



The Board Talk

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

Vol. 8, No. 7 July 1991

The Hammer

Back when we were working to get The Board Talk launched, one of our selling points was that we could serve as sort of a "clearing house" for tournament dates. If you knew that someone was planning a tournament for a particular weekend, you could set your date for another time so you wouldn't be competing for players.

We used to worry when we had more than one tournament listed for the same weekend on the National Shuffleboard Calendar, concerned that after a lot of planning and work, and especially after investing dollars in advertising, one would be a failure. It appears there's no longer a need to worry! We had five Memorial Day weekend tournaments listed on the calendar this year and from reports we've received, every one of them was a big success. It says something about the current good health of our sport when that many events (plus probably a lot of others that were not listed in the calendar) can attract good participation.

We have come a long way, baby, and we're going to keep growing!

We would like to have been at all five of those Memorial weekend tournaments. As it turned out, we were lucky to attend portions of the Michigan Open. When our printer had equipment failure, we had to hand-collate and fold all the pages and flyers for the June issue, in addition to the usual stuffing, stapling, addressing and bagging. Luckily, the Michigan Open was held in Lansing this year, so we could at least take an occasional break from our labors to participate in the tourney.

There was an added touch of class to this year's Michigan Open because of the presence of Bellflower Bruce Hale of California -- flowers for all the ladies! It was a new experience for most of the women there to be presented with flowers at a shuffleboard tournament and it was great watching their reaction: surprised ("for me?"), puzzled ("what did I do?"), thrilled ("beautiful!"). For those women who worked so diligently as officials throughout the tournament, Bruce's recognition came in the form of special bouquets. That just shows what kind of guy he is. Too many players take those well-prepped boards for granted and it was good to see these super-efficient women get the recognition they deserve.

At almost every tournament, you see some reasons why our sport is growing, and this one was no exception. There was that beautiful, gutsy Betty Parrish of Union Lake, setting her cane aside as she gave every shot her all. Betty has become a player to be reckoned with, but her accomplishments become secondary as she watches her husband Slick play. Tears of joy and pride ran down her cheeks as he made some spectacular shots. When she wasn't playing or cheering Slick, she was

(continued on page 3)

Tourney Talk

Bay Country Moose Makes Tourney Debut

The Moose Club in Queenstown, Maryland, just across the bay from Annapolis, decided to enter the major tournament scene and authorized three real go-getters to get them started. Father and son Bunky and Terry Gertz and avid player Rosalie Kaufman started talking up their first event on May 17-19 and a good job they did, reports Dick Gorman. Then they got Cliff Embert, Sudlersville, Md. to help out running the tournament's three events and be the auctioneer for the weekend. The combination worked great as they had a sell-out for their first event on the three in-house boards (they're looking for a fourth).

Friday night's sell-out draw partner went off without a hitch. "You would have thought they'd been doing it for years," said Dick. As the moon was going down over the Chesapeake Bay, Ann Dell of Perryville, Md. and John Lukas, Millington, Md. picked up the big pile of cash and first place. Second place went to Johnny Gardner, Templeville, Md. and Alvis Ramey, Perryville, with third spot going to Tom Bernhard, Milford, Del. and father Jack Gardner, Greensboro, Md.

At 11 a.m. Saturday after a little rest, breakfast for some and fishing for others, the teams lined up once again, this time for the bring partner event, vying for four money spots. First place went to Tom Bernhard (two days of practice helps) and recently out-of-retirement Marion Schulties, Felton, Del. Second place was won by Eddie Kibler, Henderson, Md. and Wayne Tribitt, Greensboro, and third to tournament organizer Bunky Gertz, Queenstown, and Scratch Todd, Denton, Md. Fourth and final money spot went to the other organizer, son Terry Gertz of Queenstown and John Lukas.

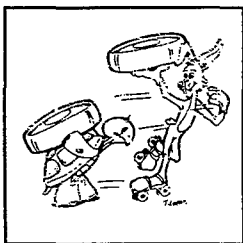
Sunday the event was the very popular mixed doubles and teams were ready to win, but Judy Iseman, Chestertown, Md. and Len Dell, Belcamp, Md. outlasted them all to take first place. Second place went to the new team of Wanda Farris, Dargen, Md. and Cliff Embert, Sudlersville, Md. with third money spot going to JoAnn Ware, owner of Ours & Your Place, Sudlersville, and Scratch Todd.

The announcement was made that Bay Country Moose is here to stay in the tournament scene with two more three-day tournaments scheduled this season. Both will have Friday night draws, Saturday bring partner, and Sunday mixed doubles events. The dates are June 28-30 and August 9-11. For great shuffleboard and a weekend of fun on the Chesapeake Bay, call Bunky or Terry Gertz, 301-827-9832 or 301-827-6755.

Anderson/Pond Win at Litz's

Litz's Tavern, Spokane, Washington, hosted Spokane's

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Shufflers' Notebook

News and Views
from The World
of Shuffleboard

A Look Back at Northern California Shuffleboard History

Here is a copy of an article that I prepared for the December 1981 issue of the *West Coast Hustler*, a shuffleboard and pool newsletter in Sacramento, California. It describes the organization of the Northern California Shuffleboard Association (NCSA) and the first state shuffleboard tournament in California in 1966. It was a memorable time for me and many others:

"Chuck Maddox recalls that, before 1965, clubs sponsored teams for shuffleboard competition. However, there were very few teams involved and no organization. It was hard to find enough clubs and players.

"Three club owners, Bob Bock, Chuck Maddox and Larry Butler, agreed that something should be done. They contacted the owners and players and in 1965, about 150 people attended a meeting at the Labor Temple on Stockton Blvd. Problems and proposals were presented. Officers and board members were elected and papers drawn up to form the Northern California Shuffleboard Association. The purpose of the association was to recruit and organize more clubs and teams, to represent the members, and to promote shuffleboard and business.

