

The Board Talk

News and Views
from the World
of Shuffleboard

Vol. 2 No. 10

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

October 1985

The Hammer

Maybe it's because I'm a reporter; maybe it's because the only sport I was ever really involved in was organized, or maybe it's simply because I'm naturally curious. Whatever the reason, I ask a lot of questions about shuffleboard and its status in the world of sports. I'm not satisfied with some of the answers I've gotten regarding why it isn't organized so it can gain the recognition everyone seems to be crying for.

My first innocent question about how shuffleboard was organized came in January 1984 when we went to Las Vegas for the "world championships." What did these players do to earn the right to compete in this tournament? There must have been some preliminary playoffs along the way at the local, state and regional levels. Not so, I found. It was more a matter of who could afford the trip to this event.

I asked a similar question about the state of Michigan tournament. Again, what did the players do to earn the right to participate? Who decided where it would be played? What was to stop some other bar from staging another state of Michigan tournament and if they did, who would be the "legal" state champion? No real answer, it seems, because shuffleboard is so "loose," and because it is so loose, titles are relatively meaningless.

It strikes a lot closer to home than a championship title, because if there is no credibility in the sport itself, how can there be credibility in *The Board Talk*? How can I, in good conscience, say that this publication is "the voice of shuffleboard" when there's no organization to be a voice for?

If I, objective yet closely related to the sport, ask these questions with no satisfactory answers, how can we expect recognition by sports writers or the sponsors we so badly need to be a viable sport?

While we wave the red, white and blue, and rightfully so in most cases, we have to admit that our neighbors in Canada are ahead of us in terms of organizing shuffleboard. They've got a Canadian Shuffleboard Congress, with official rules and regulations governing the sport, and when they hold their championship tournaments, Oct. 9-12, it will be those who have earned the right to be there who will participate.

Even though you can't participate (that's spelled out, too), I strongly urge you to attend the Canadian Shuffleboard Tournaments in Winnipeg, Manitoba, just to gain an appreciation of what an organized sport is all about and to see Canada's best in action. If you can't do that, at least write to Harold Schmidt (see Letters) for a copy of the Canadian Shuffleboard Congress booklet. The Congress was registered as a non-profit society with the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs of the Canadian government in 1981.

"This step gave our members from across the country the knowledge that shuffleboard is here to stay," their preamble states.

If we truly want shuffleboard in the U.S. as a sport that is "here to stay," we should take a lesson from our neighbors across the border.

Donna Wilber, Editor

Tourney Talk

Big Don's Birthday Tournament, Oct. 5, Houston

The Sport's Arena, 11528 W. Jones Road, Houston, Texas, will celebrate Big Don's birthday with a \$50 draw partners tournament on Oct. 5. Thirty player limit. On Friday, Oct. 4, there will be a \$10 draw. Winners will be entered in the \$50 draw on Saturday. Friday night action starts at 8 p.m. with single loss. The \$50 draw will start at 4 p.m. on Saturday, two game loss. Good food an added bonus. For information, call 713-469-0345.

Canadian Shuffleboard Championships, Manitoba, Oct. 9-12

The Manitoba Shuffleboard Association will host the Canadian Shuffleboard Championships on Oct. 9-12. Participants from all across Canada, from New Brunswick to Victoria, B.C., will be flying into Winnipeg for this event. U.S. gallery welcome. For information, contact Harold Schmidt, 837-7554, or Diana Groleau, 669-0305.

3rd Annual World Championship, Fort Worth, Oct. 11-14

Shuffleboard greets Bill Melton, Dave Williams and Royce Hines present the 3rd annual world championship shuffleboard tournament at the Corporate Image, 5418 Brentwood Stair Road, Fort Worth, Texas, on Oct. 11-14. Limited to the first 32 entries; deadline Friday, Oct. 11, 7:30 p.m. Events include a \$50 draw partner single game double elimination, \$300 per team bring your partner 2 out of 3 double elimination, and \$150 singles, 2 out of 3 double elimination.

Round robins and match play all during the week prior to the tournament. Motels and airport nearby the tourney site.

For information, contact: Bill Melton, 405-369-2448; Dave Williams, 817-457-4486, or the Corporate Image, 817-451-0607.

