

The Board Talk

Published monthly by George & Donna Wilber
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February 1999

Shuffleboarders Thaw at Houston Holiday Open! *By Don Meehan*



The icy, wintry weather that had gripped most of the country prior to Christmas subsided, at least in the Houston area, to allow erstwhile shuffleboarders from eight states and all over Texas to convene at the Hilton Southwest for some serious shuffleboard and some not-so-serious Holiday partying! This year, 14 boards filled the Grand Ballroom, with full service bar and juke box "at the ready"! The hotel offered deluxe rooms, with breakfast buffet included, for \$49.95 and this year, Jack and Johnny added a free visit to the Hospitality Suite for any shuffleboard player or good-looking woman still standing after 2 a.m.

As promised, organizers Jack Scott and Johnny Ballard had "something for everyone" at the 3rd Annual Houston Holiday Open. Of the nearly 150 players who registered, 78 players were rated 3, 4 or 5. In 10 events held over five days, the casual, average players not only got to intermingle with top-notch pros, but were able to learn from and compete with them in events like the A-B-C Draw and the Bring 4-Person Team. And, guess what? Everybody seemed to have a good time!

On Saturday, Dec. 26, the tournament kicked off with two draw events. In the A-B (Pro-Am), the Dallas metroplex was "Boss" with David Williams of Ft. Worth and Lee Duncan of Dallas topping the field. Brother Bobby Williams and Mahlon Nobles from Arlington claimed second. Locals Diana Hagen and Marshall Partlow placed third, while locals Sylvia Martinez and Ann Walker finished fourth.

In the amateur division, the team of locals "Super Dave" Ramold and Pete Worsnop took first place. Local John Little teamed with Dallasite Jeff Womble for second; locals Wayne Hammond and Jeff Clark claimed third, while locals Lee Stout and Perla Scott came in fourth.

Day Two featured the ABC draw event, in which players of varying skill levels are paired on a three-person team. "A" players face off against "A" players, "B"s against "B"s, and "C"s against "C"s in a single game, double elimination format.

Bob Lewis from Arizona, Tony Pelton from Arkansas, and local Perla Scott claimed first place. Johnny Ballard, Nebraskan Terry Roberts and Morris

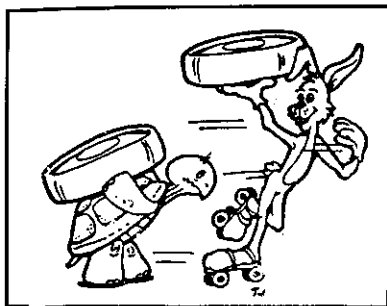
Moss of Dallas took second. Pat Gainey from Austin teamed with locals Dave Ramold and Danny Norris to place third. Hall of Famer Glen Davidson from Oklahoma, Troy Thornton of Clear Lake, Texas, and local David Andrews claimed fourth place. Fifth and sixth places were shared by the teams of Eddie Woods of Ft. Worth, Jim McGee of Clear Lake and local Lynette Ammermann; Dallasite Bobby Wright and locals Tre Cameron and Clay Moore.

On Day Three, the four-person team events were held. The Pro Division (min. 5 points) saw the team of David Williams, Eddie Woods and Dallasites Gary Nelson and Key Nelson, battle into the wee hours

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Reach Out to Fellow Shuffler...Page 20**



Shufflers' Notebook

News and Views from The World of Shuffleboard

Sensations of an X Virgin

I've been playing shuffleboard for a while now, and I know I know how to play. But sometimes you make a shot and the puck just goes some place you didn't intend for it to even go! You have the sensation that your hand doesn't belong to you. You think right quick -- who in the blue blazes threw that puck?! I know that it was me who threw it, but it didn't seem like my hand. So, I've just decided to call it the "wierd hand syndrome." From what I can find out from talking to other players, it is just something that happens to all of us (even the Big Boys and Girls). Sometime the wierd hand syndrome goes away after that one shot, and sometimes it stays around for a while and then goes away. I don't know where it comes from, and I don't know where it goes, when it goes. I haven't talked to anybody who does know. If anybody out there knows, write in and let me know.

Well, guys, I have a new place to play. It's called "The Gold Brick" at the Bricktown Central Plaza Hotel at I-40 and Eastern in Oklahoma City. I can get to it from my front door in Midwest City, Oklahoma, in nine minutes if I just run two red lights. The place belongs to Mary Lou and Pete Humphries and has two boards. All play is handicapped with house tournaments on Mondays and Thursdays at 7 p.m., Saturday afternoons at 3 p.m. with money added. Round robins before and after.

If I have my facts straight, shuffleboard players get a special rate on rooms. And they serve a hamburger and chicken strips that can't be beat. They also have other foods that I haven't tried yet. The club is just beautiful and Mary Lou really had it gussied up for New Years Eve. We all had a great time, lovely food and drinks, and a great bed to sleep it off. Boy, what else could you want? Well, starting the next morning,

at 9 a.m., there was homemade cinnamon rolls and various other things like juices of all kinds and, best of all, was the good Bloody Marys that you serve yourself from 1/2 gallon jugs. Boy, those Bloody Marys had me seeing double and feeling single in no time at all. I went to play shuffleboard for a while only to find out that I had the wierd hand syndrome sensation real bad, so I just went home and slept off the Bloody Marys. It had been quite a good 20 hours for somebody who doesn't ordinarily drink!. But what the hay -- it's 1999!

Sue Lewis (The X Virgin), Midwest City, Oklahoma

It's always a delight to hear from you, Sue. We're certain many shufflers have been struck with the wierd hand syndrome. Hope you noticed in Glen's December column that he promoted Mary Lou's and Pete's new location. He and Madge also signed up Bricktown so they're part of our national shuffleboard network, listed in the "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A." We urge readers to stop in and take advantage of their hospitality, facilities, and shuffleboard activities.

What About Those "Freeloaders"?

I have a hard time understanding the "freeloaders" who eagerly read subscribers' issues of The Board Talk, but refuse to buy their own subscription. Do they have any idea what it costs to publish, print and mail the newsletter, let alone recognize the work that goes into it?

How do you, as the publishers of the newsletter that is largely responsible for the growth of our sport, handle these cheapskates?

Jolene Lembke, Yucaipa, California

After 15 years and 2 months of dealing with this problem (and it is a problem), we've decided there is no solution. The sad part of it is that the Board Talk
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Publication Content Information

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National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Celebrates 4th Anniversary

By George & Donna Wilber

On Feb. 4, 1995, at the Pacific Coast Shuffleboard Association's Extravaganza VII in Las Vegas, an idea that had been brewing in the minds of serious shufflers across the nation for many years finally reached fruition. On that historic date, the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame was born.

The six volunteers who agreed to serve on the NSHF Board of Directors were: Glen Davidson, Oklahoma, president; Hal Perry, California, vice president; Bob Hunt, California, chief financial officer; Louise Freer, Pennsylvania, secretary; Larry Creakbaum, Indiana, and Jim Foran, Washington, directors. The purpose they adopted for the newly-formed non-profit organization was: ***"To serve the shuffleboard community with dignity, honor, and prestige in its quest to seek out and recognize excellence for all deserving participants in the world of shuffleboard."***

Their goal for the first year was to make the necessary preparations in order to accept nominations for inductees into the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. Their beginning guidelines included submitting a petition with at least 20 names endorsing the induction of a person, a history of the nominee's accomplishments, and a list of reasons why the person should be inducted. The board literally begged for feedback and input from the shuffleboard community. You'd think, with a long-held dream finally becoming a reality, that would be an easy task. Not so! While there were financial contributions from a dedicated few, most either adopted a wait-and-see attitude or shared their ideas and concerns -- not with the board -- but with the guy sitting on the next bar stool.