"Officers were: President, Chuck Maddox, Flynn's Corner; Vice President, Bob Bock, Our Place; 2nd Vice President, Larry Butler, The Cove; Secretary- Treasurer, Sheila Loveless, Our Place. Board members were Jim Loveless, Our Place; Tex Heard, Flynn's Corner; Buss Ridley, Clown Club; Russell Duskey, Eagle's Nest; and Bob, Spigot.

Officers and board members met once a week during the playing season and met with the members at the end of the season to give reports. Approximately 24 teams joined the association. Clubs involved were: Our Place, Flynn's Corner, Menlo, Stone House, El Tormento, Tony's Club Broadway, The Cove, Southgate Club, Florin Club, Wagon Wheel, Eagle's Nest, Rendezvous, Old Corner, Clown Club, Spigot, Hideout, El Rio, Green Olive, Jean's Club, Triangle, Drifter's Reef, Hide & Seek, Elverta Club, and Weeping Willow (Lincoln).

"In 1966, the association organized and Sacramento hosted the 1st State Shuffleboard Tournament. It was held in Governor's Hall at the old state fairgrounds. It was a three-day tourney. There were 10 shuffleboards. The boards, weights and wax were furnished by American Shuffleboard Sales Company of North California, Inc., from Oakland. Pabst Blue Ribbon sponsored the event and Robbie's Snacks provided sandwiches and snacks.

"The clubs sponsored queen contestants and sold tickets, in advance, for their queens and for a color TV raffle. Souvenir shuffleboard key chains were also sold to commemorate the event.

"Over 6,000 people participated in and came to see the games. There were about 50 teams from various cities, such as Sacramento, Stockton, Marysville, Chico, Visalia, and Los Angeles. There were women's and men's singles, doubles, and

mixed doubles and teams competing. Cash prizes and trophies were given in each class. Billy Mays won the men's singles.

"Off-duty police officers were also hired for security.

"This was the beginning of the association."

Chuck Maddox, Sacramento, California

Thanks for this piece of shuffleboard history, Chuck. It's sure to stir up some pleasant memories for a lot of people who are still shuffling today. Readers: Chuck is owner of Robby's, a shuffleboard establishment located at 7260 Stockton Blvd., Sacramento. Robby's will be listed in our next "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A." In the meantime, we encourage you to stop in and tell Chuck thanks for his years of support to our sport -- and tell him The Board Talk sent you.

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Ask the Pros

By Phil McGrew

Question: What do you feel barowners can and should do to help the sport of shuffleboard grow?



Bobby Voorhis

Bobby Voorhis: The single most important thing a barowner must do is provide good equipment and supplies. If they maintain the shuffleboard properly and promote the game, people will shoot the game. As far as increasing the number of players is concerned, barowners must take an active interest in helping the young players improve. Of course, practice is all important so the owners should promote affordable round robins or, like some, add money to the pot.

With good playing conditions and owners who care about the game, the sport should grow and prosper.

Attention Subscribers!

Please help spread the word that shufflers have their own communications pipeline – The Board Talk. It's the only national publication devoted exclusively to the sport of table shuffleboard!

Thank you!

George & Donna

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The Hammer (continued from page 1)

spreading words of encouragement or offering help to others. Betty Parrish, shuffleboard ambassador -- one good reason why we're growing.

George & Donna Wilber, Publishers

Tourney Talk (continued from page 1)

10th Annual Memorial Doubles Tournament on May 25-26. Nineteen teams vied for a share of the over \$3100 pot.

Mike Pond and Sherm Anderson fought their way out of the loser's bracket to take first place honors. Second place went to Keith (Fuzzy) St. John and Steve Kalamarski. Rick Gindt and Gary George took third, with Jim Foran and Garry Singer finishing fourth.

"Lots of thanks to all the players who made this tournament possible," said owner Gary.

Rosa White sends a word of advice to Canadian friend Terry Burns: "Our perfume machines do work here in the States. Keep your mouth away from the spray. See you all in November for the Canadian Open."

3rd Annual Shuffleboard Affair, Town Tavern, July 20-21

The Town Tavern in Sequim, Washington, will host its 3rd Annual Shuffleboard Affair on July 20-21, billed as the "biggest midsummer tournament in the Northwest." The open doubles, \$50 entry fee, is double elimination, 2 of 3 in the winner's bracket, and 17-point loser bracket games. The auction will start at 11 a.m. on July 20. Over 20 teams are expected to participate so get your spot saved early. Call the Town Tavern, 206-683-1013, or Buddy Lindh, 206-683-8886. A buffet will be served on Saturday afternoon for all participants.

Last year's winners of the Shuffleboard Affair were Darrol Nelson and Jim Allis with Sherm Anderson and Larry Sawyer taking second place honors. Other winners were: Les Burk and Jim Buhr, 3rd; Billy Powell and Gene Boe, 4th; Steve Wilson and Bruce Wechter, 5th; and Rod Taylor and Loren Lampley, 6th.

"Players from Oregon and Washington will be here and we expect players from both Victoria and Vancouver, Canada," says Buddy. "The boards are in their best shape yet." Buddy and Jim Manders will be the tourney directors.

See ad in this issue and plan to participate.

U.S. Open Qualifier at Corporate Image, July 26-28

The Corporate Image, 5418 Brentwood Stair Rd., Fort Worth, Texas, will hold a U.S. Open Qualifier on July 26-28. Action will start on Friday at 3 p.m. with a \$20 draw partner round robin (only tournament entries may play). A women's singles, \$20 entry with auction, will start at 2 p.m. on Saturday. An open semi-pro singles, \$20 entry with auction, starts at 7:30 p.m. All entry money from the women's singles and semi-pro singles pays the top qualifiers in each of these two events their entries into the U.S. Open, scheduled for Aug. 29 - Sept. 2 in Austin, Texas.

Post the enclosed flyer in your favorite establishment to help spread the word about this opportunity. The Corporate Image is a great place for shuffleboard action! Call 817-249-4333 for information.

