

**The California
Shuffleboard Hall of Fame**

proudly inducts

Bob Brunskill



Presented at

The Silver Spur

San Bernardino, California

September 1, 2001

**CONGRATULATIONS
BOB BRUNSKILL**



Bob Brunskill
**on your induction into the
California Shuffleboard
Hall of Fame**

BOB BRUNSKILL — THIS IS YOUR LIFE

Bob Brunskill was born in Fullerton, California on July 15, 1937. He attended school through junior college in Fullerton and then transferred to the University of California Berkeley earning a Bachelors degree in Electrical Engineering. After graduation, he went to work for the Autonetics Division of North American Aviation, which later became Rockwell Int'l. He retired in 1992 after 32 years.

In 1980 after his wife died he became the owner of The Shelter, and bought a shuffleboard from Al Stewart in 1982. To increase utilization of this investment, he started a singles tournament on Saturdays. This grew into the "One Grand Shoot-out" where the top 16 shooters from Saturday play were allowed to enter the tournament. Entry fee was \$25 and the total prize was always \$1000. Fortunately, he was able to borrow a shuffleboard from his cousin, have Al refinish it, and use it too. The plank was split, the finish was fast, the cradle was a wreck, the leg adjusters were so bad that the legs were shimmed with playing cards. It was connected to the wall with spacers and turnbuckles but was a real experience to play (it was a new experience every week too). Bob also promoted league teams and, at one time, had three teams playing out of The Shelter.

Through Joe Muniz, Ted Z. heard about the Saturday tournament out in the sticks in Placentia and brought his friend "Easy", with him to take all our money. They first stopped in TJ's where they ran into Bruce Harvey who explained how he was going to win all this money at The Shelter in a shuffleboard tournament at noon. They really set him up! Bruce still thinks that it was his fault for bringing Ted to The Shelter. A more interesting contest happened when Ted challenged Dave W. to a game where Ted spotted Dave 14 points but kept the hammer every frame. Dave couldn't believe losing two games in a row to Ted.

More players from Los Angeles began showing up, such as

Karl Spickelmier, Jack Ahern, George Lucas, Jim Kennedy, Roy and Jolene Lembke, Eric Waldman, Joanie Swenson Healey and her mother Annie, Chuck Kimbrough, Bill and Sharon Maxwell, and Fuzzy. Other foreigners included Billy Chiles from Highland, George Z., Las Vegas, and Glen Davidson, Oklahoma. Back then, Bob would play only if another player was needed to make an even number of entrants. One day Easy and Jolene took him aside and told him to tie his right arm behind his back for a month because his left was just too weak and it made him an easy target.

Then he realized that his left could be used for more than holding cigarettes and opening car doors.

Always looking for an edge, Dave W. convinced Bob to start a handicapping system that would give the beginning players a chance to compete with the pros. At the extremes, a top rated player would be playing an 18 point game against the lowest rated player playing a 12 point game. Ratings were based solely on the percentage of games won in the Singles Tournaments which may have led to some sandbagging.

Most of the Orange County players at these tournaments were also in the Orange County Shuffleboard League. Among those playing included John Mollett, Curt Dietrick, Rendell Klarenbeck, Rich (Bubba) Warren, Troy Tolbert, Frank Bentley, Chris (Monahan) Danke, Jim Martin, Vern Booth, Greg and Ann McFarland, Don Watt, John McGinnis, Howard Evans, Ron and Kathy Kepner, Jerry Newberry, Tony and Dot Bastanchury, Mike Mullens, Bob and Bev Lukens, Carol Hardaway, Jack Bline, Beth Kennedy, Kenny Knox, John Fisher, Mike and Sue Brode, Evelyn Hughes, Allen Reams, Dave and Sandy Minor, Anna Brunskill, Cliff Jutkins, Ray Wallace, George and Ruth Gooch, Jon Husted, John "Thumper" Rengstorf, Marty Gallegos, and Ted La Pierre.

The first team sponsored by The Shelter didn't include Bob because they felt he wasn't good enough (which was

true). This led to the startup of the "B" team that included weaker players. Feeling excluded, the women started the "C" team, the only all-female team in the League. Bob became active in the League when he was elected Vice President in 1983. He was President for three terms.

Bob first played in a big tournament in Marysville when he went with Dave W. and Jon Husted. There were no amateur events, so they had to play with the very good players. Jon and Bob teamed up and were beaten quite badly. Dave partnered with another local player and did a little better. They had never seen boards with rails cranked up like they were in Marysville. Returning the next year, Bob teamed with Dave and managed to knock A.Z. Turnbo and Joe Muniz out of the doubles event which, at the time, seemed like a real feather in their caps for two beginning players. He later repeated this spoiler act when he teamed with Tony Bastanchury to lag four threes to defeat Loren Maxham and Ron Harralson. Tony also lagged a three. Bob's last trip to Marysville was on his honeymoon with Anna in 1986.

