

The Board Talk

News and Views
from the World
of Shuffleboard

Vol. 1 No. 4

The Board Talk is published by George & Donna Wilber, 3206
Alfred Avenue, Lansing, Michigan 48906; phone 517-321-0008.

April 1984

The Hammer

There was a minor battle for this space this month — and I won. Even though we agreed, when we started this venture, that George was The Hammer, there are times when this column needs an “iron fist in a velvet glove” approach and his fist is allergic to velvet. He’s a very private person; I’m a “reach out and touch someone” type. I can say, without any reservations, “we need you.”

We do need you. This product you’re reading is not just an inanimate object; it’s a living, breathing part of people who care. It’s composed of valuable, limited human and financial resources that can easily fall into the “endangered species” category.

When we launched this venture, the dreams we had were relatively modest — generally a local newsletter, maybe reaching out tentatively to some outstate Michigan areas. It would be financed by the advertising of local shuffleboard establishments who would be more than happy to pay the modest ad rates to enable free distribution of the newsletter to their local shuffleboarders. A simple dream for a simple package of information. . . .

Enter Audience #2 — an active, information-hungry group of outstate Michigan shuffleboarders who wanted a piece of the action, with Audience #3, out-of-state shuffleboarders, standing on the sidelines, wondering if they should challenge the board.

Suddenly, what started out to be a vehicle for local shuffleboard news went statewide, with the frightening prospect of serving a national audience.

All the while this emotional decision-making process was underway, the expenses of printing, mailing, and the guilt of not really serving the “total” audience kept the scales tilted toward the “give it up; you can’t handle it” direction. The decision was almost made; the faithful few just couldn’t keep it afloat. Time to abort the flight? How could we do it with style?

It would not be the first time in our 35 years together that we’d buried a dream, but the gloom hung heavy as we tried, in vain, to joke about the impending headline: “The Board Talk Will Take a Walk.” As we pondered this, something happened. . . a packet of paid subscriptions from Texas, California and Oklahoma. . . a letter from a possible reporter in Texas. . . and another in Nevada. . . an inquiry from a national advertiser. . . an “endorsement” from the sole manufacturer of shuffleboards in the U.S.

The plans for a tasteful burial suddenly turned into an editorial conference for the next issue and (bless you) here we are again.

That’s the reason I got The Hammer this month. He’s still got another frame, thanks to you!

Donna Wilber, Co-Editor

Tourney Talk

Dublin House, Detroit, Mich. — March 10-11

The winning combination of John McDermott and Cheryl Collins did it again! They took first place in the Dublin House first annual open doubles tournament, adding yet another “pearl” to their string of wins that includes the Lake Orion Wagon Wheel mixed doubles in January and the February mixed doubles at the Lakeside Lounge in Union Lake. Looks like they’re making it a monthly achievement! Wayne Reist and Jerry Siebert of Lansing took second place honors.

Black Cat Tavern, Portland, Oregon — March 17-19

Don Mitchell, Portland, took first place in the Black Cat Tavern’s 8th World Series of Shuffleboard. The singles tournament was a best 2 of 3 double elimination event. Galen Gaunce, also of Portland, took second, and Darrel Nelson, Portland, winner of the Las Vegas World Championship Tournament in January, placed third. Mitchell came out of the loser’s bracket, beating Gaunce 4 out of 5 games to capture the title.

Walt’s Bar, Detroit, Mich. — April 7-8

Walt’s Bar will sponsor its second annual spring doubles on April 7-8. Entry fee is \$20 per team for this double elimination event. Prizes are 60%-30%-10%, plus trophies. Food and big screen TV are also on the menu for this big week-end. Walt’s is located at 21346 Fenkell, Detroit; phone 313-534-6328. See ad this issue.

Lakeside Lounge, Union Lake, Mi. — April 14-15

Every woman shuffleboard player in Michigan is eligible for entry into the Women’s “State” Tournament at Lakeside Lounge, 9500 Elizabeth Lake Rd., Union Lake. A modest entry fee of \$5 per event for Saturday’s singles and Sunday’s doubles gets you into the action. Singles must be signed up by 11 a.m. on the 14th; doubles by 12 noon on the 15th. Best two out of three; with double elimination depending on the number of entries. Auctions will begin at 12 noon each day, with games scheduled to start at 1 p.m. These women have proved they can put on an exciting show, so it’s a great place for spectators. Don’t miss it! See ad this issue.