(continued on page 4)

1991 National Shuffleboard Calendar

***July 3-7**

*Board Talk Reunion Tournament
Holiday Inn, Kulpville, Pennsylvania*

July 3-7

*Annual 4th of July Tournament
Ted Z's Best Little Wherehouse,
Temecula, California*

July 20-21

*3rd Annual Shuffleboard Affair
Town Tavern, Sequim, Washington*

July 26-28

*U.S. Open Qualifier
The Corporate Image, Fort Worth, Texas*

***Aug. 29 - Sept. 2**

*U.S. Open
Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel, Austin, Texas*

Aug. 30 - Sept. 2

*Annual Labor Day Tournament
Ace of Clubs, Marysville, California*

Sept. 20-22

*Benedict's Classic
Benedict's, Sherburne, New York*

***Oct. 30 - Nov. 3**

*North American Championships
Sands Regency Hotel, Reno, Nevada*

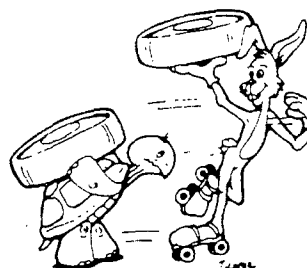
Nov. 3-4

*1st Annual Open
ANAF 68, Vancouver, B.C., Canada*

Jan. 29-Feb. 2, 1992

*PCSA Extravaganza IV
Showboat, Las Vegas, Nevada*

***Shuffleboard Federation Pro Tour**



**Put your
tournament on
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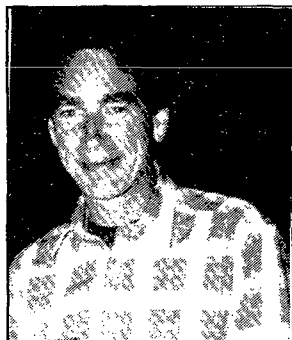
Tourney Talk (continued from page 3)

Nelson/Norris/DeAngelo Winners at Club Tavern

Thirty singles and 19 doubles teams vied for a total pot of nearly \$6500 at the Memorial Day weekend tournament at the Club Tavern, Springfield, Oregon.

Darrol Nelson took home the biggest share of the singles purse, with Sparky Williams earning second place honors. Don "Mitch" Mitchell finished third, with Fred Johns in fourth place.

The always tough-to-beat Darrol Nelson was winner of the Club Tavern's Memorial Day weekend singles tournament. He also took fourth, with partner Sparky Williams, in the doubles.



Winners of the doubles event were Chuck Norris and Mike DeAngelo. Doug Debois and Dick Heflin came in second with Bill Holly and John Ressler taking third. The top winners in the singles, Darrol Nelson and Sparky Williams, teamed up to take fourth place.



Club Tavern host Glen Lindberg presents first place monies to doubles winners Mike DeAngelo and Chuck Norris.



Doug Debois and Dick Heflin flash some second-place finishers smiles. Not all bad for that kind of competition.

Taking equal billing with the exciting action on the boards was Lisa's kitchen which featured great food 24 hours a day -- from morning coffee through late-night super-size burgers and special club sandwiches. A "gourmet treat" is how Evie Wechter described the buffet Lisa served to players and their guests. "She put all her energy into a delicious, sensational buffet with seafood, prime rib, turkey, ham, homemade salads and much more," reports Evie. "Everyone enjoyed every bite!"

Evie's description of the area also makes you want to pack your suitcases and head for Springfield, Oregon. "The Club Tavern is conveniently located with cocktail lounges, dancing, card rooms right around the corner. There are antique stores, free RV parking, a State Park located within six blocks with

swimming, rafting, picnic area, fishing, and miles of hiking along the Willamette River. The Pacific Coast and its sandy beaches are within an easy drive from the Willamette Valley," she said. "There's just no place like it for a vacation and a great weekend of shuffleboard."

Sherri the bartender ("See my personality") was one of the key components in the success of this tournament.



The Club Tavern management thanks Ron, Merri Lynn, Lori, Duane, Sherri the bartender, tournament director Fred Linton, and everyone involved for making their tournament one of the best in the Northwest. Mitch is recognized for the great job he did with the auction. (Editor's note: Mitch missed realizing his dream of having his photo in *The Board Talk* the second time only because the picture was too dark to reproduce.)

Big News: Good Weather at Benedict's Classic

Bad weather, including tornadoes, has been a tradition for major shuffleboard tournaments in Sherburne, New York. But Betty and Milt Benedict and their family said their prayers right and they were blessed with a perfect New York mountain weekend on May 24-26. Loyal shufflers usually come through anyway, and this weekend they got their reward of vacation weather and another great tournament with some real tough competition.

Friday night started off with the 30-player limit competing on the four in-house boards in the draw partner event. The ultimate winners were Dick Jeffrey of Sherburne and Butch Kelly, Springfield, Pa. It took two games to beat the second-place finishers, Jane Johnson, Jordan, N.Y. and Poncho (ain't half bad) Prevento, Port Deposit, Md. Third place went to Jane's husband, Arlo Johnson, and his partner, Roy Schrieber, Baldwinsville, N.Y.

The open singles event was held Saturday and really held some big surprises as the battle was waging. Ed Galke, Long Island, N.Y. (out of semi-retirement from tournaments) went all the way in the winner's bracket to capture first place and the pot of gold. Ed's last match was against Poolville, New York's Dick Lossee. Third place went to the pride of Hagerstown, Md. area, Lonzo Knight. Fourth was won by another Long Island player, Dick Smedberg, Ronkonkoma, N.Y.