Philadelphia Doubles, Oct. 12-14

Don't forget the doubles tourney at the Wissinoning Yacht Club, Delaware and Devereaux Roads, Philadelphia, Penn., on Oct. 12-14. Four boards. \$80 per team entry fee. Calcutta. Play starts Friday at 6 p.m. For information, call the Bridesburg Tavern, 215-537-0418 or 215-879-0840, or Jerry Herrmann, 215-831-8754.

Draw Partners, Tanny's, Houston, Oct. 19

Tanny's, 6505 Antoine, Houston, Texas, will sponsor a draw partners tournament on Saturday, Oct. 19. \$50 entry fee, double loss, calcutta. Play starts at 4 p.m. Players must sign up before 3:30 p.m. For more information, call 713-686-7786.

California, Here We Come! Nov. 29-30, Dec. 1

The Stagger Inn, 9108 Alondra Blvd., Bellflower, Calif., and Al Stewart, A & M Amusement Service, El Monte, Calif., will co-sponsor a Thanksgiving weekend doubles tournament, Nov. 29-Dec. 1. Entry fee \$250 per team, 100% payback, pays 60%, 30%, 10%. Double elimina-

(continued on page 3)



Letters to the Editor

in the Canadian Championships, Oct. 9-12, in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Every province across Canada has a similar tourney to play in this week-long gala. People who don't win in the province tourneys come to watch Canada's best and to play for some big bucks.

It was unfortunate that I couldn't make it to your July 4th tournament. It sounds like everyone really enjoyed themselves. Congratulations for a job well done.

The "hot spot" in Winnipeg is the Winnipeg Hotel. You can walk in any time of the day or night and play a friendly game and have millions of drinks with the very friendly people of Manitoba. If friendly games are not to your liking, ask the bartender or owner to get in touch with me on my pager and I will personally come down and show you the tricks of the trade. I will also take you to the various hotels and let you experience playing some of the fantastic players in Winnipeg, such as: Harvey (Who) Groleau, Mike Jacoby, Brian (The Legend) Simpson, Don (The Heater) Heaton, Roby (Hanger) Holgate, Pencil John Komadowski, Tricky Ricky Amos, Kirk Hanson, Gary (The Kid) Sommers, Bob (Tiny) Charles, Dan (Black Dan) Kachkan, and Harold (The Hammer) Schmidt.

These are just a few of the players around. There are at least 24 hotels with long and short boards just waiting to be played by some of the diehard players of your nation.

I hope you appreciate this letter. Keep up the good work on *The Board Talk*.

Harold Schmidt, President
Manitoba Shuffleboard Association
409 King Edward Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3J 1L6

We do, indeed, appreciate your letter, Harold, and we're sure some of our U.S. shuffleboarders will take you up on your invitation. Someday, we hope we can attend your Canadian Shuffleboard Championships (see The Hammer).

Meeting Jimmy — A Great Experience

Had a great experience last weekend. Finally got to meet Detroit's "Jimmy the Cop." Had him over to the house for a while and we also played several games of shuffleboard. He's a swell guy and we had a real good time. He should be back in Michigan by now. Say hello for me.

Balboa Ron
Las Vegas, NV

Jimmy is a goodwill ambassador for shuffleboard wherever he goes and now that he's retired, wherever is a lot of places! He's good for the game. We feel fortunate to have him as a friend.

Come to Canada!

I have been trying to write for quite a while now and finally sat down to let you and all the "hot shooters" in America know about our tournament. Our tournament is, unfortunately, open only to the members of our league to represent

**A red check here _____
means your subscription
has expired. Don't miss
the next issue — renew
your subscription today!**

Subscribe Today!

Enclosed is my check for \$10.00. Please send *The Board Talk* to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Mail with your check or money order for \$10, made payable to *The Board Talk*, to: *The Board Talk*, 421 E. Sheridan Road, Lansing, Mich. 48906.

A & M Amusement Service

Shuffleboards • Service • Supplies • Since 1959

- Frame Building
- Playing Field Refinishing
- Score Unit Repair
- All Parts Replacement
- Weights, Waxes
- Delivery Anywhere!