Showboat, Las Vegas, Nev. — April 19-22

Because of a misunderstanding in communications with tournament organizers, the entry fees we listed in last month’s *Board Talk* are incorrect. See the ad in this issue for adjusted rates. The big pay-offs remain the same.

American Legion, Bourbon, Ind. — May 5

This annual spring event is a single elimination, doubles tournament. Entry fee is \$20 per team. There will be an auction. The American Legion is located at 102 S. Main, Bourbon, phone 219-342-9125.

A. J.’s Saloon, Pontiac — May 19

Mark your calendars now for a tournament at A.J.’s Saloon, 10150 Highland Rd., Pontiac. Watch the May issue of *Board Talk* for details.

Happiness is Getting Letters

Love Those Advertiser Inquiries

Dear Editors:

Enclosed please find a check for \$10 for a one year subscription to *Board Talk*. We would also like some information on the cost of advertising. We really enjoy *Board Talk*.

Edward De Cepoli, Vice President
Sun Glo Corporation
Belleville, N.J.

Thanks so much for your inquiry. If you decide to be a Board Talk advertiser, we'll put that \$10 check toward your first ad. We provide all our advertisers with 25 copies of every issue they advertise in for whatever distribution they feel will benefit them most. So there's no need for a subscription.

Our rates are: \$220 for full page ad; \$120 for half-page; \$65 for quarter-page, and \$12 per month (or \$100 per year) for the *Shuffleboard Directory* listing.

Lakesider Thanks Participants

Dear George:

I would like to personally thank you, Donna and all the other players and spectators who participated in the mixed doubles tournament at Lakeside Lounge in Union Lake.

I met some very nice people from the Lansing area I hadn't met before. Two women made a couple spectacular plays in the tournament — "Crazy Mary" Lisle and your partner, Jenine Amon. Mary was playing against my partner at the time and it eliminated us from the tournament, but I let her stay in my extra bedroom anyway.

I thought Dale Woodcock from Lansing and Sue Gray from Rochester also did great. They had not met before the tournament and they placed fourth.

I'm looking forward to seeing you in our team rematch and also all of your women players in our State Singles and Doubles Tournament at Lakeside Lounge, April 14-15.

Elly Canterbury
Clarkston, Mich.

Thanks, Elly. The hospitality of your Lakeside Lounge hosts made all of us feel at home. We hope your letter emphasizes the value of sponsors encouraging their players to participate in tournaments at other establishments. Not only do these players serve as a "walking advertisement" for their home bars, but their participation encourages the host establishment players to return the favor.

An Important Endorsement

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Wilber:

This is to thank you for the excellent article on our Sol Lipkin in your February issue of *Board Talk*.

We enjoyed reading the complete paper. Keep up the good work. Please send us extra copies of your next issue so we can put them in the right hands.

Wish you success.

N. Melone, General Manager
American Shuffleboard Company
Union City, N.J.

Do you have any idea what an "endorsement" from the nation's sole shuffleboard manufacturer means to us? It came at a time of decision and gave us the incentive to try "one more time." It was a vote of confidence from a very important supporter! Thank you!

Former Lansing Player Reports From Texas

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Editor:

What a pleasant surprise to feast my eyes on a copy of *The Board Talk*. Being 1,267.2 miles away from my favorite shuffleboard and watering hole, also known as Art's Bar, and reading about the hometown activities and tournament information, was like having a 10 point frame against Billy Mays (who, by the way, gave me my first copy).

Speaking of Billy Mays, he is at the moment organizing a women's league in the Dallas area. After reading the article, "Guess What? Women Are Different," I thought George might have a few words of encouragement for Billy. He's getting that "frazzled" look — you know, building character.

The main reason I'm writing is to become a subscriber to *The Board Talk*. Also, if you are interested, I might be able to provide you with some of the Southwest shuffleboard news and information on tournaments, players, etc. Things really are quite different in this part of the country.

In closing, I would just like to express again how much I enjoyed your publication. It's about time we shuffleboard players across the states pull together to gain the support and recognition that our sport deserves.