By the end of its first year, the NSHF Board began getting a trickle of feedback and, based on that input, adopted a temporary "over 60" requirement at their second annual meeting in Vegas in February 1996. Once all the worthy individuals over 60 had been recognized, that requirement would be dropped.

A more controversial issue addressed at the second annual meeting was an application fee to accompany petitions for induction. The board based this requirement on two reasons: (1) an indication that the people who signed the petition were convinced that the person was worthy of induction, and (2) the need for raising money for a permanent home for the Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. No set fee was required -- just a "small donation" along with the signatures. Some interpreted this fee as "paying your way into the Hall of Fame." Others thought it was appropriate.

First Hall of Fame Inductions

Despite the "growing pains" experienced by any new entity, the NSHF had inducted six people by the end of its second year: Bob Miles of Oregon, Mickey Mickens of New Jersey, Earl Kelly of Texas, PeeWee Ramos of California (all four deceased), Sol Lipkin of the American Shuffleboard Company, and Glen Davidson of Oklahoma (both alive and well). In July of 1997, the highly-regarded Bill Melton of Oklahoma was inducted, followed by the pride of Washington and the Pacific Northwest, Jim Foran, in August and The Board Talk Wilbers in November. In 1998, inductees included Billy Chiles of California, Denny Busch of Nebraska (both deceased) and the living legend Galen Gaunce of Oregon became No. 13 in the NSHF, followed recently by Rod Cameron and Ray Hartless of Texas.

"Grassroots" Provide the Strength

In her introductory column for the NSHF, Secretary Louise Freer indicated that the ultimate success (or failure) of the Hall of Fame would rest with the grassroots level of The World of Shuffleboard. Time has proven her correct. Slowly, but very effectively, state and area Halls of Fame are setting the pace for their peers across the nation. **California**, with its dedicated committee volunteers and a talented resource pool, has held classy inductions for seven people. **Michigan** has inducted five; the **Evergreen Shuffleboard Association (Pacific Northwest)** has inducted four and working on more; **Texas** has inducted five; **Missouri**, 2; **Nevada**, 1; **Colorado**, 1; **Indiana**, 1 with 2 on the horizon; **Oklahoma**, 3 or more. A tri-state committee of **Maryland/Delaware/Pennsylvania** is listed in The Board Talk as the first area committee, but no inductions have been reported. **Nebraska** formed their Hall of Fame over 20 years ago and have inducted many worthy individuals.

What's the Next Step?

The NSHF has gone through the agony of birth, the crawling period, the first "baby steps" toward maturity. What now? Throughout these various stages, The Board Talk has supported them unconditionally. Now that it's four years old, we have some constructive (hopefully) ideas to share and hope the rest of The World of Shuffleboard will follow suit.

(1) We suggest that the board be expanded to 12 members, with broader geographic representation and tapping the active state (area) committee pool as a top resource.

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Upcoming Events Across the Nation

Florida

6TH ANNUAL FLORIDA OPEN, HOBO'S POUR HOUSE, MIMS, MARCH 26-28

Hobo's Pour House, 4795 Hwy. 46, Mims, will host the 6th Annual Florida Open on March 26-28. This promises to be another great event and shufflers from across the U.S. and Canada are invited to participate. Action will begin upon your arrival on three in-house boards. Tournament competition begins on Friday at 6 p.m. with a \$25 per person draw partner event. An open bring partner doubles is on the agenda for Saturday at 11 a.m., \$100 per team entry. Sunday's grand finale will feature an open singles, \$50 entry, beginning at 11 a.m. Tournament officials will be announced and will include out-of-state players.

Suggested lodging are Day's Inn, Titusville (Hwy. 50 & 95), 800-685-3810, or Travel Lodge (Exit 80), 800-267-3297. "Hobo's" is code for special rates.

Please post the enclosed flyer in your favorite shuffleboard site to spread the word about this big event. For further information and/or to save your

spot, call Hobo or Mary at 407-269-6227, or Marty Allen at 561-309-9158.

Indiana

ROUND ROBIN DOUBLES, AMERICAN LEGION, BOURBON, MARCH 5-6

The American Legion Post 424 in Bourbon will host a true round robin doubles on March 5-6. Entry fee is \$150 per team plus \$10 registration fee and will be limited to the first 20 paid entries. Action will start at 6 p.m. Friday night.

For information, call Director Terry Dowell at the American Legion, 219-342-8100, and/or send your entries to American Legion Post 424, c/o Terry Dowell, 202 S. Main, Bourbon, IN 46504.

The American Legion will also host a mixed doubles tournament on Feb. 23.

Their long-standing Spring Doubles on May 1 will include the induction of Jim Long and Larry Creakbaum into the Indiana Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

CHAMPION SHUFFLEBOARD FEATURES....

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1	
1	2
2	3
3	4

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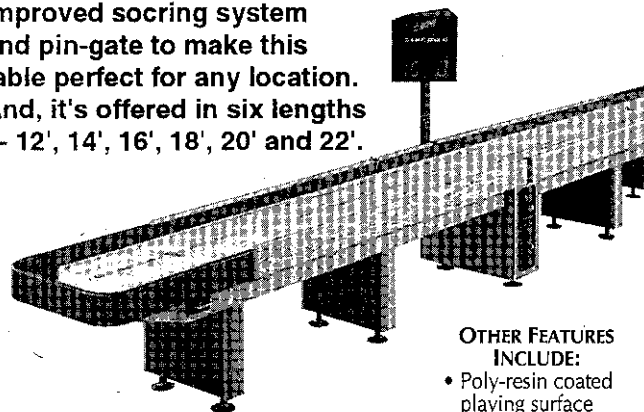
All boards are now available with 4-3-2-1 scoring. Old playfields can be refinished to accommodate this new score system.

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--Bob Shaw, Fort Worth, Texas

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ARNOLD CROSS MEMORIAL DOUBLES, MISSISSINEWA, EATON, APRIL 3

The Mississinewa Tavern, 125 W. Harris in Eaton will host the annual Arnold Cross Memorial Doubles Tournament on April 3. Entry is \$30 per team, double elimination, limited to the first 24 teams entered.

The sponsor sale will start at 11 a.m. with play immediately following. Payoff is 60-30-10.

For information, call the Mississinewa Tavern, 765-396-9371.

California

8TH PRESIDENTS' DAY TOURNEY, BLINKY'S, SANTA CLARA, FEB. 7-15

The 8th Annual Presidents' Day Tournament will be held at Blinky's Sports Cafe, 3145 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, starting Sunday, Feb. 7, and wrapping up on Monday, Feb. 15.

Whether you're a pro or an amateur -- or somewhere in between, there are events on the schedule for you. Check the flyer that was in the past two issues of The Board Talk and make your reservations (advance reservations are advised).

Questions? Call Blinky's at 408-241-3933 or Rick Thomas at 408-578-0822, or Email: tomkat@internetmci.com

On Saturday, Feb. 13, Hal Perry will be inducted into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

Washington

18TH ANNUAL MASTERS, FIR CONE TAVERN, SHELTON, FEB. 20-21

The Fir Cone Tavern in Shelton will host its 18th Annual Masters Tournament on Feb. 20-21, \$100 per team entry. The event is double elimination, 2 out of 3 15 point games in the winner's bracket, one 21 point game in the loser's bracket. The sale will start at noon on Saturday with play immediately following. \$300 will be added based on 30 teams.

Dan Hitt and Al Pease have won this event the past two years.

Come Friday night at 7 p.m. for a \$20 open draw, single elimination, 15 point games.

The Fir Cone has three great boards, and RV parking is available. Food will be served on Saturday.

For information, call Mel Hohn at 360-426-2221.

MIXED DOUBLES, OLD EDISON INN, EDISON, MARCH 6-7

The Old Edison Inn, Edison, will host its annual mixed doubles tournament on March 6-7. This is the 14th year for this event, making it perhaps the longest-running mixed doubles shoot in the same location in the region.

