

"Thanks to All Participants" -- NASC in Reno

Submitted By: John McDermott, The Shuffleboard Federation

The 2000 North American Shuffleboard Championships™ was a milestone event for The Shuffleboard Federation and for the sport in general. The 24 new boards used for the tournament represented an investment of nearly \$100,000 in the future of the event. The new tables played great and the consensus among the players who attended the tournament is that this was the best NASC™ to date.

We appreciate all the time and effort put into manufacturing the new equipment and wish to thank Russ McKay, Bob Chapman, Leo Stelter and Sol Lipkin from Venture Entertainment which made the tables, and to Gordie Smith and Gord Ritchie from Eagle Electronics which manufactured the scoreboards. It has always been our goal to make the NASC™ the premier shuffleboard tournament in the world in all respects. We have worked very hard to run a first class tournament and now have the equipment to achieve that goal.

The NASC™ has become the tournament it is largely due to the excellent work of our tournament staff. Four days before the start of the tournament, the truck filled with more than 20,000 pounds of new shuffleboards arrived in Reno. Three days before the start of the tournament a locally hired crew of 16 people hand carried the new shuffleboards up the two flights of stairs to the tournament room.

Over the next 48 hours, some of the most knowledgeable people in the business worked together and to assemble, level and adjust the new tables. We want to thank everyone that participated in that effort. Rick Boyer, who has been our right hand on setup for the past 11 years was assisted by Lyndon Baize, Dennis Bird, Ron Bracher, Lou Decker, Jake Dunham, John Fisher, Dan Hitt, Bill Maxwell, Rick McFarland, Joe Ozanich, Gordie Smith, Fred Thumann, and Bubba Warren.

With the boards now in place, there is a tremendous amount of preparation still to be done, including leveling, cleaning and polishing. Caring for the boards is not a task that ends once the tournament starts. Most mornings, by 6:00 a.m., members of the tournament staff were back at it, cleaning, polishing and spraying the boards, vacuuming the gutters and doing additional leveling and adjusting.

As Sunday morning arrives, there are just a few hours until the start of the tournament and the rest of the tournament staff is busy getting ready. Kathy

Yingst, who started working on the administrative end of the tournament months before, is finalizing preparations for the Pro/Am Draft. That task included working with the members of the Bowers Ratings Committee that were in attendance to establish ratings for the twenty or so unrated players on hand. Rob Kern is going over time projections for the week, which will include more than 2,000 tournament games. Jack Davis is warming up his voice for the more than 500 players/teams he will auction in the next few days. Meanwhile, in the tournament storage area, Lois Thumann, who took over the important role of handling the sales of all the tournament merchandise is folding and sorting hundreds of T-shirts, jackets, sweat shirts, golf shirts, etc. as she gets ready for the week long job.

In addition to the regular tournament staff were some volunteers who played an important and appreciated role. We wish to recognize Melody Marine, Jeri Billard, Lorainne Bingham, Georganna Brand, Shari Hudson, Shirley Perry, Marilu Roberts and Terry Woodward. So many people stopped and offered to help out if we needed them. We appreciate all of you and hope we haven't missed anyone.

The highlight of the week occurred on Friday night as Hal Perry and Ron & Debbie Bowers were presented with the 2000 Sol Lipkin Award by none other than Sol Lipkin. It was a tribute to these very deserving recipients that nearly every shuffleboard player in the house made sure they were on hand for the presentations. The Sol Lipkin award is The Shuffleboard Federation's highest honor and we join everyone in the shuffleboard community in congratulating Hal, Ron & Debbie.

As usual, our Co-Sponsors played an important role in funding the more than \$20,000.00 in tournament expenses. Thanks to everyone who made a Co-Sponsor contribution, especially our Platinum Sponsors, Venture Entertainment Eagle Electronics and the Sands Regency and to Mike and Susie Halstead, our lone Gold Co-Sponsors. Special thanks also to our board sponsors, The Houston Holiday Open and the Southwest Open, which made donations of \$300.00 to Co-Sponsor a board.