Your Ex-Neighbor,
Sandy (Sanderson) Jenkins
Dallas, Texas

*Bless you, Sandy! Receiving your letter was a turning point for us. We were pretty down about the financial situation of this venture, but even more so about the lack of response to our call for "stringers" in other states. Much as we'd like to quit our full-time jobs and hit the road to cover the national shuffleboard scene, we know that's impossible (it's those full-time jobs that have paid for this part-time dream). We can tell by your letter that your reports will be a highlight of *The Board Talk*. As a reporter, you'll be paid our current top wages of a free subscription to *Board Talk*.*

Seeks Rejuvenation in Kalamazoo

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Wilber:

I am an avid shuffleboard enthusiast and I recently picked up the January 1984 issue of your publication, *Board Talk*. I do most of my shuffleboarding around the Kalamazoo area.

Would it be possible for me to obtain a few copies of your latest edition of *Board Talk* to distribute to some of the shuffleboard bars in my area? I would like to see a rejuvenation of the game in the Kalamazoo area.

Dan Stewart
Delton, Mich.

Count on us, Dan, to help you in your rejuvenation efforts. Staging a tournament at one of your local shuffleboard establishments would be a good start. Contact us; we'll help set it up and promote it.

*Sounds like you'd make a good reporter for the Kalamazoo area. Remind your shuffleboard bars that the *Board Talk* advertisers get 25 copies of each issue they advertise in to distribute to their faithful customers. The *Board Talk* is not only a good place to advertise tournaments, but also other specials that attract those "big spenders" — shuffleboard players!*

(continued on back page)

SHUFFLEBOARD DIRECTORY

Patronize These Shuffleboard Sponsors

Art's Bar & Grill

Home of the famous fried bologna sandwich

809 E. Kalamazoo, Lansing

Phone 517-482-8328

Vic's Hole in the Wall

Your friendly stop in Holt

2004 N. Cedar, Holt

Phone 517-694-9897

Stober's Lounge

Home of the tri-state champions, 1978-79

812 E. Michigan, Lansing

Phone 517-487-9790

Shop Stop

Try our brand-new shuffleboard

114 Clare St., Lansing

Phone 517-482-7228

Elly's Sportswear

Jackets-Shirts-Uniforms-Silk Screening-Embroidery-Transfer

7979 Reese Road, Clarkston

Phone 313-625-4109

Dublin House

Detroit's newest shuffleboard bar

23906 Grand River, Detroit

Phone 313-531-5590

Papa's Ace Lounge

Home of the 1983-84 Women's League Champs

23617 Van Dyke, Warren

Phone 313-757-6760

Walt's Bar

Where shuffleboarders play all night

21346 Fenkell, Detroit

Phone 313-534-6328

Charlie's Roost

A full calendar of fun and food specials

759 Baldwin Ave., Pontiac

Phone 313-344-0555

Lake Pump Tavern

Lake Odessa's only shuffleboard

1021 Fourth Ave., Lake Odessa

Phone 616-374-8960

Irish Pub

Shuffleboard and big screen TV

1910 W. Saginaw, Lansing

Phone 517-489-2836

Our Tavern

Shuffleboarders welcome! Two boards!

1219 Hamilton, N.W., Grand Rapids

Phone 616-454-1907

Jerdo's Lounge

Home of the famous Jerdo's burger

4488 First St., Columbiaville

Phone 313-793-9903

A. J.'s Saloon

Sponsor of Michigan's 1984 National Tournament Player

10150 Highland Road, Pontiac

Phone 313-698-4080

McCleer's Saloon

Shuffleboard, video games, good food

910 W. Saginaw, Lansing

Phone 517-484-8656

Wagon Wheel

Where shuffleboard is king!

102 S. Broadway, Lake Orion

Phone 313-693-6789

Black Cat Tavern

Shuffleboard Capitol of the Northwest

8230 SE 13th St., Portland, Oregon

Phone 503-235-3571

Rendezvous Lounge

We're trying to form a league — call us

M-15 between Otisville & Millington

Phone 517-871-9708

Women's "State" Shuffleboard Tournament

April 14 & 15, 1984

Any woman shuffleboard player in
the state of Michigan is eligible!

