

The Board Talk

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June 1996

Bill & Billy Melton "Do It Again" at Bourbon

By George & Donna Wilber

At 6:15 a.m. Sunday, May 7, the two remaining teams out of the 70 that started the marathon 35th Annual Bourbon Spring Doubles/1st Annual National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Tournament on Saturday morning delivered their final strokes on Board 3 at the American Legion Post 424 in Bourbon, Indiana.

When Bill and Billy Melton of Oklahoma, last year's champions in the 34th Annual Bourbon Spring Doubles, met and defeated the undefeated Hoosiers Jim DeWitt and Bob Brown Sr. on Board 2, and again on Board 3, the crowd that had packed the American Legion since Thursday had thinned down to a handful of observers, including director Fritz Broka, who had slept in a back room on a hospital cot to protect the "humongous" sponsor sale kitty from the night before. Also "hanging in there" after the vast majority of participants had long ago folded was Jimmy (the cop) Kumpula, Detroit/Florida, who had taken a chance on the "dark horse" team of DeWitt and Brown in a field of the best shooters from 16 states and Canada. Another faithful gallery observer was Mike Melton (son and brother of the top contenders) who said: "'Boy, Dad's going to rag on Billy for that shot," even though Billy had drawn a 4 to beat out tournament favorites John McDermott (Michigan) and Bob Shaw (Texas) in an earlier game.

At this hour, even the crew on the train that goes roaring past the American Legion and shakes its foundations at regular intervals had taken a break and it was quiet, quiet, quiet.....The only time it had been quiet in three long days and nights....

Fallen by the wayside in the quest to win the 1st NSHF/35th Annual Bourbon Spring Tournament, but still in the money, were: Jeff Cottrell and Mark Holland, Michigan (another long shot), 3rd; John McDermott and Bob Shaw, 4th; Garry Young and John Myles, Michigan; Bobby Voorhis, Indiana, and Jim Allis, Washington, 5th and 6th; Buddy Broka, Indiana, and Fred Thuman, California, Tom and Greg Massie, Indiana, 7th and 8th;

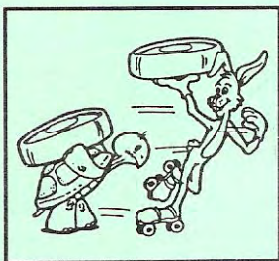
"Top This one, Hal Perry!" -- Bill Melton



Third generation Melton shuffler, 8-month-old Maddox (son of Mark), shows his winning style. "He can't play singles yet because he can't walk," explains Grandpa Bill. The father-son rivalry between Hal (vice president of the NSHF) and Steve Perry of California, who teamed up to win the recent Blinky's tournament, and Bill and Billy Melton of Oklahoma, who won the 1st NSHF Tournament/35th Annual Bourbon Spring Doubles, is heating up. We hear rumors that there may be a challenge in the near future. Watch for details!

Judy Iseman and Len Dell, Maryland; Denny Busch and Gwyn Orsi, Nebraska; Ron Huddleston and Mike Melton, Oklahoma; Terry Dowell and Dave Boaz, Indiana; 9th through 12th places.

The charts for the huge event took up a 10' by 12' wall space and bracket man Larry Ross spent as many
(continued on Page 8)



Shufflers' Notebook

News and Views
from The World
of Shuffleboard

More on The Hall of Fame from Ed Galke.....

In reply to the March story from Balboa Ron recalling Tacoma Tim's story to Frisco Eddie and Lil, detailing the matches played by the mystery man at Longview, Washington, in 1963, I would be willing to bet anything I own that this man was Kid Spooks. All of the mannerisms and play would indicate this to be so. Kid Spooks was a phenomenal player at that style of game. I also feel that he would be very adept at the present style of play.

For a couple of reasons, I disagree with Glen Davidson's comments in the March '96 Board Talk concerning the requirements to be nominated and consequently admitted to the Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

Regarding the over-60 age limit for the present time I feel is fair, but all prudence should be taken to assure any deserving player to be considered based upon the documentation the board has decreed. I also feel that a player's consideration should be based upon the input from players other than his own home area. I do not mean that this home town input should be totally ignored, but I feel that one of the strongest requirements should be that this player's skills -- not his personality -- are ranked by as wide an audience as possible. A lot of players can dominate their local areas, depending upon the caliber of his competition. I feel it takes a pretty damn good player to more than hold his own on the road. Therefore, I feel that the perception of as many opponents and geographical areas as possible should weigh more heavily than local judgements. Naturally some player's playing skills are known before he ever gets into a certain area. How well he plays against the local competition in any area he visits should be a considerable factor.

As to the issue raised by Louise Freer or the board

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regarding the nomination of individuals for the Hall of Fame, I must take exception. I have already gone on record as to my sentiments that I feel strongly that I belong in the Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. I can quote my playing ability no matter where I compete in the country for one factor. I can also state that I have played an above average game for all of my 50 years of play encompassing all styles of play, but I should not have to do this thing which I personally feel is demeaning to me.

The area of the country where I started to play and still live has no shuffleboard players, with the lone exception of Dick Smedberg. If I were to be so presumptuous as to lobby for support and documentation in my area, it would take a prodigious effort on my part or any potential person who would deign to sponsor me to local people who have not been active in the game for the past 40 years if they were even alive or still residing in the area. There are enough top players in all areas of the country where I have competed who can vouch for my playing skills. I want it known that I am not one of the players who have petitioned the board's members to sign any petition for me. I did discuss with Glen Davidson at the Mickey Mickens tournament in the presence of Judy Gartland what my personal beliefs were as to whether I belong in the Hall of Fame. The reason I expressed myself in front of Judy was that she is one of the persons who would have known of my abilities. She was of the opinion that my personality was a factor that would weigh against me and so informed Glen. I agree that I am not Mr. Personality. But I defy you to show me any person who has put more effort into both promoting the game and playing the game all over this country.