There will be an A/B single elimination draw on Friday night beginning at 7 p.m. Entry is \$10 per player.

The bring partner mixed doubles event starts at 11 a.m. Saturday and is double elimination, best 2 out of 3, 15 point games in the winner's bracket, with a single 17 point game in the loser's bracket. Entry is \$50 a team.

A complimentary feed will be served Saturday evening, with door prizes drawn throughout the tourney. Hosts Mini and Sandy extend a special invitation to all to come and enjoy a fun weekend in the scenic Skagit River Valley. Tournament directors are Russ (the Colonel) Miller and Phil DePree.

For information on lodging, etc. (there is limited RV parking onsite on a first-come basis), call the Edison at 360-766-6266.

Winners the last two years were Mike and Hazel Thorpe.

Michigan

3RD SAGINAW VALLEY OPEN, McCABE'S, SAGINAW, FEB. 19-21

M.J. McCabe's Food & Spirits, 54 E. Morley Drive (M-46), Saginaw, will host its 3rd Annual Saginaw Valley Open on Feb. 19-21.

A handicapped draw partner is scheduled for Friday night, \$25 per player entry, limited to 48 players. -1's, 0's and 1's cannot draw each other. Sale at 7:30 p.m. with play immediately following.

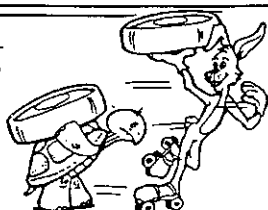
For Saturday's handicap doubles, the combined rating of both players must be at least 1. Entry is \$25 per player, limited to 20 teams. The sale is set for 2 p.m. with play immediately following.

There will be a progressive entry singles on Sunday: \$100 for -1's, \$80 for 0's, \$60 for 1's, \$40 for 2's, and \$20 for 3's, 4's and 5's. The sale is at 11 a.m., with play immediately following.

Recommended lodging is the Knights Inn (517-754-9200) and there are several other motels near McCabe's.

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As The Puck Turns.....



By George & Donna Wilber

We depend heavily upon our reporters. Without them, The Board Talk wouldn't be celebrating 15 years of service to The World of Shuffleboard! How well reporters cover events can attract participants and we'd like to help you do just that in the year ahead with a few hints:

(1) If the host or director of your tournament isn't going to do the report, assign someone who will. Also, ask someone to take photos of the action.

(2) Send in your reports as soon as possible after the event (reports must be received by the 15th of the month to be in the next issue). Tournaments are hard work and sitting down to write a report after it's over is the last thing you want to do, but if you wait a month or two, memory fades and "color" is lost; most important, your winners will be wondering why their names were not in the last Board Talk. We get a lot of reasons for late reports, mainly "we were waiting for the photos." Most towns and cities have a one-hour or next day service; don't wait until the end of the roll to get them processed.

(3) Include **what** event, **where** it took place, **when** it happened, and **who** placed. Make sure you have names spelled correctly (people have a "thing" about their names) and include their location (they're proud of their home state/town). Sometimes we can check our mailing list for correct spelling and locations, but that takes precious time and, sad to say, not all winners are subscribers.

(4) If you use photos (and we certainly encourage you to do so because it attracts readers and pleases winners), be sure to identify them on the back. Do not use color markers which can distort accompanying photos. The best method is to use "Post-It" notes. **Avoid Polaroids if at all possible.** They do not reproduce well and their size gives us fits for layout. Try for a light background and avoid mirrors.

(5) Don't be shy about including your own observations/opinions/descriptions. This adds "color" to your report. Our procedure is to use by-lines for reports that meet that criteria; quotes for those that contain just a bit of that "color" and no by-lines for "straight" reports.

(6) Read every tournament report in The Board Talk. Decide which ones attract and keep your attention, which ones make you want to attend their next event. Then, follow their examples.

We encourage you to clip these hints and keep

them near your computer, typewriter, pen and paper, wherever you do your reports. Help us help you!

Once again, we urge you not to just turn the page when you come to The Shuffleboard Directory, thinking it's just the same month after month. It contains important information about the businesses who serve The World of Shuffleboard. For example, our newest listing is Tex's Mecca Club in Sacramento, California, and note that the Houston Shuffleboard Community is already promoting their 1999 Holiday Open. We encourage you to patronize these businesses because, remember, they are supporting your communications vehicle with their advertising dollars.

D & G

Hall of Fame *(continued from Page 3)*

(2) Board officers should be elected annually in executive session by the board members.

(3) Other than elections, annual meetings should be open with a "public comment" period for input from members of The World of Shuffleboard with an enforced time period. Those who do not wish to comment publicly should be able to submit written comments with name and address required. The time of the annual meetings should be at tournaments of the highest participation, i.e. The North American Championships in Reno, Nevada.

(4) Any official actions by the board should be reported to The World of Shuffleboard, so that people who are not able to attend board sessions will be aware of any changes in the induction process.

(5) State/area Hall of Fame Committees should have a process of communicating with the NSHF Board regarding their activities.

(6) The NSHF should actively solicit promoters/sponsors of an annual NSHF Tournament to raise funds for the building of a National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

(7) The NSHF should assign someone as an historian/collector of information and memorabilia to place in the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

We salute the NSHF board members for their time, dedication and fortitude during these past four frustrating years. You readers can reward them for their continued commitment by providing your ideas, nominations, and financial support for YOUR Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. Send to the NSHF Board, c/o Secretary Louise Freer, 189 Barry Ave., Lansdale, PA 19446. And, it sure wouldn't take much time or effort just to drop them a note and say: "THANKS!" *(Editor's Note: This information was gathered from past issues of The Board Talk. Feedback and/or corrections from the Board members are welcome!)*

Notebook *(continued from Page 2)*

supporters, like you, who have subsidized these freeloaders for so many years, will be the losers when we come to the "end of the line" so to speak. While you have invested your dollars and your time to promote The Board Talk, they have nothing invested. We are now reaching the age (close to 70 for both of us) when we're tired and burned out and haven't had a "non-shuffleboard" vacation in years --and we've just received word from the Post Office that our mailing rates will increase -- again! We fully realize that there are people out there who are better business persons than we are (that's never been our strength) and could make a go of it with perhaps an increase in subscription and advertising fees, more aggressive promotion, more up-to-date equipment, and a better method than our "red checks." The freeloaders who probably outnumber the paid subscribers make it difficult to find someone to take over. The alternative is no Board Talk at all, and we don't think anyone wants that. Hopefully, your sensitive, sharp observations will cause some pangs of guilt among the ranks of freeloaders.

Phil Says: "Whoops!"

I'm writing to rectify a severe oversight on my part in failing to file a report on our September doubles tourney. I had the write-up done and set it aside waiting for the photos to come. They didn't turn out and, guess what -- I just found the unsent article in my tournament file as I prepared for our upcoming mixed doubles in March!

My sincere apologies to some great shooters and good shuffleboard pals: Nels Anderson and Rick Gindt, who outshot the competition to capture first; Mike Waters and Sherm Anderson (the unofficial all-time second place finisher at Edison), who gave Nels and Rick a run for it; third place finishers Mike Thorpe and Tim Nugent; and Al Pease and Caveman, fourth.

Also, Al won the Friday night A/B draw with Mike "Speedy" Gonzales.

Sorry, guys, I dropped the ball (puck?). Thanks for your support of shuffleboard at the Old Edison Inn.

Phil DePree, Tournament Director, Old Edison Inn, Edison, Washington

You've always done such a great job, Phil, that we're sure you'll be forgiven for this one oversight.

The Spirit of the Houston Holiday Open

To those of us who have now attended our second Houston Holiday Open, we can't imagine Christmas

without it! Like the Yuletide Tree without the star on top. Like Halloween without the pumpkin. Like football without the pigskin....well, you get the picture. It was a lot of fun!

