennedy (July Hammer). The team he left behind in midseason was in no danger of being called a powerhouse. Without him, the young and inexperienced team was left without its captain and morale was at its lowest point. They could have disbanded, but they didn't.

Bill Thomas pulled the team together. I played for them once but they continued on their own. They played and developed the younger players. They ended the season in second place in their division which earned them a spot in the playoffs.

Letters to the Editor

They faced the prospect of having to beat four division champions to win the league championship. A runner-up team is seldom a factor. They are just in there to fill out the format they use to determine the winner.

So much for that theory! This runner-up team mowed them down one by one. In the finals again, Larry's Place was a decided underdog. They had had all the glory they were going to get beating those other teams. Now they had to play the MisQue and Larry's had lost to them in their own division. No way could they do it again. They did, on guts alone, and Richard would be beaming!

The team members were Bill Thomas, Bill Weaver, Don Miller, Tim Schwenck, Richard Hubenthal, Richard Kennedy and transplanted Detroiter Mark Rutkowski.

Larry Tafoya
Phoenix, Arizona

From the Travelin' Man

Just a "hello" from this beautiful resort town of Opatija, Jugoslavia. The weather has been just perfect, with people swimming in both the indoor and outdoor pools. Friday, I took a side trip by bus to Venice, Italy. The bus left the hotel at 7:30 a.m. and we returned at 10 p.m. It was a full day. We'll be leaving later today by boat to Dubrovnik, south of here, for another week and then fly to Athens, Greece, for nine nights before returning to Belgrade for a night and then the flight back to New York's Kennedy Airport.

The drive out from Detroit was very interesting. I left a few days early to see a few of the East Coast fellows who were at Howell, Mich., for the 4th of July tourney. I stopped the first night at Dover, Del., and called Don Casula. He contacted John Lucas. We met one evening at Stone's Tavern in Harrington, just south of Dover, and had some good round robin games all evening. Met the owner, Gene, and several other good players there.

The next evening was in Philadelphia where I met Jim and Rita Yank at the J & C Tavern on the west side of town. We had several good games there and a nice evening, but sort of a slow board.

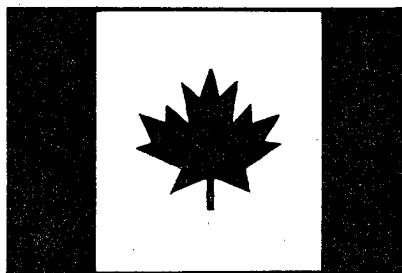
I went through Cateret, N.J., and called "Big Joe" Tomchik and had a nice visit with him. As I was on the road to Brooklyn, he gave me good directions to Ryan's Tavern. Joe said he hadn't played any shuffleboard since the Howell tournament as there is not much play in Cateret. Ryan's Tavern is his closest place to go for action.

I made it up to Ryan's in Brooklyn and found it easy, thanks to Joe's good directions. Al and John Ryan were at the bar and I had a nice visit with them and some of the players there. We had some good round robin games. I think Cass Grubbs would be good on Ryan's board.

All of these East Coast players told me again how much they enjoyed the tournament at Howell and all agreed they would like to attend the next one *The Board Talk* puts on, regardless of where it will be.

Jim (the Cop) Kumpula
New Port Richey, Florida

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Viewpoints on the game of shuffleboard are welcomed and encouraged. Send us your views by the 20th of the month.)



Colorful Report from Canadian Championships

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article is a report on the Canadian Championships held at the Marlborough Inn, Winnipeg Manitoba in October. See Tourney Talk for a list of the winners.)

**By Harold Schmidt, President
Manitoba Shuffleboard Association**

Most players arrived Monday, Oct. 7, and the local players took them around to various bars to play shuffleboard from morning 'til night. Most of them stayed and played at the Winnipeg Hotel, the shuffleboard hotel of Canada. Tuesday morning we all went to the Winnipeg Hotel and played furious games of shuffleboard for many hours. Wednesday we had our annual meeting and voted for new executives and decided on 1986 and 1987 locations for the Canadian Championships.

In 1986, the Canadian Thanksgiving weekend will be held in Milton, Ontario, only an hour's drive from Niagara Falls. In 1987, the Canadian Thanksgiving weekend will be held in Vancouver, B.C.

After the meeting, we moved all seven boards owned by the Manitoba Shuffleboard Association and made sure that not one player knew what the boards were like. We made it a very neutral tournament.

After this, we had hospitality night with enormous amounts of Labatts Blue, one of our sponsors, spirits and tons of hors d'oeuvres. Music kept everyone entertained for the night. There were many parties in the hotel rooms after they closed the bar.

On Thursday morning, the mixed events were underway. By the end of the day, television cameras had already shown one of the games on TV and did interviews with some of the players. Two local newspapers did interviews and were doing articles for the weekend. Mixed doubles winners were determined that night by the double round robin style of tournament used in all events in the Canadians.

Friday morning, the men's and ladies' singles were underway and the bar was also open early to keep the players happy. By the end of the day, we had also determined both winners and another local newspaper was doing interviews.

Saturday morning, the men's and ladies' doubles were underway and we were on national sports that night.

Our awards banquet was a great success. We had a participant plaque for each player in the tourney. The meal was great and the M.C., Boyd Kozak from a local radio station, was the hit of the banquet. He entertained the group and told hilarious jokes. Everybody from across Canada congratulated us on a great and successful Canadians. The parties after the banquet carried on 'til the early morning.

Note: If you are willing to send a team up here to play us, we are willing to come to the states to play your team. Please write or call of times, dates and place. We are available anytime prior to Christmas. Contact: Manitoba Shuffleboard Association, 490 King Edward St., Winnipeg, Manitoba R3J 1L6; phone 942-2491 and ask for 4226 and leave number.

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Tourney Talk (continued)

and Ed Graves of Oklahoma City took first place. In second place were Ron Huddleston, Oklahoma City, and Bill Wooldridge, Ft. Worth. Finishing third were Bill Melton and Glen Davidson, both of Oklahoma.

Karl Spickelmier of California and Glen Davidson of Oklahoma took first place in the bring-your-partner event. Sam Summers and Eddie Graves of Oklahoma took second place and Ed White, Dallas, and Bill Wooldridge, Ft. Worth, finished third.

Bill Melton, Davis, Okla., took first place honors in the singles. Glen Davidson, Oklahoma City, came in second, with Bob White of Dallas in third place.

Kidd/Cameron Win Sport's Arena Tourney

The winners of the \$50 draw partners tourney held at the Sport's Arena Bar to celebrate Big Don's birthday on Oct. 5 were Harvey Kidd and Kelly Camaron. Jim Mehen and Bill Lentz took second, with Howard Mouton and Paul Smith finishing third.

Don and Velma Covington are the new owners of the Sport's Arena, 11528 Jones Road, Houston, Texas. It's the place to come for good shuffleboard action. Call 713-469-0345.

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