As far as the validation of a player's past playing credentials, these can be elicited from the player and checked by persons he names in any geographical areas he has played.

I do not agree that nominations should require a cash donation to merit possible consideration for the Hall. No other sport that I am aware of has a like requirement and I feel that it presents the appearance of begging for funds and also it may present the impression that the heavier the donation, the more consideration given that person's nomination, or the appearance of buying one's way in. I have stated in the past that each tournament that has their entries and results published in The Board Talk pay a minimal fee towards the Hall of Fame, even if a small percentage was deducted from each 50-50 pot. This would surely help.

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Shuffleboard Action at Dew Drop Inn Still Going Strong Under New Owner

The new owner of the Dew Drop Inn, Waterloo, New York, is Tracie Fridley and, as a member of the long-time shuffleboard supporting Fridley family, the sport there is still strong and ongoing. The annual Spring National Tournament on April 11-14 attracted good participation in the five-event weekend.

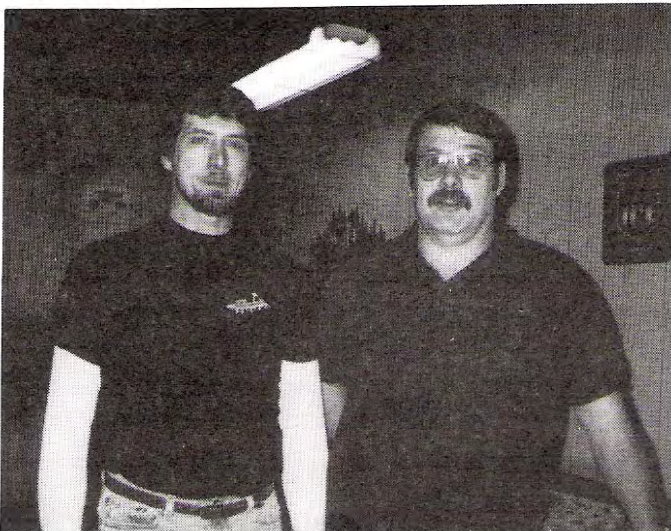
Action started on Thursday night with round robins. In the first round, Marv Smith and Rob Hummer finished first, with Doug Fridley Jr. and Jane Johnson taking second place honors, and John Arndt and Maynard Chilson in third place. The second round was won by John Arndt and Arlow Johnson (with a big four draw to take first). Marv Smith and Doug Fridley Jr. finished second, with Jane Johnson and Canada Jim in third place.

Doug Fridley Jr. was tops in the Friday night singles taking the biggest share of the \$2030 pot. Steve Bennett finished second, John Pearson third, and Ken VanZile fourth.

Dale Law and Louise Freer took the biggest share of the \$1400 pot in Saturday morning's mixed doubles. Dick Losee and "T" finished second, with Marv Smith and Denise Russel in third place.

Arlow Johnson and John Canino took first place and the biggest slice of the \$1800 pie in Saturday afternoon's draw partner. Jane Johnson and Tom Lattenhaner, a first-time money winner, finished second, with John Arndt and Rob Hummer in third, and Ken VanZile and Brian Lounsbury in fourth place.

There was \$1830 in the pot for Sunday's bring partner event and the winners were Dick Losee and Marv Smith. The husband and wife team of Arlow and Jane Johnson took second place, with Brian Lounsbury and Bob Brooks in third.



Dick Losee (right) and Marv Smith were tops in the bring partner event.



Jane and Arlow Johnson took second place honors in the bring partner.



Bob Brooks and Brian Lounsbury finished third.

"Elsie Fridley fed all the players with great food all weekend, and Bob Carpenter did a great job with all the sales and monies all weekend," reports John Arndt. "Thanks Bob and Elsie and Steve Bennett for doing all the sponsor sales."

Cockrum/Kelly First at Top's

Woody Cockrum of Cuba and Dan Kelly of St. Louis bested the field of contenders in the bring partner event April 19-20 at Top's, That Other Place Saloon, in St. Louis, Missouri.

"Super" Sam and Dennis Bullock took second place honors, with Bill Frame and Matt McLain in third. Jack "King" Meyer celebrated his 65th birthday April 19 with a fourth place finish, partnered with Jerry Sabourin. A Happy Birthday to "King" from all the players.

The next event at Top's is the "Hangover Drag Partner" Tournament on June 21-22.

For further information, call Top's, 314-645-4033 (see listing in Shuffleboard Directory). Top's had some good ambassadors at the Bourbon tournament!

Upcoming Events Across the Nation

Oklahoma

SOUTHWEST OPEN SET FOR JULY 2-7, DEL CITY, OKLAHOMA -- \$1500 ADDED!

That popular 4th of July tradition, the Southwest Open, will once again be held at the American Legion Post 73 in Del City, Oklahoma, July 2-4. This year, five events, played on 16 boards, will offer the opportunity to win points toward \$1500 added money. Action will start on Tuesday evening, July 2, with a warm-up event, a bring your own 4-person team, \$200 per team entry.

On Wednesday evening, there will be a singles, open to all skill levels, but with a handicap entry fee: Pros (-1), \$100; 0's, \$75; 1's, \$50; and 2's and up, \$25. There will be two draw partner events on Thursday -- No. I, \$50 entry with no two pros allowed to draw each other; and No. II, Beginners/Pretty Goods (3's, 4's and 5's), \$30 entry. Friday will feature a draft team event, with pros and 0's serving as captains. \$40 per person entry, 5 of 9 games, mark 4, double elimination.

Three events are scheduled for Saturday: a bring partner handicap total 0 to 2, \$100 per team; a singles for 2-rated players, \$40 entry; and a singles for 3's, 4's and 5's, \$30 entry.

If you have questions about the tournament and/or how you can earn points toward that \$1500 added money, contact Ron Huddleston at 405-843-1615.

