

The Board Talk

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

Vol. 10, No. 1

January, 1993

The Hammer

A very warm welcome to all the new subscribers who are receiving their first issue of The Board Talk. We hope you will enjoy this newsletter that is devoted exclusively to The World of Shuffleboard and that you'll see your names often in its columns.

A very sincere thanks and special salute to all the Board Talk Ambassadors (listed in this issue) who have made this recent "revival" the most successful in our venture. Headed by Doc Khan of Michigan and Glen Davidson of Oklahoma, and joined by many enthusiastic supporters, this drive for new subscribers has brought 80 shufflers into the fold as of our Dec. 15 deadline. We hope they, in turn, will spread the word to their friends who may not know that this publication exists.

This effort will certainly go down in history as a highlight for our 1992 year. Another highlight of the Old Year was receiving the first Sol Lipkin Award from The Shuffleboard Federation, Inc. What a great honor! The opportunities to cover the P.C.S.A. Extravaganza in Las Vegas again and the North American Championships in Reno, to co-host the Board Talk tourney in Pennsylvania and Skip's/Board Talk event in Michigan, and the State of Michigan Championships, were also highlights.

Other less spectacular, perhaps, but no less important, highlights for 1992 were the growing support of advertisers which allows us to bring you this publication each month, and the increased contributions of news and views that make it worth reading. We appreciate that more than we can say and hope that trend continues in the coming year.

And, as it has been every year since this "baby" was born, our growing circle of fellowship with shufflers across the U.S.A. and Canada was again a big highlight! You might consider putting those "Keep up the good work" messages on your Christmas cards and year-round communications a small gesture. But, to us, it provides the incentive to keep trying to serve you better. Those messages are the "fuel" that keeps our fires burning.

To each and every one of you, and your families, we hope 1993 will be your very best year yet! HAPPY NEW YEAR from....

George and Donna Wilber, Publishers

Tourney Talk

Nelson/Buhl Win at Shamrock

The Shamrock Tavern in Longview, Washington, hosted their 2nd Annual Doubles Tournament on Nov. 7-8. In the 2 out of 3 double elimination competition, under the direction of Kevin Larkin and Doug Deboise, the 13 teams vied for a pot of over \$2,000. Shamrock owner Jerry added \$20 per team to the event, guaranteeing an entry fee to the upcoming P.C.S.A. tourney in Las Vegas in February.

Winners of the tournament were Darrol Nelson and Doug Buhl of Oregon, with Steve Wilson and Dan Hitt taking second place honors. Joe Leven and "hot dog" Jim Allis took third with Chuck Norris and Gary George in fourth place.



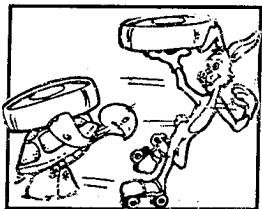
Winners of the Shamrock's 2nd Annual Doubles were Darrol Nelson (left) and Doug Buhl.

One of the behind the scenes people who made this tourney a success was Bernice, who made the chili.

(Report and pix from Ralph Duarte, Kelso, Washington)



(continued on Page 4)



Shufflers' Notebook

News and Views
from The World
of Shuffleboard

Accolades for Reno Tourney

The 1992 North American Championships, in my opinion, were a tremendous success. Dot and I met many new friends, as well as some we have known for years. The Sands Regency upgraded our room to a mini suite and for one night, our 29th anniversary, gave us one of their nicest full suites with a jacuzzi, no less! All of this without an extra cost to me.

In the team event, even though we didn't win a match, we still got back \$120 of our entry fee. I still believe the six-person format is far superior to the eight-player format, even if the eight-player format does sell more hotel rooms.

Dot and I did experience one big disappointment this year. That was that so few of our friends in Southern California participated in the Reno tournament. We had five teams from California, but no full team from Southern California. I think this can be explained by the timing of the tournament, but also by the fact that there have been no inter-bar leagues in L.A. or Orange County for several years. We need to get the bar owners to support handicapped leagues in Southern California in order to promote the growth of shuffleboard.

In any case, Dot and I will be looking forward to the 1993 Reno tournament, the good Lord willing.

Tony Bastanchury, Garden Grove, California

First, congratulations on your 29th anniversary. We sincerely hope you enjoy many more years together. We're sure The Shuffleboard Federation will appreciate your viewpoints on the very successful 1992 North American Championships. The best of luck in convincing the bars in Southern California that they should support handicapped leagues. That would benefit them and the players and potential players in that area.

— 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.

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Greetings to New Indiana Shuffleboard Site

On November 6, I found out about a tournament in a bar in Noblesville, Indiana, about 20 miles north of Indianapolis. I learned it was their first tournament in over 10 years. The owners of Syd's Restaurant & Bar, Brad and Carol Carr, told me they had never heard of The Board Talk. After not much convincing, he gave me \$15 for a year's subscription.