Look forward to seeing you in California at the Stagger Inn tourney, Nov. 29-Dec. 1 — Al Stewart

2354 Mountain View, El Monte, California
Business — 818-444-3790 Home — 818-442-5183

Sun Glo Corp.

Manufacturers of Shuffleboard Supplies since 1935

111 Heckel St., Belleville, N.J. 07109 • 201-759-4474

This Space For Sale

\$12 per month, \$100 per year

Call The Board Talk

517-371-2538

The Conclusion of Frisco Eddie's Revenge

By Balboa Ron, Las Vegas, Nevada

(Editor's Note: In our last issue, Frisco Eddie was just about to realize his dream of playing the "biggies." Big Al and Two-Hanger Fred were about to give him his big chance.)

Frisco Eddie had been waiting for some time to play the "high rollers" now that his game had improved appreciably. His "someday" wish had become a reality as he was about to begin a money game with "Big Al" from the East Coast.

As the board was being waxed, Eddie reflected on some of the things he must make himself aware of during this session. He had been taught well. (Watch for Al to "dry off" the corners with the outside heel of his hand when he shoots. If he does, start sprinkling some wax and wake them up for the cross-shot lags. No "palming" of the weights on the lags; the moisture on the bottom of the weight could slow it down by a foot or more. Any moisture, i.e., "spit" on the outside "hitting" surface of the weight will make it "run," especially if a small amount of wax was added to that surface. Don't let him get away with "nudging" or "bumping" the board when he shoots if I have a hanger up.)

There were a hundred other things flashing through Eddie's mind as the quarters went into the slot. The board was waxed and ready to go. "How much would you like to start for, Eddie?" asked Big Al. "We came a long way and me and Two-Hanger are splitting the action." "How about a hundred a game for now," Eddie replied. "O.K. call the toss," said Al. (Eddie recalled that out of thousands of coin-toss decisions, heads came up with a very slight edge.) "Heads," said Eddie. Heads it was. The game was on.

Big Al began by "testing" the right-cross lag shot which was his favorite. Eddie stuck on the deep deuce. "You are improving, kid. Hope you can keep it up all night because one of us will leave here broke," said Big Al. "Don't worry about the horse, man, just load the wagon," Eddie replied.

As the game progressed, Big Al and Two-Hanger Fred realized they were now involved with a formidable opponent. Eddie was "sticking," he was "lagging," his "short-weight" game was where it belonged, and he had a good "expanded-hand" shot, in addition to his normal "jersey" game.

As the clock ticked on through the night, Eddie progressed consistently toward the winner's circle. He was actually beating the "Big Man." Big Al had tried every trick he knew, to no avail. It was now nine in the morning. Frisco Eddie had them stuck for \$4,000.

"How much do you guys want to play for this game?" Eddie asked. "How about a thousand?" said Two-Hanger Fred. "How much of that is guts?" Eddie replied. (He knew they were close to being broke.) "What the hell do you mean by that?" said Two-Hanger. "O.K. then," said Eddie. "You won't mind putting the bet on the table so we can all see where we stand."

Big Al and Two-Hanger had a conference; they had \$200 between them. "We'll just play for \$200 then," said Big Al as he placed the money up. "O.K., let's get it on then," said Eddie. (He remembered how these men worked — "never give a sucker a break.") He would have to win and "clean them out" now, or God only knew what would happen next. The game was on and Eddie was shaky. He had never been in a marathon game before.

As the game progressed, the score was 11 to 14 in Big Al's favor, with two of Al's red weights blocking Eddie's right-hand lag. (Now or never, thought Eddie.) Big Al

made a snide remark and then coughed loudly just as Eddie was releasing his final left-hand lag. Even with this distraction, the weight felt good and was on track. Eddie held his breath as the weight settled into a very deep three left cross. However, it was still spinning from the jersey lag. When the spinning had finally stopped (it seemed like an eternity to Eddie), the weight had gently edged its way another half-inch forward — into a four!