The American Legion has a 5-acre park with electric and water hook-ups, and self-contained RVs and campers are welcome. Motel accommodations include the Comfort Inn, 405-733-1339; Holiday Inn Holidome, 405-737-4481; Six Pence Inn, 405-737-8851; or Motel 6, 405-737-6676.

California

12TH ANNUAL BOARD TALK SHUFFLERS' REUNION, DIXIE BELLE, DOWNEY, JULY 2-7

The Board Talk's 12th Annual Shufflers' Reunion will be held in conjunction with The Dixie Belle's 4th Annual July 4th Tournament this year. The "party" will start on Tuesday, July 2, with two events: an amateur/pretty good doubles, \$50 per team; and a women's singles, \$25 entry. Both will be single game, double elimination. An A-B-C blind draw, \$25 per player, single game, double elimination, is on the agenda for Wednesday.

The open singles, \$100 entry, starts on July 4 and



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an open doubles, \$200 per team, starts on Friday, July 5. Both these events are 2 out of 3, double elimination.

Entries are limited so use the enclosed registration form to save your spot.

The Dixie Belle has some RV parking available or there are several motels nearby: Downey Inn, 310-862-5050; Empire, 310-923-5511; Best Western, 310-929-8831; Comfort Inn, 310-803-3555.

For further information, call Eileen Eades or Jim Anderson at The Dixie Belle, 310-80-DIXIE or 310-803-4943.

Washington

2ND ANNUAL EVERETT INVITATIONAL AT SHOTZE'S, JUNE 15-16

Shotze's Rack 'N Roll, 9602 Evergreen Way, Everett, will host its 2nd Annual Everett Invitational Tournament on June 15-16. It will be a bring your own partner event, \$50 per team entry, with \$200 added money guaranteed and \$500 if over 20 teams participate. The format will be 2 out of 3 in the winners' bracket and single game 17 points in the loser's bracket. Sponsor sale is scheduled for Saturday at 10 a.m. with play following. Come early for \$10 draw partners on Friday night.

For further information, contact tournament director John Martin, 206-513-1053 or 206-453-9727.

Last year's invitational attracted 24 teams, with Darrol Nelson and Doug Buhl the top winners.

1ST ANNUAL MIXED DOUBLES, SHAMROCK, LONGVIEW, JUNE 22-23

The Shamrock Tavern, 1131 15th, Longview, will host its 1st Annual Mixed Doubles on June 22-23, \$50 per team entry, with \$10 added for each participant. Format is 2 out of 3, 15 point games in the winner's bracket, one 17 point game in the loser's bracket. Sponsor sale is scheduled for noon on Saturday, June 22, with play immediately following. Tournament directors will be Doug and Norma Debois.

Bernice will once again be serving chili or taco soup. Come early and enjoy the \$10 round robin on Friday, 7 p.m.

For information, call the Shamrock, 360-577-7444.

*Spread the word about your upcoming events through The Board Talk!
Details must be received by the 15th.*

Pennsylvania

J & C TO HOST WEEKEND TOURNEY, JUNE 7-9, AND 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

J & C Tavern, 6601 Lansdowne Ave. in Philadelphia, will host a weekend tournament on June 7-9 (originally set for Memorial weekend). Events will include a \$10 open draw on Friday, an open doubles, \$25 per team, on Saturday; and an open singles, \$25 entry, on Sunday.

The 2nd Annual Yankee Doodle Dandy Tournament will be held July 4-7 and will include a "B" doubles, \$25 entry, on Thursday; an open draw, \$10 entry, on Friday; open doubles, \$25 entry, on Saturday; and open singles, \$25 entry on Sunday.

For further information, contact Jim Yank, 215-879-0840.

Michigan

VICKI GOHL BENEFIT, PONTIAC EAGLES, JUNE 22

A benefit to help pay the medical expenses for Vicki Gohl, who has been hospitalized since March 29, will be held at the Pontiac Eagles 1230 on June 22. Activities will start at 2 p.m. and will include shuffleboard and dart tournaments, raffles, a white elephant auction, and food! A band will start playing at 9 p.m.

For information on how to make a donation to Vicki's benefit, contact Betty Parrish, 810-681-3325.

DEUCES WILD TOURNEY AT WETLANDS, ROYAL OAK, JUNE 14-16

If you've never played in a Deuces Wild tournament before -- try it; you'll like it. The Wetlands Bar & Grill, 1008 N. Woodward Ave., Royal Oak, will host their

(continued on Page 12)

Rudy Stober Passes Away

The World of Shuffleboard lost a good friend with the passing of Rudy Stober on May 19. A long-time supporter of shuffleboard and sponsor of other sports teams as well, he was inducted into the Lansing Sports Hall of Fame a number of years ago.

Messages of sympathy may be sent to the Stober family, Stober's Cocktail Lounge, 812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48912.

As the Puck Turns....

By George & Donna Wilber

The 35th Annual Bourbon Spring Doubles/1st Annual National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Tournament was certainly a highlight for us, with the opportunity to see old friends from across the U.S.A. (and one special subscriber from Canada), and to meet new ones, like the delegations from Missouri and New York! We'd become familiar with their names through the newsletter and occasionally over the phone and it was great to meet them in person. Nice people and dedicated to expanding the sport in their states.

George was touched by the Notebook contribution from Pat Brennan of Vermont in the April issue expressing his frustration because there's no action there and his willingness to travel to where the action is. "Be careful what you ask for; you might get it!" George told him on the phone as he asked him to be his partner in this historic event. We didn't know whether Pat was 18 or 80, talented or inept on the boards; all we knew was that he was interested in shuffleboard, interested enough to travel 700 miles to participate. When we met him, we found he was a lot closer to 18 than George, a lot further away from 80 than George, a good-looking family man who coaches his daughter's softball team, and with a lot of potential to become a force to be reckoned with at future tournaments. He's considering the Reno Tournament as a way to introduce his wife to The World of Shuffleboard and we look forward to seeing both of them there. Just goes to show you how effective the shuffleboard network is! "Reach out and touch someone" ought to be our motto....