Among the many comments I heard during the week, the most common was: "What a way to end the year." It was a fun week, but the air of stiff competition was still very much present among all the players. Bill Melton and Steve Burkett were both impressed with how smoothly the tournament ran.

"All events on time and very little sitting around and waiting for the next game."

Another comment I heard over and over was the attraction of "an event every day for everyone." I think that was a real plus for many of the new players or those who were attending their first big tournament.

So that nobody thinks that all the action was on the shuffleboard tables, the week ended with the now infamous New Year's Eve Bash. In fact, some folks who had to work and couldn't play in any of the events still drove in from out of town for the free shrimp, Swedish meatballs, quiche and other assorted snacks. Everyone feasted 'til dawn. Not to mention the table dancing featuring Jeri Billard, Lynda Nobles and Kim Andrews, macarena conga lines, an almost X-rated pass-the-cucumber competition, and then challenge shuffleboard 'til dawn.

Like was said to me several times, "What a way to end the year."

One of the really great features was that the hotel ballroom was accessible as early as you wanted to practice and as late as you wanted to play shuffleboard. There were even some marathon card games with, I think, Harvey Kidd giving everyone a lesson. I was amused by a comment by the security guard. He said a number of hotel guests had asked where the tournament was. Sure enough, I looked around and saw lots of people with no weight cases. I began to chat with a few of them and, as one couple said, they came to town to visit relatives and started watching and couldn't pull themselves away! The lady said she had plans to go shopping at the Galleria, but instead found herself coming back every day just to watch. She told me she "just had to see 'Mr. Milton' play again." Well, Mr. Milton, of course, was Bill Melton. Her husband said he came to watch "The Jungle Queen." I said no, you mean Diana, Queen of the Jungle, and he said: "Yeah, that was the one." After talking to these folks, I realized we had a large audience of irregulars. With such growing appeal, I was going to suggest to Jack Scott that we might be ready for ESPN.

This tournament also had one of the very best kept secrets. It was kept under wraps so as to surprise the honoree. Harvey Kidd was inducted to the Texas Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. If you've ever seen a

(continued on Page 20)

Hills Capture St. Louis Holiday Tourney Crown

By Jack Murphy (with help from Terrie)

Devonshire Inn, St. Louis, Missouri, once again held a great tournament when the 3rd Annual Holiday Shuffleboard Tournament was held on Dec. 11-12. With 12 teams vying for a share in the overall winnings, there were some very competitive games. Everyone present had a chance to see some great shooting. There was a wide variety of talent represented with many of the games coming down to the wire.



Tournament co-organizer Pat Marshall (left) congratulates first place winners, the father and son duo of Bill and Mike Hill.

The Hills fought their way back from a loss in the second round to make it to the finals. They had two heated battles against the yet undefeated team of Melanie Shipp and Chuck Muehlhauser. Their first match in the finals was a great game that had everyone on the edge of their seats. After a 15-11 win, the Hills again rose victorious in a true nail-biter that ended up in a 15-14 final.



Congratulations to the second place team of Chuck Muehlhauser, a veteran player, and Melanie Shipp, an up-and-coming shooter. They both made a fine showing.

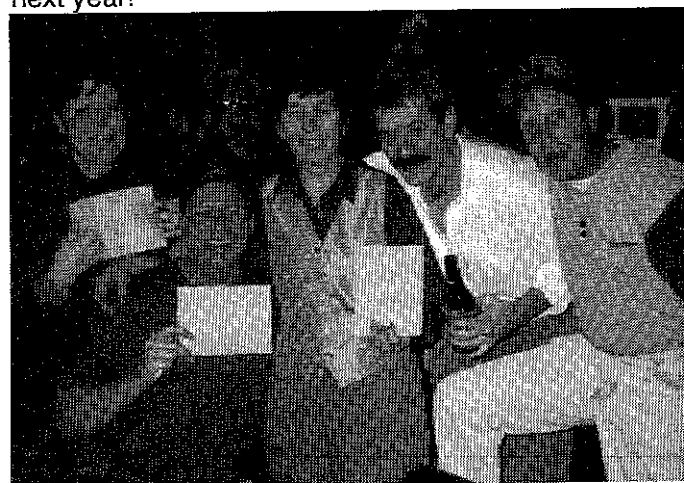
Third place honors went to tournament co-organizer Pat Marshall and his partner, Robert Kazka.



Devonshire Inn owner Sofija Pekic congratulates third place finishers Robert Kazka (right) and Pat Marshall.

They, too, played some exciting games that got them through the bracket and into the third place position.

This was a truly enjoyable tournament. Congratulations to Sofija Pekic, the gracious owner and our hostess. She provided us all with a great place to have our tournament and, once again, allowed all of us who didn't make it into the finals to at least be well-fed! I hope to see everybody back again next year!



The less fortunate, but still beaming, players show off their "consolation plaques."



Donna, a superb bartender, always ready with a smile and great service!

Devonshire Inn is a member of The Board Talk's national network.

Nugent/Heflin/Schnarrs Tops at Frankie's A-B-C Event

By Cheri Schnarrs

Frankie's Sports Pub in Olympia, Washington, hosted an A-B-C Draw Tournament on Dec. 12-13. We started out Friday night with a great turn-out for the draw doubles.

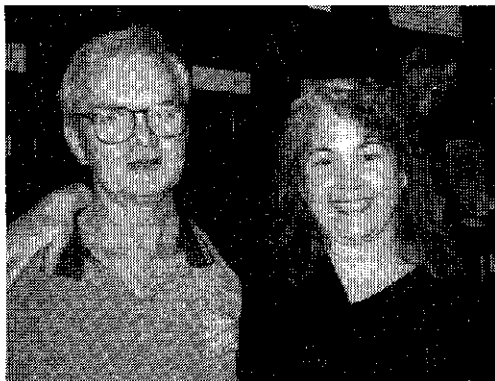


Rick Gindt and Paulette McKinney took first place.



Top winners: Tim Nugent, Don Heflin and Frank Schnarrs.

Jim Foran and Hazel Thorpe took second place honors.



2nd place honors went to the team in green: Carl Roush, Jackie Anderson, and Bob Inman.

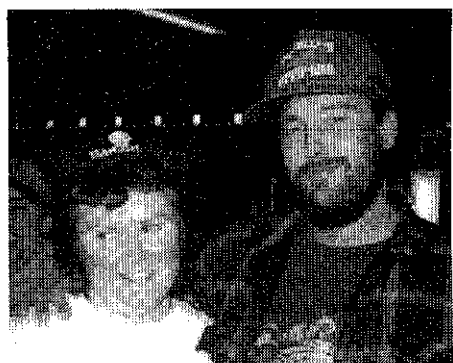


Third place went to Steve Wilson and Jim Rollan.



Third place went to Mike Thorpe, Sharon McDonnell and Cheri Schnarrs. (No, Frank did not get my money!)

Al Pease and Sharon McDonnell took fourth place.



Chuck Norris, Dennis Smith and Eric Uhron took fourth place. Talk about tough! Wow!



Saturday started the stiff competition of the A-B-C Draw. Thirteen teams rallied for the top positions. I guess Frank (owner of Frankie's) knew something none of the rest of us knew -- he added an extra \$500 to the pot! Well, guess whose team came in first: Tim Nugent, Don Heflin and Frank Schnarrs. Great team!

Thanks to the tournament directors. Great job, Mike! I hope all players had a great time. We sure have excellent sportsmanship in Washington!

I have a question for all shuffleboard players relating to A-B-C tournaments. Isn't the reason we all play as tough as we possibly can to be the best we can, and finish higher and higher in tournaments? Then, why don't the players understand that sometimes they just might have to step up and play as the A or B. This merely means you must now deliver and show your stuff! Play every game with heart and determination.

