

Southwest Open Another Big Success!

By Ron Huddleston

Thanks to all of you who participated in the Southwest Open Shuffleboard Tournament at the American Legion 73 in Del City, Oklahoma, July 1-4. Sharon and I hope each of you enjoyed your stay and play as much as we enjoyed hosting the event.

The enclosed flyer and photos show several of the players taken just prior to the start of the draft team event. It also lists those who finished in the money in the different events. You may just want to keep or post this flyer as it shows some of the better players in the sport today, as well as some up and coming players you will be seeing in *The Board Talk* over the next few years.

Once again, over \$30,000 was up for grabs and almost half of the players finished in the money in one event or another. We presented 35 plaques to 31 different players. The diversity of winners and comments gives us a positive feedback that we are on the right track in trying to present a tournament format that gives every player, regardless of skill level, a chance to participate, to win, and to be involved in a successful tournament.

The draft team event turned out to be the most fun and even event of the year. It was 3/5 games and I am only aware of one session that did not go down to the wire in the fifth and deciding game. We will be improving the format before next year, but it is definitely a "keeper" event. Although several players were unable to participate, we still had 72 entries for 12 teams. The cheering was loud, the razzing in good taste, and competition fierce. My compliments and thanks to the team captains.

AND THE WINNERS WERE (for those of you who lose your flyers):

In the Open Singles, it was Bill Melton, 1st; Ron Huddleston, 2nd, and Sam Summers, 3rd.

In the Beginners/Just Pretty Good Draw: Slick and Rodney Hollis, 1st; Jerry Henson and Betty Brantley, 2nd; and Chuck Jones and Betty Baumgardner, 3rd.

In the Open Draw: Bobby Voorhis and Gwyn Orsi, 1st; Sam Summers and Steve Burkett, 2nd; C.W. Walker and Tom Hendrix, 3rd.

In the Amateur Doubles: Johnny Wayne and Janet Weidner, 1st; Rena Hendrix and Brenda Watts, 2nd; and Rick Jones and D.G. Lane, 3rd.

In the Beginners/Pretty Good Singles: Jerry Henson, 1st; Tom McBurnett, 2nd; and Slick, 3rd.

In the Pro-Draft Team: Billy Melton, Brenda Watts, Dick Smedberg, Harry Craddock, Joe Dickerson, and Lisa Melton, 1st; Bobby Voorhis, Zane Porter, Steve

Blue, Kenny Hawks, E.T., and Tom Johnson, 2nd; Sam Summers, Kay Wells, J.B. McBride, Ken Storck, Debbie Voorhis, and Shari Foust, 3rd.

NOTABLE QUOTES:

Dick Smedberg, New York -- As good as everyone lags down here, why do they throw those little short weights?

Larry Creakbaum, Indiana -- I would have been here sooner, but I had trouble with my airplane and had to drive down.

Gwyn Orsi, Nebraska -- Whose calcutta am I bidding on?

Tom McBurnett, Texas -- I never knew people played shuffleboard at 10:00 in the morning!

Fran Mears, Oklahoma -- I want to meet some of those Pretty Good Singles!

Charlie Riley, Missouri -- Wake me up when it's my shot.

Sam Summers, Oklahoma -- J.B., wake up; it's your shot again.

Harry Craddock, Texas -- I'm not good enough to play in a tournament (first place in the Draft Team event).

George Wilber, Michigan -- This is great and Donna will be here next year.

Beef Camp, Indiana -- This is great and Marge will be here next year.

Bill Melton, Oklahoma -- With all the other tournaments going on in July, you may not get as good a turnout as last year. (Thanks, players!)

Gene McLeod, Missouri -- I wish more of the players in Missouri could see this. They just don't know what they are missing. (Maybe with your help, Gene, and Charlie's help, more players from the Show-Me state will show up next year.)

Bill Holley, Oklahoma -- Can you believe it? I won 2/3 with Bobby Voorhis!

Jody Slack, Colorado -- Such a great tournament! Great turnout, boards and facility...you just hate to see one like this end!

Thanks to one and all. Sharon and I appreciated your suggestions and comments and look forward to seeing you again next year.

(Editor's Note: We appreciate your great report and the purchase of a flyer to salute the players who participated in your tournament. That's pretty special when you could get it for free. Shuffleboard supporters like Don Crall and the American Legion 73, and good reporters like you and Sharon, are what keep us going and growing, Ron).

(Addendum: Donna and Marge are happy to have it public knowledge and, therefore irrevocable, that they will be at next year's tournament. They've already started packing!)