

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.10 October 1991

The Hammer

We returned to the scene -- not of the crime (unless it's a crime to have a shuffleboard tournament that's filled with fun) -- but of our 6th Annual 4th of July Shufflers Reunion in 1990. It was Houghton Lake, billed as Michigan's Vacation Wonderland, that we returned to, this time for the 1st Annual Skip's/Board Talk Fall Classic. It's not the home of the top shufflers in the world, but it is home to some very tough competitors and it does attract those who are at the top of our sport. We had a great mix of both and we couldn't have written a better "script" for the weekend than what unfolded naturally.

There's something about the atmosphere. You drive into the city limits and you suddenly become mellow. A very modest entry pot, a very modest sponsor sale pot, but who cares? (Well, maybe a little bit!) This is a fun sport. Let's enjoy! And we did. Thanks, Skip and Carole, Rita and all the special people involved in making this a great shuffleboard weekend.

In other parts of The World of Shuffleboard, there was some very serious competition going on this month. We're delighted that Don Valk's U.S. Open drew the kind of participation it did. Don is one of those citizens of our world who gives more to the sport than he takes from it. What makes it even nicer is that he ended up being one of the top winners. Yeah, Don!

Please join us in offering sympathy to Diana Hagen for the loss of her brother. Send your messages to her at: 3459 Garden Grove Dr., Houston, TX 77066.

And join us, too, in sending some good wishes to Al Bays' Mom (see Notebook). Send them to Mom, c/o Al Bays, Rt. 4, Box 855, Coalgate, TX 74538.

And join us in congratulating Gil Aragon of Phoenix, Arizona, who has just been elected to the International Softball Congress Hall of Fame.

Hope to see many of you in Reno next month.

George & Donna Wilber, Publishers

Shufflers:

*Do your part
to make Halloween
a safe holiday
for Little Spooks!*



Tourney Talk

Bay Country Moose Wraps Up Season

Bay Country Moose, Queenstown, Maryland, in the heart of the eastern shore of Maryland on the Chesapeake Bay, rounded out its first season of grand-style 3-day tournaments on August 9-11. Dick Gorman reports that four people have been primarily responsible for making this a popular place on the tournament trail with their three in-house boards. They are father and son Bunky and Terry Gertz, Rosalie Kaufman (how's that for a rose between thorns?) and Cliff Embert. "These folks have run great tournaments and already have five 3-day tournaments scheduled for the 91-92 season," Dick said.

The tournament started Friday night with a draw partner event, with the high-priced teams going down in a hurry. It was finally won by host Bunky Gertz and Lonzo Knight, Sharpsburg, Md. Second place went to local Leon Allen and Buck Wallace, Sudlersville, Md., with third going to Joyce Pyle, Church Hill, Md. and Don Perry, Cortland, New York.

Saturday's event was a bring-partner tournament with first place going to Alvis Ramey, Perryville, Md. and (soon to be given honorary citizenship in Maryland) Bobby Voorhis, Fairmount, Indiana. Second place went to Tom Bernhard, Milford, Del., and Scratch Todd, Denton, Md. Third place was taken by the surprise team of Rose and Paul Lukas (wife and son of John) with fourth going to Lenny Dell, Belcamp, Md. and Mickey Mickens, Mt. Laurel, N.J.

Saturday's event was the popular mixed doubles, with a new team of Rita Yank, Philadelphia, and Johnny Gardner, Greensboro, Md. taking top honors. Second place went to Judy Gartland, Philadelphia, and Mickey Mickens, with third taken by Judy Iseman, Chestertown, Md. and Lenny Dell.

The next 3-day tournament at Bay Country Moose is Nov. 1-3. Call Terry Gertz, 301-827-6755, for advance registration.

Duncan/Cowan/Slack Win Shootout at Balloon Inn

The Balloon Inn, Arvada, Colorado, recently hosted its semi-annual "Tournament of Championships Shootout." Every Saturday night for 16 weeks, players receive points and money. The 16 players with the most points at the end of the season have a shootoff, a blind draw doubles and a singles.

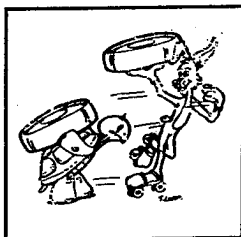
Grethren Duncan and Dave Cowan were winners of the \$1100 draw doubles event, with Tom Henry and Gene Davis in second, and Dennis Bird and Juan Estever in third place.

Jody Slack took top honors in the singles event, with Travis Anderson in second. Grethren Duncan took her second trip to the winner's circle by capturing third place, and Gene Davis did the same with fourth place honors.

Reno Opportunity Deadline on the Horizon

Oct. 11 is the deadline for registration in the 1991 North American Championships at the Sands Regency in Reno,

(continued on page 3)



Shufflers' Notebook

News and Views
from The World
of Shuffleboard

I'm Staying Home Next Halloween (Maybe!)

