

The Board Talk

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March 1996

PCSA's Extravaganza VIII Reaches \$100,000 Landmark

By George and Donna Wilber

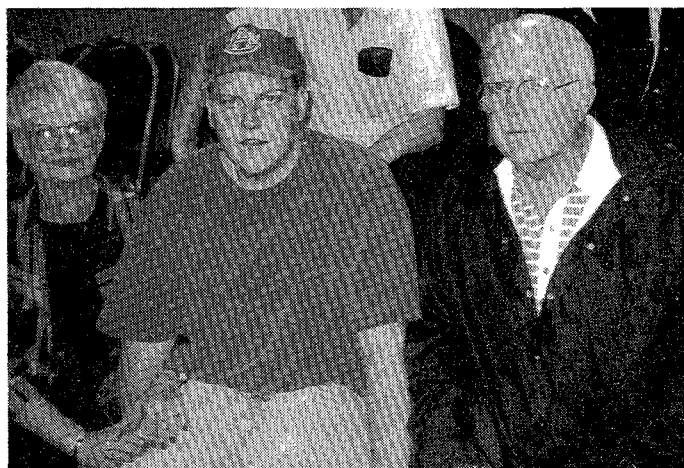
Entry fees and sponsor sales brought the total pot for the Pacific Coast Shuffleboard Association's Extravaganza VIII, held at the Aladdin Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, Jan. 30-Feb. 4, to an all-time high of \$100,000. This landmark was achieved in spite of an untimely attack of laryngitis on PCSA official and main auctioneer Joe Muniz, thanks in large part to Denny Busch of Nebraska, who proved his skills in that arena, as well as on the boards.

The six-event tournament attracted 128 sign-ups in the A-B draw, 46 teams in the amateur doubles, 17 teams in the amateur team event, 19 teams in the pro doubles, 32 in the pro singles and 18 in the women's singles.

While all six events were crowd-pleasers, there were two that had spectators sitting on the edge of their seats.....

Darrol Prevails in Pro Singles

In the pro singles, Billy Melton of Oklahoma didn't lack from effort in his second place finish to (who else?) Darrol Nelson of Oregon. Darrol's knack of finding a way to win despite missing a crucial weight or two is unmatched, whether it's by a lag, hiding a weight, or making a combo. Darrol's favorite interview statement is: "I was just lucky." Sure, Darrol, the rest of us are great players; however, you're just lucky! (He probably plays a great game of chess, too.)



Second-place finisher Billy Melton receives congratulations and consolation from his number one fans, Mom and Dad Rozanne and Bill Melton.

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ON THE INSIDE.....

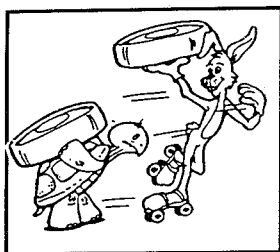
Looking Back to 1987 -- Who were the winners of major tournaments in 1987? What were some of the significant happenings as recorded in the three-year-old Board Talk?.....Pages 14-15

The National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame -- Chairman Glen Davidson reports on the NSHF Board of Directors meeting held in Vegas and shares some ideas for local committees.....Page 19

Frisco Eddie's Revenge: The Return -- Tacoma Tim shares the legend of the "Mystery Man" with Frisco Eddie and Long Beach Lil. It was back in '63.....Page 18



Billy Melton reluctantly concedes the pro singles title to Darrol Nelson after a valiant battle.



Shufflers' Notebook

News and Views
from The World
of Shuffleboard

Miami Ray: "All Players Should Know and Play by the Rules"

Glen Davidson's article in the January issue addresses the possible advantage a director of a tournament or the person(s) responsible for assigning brackets may be used through their authority. I have seen this happen once or twice, but the large majority of tournaments I have participated in are run by honest and trustworthy people.

Unfortunately, there are those competitors who will use any means to secure an advantage over their opponent. I recall in the last Reno tournament asking John McDermott: "How far is a player allowed to extend down the side of the board in delivering a weight?" This question was prompted because my opponent was stepping down the side of the board and releasing the puck at about the foul line. Seems there is no firm rule for this situation. However, there should be. To me, shortening the board by stepping down the side is cheating. The game should be played by ladies and gentlemen. There should be rules to ensure that all is conducted so that no player gains an unfair advantage.

There are lots of "dirty" tricks that can be played on an unsuspecting opponent, i.e.: table salt on the board to create a stop area; having two sets of weights, one with the red weights badly matched and the other with the blue weights badly matched; moistening the other player's last puck to interfere with his lag, etc. To me, the players pose more of a threat to our tournaments having an unfairness than any of the people who dedicate their time and efforts in running these tournaments.

One of the many things The Shuffleboard Federation has done for this game is to prepare a set of rules by which they conduct their tournaments. These rules seem to be adopted by most of the tournaments I have

participated in. I would like to see John McDermott (in all of his spare time) present a more comprehensive set of rules to the players for their approval. The only reason for any rule is to keep the game fair and equal to every player. The pros probably know all the tricks, but I haven't seen any of them trying to win with anything but their skill. All the players should know what the rules are and we all should play by the rules.

Ray Boyett, Miami, Florida

We're sure John will take some of his "spare time" to respond to your letter, Ray. In the meantime, here are Board Talk George's comments: We had the same problem in our Lansing (Michigan) League. We solved it by adopting a rule which states that a player must have one full leg behind the board (no penalty if your foot comes off the floor on your follow-through).

I doubt if all the other dirty tricks are a universal problem today. They seem to be a long-time-ago thing. I did question a player not long ago regarding blowing on the bottom of his weight every time he shoots. Whether it was to his advantage or not -- who knows?

I've been trying to get a rule adopted that nobody seems to like. I don't think a weight should be taken out of the channel or pit during a game. How do we know if someone puts a foreign substance on the weight when they rub it on their clothing? You can rub a weight off the side carpeting of the frame. I've been accused of over-reacting on this subject, but the more we improve our game, the sooner we'll get class recognition.

Ed Galke Shares Ideas.....

As usual, I would like to share some of my observations and proposals that I feel would improve this game we all love. I am enclosing a form that I feel should be filled out by each entrant in any tournament. I am sure that after a few of these are received and tabulated, you will see a pattern emerging that will help tremendously in both establishing some sort of universal handicapping system that would stimulate even more interest in the game, and hopefully form a basis for a concerted effort to the various companies whose products we all use to and from and at our tournaments.

I am sure that each geographical location would want to revise the common forms for their specific needs. As you know, I feel now and have always felt that the

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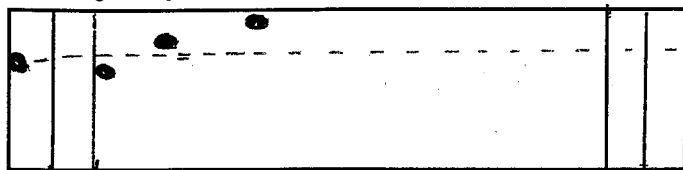
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(Use the form inside to renew.)

Extravaganza VIII (continued from Page 1)

One of the greatest frames of shuffleboard we've ever seen was between Billy and third-place finisher Denny Busch.

Four times, twice by each player, they hit and stayed -- a most extraordinary and skillful display of shooting. Why?

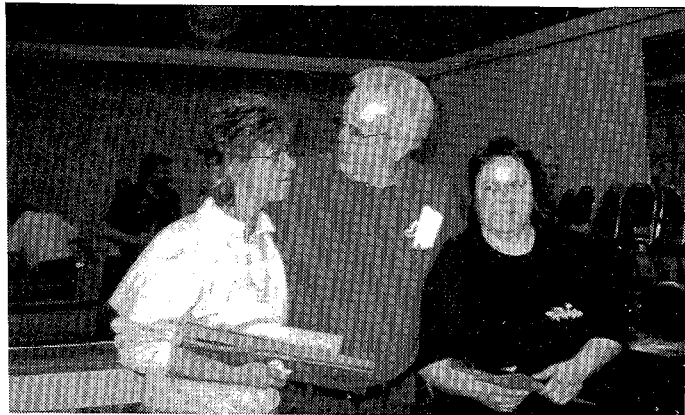


....Because the weight was blocked, they were forced to shoot free-handed, unorthodox compared to their natural rail shot.

Others finishing in the money were: Dan Hitt, Washington, 4th; Bill Melton, Oklahoma, 5th; Chuck Norris, Oregon, 6th; David Williams, Texas, 7th; and Jim Allis, Washington, 8th.

Out of the Loser's Bracket to Win: Gwyn Orsi

Gwynette Orsi of Nebraska came within one point and one weight of losing in the first match of the finals against undefeated Fritz Broka of Indiana in the women's singles. A pressure-packed lag won that one for Gwyn, and she went on to win the third game of the set to force another match. After losing the first of the final match, Gwyn somehow struggled back, thanks to some great lagging to become the champ. It's a shame there has to be a loser in a match like this one!

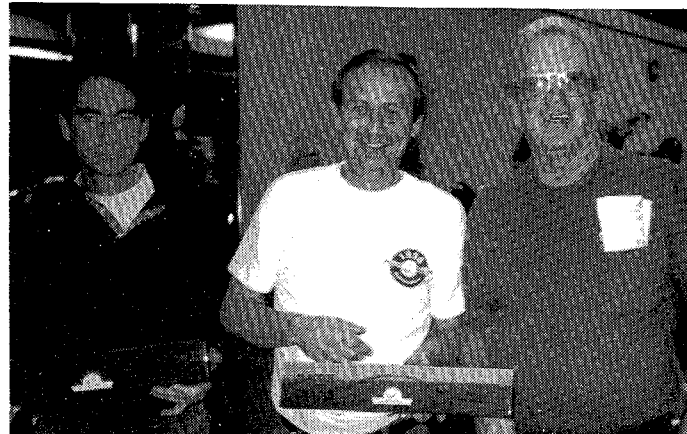


PCSA official Paul Weber congratulates Gwyn Orsi (left) and Fritz Broka. Those who stayed for this last event on Sunday afternoon were treated to some fine play by two determined women.

Others in the winner's circle were Peggy Whatley, Arizona, who (after a few year's retirement) showed that she still has what it takes, 3rd; the always-tough Louise Freer, Pennsylvania, 4th; Sylvia Martinez, a new young rising star from Texas, 5th; and Rene Fleming, Oklahoma, with a new name, but the same winning style, 6th.