Twenty players showed up for a singles tournament that day. Greg Massie beat out his brother Tom for first place and I took third.

Hopefully, Brad and Carol will spread the word about your publication in Central Indiana.

Larry Brown, Deer Park Tavern, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Thanks, Larry, for spreading the word about The Board Talk. We have added your name to our Honor Roll. We have appreciated the faithful support of your Deer Park Tavern over the years. We welcome Syd's to our network and encourage our readers to stop and introduce themselves to Brad and Carol. They'll be listed in our next quarterly "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A." in the February issue.

Donna Extends Thanks to Caring Shufflers

We've always been proud of the way members of the shuffleboard community respond to the misfortunes of others in our special World. Now that I've been on the receiving end of that care, I am so overwhelmed that it's difficult to find appropriate words to say thanks, but I'll try....

First, to Betty Parrish -- anyone who has had the honor of being a friend of Betty knows they just don't come any better! When I broke my ankle and toe at the Michigan Championships (no, Gwen, I did not do it sliding down a bannister!), without a moment's hesitation, Betty pitched in to help me with my bookkeeping chores and took them over entirely when the throbbing got too much to handle. Not only that! She also hustled subscriptions and served as goodwill ambassador to new tournament players from "virgin" territory in Northern Michigan. That wasn't enough for Betty! When she got back home, she spread the word to the leagues in that area and I received great messages of concern.

It takes a while to master crutches and just going to the rest room can be a major challenge. Thanks to all the

(continued on Page 12)

Shuffleboard — The Sport for Every Season

1993 Calendar of Events

JANUARY 1993

Jan. 1-3

New Years Tournament
The 99 Tavern
Winston, Oregon

FEBRUARY 1993

Feb. 2-7

P.C.S.A. Shuffleboard
Extravaganza V
Alladin Hotel & Casino
Las Vegas, Nevada

Feb. 12-14

Winter Board Talk Tournament
Lafayette Inn
Rising Sun, Maryland

MARCH 1993

Mar. 12-15

Invitational Singles Tournament
Lafayette Inn
Rising Sun, Maryland

Mar. 13-14

5th Annual Mixed Doubles
Old Edison Inn
Edison, Washington

Mar. 19-21

Texas Mist Open
Texas Mist
Austin, Texas

APRIL 1993

April 9-11

Dick Gorman Spring Classic
Lafayette Inn
Rising Sun, Maryland

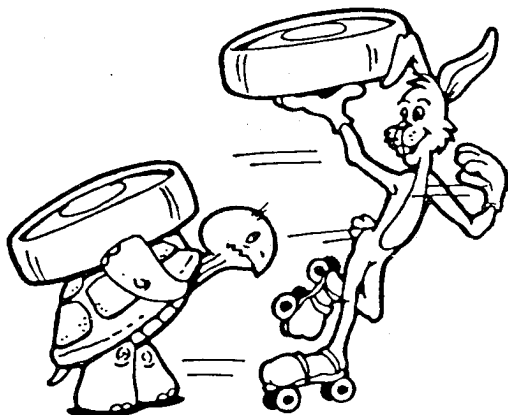
SEPTEMBER 1993

September 3-5

Crazy Canucks
Labor Day Weekend Tourney
Canada

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Tourney Talk *(continued from Page 1)*

Harvey's Place Inaugurates '93-'94 Season

The Thanksgiving Shootout was the first of five weekend tournaments scheduled for Harvey's Place in Street, Maryland, Nov. 20-22. Hosts Darylene Belcher and Harvey Comer extended their usual hospitality and warm buffets on Saturday and Sunday. "The economy is really hitting hard among the shufflers in this area," reports Dick Gorman. "We are hoping for a near-term recovery and a return to sell-out in advance tournaments. We did have two brand-new traveling competitors, Nick Lopatin and Ken Missimer from Pennsville, New Jersey, join us and they threatened to be back again. We hope so; nice guys!"

Friday night was the draw partner event and, even though the pot was down, the enthusiasm was high. When the night ended, the winners were Len Dell, Bellcamp, Md., and Bob Morrel, Philadelphia, Pa. Giving up hard were second place finishers Butch Kelly, Springfield, Pa., and Dick Gorman, Wilmington, Del. Third place was taken by the co-ed team of Brenda Wallace, Port Deposit, Md., and Wayne Nichols, Conowingo, Md.

In Saturday morning's women's singles, Judy Iseman of Chestertown, Md., led the way to the winner's table, placing first over second place finisher Rusti McCarty of Cumberland, Md. Finishing in third place was first time money winner Wendy Davis of Elmsere, Del..