Frankie's is a member of The Board Talk's national shuffleboard network.

Bill English Inducted into Colorado Hall of Fame

By Kathi Loyd & Jody Slack

The 9th Annual Santa Classic, held at the Balloon Inn, Arvada, Colorado, on Dec. 12-13, was an especially meaningful event this year for the state's shuffleboard players. The newly-established Colorado Shuffleboard Hall of Fame inducted its first player, the late Bill English.

The induction ceremony was a time of remembrance and celebration of the life of the shuffleboard legend. Players who had known Bill for many years, such as Travis Anderson, Dennis Bird, Morey Balins, Jody Slack, Ron Sosovec and others addressed the gathering with fond remembrances of Bill's words, wit, and, of course, shuffleboard anecdotes. The one point that all of the speakers made -- and wanted newer players to understand -- was that if it had not been for Bill English and other players from his era of this game, the sport would not be what it is today.

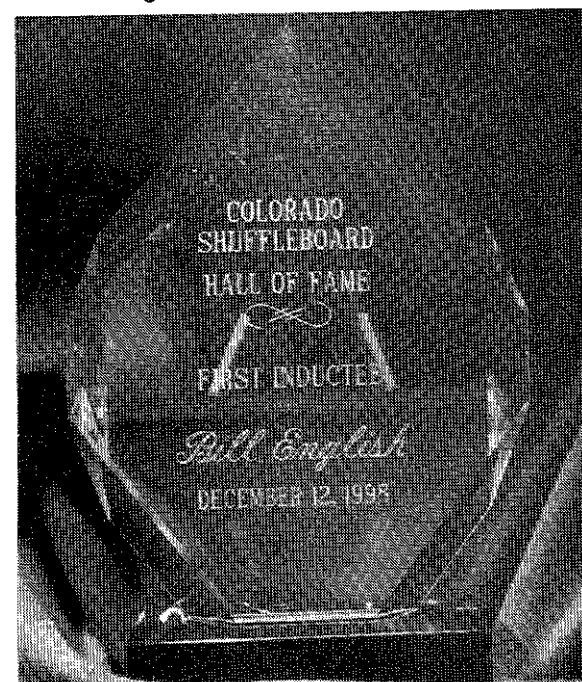
After everyone finished speaking, there was a champagne toast and Jody Slack presented Bill's wife, Bonnie, with an engraved crystal and marble trophy commemorating the occasion. The memorable event ended with a wonderful buffet dinner provided by Balloon Inn owners Glen and Cee Cee Chavez.



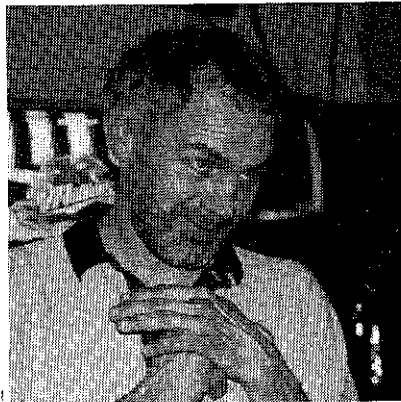
Jody Slack presents the induction plaque to Bonnie English.



A champagne toast to the legendary Bill English, first inductee into the Colorado Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.



The beautiful crystal and marble plaque recognizes Bill English as the first inductee into the Colorado Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.



Travis Anderson (left) and Dennis Bird (right) were two of the speakers who paid tribute to the memory of Bill English.

B & B Connection Win Santa Classic at Balloon Inn

"B & B" -- does it stand for Birdman and The Blaster? In reality, it stands for Bird and Boyer, like in Dennis and Rick, who took first place in this year's Santa Classic. The tournament was a lot of fun this year and had special meaning because of the Hall of Fame induction of the late Bill English on Saturday

while the players took a break between matches in his honor.



First-place finishers Rick Boyer and Dennis Bird hold a strategy meeting prior to their final match.



Char Waugaman congratulates visitor Marty Shepard of Nebraska who teamed up with local Gene Davis to take second place.



Bonnie English drinks a toast to Bill's memory with third place finishers -- "unknowns" Jody Slack and Kathi Lloyd.



Bonnie thanks hosts Cee Cee and Glenn Chavez for hosting this tribute to her late husband.

The tournament was more exciting this year because a lot of players who had never played in the Santa Classic in prior years paired up with Santa Classic veterans, which made for some very interesting teams, matches, and sponsor sale bidding.

The Balloon Inn is a member of The Board Talk's national shuffleboard network.

Hart/Vance Win at Sportsman's Lounge

Steve Hart and Larry Vance were winners of the doubles tournament held at Sportsman's Lounge, Muncie, Indiana, on Dec. 12.

Second place honors went to Bob Brown and Glen Ingram, with Tom and Greg Massie in third place.

The Sportsman's Lounge is a member of The Board Talk's national shuffleboard network.

Additions to "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A."

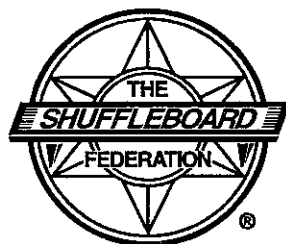
In the January issue, we published the 1999 listing of shuffleboard establishments which are subscribers of The Board Talk. On the back page of this 4-page flyer was a place to add new subscribers. Please add:

California -- Tex's Mecca Club, 701 Sunset Ave., Sacramento; phone 916-371-0538 (note that this establishment is also part of our Shuffleboard Directory)

Kentucky -- Shawnee Post 193, 2800 W. Main, Louisville; phone 502-776-1119 or 776-8596 (note that this is our first Kentucky establishment)

Please stop in at these shuffleboard hosts and welcome them to The World of Shuffleboard.

PLEASE -- if you're the "keeper of the post," check the latest issue of The Board Talk and see if your favorite shuffleboard site has a red check. They could be "at risk" if they don't renew today!



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The Shuffleboard Federation is one of the leading contributors to the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. In fact, we were strong supporters of a hall of fame for shuffleboard years before it became a reality. In 1994 we helped get the ball rolling for the hall of fame by honoring Bob Miles with a plaque recognizing him as the first member. This served as a catalyst in the formation of the N.S.H.O.F.

We developed the N.A.S.L.TM Handicap System and player ratings, which were the predecessors of the Bowers Ratings. At the time the ratings were turned over to Ron and Debbie Bowers, there were nearly seven hundred rated players. We are among the strongest promoters of the Bowers Ratings, and demonstrate that by providing both financial and organizational support.

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1999 CALENDAR OF SHUFFLEBOARD EVENTS

FEBRUARY 1999

Feb. 5-6

Von Stewart Memorial Benefit
The Dixie Belle
Downey, California

Feb. 6

Rated/Open Singles
Harvey's Place
Street, Maryland

Feb. 7-15

8th President's Day Tournament
and Hal Perry Induction
Blinky's Sports Cafe
Santa Clara, California

Feb. 12-14

Sweetheart Tournament
The Blue Goose
Port Orchard, Washington

Feb. 12-14

Sweetheart Tournament
J & C's Tavern
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Feb. 19-21