Nelson/Buhl Take Pro Doubles Title

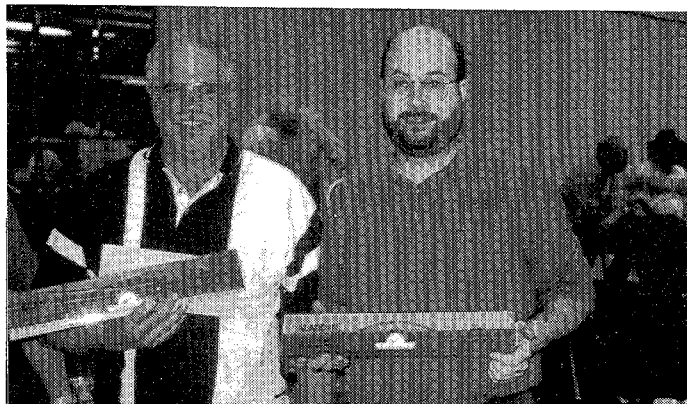
A comment from the gallery: "They ought to rename this tournament the Nelson/Buhl event!" These long-time partners and friends, Darrol Nelson and Doug Buhl of Oregon, are tough to beat, but Sam Summers of Oklahoma and John McDermott of Michigan gave it a valiant try.



PCSA official Paul Weber congratulates Darrol Nelson and Doug Buhl for capturing the pro doubles crown.



Even better than the Lisa Melton trophy and the fat envelope of winnings for Doug Buhl was the pride of wife Marilyn in his achievements.



Sam Summers (left) and John McDermott gave the champions a run for their money.

Others who collected winnings were: Ron Huddleston and Billy Melton, Oklahoma, 3rd; Bill Melton, Oklahoma, and David Williams, Texas, 4th; Fred Thuman, California, and Denny Busch, Nebraska, 5th ("I love you, man!"); and Paul Parks and Pat Bayless, California, 6th.

(continued on Page 20)

Upcoming Events Across the Nation

Indiana

MISSISSINEWA TAVERN TO HOST DOUBLES, APRIL 13

The Mississinewa Tavern, 125 W. Harris, Eaton, will host an open doubles on April 13. The sponsor sale for this double elimination tournament will start at 11 a.m., with play immediately following. Entry fee is \$20 per team and will be limited to the first 24 teams signed up. Payoff will be 60-30-10.

For information, contact host Arnold Cross, 317-396-9371. Please post the enclosed flyer in your favorite shuffleboard site.

LAST IN SERIES OF 5 AT BEEF'S, MARCH 23

The final in the "Series of 5" at Beef's, 550 S. Main, Kendallville, will be held on March 23. Entry fee for the open doubles is \$40 per team, with sponsor sale at 11 a.m.

First-place finishers in each of the series receive winners' jackets, courtesy of Beef, and participants in

each have a chance to win a set of weights, courtesy of Triple Crown Shuffleboard Supplies. Top point earners will take a share of \$2,000 added money courtesy of Playfair, Inc., and Dale Gushman.

Recommended lodging in Kendallville are: Economy Inn, 219-347-3500, or Days Inn, 219-347-5263. For further information, call Beef or Marge at 219-347-9965. Beef's will also host an open singles on April 27.

Colorado

OPEN SINGLES AT BALLOON INN, APRIL 27-28

The Balloon Inn, 6440 Wadsworth, Arvada, will hold an open singles on April 27-28, \$50 entry fee. The sale will be held on Friday, April 26, at 7 p.m., followed by open challenge on both boards. It's a best 2 out of 3, double elimination event and will pay three places. The tournament will be seeded according to the sale amount per player.

For information, call hosts Ron or Gwen Vogt, 303-425-9823.

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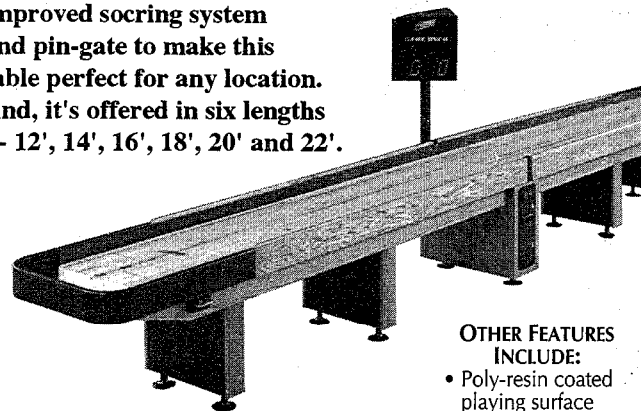
"The new score system allows novice and pro players to compete equally in every frame. If the game is tied 13 to 13, the novice player has an equal chance to score and win."

--Bob Shaw, Fort Worth, Texas

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Washington

11TH ANNUAL MIXED DOUBLES, OLD EDISON INN, MARCH 9-10, EDISON

The 11th Annual Mixed Doubles Tournament at the Old Edison Inn, Edison, is slated for March 9-10. Entry is \$50 per team for the double elimination event, with play beginning immediately following the 11 a.m. Saturday sponsor sale.

Hosts Mini and Sandy will add money proportionate to the number of shooters, provide a complimentary feed on Saturday, and probably team up to challenge in the event.

Director Phil DePree advises that some RV parking is available (no hookups). For suggested lodging in nearby Burlington or Mount Vernon, or other information, call Phil at the Edison, 360-766-6266 or 766-5301.

Last year's winners were John Martin and Joanie (Crazy Irish) Millar.

\$500 ADDED TO SHAMROCK'S DRAW PARTNER, MAY 4-5

The Shamrock Tavern, 1131 15th, Longview, will host its 6th Annual Draw Partners on May 4-5. Entry fee is \$20 per player and the Shamrock will add \$500 to the pot. Sponsor sale is scheduled for noon on May 4, with play immediately following.

There will be a \$10 round robin on Friday night, May 3, starting at 7 p.m.

Bernice's famous chili or taco soup (see recipe on Page 11) will once again be a popular feature of this fun week-end.

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

Last year's winners of this tournament were Gary George and Fred Linton.

Oklahoma

JIMMY L'S SPRING TOURNAMENT, TULSA, MARCH 15-17

Jimmy L's, 9520 E. 11th, Tulsa, will host a Spring Tournament on March 15-17, with some special attractions -- brown beans and cornbread served on Friday, food brought in on Saturday, and two sets of Triple Crown weights as door prizes!

Action will start on Friday evening with an open draw, \$50 per person entry, with drawing at 6:30 p.m. and sponsor sale at 7 p.m. Single game, double best 2 out

3, double elimination, with no pros and 0's teaming up.

A \$10 registration fee, covering both events, will be charged. The Bowers handicap system will be used and play will be on Jimmy's four in-house boards. Motel accommodations are located near the tournament site.

For further information, call Jimmy L's, 918-834-7544, or Cliff Goff, 918-664-9573.

HANDICAP TOURNEY, AMERICAN LEGION, DEL CITY, APRIL 19-21

A full-handicapped draw partner and bring partner tournament (using the 1966 Bower's Rating System) will be held on April 19-21 at the American Legion 73 in Del City, Oklahoma.

Entry fee for the single game, double elimination events will be \$25 for each. The draw partner will start at 7 p.m. Friday, with the bring partner beginning after conclusion of the draw.

Full handicap means if a 1 and a 2 draw up (equals 3) and play a 3 and a 4 team (equals 7), the higher handicap team gets a 4-point spot, flip for the hammer and begin play.

For further information, call Ron Huddleston, 405-843-1615. Please post the enclosed flyer in your favorite shuffleboard establishment.

Maryland

3-EVENT TOURNEYS, RIVER INN, WILLIAMSPORT, MARCH 15-17, APRIL 19-21

The new East Coast shuffleboard site, River Inn, 119 N. Conococheague St., Williamsport, will host three-event tournaments on March 15-17 and April 19-21. Action starts Friday nights with draw partners, \$10 per person. Bring partners, \$25 entry, will be held on Saturdays and singles, \$25 entry on Sundays.

For further information, call Glen or Danny at the River Inn, 301-223-7072.

New York

NATIONAL TOURNAMENT AT DEW DROP INN, APRIL 11-14

Join the Fridley Family for an action-packed weekend of shuffleboard, good food and fellowship at the Dew Drop Inn, 37 Virginia St., Waterloo, April 11-14.

(continued on Page 11)

Evergreen Shuffleboard Association Holds First-Ever Draw Partners Tourney

Nelson/Gindt Are Winners

The Canadian ANAF 68 in Vancouver, British Columbia, hosted the 1st Annual Evergreen Shuffleboard Association (ESA) Draw Partner Tournament on Jan. 20-21. Winners were Darrol Nelson of Oregon and Rick Gindt of Washington, with Mike Waters and Tommy Campbell of Washington, taking second place honors.

Other winners were: Eric Kolsrud, Canada, and Mike Thorpe, Washington, 3rd; Dave Arndt, Washington, and Harry Oda, Canada, 4th; with Dennis MacPherson of Washington and Joanie Millar of Canada, and Dan Hitt of Washington and Tony Lilley of Vancouver sharing 5th place.

An Important Meeting

A meeting of the ESA was held at the tournament site and was "probably the most productive meeting we've had," reports ESA Newsletter Editor Jim Manders.

Standardizing tournament rules and further promotion of the ESA were set as 1996 goals. In other important action, Jim Manders, who had announced his resignation because of career workload, was convinced to stay on as secretary and newsletter editor -- provided that (1) association members are satisfied with the job he does, and (2) that tournament results and calendar events be reported to him in a timely manner.

Gindt/Nelson Lead in Standings

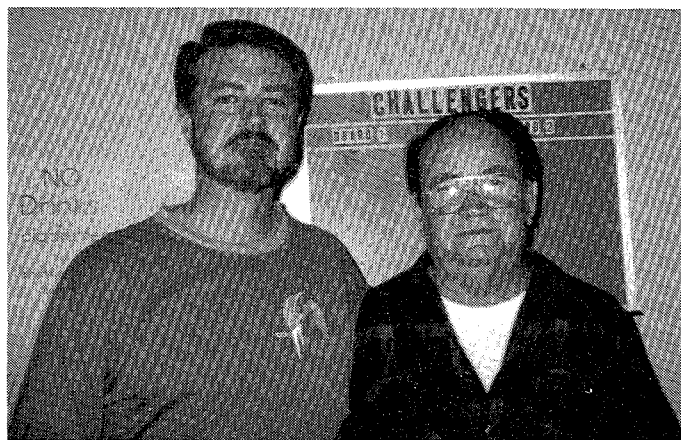
Rick Gindt and Darrol Nelson are tied for the 1996 standings with 42 points as of January. Nipping at their heels are Mike Waters and Tom Campbell with 40 points; Eric Kolsrud and Mike Thorpe with 38; Dave Arndt and Harry Oda with 36; Dennis MacPherson, Joanie Millar, Dan Hitt and Tom Lilley, each with 34.

