

# Mixed Doubles -- No Dipping at Fir Cone Tavern

By Mel Hohn

Beyond Reno, there is a light from a town in the Northwest that hardly ever sleeps, especially when shuffleboard is in town. This town is Shelton, Washington -- the biggest little shuffleboard town in America. When you talk shuffleboard in Shelton, you talk about the Fir Cone Tavern, a tradition started by retired owner Buddy Smith, and continued by present owner Jeanette Hohn.

Anyone for mixed doubles? After the kids are put to bed, that is.

The 1998 shuffleboard year at the Fir Cone Tavern in Shelton ended with a mixed doubles tournament on Nov. 14. This was a great year in which some new tournaments were added that boosted the number of local players. Mistakes were made, but if you're not making mistakes, you're not trying and learning from. We have been trying to get it right now for three years. The way we figure it, another 30 years and we'll have it. In any event, we are looking forward to a positive 1999 and some great shuffleboard.

Action started on Friday night with an A-B draw. There was excitement in the air as players like Loren Lampley, Mike Thorpe, and Al Pease signed up for the draw. As the peas were drawn and the boards waxed, the players from each group held their breath in anticipation as they waited to see who their partner would be. The single elimination event ended with local legend Dick Doak and Dean Johnson winning it all.

The main event started at noon on Saturday. Teams signed up with the hope that they would be the one team remaining after the smoke had cleared. There wasn't a weak team in this event, which created some great battles. We had the pleasure of watching some exciting matches until the five point end which determined the title.



Once the smoke had cleared, it was Linda Steffensen and Carl Roush who were left standing all alone in the winner's circle.



Tina Olson and Rick Gindt failed in their double dip attempt and had to settle for second.



Judy George and Bill Shanahan finished a strong third.

Mike and Hazel Thorpe took fourth place.

Jeanette Hohn, owner of the Fir Cone, thanks all the players who participated in all the tournaments throughout the year which made 1998 a successful year. I think I speak for all the players when I say that we thank Jeanette for the wonderful feeds and the terrific support she has displayed. Her husband takes this opportunity to let Jeanette know how much he appreciates her hard work and understanding, not to mention the fact that she is turning into one hell of a shuffleboard player.

(Lucky Mel!)

See the Calendar and Upcoming Events for more action at the Fir Cone during 1999.

The Fir Cone Tavern is a member of The Board Talk's national shuffleboard network.

**The 1999 "Play Your Way Across the U.S.A" is in this issue.**

**If your favorite shuffleboard location is not included, sign them up now. Travelling shufflers use this listing!**