It was not only a full moon, but a WITCHES MOON!

I knew I shouldn't be there the minute I walked in. Spider webs and ghouls lurked in every corner and in the darkness the patrons and other team members looked downright gruesome.

Nobody believed me when I swore my practice pucks growled at me (they did, too). In my gloomy corner, I waited for my first opponent. Just my luck, DRAC!

I try my left, then my right. I short-shot and she gets them all and lags a 4. Now, my partner's up there giving it away. What's she doing, the team yells down. I don't know; ask her. Trick or treat, I guess!

The music gets louder. The drunk at the bar puts his 2 cents worth in. QUIET!

I manage to take one point and it's back to my frivolous partner. As I look back toward my team, the faces begin to take on extortions and I believe my captain has grown horns. And is she actually salavating?

Now it's too quiet. I decide it's an easy draw for the point. Just as I started to release my weight, my partner yells, "you better stick it." You stick it, witch! Of course, I came up short. Game over.

As I started back to my team, I realize the dragons are breathing fire. We needed this game. That gal's a new player; you should have beaten her. You have won two games out of 12 this year. You had the hammer, blah, blah, blah!!

Well, girls, I'm gonna tell you like it is... It's time to mel-low out, lay back and at least have fun. And with the atmosphere around here tonight, I've decided Tuesdays are my nights to haunt, Halloween or not!

Actually, I felt pretty good as I walked out, even though I was beginning to feel this wart growing along side my nose and my hair getting L-O-N-G AND S-T-R-I-N-G-Y. For after all, I did have the last word....They didn't have a sub!

Now, just where did I park my broom, deary?

Betty Parrish, Union Lake, Michigan

This was written by Betty a year ago. We've been saving it for our Halloween issue. Thanks, Betty!

— ATTENTION —

If you have a red check below, it means your subscription has expired. To receive the next issue, you must renew by the 15th of this month.

_____ Red Check

(Use the form on page 15 to renew.)

Hello from College Park Moose Lodge

Just recently, I was exposed to the exciting world of "regulation" shuffleboard at the Lafayette Inn in Rising Sun, Maryland. Contact was made through Dick Gorman in an attempt to acquire shuffleboard supplies.

Here at the College Park Moose Lodge, 3700 Metzert Rd., College Park, Maryland, we compete using "horsecollar" as our basic game. However, we shuffle for seven innings rather than to 51 for the end of the game. We have four boards in our shuffleboard room, and attract over 200 shooters each week in regular season competition. Of course, these are all members of our Lodge, as required by our Moose rules. We have mixed leagues during the winter, as well as Senior Citizen Leagues during the day. High Dollar Leagues, as well as a newly-created "313" League in which only 3's and 13's count toward scoring. We finish off our regular season with a gala banquet which features Redskin football guest speakers, dinner and dancing. We are currently transitioning to all Boards by Voorhis.

If any of you Moose members are ever in College Park, Maryland, please drop in to visit us and join in some shufflin' fun. Our reigning Grand Champions, Gordon and Mary Anne Fell, will be at the Lodge every Friday and available for challenges beginning at 9:00 p.m. You can always get up a game in our Lodge. Just ask for the Sports Committee Chairman, Ken Ruppel, or ask any Lodge member and they will direct you to our gameroom. We'll be glad to welcome any Moose visitors. If in the area, call 301-935-5525 for directions, or call me at home: 301-953-3516.

Ken Ruppel, Sports Committee Chr., College Park Moose Lodge #453, College Park, Maryland

Sounds like you have a full schedule of shufflin' fun at your Lodge, Ken. We hope you'll get some visitors as a result of your letter. We understand the member-only rule for league play. What about tournaments? Any facility with four boards is a prime spot for an open tournament. Evidently (from reports in Tourney Talk) some Lodges have worked it out. Let's hear from some of you in regard to this.

(continued on page 11)

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

Tourney Talk (continued from page 1)

Nevada, on Oct. 29-Nov. 3. This is the World of Shuffleboard's first opportunity to take advantage of really big money added -- between \$7,000 and \$14,000, with the biggest bonus going to the NASL teams enrolled in this big tournament.

Events include a semi-pro draw on Oct. 29, \$25 per player; semi-pro singles, Oct. 30, \$100 entry; ladies' singles, Oct. 30, \$100 entry; pro-am draw, Oct. 30, \$25 entry; semi-pro doubles, Oct. 31, \$100 per player; pro doubles, Oct. 30, \$200 per player; NASL team event, Oct. 30, \$300 per team; pro singles, Nov. 2, \$1,000 entry; legends draw partners, Nov. 2, \$50 per player; and mixed doubles draw, Nov. 3, \$25 per player.

You must be a registered guest of the Sands Regency Hotel to participate, so use the form in this issue to reserve your room and your spot in the tournament.

