

The Hammer

Our two-month summer recess gave us some time for evaluation of where we've been and where we're going with *The Board Talk*. We made some visits, talked with people by phone and in person. Some were original supporters; others were "strangers" to *The Board Talk*.

During this evaluation time, we summed up our visits in three columns: The Need For... The Support Of... and Reasons Why We Should Give It Up.

There seems to be no doubt about the "need for" column. Shuffleboard players speak a unique language and they're hungry for contact with those who speak the same language and share their love of the game.

If we'd had one negative response to the "need for" *The Board Talk*, we'd have taken a hard, second look at continuing. We didn't.

The "support of" column was a different story. When we started this venture, we were so certain that shuffleboard sponsors/establishments would be willing to "foot the bill" through advertising for a newsletter for the people who support them with their business. That way, we wouldn't have to charge the players for *The Board Talk*. We were wrong in that assumption.

We're certainly not going to dump any of the blame for that on the shuffleboard establishments. There could be any number of reasons why they chose not to advertise: an inflation that causes business people to cut down on every "unnecessary" expense; dissatisfaction with the coverage *The Board Talk* was giving to their area; lack of response to our plea to shuffleboarders to patronize *Board Talk* advertisers.

Whatever their reasons, we now know the cost of publishing and mailing *The Board Talk* must be shifted from advertisers (and the editors) to subscribers. This doesn't mean we will no longer accept advertising. We'd love to be the first sports publication — or any publication for that matter — to LOWER our subscription rates because of ad revenue.

We're making a big financial investment to allow the broadest distribution of this issue we know how and we'd appreciate if you'd pass along any extra copies you receive to other shuffleboard players.

A subscription form is in this issue, along with a listing of the state reporters who have responded to our plea for reporters in other states. If there is no one listed from your state, send your information to *The Board Talk*, 3206 Alfred Ave., Lansing, Mich. 48909, along with an offer to serve as a reporter or suggesting someone who would serve in that capacity.

The pay is poor, but the satisfaction is great. And, you'll help us keep that "Reasons why we should give it up" column blank.

George Wilber
Editor

Share a copy of The Board Talk

Tourney Talk

New York-Michigan Team Wins Bourbon Tourney

A total of 52 teams entered the popular Bourbon, Indiana, annual single elimination spring tourney on May 5, with first place going to the winning combination of Ed Galke of Oakdale, NY, and Jerry Siebert of Lansing, Mich. Coming in second were Larry Brown, owner of the Deer Park Tavern, Ft. Wayne, Ind., and Ted Kuhn of Hamilton, Ind. Sharing third place honors were the teams of Don Miller, Hudson, Ind., and Fred Kuhn, Pleasant Lake, Ind., and Robert Voorhis and Jerry Warr, representing the Palace Bar, Fairmont, Ind.

Michigan Summer Tournament Results

The big crowd at Stober's Lounge, Lansing, Mich on July 7-8 attested to the popularity of long-time shuffleboard supporter/player Rudy Stober as a tournament host. Where else can you get entertainment along with competitive action? Locals Jr. Lopez and Lee McDonald took first place, with also-locals Bobby Lopez and Ceylon Davis capturing second place honors.

The Lakeside Lounge, Union Lake, hosted the State Women's Doubles in June. Cheryl Collins and Cathie Morgan took first place, with Elly Canterbury and Trish Turner in second place and Carol Mazurek and Norma Gilbert finishing third.

The first annual State of Michigan Doubles Tournament was held at A.J.'s Saloon in Pontiac on May 19-20. Winners were Jerry Hershman and O.B. Brimm with Jerry Siebert and Wayne Reist taking second place and Gordy Collins and Dennis Wilson in third place.

USSA Pro-Am Doubles, Aug. 9-12, Las Vegas

Enjoy the excitement of Las Vegas, the incentive of a \$10,000 first place pot and the satisfaction of knowing part of your entry fee will go to a worthy cause. That's what you'll get by entering the USSA Championship Pro-Am Doubles Tournament at the Showboat, Las Vegas, Aug. 9-12.

The triple elimination event will feature eight boards, with a best of five winners bracket and best of three losers bracket. The tourney will pay five places: \$10,000 for first place, \$4,000 for second, \$1,000 for third, and \$500 for fourth and fifth places. \$1,000 will also be donated to the Muscular Dystrophy fund.

Who is a pro and who is an am? Any USSA member is considered a pro; non-members are classified as amateurs. No two pros can play together.

Entry fee is \$600 per team and the tourney will be limited to the first 32 teams paid. The event will also give players an opportunity to enter an open singles tourney on Aug. 9 for a \$110 entry fee. Housing expenses at the Showboat are modest: \$180 for two rooms for three days (\$30 per day for additional days), payable with your entry. USSA will make your room reservations for you.

For further information and/or to insure your entry, write or call Billy Mays, Rt. 1, Box 117-G, Kemp, Texas 75143 (phone 214-498-2415) or Bill Melton, 308 E. Freeman, Davis, Ok. 73030 (phone 405-369-2448).

Upcoming Michigan Tourneys

Aug. 18-19 — Doubles tournament at the Chit Chat, 22641 Fenkell, Detroit. For information, call 313-537-0338.

Sept. 8-9 — Doubles tournament at the Wagon Wheel, Lake Orion. Two boards. Call 313-693-6789 for information.

Sept. 22-23 — Doubles tournament at the Dublin House, 23906 Grand River Ave., Detroit. Two boards. For information, call 313-531-5590.