In the North American Champion contest, three of the four decisions were decided during the last event, Deuces Wild. Even though it was the closest

(Continued on Page 30)

(Continued from Page 29)

finish in the history of the tournament, no machine and/or hand recounts were necessary. In Division III, Jo Cook of Denver, Colorado finished on top, followed by Jimmy Fernandez of Houston, Texas and Henry Noel, Jr. of Modesto, California. In Division II, Jim Payne of Omaha, Nebraska finished first, followed by Lilly Kidd of Houston, Texas and Melody Marine of Spokane, Washington who were tied for second. The top spot in Division I went to Glen Ingram of Muncie, Indiana, with John Kosiske of Omaha, Nebraska in second and Bob Jacobsen of Phoenix, Arizona in third. Dan Hitt of Spokane, Washington, finished in the top spot in the Pro Division and also won a suite for the 2001 NASC™ as the top overall finisher. Al Salazar of Peoria, Arizona finished second in the pros, with Diana Hagen of Houston, Texas in third.

With 291 registered players, we came close to our and/or hand recounts were necessary. In Division III, Jo Cook of Denver, Colorado finished on top, goal of 300 and are sure that the excitement generated by this years event and the quality of the new tables will put us over that mark next year. We hope the shuffleboard community will join us in remembering the unusually large number of shuffleboard players who signed up but had to cancel due to serious illness of their own or the death or seriousness illness of one of their loved ones. Those people are: Steve Kalamarski, Bev Chaffin, Steve Walker, Jim & Marie Coulter, Rozanna Melton, Sharon Summers, Wayne Scott, Jon & Scott Mitchell, Claude & Linda Skowronek and Jack Sparagowski.

Looking to next year, the 2001 NASC™ the Division II Doubles format will make the change in format from 15 point games, double elimination to 2 out of 3 in the winners bracket and one 21 point game in the losers bracket. As promised, we will continue to expand that to other events as we become better educated on the time requirements.

As preparations for the 2001 NASC™ continue, we welcome any suggestions you may have. The success of the NASC™ has come through working to improve the tournament every year and by listening to our participants. Everyone who attended the tournament has been sent a comment form. Please take a moment to fill it out and return it to us.

Thanks To All! --- John McDermott ---

(Continued from Page 27)

Shufflers' Notebook ***Billy Melton's "Thanks to Houston Shufflers!"***

Anyone who knows me, knows that I am not much on weddings, funerals, goodbyes, or thank you notes, but I need to take this chance to say "thanks" to some great people, such as Danny Green, Diana Hagen, David Ramold, Dale & Mary Koteris, Harvey & Lilly Kidd, Howard Mouton, Danny Norris & Denise... you all get my drift... all of the Houston bunch! Heck, I kind of even miss Flynt Preston! Every one of you have made me proud to call Houston my home away from home. I look forward to getting back for "Johnny B. Good's" Christmas "showdown"! Anyway, I will see you guys/gals soon. "So, Get Ready!" By the way, if any of you reading this are ever in Houston, TX on a Friday, you owe it to yourself to stop in at Danny's Sports Bar. It is a special place, with a special owner, and a bunch of VERY special people!

HOW ABOUT THOSE SOONERS?

--- Billy Melton of OK/TX!

(In case you wonder why it appears that Billy is very homesick and missing everyone... his 'real' job has taken him across the country for some time... the above note was faxed to The Board Talk from Junction City, KS on Nov. 20, 2000 --T&L)

CLASSIFIED AD

ATTENTION: HOUSTON TX AREA SHUFFLERS at Danny's Sports Bar OCTOBER 8, 2000 ... HELPI ... MISSING!... Kelly Cameron's American weights during tournament. Please return to Danny's Sports Bar or call Danny's with information: 281-558-8693

IMPORTANT NOTICE

THE BOARD TALK HAS A NEW ADDRESS!

***Effective November 1, 2000, send all
subscriptions, ads, promotions
and tournament results to:***

***Tom & Lynda French
12710 Red Deer Pass
Austin, TX 78729-6436
Phone: 512-250-0327
E-Mail: lynda@jump.net***