Seeing that fun-loving delegation from The Dixie Belle in Downey, California, reinforced our belief that joining them for our 12th Annual Board Talk Shufflers' Reunion over the 4th of July was a good decision. You'd have to be a zombie not to enjoy this adventure! Example: Jan didn't scare anyone on the boards in Bourbon, but she sure did create a stir in the huge crowd with her "Don't Stare: Grow Your Own!" t-shirt. They did stare but, unfortunately, some of us can't grow our own!

Most of the participants at the Bourbon tournament had the opportunity to sign a birthday card for Marissa Voorhis. Marissa has always been one of our favorite people in The World of Shuffleboard and she's had some

health problems lately. If you'd like to send her belated birthday and/or get well wishes, send them to her c/o Bus Voorhis, 408 W. Second St., Fairmount, IN 46928.

We've heard a lot of concern expressed in the last few issues about the lack of new, young players and, consequently, the future of shuffleboard. Contrary to popular public opinion, we don't share that concern. Check the list of participants in this tournament; it was a great combination of seasoned veterans and up-and-coming "stars," including.....



....Greg and Tom Massie of Indiana, winners of Beef's "Series of Five" and placing 7th-8th in the Bourbon Tournament. Are they young? Are they tough? Do they represent the future of shuffleboard? You bet!

A special Board Talk salute to The Shuffleboard Federation, Inc., for awarding their first-class board wipes, specially engraved with a memorial to this special event, to anyone who contributed \$100 to the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. It was a disappointment to them, and to us, that more people didn't take advantage of this generous offer. Some gave the excuse: "We don't believe in the principles of the Hall of Fame." Bull! Where were they when the NSHF begged for input on the criteria/nomination process? After all these years, six volunteers finally got something going! Refinements (with the input of the naysayers) can be made on down the road. In the meantime, let's support their efforts.

Last, but certainly not least, a salute to Director Fritz Broka and the hosts at American Legion 424 in Bourbon, Indiana, for a great shuffleboard event!

Woodie (brother of Jolene Lembke) and Jean Cockrum have been Board Talk supporters almost from its birth. They will be celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary on June 23 -- a real achievement! How about sending them a shower of cards from The World of Shuffleboard: The Cockrums, 1316 Lakeshore Drive, I.H., Cuba, MO 65453.

Without a doubt, our Board Talk Ambassador of the Month is Dick Gorman of Delaware. Thanks, Dick!

George & Donna Wilber, Publishers



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Record-Breaker at Bourbon Makes 1st Annual NSHF Tourney Big Success!

(continued from Page 1)

hours down on his knees as he did on a ladder to enter the wins and losses on what surely will go down in the shuffleboard history books as the world's largest bracket.



Billy and Bill Melton of Oklahoma, last year's winners of the annual Bourbon Spring Tournament,

added another notch to their belts and will go down in history as winners of the 1st Annual National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Tournament.

Proudly displaying their 2nd place Fritz Broka-made mini-shuffleboard trophies are Indiana veteran shufflers Jim DeWitt (left) and Bob Brown Sr., who beat some of the best in the U.S.A. to keep the Hoosier Spirit burning.



Draw Partner Attracts 92 Contenders

What was billed as a "secondary event" to the Big One turned out to be a major event in itself, with 92 people signed up for Friday's Draw Partner.



Flashing winning smiles and the victory sign for topping 45 other teams were Buddy Broka (left) and Jerry Knox of Indiana. Taking second place honors were Bobby Voorhis of Indiana and Phil McGrew of Ohio, with George Wilber of Michigan and Bill Niswonger of Indiana in third place.

Other winners in the draw event were: Terry Dowell and Bob Brown Sr., Indiana, 4th; Rick Yingst, Oklahoma and Garry Young, Michigan, 5th; Deb Voorhis, Indiana, and Jerry Sabourin, Missouri, 6th; Larry Pearson, Washington, and Dave Boaz, Indiana, 7th; and Mark Holland, Michigan, and Al DiBella, Pennsylvania, 8th.

The total pot for the two events was over \$32,000!

Bourbon American Legion Honored

In a moving presentation on behalf of the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Board of Directors, Larry Creakbaum presented a special plaque to Dennis Perrin, commander of American Legion Post 424, hosts of this "first." Larry, who has participated in most of the previous 34 Bourbon Spring Tournaments, recalled his first, which was staged on one board in the upstairs of this big facility in the tiny town of Bourbon, Indiana (for this event, there were three boards downstairs and three upstairs).

The "Outstanding Achievement Award" from the NSHF read: "For their dedication and promotion of the game of shuffleboard for 35 years, the longest promotion in the history of the game."

As Perrin graciously accepted the award, he was quick to acknowledge the contributions of volunteers from Post 424 who did their usual fine job of serving shufflers and handling the tantalizing chicken barbecue on Saturday afternoon.

Tournament Director Fritz Broka also received accolades when the shy and retiring Freddie Thumann of California grabbed the microphone and suggested a standing ovation for Fritz. He didn't need to ask twice as the huge crowd paid tribute to Fritz for her efforts to stage this successful event.

The Shuffleboard Federation, Inc., illustrated their support of the NSHF by donating a classy board wipe, laser printed with this historic happening information, to anyone who donated \$100 to the Hall of Fame. First in line to take advantage of this offer was Paul Weber, representing the Pacific Coast Shuffleboard Association.

Others who made \$100 donations to the Hall of Fame and received the special board wipes were: Ron Huddleston, Oklahoma; Louise Freer, Pennsylvania; Madge Goff, Oklahoma; Dan Hitt, Washington; Mike Papa, Wetlands, Michigan; and The Board Talk.