Jim has offered a \$10 reward for the best letter received regarding the future of shuffleboard. YES!

Cameron/Preston Winners at Frank's Club

The new owner of Frank's Club in Houston, Texas, Mike Schurmacher, sponsored an open draw tournament on Jan. 20.

"The tournament was a success, proving once again, with its three premium boards, it is the place to go in Houston if you want to meet all the Houston/Clear Lake pros toe to toe," reports Nancy Rice. "All the local pros, including San Antonio's Brenda Moore, and many local budding amateurs turned out and a great time was had by all."



Winners were Rod Cameron (right) and Flynt Preston.

Second place went to Diana Hagen and Dale Williams, with third going to Howard Mouton and Nancy Rice.

(Editor's Note: Frank's Club is a long-time member of our national shuffleboard network, and we wish new owner Mike the best of luck!)

"As the Puck Turns"

After being pretty well home-bound since June, we thoroughly enjoyed our trip to Vegas for the PCSA's Extravaganza VIII. Not only did we witness some of the most exciting competition we've seen at any tournament, we also had the opportunity to visit with some of our old and new friends across the U.S.A.

Visiting with Al Stewart is not just an annual opportunity, it's an adventure. The problem is: by the time we've nursed our side-splitting laughter bones back to health, we've forgotten what it was he said to make us double over with hee-haws! We'll try to reconstruct one of his stories.....

Al: George, do you know the best way to ice fish in Michigan?

George: No, tell me, Al.

Al: Cut a hole in the ice, put peas all around the edge of the hole, and when the fish comes up to take a pea, kick it in the ice hole.

Like us, Al is no youngster any more and we were delighted to see him recognized for his back-breaking contributions to the Extravaganzas.

The only "void" at this year's Extravaganza was the absence of Bellflower Bruce. We ask you to join us in our prayers for his speedy recovery. Let him know you're thinking of him: Bruce Hale, 3198-F Airport Loop Dr., Costa Mesa CA 92626.

We hope the return of Extravaganza IX to the Showboat next year will make Marvel Muniz's job a little less stressful. We were glad to see her recognized, too.

Thanks to all of you for your continued support and encouragement to keep on going!

George & Donna Wilber, Publishers

Behrens/Bredvik Win New Year's Title at New Arizona Site

On January 1, 1996, Phoenix, Arizona, kicked off the new year with a tournament at a new establishment in Youngstown known as O.T.B. It was a single day, single game, double elimination, A-B blind draw event. Twenty-four teams competed for the New Year's title on three boards supplied by Bob Lewis (see Bob's listing in the Shuffleboard Directory).



Finishing first in the O.T.B. A-B blind draw tournament were Dennis Bredvik (left) and Ted Behrens.



Bob Lewis (left) and Paul Mickos took second place honors.

Al Salazar and Kim Gable finished third in the field of 24 teams.

Gene Clark and Alta Chance took fourth place in this first at O.T.B.

6th Annual Skip's/Board Talk Fall Bash

SEPT. 5-8

Mark your calendars now!

SKIP'S LOUNGE

Houghton Lake, Michigan

Upcoming Events *(continued from Page 5)*

A \$10 round robin is on the agenda Thursday night; open singles on Friday, \$20 entry; mixed doubles, \$20 entry, and open draw, \$10, on Saturday; and a bring partner, \$30 per team, on Sunday.

For further information, call Doug Fridley Jr. at the Dew Drop Inn, 315-539-5729.

Please post the enclosed flyer in your favorite shuffleboard site to help spread the word about this big event.

MONEY ADDED TO RIVERSIDE TOURNAMENT, EARLVILLE, MAY 10-12

The Riverside Hotel in Earlville, New York, will host a tournament on May 10-12, with play on four boards. Events include round robins on Friday, 7 p.m. sharp, with an open singles on Saturday, \$30 entry, with sale at 9 a.m. Draw partners, \$15 entry, will start on Saturday following the sale at 1 p.m.

An open doubles, \$30 entry fee, starts with the sale at 11:30 on Sunday. Host Roger Sawyer will pay the entry fee for the first four out-of-state teams to sign up, plus add an additional \$100 to the entry pot for first-place finishers.

For further information and/or to sign up, call Roger at the Riverside, 315-691-3081, or Dale Law at 607-674-6580.

Ohio

2ND ANNUAL TOLEDO OPEN, AVON'S LOCAL 14, APRIL 5-7

Avon's Local 14, 5411 Jackman Rd., Toledo, will host the 2nd Annual Toledo Open on April 5-7. An A-B draw is on the schedule for Friday night, with sponsor sale at 6:30, \$20 per person entry fee, limited to the first 24 paid teams.

Sponsor sale for the open doubles will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, with play immediately following, \$50 per team entry fee. Following conclusion of the open doubles, the sale for the open singles will start, with play immediately after. \$40 entry fee. Play will be cut off at 1 a.m. and begin again at 10 a.m. Sunday.

Avon's has four boards and great food.

For lodging suggestions, call Avon's, 419-472-6978. For tournament information, contact director Fritz Broka, 219-858-2689.

For out-of-staters who will be coming early for the Bourbon Tourney, here's a great place to warm-up.

(More Upcoming Events on Page 19)

Massies Still Hold Lead in Beef's Series of Five

Beef's in Kendallville, Indiana, held the third in the Series of Five on Jan. 20 with Gene Newman and Jim Stockmaster of Toledo, Ohio, taking first place. Jim Long and Larry Creakbaum took second place honors, with Steve Blue and Terry Dowell in third, and Greg and Tom Massie in fourth place.

"We were happy to see Stocky and Gene-O win. Believe it or not, they only sold for \$30," reports Marge. "Doug Zurmuelien and Jerry Sabourin from St. Louis, Missouri, made the return trip and did very well, but out of the money."

The point standings after No. 3 show the Massies still in the lead with 15 points, followed by Long and Creakbaum in second with 11 points. Steve Hart and Jerry Knox were third with 9 points. Tied for fourth with 7 points each were Larry Summy and Fritz Broka, and Larry Brown and Dennis Savoboda.

The fourth in the series was held Feb. 17 (results in next month's issue) and the final will be held on March 23 (see Upcoming Events on Page 4).

Bill and Billy Melton Winners of Balloon Inn's Santa Classic

That powerful father and son team, Bill and Billy Melton of Davis, Oklahoma, were the winners of the 7th Annual Santa Classic at the Balloon Inn, Arvada, Colorado, on Dec. 16-17. Eighteen teams vied for a purse of \$7,500. Gwyn Orsi of Nebraska and Dan Hitt of Washington teamed up to take second place honors. Denny Busch of Nebraska and Rick Boyer of Everywhere, USA, finished in third place, with Jody Slack and George Ostrum of Colorado in fourth.

"Photos were taken, but either no film was in the camera or the film mysteriously disappeared," said hostess Gwen Vogt. "This was unfortunate as pictures of Bill English were taken shooting shuffleboard with everyone in the tournament. Sorry, Bill, next time!"

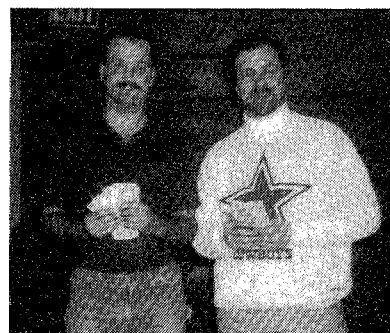
Ron and Gwen thank all the out-of-staters who supported this annual event.

The Balloon Inn will host an open singles on April 27-28 (see Upcoming Events on Page 4) and an open doubles on June 15-16.

Bennett/Law Win Bring Partner Event at Riverside

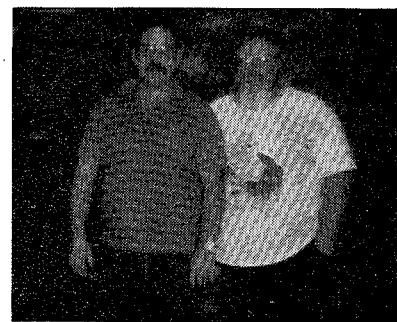
The Sherburne team of Steve Bennett and Dale Law took top honors in the doubles tournament hosted by the Riverside Hotel, Earlville, New York, on Jan. 13.

They took the biggest share of the \$1,690 pot (host Roger Sayer added a \$100 bonus for first place), with Dick Losee and Dick Jeffries taking second place. Third went to Bob Brooks and Brian Loundsbury, with Jeff Davies and Ryan Fuller in fourth.

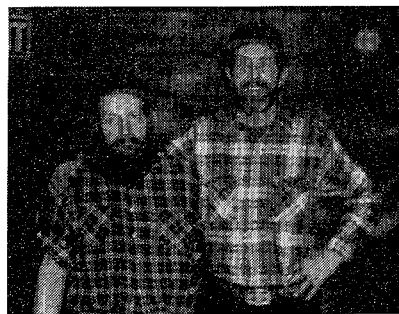


Dale Law and Steve Bennett teamed up to take top honors at Riverside Hotel's bring partner event.

Dick Losee and Dick Jeffries took second in a field of 13 teams.



Bob Brooks and Brian Loundsbury finished in third place.



Before the main event, 20 players competed in a round robin on Friday night, with Dick Jeffries and Doug Fridley Jr. taking first place. Second place went to Bob Carpenter and Dale Law. In a second round robin, Jeff Davies and Brenda Prosser captured first place, with Rita Traux and Shelly Paul finishing second.

"Special thanks to Steve Bennett for running the sponsor sale, and Bob Carpenter for keeping the players informed as to which board they would play on next," reports Dale Law. "Host Roger Sayer hopes to have a fourth board in place for the Spring Tournament, which will be posted in *The Board Talk*."

Share news about your events through the pages of The Board Talk!

Deadline: Must be received by the 15th of each month.

East Coast Winter Weather Doesn't Stop Shufflers at Darlene's

Inclement weather kept many shufflers from travelling to Darlene's Tavern in Sudlersville, Maryland, for a scheduled bring partner event on Jan. 13 -- but the show went on for the seven teams that made it. Coming out on top were Judy Iseman of Chestertown, Md., and Chuck King of Greenwood, Del. Second place went to local shooters, Billy Pinder and John (Cookie) Cook from Easton. In third place was Buck Wallace of Sudlersville and Henry Wooleyhand.

