

Exeter, CA. – The local team of Steve O’Neal and Ty Bayne held back a field of 12 other teams and won this year’s featured event at the Exeter Eagle’s annual Fourth of July Shootout. The doubles event got started on Saturday, July 2, following the ABC Draw that was won by the team of Turlock’s Bob Crum, Exeter’s O’Neal and local newcomer Rayla Phillips. Both events were best two out of three in both the winner and loser’s bracket.

As is their custom the local Eagles rolled out the red carpet to host visitors from Las Vegas and Northern and Southern California. A total of 41 players were on hand for the holiday weekend tournament and the Eagles served breakfast and lunch daily. The annual tournament paid out more than \$11,000 to the top finishers. Four fast shuffleboards were in top shape for the event that was bracketed by Yorba Linda’s Bob Brunskill. Paramount’s Paul Weber handled team auctions for each event. Both served as tournament directors. Tournament organizers included Marion Bailey, Wes Martin and O’Neal.

In the very competitive doubles event, Hemet’s Robert “Cowboy” Wade and Long Beach’s Gary Jones battled back through the loser’s bracket to face O’Neal and Ty Bayne in the championship game on Sunday. Wade and Jones defeated the third place team of Jim and Devonna Golden from Las Vegas in the consolation finals. Placing fourth was Modesto’s J.R. Noel and Bob Brunskill. In the championship match it was all O’Neal and Bayne as the locals took two straight games from the visitors. The winners and the three other team finalists divided up the event’s purse of \$3,760

In the ABC Draw - Crum, O’Neal and Phillips went undefeated as they challenged an entry list of 11 other teams in the tournament’s opening event that got started late Friday, July 1. Finishing second was Jim Golden, Farmersville’s Helen Martin and another newcomer local Ryan Martin. The third place team was led by Bob Brunskill and included wife Anna Brunskill and another new local player Kelly Hampton. The ABC Draw paid out \$3,730 in entry fees and sponsor money.

The four person add-to-six event was played on Monday (July 4) and featured seven teams. Tournament organizers added the event to this year’s tournament and the Las Vegas team of Jim and Devonna Golden, Jeff Keyes and Danny Leach captured the win over the team of Sacramento’s Bob and Vicky Hunt, Helen Martin and Robert “Cowboy” Wade. The Nevada team collected their share of the \$3,640 combined entry fee and sponsor money. The tournament was played as a single match – loser elimination event due to time constraints.

The air conditioned Eagle’s hall in Exeter was a welcome respite to the mid-summer heat of Central California as the Eagle’s offered good food, cold drinks and plenty of shuffleboard during the holiday weekend. The tournament organizers plan to build on this year’s four-person team event as it proved to be very popular.

Thanks goes out to the bartenders, waitresses, Eagles Auxiliary, tournament directors and to the members of the Exeter Eagles for another successful tournament.

Pacific Coast Shuffleboard News
Photos - Bob Brunskill