Saturday evening started the bring partner event which was planned earlier to allow the long distance travellers to get an earlier start on Sunday. (Midwesterners and westerners think our states are small, and they are by comparison, but many times we still have 250-300 miles to drive home, says Dick Gorman.) The day ended with the short distance travelers keeping the major portion of the money at home. Dick Lossee and Russ Reynolds, Sherburne, took first place with second

(continued on page 6)

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Special "Crazy Canucks" Dinner on Saturday evening. All tournament money paid in Canadian Funds. American Exchange at Bank rates. Some R.V. parking will be available. Accommodations will be at the Biltmore Hotel (604) 872-5252, Fax (604) 874-3003, at \$49.00 plus tax. (When booking rooms, please specify for Shuffleboard Tournament.)

For more information, please contact: Joannie Millar (604) 278-8449 or Marg Okum (604) 872-5373.

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Tourney Talk (continued from page 4)

place going to owner Milt Benedict and his partner, Jerry Hermann, Philadelphia. Third went to the husband and wife team of Jane and Arlo Johnson and final money spot to the brothers from Waterloo, N.Y., David and Doug Fridley Jr.

Overall men's champion point winner for the tournament was Ed Galke, followed very closely by Lonzo Knight and Dick Lossee, who tied for second place. First place point earner among the women was Wanda Farris, Dargan, Md., followed by Jane Johnson. Tied for third were Judy Iseman and JoAnn Ware from Maryland.

Overall point champion for the year was none other than Milt Benedict, followed closely by Doug Fridley Jr. and Dick Smedberg in that order. The women's champion point winner for the season's major tournaments was Jane Johnson, followed by Rita Yank, Philadelphia, and Tracie Fridley, Waterloo.



The Benedict family are popular hosts for East Coast tournament events.

Betty and Milt Benedict hope to see you all come to this prime tournament spot on Sept. 20-22 for another big event. Keep your eye on The Board Talk for details.

Newell/McDonald Win at Mr. G's

Mr. G's Cardroom in Visalia, California, held their first shuffleboard tournament Memorial Day weekend. Twelve teams played for prize money totaling almost \$3,000, with \$50 taken out of sponsor money to help pay for this article in The Board Talk. First place honors went to the home team of Larry Newell and Jim McDonald. Second place honors were earned by Tony Sosa, Visalia, who carried Glen Davidson of Oklahoma. Third went to Bob Brunskill and Vern Booth of Orange County.

"Steve and Patsy Floyd, who own the bar, did a great job on their first tournament, making everyone feel at home," reports Joanie Swenson. "Patsy coordinated the delicious barbecue on Saturday and Janice Bailey treated us all to a delicious spaghetti dinner on Sunday. Those of you who left early missed out on a great feast!"

Mr. G's Cardroom also gave away a free drink to those who lagged a scoring four. Also, a free subscription to The Board Talk was awarded to the first person to lag a four each day. (These subscriptions were given to Joanie by The Board Talk after the first \$50 article was published to give back to those who want to help promote the publication.)

"Special thanks to tournament directors Sal Reynoso and Wes Martin, to Lou Lusero for being the auctioneer and to everyone else who helped make this a great tournament. We hope to see more tournaments in the future at Mr. G's," said Joanie.

Cox/Warren Take Titles at Ace of Clubs

Don Cox and "Arky" Jerry Warren teamed up to take first place in the 13th Annual Northern California Memorial Day Tournament at the Ace of Clubs in Marysville. Joe Muniz and Leroy Ledford took second place with Jim Allis and Eric Waldman finishing third.

In the singles event, Don Cox took another first with Jim Allis taking second place honors. Third place went to Doug Buhl, with Leroy Ledford in fourth place.

"After all these years, I thought I had seen it all," reports owner Sharon Miller. "But we were having fun Friday doing the sponsor sales when Joe Muniz asked for a time out. It was a first and it got a big laugh. A few minutes later, Fred Thumann asked Joe if he needed a time out again as he had two left!"

Sharon and Jerry thank everyone not only for coming to the tournament, but especially for the plaque that was given to them for all their years of supporting shuffleboard.

"No one could know how much it really means to us as we love the game so," said Sharon. "Jerry and I send thanks and love to all our friends and shuffleboard family. We hope all of you keep coming to the tournaments."

6th Annual U.S. Open, Austin, Texas, Aug. 29-Sept. 2

If you haven't reserved your spot yet for Don Valk's 6th Annual U.S. Open, Aug. 29-Sept. 2, use the flyer in this issue to do so now. The big event is scheduled for the Howard Johnson South Plaza Hotel in Austin, Texas, and will feature 10 new Dynamo boards.

Events include an invitational pro singles, \$500 entry; invitational pro doubles, \$100 per player; pro-am draw partners, \$25 per player; semi-pro draw partners, \$25 per player; semi-

(continued on page 10)

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Shuffleboard Extravaganza IV

January 29–February 2, 1992

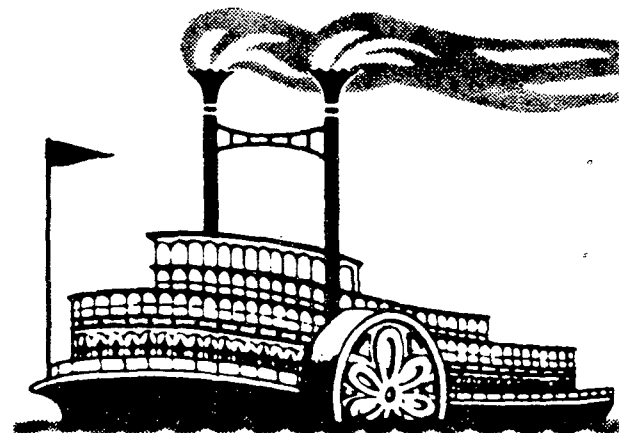
The P.C.S.A. and
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Shuffleboard Extravaganza IV