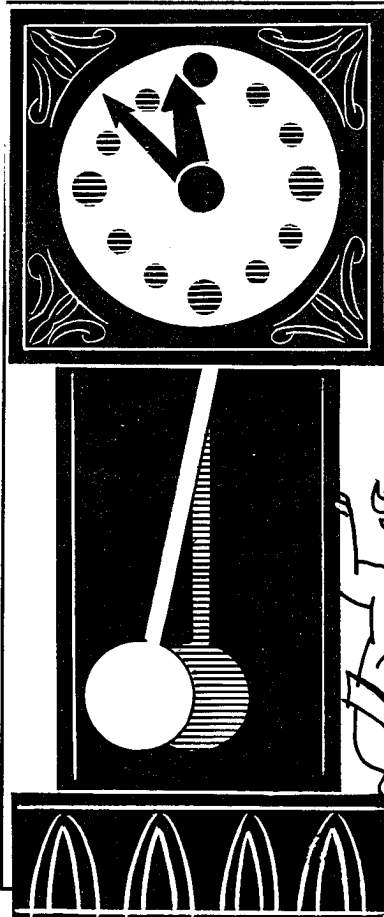
On Saturday night, Mickey Mickens of Mt. Laurel, New Jersey, and Bob Morrel of Philadelphia, led the parade to the winner's circle to collect top honors in the bring partner event. Second place went to a tough team, Len Dell of Bellcamp and Chuck King of Dover, Del. Third went to Johnny Gardner, Greensboro, Md., and Butch "Hollywood" Kelly, Springfield, Pa. "Honorable mention has to go to the fourth place finishers, Connie King of Northeast and Brenda Wallace of Port Deposit," reports Dick. "They both gave formidable competition to everyone all day and evening long."

A round robin mixed doubles on Sunday was won by Judy Iseman and Len Dell, with second going to Rusti McCarty and Chuck King. Third place went to Brenda Wallace and Bob Overbay of Street.

The next scheduled tournament at Harvey's Place is on Jan. 15-17 with draw partners on Friday, women's singles and bring partner on Saturday and mixed doubles on Sunday. Dick Gorman says a new inovation in prizes will be introduced which will be interesting to most players.

Amateurs Add New Dimension to Michigan Champion ships

It was a new location and a new format for the 1992 State of Michigan Shuffleboard Championships this year. The new location for the Thanksgiving weekend event was McCabe's Lounge in Saginaw, where hosts Dave Willett



*As we enter our 10th year of service
to The World of Shuffleboard,
we wish all our faithful subscribers
and advertisers
a year of peace, prosperity
and much happiness.*

**George & Donna Wilber
Publishers**

THE BOARD TALK

421 E. Sheridan Rd., Lansing, Michigan 48906

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and Becki Boudout and their efficient crew dished out great drinks, food, service, atmosphere and hospitality. The new format was the addition of a "first flight" to attract new players who had the desire to compete but, because of their lack of experience, had little chance to beat the reigning "champs" for the crowns that would be awarded.

As it turned out in the seven tournament, four board, nearly \$6,000 total pot event, it was the first flight participants who made the weekend a memorable landmark in shuffleboard history in Michigan. While the "champs" involvement in the yearly shootout was minimal, new players in first-time tournament experience were in abundance, and served notice that it wouldn't be their last.

The 1992 State of Michigan champions are: Doubles, Ken Gay of Waterford and Jerry Hershmann of Utica (Bjerne Sunde of Madison Heights and John Tischler of Detroit finished second); Men's Singles, John McDermott, Northville (Bjerne Sunde finished second and Saginaw's Sonny Morgan came in third); Mixed Doubles, Sonny Morgan and Linda Mitchell of Saginaw. (Cassie Kern of Pontiac and Bjerne Sunde finished second, with Sher Blessing of Rochester and Frank Parrish of Auburn Hills in third.) Last year's Women's Singles Champ, Sher Blessing, showed up to defend her crown, but Cassie Kern was her only challenger so that event was cancelled. Therefore, Sher retains her title and will be the one to try to beat next year.

In first flight action, Shirley Carpenter of Walled Lake showed she had the stuff upcoming champs are made of when she beat the formidable Linda Mitchell in the Women's Singles. Betty Kuebler ("We're too big to be the cookie dwarfs.") of Saginaw came in third in the 13-player field of contenders.

In the first flight men's singles, it was the impressive play of Garry Young, Pontiac, that beat Frank Parrish of Auburn Hills (whose demonstrated skill moved him up to the championship flight in the mixed doubles). Another member of the "cookie" Kueblers, Dan of Saginaw, finished third, with Steve Auten (watch out for this new, young, second generation player) of Pontiac in fourth place in a field of 22 contenders.