Remember the Oct. 11 deadline and don't let this opportunity slip by.

1st Annual Witches Open, Balloon Inn, Oct. 12-13

The Balloon Inn, 6440 Wadsworth, Arvada, Colorado, will host their first annual "Witches Open" on Oct. 12-13. It's a women's doubles bring partner event, \$50 entry fee per team, double elimination, best 2 of 3 format. Sponsor sale is scheduled for Friday Night, Oct. 11, at 8 p.m.

For information, call the Balloon Inn, 303-425-9823. Plan to participate in this fun event, whether as a player or a spectator.

Join the "Crazy Canucks" Nov. 1-3

The "Crazy Canucks" 1st Annual Tournament will be held Nov. 1-3 at the Army, Navy & Airforce Veterans Association, Unit 68, 3rd & Main, in Vancouver, B.C., Canada. An open singles, \$50 entry, limited to 32 entries, will have \$500 added money; and an open doubles, \$100 per team, unlimited entries, will have \$1,000 added money. Sponsor sales for the singles is 5 p.m., Nov. 1 and for the doubles at 11 a.m., Nov. 2.

Lodging at the Biltmore Hotel (604-872-5252) is \$49 plus tax (be sure to specify that you're with the tournament). For further information, contact Joannie Millar, 604-278-8449, or Marg Okum, 604-872-5373.

"Thanks for Shuffleboard" Tourney at Glenn's, Nov. 22-24

Glenn's Tavern, 2 W. Baltimore, Funkstown, Maryland, will host a pre-Thanksgiving "Thanks for Shuffleboard" tournament on Nov. 22-24. Events will include a draw partner on Friday night, \$10 entry, limited to the first 26 players signed up; a bring partner on Saturday, \$25 per team, limited to the first 32 teams signed up; and an open singles on Sunday, \$20 entry, limited to 24 players.

This one, like all East Coast events, will fill up fast, so send your paid entries in advance to: Glenn's Tavern, 2 W. Baltimore St., Box 488, Funkstown, MD 21734.

For information, call Glen or Carmen at 301-739-2559. They'll suggest local lodging, too. See ad in this issue and plan to participate.

U.S. Open Draws Big Turnout

The 6th Annual U.S. Open Shuffleboard Tournament, held at the Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel, Austin, Texas, Aug. 27-

(continued on page 5)

1991-92 National Shuffleboard Calendar

Oct. 12-13

1st Annual Witches Open
Balloon Inn, Arvada, Colorado

Oct. 12-13

Tri-State Mixed Doubles
Stober's Lounge, Lansing, Michigan

Oct. 12-13

Shufflefest '91
The Club Tavern, Springfield, Oregon

Oct. 19-20

Ohio Shoot-Out
Jugg's Tavern, Toledo, Ohio

Oct. 25-27

Fall Classic Tournament
Lafayette Inn, Rising Sun, Maryland

*Oct. 30 - Nov. 3

North American Championships
Sands Regency Hotel, Reno, Nevada

Nov. 3 - 4

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

Nov. 22-24

Western Maryland Tourney
Glenn's Tavern, Funkstown, Maryland

Nov. 28-31

Triple Elimination Doubles
Best Little Wherehouse, Temecula, California

Nov. 29 - Dec. 1

State of Michigan Championships
Pasquale's, Lansing, Michigan

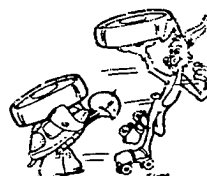
Jan. 29 - Feb. 2, 1992

PCSA Extravaganza IV
Showboat, Las Vegas, Nevada

Feb. 7-9

Winter Board Talk Tourney
Lafayette Inn, Rising Sun, Maryland

*Shuffleboard Federation Pro Tour



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tournament on
the calendar!

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Tourney Talk *(continued from page 3)*

Sept. 2, turned out to be the best ever considering the number of players entered in the various events. The semi-pro singles, semi-pro doubles, semi-pro partners, and the team event were filled to the limit. All total 102 entrants (227 players) competed for the prize money. Noted Tournament Director Don Valk, "a lot of new faces as well as many of the old familiar faces were present."



Dave Williams captured first place in the pro singles. Bill Melton took second place honors with Darrol Nelson in third. (See Notebook and The Shuffleboard Federation column for more information on this tourney.)

David Williams had his lag working to win his match with Bill Melton to take first in the pro singles. Darrol Nelson finished third. In the pro doubles, Billy Mays and Darrol Nelson teamed up to take top honors. Bill Melton and David Williams finished in second spot, with Sam Summers and Glen Davidson in third.

Tammy Denson drew John McDermott, pro player and vice president of the Shuffleboard Federation, to take top honors in the pro-am event.



The pro-am event was won by the team of John McDermott and Tammy Denson. Sam Summers and J.D. Sweet took second, with Bill Melton and partner Ron Bowers in third place.

