

The Board Talk

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Southwest Open is Big Record-Setter!

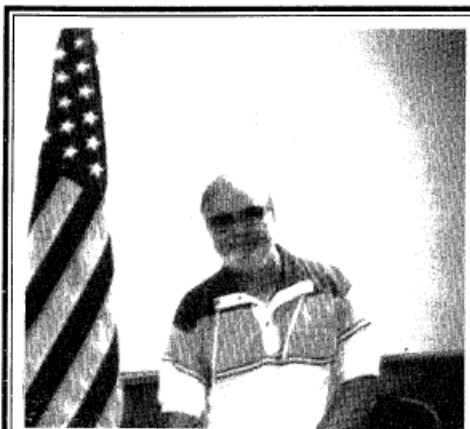
- Record Participation/Pot
- Glen Davidson Inducted into Hall of Fame
- David Williams Earns MVP Title

By Ron Huddleston

There were several records set during the Southwest Open at the American Legion Post 73 in Del City, Oklahoma, over the 4th of July weekend: (1) a 21-board tournament; (2) 71 entries in the open singles, 33 entries in the beginner/pretty good singles, and 21 teams in the draft team event; (3) total participation of 166 players and a record-breaking pot; (4) a wedding held during the tournament; (5) the first MVP award and accompanying monies; and (6) the first formal Shuffleboard Hall of Fame induction.

Even Mother Nature realized how hot the action was as she set record temperatures outside. Thank goodness for air conditioning as we were still able to hold it to 78 degrees inside!

Your response (almost doubled in size from last year) tells us we are doing something right, and your
(continued on Page 24)



GLEN INDUCTED -- In a moving, professionally produced presentation, Glen Davidson was inducted into the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame, a highlight of the Southwest Open.

ON THE INSIDE:



A STAR-SPANGLED GRAND FINALE (left) to the 4th Annual Dixie Belle 4th of July Tournament and 12th annual Board Talk Shufflers' Reunion! Board Talk Editors George and Donna Wilber and Dixie Belle owners Wes and Eileen Eades congratulate Darrol Nelson and Rick Gindt on their doubles win. (Photo by Marilyn McCracken.) Story on Page 3.

FRISCO EDDIE has some second thoughts about abandoning his road trip with Lil and going home to the Blue Moon and Shelli.....Page 18

Southwest Open (cont. from Page 1)

response to shortening the draft event with points told me I did it wrong. We certainly listen to the players and will have a playoff game next year.



The week started off with a warm-up event Tuesday night, won by the Oklahoma team of (left to right) Mitch, Billy, Lisa, and Bill Melton, when they double-dipped the Indiana team of Bobby Voorhis, Larry Creakbaum, Beef Camp, and Dave Boaz.



Placing third was the Houston team of (left to right) Dale and Mary Koteras, Johnny Ballard and Diana Hagen.

Wednesday night brought us the actual opening event of the tournament, an open singles with handicap entry fee. Thankfully we had prepared a 128-entry bracket, as 71 players signed in to test their skills against players from all over the Midwest. This year's event was won by the legendary Billy Mays of Texas when he double-dipped Bobby Voorhis of Indiana in the winner's bracket. Coming in third was David Williams of Texas.

Thursday rolled in and now a draw partner for Beginner/Pretty Good players with 58 entries, and also an open draw partner for the more experienced players with 70 entries.



Billy Mays (right) and Bobby Voorhis finished first and second in the open singles.

It sounds crazy to call the win by Brenda Moore of Texas and Gwyn Orsi of Nebraska a minor upset as good as they play, but when you consider that all of the pros east of the Rockies, except Frank Blade, were entered, it was no small feat. Ditto that comment for the team of Dave Boaz of Indiana and Cliff Goff of Oklahoma, who took the women to a second game in the winner's bracket.



(Left to right) Dave Boaz, Cliff Goff, Gwyn Orsi and Brenda Moore, winners of the open draw partner event.

Placing third were John McDermott of Michigan and Keith Oyler of Oklahoma.

Winners of the Beginner/Pretty Good event were Mark Melton and Randy Rogers, 1st; Woodie Cockrum and Pam Worsham, a first-time tournament player, 2nd; and Randy Middleton and Dave Fleming, 3rd.