Since that event didn't take long, a \$10 draw partner double elimination was held, with Joey Ruff and Chuck King the winners. Louie Plugge and Terry Hurley took second place. A horsecollar event was also held, with Chuck King and Marvin Wallace taking the top spot and Bob McKinnon and Joyce Pyle in second place.

Sunday's draw partner event was taken by Chuck King and Joyce Pyle. In second were Mary Wagner (Owl's Nest, Felton, Del.) and Fuzzy Everett of Millington, Md. Third place was won by Joey Ruff and Louie Plugge. Again having some time left and everyone ready to play, a \$5 draw partner event was held, with Chuck King and partner Terry Hurley the winners. Second place went to Marvin Wallace and Henry Wooleyhand.

Even though the turnout was light, everyone enjoyed the excellent food and had a good time. It also gave some new players an idea of how tournaments are run.

Darlene's was host to a horsecollar tournament on Super Bowl day, Jan. 28. The bring partner event was won by Joyce Pyle and Joey Ruff, with Missy Wallace and Linda Thornton taking second. Finishing third were Ann Wallace and Darlene Hurley, who had to be coaxed to get in the game. Participants thank hosts Darlene and Terry Hurley, who always join in for the good times.

Huddleston Takes Oklahoma Championship

Ron Huddleston took top honors in the second Oklahoma State Championship held at the American Legion Post 73 in Del City. Finishing second was Dave Davidson, with Billy Melton in third. Billy made a great effort to repeat as last year's champion, but lost out to Dave, who in turn took Ron to a third and final game.

"When you consider the depth of quality players we have in Oklahoma, I have to be extremely proud and happy for this win," said Ron. "And humble when it was over because I realize the chances of ever winning it in this crowd is pretty slim."

The draw partner event that preceded the championship was won by Sam Summers and Ron Blalock, with Ron and Merle in second, and Ron Gamble and Ferlin Kerns in third place.

Indiana Action....

Steve Hart and Steve Schlayler were winners of the 2nd Annual Open Doubles at Chances R in Muncie, Indiana, on Jan. 13. Sixteen teams vied for a total purse of \$2,000. Placing second were Jim Long and Larry Creakbaum, with Rick Royal and Larry Brown in third.

At the 1st Annual Open Doubles at the Get-A-Way in Anderson, Indiana on Feb. 3, Larry Vance and Milt took top honors, with Willis Mathews and Doyle in second place. Connie Longhoff and Ady Snyder placed third. The double elimination event was hosted by Bernie Henderson. (*Editors' Note: our apologies to those whose full names were not reported.*)

***Share YOUR good news with the
World of Shuffleboard through the pages
of The Board Talk!
Deadline: 15th of each month.***

Tournament Recipe of the Month

(*Editor's Note: Many tournament sites have a "special" that they serve to participants. A few months ago, Ralph Duarte of Washington suggested that we start a column to share those recipes. While in Las Vegas for the PCSA's Extravaganza VIII, Ralph made the first contribution: the recipe for Bernice's famous taco soup, served to participants in tournaments held at the Shamrock Tavern in Longview. If you have a special tournament recipe to share, send it to: The Board Talk, 421 E. Sheridan, Lansing, MI 48906.*)

Bernice's Taco Soup

- 5 to 6 pounds ground beef
- 2 chopped onions
- 2 gallons diced tomatoes
- 3 gallons kidney or red beans
- 1 large package frozen corn
- 4 packages taco seasoning

Brown burger and onions and drain. In large cooker, add tomatoes, beans, corn, taco seasoning and burger mix. Season to taste. Simmer for three hours.

May be served with nacho chips and sour cream.

For smaller servings, cut recipe back.

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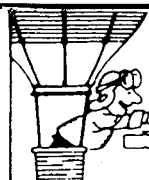
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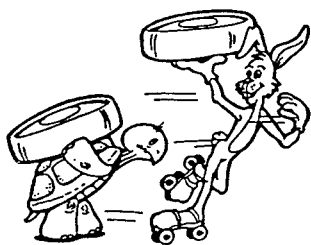
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Looking Back.....

1987



Editor's Note: To mark our 12 years of publication, we started this new column in December, highlighting the winners of past major tournaments. These lists will include only those that were reported to THE BOARD TALK; consequently, there may have been some major events that are not recorded. This month.....1987.

●Corporate Image, Ft. Worth, Texas, Washington's Birthday

Doubles:

- 1st -- Billy Mays, Earl Kelly, Texas
- 2nd -- Bill Melton, Oklahoma; Dave Williams, Texas
- 3rd -- John McDermott, Michigan; Karl Spickelmier, California
- 4th -- Darrol Nelson, Oregon; Billy Chiles, Calif.
- 5th -- Eric Waldman, Calif.; Ed Graves, Oklahoma

Singles:

- 1st -- Darrol Nelson, Oregon
- 2nd -- Glen Davidson, Oklahoma
- 3rd -- Bill Melton, Oklahoma
- 4th -- Don Cox, California

●Annual Spring Doubles, American Legion, Bourbon, Indiana, May 2

- 1st -- Lee McDonald and J.R. Lopez, Michigan
- 2nd -- Tom and Bob Vorndran, Indiana
- 3rd --(tied) Ron Willborn and Larry Massie, Indiana; Skip Jackson and Larry Creakbaum, Indiana

●Michigan Playfair Open, Dearborn, Michigan, Memorial Weekend

Doubles:

- 1st -- John McDermott, Michigan.; Darrol Nelson, Oregon
- 2nd -- Glen Davidson, Okla.; Billy Chiles, Calif.
- 3rd -- Chris Monahan, Calif.; Diana Hagen, Texas

Singles:

- 1st -- John McDermott, Michigan
- 2nd -- Bill Melton, Oklahoma
- 3rd -- Bobby Voorhis, Indiana

Women's Singles:

- 1st -- Cheryl Collins, Michigan
- 2nd -- Chris Monahan, California
- 3rd -- Georjean Monnarrez, Oregon

●Colorado Coors Open, Bliner's Sports Bar, Denver, June 10-14

Singles:

- 1st -- John McDermott, Michigan
- 2nd -- Darrol Nelson, Oregon
- 3rd -- Billy Mays, Texas
- 4th -- John Myles, Michigan

Doubles:

- 1st -- Darrol Nelson, Or.; John McDermott, Mich.
- 2nd -- Travis Anderson, Grady McGovern, Colo.
- 3rd -- Karl Spickelmier, Eric Waldman, California

Draw Partner:

- 1st -- Darrol Nelson, Oregon; Jody Slack, Colo.
- 2nd -- John McDermott, John Myles, Michigan
- 3rd -- Travis Anderson, Fred Compean, Colo.

●3rd Annual Board Talk Shufflers' Reunion, Log Cabin Bar, Howell, Michigan, July 4th

Mixed Doubles:

- 1st -- Larry Creakbaum, Ind.; Trish Turner, Mich.
- 2nd -- Rick Boyer, Texas; Marie Sweeney, Mich.
- 3rd -- John McDermott, Cheryl Collins, Mich.

Open Singles:

- 1st -- Rick Boyer, Texas
- 2nd -- Bill Lally, Pennsylvania
- 3rd -- Mickey Mickens, New Jersey

Open Doubles:

- 1st -- Mickey Mickens, New Jersey; Bill Lally, Pa.
- 2nd -- Jerry Warr, Bobby Voorhis, Indiana
- 3rd -- Jerry Knox, Jim Long, Indiana

Women's Singles:

- 1st -- Cheryl Collins, Michigan
- 2nd -- Trish Turner, Michigan
- 3rd -- Marie Sweeney, Michigan

●2nd Aqua-Fest /U.S. Open, Austin, Texas, Aug. 7-9

Open Singles:

- 1st -- Darrol Nelson, Oregon
- 2nd -- Bill Melton, Oklahoma
- 3rd -- Eric Waldman, California

Open Doubles:

- 1st -- Billy Mays, Earl Kelly, Texas
- 2nd -- Bill Melton, Okla.; Dave Williams, Texas
- 3rd -- Lee Brady, Dale Koteras, Texas

Women's Singles:

- 1st -- Cheryl Collins, Michigan
- 2nd -- Peggy Richards, Arizona
- 3rd -- Brenda Moore, Texas

NEXT MONTH: Who were the "headliners" in 1988? Will YOUR name be there?

●Ace of Clubs Labor Day Tournament, Marysville, California

Open Doubles:

- 1st -- Leroy Ledford, Don Cox, California
- 2nd -- Ron Harrolson, Loren Maxham, California
- 3rd -- Mel Currie, Canada; Jim Allis, Washington

Open Singles:

- 1st -- Darrol Nelson, Oregon
- 2nd -- Don Cox, California
- 3rd -- Nick Chaffin, California

●Stagger Inn Thanksgiving Tournament, Bellflower, California

Open Doubles:

- 1st -- John McDermott, Michigan; Leroy Ledford, California
- 2nd -- Tommy Workman, Lou Lusero, California
- 3rd -- Chris Monahan, Calif.; Al Pease, Wash.

Open Singles:

- 1st -- John McDermott, Michigan
- 2nd -- Al Pease, Washington
- 3rd -- Darrol Nelson, Oregon

Other Significant Happenings in 1987:

January -- Based on reader feedback, which indicated that known reputation and ability should be reflected as well as tournament finishes, adjustments were made in the Board Talk's player ratings. The U.S.A. was broken into four divisions: Atlantic, Pacific, Mideast and Midwest -- with the top ten in each area. **Mickey Mickens** of New Jersey was No. 1 in the Atlantic Division, **Darrol Nelson** of Oregon in the Pacific Division, **John McDermott** of Michigan in the Mideast, and **Billy Mays** of Texas in the Midwest.

February -- Shufflers took a few tentative steps toward organizing their sport during a meeting at the Corporate Image in Ft. Worth, Texas. Uniformity of rules, development of state associations, and sanctioning of players was discussed and a committee headed by **John McDermott** of Michigan was appointed. Little did that committee, composed of **Darrol Nelson**, Oregon; **Bill Melton**, Oklahoma; **Karl Spickelmier**, California; **Jody Slack**, Colorado; **P.T.**, Texas; **Don Casula/Dick Gorman**, Delaware; and **George Wilber**, The Board Talk; know what challenges lay ahead. Following that meeting, in a nine-game match between the West and Midwest "Battle of the Divisions," the West came out the victors.