Thirty-two players competed in the semi-pro singles. The popular Don Valk made it look easy going through the winner's brackets undefeated to take first place. Johnny Ballard finished second; Bill Woolridge took third; and Dale Koteras won fourth place. A couple of Hoosiers, Fritz Broka and Beef Camp, tied for fifth and sixth monies.

The husband and wife team of Gordie and Cheryl Collins of Michigan won first place in the 16-team semi-pro doubles

event. Greg Tedford (Senora Flash) and Lisa Melton finished in second place, with Tony Howard and Bob Shaw in third.

Sixteen teams competed in the semi-pro draw partner event. Brenda Moore and Jody Slack took top honors, with Charlie Walker and Hal St. Leger in second, and Don Valk and Bobby Williams in third place.

Sixteen teams were entered in the popular six-member team event. The Houston Hangers took first place, with Corporate Image (Fort Worth) taking second, and Sportsman's (San Antonio) in third place.



U.S. Open tournament director Don Valk (center) took top honors in the semi-pro singles event. Johnny Ballard (right) took second, with Bill Woolridge (left) in third.



Coming out in front of a 16-team field in the team event was the Houston Hangers. The Corporate Image finished second, with Sportsman's in third.

Don Valk extends special thanks to Lyndon Baize, Ron Bowers, Brad Caskey, Bill Moody, John McDermott, Steve Nelson, Joe Roden, Jody Slack and Ken Strong for setting up and maintaining the 10 boards, helping with the officiating, maintaining the brackets, and doing whatever else necessary for a smooth-running tournament. Successful sales were attributed in large part to Bill Woolridge.

For all of you who have not yet attended the Austin U.S. Open, next year may be the time to do it. Next year more boards are planned in anticipation of more participants -- and Austin is a fun place to visit.

"On a final note, we were all saddened when Diana Hagen had to drop out of the tournament and return home when she received word of her brother's death late Friday night," reports Ken Strong. "On behalf of the U.S. Open shuffleboard officials, players and friends, we extend our deepest sympathy and friendship. God speed, Diana."

(continued on page 7)

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Tolo Hosts Labor Day Tourney

Pat and LeRoy Burkhart of Tolo Tavern in Central Point, Oregon, were hosts to a singles and doubles tournament over the Labor Day weekend.

After some very close games, first place in the singles went to Steve Fisher (99 Tavern) of Winston, Oregon. Second place went to a local Tolo player, Vi Reaves. Third place was won by Bruce Wechter of Springfield.

In the doubles, first place honors went to Bruce Wechte and Glen Lindberg of the Club Tavern in Springfield. Second place went to Bob Perkins and Sam Gott of Springfield, and third went to the local team of Don Stallworth and Butch Robinson of Rogue River.

The Tolo Tavern added \$100 to the prize money for each event and a buffet luncheon was served both days.

"Pat and LeRoy are hoping to make this an annual event, so come on, all you shuffleboarders. Plan on spending next Labor Day at Tolo Tavern in the beautiful Rogue River Valley," says Vi Reaves.

Tri-State Mixed Doubles, Stober's, Oct. 12-13

Stober's Lounge, Lansing, Mich., will host a Tri-State Mixed Doubles Championship tournament on Oct. 12-13. \$50 per team entry fee, no limit. Sponsor sale is scheduled for Oct. 12 at 1 p.m. Payoffs will be determined by the number of entries.

Send entries to tournament director Jerry Siebert, 1128 Kelsey, Lansing, MI 48910. Come early and enjoy draw partners on Friday night.

Shufflefest '91 at Club Tavern, Oct. 12-13

Don't forget the Shufflefest '91 open doubles tournament at the Club Tavern, 420 Main St., Springfield, Oregon, on Oct. 12-13. Entry fee is \$70 per team, with \$200 added. It's double elimination, with 2 of 3, 15 points in the winner's bracket, and one game, 17 points in the loser's bracket. The sponsor sale will start at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 12, but come early and enjoy the round robins on Friday night.

The Club Tavern has three excellent boards and Lisa's kitchen will be ready for the big event. Hosts Glen and Lisa Lindberg will serve a banquet for players and their guests on Saturday.

For lodging, they suggest: Sutton Motel, 503-746-6261; Black Angus, 503-342-1243; Village Inn, 503-747-4546; Pacific 9, 503-726-9266; Motel 6, 503-687-2395; or Motel 6, 503-741-1105.

For information, contact tournament director Fred Linton, 503-741-2991.

Holy Toledo! Joe Adds \$300 to Pot!