Eddie had done it! He had "busted" them! Eddie had faithful watchers and after the excitement had died down, Eddie walked over to Big Al's table. He told them to hang onto the \$400 which had been put up for "traveling expenses." As they were leaving the bar, Big Al turned to Eddie and said, "You must know, Eddie, that we — or someone else like us — will be seeing you again real soon. You're into the game now, kid — and we won't let you go." "I'm sure of that," Eddie replied. "Take it easy."

The sky was beginning to cloud up as Frisco Eddie left the Blue Moon Lounge after his first "real" session. "Someday" was glorious, thought Eddie. Then, remembering Al's final words, he wondered, is a life full of "somedays" what I really want?

Tourney Talk

(continued from page 1)

tion, four boards. The Stagger Inn will add \$25 to the entry fee pot for each entry paid by Nov. 10. Auction starts at noon on Friday. If time permits, there will also be a singles tourney, \$150 entry fee.

The Stagger Inn has multiple attractions for players and spectators alike: pool tables, dart boards, big screen TV, pin ball and video games, good food and after hours on Friday and Saturday nights.

Two new motels are within a block of The Stagger Inn with rooms from \$26 to \$28 per night. Make it a special family weekend.

Make your reservations early and make the entry pot grow. Call Ray Hogan, 213-866-9311 or 213-866-0900.

Lansing Team Wins State of Michigan Doubles

J. R. Lopez and Lee McDonald of Lansing took top honors in the state of Michigan doubles at the Wagon Wheel, Lake Orion, on Sept. 21-22. Placing second were John McDermott and John Tischler of Detroit, with Cass Grubbs, Detroit, and Ziggy Zakawski, Bridgeport, in third. Jerry Hershman, Lake Orion, and O. B. Brimm, Utica, finished fourth. Eighteen teams participated in the event.

Mehens Take Sport's Arena Mixed Doubles

Jim and Misty Mehen took first place in the Sport's Arena's mixed doubles tournament on Sept. 14. Harvey and Lily Kidd came in second with Don Vaught and Linda Caustin taking third place honors. Fourteen teams participated in the tourney. The Sport's Arena is located at 11528 Jones Road, Houston, Texas.

Grubbs-Turner Win Mixed Doubles

Cass Grubbs, Detroit, and Trish Turner, Union Lake, won the mixed doubles tournament at the Lakeside Lounge, Union Lake, Mich., on Sept. 14-15. Dennis Wilson and Elly Peterson, Clarkston, took second place; Cassie Kern, Pontiac, and Jerry Siebert, Lansing, took third; J. R. Lopez of Lansing and Jamie Hoffman, Detroit, came in fourth.

☆ ☆ Please post in your favorite bar! ☆ ☆

Bill Melton, Dave Williams & Royce Hines present

**3rd Annual World Championship
Shuffleboard Tournament
Oct. 11, 12, 13 & 14**

CORPORATE IMAGE

5418 Bretwood Stair Road, Fort Worth, Texas

At least \$1,000 added prize money — other prizes & awards

\$50 DRAW PARTNERS — SINGLE GAME DOUBLE ELIMINATION

\$300 PER TEAM BRING YOUR PARTNER — 2 OUT OF 3 DOUBLE ELIMINATION

\$150 SINGLES — 2 OUT OF 3 DOUBLE ELIMINATION

**ENTRY DEADLINE: Friday, Oct. 11 at 7:30 p.m. — LIMITED FIRST 32
ROUND ROBINS & MATCH PLAY WEEK PRIOR**

RESTAURANT IN CLUB — MOTELS AND AIRPORT NEARBY

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:

Bill Melton — 405-369-2448

Dave Williams — 817-457-4468

Corporate Image — 817-451-0607

**THANKSGIVING WEEKEND
DOUBLES TOURNAMENT**

Nov. 29 & 30, Dec. 1

100% Payback — 60%, 30%, 10%

Double Elimination — Four Boards

Co-sponsored by Al Stewart, A & M Amusement Services

- **ENTRY FEE** — \$250 per team
- **BONUS** — Stagger Inn will add \$25 to the entry pot for each entry paid by Nov. 10
- **NOTE** — If time permits, singles matches — \$150 per team



STAGGER•INN

9108 ALONDRA BLVD.
BELLFLOWER, CA 90706
(213) 886-9311