Even though the action had been non-stop since Tuesday night, we took an hour break Friday evening for a free bar-b-que chicken dinner. Host Don Crall tells me we charcoaled 240 pounds of chicken. While everyone was enjoying their meal, a very emotional induction of Glen Davidson into the NSHF took place.

Glen's Induction: "A Thrill of a Lifetime....."

The Oklahoma Hall of Fame Committee, under the leadership of Cliff Goff, set a very high standard for future inductions into the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame with their professionally-produced presentation that featured a combination of live entertainment and video productions highlighting the achievements of Glen Davidson. The committee tapped the resources of their own community -- the talented singer Kelly Bartow, a Music Express representative who hosts Karaoke shows at the Holiday Inn East in Midwest City, and Alan Martin of Toastmasters International Mid-Del Club #2257 (and a novice shuffler), who served as Master of Ceremonies and video producer. These two professionals took Cliff Goff's nomination of Glen Davidson and wove it into a presentation that brought lumps to the throats of even the toughest shuffleboard player participating in the Southwest Open.

Cliff saluted Glen for being "one of the top ambassadors of our sport in the world." In addition to a long list of wins that dated back to 1971 that were printed in a very classy program, Cliff cited Glen for his role as a teacher and promoter. "Glen has been promoting the game of shuffleboard by starting leagues, directing tournaments, playing professionally, or anything else to do with shuffleboard most of his life," said Cliff. Over 60 signatures were secured by the state committee to nominate Glen into the Hall of Fame. NSHF Director Larry Creakbaum (alias "The Red Baron") of Indiana was there to help make it happen.

In his acceptance speech, Glen reflected not on his own achievements, but on his hopes for the National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. "My dream is to see that anyone who gave something back to the game is recognized," he said. "With your help, we'll not only get all these worthy people inducted, but we'll have a home for all the history and artifacts of this sport."

You can help make this a dream come true. A video of Glen Davidson's induction into the Hall of Fame is available for \$50. All of the money, except actual expenses, will be donated to the Hall of Fame. Send your requests to Glen Davidson, 3220 Cragg St., Oklahoma City, OK 73150.

As Glen danced off the stage with his partner, Madge Goff, he reflected: "This is a thrill of a lifetime for me. There were always a few who would say it couldn't be done or shouldn't be done. But there were always enough to encourage me to grow and keep going."

As soon as the feast and induction were over, we drafted our teams and the action started again. This is where I erred by trying to shorten the time required for the event with total points used as tie-breakers. It was still fair to all teams, but obviously not the preferred format.



Winning the draft team event were (left to right): Bobby Kimbro, Rick Jones, Lynda French, Tom French, Billy Melton, and Fred Boyd.



Second place went to (left to right): Brenda Watts, Shari Faust, Denny Meharg, David Williams, Jack Davis, and Bob Houchin.

Third place was taken by Diana Hagen's team of Mitch Melton, Sally Goff, Jerry Sabourin, Don Kinnard, and Olga Vaughn.

Saturday evening arrived and now it was time for the wedding ceremony for two Fort Worth players, Bo Hyman and Terri Lowry. We had not planned to stop the draft team action as we were just about right on time, but wouldn't you know? Bo was shooting well and his team was one of the four still in the running, so we stopped the play for an hour and proceeded with the wedding.. We understand Bo didn't shoot as well in the following session. Were you still nervous or just distracted, Bo? Anyway, congratulations to Bo and Terri Hyman.

(continued on Page 26)

Southwest Open (cont. from Page 25)

"I now pronounce you husband and wife," so Bo and Terri Hyman begin their life together in an unusual setting, the Southwest Open Shuffleboard Tournament.

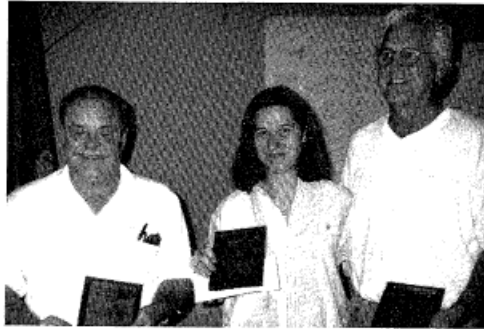
Saturday night and time to start three different events at the same time -- the open bring partner, the 2-rated singles and the beginner/pretty good singles. Coming through a very tough open bring partner were Brenda Moore (again) and Brian Walker by double-dipping the partner play of Billy Mays and Rick Jones. Third place went to Dale Koteras and Johnny Ballard.