Jugg's Tavern, 5119 Jackman Rd., Toledo, Ohio, invites all shufflers to T-Town on Oct. 19-20 for the 1st Annual Ohio Shoot-Out. The singles event has a \$25 entry fee and the sponsor sale will start promptly at 10 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 19. On Sunday, Oct. 20, the open doubles sale begins at 10 a.m. and owner Joe J. is adding \$300 to the entry fee pot if 13 or more teams participate. This added money will be paid to 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th place finishers. The entry fee for the doubles event

(continued on page 10)

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George & Donna

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Weekend

NOV. 22-24

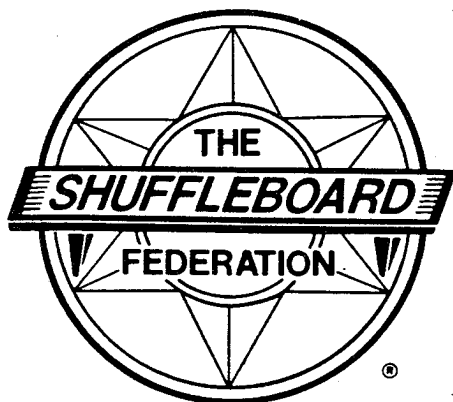
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Nov. 24 - OPEN SINGLES
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U.S. OPEN A FULL HOUSE

With all of the Amateur (Division III) and Semi Pro (Division II) events, including the N.A.S.L. Team Event, sold out more than a month in advance, Don Valk had his most successful tournament ever. More information and a list of the winners appears in the U.S. Open article in the Tourney Talk section of this issue.

We had a chance to try out the new format for N.A.S.L. Tournament play -- a best 5 out of 9 match played on three boards -- and are happy to report it lived up to the high expectations we had for it.

Virtually all of the players involved in the Team Event were pleased with the change, but many were unhappy that the matches ran longer than expected and that there was some confusion on the bracketing. While the format itself worked well, it became obvious to us that having a couple more boards would have made the event run much better. Therefore, we will have 12 boards available for our N.A.S.L. Team Events in 1992.

1992 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

There will be four divisions of competition in our 1992 tournaments: Pro, Division I, Division II, and Division III.

It has become apparent that there are some Semi-Pro (Division I) players whose ability has put them a step above the rest of the Division I players, but who are also a notch below the pro players. We are concerned about these players affecting the balance in the N.A.S.L. Team Events and therefore will be adding a new rating category for them. Effective January 1, 1992, there will be an "O" rating assigned to the top group of non-pro players. A list of the players effected by this change will appear in the December issue of The Board Talk.

As more statistical information becomes available, we will continue to narrow down the rating groups and will have an O through 10 rating system in place in the next couple of years.

Because of the addition of the "O" rating category, there will be changes in who is eligible for Division I, II and III events. Division III events will be limited to players with a "4" or "5" rating, Division II will be for players with a "2" or "3" rating and Division I will be for those players who are rated "O" or "1".

For our 1992 tournaments, we will be using five days and 12 boards. Day one will be for Draw Partner Events, day two will be for Division I, II and III Singles, day three will feature the Doubles events for all three divisions and the first round of play in the N.A.S.L. Team Event. Day four will have N.A.S.L. Team Event competition all day, and day five will be for the conclusion of the Team Event. The limit for singles players in Division I, II and III events will be 24 players. For doubles, the limit for each division will be 16 teams.

We appreciate the positive response to the new N.A.S.L. Tournament format and want to also thank all of those Division III players who have pledged their support for next year. Look for a complete list of 1992 tournaments and dates in the December issue of The Board Talk.

RULE CHANGE/CLARIFICATION

There was considerable controversy at the U.S. Open regarding some players trying to get an edge because of "grey areas" in the rules regarding the use of personal weights. There are two areas which are therefore being addressed.

First, you must have a complete set of eight weights available; four weights does not constitute a set. Anyone with only four weights shall not be allowed to use them.

Second, with the many colors of weight caps we are starting to see, the choice of hammer or color for the winner of the pre-game coin flip has been affected. Players with neutral colored weights, in effect, always get the color they want to shoot.

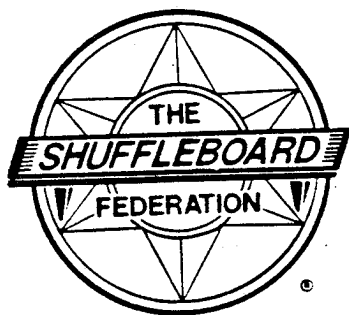
We realize that as the game continues to grow, additional rules and amendments to existing rules will be necessary. However, the rules are to provide guidelines for play. They are not there to be examined for loopholes by players attempting to get an edge.

We are proud of the direction the game has taken, and anyone who is a tournament regular is aware that with the help of the Player Policy Board, we have done a good job of cleaning up the game through the standardization of rules.