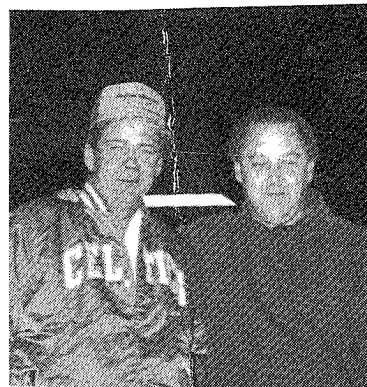
It was a "family affair" as natives Linda Mitchell and Bonnie Morgan beat the tough guys in the first flight open doubles. They proved that shuffleboard was a non-sexist sport as they defeathered second-place finishers Frank Parrish and Reggie Surfus of Commerce. A team from Lansing, Carl Daly and Mark Holland, took third place honors.

Another Lansing team, Jeni Coscarelli and Mark Holland took first place in the first flight mixed doubles event, beating second place finishers, hosts Dave Willett and Becki Boudout.

Tournament directors George and Donna Wilber extend special thanks to Dave and Becki and their crew, to Betty Parrish who filled in as chief bookkeeper (no small job, especially when you have seven events and seven sponsor sales) when Donna broke her ankle, to Rob Kern, John Tischler and Chris Passariello (who are always there when we need them), to John and Mary Holmes from Luther who blazed new trails for us in the Northern Michigan area, and all the participants of the 1992 State of Michigan Championships.



Our friendly hosts for the State of Michigan Championships were Dave Willett and Becki Boudout of McCabe's Lounge in Saginaw. They finished second in the first flight mixed doubles.



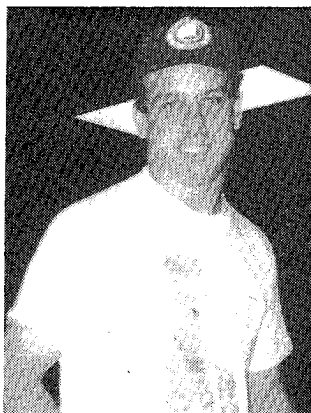
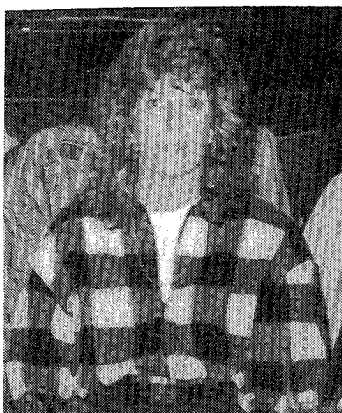
(Left) Jerry Hershman of Utica and Ken Gay of Waterford were the doubles champs. (Right) John McDermott of Northville was the singles champ.



Locals Linda Mitchell and Sonny Morgan are the State of Michigan Mixed Doubles Champs.

(continued on Page 6)

Tourney Talk *(continued from Page 5)*



(left) Who? Me? Yes, you, Shirley Carpenter, won the women's singles in the State of Michigan first flight. (right) Garry Young was winner of the men's first flight.



(left) Who said this is a men's game? Linda Mitchell and Bonnie Morgan proved otherwise as they took top honors in the first flight open doubles. (right) Jeni Coscarelli and Mark Holland, in one of their first major tourney appearances, took top honors in the mixed doubles first flight.

Stars Shine at Corporate Image Tourney

The stars shone brightly deep in the heart of Texas over the Thanksgiving weekend at the Corporate Image in Fort Worth, Texas, as the "big guns" captured top honors in the three-event series.

David Williams of Texas and Mike Melton of Oklahoma were winners of the draw partner event, beating out Frank Blade and Steve Burkett of Texas. Billy Melton and Mike Bader finished third.

In the bring partner, veterans Billy Mays and Johnny Ballard, both of Texas, took first, with Bill Melton and daughter Lisa Melton of Oklahoma in second place. David Williams and brother Bobby Williams were third-place finishers.

Billy Mays took top honors in the singles, with David Williams in second, Bill Melton in third, and Bob Shaw of Texas in fourth place.

Director Dave Williams and hostess Roz Hines thank everyone in attendance.

Vance/Royal Tops at Red Dog Saloon

Sixteen doubles teams and 18 singles vied for a pot of over \$4200 at the Red Dog Saloon in Muncie, Indiana, Nov. 28-29.

Larry Vance and Rick Royal teamed up to take first place in the doubles event. Father and son Bob and Bobby Brown were second, with Bob and Debbie Voorhis in third, and Larry Creakbaum and Jim DeWitt in fourth place.

Larry Vance took his second first of the weekend by capturing the singles crown, beating out the tough Bob Voorhis. Danny Lowe finished in third place, with Debbie Voorhis in fourth.

Houstonites Do It Again!

It was all Houston shufflers in the winner's circle (again) at the Texas Mist in Austin, Texas, on Dec. 12-13. In the open draw, the legendary Rod Cameron drew the talented Mary Koteras to take top honors. Dave Cowan of Denver, Col., and Tina Wade of Austin finished second.

In the bring partner, it was Ken Strong and Brian Walker who took the biggest share of the pot. The husband and wife team of Dale and Mary Koteras were in second place.