3rd Annual Saginaw Valley Open
McCabe's
Saginaw, Michigan

Feb. 19-21

Handicap Tournament
Taz Country
Austin, Texas

Feb. 20-21

18th Annual Masters
Fir Cone Tavern
Shelton, Washington

Feb. 23

Mixed Doubles
American Legion Post 424
Bourbon, Indiana

Feb. 26-27

Mason Dixon Classic
Harvey's Place
Street, Maryland

MARCH 1999

March 5-6

True Round Robin Doubles
American Legion Post 424
Bourbon, Indiana

March 6-7

14th Annual Mixed Doubles
Old Edison Inn
Edison, Washington

March 13-14

NW Amateur Championship #2
Fir Cone Tavern
Shelton, Washington

March 14

A-B Draw
Harvey's Place
Street, Maryland

March 20-22

3rd Annual Spring Fling
Mother's Pizza
Corpus Christi, Texas

March 27

1st Annual Bobby Schounce
Memorial Tournament
Chances "R"
Muncie, Indiana

March 26-28

Florida Open
Hobo's Pour House
Mims, Florida

APRIL 1999

April 3

Arnold Cross Memorial Doubles
Mississinewa Tavern
Eaton, Indiana

April 9-10

Maryland State Championships
Harvey's Place
Street, Maryland

April 9-11

Toledo Open
Avon's Local 14
Toledo, Ohio

April 9-11

3-Event Tournament
Shooter's
Hillsboro, Missouri

April 16-18

Heartland Handicap
American Legion Post 73
Del City, Oklahoma

April 17

Open Doubles
American Legion Post 330
New Haven, Indiana

April 24

Rated/Open Singles
Harvey's Place
Street, Maryland

MAY 1999

May 1

Annual Spring Doubles
American Legion Post 424
Bourbon, Indiana

May 27-31

Memorial Weekend Tournament
Honky Tonk
Sherburne, New York

May 29-30

NW Amateur Championship #3
Fir Cone Tavern
Shelton, Washington

JUNE 1999

June 2-6

Hall of Fame Tournament
AN & AF Club #68
Vancouver, B.C., Canada

JULY 1999

July 4-10

Southwest Open
American Legion Post 73
Del City, Oklahoma

July 24-25

NW Amateur Championships
Fir Cone Tavern
Shelton, Washington

AUGUST 1999

Aug. 20-22

3-Event Tournament
Shooter's
Hillsboro, Missouri

OCTOBER 1999

Oct. 8-10

Heartland Handicap
American Legion Post 73
Del City, Oklahoma

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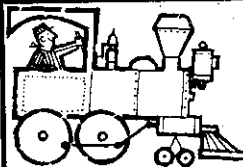
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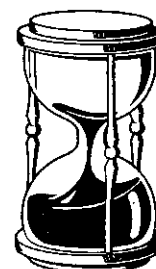
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Frisko Eddie's Revenge: The Return

A series by Balboa Ron Schweikert

(In last month's episode, after Eddie had rebuffed Lil's attempts to seduce him, Shelli paid a visit to Lil in her room. The two women, unknown to Eddie, set the record straight about the relationships.)

Eddie was really happy over the fact that (so he thought) Shelli knew nothing about his meeting with Lil. Shelli, on the other hand, was overjoyed, knowing that she had won two rounds in a row! She had Lil's verbal affidavit that there was absolutely nothing going on between her and Eddie -- and she had Eddie fooled into thinking that she knew nothing about Lil's propped tete-a-tete with him in her room...and that she trusted him "without question." She knew that everything would come out in the open soon; but for now, she was on top of the world!

Shelli hadn't been in Reno since she was much younger, and really didn't know much about the city. They had discussed a possible plan for when they arrived, so after saying "hi" to a few of the players and workers that were there that early, they went to the main entrance of the hotel to catch a cab. Shelli figured that might be best, as they had both planned to have a few drinks. They had several hours before the Pro-Am event sale, and Eddie wanted to do a "bit" of gambling.

They had no trouble getting underway, as a cab was waiting for them right outside the door. Eddie told the driver that they were going to the Silver Legacy Hotel/Casino. It was only a short drive and when they pulled into the main entrance, Shelli said: "Wow! This really looks like a class act, honey!" It was a class act indeed. The hotel was only a couple years old and it was huge -- even by Las Vegas Strip standards!

They stopped at the first bar and ordered. Then, with drinks in hand, checked the casino out. In the center of one section was something pretty spectacular. There was a huge mock-up of an operational silver mine with a sky-dome roof. After looking it over for a moment or two, the whole thing came even more to life, with a dazzling lazer light and stereo music display. Shelli was really impressed.

After looking around a little more, they finally found the spot for their real purpose for being there. Eddie checked things out and then selected a seat at a \$25 minimum bet blackjack table. He sat at the far left seat, which is called "third base." There was only one other player at the table -- a rather pretty Oriental lady, and she was seated directly across from Eddie in the "first base" seat. She had some pretty good stacks of black (\$100) and green (\$25) "checks" (or chips) in front of her. As Eddie placed ten \$100 bills in front of the dealer, he asked if it would be alright if Shelli sat next to him as an "observer." The dealer said it would

be fine as long as the table didn't start to fill up. Shelli knew most of the basic strategy of the game, but she was by no means a "hustler."

Now Eddie had studied and tried out several different blackjack "systems," including the world's best card counter, Kenny Austin, and a whole list of other published systems. Although he wasn't a professional, he was a pretty fair "card counter" and had a thorough knowledge of the strategy of the game. One time, he was even made an offer (through some guy he had met) to join a group of gamblers who practiced what is called "Shuffle-Tracking." That's where a team takes over the whole table, when multiple decks (usually four) are being used, and they're dealt out of a "shoe." It's a technique where they all work together to count, or "track" the cards. Eddie turned down the offer without giving it a second thought. He figured it would be pretty hard to live comfortably....if his knee-caps suddenly came up missing!

The play began. Eddie started by using a very simple system of Basic Strategy, coupled with an uncomplicated Money Management system, i.e., he started with the minimum \$25 bet, and each time he won, he increased his bet by one "check" or chip. When he lost, he went back to the original bet and started all over again. This was a type of play many non-professionals use because it's very simple, and you can relax while you're playing. Eddie appeared to be doing just that. He was chatting with Shelli, the dealer, the lady on the other end of the table, and was very laid back. He was also very cordial when he got the inevitable visit from the "Pit Boss" who shook hands and acted very friendly. Shortly after he got Eddie's full name, the chit-chat ended and he went right over to the private phone line in the pit and had Eddie checked out.

They were using two decks on Eddie's table, and although he appeared to be very carefree, he was actually keeping a very close watch on how "rich" (a large number of tens and face cards left in the deck) or "poor" (mostly low counting cards -- below 10, but not counting the eights) were left to be dealt. Eddie was doing pretty good with his amateur system and after 20 minutes or so was ahead several hundred dollars. He was really waiting for the right moment, though, when it was time to jack up the bet and give them a good hit or two -- and then run.

Eddie finally felt that the moment had arrived. The deck was over half-way dealt out, and it looked pretty good. He had six \$25 chips in the circle -- and then, just prior to the deal -- replaced them with five black chips. With this change in his wager to \$500, the

dealer was compelled to holler out: "money plays" to the pit boss. He took a glance at the table and hollered back: "deal." That she did, and the hand was on.

Now, the gal on first base was really sharp. When she checked her hand, she commented: "Whew -- finally!" as she looked at the dealer while dipping her hand slightly, showing a pair of tens before she buried them under her chips in the circle. The dealer's "up" card was a six -- which was excellent! Everything was going right on schedule, until Eddie squeezed his two cards apart. He was looking at a pair of eights! The two hands in blackjack that "almost" always had to be "split" were aces and eights.

Eddie followed form and placed the two cards face-up in front of him, along with another stack of five black chips behind the second one. He wasn't too concerned at this juncture, because he actually had a pretty good "proposition" bet going with that six the dealer was showing. The dealer touched his two cards then and rearranged the chips slightly as she said: "You splitting?" It was merely a formality and Eddie replied: "Yup." Shelli's eyes got a little wide when she saw the next card. It was another eight! The dealer had a slight smile on her face as she said: "Well, now, are we splitting again?" Eddie replied: "Let's do it," as he put up another five chips. A few passers-by had stopped now to watch the action as the dealer rearranged the three eights. Shelli had her hand on Eddie's leg and she squeezed his calf really hard when the next card came up. It was another eight!