That generous offer from the Shuffleboard Federation is still open. Send your \$100 donation to the NSHF, Louise Freer, Secretary, 189 Barry Ave., Lansdale, PA 19446. You'll receive a board wipe that can be proudly displayed as memorabilia of this event and/or used at your tournaments or home board.

35th Annual Bourbon Spring Doubles and 1st Annual National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Tournament Director Fritz Broka thanks.....

Post 424 Ladies' Auxiliary, Joyce Roberts, Larry Ross, Steve Slough, Don Chapman, Mike Melton, George and Donna Wilber, Lisa Gothan, Commander Dennis Perrin, and special thanks to Denny Busch for sponsor sales (that's a lot of teams!) and all participants:

.....
California:

Fred Thumann
Paul Elliott
Joe Muniz
Dave Brennan
Paul Weber
Wes Eades
Jim Anderson
Bob Flake
Sandy Flood
Alicia Lebac
Chris Brown
Dixie Debbie

Florida:

Jimmy Kumpula

Illinois:

Terry Smith
Roland Gandy

Indiana:

Jim Long
Larry Creakbaum
Jerry Knox
Larry Vance
Bob Brown Sr.
Jim DeWitt
Terry Dowell
Dave Boaz
Larry Huffer
Larry Brown
Tom Massie
Greg Massie
Buddy Broka
Mike Koontz
Dennis Kinsey
Steve Blue
Deb Voorhis
Blaine Yeagey
Danny Smith
Brian Collins
Ricky Royal

John Cowen
Robbe Stouder
Gary Neff
Bob Summers
Steve Skyler
Steve Slough
Don Chapman
Butch Thomas
Tom Eaton
Dave Holbrook
John Mauk
Jason Goodman
Chris Small
Chris Johnson
Jay King
Stan Frickie
John Dickie
Carl Silvey
Glen Ingram
Ady Snyder
Connie Langoff
Tom Jessee
Bob Rummell
Bill Niswonger
Larry Paxton
Dennis Perrin
Mary Brown
Larry Summy
Jr. Bucher
Bobby Voorhis

Kansas:

Lee McDonald

Maryland:

Judy Iseman
Lenny Dell

Michigan:

John McDermott
Frank Blade
Chris Passariello
Jeff Cottrell

Mark Holland
Jerry Siebert
Jim Davis
Wayne McGuire
Chuck Hughey
Bob Huey
Kris Chandler
Sandy Blade
Richard Reist
Leon Black
Wayne Snellenberger
Darrell Dartett
Garry Young
John Myles
Bud Speer
Sonny Morgan
Alonzo Cottrell
George Wilber
Slick Parrish
Rob Kern
Deb Turk
Kim Parrish
Rolland Harkless
Frank Parrish

Missouri:

Jerry Sabourin
Doug Zurmuellen
Chuck Muehlhauser
Charley Hart

Nebraska:

Denny Busch
Gwynette Orsi

New York:

Dick Losee
Steve Bennett
Dick Smedberg
Dale Law
Jeff Davis

Ohio:

Phil McGrew
Jim Stockmaster
Greg Broka
Beef Camp
Dale Gushman
Carolyn Walsh
Jimmy Russell

Oklahoma:

Bill Melton
Billy Melton
Mike Melton
Ron Huddleston
Glen Davidson
Steve Walker
Rick Yingst
John Cason

Pennsylvania:

Louise Freer
Al DiBella

Texas:

Bob Shaw
Pat Gainey

Vermont:

Pat Brennan

Washington:

Jim Allis
Larry Pearson
Dan Hitt
"Caveman" Ward
Russ Miller
Jeff Adams
Dave Arndt
Jim Foran

Canada:

Gordy Smith

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COMING EVENTS: Bourbon Fall Doubles, Oct. 5, 1996; Spring Doubles, May 3, 1997
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Hall of Fame: Galke *(continued from Page 2)*

As much as I feel that the location of the Hall of Fame should be centrally located in the country, the game did originate in Jersey and they probably deserve first consideration. It would be great if someone or some organization would donate space for this worthy purpose. I also feel that the manufacturers of the products we all use should contribute their fair portion dedicated for the Hall. After all, we are their reason for being in business.

As much as John McDermott and I have disagreed in the past, I have always held his playing abilities right at the very top and I have never questioned his tremendous dedication to the game. I really feel that on the basic issues relating to the game, John has some very fine points and he is always looking to promote the teaching of the game and to bring a sense of fairness to it. Even though we all have our very own agendas, I think the truly dedicated players have the best interests of the players at heart. Naturally, one of my interests were for me to travel wherever I heard there were players of some skill. My competitive spirit made me want to challenge these players at their own boards. Of course, if during the course of this play, a couple of hundred dollars changed hands, it made it that much more interesting and stopped the old story of: I wasn't really trying if you beat the opposition, in which they had a financial interest. How many of you have heard that lame excuse that your opponent wasn't really trying because there was nothing on the game.

I really want to address the issues covered by John McDermott in your April issue, but it would be too much for this next issue to cover. In my next letter, I will try and answer each specific area as it pertains to my thoughts.

Ed Galke, Oak Dale, New York

First, we've got an "inside tip" that the mystery man was not Kid Spooks, so don't place your bet yet, Ed. Second, we'll leave it up to the NSHF Board of Directors to respond to your concerns regarding the induction process. Third, thank you for opening this opportunity to tell ALL citizens of The World of Shuffleboard: If you are withholding your financial support for the Hall of Fame simply because you do not agree with all the principles/criteria the board has set down, keep this in mind.....For the past two years, six people have worked VOLUNTARILY to make a dream a reality and have literally begged for input on this vital project. While their voluntary efforts may be short of what particular individuals think should be the final word, they at least have made a start after all these years. They deserve our commendation and the infant Hall of Fame they have established deserves our financial support. Details can be ironed out in the days ahead.