Brenda Moore and Brian Walker double-dipped Rick Jones and Billy Mays to take the open bring partner event.



The 2-rated singles produced another double dip as Mitch Melton (center) came through the loser's bracket to knock out Jim Kennedy (left) to take first place. Third place went to Randy Nusser of Nebraska.



In the beginner/pretty good singles, it was another double-dip as Jeri Billard (center) came through to knock Billy Poole (right) into second place. A very good beginner player from the Houston area, Jack Scott (left) finished in third place.



David Williams earned the MVP title and point moneys at the '96 Southwest Open.

David Williams' name has only been mentioned one time up to now, but he placed in the top eight of all four events he entered and won this year's MVP plaque and the added money that went with it. Brenda Moore's two firsts gained her second place.



Missouri visitors (left to right): Jim Dunn, Jerry Sabourin, Donna Dunn, Chuck Muehlhauser, and Doug Zurmuehlen, will be back again next year.

Sunday afternoon and everything is winding down. Over 1,000 games of shuffleboard have been played and you would think everyone would have had enough play for one week. Not true, as the robins start and continue on the two boards in the bar while we start breaking down the tables in the ballroom. The last game was completed at 1 a.m. Monday morning.

Special thanks to John McDermott and The Shuffleboard Federation for the silicone and wax. We went through 1-1/2 cases of silicone and 16 buckets of wax.

A great tournament, friendly people, nice pots, not too much waiting between games, and an excellent facility. We hope you enjoyed your shuffleboard vacation as much as Don, Sharon, myself, and a bunch of good Okies, hoped you would as we prepared for it.

(Editor's Note: So, O.K., folks.... What are you going to do for an encore? Our sincere congratulations for another great event!)

More Notebook

As promised, here are a couple of photos of the best looking couple at the Dixie Belle. I want to see it in The Board Talk -- just block Karl out of the background.



We really enjoyed the Shufflers' Reunion. How long do we have to wait for another one in Southern California?

Vern Booth, Modeska, California

Thanks, Vern. It's been a long time since we've been called the "best looking couple." How long do you have to wait for our return? Well, we've already announced that the 13th reunion will be in Indiana and the 14th in Texas. After that, who knows? The first step is to get a written invitation (we didn't get one for the first several years!) and then we'll go from there on the decision-making process. You were wonderful hosts and we're looking forward to the day when we don't have to wait for a "reunion" to return to the Dixie Belle. Just make sure Al and Von are there to "escort" us!

A Message from the Editors....

We apologize for being a little late with this month's issue. First, one-half (that's one of two) of the editorial staff came home from California with a serious kidney ailment, and then, just as we were "mourning" with John McDermott of The Shuffleboard Federation over the "crash" of his system, we did the same. What this means to you, other than being a few days late, is that two of our regular features, the "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A." listing and the "Looking Back" column will be delayed until next month. We appreciate your patience. Please take this time to contact your favorite shuffleboard site to see if they're in good standing. Right now, we're in danger of losing a number of them because they have not responded to their "red checks."

Help Us Help You.....

Because we cannot be at every tournament to cover the action, we depend heavily upon your reports and appreciate your contributions. Here are a few tips:

(1) Be as timely as possible. Send your reports in as soon as your event is completed. The deadline for each issue is the 15th of the month. However, if we receive it on the 16th, you're likely to get good placement in the next issue.

(2) Make sure the names of the winners are spelled correctly and are complete. People have a "thing" about their names and when they see it in print, they want it to be correct. We know! Our name is Wilber; yet 9 out of 10 times, people spell it Wilbur. No matter what nice things you have to say about them, it's diluted because you didn't care enough to spell it right!

(3) Whenever possible, list the town and state of your winners. They're as proud of where they live as they are of their name.

(4) Be sure to list the date of the event you're reporting on.

(5) If you provide photos, please make sure they are sharp -- better to be on the light side than the dark -- and don't use Polaroids!

(6) Don't be shy about listing yourself as the reporter and providing your viewpoints on the action. That adds "color" to an event that your audience will appreciate.

(7) Don't worry about grammar and punctuation. That's what we're here for!

George & Donna Wilber, Publishers