Where: Lakeside Lounge

9500 Elizabeth Lake Road
Union Lake, MI 48085

Entry Fee: \$5.00 per event

Type: Singles and Doubles

Dates: Singles will be Saturday, April 14

Doubles will be Sunday, April 15

Sign-Up: Singles must be signed up to play
by **11 a.m.** Saturday, April 14
Doubles must be signed up to play
by **12 noon** Sunday, April 15

Auction: Begins at 12 noon each day and
games are to start at 1 p.m.

Match: Best 2 out of 3

Trophies: 1st, 2nd, 3rd

Prize Money: 60% — 30% — 10%

Double elimination will depend on the number of entries.

DOOR PRIZE

Call Elly Canterbury — 313-625-4109
or Lakeside Lounge — 313-698-4104

SHUFFLEBOARD TOURNAMENT

Walt's Bar

presents its:

2nd Annual Spring Doubles Tournament April 7 and 8, 1984

- Entry fee \$20.00 per team
- 1st prize - 60%, 2nd - 30%, 3rd - 10%
- Food - Trophies - Big Screen TV
- Double Elimination

Walt's Bar

21346 Fenkell, Detroit

Phone 313-534-6328

USSA Presents...

*The World
Championship*



Doubles Tournament

April 19-22, 1984 — Showboat, Las Vegas

Openings for 32 Teams

Deadline — April 1, 1984

First come-first serve for first paid 31 teams. 32nd spot
to be determined in single's tourney prior to doubles
with winner earning right to choose partner.

\$35,000 IN PRIZES

\$20,000 1st place
\$ 8,000 2nd place
\$ 4,000 3rd place
\$ 2,000 4th place
\$ 1,000 5th place

- ▶ \$500 per person entry fee for USSA members
- ▶ \$800* entry fee for non-members

**Fee gives you right to participate in four national tourneys at discount price during year following sign-up — and a new set of weights.*

Call Today!

Billy Mays — 214-498-2415

Don't Delay!

Bill Melton — 405-369-2448



The Gallery: Benefit or Detriment to Players?

By Donna Wilber

As player interest in the game of shuffleboard steadily increases, so does the size of the gallery. Every league night, the spouses and friends of players faithfully cheer on their teams. Interest and attendance grow when there's a title or big purse at stake.

Shuffleboard fans, whether they're players or spectators, are not exactly a sedate, dignified, tea-and-crumpets type of crowd. Enthusiastic is even too passive a term to describe them. They ride with every shot that's made, boisterously cheering when their player knocks off an opponent's puck, or makes a good draw. With equal volume, they also cheer when an opponent misses their player's puck or goes off the end of the board in an attempt to draw.

This is a game of concentration, so how does this intense involvement of a big crowd in a game impact on the players? Is it a benefit or a detriment? Does the opponent's gallery, cheering when they miss a shot, bother them?

We asked these questions of some of the players, as well as some of the spectators who were players on other teams, at the playoff between Art's A-Team and McCleer's Tavern, for the Lansing city league championship held at the Irish Pub on March 6. Here are their answers:

Don (Bondo) Bentley, Art's WBA

I just hung up my pool stick for the pucks two years ago, so I haven't had the experience of playing before a crowd like this — but I hope someday I will. I like a crowd that gives me encouragement, but doesn't tell me how to shoot. I really put my mind into the game and if I mess up, that's my responsibility.

Roy Stein, Art's A-Team

It helps! A good crowd builds up your adrenalin and gives you a back-up, makes you feel like you can do it, and helps you win, I think. It really helps to know that somebody on the sidelines cares about how you're doing. The heckling doesn't bother me — it just makes me shoot harder.

Mike Kibbey, Shufflin' Sholty's

It definitely helps! This is a real competitive sport and I think most good players like a cheering section. I like people who cheer their team, but don't take cheap shots at the other team. An enthusiastic crowd helps the team, it's good for business, and just makes the evening more fun.

Ron Spalding, Art's A-Team

It helps me! The more people rooting for us, the more enthusiastic we get. It helped to have my bosses (Popoff's Meat Co.) here cheering for me. It gave me the incentive to shoot better. I can usually block out the ones who root against me; that's something I learned from Jr. Lopez.