Four of the six-member NSHF Board of Directors were present at the 1st Hall of Fame Tournament in Bourbon, Indiana: (left to right) Jim Foran, Washington; Louise Freer, Pennsylvania; Larry Creakbaum, Indiana; and G. Davidson, Oklahoma. The four are wearing their personalized "The Board Talk Supports the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame" shirts presented by Editors George and Donna Wilber. Unable to attend were Hal Perry and Bob Hunt of California, so Fred Thumann of California agreed to deliver their shirts to them.

Art Green on Keep/Switch Hammer

I have played shuffleboard since I was 16. Joe Muniz and Troy Tolbert taught me. Joe played keep hammer; Troy played switch. I quit in 1985 at 37 years old and began to play again in 1995.

The keep hammer was a good game at first because I learned to hit with force, and to slide off of deep weights into the scoring zone. This was mainly a bang-bang game and one which good players would very seldom lag against an opponent's pucks. Drive weights slide off deep ones into a two or more. Not much pressure in this style, knowing if you go off the board, you maintain hammer. The switch hammer -- much more pressure.

I truly believe something has to be done to make shuffleboard games last on the average of about 20 to 30 minutes instead of 35 minutes to 1 hour. The keep hammer frame game can go fast, but as many of us know, the winner of the coin flip has a huge advantage he can blast weights. Even though boards are set up for good pass weights, a player with any smarts in a short keep hammer frame game is not going to throw a weight on a clear board to any spot where his opponent can put in a frame game where he has control of the hammer.

If we go back to a big blast game, we come up with the same problems we once had; namely damage to pucks and boards, also big trails through the wax. And sometimes other things, like what I once did when shooting a combo. I made the combo, but my weight that I shot

(continued on Page

Nelson/Buhl Winners of BZ's 4th Annual Classic

The Pacific Northwest weather was nearly perfect, but 44 serious players hardly noticed as they gathered at BZ's Sports Bar & Grill in Burien, Washington, for the 4th Annual Shuffleboard Classic on April 20-21.

Darrol Nelson and Doug Buhl of Oregon were undefeated until the final round, but prevailed over Dave Arndt, Tacoma, and Mike Thorpe, Seattle, to successfully defend their BZ Classic title.



First and second place finishers (from left) Darrol Nelson, Doug Buhl, Dave Arndt and Mike Thorpe congratulate each other.



Don Kerr (left) of Longview and Larry Pearson of Bothel, Washington, finished third.

Dan Hitt and Mike Pond, both of Spokane, finished fourth. Players in the Classic were competing for prize money of nearly \$6,000. BZ owners, Craig and Lisa Sherwood, and shuffleboard owners, John Musgrave and Don Shaffer, added \$1,000 to the entry and auction money.



Darrol Nelson also finished first in Friday night's draw with partner Paul Majors to best the 50 players who participated.

Other winners in the draw were Billy Powell, Mt. Vernon, and Tom Henry, Longview, 2nd; John Luhtala, Eatonville, and Mike Pond, third; Sparky Anderson, Sandy, Oregon, and Dave McCoskery, Burien, fourth.

BZ owners Craig and Lisa Sherwood, hosts of the 4th Annual Shuffleboard Classic.



Tournament Director John Musgrave makes a close call.

BZ's cook, Mike Golla, outdid himself Saturday night with friend chicken, mashed potatoes, salad and some of the best gravy this side of the Phillipines, director John reports.

Jody Slack Winner of Balloon Inn's 1st Open Singles

The Balloon Inn, Arvada, Colorado, held its 1st Open Singles Tournament on April 27-28, attracting a field of 18 players competing for a \$4700 purse.

Taking first place honors was Jody Slack of Colorado, with Morey Balins, also of Colorado, in second place. Denny Busch of Nebraska finished in third place, with George Ostrom, Colorado, in fourth.

"Special thanks to Bill Melton of Oklahoma and Gwynette Orsi of Nebraska for their support, and sincere

(continued on Page 14)

Upcoming Events *(continued from Page 5)*

2nd Annual Deuces Wild Tournament on June 14-16. Entry fee is \$25 per person. For information, call The Shuffleboard Federation, Inc., 810-380-9300, or Mike Papa at the Wetlands, 810-543-2626.

Nevada

BEST OF BOTH WORLDS IN RENO!

By popular demand, a six-person amateur team event (bring your own team) has been added to the list of events for the 1996 North American Championships at the Sands Regency in Reno. Also, as previously advertised, there will be a six-person Pro/Am Draft Team Event.

The amateur bring your own team contest will take place in the traditional Friday through Sunday time slot, while the Pro/Am team event will take place on Monday, Oct. 28., and Tuesday, Oct. 29. It will replace the A-B draw. In a recently-conducted phone survey of some past participants, this change received tremendous support.

Scheduling the Pro/Am team event at the beginning of the week gives everyone a much better chance to learn the boards than they would get in the A-B draw. This is due to our team event format, in which each match is played on three boards, with every player getting a chance to play a game on each board. With the double elimination, no playback format, everybody gets to play at least six different boards in this event.

Another exciting change is the addition of the North American Champion Contest. Each player earns points, based on their performances in various events. This means YOU could be the North American Champion. This is a title that an average player could win just as easily as a pro. The top three finishers in each of the three divisions (Pro, Division I and Division II) will win \$300, \$200, and \$100 respectively. The overall winner will receive a trophy recognizing him/her as the 1996 North American Champion and, as a special bonus, will receive a free jacuzzi suite for a week at the 1997 North American Championships.

The bring your own six-person amateur team event could have as much as \$7,000 in added money, depending on the number of teams. The total amount of money added by the Sands Regency Hotel, host/sponsor of the 1996 North American Championships, will be between \$6,000 and \$15,000. The final figure will be determined by the number of teams in the amateur six-person team event.