In a Friday night \$20 open draw, Diana Hagen and Dale Koteras made a clean sweep.

Mark your calendars now for the Texas Mist Open on March 19-21. Details in next month's issue.



Rod Cameron and Mary Koteras, winners of the draw partner event at the Texas Mist.

Ken Strong and Brian Walker toast each other after their bring partner win at Texas Mist.



Sign Up For Vegas Tourney Now!

Check out the enclosed flyer for details on the upcoming P.C.S.A.'s Shuffleboard Extravaganza V, Fe. 2-7. Note that the deadline date for entries in all the six big events -- 6-member team event, mixed doubles, pro singles, pro doubles, women's singles, and amateur team event -- and your room reservations at the Aladdin Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas -- is due Jan. 2. That's not so far away. Do it now!

Have you been wondering how the top players in your state would stack up against those from another state? Here's your chance to find out! For the first time, we have a 6-member pro team event, made up of players representing their respective states. This will be a prestigious event that you should check out now and convince the pros in your state to participate.

For information, contact the P.C.S.A., 310-926-2152. Share the enclosed flyer information with players in your area and encourage them to sign up now.

"Toys for Tots" Benefit from Michigan Tourney

Children who, without the care and concern of Lansing area shufflers, may have had a Christmas with no Santa, were the beneficiaries of a special tournament held at the Mason-Holt Eagles and Vic's Hole in the Wall in Holt, Michigan. Sponsored by the U.S. Marine Corps, sanctioned by the Greater Lansing Shuffleboard League, and directed by Don Kirby, the benefit netted three and a half barrels of new toys and \$526 for the "Toys for Tots" crusade. Entry fees for participants were \$5 plus one new toy.

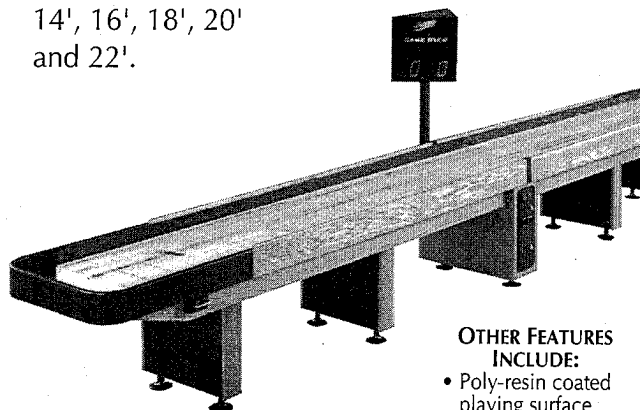
It was a four-person "Luck of the Draw" tourney, double elimination, best two of three, event. Winners were the team of Fred Shattuck, Mike Montgomery, Russ Fulcher and Dottie Welch. Taking second place honors were Jim Johnson, Betty Myers, Tom Stephens, and Jerry Siebert. In third place were Gene Fulcher, Mike Lassapel (Lash), Denny Greenhoe, and David Scott.

First time tournament director Don Kirby thanks everyone involved for their participation and patience. "With the experience gained in this tournament as a rookie director, I am confident that the 2nd Annual 'Toys for Tots' tournament will be bigger and better than the first," Don said. "A special thank you to the family and friends of Steve Pierce, in whose memory this tournament was dedicated."

The Board Talk salutes Don and all participants for a worthwhile "this is what Christmas is all about" effort.

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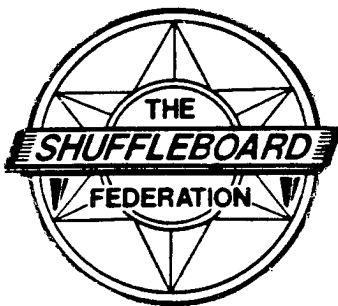


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As we begin a new year it seems an appropriate time to reflect on where we have been and where we hope to go. When The Shuffleboard Federation, Inc. was founded in 1987 we knew what a great game shuffleboard was and believed that there were big sponsorship dollars available and we hoped to help bring some of them to our sport.

Five years later we are convinced that shuffleboard can attract major sponsorship dollars, but have come to realize that if shuffleboard is ever going to reap the benefits of outside sponsorship it is going to happen through leagues, not tournaments.

It is ironic that in 1993, as we further scale back tournament promotion that many people still think that running big tournaments is very lucrative. If in fact there was big money to be made in tournament promotion, we would be running more of them not less.

As we have mentioned in previous articles, there are literally millions of sponsorship dollars going into pool and dart leagues. This money comes from a number of different places but primarily three sources - manufacturers of pool and dart equipment, beer companies, and vending companies. The last group, vending companies, own and operate the majority of all coin operated equipment in this country. Their association, the AMOA, which has been a longtime supporter of pool and dart leagues have recently added pinball to their list.