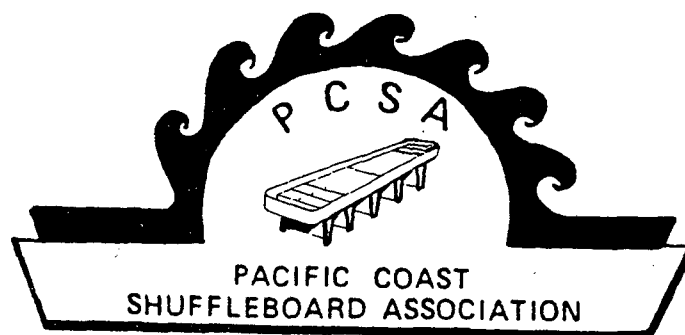
— 5 Gala Events —

Boards supplied by American



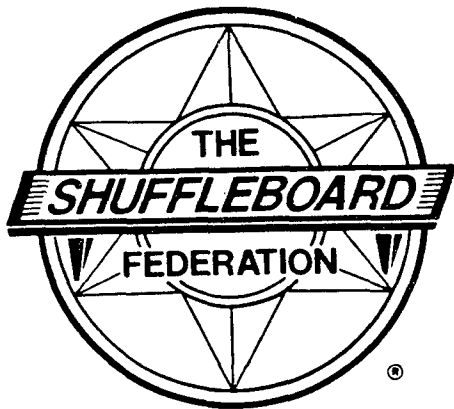
Boards will be set up Jan. 27, 1992; Play will start Jan. 29, 1992.

Entrance requirements and dates for events will be
published in future issues of The Board Talk!



P.O. Box 1843
Bellflower, CA 90706

Call: 213-926-2152



"FRIENDSHIP THROUGH COMPETITION"

THANKS TO YOU....

the N.A.S.L. members who have shared your ideas and constructive criticism of the N.A.S.L. program, we are closing in on our goal of developing the ideal system for amateur team competition on the league and tournament level. Before getting into detail on some exciting format changes, we want to make two announcements:

1. Because of the negative feedback regarding our decision to switch from six-person teams to eight-person teams, we are going to stay with the six-player format.

2. In the next issue of The Board Talk, we will provide details on a new system of classifying players. Instead of Pro, Semi-Pro, and Amateur, they will instead be Division 1, Division 2, Division 3, etc.

For those of you who are not familiar with the background of tournament competition under the N.A.S.L. format, here is a brief review of various formats that we tried along the way in our search for the idea.

When we first added the N.A.S.L. Team Events to the schedule of events at our major tournaments, the format was best 5 of 9, double elimination, with the entire match played on one board. Given the fact that the handicap system does a pretty good job of keeping the teams even, many of the matches turned into endurance contests, with some of them lasting more than seven hours.

Based on suggestions from the participants in those events, we went to a best 4 out of 7 format, but with the matches still being played on one board, the average match time was still nearly five hours.

This year, at the 1991 Michigan Open, we went to a two board format. Those of you who have played in the P.C.S.A. tournament in Las Vegas are familiar with this concept. The combination of using two boards and a best of seven format reduced the time of the average match to three hours.

But there were problems with the best of seven/two board format that we did not anticipate. Under a best 5 out of 9 format, every set on one team plays a game against every set from the other team. In the best 4 out of 7 format, you can end up tied after six games, in which

case, each set from both teams will have played two games. You now have to determine which players from each team are going to play the tiebreaker, and which board you are going to shoot on.

Initially, we allowed both teams to pick any two players they wanted. This system worked reasonably well but there were situations where one team could have a definite advantage, and eliminating those opportunities is the goal of the N.A.S.L.

Next, we went to a random draw, with a computer picking the players for both teams. Have you ever heard the phrase, "through the magic of computers"? Well, it didn't apply here, and we did not have very magical results. Many of the random selections turned out to be mismatches. Add to that the unforeseen problem of numerous "playbacks" which occurred as a result of playing a match on two boards, and it seemed like we were going backwards. But thanks to some great ideas from our members, we have finally arrived at what we believe is the ideal format.

Effectively immediately, the following format shall be used for N.A.S.L. tournament play: The match will be best 5 out of 9, played on three boards. Each set from one team will play one game against each set from the other team, and no set will play on the same board twice in the same match. In addition to being the fairest format we have ever heard of for team competition, it will also cut the average match down to somewhere between an hour and two hours.

The goal of the N.A.S.L. is to provide competition under a format that gives every team a chance to win, and to eliminate the possibility of any team getting an edge. With your continued support and input, we are getting closer all the time to making that a reality.

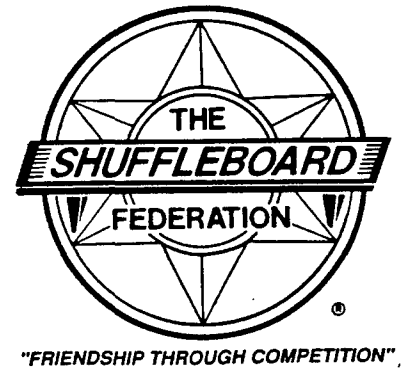
Special thanks to the players at the 1991 Michigan Open who took the time to fill out the comment/suggestion sheets which were at the tournament. We want to promote the kinds of events that you want to play in, and with your help, we are getting better all the time.

Before we run out of space, we need to mention that the Semi-Pro Singles and Semi-Pro Doubles events, which made their debut at the Michigan Open, were a huge success, filling up well in advance of the deadline. The competition was outstanding, with the talent level so close top to bottom that virtually everyone in the tournament had a chance to win.

Because of the enthusiastic responses we are hearing from all over the country about the Semi-Pros, look for us to expand the limit on the number of players in those events in 1992. Also in 1992, look for amateur singles and doubles events to be added to our 1992 tournaments.

Thanks for your support and keep those ideas coming.

"FRIENDSHIP THROUGH COMPETITION"



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Tourney Talk (continued from page 6)

pro singles, \$50 per player; semi-pro doubles, \$50 per player; and the N.A.S.L. team event, \$150 per team.

Check the enclosed flyer for details and if you have questions, call The Shuffleboard Federation, 313-380-9300.