April -- **Chris Monahan** of California and **Diana Hagen** of Texas, who dare to compete with their male counterparts, are recognized as making a mark for women shuffleboard players and take first and second places in The Board Talk's first "Top 10 Women" listing. The committee named at the Corporate Image has a name: the American Shuffleboard Federation, and proposes tournament rules,

using the "Ramos Rules" as a blueprint. **Bill Moore** of Big Springs, Texas, starts his Pro Player Profile series with **Billy Mays** as his first subject.

May -- The Board Talk is criticized for promoting and accepting ads for a tournament that failed to fulfill its "guaranteed" \$36,000 payoff. The editors celebrate their largest issue to date -- 16 pages!

July -- **John McDermott** and **Phil Skover** announce the founding of The Shuffleboard Federation, Inc., based in Northville, Michigan. Their goals: to promote and increase public awareness of both amateur and professional shuffleboard for both men and women.

October -- Shuffleboard greets **Rick Boyer** and **Billy Mays** suffer a defeat at the Bourbon tournament by two Indiana women -- **Marcia Brown** and **Young Stocker**.

December -- The Board Talk passes out some editorial "Golden Puck" awards for making 1987 a successful year, including: **Dick Gorman**, Delaware, Best Reporter; **Diana Hagen** of Texas, **Cheryl Collins** and **Jerry Siebert** of Michigan, Best Subscription Recruiters; **Porter White** and **PeeWee Ramos** of California, Most Faithful Subscribers; **Bill Melton** of Oklahoma and **Al Stewart** of California, Shuffleboard Heroes of the Year, for "their personal integrity which portrays the image of sportsmanship The World of Shuffleboard wants to project to our publics -- worthy role models for all of us."

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1996 CALENDAR OF SHUFFLEBOARD EVENTS

MARCH

March 2-4

3-Event Tournament
Harvey's Place
Street, Maryland

March 8-9

Spring Fever Hangover
Drag Partner
Top's, That Other Place Saloon
St. Louis, Missouri

March 9-10

11th Annual Mixed Doubles
Old Edison Inn
Edison, Washington

March 15-17

3-Event Tournament
The River Inn
Williamsport, Maryland

March 15-17

2nd Annual St. Pat's Day Tourney
Wetlands Bar & Grill
Royal Oak, Michigan

March 15-17

Jimmy L's Spring Tournament
Jimmy L's
Tulsa, Oklahoma

March 23

5th in Series of Five
Beef's
Kendallville, Indiana

APRIL

April 5-7

2nd Annual Toledo Open
Avon Local 14
Toledo, Ohio

April 11-14

National Spring Tournament
Dew Drop Inn
Waterloo, New York

April 12-14

3-Event Tournament
Harvey's Place
Street, Maryland

April 13

Doubles Tournament
Mississinewa Tavern
Eaton, Indiana

April 19-21

3-Event Tournament
The River Inn
Williamsport, Maryland

April 19-21

1st Annual Mixed, Men's &
Ladies' Singles
Wetlands Bar & Grill
Royal Oak, Michigan

April 19-21

Oklahoma Handicap Tournament
American Legion Post 73
Del City, Oklahoma

April 19-20

Bring Partner Tournament
Top's, That Other Place Saloon
St. Louis, Missouri

April 27

Open Singles
Beef's
Kendallville, Indiana

April 27-28

Open Singles
Balloon Inn
Arvada, Colorado

MAY

May 4

1st Hall of Fame Doubles/35th
Annual Bourbon Spring Doubles
American Legion 424
Bourbon, Indiana

May 4-5

6th Annual Draw Partner
Shamrock Tavern
Longview, Washington

May 10-12

3-Event Tournament
Riverside Hotel
Earlville, New York

May 10-12

Pacific Northwest Championships
Whistling Oyster Tavern
Quilcene, Washington

May 11

Open Doubles
Sportsman's Lounge
Muncie, Indiana

May 17-18

Tournament of Champions
Bring Partner
Top's, That Other Place Saloon
St. Louis, Missouri

May 17-19

3-Event Tournament
The River Inn
Williamsport, Maryland

May 20-27

Memorial Day Tournament
Blinky's Sports Cafe
Santa Clara, California

May 24-27

3rd Annual Memorial Day
Tourney
Wetlands Bar & Grill
Royal Oak, Michigan

Did You Know.....?

In March of 1987, there were eight events on the Calendar of Events. Today, there are 49! Read "Looking Back" on Pages 14-15.

THE BOARD TALK

421 E. Sheridan Rd., Lansing, MI 48906; Phone: 517-371-2538

1996 CALENDAR OF SHUFFLEBOARD EVENTS

JUNE

June 14-16

2nd Annual Deuces Wild
4-Person Team Event
Wetlands Bar & Grill
Royal Oak, Michigan

June 15-16

7th Annual Open Doubles
Balloon Inn
Arvada, Colorado

June 21-22

Hangover Drag Partner
Top's, That Other Place Saloon
St. Louis, Missouri

June 21-23

New York State Championships
Dew Drop Inn
Waterloo, New York

JULY

July 2-7

Southwest Open
American Legion Post 73
Del City, Oklahoma

July 3-7

4th Annual 4th of July Tourney/
12th Annual Board Talk
Shufflers' Reunion
The Dixie Belle
Downey, California

July 6-7

John Arndt-Tracie Fridley
Wedding Tournament
Dew Drop Inn
Waterloo, New York

July 19-20

3rd Annual Missouri State
Championship
Longbranch Lounge
Springfield, Missouri

AUGUST

July 31-Aug. 4

7th Annual Grand Masters
Whistling Oyster Tavern
Quilcene, Washington

Aug. 2-4

Summer National Tournament
Dew Drop Inn
Waterloo, New York

Aug. 16-17

A-B Blind Draw
Top's, That Other Place Saloon
St. Louis, Missouri

Aug. 23-25

2nd Annual 6-Person Team
Event
Wetlands Bar & Grill
Royal Oak, Michigan

Aug. 25 - Sept. 2

Labor Day Tournament
Blinky's Sports Cafe
Santa Clara, California

Aug. 30-Sept. 1

6th Annual Crazy Canucks
Labor Day Tournament
AN & AF #68
Vancouver, B.C., Canada

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 5-8

6th Annual Skip's/Board Talk
Fall Bash
Skip's Lounge
Houghton Lake, Michigan

Sept. 20-22

2nd Annual ABC Draw
Wetlands Bar & Grill
Royal Oak, Michigan

Sept. 27-28

Tournament of Champions
Bring Partner
Top's, That Other Place Saloon
St. Louis, Missouri

OCTOBER

Oct. 11-13

2nd Annual Ladies' Weekend
Wetlands Bar & Grill
Royal Oak, Michigan

Oct. 18-19

Pre-Halloween Bring Partner
Top's, That Other Place
St. Louis, Missouri

Oct. 19-20

Bring Your Partner Buhl and
Nelson Tournament
Shamrock Tavern
Longview, Washington

Oct. 28-Nov. 3

7th Annual North American
Championships
Sands Regency Hotel Casino
Reno, Nevada

NOVEMBER

Nov. 15-16

Pre-Thanksgiving Bring Partner
Top's, That Other Place
St. Louis, Missouri

Nov. 30-Dec. 1

Over 55 Tournament
Shamrock Tavern
Longview, Washington

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Frisko Eddie's Revenge: The Return

A series by Balboa Ron Schweikert

(In last month's episode, Frisko Eddie and Lil arrived at the home of "Tacoma Tim" in a little town outside of Tacoma called Puyallup. Tim was about to relate the story of the "Mystery Shuffleboard Man.")

Things at Tacoma Tim's house were pretty relaxed now -- after the three of them had consumed several 12-year-old scotches. Tim began his yarn about the "Mystery Shuffleboard Man." He had sworn that this was a true story.

He started by saying: "Now in the year 1963, as I said, we had the biggest tournament this state had ever seen to that date. There were 15 shuffleboards lined up there in this great hall. The tournament had actually started on a Friday night, but it was mid-afternoon on Saturday that this 'Mystery Man' and one of his friends walked in the door. No one seemed to notice them or paid any attention."

He went on with his recollection: "Now, during those days, very few had their own weights, but it was arranged so the players could rent a set to play and practice with. If I remember right, you had to put down a \$20 deposit for a set at the main counter. Anyway, the 'Man' went to the counter and got him a set of weights. He strolled over to one of the empty tables and began to freehand a few. You have to understand that this was typical for a 'hustler' to do -- because in those days, freehanders were looked down on as amateurs or 'Fish.' Only those who shot the pure Jersey weight, or some close variation of it were considered 'Pros.' They all shot the rail.

"As he was casually free-handing the weights back and forth, one of the tournament players did take notice of him. He remarked to a couple of his friends: 'Hey, isn't that the guy who was in here last night? He challenged Hoquiam Joe to a game of singles for fifty bucks (which is like \$500 in today's money). He got beat pretty bad. In fact it was all over in one game! This guy must be crazy to come back here for more of the same.'

"They watched him shoot for awhile; then one of the guys, whose handle was 'Longview Lenny,' said he was going to challenge that 'Fish' to a game of singles. The other two guys told him to go ahead and, if he needed it, they would back part of his action as well. Then Lenny walked over to the opposite end of the board from where the 'Man' was shooting. As the Mystery Man shot a practice weight, Lenny reached out and grabbed it before it came to a full stop. He shouted on down the board to the Man, asking him if 'all he ever did was practice -- and how would he like to be in a real game.'

"The Mystery Man replied with: 'I was in here last night, and I didn't do very well -- but I feel a little better

today, so O.K., what did you have in mind?' Now, this Lenny was far from being one of the best players, so he said, 'how about a game for \$60?' (He figured that he and his partners would split the bet three ways.) The Man said the arrangement sounded O.K. and with that, his friend (whom he called the 'Sergeant') proceeded to prepare the board for play. Lenny and his two friends were snickering at each other, knowing they had a sure thing.

"They way they used to work it then was to play mostly singles (and doubles also) with continuous challenges," said Tim. "That way, if one man kept on winning, he could hold the board all night -- or even two days or more if it was a marathon session.

"The game got underway. They went weight-for-weight for a few frames and the score was tied at 7-all. As the game progressed, they began to notice that the Mystery Man was shooting more and more Jersey weights off the rail. It was all right-handed, though. The score was finally 13 to 12, in Lenny's favor. On the final frame, Lenny put up a short deuce in the center. Now, the Man would normally have opted to hit-and-go (by the rules then, he still would have kept the hammer), but instead, he sized up the board, let go, drove Lenny's weight off the board and slid in for a three! Maybe it was luck, but the looks on Lenny's and his friends' faces were first of surprise, and then disgust. They didn't believe it, and wanted revenge.