In the middle of the 1988 July 4th tournament at The Best Little Warehouse in Temecula, Bob decided that having a stroke would be more fun than finishing the tournament with his partner Jim Martin. After being released from the hospital where Bill Gibbs also went (with a hernia) he returned to Yorba Linda to recuperate. When the doctor laughed at his idea of permanent disability, Bob returned to work. At his retirement luncheon, two days before his scheduled termination date, he tried one more time for a disability by having a heart attack. This didn't work either and after five weeks the doctor sent him back to work (for two more weeks).

The second year of the P.C.S.A. tournament, Bob was asked to become Amateur Team Representative for the 8-man team event. Working with Joe, Paul, and Karl he came up with a computer-generated team playing schedule that took away a lot of the burden of the team captain (who could now blame the computer for bad pairings) but it was replaced by hostile

feelings about the newness of having the computer decide the tie-breaking players instead of the captain selecting his top two players. A new idea, at that time, was to have the teams play two or four games at a time instead of using one board per match. This allowed a lot more flexibility in scheduling events as end to end times were reduced. He continued in this position for seven more tournaments ending in 1997.

Bob played at the Peanut House in Bellflower until they closed, then moved over to the Stagger Inn and played in the in-house league there. He has also played in tournaments at the Dixie Belle, Oskar's, and the Rosewood (Edgewood).

Bob and Anna traveled to Vancouver B.C. in November 1991 to play at the ANAF veterans tournament there. They were surprised that not all of the boards had operating scoreboards at such an important tournament. Eagle Electronics should have this situation well covered by now.

Thursday afternoons finds Bob at CCs in Anaheim where he runs the Thursday night A-B Blind Draw tournament. He has co-directed their A-B-C blind draw tournaments. Wednesday he's usually at the Friendly Tavern in Garden Grove in their in-house (\$3) tournament. Saturday would find him at Sheffield's (Amato's) which will soon have new owners.

On Memorial Day 1999 he was drafted to help with the State Championship Tournament in Exeter. When not enough participants entered, an A-B blind draw tournament was held, which he and his partner won. Next they had four A-B-C tournaments, and Bob was on the winning team in three of them. Now, at Calcutta time, he is referred to as "Mr. ABC".

Bob has been a player in Federation Tournaments in Reno with his best finish so far being a 2nd Place in the Legends event.

The Board Talk

George & Donna Wilber, Publishers

503 E. Sheridan Rd., Lansing MI 48906

Phone 517-371-2538 or 484-4976

e-mail: dgwilber@prodigy.net

We wondered when we first saw him in Las Vegas many years ago, who was this tall, quiet, unassuming, but obviously talented, man who rose to the challenge of running the amateur team events. We found out his name was Bob Brunskill and he had a lovely wife with a charming accent, who could make a friend for life with her smile. (It wasn't until we went to the Dixie Belle for our Board Talk Shufflers' Reunion in 1996 that we learned Anna also possessed culinary abilities that made one half of this team want to go back to cooking school, and talent on the boards that made the other half want to go back to shuffleboard school.)

There were some "high profilers" in the tournaments at Las Vegas and Bob always seemed to fade into the background. Yet, he probably did more to expand the World of shuffleboard than anyone else by simply being himself—helpful, encouraging, with gentle discipline.

His career didn't end with the last Las Vegas tournament. He's been a stalwart in the California Shuffleboard Community by continuing to promote and direct tournaments designed to attract amateur and beginning shufflers.

He may not be ranked as one of the Top Twenty players in the USA, but he certainly is tops in nurturing new players and urging amateurs to keep on trying. There are likely many, many people involved in the sport today who could trace their "roots" back to Bob.

We are privileged to endorse Bob Brunskill for induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

George & Donna Wilber

Congratulations, Bob!

Bob Brunskill (Mr. Orange County) has had the greatest influence in Shuffleboard in this area.

Bob owned The Shelter bar in Yorba Linda from 1980 to 1986. He worked for Autonetics, later known as Rockwell, for 32 years. That was his *professional* job.

Operating The Shelter was his hobby, but his true love has always been Shuffleboard.

Bob held a Handicap Singles Tournament every Saturday at The Shelter, and funded this with hundreds of dollars out of his own pocket toward prize money. He also ran a computerized handicap average for all the participants every week.