Even the dealer shook her head a little now as she smilingly said: "Are we going all the way?" Eddie said: "Do I have a choice? Let's go." He only had two black chips left, so he made up the remaining \$300 with the green ones. He was sitting with four eights showing, and \$2,000 on the table! A small crowd had now gathered to watch the outcome of this very unusual hand of cards. The dealer said: "O.K., we're rollin'."

The first card out was a jack. Eddie felt comfortable with the 18 against the dealer's six up card and waved his hand horizontally to indicate he would stay with that hand. The second card was a king. Eddie had a little smile on his face now as he waved his hand for the dealer to go to the next card. Shelli's grip on his leg loosened a bit when the third card came up; it was another king! Eddie thoughtfully hesitated for just a second, then waved the dealer on to the fourth and last eight. The card came up a ten! He was sitting on four 18 count "pat" hands against a six showing. The Pit Boss was standing by now and even one of the cocktail waitresses had stopped to watch the action -- and they don't stop for anything!

Then a strange thing happened. The dealer naturally assumed that Eddie would "stand," so she began to reach down one hand to reveal her "hole," or

down card. Suddenly Eddie said: "Hold it!" Shelli's grip on his leg tightened again, as she excitedly whispered into his ear: "Hold it! Hold it for what? Have you lost your mind?!" The dealer (and everyone else present) gave Eddie and each other puzzled looks.

The dealer had a hint of a smile on her face as she lifted her free hand back up on the deck and said: "O.K. what do you want to do?" There was perfect silence around that table -- as they all waited for Eddie's response. Then everyone got a real "rush" when Eddie looked directly into her eyes, pointed his index finger at his last hand -- and calmly replied: "I want a card...hit the eighteen."

-- TO BE CONTINUED --

Has Eddie made the right decision? How will he and Shelli fare in the Pro-Am event that's coming up? What about the rest of the events on the schedule? Will Eddie and Shelli follow through on their plans to be married in Reno? Don't miss the next episode!

Upcoming Events (cont. from Page 5)

For further information, contact Dave at McCabe's, 517i-754-3621, or John at The Shuffleboard Federation, 248-380-9300.

Texas

HANDICAP TOURNEY AT TAZ COUNTRY, AUSTIN, FEB. 19-21

Taz Country, Three Points Shopping Center, Austin (1406 F.M. 1825, Pflugerville) will host a handicap tournament on Feb. 19-21. Events will include an open draw on Friday at 8 p.m., \$30 entry fee, single elimination, no sale; a bring partner on Saturday, starting at 1 p.m., \$50 per person entry, double elimination (team minimum of 1 point, 4 point maximum); and an A-B-C draw on Sunday, 1 p.m., \$30 per person entry, double elimination. There will be sales for the bring partner and A-B-C draw.

Taz Country has four boards and will serve food on Saturday. Special drink prices during the tournament. Suggested lodging: Baymont Inn, Round Rock, 512-246-2800, or Motel 6, North Austin, 512-333-6161.

For information regarding the tournament and handicap system, contact Ron or Debbie Bowers at 512-835-7256 or 512-459-1264.

MORE TEXAS UPCOMING EVENTS ON NEXT PAGE.....

MOTHER'S SPRING FLING, CORPUS CHRISTI, MARCH 20-22

The 3rd Annual Spring Fling Tournament at Mother's Pizza, 12135 Leopard St., Corpus Christi, Texas, is scheduled for March 20-22.

Events include an A/B handicap draw partner on Friday, March 20, 7:30 p.m., \$20 per player, single elimination. Saturday at 1 p.m. will be a 4-person draft team, handicapped event, \$25 per player. Team selection will begin at 11:30 a.m., sale at noon, free buffet at 12:30. Sunday at 1 p.m. will be the handicapped singles event, double elimination, with sale at 12:30 p.m. A registration fee of \$5 will be charged for the weekend.

For further information, contact Mother's Pizza, 512-241-8500, or Neil Garvin, 512-854-3732.

Mother's is a B.Y.O.B. establishment.

More Notebook *(cont. from Page 7)*

Harvey Kidd auction, you are witnessing a cross between Will Rogers and Robin Williams. His quick wit is really a hard act to follow. As both a player and a friend, Harvey is: "The best I ever saw!" We also got the treat of seeing Rod Cameron, along with Little Ray, inducted into the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. Everyone who knows Rod agrees he is one of the best strategy players around and, in his day, one of the very best shooters as well. And, yes, they are both truly legends.

We were disappointed to hear another legend, Darrol Nelson, would not be able to make the tournament. It seems he had a motorcycle accident just a few days prior to the tournament and hurt his shoulder. Of course, we all said: "Hey, we would have let him play anyway...right, guys?" But, knowing Darrol, playing at his very best is the only option and that's what makes him who he is. Glad to hear it was not serious. See you next year, Darrol.

There was another surprise announcement, but on a sadder note. We Houston players gather on weekends at Danny's Sports Bar on Westheimer and a regular there is Bopper. We all saw him at the tournament on Monday and he was said to have commented that he was having a good time and was waiting all year to come to the Open this year. We had all noticed him limping for some time; yet, he never would elaborate. Nothing would have kept Bopper away from the game, but something did. Bopper knew all along that he was going to have his leg amputated the next day. He never asked for help or sympathy from anyone. Another Houston player, Jimmy Britt, found out and told us all the next day before the

auction. More than \$1200 was collected that will be used to help Bopper get an artificial leg. Jimmy Britt also donated a \$1700 handicap bathroom. Thanks to the warm hearts of those who knew him and, more so, those who never even met him, he may get to play the game he loves.

One of the most encouraging things I saw at this event was the new blood being pumped into the sport. Last year, I saw a large number of new faces, mostly 3 and 4 rated players, and they were here again, along with more new players -- which is exactly what this sport needs. I saw a number of pros like Glen Davidson, Steve Burkett and Diana Hagen spend time practicing and showing amateurs the secret skills of the game. Glen spent over an hour with me practicing just free-hand shots. These people all genuinely enjoy watching the game flourish and seeing someone they have worked with place in an event.

All of the partying, poker, and puck winners were caught on camera by Gene Peach and were transferred to the net for your viewing by tapping into www.shuffleboard.net Check it out. Hey, you don't want to miss a glimpse of Steve Burkett dancing (without a beer in his hand). Beam me up, Scottie! Boy, shuffleboard has really gone uptown. Also the Bowers' ratings and upcoming game event dates are on the net as well.

Thanks to all the West Coast and East Coast players who made the long ride to let us enjoy their company and see their fine playing skills. See you next year and bring your dancing shoes and you better know the Macarena if you're gonna keep up with Lilly Kidd!

Nancy Rice, Conroe, Texas

Seldom, if ever, have we had a better "sideline" view of a major tournament than yours, Nancy, and we thank you, as we know our readers will. Please pass a message along to Bopper. George lost his right leg when he hopped a freight train at the age of 12. With his artificial leg, he played basketball, football and baseball all through high school and beyond, and is still playing shuffleboard at the age of near-70. We salute the Houston Holiday Open participants who repented to his need and join them in encouraging him to "go for it; you may be better than ever!"

Glen's View of the Houston Holiday Open

Rod Cameron and "Little" Ray Hartness are now in the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. Outstanding achievement awards went to Joe Spratt for 50 years of dedicated service and Ron and Debbie Bowers for

(continued on Page 23)

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Houston Holiday Open

(continued from Page 1)

before agreeing to a 60-40 split with locals Johnny Ballard, Diana Hagen, Tom Milan and Kim Andrews. Third place honors went to Bill Melton and Steve Burkett of Oklahoma along with Tony Pelton and Jeff Womble.