Why has shuffleboard not been able to obtain support from these people. The answer is easy - dollars and cents. These other games are fast, an average of less than 15 minutes, and therefore earn a lot more money than shuffleboard where an average game is more than twice as long. This was not always the case.

Shuffleboard was far more popular than any other coin operated game during the forties and fifties, when the game was played using a "frames" format instead of the 21 point format that replaced frames. Of course in recent years, 15 point games have replaced 21 point games as the most popular, and now there is a growing interest in 11 point games, especially for leagues and round robins.

Sol Lipkin, who has sixty years of service to our sport was recently honored at the North American Championships. He has often told us that if shuffleboard had stayed with the frames format we would all be sitting pretty right now. For those readers who aren't familiar with frames, the following is a brief explanation.

A frame consists of one round of eight weights, shot in the same fashion as a regular game. The length of the game is a predetermined number of frames, 8, 10 or 12 (there are always an even number).

The player with the highest score at the end of the designated number of frames is the winner. If the score is tied at the end of the game, two more frames are played. This process is continued until a winner has been determined.

Currently, the average nine game league match, with 15 point games, takes four to six hours. Using a ten frame format, an average match is less than three hours.

For those of you who are involved in bowling leagues, imagine how much less fun it would be if the game went to a points format instead of ten frames. Bowling would not be nearly as popular if the winner was the first player to 300. Furthermore, bowling leagues wouldn't enjoy the tremendous popularity they do without their handicap system.

One of the things we have heard most often about our league program, the N.A.S.L.[™], is that our handicap system is too complicated and is tough to apply to league play. With that in mind we are introducing a new system which is so simple that even someone with no previous experience can understand it and we think it will create a lot of new interest in the program. Look for more information in upcoming issues of The Board Talk.

With the development of the N.A.S.L.[™] being at the top of our priority list for this year, we feel it is important to address some misconceptions about the Program. One of the biggest myths regarding The Shuffleboard Federation and the N.A.S.L.[™] program is that we want to run your league and/or tell you how to play. Nothing could be further from the truth. Leagues which are members of the N.A.S.L.[™] elect their own officers, make their own rules, and have complete control of their own finances.

In order to have a realistic chance of attracting a major sponsor, shuffleboard leagues across the country need to be able to present a united front. In other words, it will take all of us pulling together. The N.A.S.L.[™] gives leagues from around the country a common thread even though the leagues themselves are very different, with formats ranging from conventional, to frames, to Horse Collar. So regardless of how your league operates, we would like to add you to the N.A.S.L.[™] family.

In an effort to draw some interest from the AMOA, we are starting another program specifically geared to their members. It will include the frames format as well as the new handicap system, play will begin in the fall of 1993.

Our league rules are meant to be a starting point, not the final word. Leagues are encouraged to make whatever changes they feel are necessary. It is those changes that help us to continually improve. Many of the rules included in our League & Tournament Rule Book were added and/or modified as a result of player suggestion.

In the November issue of The Board Talk we ran an article entitled "Why Leagues Fail". Since that time, many people have told us that it really hit home. Because of that response and the fact that it is very pertinent to the rest of this article, a large portion of it has been reprinted on the following page.

Our belief is that the back bone of shuffleboard, as well as any other sport, is the average player. These people, who represent 80-90% of a league's total membership, play because they love the game and spending time with their friends. Even though they seldom win, they still come to play every week.

The unfortunate pattern for leagues is that sooner or later the better players take the fun out of league play by loading up the top couple of teams who then compete for first place, while the rest of the teams are out of the running by mid season. Eventually the average players get tired of being dominated by the better players and quit.

In professional sports, the proven, successful method is to give the teams at the bottom the best chance to improve by giving them the top draft picks. Their success has come by establishing parity and giving every team a chance.

There is a league which we are familiar with that is now on the verge of folding after nearly twenty years. In the beginning, the top players were spread out among all the bars in the league. But every new season saw a few more of the better players leaving their original teams to play for one of the top couple of teams in the league. This is a common occurrence which plagues many leagues.

The league began to discuss handicap systems at their annual organizational meetings. While it was obvious something had to be done, league meetings are usually attended heavily by the top players who influenced the less knowledgeable players. Therefore, when a handicap system was finally introduced, it was not structured in such a way that the less talented teams really had any better chance of winning.

Five years ago, when the league was at its strongest, with nearly five hundred players, a few teams dropped out and formed their own league. Because it was a small league, the better players did not join, preferring instead to stay where they were.

Meanwhile, the original league was raising the weekly dues, and then voting to pay fewer places. We feel very strongly, and consequently have included the idea in our N.A.S.L.[™] program, that every team should get back something at the end of the season.

Leagues to be successful should have the emphasis on having fun, not playing for money. Players whose primary interest is playing for money should concentrate on tournament play.

