

## Michigan Champs (cont. from Page 7)

In a surprise "finish" before the finals match, McDermott and Sunde shared equal honors by becoming the first players to be inducted into the Michigan Shuffleboard Hall of Fame (see accompanying story).

Finishing third in the open singles was the always tough Chris Passariello with Doug Fridley Jr. in fourth place.

The final event of the weekend was the open doubles with 19 teams participating.



*Making it a "triple hit" in the 1998 championships, John McDermott and his partner, Mike Chamarro, took top honors.*



*Doug Fridley Jr. (left) and Chris Passariello took second in the open doubles.*



*Bob Bolt and Steve Auten finished in third place.*

Other finishers were Bjerne Sunde and O.B. Brim, 4th; Scott Auten and Dave Kittles, Kathy Gianokos and Ady Hallgarth, tied for 5th and 6th.

Door prizes, drawn throughout the weekend, were donated by The Board Talk, the Club Car Lounge and its beer distributors. The Club Car, the Sunset Motel of Durand, and The Board Talk also contributed a set of shuffleboard weights to the Michigan Shuffleboard Hall of Fame for their fund-raising efforts. Winner of the weights was Kathy Gianakos.

## Sunde and McDermott Inducted into Michigan Shuffleboard Hall of Fame

There was a break in the action on Saturday afternoon, not only for the free feed, courtesy of The Club Car, but for the induction of two worthy individuals into the Michigan Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. The inductions of Bjerne Sunde and John McDermott were announced via a video salute to each, followed by the presentation of plaques to the inductees. During the video salute, host Dennis Bittner sang "Memories" as the background music for Bjerne, and "I Did It My Way" for John. Family members of both inductees were present for the induction ceremonies.

This was the third and fourth inductions by the Michigan Hall of Fame Committee, but the first for their skills as players. Rudy Stober of Stober's Lounge, the first, and George and Donna Wilber of The Board Talk, the second inductees, were honored for their promotional efforts of the sport.



*Michigan Hall of Fame Committee member Frank Parrish emotionally presented his mentor and role model, Bjerne Sunde, with his induction plaque. It read: "Congratulations to Bjerne Sunde for your many years of commitment to shuffleboard and the many achievements you have recorded in our sport's history. Your integrity, your skills as a player, and your good sportsmanship have made you an outstanding ambassador for shuffleboard in your home state and across the nation. We are proud you have become known as Michigan's 'gentle giant' with a heart as big as your hands."*



*It was an emotional moment for both the recipient John McDermott and the presenter Rob Kern during the Michigan Hall of Fame ceremonies. John's plaque read: "We salute you for your years of hard work and determination to become Michigan's top player and to earn recognition and respect as one of the nation's best. We especially appreciate your successful efforts to raise our sport's professionalism through rules of play and conduct, and providing opportunities for beginning shufflers to play and win. We honor you as a professional player, teacher and promoter."*

### **Thanks From George & Donna....**

This was our first attempt at producing a video salute and we gave new meaning to the word: amateur! However, it was a "Labor of Love" and we thank the family members who so-discretely supplied us with photos of the inductees and much gratitude to Dennis Bittner for providing the musical background.

Special thanks to those who granted us video testimonials: Woodie Cockrum, Missouri; Harvey Walden, Tennessee; Johnny Wayne Crawford, Texas; Bobby Voorhis, Indiana; Balboa Ron Schweikert, Nevada; Dick Gorman, Delaware; Jim Martin and Paul Weber, California; Phil Skover, Linda Stober Humbert, Jerry Siebert, John Addington, Bob Ray, Dick Reist and Ron Palmer, all of Michigan. We're sure the few moments you gave us will provide a lifetime of pleasure for the inductees and their families.

### **Thanks from Betty Kuebler**

There was a big void at this year's Michigan Championships. Last year's Div. II singles champ, Bill Kuebler, passed away on June 16 at the age of 72. Nobody missed him more than his wife Betty, who was an active participant and spectator at the 1998 Championships. She expressed her appreciation for the outpouring of sympathy and support from the shuffleboard community during her time of loss, and the warm welcome she received in Durand. "I treasure my old friends and the new ones I made this year," she said. "They are all special people."

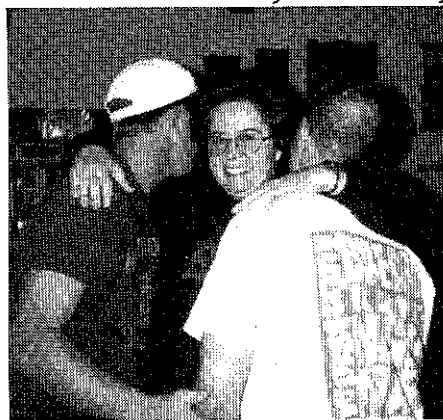
*The Club Car Lounge is a member of The Board Talk's national shuffleboard network.*

## **Expectant Fathers are Winners in Indiana**

The first tournament at the American Legion Post 330, New Haven, Indiana, was a huge success, according to manager Larry Brown. The open doubles was held on Oct. 24 and attracted 16 teams.