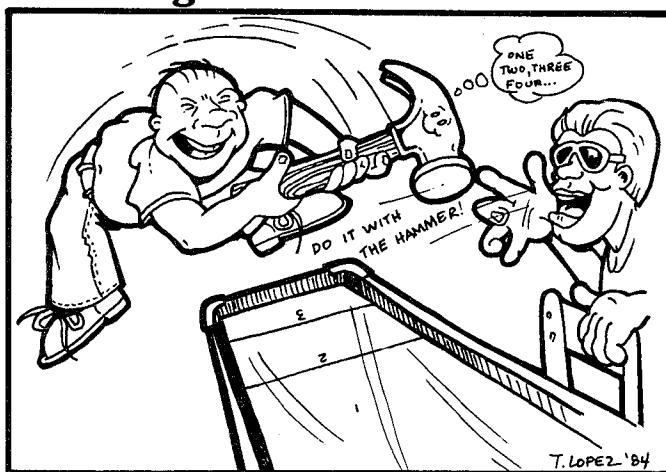
Mary Brakora, Stober's Rookies

I really think it helps. I think so now; I didn't used to when I was more nervous. It's still a detriment when they get too rowdy. When they cheer for the opponents, it doesn't bother me because I know there's someone there rooting for me, too.

George Wilber, Art's A Team

Mostly, I love an audience. However, there have been times (probably lack of concentration on my part) when I've heard remarks or seen things out of the corner of my eye while in the act of shooting. You can't have "rabbit ears" and shoot well because the viewers are right there next to the action. I've played basketball, semi-pro baseball, bowled and golfed. But attempting to hit a puck in the duece or trey area and stay for a game-winning shot probably works more on your nerves than knocking down a 10-pin to win a bowling game or making a 6-foot putt to win a golf match.

Making the HAMMER count.



Flimmy the Flop (left) gets some sideline coaching from Gabby Gopez.

(Editor's Note: Our cartoonist, Tammy Lopez, is a Lansing shuffleboarder, married to another shuffleboarder, Bobby Lopez. Her cartoons will be a regular part of future Board Talks.)

And More Letters . . .

Inside Scoop From Las Vegas

Dear George and Donna:

Thanks for sending your newsletter, *Board Talk*; it is appreciated.

We here in Las Vegas are eagerly awaiting the USSA Doubles Tournament which will be held at the Showboat Hotel/Casino, April 19-22. The best spots for play during possible lulls in the competition there are: The Clown Den, located at 3421 Boulder Highway; Duffy's, 4420 E. Charleston; and Gera's, 4900 E. Tropicana Ave. (all within easy distance from the Showboat).

Shuffleboard is really gaining popularity in Las Vegas, as evidenced by the number of new boards being installed.

The players here sure appreciate your efforts toward promoting the game of shuffleboard and wish you continued future success.

Balboa Ron
Las Vegas, Nev.

Thanks, Ron, for your vote of confidence. We're sure most of the spectators and participants at the April tournament will follow your advice and visit your recommended spots.

We hope you'll become a reporter for the Las Vegas area. The kind of news we're looking for is not league standings (because by the time we go to press, they're out of date), but the special achievements of shuffleboard players, notices and results of tournaments, the unique, the humorous, the human element of the sport and the people who make it

happen. Some faithful shuffleboard player out of commission because of illness or hospitalization? Think what cards of cheer from players across the nation would mean to that person! Also, as you can probably decipher from our not-so-subtle messages in this issue, we're always looking for advertisers.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Viewpoints on the game of shuffleboard are welcomed and encouraged. Send us your views by the 20th of the month.)

Notice to Reporters and Sponsors

The *Board Talk* is a 10-month publication, with a "recess" during June and July. Remember — if you have tournaments and/or activities during those months that need the attention of shuffleboard players, let us know before April 20 for inclusion in the May issue.

The summer months can be a "down time" for the game of shuffleboard or it can be a time to attract vacationers to your shuffleboard establishment. Think about it: shuffleboarders don't take a vacation from shuffleboard — they only shift boards. Take advantage of that truism. Contact *The Board Talk*, 517-321-0008 (after 5 p.m.) or send your news and ads for inclusion in the big, important pre-summer May issue: *The Board Talk*, 3206 Alfred Ave., Lansing, MI 48906.

George's Shuffleboard Supplies

- Powdered wax
- Paste wax
- Plastic Measuring T-Squares
- Shuffleboard and pool table covers
- Weights — precision ground, scientifically balanced

Call George:

517-323-1817 days
517-321-0008 evenings