Eventually, the new league grew while the original league dwindled. Now all that is left in the original league are a couple of bars, while the new league has become strong. We hope that the new league maintains the control that they have and do not allow the short sighted way of thinking that doomed the other league.

The issue in a nutshell is that we need to think about the future and not just think about today; otherwise, we have no future. We believe giving every team a chance to win is a necessary ingredient if a league is to grow and flourish; and, that leagues which are not using some form of handicap system, be it ours or their own, will eventually fold. Some form of handicapping is the only way to guarantee that every team will have a chance.

The shuffleboard community can learn a great deal from the successes enjoyed by pool and dart leagues. There are several major league programs for each of these two sports. Their combined membership is more than 500,000 players. We have incorporated some of their proven ideas into our the N.A.S.L.[™] format, and intend to continue to use these programs as a model.

You will be reading more about new developments and revisions in the N.A.S.L.[™] program over the next few months. Our goal, which is a major sponsorship contract for the program, is attainable if the entire shuffleboard community takes the attitude that as shuffleboard players we deserve it and are going to work together until it happens.

We are asking for your support. That means more than just becoming a member, it means that if you agree with what is being said here, you need to help us to get the message out. The entire shuffleboard community has a stake in this effort and if it works everybody wins.

As we continue to promote our ideas we ask only one thing from you, that you keep an open mind and take an objective look at what we come up with. As always, your comments, criticisms, and ideas are always welcome.

We are very interested in hearing opinions on a number of different questions, starting with the concept of using the frames format for league play. What kind of format does your league follow - how many games, how many players, singles or doubles, 11 or 15 points, is the league mixed, do you have a handicap system, and if yes, how does it work.

In return for your help and support, we pledge to work hard on the behalf of every league member. We will submit a sponsorship proposal on behalf of your league to your local beer distributors as well as include your league in all efforts to secure a national sponsor.

We believe that this is a critical time for our sport. Is the shuffleboard community ready and willing to stand together with the common goal of getting the recognition our sport deserves; or are we going to allow ourselves to be an also ran to pool, darts or even pinball. If you want to help make a difference, contact The Shuffleboard Federation, 41761 Onaway Drive, Northville, MI 48167, (313) 380-9300.

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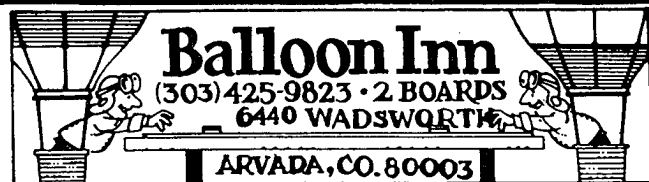
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Notebook *(continued from Page 2)*

players and spectators at the tournament and the crew at McCabe's for their care and concern. And thanks to Carl Daly for delivering me back home again while George tended to his clean-up duties.

I feel very fortunate to be a part of The World of Shuffleboard.

Donna Wilber, Editor, The Board Talk

Season's Greetings from the Khans

I am so glad the promotion is going well, thanks to the efforts of all concerned. I have been travelling quite a bit. I went to Wyoming, South Carolina and Florida and, of course, did not forget that I am a Board Talk Ambassador.

I am hoping that my idea of a nationwide grassroots organization in every state generates some interest (see Dec. issue). I only wish we had two dozen Glen Davidsons.

A very Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you.

Doc Khan, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan



Happy Holidays to The World of Shuffleboard from Doc and Megan Khan!

And Happy Holidays to you and your family! We, too, wish there were two dozen Glens and the same amount of you. As you can see by the enclosed Good Will Ambassadors honor roll, you two are leading the list. Thank you!

No Boards in South Africa!

I've just returned from a six-week trip to Cape Town, South Africa -- and there isn't even one table there! Believe me, I looked! I've never gone that long without playing shuffleboard. Three days is about my limit. After that, I get the shakes! Now, I know what a tough thing it must be to give up cigarettes or booze.

South Africa is a wonderful country, as are the people. It's not at all like we might expect from what we see in the newspapers, but when I go back (which I intend to do), I think I should take a shuffleboard table with me. It won't solve all their social problems, but it won't hurt!

At least, I won't have to go through "Shuffle-Withdrawal" again. What do you think?

Dan Kelly, St. Louis, Missouri

Congratulations, Dan, for being a shuffleboard missionary in South Africa. More important, thanks for signing up another subscriber bar in St. Louis, Missouri -- Dave Giesler's Pub, what you describe as a tremendous supporter, promoter and player on the local scene. Wherever we go, it seems, people ask us, what's going on in Missouri; it used to be such a shuffleboard hotbed. Our subscription list puts Missouri near the bottom of the list, so we hope the addition of this shuffleboard site will get something good started there. St. Louis today, Cape Town, South Africa, tomorrow! We've added you to our Board Talk Ambassador list in this issue.