"What happened then is that the Man beats Lenny a second time. The score was 12 to 15 this time. By now, the word was starting to get out and they figured they had better have Lenny give it up and bring in a stronger player. They ended up having a guy from Spokane, whose name was Lucky, step up and give a challenge. Now, this man was much better at the game and he decided to jack-it-up a little. He asked the Man if he wanted to go for \$100 this time. The Mystery Man said, 'don't worry about the horse, man -- just load the wagon. Let's play!'

Tim searched Lil's and Eddie's eyes then to "check their temperatures." Then satisfied, he continued: "The way it went from there was that the Man took Lucky out in three straight games. They were all close, with the Mystery Man coming in with the lag to win the games. Then an even stronger player came in and challenged. The Man turned in a repeat performance on him. The tournament was winding up now, with only a couple of the final play-off games left. Amazingly, most of the spectators had shifted down from the tournament end of the hall to where the singles action was taking place.

"We had a 'Blue Law' in effect during those days, which meant that the booze was shut off at midnight on Saturday, and it was getting close to that time. The

crowd was really into this thing now, and they were determined to see the 'Man' lose. Finally, the best player at the tournament was sent in to 'take this man down.' He was from Seattle, and he was called 'The Ace.'

"The excitement level was really high now, as the game was about to start. Suddenly, the Mystery Man's friend, 'Sergeant,' started running back and forth, shouting out for side-bets. He said he would cover any and all bets. Believe me, a whole lot of money went on the line then.

"Now, during the first game, we saw the Man bring in the left-hand also, with a perfect Jersey style. It was something to behold! He never missed a weight, and it seemed he could lag a three (and often a four) at will! Every time he released his lag in a frame, he would snap his right-hand fingers and then lower and raise his fist as the weight would settle into a three or four. It seemed like the weights were merely extensions of his hands and he could place them exactly where he wanted to."

Lil's and Eddie's eyes were locked on him now, awaiting the ending. Tim paused for a moment, then said: "Needless to say, he beat 'The Ace' badly for three straight games. Even though the Mystery Man was taking the Ace -- and the crowd's money -- during the last game, they actually started to applaud every time he'd lag a three! When The Ace gave up, he shook hands with him and respectfully told him he had never played anyone better. The crowd cheered the performance."

Tim's voice lowered then as he said: "Then, almost as he had made his entrance, he was gone. He was never heard of before and never to be seen or heard of again. It's rumored that one or two people do know who he really was, and where he is now. Maybe they do. Maybe. I wonder -- don't you.....?"

--CONTINUED NEXT MONTH--

More Upcoming Events

Michigan

ST. PAT'S TOURNEY AT WETLANDS, ROYAL OAK

The Wetlands Bar & Grill, 1008 N. Woodward Ave., Royal Oak, will host its 2nd Annual St. Pat's Tourney on March 15-17. Action will start with an A-B Draw on Friday night, \$25 entry, 11 point games. An open doubles on Saturday, \$25 per player, and an open singles on Sunday, \$50 entry, will be a "constant action" format. All events are single game, double elimination, played on three in-house boards.

For details, call The Shuffleboard Federation, 810-380-9300, or Mike Papa at Wetlands, 810-543-2626.

National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame

The Board of Directors, at our meeting during the PCSA Extravaganza VIII in Las Vegas, discussed the proposed "over 60" requirement for induction into the Hall of Fame. For the next year or two, we will get all the over-60 people who are deserving into the Hall of Fame. When they are all in, then we will decide on what age to go from there -- 55-50-40?

We will not address the application fee at this point because it will take time, but it's something to think about for the future. Philadelphia, Maryland and Tulsa sent in contributions with their nominations. This is a good thing -- better to volunteer now than have a rule on it later. Be sure that the people signing petitions for Hall of Fame inductees are players and ask for a donation. Put players' names, addresses, phone numbers, and how much they donated. We need to keep records. It's better for the committees of each area to have their own records and their own way of doing their own thing. I'm sure all of you will work to make this a better game.

I was told that some people are saying that the Hall of Fame is just for the "big guns." I know when I was just starting to play, all we had to look forward to was beating the big guns. Now, at least I can say I beat the big guns, they beat me, and I have some great memories. Now, we have the opportunity to go back in time and bring the past to reality. So, do all you can to help in your own community. Real soon, it will all begin to make sense.

Thanks to all of you for your feedback on all subjects, particularly to Darrol Nelson of Oregon, Manny Lane in Arkansas, and Ken Strong in Texas.

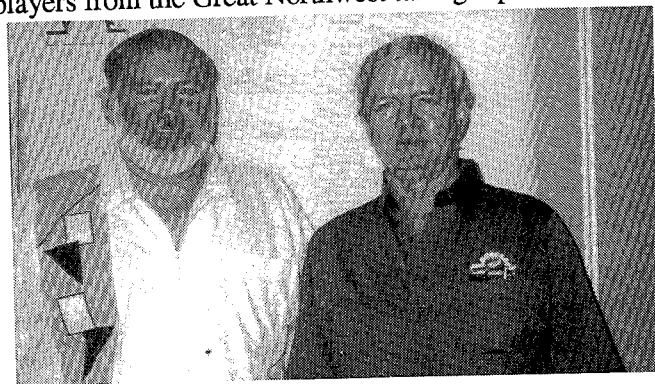
Glen Davidson, Chairman
National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame

Editor's Note: Send your petitions for induction, contributions, ideas and feedback to NSHF Secretary Louise Freer, 189 Barry Ave., Lansdale, PA 19446. And, most members of the Board of Directors will be at the 1st Annual Hall of Fame Tournament, held in conjunction with the 35th Bourbon Doubles, at the American Legion in Bourbon, Indiana, on May 4. Use this opportunity to provide your input to these individuals who are contributing their time and effort to this worthy cause.

Extravaganza VIII (continued from Page 3)

Foran/Heflin Tops in A/B Draw

There were 128 players (with more on stand-by) signed up for the popular A-B draw event, with two players from the Great Northwest taking top honors.



Coming out ahead of the 64-team A-B draw field of contenders were Dick Heflin (left) of Oregon and Jim Foran of Washington, a member of the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Board of Directors.

Taking second place honors were Steve Blue of Indiana and Harlan Martel of Colorado, with Darrol Nelson of Oregon and Ray Olson of Washington in third. Others in the money were: Paul Elliott and Russ Lankton of California, 4th; Joe Spielman, Nebraska, and John Cowan, Indiana, 5th; Bill Melton, Oklahoma, and Jim Filkins, Nebraska, 6th; Ken Storck, Oklahoma, and Jim Ward, Washington, 7th; and Sam Summers, Oklahoma, and Ray Miller, Indiana, 8th.

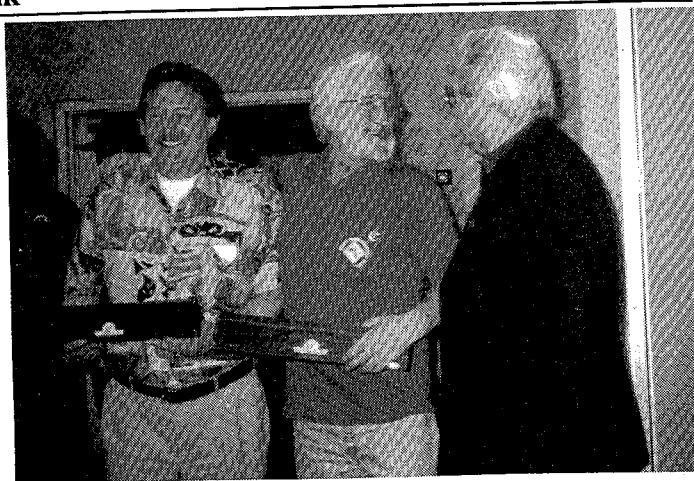
Yingst/Cason Win Amateur Doubles

If you look at this impressive field of "amateur" contenders, you can feel confident that the future of shuffleboard looks bright indeed! Forty-six teams (that's 92 possible "pros" of tomorrow) competed for top honors and prizes in this exciting event.

Six of the top eight paying places were claimed by Oklahoma teams, including the winners, Ricky Yingst and John Cason.



Tops in the amateur doubles were Ricky Yingst and John Cason of Oklahoma.



Billy Powell (left) of Oregon and Russ Miller of Washington are congratulated by Paul Weber for taking second place honors.

Louise Freer of Pennsylvania and Kevin Larkin of Washington finished third. Other money collectors were: Larry Barthel and D.G. Lane, 4th; Rena Fleming and Rick Jones, 5th; Terry Gerard and Steve Burkett, 6th; Dave Davidson and Fred Washington, 7th; and Ron Blalock and Bill Holley, 8th -- all from Oklahoma.

Okie Shuffle No. 1 in Amateur Team Competition

Proving once again that Oklahoma is home of some of the top players in the nation, the "Okie Shuffle" took top honors in the amateur team event. They beat out the favorites in the sponsor sale -- the Arizona Hot Shots -- who settled for second in the field of 17 teams.



The Okie Shuffles were winners of the Amateur Team Event. Members of the team were: Alan Primrose, Brenda Watts, Mike Melton, Rena Fleming, Cliff Goff, John Cason, John Breathwit, and Ken Storck.

REWARD!

LOST: Samsung camera with telescoping lens inside a black nylon camera bag with blue trim. Hoping that PCSA Extravaganza VIII player or fan may have found it in shuffleboard room following the women's singles finals, or in the casino bar near the blackjack tables. Will pay \$50 reward for its return. Call Darrol Nelson: 541-998-1868.

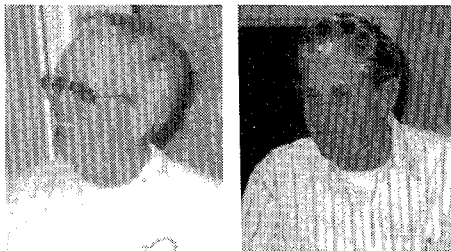
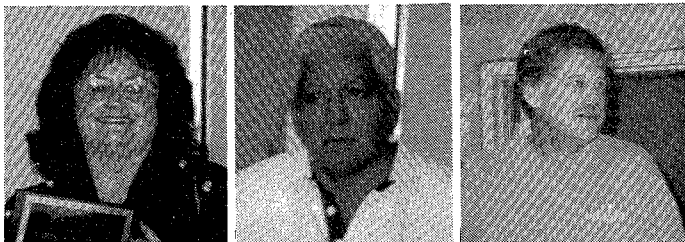


The Arizona Hot Shots took second place. Team members were: Bob Shirley, Phil Gardner, Bill Thomas, Peggy Whatley, Bob Lewis, Marilyn Roberts, Keith St. Johns, and Al Salazar. (Editors' Note: Thanks to Lois and Bob Shirley, Al and Nancy Salazar for furnishing us with team photos after we ran out of film.)