Two of the things which are most important to us are good sportsmanship and seeing that our motto of "FRIENDSHIP THROUGH COMPETITION" is a true reflection of the way players conduct themselves at our tournaments. We are, therefore, going to take a strong stand against players who are looking for opportunities to take advantage of these grey areas in the rules. The players who are doing this are violating the principles of sportsmanship that are crucial to the continued growth of our sport.

Effective immediately, all weights used in our tournaments must have red and blue caps. Switching caps after the coin flip shall result in the forfeit of that game. While there are going to be people who are not happy with this decision, our goal has always been to satisfy the majority and, in this case, the overwhelming majority of the players support red and blue only.

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Tourney Talk (continued from page 7)

is \$50 per team. Both events are single game, double elimination. Play will be on two boards and is "first available board" rules.

This will be Joe's second major tournament this year and the first tourney saw shufflers shooting it out for over \$8,000. Entries are limited to 24 singles and 16 doubles teams. Don't get shut out of this one. Call tournament director Kathy Broka, 419-242-4826, to reserve your spot now!

Something New at Ted Z's

Ted Z's Best Little Wherehouse in Temecula, California, will be the scene of a Thanksgiving weekend doubles tournament, Nov. 28-31. Always a popular spot for tournaments, this one will have a new wrinkle -- triple elimination! For information, call Ted at 714-676-3770.

New Faces in Winner's Circle at Skip's

Skip's Lounge in Houghton Lake, Michigan, was the scene of the 1st Annual Skip's/Board Talk Fall Classic on Sept. 14-15. There were 15 teams in the draw partner event and 16 players vying for the singles crown.

Of the six people gathered in the winner's circle to collect their money envelopes and trophies (courtesy of Budweiser), four had never experienced that honor before. When Betty Parrish and Tom Meagher captured first place, it was difficult to pinpoint who was happiest -- Betty and Tom for their first first-place win, or Betty's son, Jeff, who had earmarked part of her winnings for "new shoes."



Happiness is winning first place for the first time. So says Tom Meagher and Betty Parrish, winners of the draw partner event.

It was no surprise to anyone to see Cheryl Collins in the winner's circle; she and Gordie were fresh off a big open doubles win in Austin, Texas. But no one could have been more surprised at being there than her partner, Houghton Laker Paul Oster. With 29 players signed up for the draw doubles, host Skip went to the phone and called Paul, who was busy planting rye for the deer. "I thought I'd be back home planting by 2 or 3," said Paul, who only subs on a local team during shuffleboard season. Instead, it was closer to midnight when he and Cheryl collected second place monies and trophies. "I played more today than I've played in four years," he said.

The other half of the Collins combo, Gordie, drew the No. 1 bracketeer in the nation, Rob Kern, and together they played their way to the No. 3 spot. This was Rob's first win; now wife Cassie will have to make room on the trophy display for his.

Attention, Michigan Shufflers:

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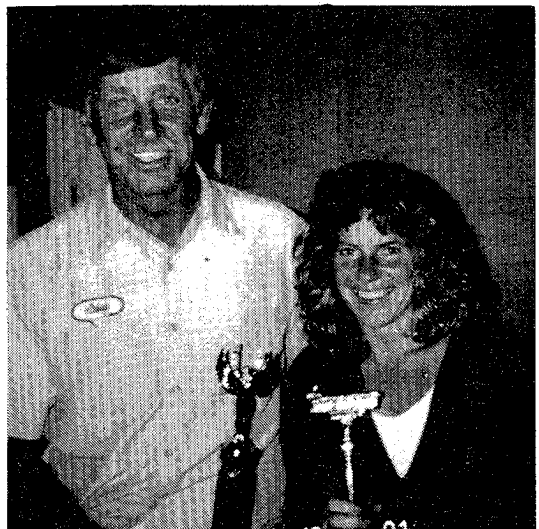
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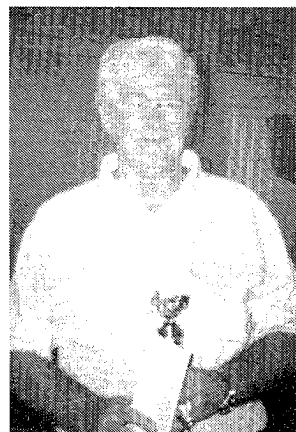
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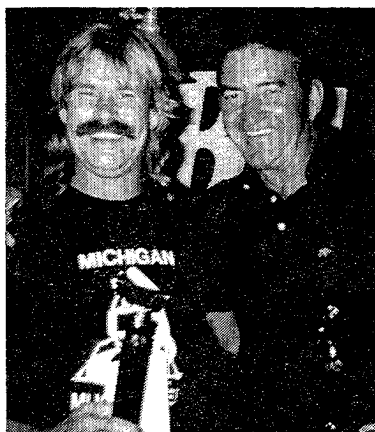
A relative unknown, Paul Oster of Houghton Lake, and a very well-known, Cheryl Collins of Davisburg, Mich., teamed up to take second place honors in the draw partner event. They had to beat

out Cheryl's husband, Gordie, and bracketeer Rob Kern, who finished third.