The Saturday weekly tournament brought in the very best shufflers in Southern California, but it also gave amateurs like Dottie and myself and many others a chance to compete and even win from time to time.

In 1985 Bob sponsored and paid the expenses for an all-ladies team to the Annual Las Vegas Shuffleboard Tournament, and even bought them shirts.

Bob was President of the Orange County Shuffleboard Association for many years.

We had a very active Travel League in Orange County as long as Bob headed the Association. When Bob stepped down, there was never another league in Orange County.

We all owe Bob a debt of gratitude for his contributions, all his help and many hours of work to help further the success of Shuffleboard.

Last, but not least, for being a good friend . . .

Thank you, Bob.

—Tony & Dottie Bastanchury

Bob's friends speak out . . .

I met Bob when he bought The Shelter and called me and wanted to buy a shuffleboard. Being as talkative as he is (ha! ha!) he said, "Do you have a shuffleboard for sale?" "Yeah!" I said. "How much you want for it?" I told him and he said, "When can you deliver?" The whole transaction must have taken two minutes.

I took it to The Shelter, put it in, and got acquainted with him and we have been good friends ever since. There are two incidents that I remember real well.

First he called up and said he acquired a shuffleboard, and he would meet me and we would go down and pick it up. We went down there, and here this shuffleboard was, in this old barn, must have been 75 years old, and we moved machinery and hay and dirt and what-have-you. We got down to a board that had probably been in there 69 years! I told him I didn't know what kind of a job I could do on that thing.

He said, "Well, just take it and do the best you can."

So I brought it in and refinished it and took it down there and put it in, and when you shot on it, it went just about every different direction other than the way you were trying to shoot. He put a nickname on it, but I don't remember what it was.

The second incident was up in Marysville at the Ace of Clubs at a tournament. There was a car out in front and the sun was reflecting off of the windshield and right in the eyes of the players. Somebody said go out and find out what kind of car it is and get the owner to move it or do something with it.

Fred Thumann went out, came back in and said, "Well, there is one damn thing for sure! He's not a shuffleboard player. It's a Mercedes."

And Bob, in his low voice says, "It's mine."

So the deal became that everybody wants to go with Bob to play in the tournaments, because if he can play tournaments and drive a Mercedes, he must be awfully good.

It has been a pleasure knowing Bob and Anna. Von would

It has been a pleasure knowing Bob and Anna. Von would always say that they were the nicest couple that she had ever met around the shuffleboard tournaments. She just thought the world of them. Every time that we met them at a tournament, when we left, Von would say, "They are the nicest couple I have ever met."

Bob, you have always been there to help other people with their tournaments. You have always helped in any way that you could, and of course, Anna is always cooking up those great put-on-pounds foods and bringing them in for everyone.

Congratulations, Bob! You deserve to be inducted into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

—Al Stewart

El Monte, California

I first met Bob at his bar, The Shelter, where he ran weekly Saturday afternoon tournaments.

I am sure that handicap system he originated was undoubtedly the inspiration which started the rating system now known as the Bowers System.

Bob has been a great player and supporter of the game of shuffleboard. I feel he has brought honesty and integrity into the game.

Thanks, Bob, for all you have done,

Congratulations on this very well-deserved induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

—Joanie Swenson Healey

More from Bob's Friends . . .

Bob Brunskill's presence in the shuffleboard world has been notable since he owned The Shelter back in the eighties. He learned to play, bracket and rate the players simultaneously.

I want to thank him personally for helping us with our tournaments at the Silver Spur in San Bernardino.

He is a credit to the game and deserves the recognition of being inducted into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

—*Jolene Lembke*

Class, Integrity, Honesty, Sportsmanship. These are some of the words used to describe a great shuffleboard player and a fine person.

Congratulations, Bob, on your induction into the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame.

You certainly deserve it!

—*Paul Weber*

Congratulations to a man of many words! Bob, you deserve it. You have done so much for everyone.

You really are a great person.

—*Michele Lamas*

More from Bob's Friends . . .

First, we would like to say that Bob Brunskill is definitely a good candidate for the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. He has played a significant role in the shuffleboard community.

Bob has been a partner with every one of our clan at various tournaments. You couldn't ask for a better partner. He is always calm, cool, and collected. He makes the "C" players feel just as important as the rest—what a terrific role model!

Some of us have placed as high as first place in tournaments with Bob. Without him, it would have been a much more difficult task. His quiet and calm demeanor keeps you at ease (as much at ease that is possible of course!) It can be nervewracking, but he never gives up on you as a partner. Great quality in a great guy!

There are many nice things we could say, but we'll keep it short and sweet.