Masters Tournament, Ace of Clubs, Aug. 30-Sept. 2

The Ace of Clubs annual Labor Day Masters Tournament will be held Aug. 30- Sept. 2 in Marysville, California. On the schedule will be a doubles, \$200 per team, and a singles, \$150 entry. Both are 2 of 3, double elimination with sponsor sales on Friday, Aug. 30, 8 p.m. Payoff for entry fees and sponsor sales will be: 1 to 16 entries, 60-30-10; 17 to 20 entries, 58-28-10-4; and 21 to 32 entries, 56-26-10-4-2-2.

Tournament directors will be Jerry Miller and Fred Thumann with boards by Sharon Miller. For further information, call the Ace of Clubs, 916-743-6885. A list of recommended lodging is listed on the enclosed flyer. Please post it in your favorite shuffleboard establishment.

Season Closes at Harvey's Place

The final major tournament of the season was held on June 7-9 at Harvey's Place, Street, Maryland. With the East Coast Triple Crown point championship on line with no clear-cut winners in either the women's or men's groups, quite a few shooters showed up for the showdown.

It was a super warm weekend and some folks wilted with the heat as they entered the Friday night draw partner event.

As the evening cooled down, the competition heated up. Butch Kelly, Springfield, Pa. repeated his performance of the previous week at Benedict's Classic in New York, and teamed up with Don Perry, Cortland, N.Y., to take first place. Second place was won by Len Dell, Belcamp, Md. and Lonzo Knight, Sharpsburg, Md. Taking third and final money spot were Sam Jones, Bonesboro, Md. and new father Alvis Ramey, Perryville, Md.

At 9:30 a.m. Saturday, the ladies lined up for their battle with the women's championship at stake. In the middle of a warm Saturday afternoon, Judy Iseman, Chestertown, Md. emerged the victor, virtually sewing up the ladies' point championship. Second place went to Judy Gartland, Philadelphia, and third to Joyce Pyle, Church Hill, Md.

The bring partner event started Saturday afternoon and finished that night with partners Len Dell and Eddie Kibler, Henderson, Md. taking first place and the biggest portion of the cash. Second place was won by Sam Jones and Lonzo Knight, with third to Richie Casula, Newark, Del. and once again, Butch Kelly. Fourth spot was taken by John Lukas, Millington, Md. and Marion Schulties, Felton, Del., with fifth place going to Ann Dell, Perryville, Md. and Bill Stoops, Deery, New Hampshire. Final money spot sixth place was taken by Bob Overbay, Street, Md. and Jim Wallace, Port Deposit, Md.

Sunday was the final event of the season, the popular mixed doubles. Winners were Judy Gartland and Mickey Mickens, Mt. Laurel, N.J., beating out second place finishers Rita Yank, Philadelphia, and Bobby "V" Voorhis, Fairmount,

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Ind. Third went to the surprise team of Diane Schulties, Greensboro, Md. and Poncho Prevento, Port Deposit, with final payoff spot going to Wanda Farris, Dargan, Md. and Lonzo Knight.

Harvey's Place entered the major tournament scene this season and has proved beyond a doubt that they are here to stay with their four in-house boards and a great room for joining all of our shuffleboard friends, reports Dick Gorman. "Darlene and Harvey, hosts for these great tournaments, are thanked many times by all for their great hospitality and the buffet table that is provided for the entrants. Hats off to these new hosts to the major tournament scene," he said. "By the way, during the summer months, they host draw partner events every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday nights."

The tournament decided the winners of the points race for the season in both the women's and men's division. The women's division was won by Judy Iseman, Chestertown, Md., followed by Wanda Farris, Dargan, Md., second place; and Joyce Pyle, Church Hill, Md., third. Lonzo Knight of Sharpsburg, Md., took the men's crown, followed by Len Dell, Belcamp, Md. and Dick Gorman, Wilmington, Del.

Whistling Oyster 2nd Annual Tourney, Aug. 3-4

The Whistling Oyster Tavern in Quilcene, Washington, is gearing up for their 2nd Annual Tournament on Aug. 3-4. It's an open doubles, \$50 entry, double elimination, paying 55-30-10-5. The sponsor sale is scheduled for 11 a.m. Saturday, but come early because there's a draw partner event on Friday night at 8 p.m.

The Whistling Oyster has four boards (three will be used for tourney play and one will be open), plenty of R.V. parking, horseshoe pits, pool, darts, and lots of other games.

"The boards are in perfect condition with two new refinished planks, thanks to a wonderful guy by the name of Al Stewart," said host Bill Bailey. "Again, I expect close to \$10,000 in prizes and we're expecting such players as Darrol Nelson, Jim Allis, Don "Mitch" Mitchell and Jim Foran, just to name a few. We have great facilities, with a motel just a block away, a hotel less than a block away, plenty of R.V. parking, and room for tenters."

For further information, call Bill at 206-765-9508. Please post the enclosed flyer to spread the good word about this shuffleboard family vacation event.

5th Arbuckle Open Biggest Yet!

The 5th Annual Arbuckle Open lived up to its reputation for being the fastest-growing tourney in the U.S.A. over the Memorial Day weekend. Alan Primrose, host and director of the event at Prim's Wagon Wheel in Wynnewood, Oklahoma, described it as "bigger and better than I ever dreamed" with a total pot of \$41,350 -- almost double last year's -- and "lots and lots of beautiful people" as players and spectators.

There were 39 teams in the open draw vying for a pot of \$9625. Winners were Lisa Melton (daughter of pro Bill Melton) of Davis, Oklahoma, and Bill Woolbridge of Fort Worth, Texas. Dave Davidson, Tupelo, Ok., and Jim Griggs of Oklahoma City took second place honors. Shirley Robertson of Tulsa and Larry Vance of Indiana finished in third place, with Maggie Worley of Nebraska and Cindy Sweatt of Tulsa in fourth.