Since this tournament moved to the Sands Regency in 1990, they have added more than \$40,000 in prize

money. This easily makes them the #1 sponsor in the history of our sport. If you have never been to this tournament, what are you waiting for? The time is now!

See the enclosed flyer/registration form in this issue for more information. If you have any questions, contact The Shuffleboard Federation at 810-380-9300, 41761 Onaway Drive, Northville, MI 48167-2411. This tournament is expected to fill fast so reserve your spot today!

PCSA'S EXTRAVAGANZA IX RETURNING TO ORIGINAL SITE, JAN. 28-FEB. 1

The Pacific Coast Shuffleboard Association is pleased to announce that there will be a Shuffleboard Extravaganza IX -- and it will be back at its original site, the Showboat Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas.

Watch future issues regarding events. In the meantime, mark your calendars, save your pennies, and call the PCSA if you have questions: 310-926-2152.

Support YOUR National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame!

CLASSIFIED ADS

ATTENTION: The Emerald Room, Vernon, Texas, has moved to Oklahoma. Come play with us at JL's Bar & Grill, south of Altus, Hwy 283. Jimmie Lester and Janet Lynn Briscoe, 405-687-4494.

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FOR SALE: "The Board Talk supports the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame" t-shirts. Large x-large and xx-large. Top quality, nice colors. \$15 plus \$1.50 postage. The Board Talk, 421 E. Sheridan, Lansing, MI 48906; phone: 517-371-2538.

FOR SALE: This space for only \$5 per issue for 2 words or less. Copy must be received by the 15th of the month for the next issue. The Board Talk, 421 E. Sheridan, Lansing, MI 48906.

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Balloon Inn Singles (continued from Page 11)

appreciation to Denny Busch for his support and extra help," said hosts Gwen and Ron Vogt.



Hostess Gwen Vogt gets a bear hug from winner Jody Slack.

Gwen congratulates second place finisher Morey Balins.



For third place, Denny Busch whispers sweet nothings in Gwen's ear.



And, while he'd rather have first, George Ostrom can still give a winning smile for fourth place earnings.

National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame

The 1st Annual Hall of Fame Tournament is now a part of shuffleboard history. Congratulations to the winners, Bill and Billy Melton; to tournament director Fritz Broka, and to American Legion Post 424 for supporting shuffleboard for 35 consecutive years. They are certainly deserving of the outstanding achievement award presented to them by Director Larry Creakbaum on behalf of the NSHF Board.

Thanks to the NSHF Board members who were at the 1st Hall of Fame Tournament in Bourbon: Jim Foran of Washington, Louise Freer of Pennsylvania, and Larry Creakbaum of Indiana. At our meeting there, we reaffirmed our agenda to get all those deserving individuals over 60 inducted before we go on to other people. Our next meeting will be at the 4th of July tournament in Oklahoma City. Plans are to induct one or two people at that time if the criteria is fulfilled.

Your Help Needed: Your NSHF Board needs more photos of those already inducted. If anyone has photos of PecWee Ramos, Mickey Mickens, Earl Kelly, or Bob Miles, as well as photos and stories about other great old-timers, we'd sure appreciate receiving them. Please send them to me at 3220 Cragg St., Oklahoma City, OK 73150. If you'd like them returned, send along a self-addressed envelope. I'm in the process of putting the old photos and news clippings on video. If all of you pitch in and help, we'll be able to preserve the history of shuffleboard for future generations.

Glen Davidson, Chairman
National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame

From Your NSHF Secretary

The National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Board of Directors held a meeting on 5/3/96 at the 1st Annual Hall of Fame Tournament/35th Annual Bourbon Spring Doubles in Bourbon, Indiana. Attendees were: Larry Creakbaum, director; Glen Davidson, president; Jim Foran, director; and Louise Freer, secretary. The board wanted to support this event, the first of its kind, and hoped that others would as well. Well, they did! Approximately 70 teams participated in this event, making it one of the most successful Bourbon tournaments in history.

(continued on Page 30)



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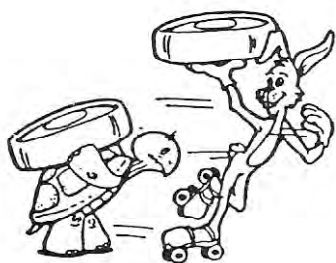
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Looking Back.....

1990



Editor's Note: To mark our 12 years of publication, we started this new column in December, highlighting the winners of some past major tournaments. Because of space restrictions, we can't include them all. This month.....1990.

●**PCSA Extravaganza II, Showboat, Las Vegas, Jan. 17-21:(Amateur Team Event)** 1st -- Oklahoma Friends (Tom and Rena Hendrix, Fred Washington, Dino Fleming, Shirley Robertson, Ken Storck, Bill Holley, Ron Blalock); 2nd--Arizona #1; 3rd--Corporate Image, Texas. **(Women's Singles):** 1st--Chris Danke, Calif.; 2nd--Rosa White, Wash.; 3rd--Gail Schultz, Mich.; 4th--Janet Weidner, Texas. **(Open Singles):** 1st--Dave Williams, Texas; 2nd--Bill Melton, Okla.; 3rd--Eric Waldman, Mont.; 4th--Earl Kelly, Texas. **(Open Doubles):** 1st--Billy Mays, Texas/Fred Thumann, Calif.; 2nd--Darrol Nelson, Oregon/Jim Allis, Wash.; 3rd--Sparky Sparkman, Calif./Glen Davidson, Okla.; 4th--Dave Williams, Texas/Bill Melton, Okla.