Congratulations, Bob Brunskill. You deserve this honor, and we're all happy for you!

—*The Coulter Clan*

I have known Bob Brunskill for twenty years. In that time he has organized and held some great tournaments at his old bar, The Shelter.

Bob well deserves this honor. He's a great guy and a good player.

Good luck in the future, Bob.

—*Ted Z.*

Bob's friends speak out . . .

I guess the best way to describe Bob is “shuffleboard addict”. I think if he didn't play at least three days a week, he would develop serious withdrawal symptoms—sweats, nausea, headaches. Bob has been dedicated to the game for years.

I first met Bob in the 80's when he was the driving force of the Orange County Shuffleboard League. He was single, had dark hair, smoked, drank, and was a party animal.

At that time he owned a bar with two shuffleboards in Yorba Linda called The Shelter. Besides having league play at least once a week, he had a Saturday Tournament every week which included the Who's Who of shuffleboard. It also included a handicap system for us so-so players That was long before the Bowers System. He also put on some really fun triathlons, shuffleboard, darts and pool.

Bob's many credits include: His marriage to Waltrout (Anna); running the team events in the PCSA Las Vegas Tournaments with never a glitch; mainstay of the Orange County League; and Tournament Director of many events.

When anyone, anywhere, needs someone to do “Brackets” they turn to Bob, and it's done right!

Congratulations, Bob!

—*Vern Booth*

Congratulations on your induction into the State Hall of Fame. You are very deserving of this honor.

—*Gloria Duran*

Congratulations from Bob's Friends

I first met Bob at The Shelter when he was the owner. I would stop in around 9:30 p.m. after my last appointment and shoot shuffleboard with him.

Shortly after meeting Bob I joined his Orange County League, playing as a sub for The Shelter, and as a regular soon after.

Bob and I became best of friends and started playing as partners in several tournaments. The one I will always remember the best was the one in Temecula. Sure glad I didn't let you talk me into taking you back to your motel room that day, Bob.

Bob is a person I could trust with my life. Like many others, I have been blessed with his friendship. It is a great pleasure for me to say, Congratulations Bob on your induction to the Hall of Fame—you are deserving.

I wish you and your lovely bride, Anna, many, many more happy years.

Thanks for all the time and effort you have given to this great game.

Your friend, always,

—Jim "The Marlin" Martin

Congratulations, Bob. In all the years I have known you, have been an inspiration and a great help to up and coming players. Your contributions to the game of shuffleboard are legend.

—Karl Spickelmier

Bob's Friends Speak Out

I don't know of anyone who enjoys shuffleboard more than Bob. Even though he's not always laughing and scratchin' like some of us, I guarantee you he's enjoying himself.

Bob's a great entry into the CSHF for his tireless efforts in organizing, bracketing and helping new players in shuffleboard events. (Although I'm not sure he could have done all this without Anna's support and good cooking!)

Congratulations, Bob, as you join the elite shufflers of California.

Your friend,

—*John McGinnis*

Bob is a true worker as well as player, one who allows the game to move forward via personal dedication. He's always there when needed to keep Shuffleboard alive.

Thanks!

—*Bud Brownhill*

Bob Brunskill has been one of the most important influences on Orange County shuffleboard. His "skill" at both playing in and operating tournaments is second to none. His induction to the CSHF is very deserving.

Congratulations, Mr. Skill.

—*Rich "Bubba" Warren*

Congratulations on your induction to the California Shuffleboard Hall of Fame, Bob!

—*Donnie Hughes*

More from Bob's friends . . .

Troy and I met Bob a *few* years back when we were playing Bar to Bar tournaments. We played for Amato's and Bob owned and played for The Shelter in Yorba Linda. We were all sorry to see him sell it.

Bob was just beginning back then and didn't play very well, but he has sure improved. There is not a nicer person or one more dedicated to the game, or who is always willing to help with the tournaments.

Bob, I have a quote from Troy for you: "Game play OK, needs to work on his drinking to become a great player."

Congratulations, Bob. This is your day, enjoy it.

—*Evelyn & Troy Tolbert*

P.S. Wish we could be there, but it's a little far for us. We'll be thinking of you.

I was shooting against Bob at the Sweetheart's 2001 Tournament held at the Silver Spur. And Bob turned to me and said I was shooting good! To hear words like that from a player of his expertise encourages me as a player to challenge the game more.

Bob is a very dedicated player, and gives his all to help out at these tournaments. And, what about those tasty dishes he and his wife Anna share with us. They never come empty handed.

So I've had the pleasure of knowing the Brunskills and playing the game with and against them *with* a smile and words of encouragement.

Congratulations!

—*Mary Burdette*