Event Five (4-person, min. 10 pts.) was claimed by locals Sylvia Martinez, Ann Walker, "Super Dave" Ramold and Danny Norris. Terry Roberts, Frank Mako from Washington, Morris Moss of Dallas and local Clay Moore took second, while the Clear Lake contingent of Mike McGinty, Joe Petty, Jim McGee and Beverly Perry came in third.

Day Four's events Six and Seven featured "bring partner" matches. The Pro Division (min. 0 pts.) was conquered by the local team of Diana Hagen and Flynt Preston. Second place went to Johnny Ballard and Bob Lewis, while third place honors were bestowed on Ron Huddleston of Oklahoma and Tony Pelton.

The bring partner (min. 5 pts.) event was a local affair as Dave Ramold paired with Ann Walker to take first place, followed by Tom Milan and Doug Paben in second, and Del Ammermann and Danny Norris placing third.

On Day Five, the singles events took center stage. The pro field was bested by Rick Niblett of Maryland, followed by Glen Davidson in second, and Bill Melton in third. Sylvia Martinez is the reigning queen of the HHO 2's only division. She bested Eddie Guy of Dallas in a play-off for first place. Harvey Walden of Tennessee claimed third, while Austinite Ron Bowers took fourth.

There were 40 entries in the 3-4-5 category. The handicap was established by requirements that 3's paid a \$30 entry fee, the 4's \$20 and the 5's paid \$10; no points were given. Jeff Womble won a spirited play-off with local Bob Lee to claim first place honors. Don Roper of Dallas was third; Dave Ramold took fourth. Linda French of Austin shared 5th and 6th place with David Hamilton of Clear Lake, while 7th and 8th was shared by locals Danny Norris and Doug Paben.

Happy New Year Wrap-Up

Rumors that auctioneer Harvey Kidd has been offered a late night TV talk show turned out to be false. Nevertheless, he continues to keep the audience grinning with his droll comments about some of our more "colorful" contestants!

Brian Walker and Bill Rice continue to amaze onlookers with their speed and skill on the bracket boards. With help from a small but dedicated group of volunteers, boards were made available every evening for round robins and side games. Many thanks are due to the Houston Shuffleboard

Community and loyal sponsors for making this event possible (more about sponsors and volunteers next month).

Of course, no Houston Holiday Open would be complete without a rousing New Year's Eve party, a chance to recall memories of the recent day's events, a chance to toast a glass of "bubbly" to friends new and old, a chance to "get down" on the dance floor and do the Macarena (or some semblance thereof) and one last chance to play some "board" in 1998!

And that's exactly what happened as a strong contingent of out-of-town visitors and members of the Houston Shuffleboard Community gathered to ring in the New Year.

Happy New Year, Y'all!

Shuffleboard Legends Honored

On Sunday, Dec. 27, at the Houston Holiday Open, the day's activities commenced with an induction ceremony for the National and Texas Shuffleboard Halls of Fame. Master of Ceremonies Brian Walker and NSHF President Glen Davidson acquainted the audiences with the "Hall" and the new inductees, Rod Cameron and Ray Hartness (National), Harvey Kidd (Texas), and Joe Spratt who received a special award for "60 Years of Dedication to Shuffleboard." Harvey and Joe provided brief testimonials and Rod Cameron shared a heartfelt reminiscence of his good friend and fellow inductee, Ray Hartness.

Incidentally, Joe Spratt, 83 years young, confided that he lacked 11 years of "shuffleboard dedication" to match the number on his plaque. That's simple, Joe. Just hang around at least another 11 years and fill out your term. The people around Houston who know him are pretty darn sure he will!

Internet Attracts Shuffleboarders to Houston Holiday Open!

In what is certainly a sign of the times and the wave of the future, the Internet is playing a role in attracting new tournament players to the game. Local Houston player Eugene Peach has established a Web site to disseminate shuffleboard news. The McDugles and the Woods of Huntsville, Texas, are an example of folks who had no knowledge of the tournament, but were able to access the information while "browsing" the Web. The two couples were able to drive down to Houston for the 4-person team event at the Houston Holiday Open. While they didn't finish in the money, they had fun and got a round of applause from the friendly crowd when it was announced that this was their "first time."

For all you "hackers" out there, Eugene's web site is: www.shuffleboard.net.

(Editor's Note: Thanks for the reports, Don. Photos will be in the next issue of The Board Talk. In the meantime, you can view them on Eugene's web site.)

Notebook (continued from Page 20)

contributions to our game through their rating system. Harvey Kidd was inducted into the Texas Hall of Fame. Thanks to all the staff and Carol for the work she did on the program. She is president of one of the leagues there.

I got to visit with the guys at the Totem Ice House. Danny Green and Mo were the players that Rod and I played all night one night. I went over to another place with Danny and Super Dave called Woodie's Ice House on Greenridge. They compete in a league of 14 teams and I got to see a league team match; it's been a while since I had done that. I went to Danny's for a Friday and Saturday night of shuffleboard. All the crew of shuffleboarders were there. I hung around the Totem for a few days.

I went to Rod and Tre's sister's for a great Christmas meal and got to visit with their family and granddaughter. She is a real cute 10 year old who can dance and sing and I took her riding in the motor home. After the great meal, Rod and I headed to the tournament. I didn't leave there until the New Year was official. There was dancing and everyone was having a good time.

Madge and I are heading back to Houston to work with Joe again for awhile.

Hall Perry will be inducted into the California Hall of Fame at Blinky's on Presidents Day. There will be another induction at Visalia this Memorial Day. Then on to Canada for Joanie Millar's induction the first weekend in June.

Hope everyone is into all their New Year's Resolutions.

Glen Davidson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

We received word that Jack Scott, one of the key organizers of the Houston Holiday Open, suffered a mild heart attack following the big event. He is home and doing fine. Remember him with your good wishes: Jack Scott, 1014 Oak Stream Dr. #6, Houston, TX 77043.

Eagles Lodge 3911 Hosts 4th Thanksgiving Tournament

The Eagles Lodge 3911 in Houston, Missouri, hosted its 4th Thanksgiving Tournament and induction of the late Bill Jennings (see report in January issue).

The Thursday night A-B draw was won by Dean Pinkston and Carolyn Johnston, with Mick Moran and Lois Waters taking second place honors. Third place finishers were John Stenger and Gary Sowell.

The bring partner started Friday night and ran through Saturday. The winners were Glen Davidson and Madge Goff, 1st place; Chuck Muehlhauser and Pat Gainey, 2nd; Mike Simpson and Steve Kane, 3rd.

Chuck Muehlhauser showed off his skills to take first place in the singles, with Charlie Riley in second. Third place finisher was Dan Kelly and Rick Pittman in fourth place.

"We would like to thank Glen Davidson for dragging in the third board all the way from Oklahoma, and the local ladies for all the good food they provided," said Woodie Cockrum.

Eagles Lodge 3911 is a member of The Board Talk's national shuffleboard network.

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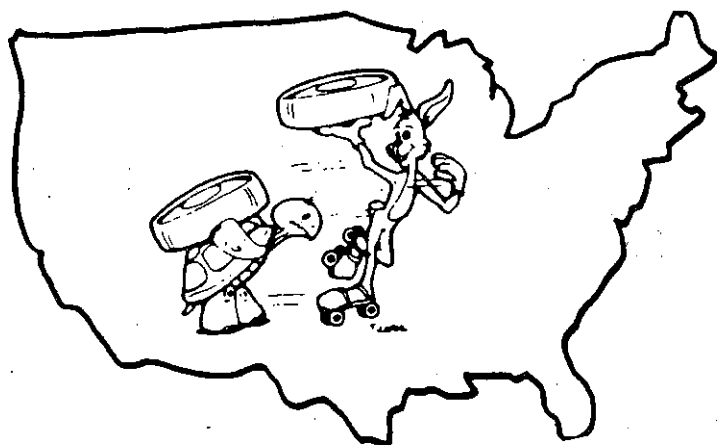
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