●**Washington's Birthday Tournament, Holiday Inn, Arlington, Texas, Feb. 14-18: (Pro-Am):** 1st--Bill Melton/Stan Hiett; 2nd--John McDermott/Mike Bruza; 3rd--Darrol Nelson/Billy Melton. **(Team Event):** 1st--Shirley Robertson's Tulsa Team; 2nd--Arbuckle Team; 3rd--Corporate Image. **(Women's Singles):** 1st--Brenda Moore, Texas; 2nd--Diana Hagen, Texas; 3rd--Janet Weidner, Texas. **(Open Singles):** 1st--Sam Summers, Okla.; 2nd--Dale Koteras, Texas; 3rd--Bobby Voorhis, Ind. **(Open Doubles):** 1st--Bobby Voorhis, Ind./Glen Davidson, Okla.; 2nd--Sam Summers, Okla./John McDermott, Mich.; 3rd--Billy Mays, Texas/Darrol Nelson, Oregon.

●**Arizona Open, Holiday Inn, Phoenix, April 4-8: (Singles)** 1st -- Chuck Norris, Oregon; 2nd--Frank Blade, Texas; 3rd--Billy Chiles, Calif.; 4th--Eric Waldman, Mont. **(Women's Singles)** 1st--Diana Hagen, Texas; 2nd--Peggy Richards, Ariz.; 3rd--Deb Voorhis, Ind.; 4th--Chris Danke, Calif. **(Open Doubles):** 1st--Earl Kelly/Billy Mays, Texas; 2nd--Dale Koteras/Howard Mouton, Texas; 3rd--John Ballard/Brenda Moore, Texas. **(Pro-Am):** 1st--Glen Davidson/Ted Behrens; 2nd--Bill Melton/Mr. Mardy; 3rd--Howard Mouton/Bellflower Bruce; 4th--Mark Rutkowski/Deb Voorhis.

●**Spring Doubles, American Legion 424, Bourbon, Indiana, May 5:** 1st --Bobby Voorhis/Jerry Warr, Ind.; 2nd--Lee McDonald/John McDermott, Mich.; 3rd--Greg and Larry Massie, Ind.; 4th--Cass Grubbs/John Tischler, Mich.

●**Michigan Open, Holiday Inn, Southfield, Memorial Weekend: (Open Singles)** 1st -- Bill Melton, Okla.; 2nd--Sam Summers, Okla.; 3rd--Frank Blade, Texas. **(Women's Singles):** 1st--Diana Hagen, Texas; 2nd--Brenda Moore, Texas; 3rd--Val Borja, Mich. **(Open Doubles):** 1st--Sam Summers/Bill Melton, Okla.; 2nd--Rick Boyer, Mich./Frank Blade, Texas; 3rd--Dave Boaz, Ind./Bjerne Sunde, Mich. **(Mixed Doubles):** 1st--Diana Hagen/Earl Kelly, Texas; 2nd--Sam Summers, Okla./Brenda Moore, Texas; 3rd--Cheryl Collins/John McDermott, Mich. **(Pro-Am):** 1st--Rick Boyer/Jim Stockmaster, Mich.; 2nd--Bill Melton, Okla./Gary Akers, Mich.; 3rd--John McDermott/Dennis Wilson, Mich.; 4th--Bobby Voorhis, Ind./Jeff Cottrell, Mich. **(Amateur Team):** 1st--Lakeside Bombers (Jim Stockmaster, Debbie, Jeff and Penny Cottrell, Jerry and Terry Bryant; 2nd--Papa's I; 3rd--Dillingers' Pink.

●**6th Annual Board Talk Reunion, Skip's & Northway, Houghton Lake, Mich., 4th of July Weekend: (Draw):** 1st -- Chris Passariello, Mich./Mike Johnson, Ind.; 2nd--Mickey Mickens, N.J./Milt Benedict, N.Y.; 3rd--Skip Jackson, Ind./Steve Bennett, N.Y.; 4th--Paul Dickens/Jerry Siebert, Mich.; 5th--6th--Jerry Herrmann, Pa./Jimmy Kumpula, Mich., Frank Parrish, Mich./Paul Macarrone, Fl. **(Women's Singles):** 1st--Cheryl Collins, Mich.; 2nd--Deb Voorhis, Ind.; 3rd--Marie Sweeney, Mich.; 4th--Joann Ware, Md. **(Open Singles):** 1st--Neil Fetter, Mich.; 2nd--Rick Boyer, Mich.; 3rd--Jim Long, Ind.; 4th--Dave Boaz, Ind. **(Open Doubles):** 1st--Jim Stockmaster/Phil McCrew, Mich.; 2nd--Gordie and Cheryl Collins, Mich.; 3rd--Don Bauer/Ceylon Davis, Mich.; 4th--Mickey Mickens, N.J./Jerry Herrmann, Pa. **(4-Person Team):** (tied) Neil Fetter, Val Borja, Chris Passariello, Jerry Siebert; Cassie Kern, Phil McGrew, Wally Fredericks, Gene Gach, all of Mich.

●**U.S. Open, Airport Hilton, Austin, Texas, 4th of July Weekend: (Open Doubles):** 1st -- Sam Summers, Okla./John McDermott, Mich.; 2nd--Bill Melton, Okla./Dave Williams, Texas; 3rd--Brenda Moore/John Ballard, Texas. **(Open Singles):** 1st--Glen Davidson, Okla.; 2nd--Sam Summers, Okla.; 3rd--Bill Melton, Okla. **(Women's Singles):** 1st--Diana Hagen, Texas; 2nd--Janet Weidner, Texas; 3rd--Sharon Finch, Texas; 4th--Mary Koteras, Texas. **(Pro-Am):** 1st--Sam Summers, Okla./Greg Tedford, Texas; 2nd--Mike Melton/Steve Burkett, Okla. **(Team Event):** 1st--"Pick Up" (Joe Spratt, Shirley Robertson, Ray Driskill, Richard Wooten, Steve Burkett, Linda Green);

NEXT MONTH: Who were the "headliners" in 1991? Will YOUR name be there?