Sandy Swift and Keith Oyler of Tulsa were winners of the Sweetheart draw, taking home the biggest share of the nearly \$7,000 pot. Brenda Watts of Pauls Valley and Ronnie Gamble of Oklahoma City earned second place, with Lisa Melton (again!) and Gene Phillips of Durant in third. Evelyn Harris of Dallas and Ronnie Snelgroves of Wynnewood finished in

fourth place.

Sandy Swift, who took second in the women's event last year, earned top honors this year, coming out ahead of a field of 14. Lisa Melton continued her winning ways to capture second place and Maggie Worley scored again with third place. Rounding out the winner's circle was Sally Goff in fourth place. Sally and Cliff were married at this tournament a year ago, so they celebrated their first anniversary with a crowd of shuffleboard friends.

The Vintage doubles was a new event this year and only drew four teams, but Alan is certain it will grow. Winners were Tom Lambert of Davis and Ed Tenison of Dallas (The Board Talk's one and only lifetime subscriber). John Wieble and Zane Porter took second place honors, with J.O. Birdwell and Bill Fulton of Ada in third.

There were 40 entries in the men's singles competing for a share of the \$11,375 pot. And the winner was Denny Bush of Omaha, Nebraska! Mike Melton (son of Bill, brother of Lisa) of Davis took the No. 2 spot with Bud Hillburn, Broken Arrow, Ok. in third. Another Nebraska player, Ron Campbell, took the final money spot.

Dino Flemming of Moore, Ok., and Mark Foust of Tulsa captured top honors in the bring partner event, beating out second place finishers Tim Petri and Lonnie Pfost of Tulsa. And again, those Nebraska visitors ("what great people they are," said Alan. "They really added a lot to our tournament.") made their trip to Oklahoma worthwhile. Don Zahm and Tim Piccolo (Piccolo's Bar, Omaha) took third place, with Maggie Worley and Ron Campbell in fourth.

Participants enjoyed a "smoker" provided by Dino Flemming. "We smoked two or three briskets and enough chickens to feed a Baptist convention," reports Alan. He pays tribute not only to Dino, but also to Mike Melton, who provided the boards and served as co-director; auctioneer Bill Stoops, who comes back from New Hampshire for this event each year ("Bill has been to auctioneer school and you can really tell by the amount in the sponsor sales," said Alan); Brenda Watts for her meticulous record-keeping; C.W. Walker, the talented bracket man; and Cliff Goff, who is always there to do whatever needs to be done.

The experience of participants is really showing, Alan reports. "There's no more griping and complaining. Now, everyone offers to help make it a good tournament," he said.

5th Annual Michigan Open Attracts Big Turnout, New Players

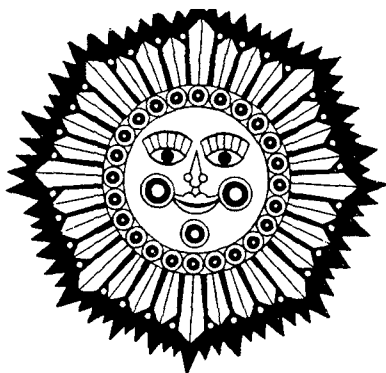
A new location and a new format were featured at this year's Michigan Open, sponsored by The Shuffleboard Federation, Inc., over the Memorial Day weekend. The new location was the Holiday Inn in Lansing and the new format included elimination of all pro events. But the semi-pro events filled that void and brought to the spotlight some new names in The World of Shuffleboard.

In the semi-pro draw, first place honors went to Gordy Collins and Lee McDonald, with Terry Broka and Bill Meyer in second place. Cheryl Collins and Roland Metivier finished in third place, with Gene Gach and Phil McGrew in fourth.

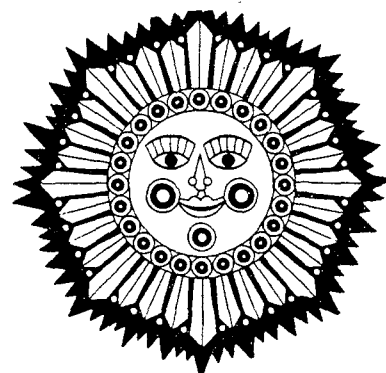
Lee McDonald took another first in the semi-pro singles, with his draw partner Gordy Collins in second place. Jerry Siebert took third place, with Beef Camp in fourth.

Adding yet another first to his string of victories, Lee McDonald and his partner, J.R. Lopez, took top honors in the semi-pro doubles. Buddy Broka and brother Terry Broka finished second, with Gene Gach and Phil McGrew in third place. Bill Canterbury and Dick Keener came in fourth.

(continued on page 14)



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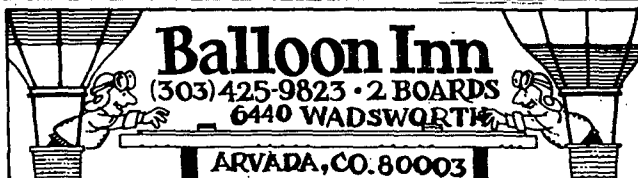
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Tourney Talk (continued from page 11)

Mann's Place was winner of the N.A.S.L. team event. Members of that winning team were Buddy and Fritz Broka, Dale Gushman, Burt Lowe, Jerry and Kathy Richard. They beat out Papa's Pub & Grub, that team made up of Val Borja, Roland Metivier, Raylene Schultz, John and Terrie Tischler, and Mike Tobin. The Lakeside Crushers -- Sher Blessing, Jerry Bryant, Jeff and Penny Cottrell, Mike Harmel and Frank Parrish -- took third place. Lakeside Too finished in fourth place. Players on that team were Jeanie Broka, Gordy Collins, "Bellflower" Bruce Hale (Californian making his Michigan debut), Cassie Kern, Bob and Gail Schultz.

