



The Board Talk

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Southwest Open Huge Success

By Ron Huddleston

110 players from seven states rolled into Del City, Oklahoma, the 4th of July with motor homes, campers and tents for this year's Southwest Open, four full-filled days of pure shuffleboard at the American Legion Post 73. Everyone took their best shot in the six-event format for over \$48,000 in prize monies. The format must be a fair one as 43 different players cashed in on 51 payoff spots. Twelve busy boards were needed to give everyone a good night's rest and still start each of the six events on time. If you lost out early in an event -- no problem -- there were always \$20 and \$50 robins going on.

AND THE WINNERS WERE.....



OPEN DOUBLES: Mike Melton and John Cason (center), 1st; Ron Blalock and Bob Shaw (left), 2nd; Alan Primrose and Brenda Watts, 3rd.



DRAW PARTNER-BEGINNER/PRETTY GOOD: Randy Middleton and Greg Hixson (left), 1st; Eddie Guy and Mitch Melton (center), 2nd; Pat Gainey and Kenny Brewer, 3rd.



OPEN DRAW: Bill and Lisa Melton (front and center), 1st; Gregg Tedford and Bobby Voorhis (peeking over the top), 2nd; Cliff Goff and Glen Davidson (right), 3rd; E.T. Jensen and Johnny Ballard (left), 4th.



BEGINNER/PRETTY GOOD SINGLES (25 entries): Mitch Melton, 1st; Mike Alvey, 2nd; U.J. West, 3rd; Don Kinard, 4th.



OPEN SINGLES (46 entries): David Williams, 1st; Rick Boyer, 2nd; Johnny Ballard, 3rd; Keith Oylar, 4th; Billy Poole and Joel Rahn, 5th & 6th; Gwen Orsi and Steve Burkett, 7th & 8th.

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Southwest Open (continued from Page 1)

DRAFT TEAM: Finishing first were Cliff Goff, Tom Hendrix, Steve Burkett, Jim Kennedy, Charlie Riley and Jerry Davenport. Taking second place honors were Rick Boyer, Tammy Denson, Julie Hartman, Brenda Watts, Louis Lambert and Betty Rickman.



Diana Hagen, Sally Goff, Kenny Brewer, Rick Jones, Jerry Henson and Marilu Roberts finished third in the draft team event.

Congratulations to one and all. Thank you all for coming to the party and we hope you enjoyed yourselves as much as we enjoyed your participation. We appreciated your comments and suggestions and you will see some of them being used in next year's event. In 1996 be sure to add Friday, July 5, to your days off so you will not miss any events. In the meantime, we are going to go practice on our game.

Thanks to The Shuffleboard Federation for supplying the wax this year, Bill Melton for a last-minute supply of four planks, and Triple Crown for the weights. Also, thanks to Tom Hendrix, Kenny Hawkes, Rick Boyer, Ken Strock, Ferlin Kerns, Bill Holley, and John Breathwit for helping set up the tables.

Our condolences to Janet Wiedner for the unexpected news on the loss of her father to a heart attack. You have more friends than you know, Janet, but no less than you deserve.

Notable Notes & Quotes from the Southwest Open.....

BILLY MELTON: A girl knocked me out of the open singles!

DIANA HAGEN: I can't believe I've missed this tournament all these years. I will be back next year with more players who don't know what they are missing.

BRENDA WATTS: How many tequila and orange juices did I have last night?

BILLY POOLE: These are my kind of odds -- \$50 to win \$5,000.

GREG HIXSON: Board 9, Board 9, Board 9...

JOEL RAHN: Eight straight games in the loser's bracket can wear you out. When is the next robin?

EDDIE GUY (note from Sharon): Talcum powder is for your hands -- not your shoes!

MITCH MELTON: I think we did it, boys. Do I get a plaque for winning the Beginner/Pretty Good Singles?

BOB SHAW: Ready to play and I've lost my weights; they are in a gray case. (There were 20 gray cases lying around!) (Long distance phone call the next day...) Ron, I left my weights up there." (We found them and they were in a gray case.)

GLEN DAVIDSON: Within five years, this will be the biggest tournament in the country. (Thanks, Glen! Sharon, Don and I are just trying to make it as fair and fun for the players as we can, but we hope you're right, of course.)

LARRY CREAKBAUM AND TERRY DOWELL: Next year we are flying down. However, it is only a 12-hour drive.

BOBBY VOORHIS: Well, your amateurs beat me again.

SALLY GOFF: We need to go home, but Cliff keeps on winning, and winning, and winning.

BILL HOLLEY: I hope someone put me in the Open Draw. My nap lasted a little longer than I expected.

GREGG TEDFORD: Ron, I gave Sharon \$20 for the \$20 round robin, and Diana \$50 for the \$50 robin. I just realized I can't play in both. What do I do?

PENNY AND PAM: This place is great and look at all those smoke eaters! But, next year we are bringing our tennis shoes.

BILL MELTON: I'll bet you \$20 you don't have 32 entries in the open singles on a Thursday night. (46 entries should cost double, Bill.)

FLYNT PRESTON: It doesn't take long to get here. Speeding ticket for 84 mph and a blow-out doing 110 mph or I would have been here sooner.

OVERHEARD BY MANY: How blue do we have to turn before we can turn up the air conditioner? Who would have thought in Oklahoma they would ask for heat in July?

(Editor's Note: Thanks for the colorful report, Ron. Hope to be on the scene for next year's Southwest Open!)