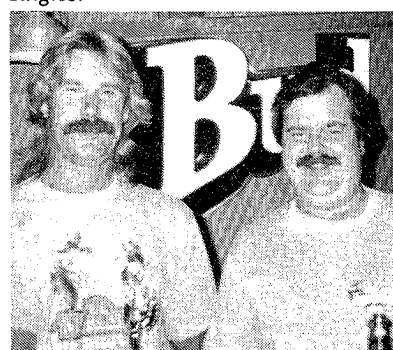
Gordie also captured first place in the singles event, but not before he was given a real run for his money by Sonny Morgan of Saginaw, another newcomer to the winner's circle. Lots of people were asking, "Who's Sonny Morgan?" on Sunday afternoon; by that evening, everyone knew who he was. His impressive play earned him second place honors against a very tough field of competitors. The always-tough Bernie Sunde took the third and final spot in the winner's circle.



Another unknown, Sonny Morgan of Saginaw, surprised all, including himself, by taking second in the singles.



First place singles winner Gordie Collins (left) and 3rd place finisher Bernie Sunde congratulate each other for more than they bargained for.



Gordie helped Rob Kern win his first-ever tournament trophy by taking third in the draw partner



(right) Who's afraid of the big bad wolf? Not Stella Smyk of Houghton Lake, who drew the "big bad" but gentle John Tischler of Detroit in the draw partner event.



Tournament assistants Chris Ewing (left) and Kelly Elkins (who with his brother Kory will someday take over the Board Talk responsibilities) get a hug from popular Skip's Lounge waitress, Rita.

Skip and Carole treated participants to a spaghetti feed Saturday afternoon. They thank all those who helped make the event a success (see ad in this issue). Mark your calendars now for the 2nd Annual Skip's/Board Talk Fall Classic in September of 1992.

Notebook (continued from page 2)

Ray's Views on Austin Tourney

I was very disappointed that we did not see you in Austin this year. Don Valk and his many helpers put on a great tourney, as usual. Many familiar faces have names and names have real people attached to them now. Which brings me to the point of this letter, which is that my purpose in attending this tourney was primarily social.

We all like to win. We all want to improve our game. Without pointing any fingers, at least one person present thought winning was more important than making friends or influencing people. There were several incidents centering about "The White Weights." The details are not nearly as important as the principle here. If we cannot assemble in an amicable manner, then I, for one, would just as soon forget it.

There does need to be a clarification of the Federation rule on the sharing of weights when one player or team does not have a personal set of weights. Whether or not it is allowable to use the same four "bottoms," regardless of the color of choice, for every game, needs to be made clear.

On a more positive note, let me close by saying how much many of us "Johnny Rebs" appreciate what all you "Damn Yankees" have done for the game of shuffleboard. Muchas Gracias!

Ray O. Driskill, Houston, Texas

It was our privilege to attend one of Don's U.S. Open tournaments and we would love to repeat that experience. More on the weight-sharing rule in the next letter...

Ken's Views on Austin Tourney

One of the written rules that the Shuffleboard Federation publishes and distributes at their tournaments reads: "Players shall be allowed to use their own weights. When doing so, their opponent has the option of using them also." As I understand, the reasons that a player has the option to use his/her opponent's weights include: (1) to prevent or discourage "doctoring" weights being used solely by the player bringing the

(continued on page 14)

Notebook (continued from page 11)

weights, and (2) house weights may be unacceptable. In other words, the intent of this rule is to minimize a decidedly unfair advantage by a player who brings his/her own weights. The fact that a player may have a set or several sets of weights may still be to his/her advantage, but at least the opponent has an option and is entering a game in the spirit in which it was intended.

In several games during the U.S. Open, I believe the intent of this rule was flagrantly violated. Players with but four white weights (what color is white anyway?) from a set with no other weights to offer their opponent were allowed to use the white weights, giving the excuse they did not have the other four. In one situation when challenged, four other non-white weights were introduced. The opposing player decided to use these four weights instead of the house weights and, as it turned out, these four weights were of questionable quality. Wouldn't this be considered tampering or doctoring a set of weights? In this situation, a player without the hammer should be allowed to shoot whichever four weights he chooses; a player with the hammer should have had three options: (1) use the house weights, good or bad quality, (2) use opponent's weights, questionable or unacceptable quality, or (3) give up the hammer and shoot the white weights. Why should a player be put in a situation to give up the hammer if he/she does not want to.

To avoid this mickey-mouse stuff, standardization of the weight colors in quality tournament play such as the U.S. Open is needed. I believe the current rules should be restated to include explicitly the words: "declare a set of eight weights" and "these weights shall be four blue and four red." Since green is popular with Sun-Glo weights, green could also be used in place of blue.