Shotze's of Washington took third place, with the Bristol Station of (again!) Oklahoma in fourth. The Dixie Belle of California took fifth and Bourbon American Legion 424, Indiana, finished sixth.

Honors Presented

In one of his rare serious moments, Freddie Thuman, on behalf of himself, Lois, and all participants of the PCSA's Extravanzas, presented awards to those who invest their time and energies to make the annual events successful.



(Left to right, top row): Marvel Muniz, Joe Muniz, Karl Spickelmier, (bottom row) Paul Weber, and Al Stewart.



And, on behalf of the PCSA, Dixie Debbie (left) presented an award to Wes and Eileen Eades, owners of The Dixie Belle, for their support of shuffleboard.

Thanks from PCSA

The PCSA extends appreciation to Al Stewart, A & M Amusement Service, and Mike Melton Shuffleboard Company for the boards and set-ups.....

The PCSA also thanks Sun-Glo Corporation for the wax and weights, The Shuffleboard Federation, Inc. for board wipes, Triple Crown Shuffleboard Supplies for silicone and weights, and Lisa Melton for the trophies.



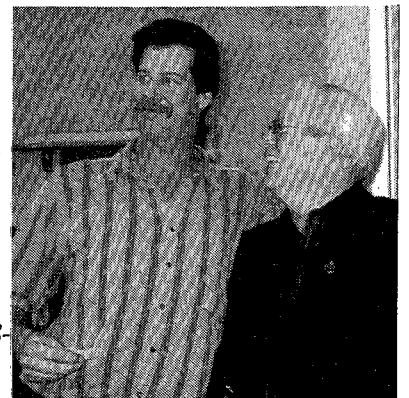
Carol and Ed of Sun-Glo left snow, sub-zero temperatures, grandchildren and pets back in New Jersey to attend Extravanza VIII. Big sacrifice!

"We also extend special thanks to Jim Anderson, Chris Bonner, Betty Brantley, Bob and Anna Brunskill, Denny Busch, Billy Chiles, Jay Kimble, Kevin Larkin, Billy Maxwell, Lisa Taylor, Fred and Lois Thuman, Rich (Bubba) Warren, Lou Lusero, Jan Manes and Maryann Wilson, Dixie Debbie, Wes and Eileen Eades, photographers Jim Martin and Madge Goff, and George and Donna Wilber of The Board Talk, and all those who played a vital role in making this tournament a success," said Paul Weber.

What About Extravanza IX?

Will there be an Extravanza IX? Yes, indeed, says Paul Weber, but it won't be at the Aladdin. Instead, the Showboat, host of the first four "extravanzas," will be the site of the next event. Watch for details.

Billy Maxwell of California was the winner of a drawing for seven nights lodging at the Sands Regency in Reno for The Shuffleboard Federation's North American Championships, Oct. 28-Nov. 3.



Notebook (continued from Page 2)

home board advantage really detracts from equitable play. Even though I have always done extremely well on the strange boards I have played, I feel that it puts way too much pressure on the average and below average players. Most of the pros and high-ranking players can and have learned to adjust to most conditions.

In my over 50 years experience playing shuffleboard all over this country, Canada and Mexico, I feel that unfair playing conditions have done more to harm the game than any other single factor. That is why I welcome efforts by The Shuffleboard Federation, Dick Gorman, Sun-Glo Corporation and others to use the same product on all of their tournament play. I do feel that all of the boards in any specific tournament should be comparatively the same when it comes to lagging speeds. It's difficult enough for even the better players to adjust to the wide variety of deviations in each board. If there were such a thing as a perfectly true block of granite leveled perfectly and each board waxed the same each time, it would tend to give the lesser player better odds of winning.

Because of the fact that I have seen possibly three

or four transitions of this game, I personally believe that most of your game has come to rely completely on the draw. I have lost and have seen players lose games where they have never missed a weight and been blown out by a player who has an incredibly hot draw. I feel if you want to speed up play, revise the games for tournaments to where each player only shoots one weight. It will cut your board and time requirements considerably. I, like Sol Lipkin, believe that the fairest test of a player's ability is a 10-frame game, hold the hammer, one line. The natural reaction by most players who have never played this style would immediately be that each game should finish one nothing for the player with the opening hammer, meaning hit 39 weights and go and stick with the 40th. Try it some time. I am sure you will be very surprised, plus I feel that the excitement of this style of play is the greatest.

As an example of the tremendous power of the drawer, I would only point to a match between Chuckie King and Bobby V at the Mickens/Board Talk Tournament. Bobby was up 13-7 over Chuckie and Chuckie lagged a hanger for 13-11. Bobby took 1 and Chuckie returned with another hanger to win 15-14. The following game of the loser's bracket again the same players...Chuckie drew a hanger with his last weight of



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of the first frame to have pitched three consecutive hangers. At Chuckie's own admission, he was just going to go down drawing for the end. I believe all tournament games should be played on a one-line style where the 1 and 2 boxes score 1 and the 3 box scores 2 and a hanger counts 3. It would return the emphasis to a more rounded game of offense and defense. I know that there will be virtually no agreement with my thoughts because everyone is afraid of the unknown.

I would like to see added at specific tournaments at least an attempt to include this style play and see what sort of reaction results. Just by the introduction of a frame style play, you can control the time constraints imposed by the current style games. A 10-frame game takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. With all of the diversity you are trying to promote at your various tournaments, I think that this is a reasonable request. A 10-frame team tournament with nine players can be completed in under two hours.

Another thing I feel is totally unfair is the lack of respect by tavern owners to a shuffleboard player's interests by refusing to put in play fairly decent boards. I have played in tournaments in which there have been four different length boards in one place. Even discounting this, I have seen boards, as you all have, that are really

totally unplayable. I know that the common reply will be, well, it's as fair for one as the other. I do not agree. In every sport going, there are varying intangibles that make for a better participant and viewing comfort. The common theme is that better equipment makes for improved play. Well, then, why would not the owner who really has any self-respect not furnish equipment in as perfect a playing condition as possible? I can get to California in a Volkswagen, but I would rather go in a Mercedes. In my view, it only shows the owner's disregard for the players who support his tournaments and the game. As you very well know from publishing the same common complaint over the years, bad maintenance of the boards has done more to injure this game than even having to put up with my insufferable attitude.

I, as much as you, were totally disappointed that there is not more letters expressing different player's opinions as opposed to mine. This is just another example of not taking the time to try and improve our sport. This is a classic example of the slower growth of our game. There should be more input from all areas and players. You and I can name the truly dedicated persons trying to promote this game. I'll list as many as readily come to mind: Louise Freer who I feel has done a

(continued on Page 24)

2nd ANNUAL TOLEDO OPEN

April 5-6-7

Friday, April 5

A-B Draw, \$20 per person entry, sponsor sale at 6:45 p.m. 24 team limit

Saturday, April 6

Open Doubles, \$50 per team. Sponsor sale at 11 a.m. Play immediately following.

Saturday, April 6

Open Singles, \$40 entry. Sale following conclusion of Open Doubles. Play will be cut off at 1 a.m. and begin at 10 a.m. Sunday

For tournament information, call Director Fritz Broka, 219-858-2689; for lodging recommendations, call Avon's, 419-472-6978

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Ed Shares Ideas (continued from Page 23)

tremendous job promoting the game and *The Board Talk*, as have Doc Kahn, Jimmy (the cop) Kumpula, Glen Davidson, Dick Gorman, Milt Benedict, Al Stewart, A.Z. Turnbo, The Shuffleboard Federation and the PCSA, and anyone who has moved boards to varying tournament sites for play, etc.

One other thing: I think all players should at least send to some local entity who would further this information to *The Board Talk* the players they have seen in their lifetimes who have impressed them the most. I will send my own list next month. This would go a long way to determining nominations for the Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. I am talking about players who have passed through their area as well as local legions.

As I mentioned earlier, I would like to see more players express their individual views. I think through more dialogue we can improve the game for all of us. I feel that the only way to truly build this game is for local and national sponsorship of the companies we support. I feel that state championships are one way of determining entrants to any national championships, but also of significant importance are league, social or fraternal organization players who would then qualify for state spots. We have to build a better player base to attract any sort of sponsorship. Also, in the sense of fairness to all players, all national championships should be played as close as possible to the geographical center of the country.

Here is a simple form that I feel should be copied and distributed at each tournament. I am sure that the majority of players can see that it would form a solid basis to present to various local businesses as well as the major beer, liquor, cigarette and gas companies. Naturally, some of this information would be optional at the request of each signee:

Name, address, phone number, most often stay at ?, gas used? airline? beer? liquor? cigarettes? restaurants? other products? How many tournaments played in per year average? How far you have and would travel? What your order of finish has been in tournaments played? What division or classification would you feel comfortable playing in? Please rate all players known to you by Group A-B-C-D.

Have tournament sponsor or director send all results to some appointed individual or group for evaluation.

Ed Galke, Oak Dale, New York

Thanks for your constructive ideas, Ed. As far as a rating system is concerned, we believe Ron and Debbie Bowers of Texas have done an outstanding job. Their system has gained recognition, not just in their own area, but in other parts of the U.S.A. Add them to your list of contributors.

John Responds to Glen's and Ken's Concerns Regarding Rules

Thank you, Glen, for sharing your thoughts on the subject of tournament rules and administration (January issue). Thanks, also, to Ken Strong for another of his well-thought-out responses to issues concerning all of us (February issue). I will follow the same format Ken used to respond to Glen's various concerns.

Rules/Officials: We are in total agreement that the rules should be prominently displayed at all tournaments. In putting together our recently revised "League & Tournament Rule Book," we studied rules from the national pool, dart, and pinball associations, looking for good ideas that could be applied to shuffleboard.