*The young, but extremely tough, team of Rick Royal and Mark McCleod are congratulated by their wives, Deana and Shannon, for taking first place honors. The ladies were winners, too, as a baby shower was held for them during this event. (Since then, Shannon and Mark are the proud parents of 9 lb. 5 oz. Alexis, born on Nov. 30. No word yet on the Royal arrival.)*



*Deb Voorhis accepts congrats for taking second place with husband Bobby.*

*Third place went to Mary Brown and Mikel Johnson.*



Rounding out the money places were Beef Camp and Mark's Dad, Eugene McLeod of Missouri.

*The American Legion Post 330 is a member of The Board Talk's national shuffleboard network.*

*(Editor's Note: Gene McLeod stopped in Durand on his way to Indiana for the birth of his grandchild. We couldn't let him play, but he got to see his good friend, Bjerne Sunde, inducted into the Hall of Fame.)*

## **Notebook** *(continued from Page 2)*

Denver tournament. They had moved back to Columbia, their home place. Bill was one of the pioneers of shuffleboard who helped California push forward with the game. There's a tournament there now that you could say is an extension of back then.

Thank you, Bill Jennings, for the great shuffleboard memories and for being one of us. I'm just sorry you can't be with us; we all know your spirit will be.

I would also like to congratulate Woodie Cockrum on his induction -- another pioneer from the past still helping to keep the game going. Because of his efforts, Missouri shuffleboard is alive and well.

Congratulations also to my buddy and friend, Balboa Ron, the Frisco Eddie series author, a great player and another pioneer, although he's not as old as some. He was in the L.A. area when Bob Miles, Mexican Tom, Billy Mays, "Bankroll Bill," Porter White, K.C. Kid, Troy Tolbert, Al Stewart, Raggedy Dan and others were around. Some of his real life experiences are intertwined with the series. He was at one time the guy that all the big-time players took a shot at -- a top player all the way, writer, promoter, supporter, a one of a lifetime. The game would not be the same without him. Thanks to the Nevada Hall of Fame, to Connie and Frank and all the rest of your committee and to Rick for always being there. A great choice for your first induction and a hard act to follow.

Mexican Tommy Workman is now in the California Hall of Fame. I met Tommy in Oakland, California in 1963 at a bar close to the railroad tracks. He was playing a guy there who was The Man on that board. Tom beat up on him and then I tried him two games. I thought I had him the second game. I had a 3 covered good; I thought he shaved my 2 and stuck the 3. He was the first player I had seen who had an awesome Jersey delivery. He was the best player in California, bar none, at that time. Very deserving, Tommy.

I have heard that Michigan inducted Bjerne Sunde and John McDermott into their Hall of Fame and Pennsylvania inducted Jim Yank Sr. -- all very deserving individuals. Congratulations to them!

It's that time of year when we all should be thankful for each other and for the growth of our game. The State Halls of Fame are slowly coming into focus. We now have Texas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Indiana, Michigan, Nebraska, Nevada, California, Pennsylvania and the Pacific Northwest area. The National Hall of Fame will stage its first induction ceremony in Canada at the AN & AF in Vancouver the first weekend in June 1999. Gordy Smith says there will be eight boards and the events will be an ABC Draw on Wednesday, a draft team event on Thursday, singles on Friday and doubles on Saturday, Joannie Millar will be the first inductee of Canada into the NSHF. A well-deserving lady and she sings, too!

I know there are a lot of people in other states who need to be inducted. If any of you are interested in forming a state Hall of Fame or have someone you think deserves to be in the National, write to me or a director from your area. Set a goal for 1999 to form a committee.

Glen Davidson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

## **National Shuffleboard Hall of Fame Board of Directors**

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*We encourage the support of all of our readers for the Shuffleboard Hall of Fame with your input, ideas, nominations, financial contributions, and, most important, the formation of state committees. Remember, it wasn't all that long ago when a Shuffleboard Hall of Fame was just a dream. Now, it has become a reality and we salute the efforts of the national board and all those who serve on state committees.*

## **An Unforgettable Experience for Bjerne....**

What a special, unforgettable night -- being inducted into the Michigan Shuffleboard Hall of Fame. The video, the testimonials, the plaque -- still can't believe it!

I'd like to thank everyone who made this possible. I'm very honored to have been selected.

I've met many friends during my years playing shuffleboard and hope to make many more in the years to come.

Bjerne Sunde, Madison Heights, Michigan

*You are well-deserving of this honor, Bjerne, and we can guarantee -- you will make many more friends. If it were not for shuffleboard, we wouldn't be blessed to have you as a friend!*