**To All Our Shuffling
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Glen Sets the Ground Rules for Board Winner in Board Talk "Revival"

Happy Anniversary to The Board Talk and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

The shuffleboard that will be awarded for the Board Talk "Revival" drive will be videotaped and shown at the P.C.S.A.'s Shuffleboard Extravaganza in Las Vegas, and then whoever wins it will have to have it shipped to wherever they live. It would be foolish of me to take it to Vegas and then have to ship it to New York or even Michigan, so -- that's the name of that tune.

The last I heard, there were 50 new subscribers and, as you know, we have to get 100 to give away the board. I'm sure we will reach that goal, but 200 would be better!

Our slogans for the shuffleboard network membership drive totalled eight. The winner will be awarded a set of weights from Sun-Glo or Triple Crown or The Shuffleboard Federation. The winner of the draw for the shuffleboard will also get a set of weights to go with the board and the person who signs up the most new subscribers will also get a set. The Federation has agreed to give a bucket of Faster wax for the board. Thanks to all of you for pitching in on this very worthy cause. Special happy holiday wishes to you all!

Thanks again to Doc Khan for his dedication and loyalty to the sport we all truly love. Without his interest in this revival, it would not have gone so far. I wish we had more people like him. Who knows? We might recruit some from this episode.

Hope to see all of you in Vegas. Remember, you can sign up new subscribers right up to tourney time.

Happy Holidays to all of our shuffleboard family.

Glen Davidson, Tupelo, Oklahoma

We have confidence, too, Glen, that we'll reach that 100-mark by drawing time. We join you in thanking our generous support system for adding some incentives to the pot. As you can see from Doc's letter, you two have a mutual admiration society going and you both deserve it! And, now we'll open the envelope for the winner of the slogan contest.....And the winner is.....Lois Lambrecht of Tulsa, Oklahoma, with her slogan: "Places, Faces, Dates, Fates, News and Views -- Every player is a winner with The Board Talk." Congratulations, Lois! We hope you'll be in Vegas to collect your award. All of the entries were "winners" and we'll be using them in our promotions during the coming year. We especially liked Doc Khan's "The puck stops here."

Congrats from a Good Friend

Congratulations on your Sol Lipkin Award. No one deserves an award more than you two. Your years of presenting all of us shuffleboard players with The Board

Talk is greatly appreciated. If appreciation would balance the bank account, you two would be millionaires!

Travis Anderson, Louisville, Colorado

It's letters like yours, Travis, that make us "millionaires" in the sense that few couples like us realize. Thankfully, neither of us places a real high priority on "wordly goods." All we seek is enough income to continue to serve The World of Shuffleboard as we have done for the past nine years. As we retire from our full-time paying jobs, we may become a bit more mercenary -- like being financially able to cover the various tournaments around the U.S.A. and Canada. In the meantime, your letter has given us the greatest Christmas gift we could ask for. Thank you and Happy Holidays! It's friends like you that keep us going! The Sol Lipkin Award was one of the nicest things that has happened to us since we started this venture -- not only because it came from The Shuffleboard Federation, which doesn't hand out awards indiscriminately, but because we have such great admiration for the person for whom the award was named. Those are "perks" that don't have a check attached to them, but they're more meaningful than anything money can buy.

MISSING!



George and Donna Wilber, publishers of The Board Talk, looking for YOUR news!

Was news of shuffleboard action in your state missing in this issue of The Board Talk? Become a part of a national communications system for shuffleboarders. Send notice of tournaments, news and views about the sport to:

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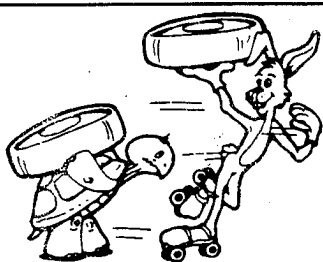
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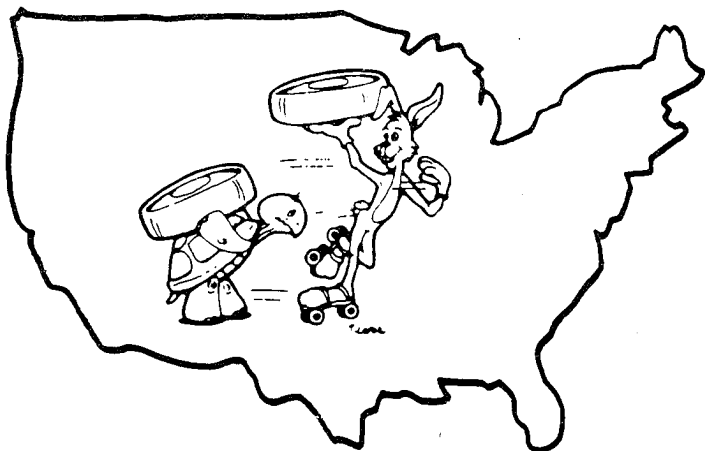
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