From the pinball association, we received permission to reprint one that was truly profound. It now graces the inside cover of our rule book. It states that "*When arguments arise during competition, it is usually because one or more of the participants is not familiar with the rules. A thorough understanding of the rules, by all of the participants, will allow everyone to have a good time, without worry about the technicalities.*"

When The Shuffleboard Federation was founded in 1987, we felt that one of the biggest needs the game had was a uniform set of rules. To that effect, the Player Policy Board was established. During the time that we were running a significant number of tournaments, we saw the members of the Policy Board debate the merits of many ideas, which led to the formation of what we believe are the best set of tournament rules in the game. The work of the people involved in this process, sad to say, never received the popular support it deserved. One of the most significant rules adopted was one which stated that "every player should consider it his or her responsibility to report any violations to the tournament director."

In terms of officials and officiating, the shuffleboard community is small enough that it is nearly impossible to have officials who are not "buddies" with some, if not many, of the players. If an individual believes that a particular tournament is not being run in a professional and/or ethical basis, it seems the appropriate response is to approach the person in charge and voice your concerns. Their response will tell you all you need to know. If they do not respond to your satisfaction (this does not necessarily mean agreeing with you), the most effective protest you can make is simply not to go to that tournament in the future. It is, however, very important to try and resolve whatever difference exists. It does no one any good if players go home and bitch to their friends without at least giving the responsible party an opportunity to address the situation.

It is in the best interest of major tournaments that

the tournament director should not play in their own tournament. You could be the most honest person in the world, but there will always be a doubt in some people's minds about you and your integrity if you are playing in, and running the tournament. The best course of action is not to put yourself in that situation. Tournament directors should refrain from bidding in the auction for the same reasons. We also believe that the tournament director should be paid a reasonable fee for their work. The players do not have the right to expect someone to be there from first thing in the morning until last call -- and not play in the tournament -- for free.

Players should be involved as officials, and should be picked with respect to where the participants have come from. If all the officials are from the same area, that just starts people talking. Make sure any area that sends a significant number of players is represented.

I do believe that when a situation arises where a weight needs to be called, the players involved should have the right to choose three or five mutually-acceptable fellow players to make the call. At the very least, any participant should have the right to say they do not want a particular person involved in making a call.

Weights: Why would anyone even consider spending hundreds of dollars in entry fees, travel, etc., without having their own weights. Any player who cannot afford a set of weights should skip one tournament and use the money they would have spent at the tournament to buy a set. If anyone thinks they have any real chance to win using the house weights, they are really kidding themselves.

Many players who would be considered average by tournament standards have more than one set of weights, the same way that serious bowlers carry several bowling balls. If playing conditions were a little more consistent (table is properly cleaned, polished and siliconed, and doesn't have one end that is ten feet faster than the other), players might not be carrying more than one set.

We are looking forward to the day when weight sales have grown to the point that the companies who make them are sponsoring tournaments to promote their products. Don't laugh; such an idea was unthinkable in pool 20 years ago. If you have seen any of the pool tournaments on ESPN the last few years, you know that cue stick manufacturers are adding hundreds of thousands of dollars to the major pool events.

Although I understand the reasons for a rule which requires that a player allow the opponent to use their weights, I am not personally in favor of such a rule. Watching somebody break one of your weight caps is no fun. However, all weights should be subject to inspection.

In terms of good house weights being furnished for those players who do not have their own, we have very

mixed feelings. Having had more than 40 sets of weights stolen from us at tournaments that we spent money to promote, we are seriously considering furnishing house weights on a rental-only basis at our tournament in Reno this fall.

Boards: If it is a bar tournament, there is no excuse for bad playing conditions on the boards that are in-house year-round. Unfortunately, when extra boards are brought in to a bar for a tournament, you don't always end up with the same quality as the regular house boards. We totally believe that such boards should be fine-tuned every morning prior to the start of tournament play. Having a problem board is understandable; not fixing it is not.

In a situation where you are in a hall or hotel and are bringing in many boards, it is often not mathematically possible to eliminate the board or boards in the first couple of rounds of some or all of the events. We do think that once you get to a point where you are not using all of the boards, an obviously bad board should be left out for the duration of that event. We go through the tournament room every morning at our tournament in Reno and check for ends that run or rails that fall off and adjust them as necessary.

Bracketing: Few things are as important, in terms of having a well-run tournament, than proper bracketing. The nature of the event and number of boards have a lot to do with how the bracketing is done. Because of time constraints, most tournaments must be run using the first available board format. We certainly are strong supporters of no play-backs, as well as the inclusion of a "first available game" rule. First available game means that if a board cannot be used because you are waiting for the winner or loser of another game, you should skip to the next game that can be played on that board and start it.

When you have the luxury of pre-assigned boards and starting times, we are in favor of everything being posted for that day. In a two or three day event, we prefer not to post the boards for the following day's matches until the next morning. Obviously you need to post what time the boards will be designated. Doing it this way prevents any complaints like "Kilroy stayed up all night and practiced the board."

Bracketing when you have pre-assigned boards should be done so that no one has an advantage because they have been bouncing back and forth between the same two or three boards. If there are six boards, and you stay in the tournament long enough to play six matches, you should have one match on each board.

Touching up Dry Spots: No question about it, this is one of the most abused rules in existence. The intention of the rule has always been to keep the board as evenly waxed as possible so that playing conditions stay

(continued on Page 26)

John Responds *(continued from Page 25)*

consistent. There are very few things that upset me more than watching someone dumping wax on the end of the board. I am certainly not afraid to let the offender know either. This should not be confused with touching up an obvious dry spot, by mutual consent.

There is something simple that can be done which will minimize this problem. Keeping the gutters vacuumed (they should be done every morning at a tournament) goes a long way toward eliminating over-waxing. This forces players to wax from the containers, which also results in a better touch up. Players are not nearly as inclined to over-wax if they cannot reach down and grab a handful. It also helps if, when wiping off the old wax, you push the old wax into the gutters near the middle of the board instead of at the ends.

There should definitely be a warning, followed by a penalty, for improper waxing. This information should be in the tournament rules, and those rules should be posted. Ultimately, the responsibility lies with the players. Do not allow rule violations. If you see them, bring it to the attention of the tournament director and make sure that the offender is penalized in accordance with the rules. If the tournament director does not do something about it, tell them you won't be back. There is certainly no shortage of tournament action these days. It's a free country -- take your business elsewhere.

John McDermott, The Shuffleboard Federation, Inc.
Northville, Michigan

If you'd like a copy of The Federation's revised "League & Tournament Rule Book," call John at 810-380-9300.

News From The Dixie Belle

Does everyone love to travel? I know we from The Dixie Belle do. We don't all get everywhere, but we do get to a few tournaments around the country.

The last one we attended was the PCSA Las Vegas Extravaganza. Boy, do we love Las Vegas shuffleboard! The competition is great and the prizes are good. Part of the fun, besides the shuffleboard, is the comradarie it generates. Going to the different tournaments also means seeing friends, old and new, people you wouldn't get to see if you had to visit them individually because there just isn't time.

I never got an accurate count of the Dixie Bellers at and in the Las Vegas tournament, but I estimate between 35 and 40. Though none of us were in the money, all agree that the combination of competition, shuffling friends, gambling, and other Las Vegas entertainment, made this tournament well worth our while.

One of our new players, Jan Manes, attended the

Vegas tournament. Paul Weber had asked if she would help sell shirts and pins for the PCSA, along with Maryann, which she did. She also was asked to play on a team while there, her first tournament play. She loved it. This is what she had to say about her experience:

"I'd like to say hello to all my shuffleboard friends. Las Vegas was my first tournament and between selling shirts, gambling and playing shuffleboard, it was a wonderful time. In the last nine months, I've come to love shuffleboard and there's no place like The Dixie Belle. Thanks to owners Wes and Eileen -- they are great people. Paul Weber and Joe Muniz are pretty nice, too. Thanks, Paul, for giving me a chance to go along with the group. Vegas was great. I hope to be there next year. I hope to see you all at The Dixie Belle for the Board Talk's 4th of July Shufflers' Reunion."

Jan is going with us in May when about 15 to 20 of us with (look out, Fritzi) Dixie Belle's Head Party Animal Wes in the lead, we attend the Bourbon Spring Tournament in Indiana.

If you haven't attended this event, it's a good one to put on your list. Fritzi and her crew, besides running a great tournament, really go out of their way to make you feel welcome and show you a good time. Fritzi, Wes still wants that scooter ride and if we can get him across those railroad tracks, he'll be in Bourbon a few days early.

This leads us right into July and the Board Talk Reunion. We are cleaning and polishing The Dixie Belle in preparation for this great event. I have spoken with many of you who are planning to attend and want you to know we are so excited, we can hardly wait for the 4th of July. Seeing old friends and making new ones, is one of our favorite things, right up there with shuffleboard, music, dancing, eating, and just plain Party, Party, Party!

If any of you don't have plans for the 4th, plan on a Southern California vacation and tournament. I promise you'll have a great time. There is something in our tournament for everyone, beginners to pros and spectators alike. Come join the fun!

With Wes and Eileen Eades, I hope to see you here.

Dixie Debbie, The Dixie Belle, Downey, California

Thanks from Al and Von

We would like to share our deepest, heartfelt thank you to Fred and Lois Thuman for the beautiful -- and unexpected -- plaque of appreciation presented to us in Las Vegas. It does feel good when someone shows appreciation, so we have this to say: "Fred and Lois -- thanks a million and we love you." Also want to say we enjoy Balboa Ron's story every month.

Al and Vonnie Stewart, El Monte, California

Our Sincere Appreciation to:

- The Shuffleboard Federation, Inc.
- Sun-Glo Corporation
- Triple Crown Shuffleboard Supplies
- Gametime
- American International Shuffleboard
- Mississinewa Tavern
- American Legion 424
- American Legion 73
- Avon's Local 14
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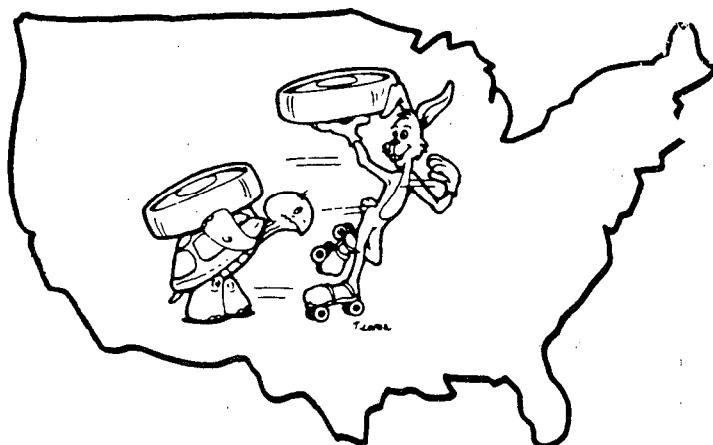
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