The editors asked John McDermott, tournament director and vice president of The Shuffleboard Federation, to compare the 5th Annual Michigan Open with the first one in 1987 to see what progress has been made in terms of facilities, boards, feedback from participants, the tourney itself, and if the amateurs were disappointed that the pros didn't show. Here are his responses:

Facilities: No contest on this one. The 1987 tournament was held in a basketball gym, which really was not so bad. There was plenty of room, but the air conditioning did not work. We had to lay down carpeting over an area 40 by 90 feet, and all of the tables, chairs, and everything right down to ice and ashtrays had to be bought or rented.

For the 1991 tournament, we had a first-class facility, the Grand Ballroom of a very nice hotel. It was carpeted, air-conditioned, and well-serviced in terms of the hotel staff keeping the room clean. There was a truck dock that we could use to back up the truck right to the ballroom, two tiers of elevated seating, etc. If we can make the right deal with the hotel, the tournament could be held there for many years to come.

Boards: At the first tournament, we had four Playfair boards. For the 1991 tournament, there were 10 Dynamo boards.

Dynamo has really done a great job in developing their product and has the vision and the resources to realize that promotion is an important part of their overall marketing strategy. Part of what makes Dynamo different from other manufacturers is that they are not only willing to listen to feedback from us and players in general, but they take those suggestions seriously. We have used their boards at three of our events in the last nine months, and each time we see a new shipment, there are small changes. As a result, what is already the best product on the market is continuing to get better.

Feedback from Participants: Feedback is something we are always looking for. After asking for more of it for the past four years, players are finally starting to respond. One of the most frustrating things we have had to deal with is that in the past, people would tell their friends what they didn't like, but they weren't telling us. That's fine, except that their friends can't change things, and the only way we can make the changes the players would like to see is if they tell what they want.

As a result of some great suggestions we received at the Michigan Open this year (see our article on page 8 for more details), we have made a couple of exciting changes in the N.A.S.L. format.

The Tourney Itself: This tournament was probably the best we have ever run in terms of scheduling and the overall efficiency. The tournament finished within 20 minutes of the time we had figured and, in general, ran like clockwork.

The two primary reasons why things ran so well are that the players responded to the entry deadlines and, consequent-

ly, we knew exactly how many people were going to be in each event. In a tournament with 6 to 10 events, and 10 to 16 boards, it is almost beyond description how much better and smoother the tournament will run if you have that information 3 to 4 weeks in advance.

We also have a fantastic nucleus in terms of our tournament staff. Rob Kern has taken the art of bracketing and scheduling to a new level. He also works 16-18 hours a day and doesn't drink. Kathy Broka and Diana Hofmann have really done a fantastic job in terms of officiating. Both have extensive knowledge of the game, are aware of when people are doing something to try and get an edge, and most of the time head off those problems before they ever get a chance to develop.

Were the Amateurs Disappointed About Pro No-Shows? There was some disappointment initially, but as they became aware of the reasons, they understood and agreed with us that we have to take a stand. Also, they realize that if the pros, through their action (or lack thereof) cut themselves out of the picture, it means we can accommodate more amateurs and expand the number of events for them.

Notebook (continued from Page 2)

Betty on the Pro Situation

I've heard nothing but good reports of this year's Michigan Open in Lansing, and there seems to be great expectations for next year's event. The hotel selection was excellent, close to shopping, food and roadways. The hotel itself was very comfortable and the staff pleasant and well-organized. Many of us are hoping that we return to the Lansing Holiday Inn next year.

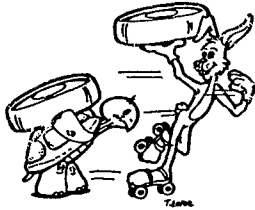
My great disappointment was in the Pro-Am event being cancelled. I believe that of all events, the Pro-Am has been the most inspiring to the new "team players" and all other amateurs. By being the first event of the activities, the amateurs were able to not only "take the edge off," but were able to play various boards, meet their competition on a singular basis with a pro. It also gave them an opportunity to become acquainted with the rules, officials, the brackets and, in general, become accustomed to the playing area itself.

This year, we compromised by open draws and round robins and fortunately, there were still enough great pros around to help and accept the praise they deserve for being there like the dutiful parent to ensure the amateur growth in shuffleboard is fine-tuned and geared to good sportsmanship, excellent competition, better playing conditions and a fine time for everyone. Many fine pros have helped me in the past. In return, I have supported them when I could in their own events and I have been rewarded in being able to watch some awesome shuffleboard games.

We were happy to meet Bellflower Bruce. His kindness to the women players was just beautiful. Thanks again, Bruce! Bruce is a very nice person to sit and talk to and his knowledge of shuffleboard, the equipment, and the players from around the country is phenomenal. I look forward to seeing him again.

I'd like to send verbal orchids out to one of our Interlake Ladies' League players, June Puterbaugh (Lakeside Bombetts) helped revive a two-year-old child who had fallen into a neighborhood canal. We ladies are very proud of you, June!

Betty Parrish, Union Lake, Michigan



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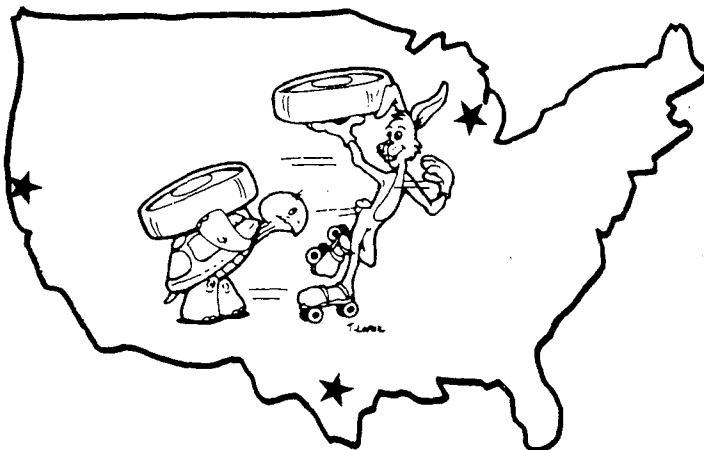
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