Ken Strong, Houston, Texas

Ray and Ken: Please refer to The Shuffleboard Federation's column which addresses this issue in a very timely manner. We salute them for responding so quickly to this concern. Ken, you need to push for your green option; which makes a lot of sense to us.

Glen's Views on Austin Tourney

The tourney in Austin, Texas, was a success for the semi-pros. Congratulations to Don Valk, Johnny Ballard and Bill Woolridge. A special team won the semi-pro doubles -- Lisa Melton and Cragg T. Lisa's name is popping up everywhere; look out, Diana!

We only have five teams in the pro ranks now, thanks to the \$500 entry fee. Eric Waldman walked the board for his doubles. It takes a lot of intestinal fortitude to do that. A real pro! A credit to the game! On top of all that, he's a gentleman's gentleman. Thanks, Eric Waldman, for being a pro shuffleboard player.

I'd say, as of this tourney, that David Williams is the No. 1 pro player in the U.S.A. David reminds me of me when I'm in dead stroke. Congratulations to David and to his lovely wife, Bonnie, for pushing him to his potential.

As everyone knows, the push is on to rid the game of the pro ranks. Now, everyone is a semi-pro or amateur in three phases. One step forward and three back -- real progress.

Thanks from the real pros that we've supported through the years.

Glen Davidson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

We agree wholeheartedly with your evaluation of Eric Waldman!

P.C.S.A. Update

Well, the time is almost here and we are looking forward to a bigger and better tournament. I would like to say thanks to everyone involved in putting on such an event. Hope to see everybody there.

I think the crap table caper is getting more calls than the shuffleboard tournament.

For all the support we get from the Canadians, Karl Spickelmier and I will be off to play in the Crazy Canucks 1st Annual Tournament as the P.C.S.A. representatives. We're looking forward to a great time.

Once again, thanks to all and to our suppliers: Triple Crown, board wipes and silicone; Sun-Glo, wax; and American, shuffleboards.

Joe Muniz, PCSA Director

We salute you for your support of the Crazy Canucks event. They certainly have been very supportive of yours and others tournaments in the U.S.

Welcome Words From an Okie Fan

Thought I should have had a red check on my Board Talk this month. It wasn't there, but I'm gonna renew anyway. And I'm sending a few bucks extra, too. Don't know how you can write, collate and mail a monthly magazine for \$1.25 a month. It's worth \$25 a year to me and I'm just a Barroom Bear. I don't play any of the big tournaments. Just little local stuff around here and in Oklahoma City and Wapanucka and wherever.

I love to shoot and would really enjoy going to the big ones sometime, but right now, I'm taking care of a sick Momma here in Okie and it will be awhile before I can start travelling (she'll probably outlive me).

Do appreciate what you are doing for the game. We'll keep it alive somehow. Maybe replace the NFL one of these days!

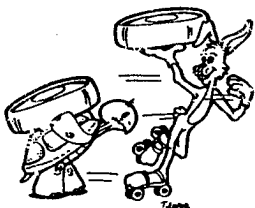
Hang in there and I'll be in touch every now and then. I do try to encourage my friends to subscribe and in fact, I buy some of them subscriptions just to get them interested.

Keep up the good work.

Al Bays, Coalgate, Oklahoma

Do you know how special you are, Al? Paying your subscription before you get a red check puts you in a very small minority. We appreciate your words of encouragement and your financial support. We're sending you a free year's subscription coupon to give to one of your friends, so you won't have to take the next one out of your pocket. We applaud you for setting your priorities and making Mom No. 1. Shuffleboard tournaments will be around forever (as you say, we'll replace the NFL someday), but Moms won't. Take good care of her.

Your News and Views Welcome!
Submit before the 15th of each month.



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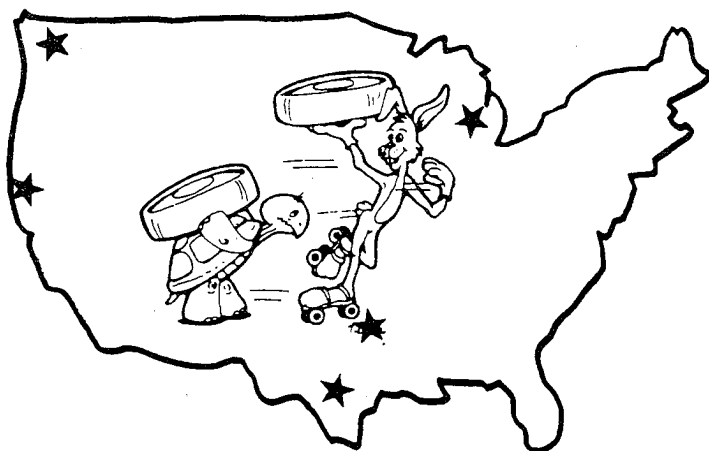
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