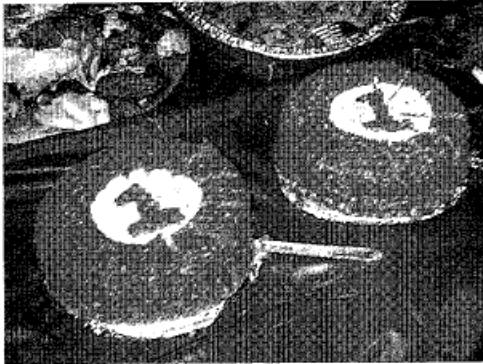


"This year I was very fortunate to have two associates, Sandie Pressley and Jennifer Schmidt, who handled the signups, board preparation and charts," said tournament director Neil Garvin. "Sandie also volunteered to do the sponsor sale and did a great job of it."



Included in the generous food spread provided by Mother's were two "puck" cakes, one red and one blue. The hosts also added \$200 to the draft team event.

"Moving Up" at the Fir Cone Tavern

By Dwayne Dibley

Now that the new, updated system is in place (and according to many, working great), Division II tournaments are a lot easier to run. What many players out there must understand is that in every tier group, there are players on the top, middle, and bottom of that tier group. The greatest compliment that a player can receive is to be promoted to the next higher tier group by their peers.

Once promoted, the player is at the bottom of the higher tier group and needs to put in the extra practice time to move up. The best way to gain the experience and skills to move up is to enter the open double tournaments. The thought that "I am waiting until I am good enough" does not work. The simple fact is that you won't be good until you do. Remember that anything worth doing is worth doing poorly -- until you can learn to do it right.

On March 13, the Fir Cone Tavern in Shelton, Washington, held its first Div. II doubles. There were quite a few Div. III players entered in the event. That's what it takes to move up. This first Div. II tournament was a draw. Owner Jeanette Hohn wanted to get the Div. II off the ground while also encouraging the Div. III players to turn out. The next Div. II event at the Fir Cone will be on Oct. 9, a bring your partner event.



Action always starts off at the Fir Cone with an A-B draw on Friday night. Dino Mako and Paulette McKinney won first place.



They beat Mel Hohn and Jeff Kersting in the finals.



The dynamic team of Dean Johnson and Jim Watson outlasted the stiff competition to win the first Div. II tournament.



Jeff Kersting and Billy Walker came close in the finals, but had to settle for second.

(continued on Page 22)

Fir Cone *(continued from Page 21)*



Third place in the Fir Cone's Div. II tournament went to Alvin Orcutt and Billy Hagmann.

Fourth place went to Jim Thornton and Paulette McKinney. Bob Hurts and Dennis James tied for fifth with Terry Woodward and Bob Inman.

On Sunday, March 14, a Div. II singles was held with 72 percent of the players returning.



Alvin Orcutt (left) came from the loser's bracket to take first place against a tough field of players. Bill Walker (right) put up a valiant effort and took second place.



Paulette McKinney went a long way from losing her first match to take third place.

Dean Johnson finished a respectable fourth. Terry Woodward and Judy George tied for fifth.

Once again, many members of the Shelton shuffleboard community pitched in to create a wonderful feast on both days.

The next tournament at the Fir Cone Tavern will be the Forest Festival Tournament on June 26-27. This year the tournament will be an A-B bring your own team. For more information on this or any other tournament at the Fir Cone, contact Mel Hohn at 360-246-2221.

Notebook *(continued from Page 11)*

place to host a tournament, the Florida State Shuffleboard Association will set guidelines as to what is needed and expected.

We have an open invitation to the hosts and to all the Florida shuffleboarders to come to Central New York and try your hand at one of our tournaments: (May) Honky Tonk Saloon, Sherburne; (July) Pillars, Guilford; (August) The Dew Drop Inn, Waterloo; (September) Moose Lodge, Baldwinsville.

You will be given a warm welcome, great free food, cheap beer and, we guarantee, a GREAT TIME!

Shuffleboarders from Central New York

Seldom have we received as much negative feedback on a tournament as this one. However, as we did last month, we encourage participants and potential future participants in the Florida Open not to judge the Florida Table Shuffleboard Association on this one incident. We can assure you that they feel worse than you do and will take every measure to make the next event a great experience for everyone involved. While a free feed may seem like an unnecessary expense to some hosts, most have realized it is a vital attraction to participants, along with reasonable and fair drink prices. Some hosts carry the entire expense of the spreads (and some are lavish!); others pay for the main entree and depend upon their regular customers/shuffleboard supporters to bring in their culinary specialties. Either way, it works to the benefit of the host establishment. Not everybody can go home a winner, but they will remember the good food they had and will come back for the next event.

Also, as explained in the last issue, our editorial policy prevents us from identifying the host location, but they'll get the message, we're sure.

P.S.: By the time this issue is delivered, the Honky Tonk tournament will already have been held and we look forward to reporting the results next month. The Pillars tournament is listed on the Calendar of Events for July 2-4, and the Dew Drop Inn for Aug. 5-8, and the Moose Club on Sept. 2-5. We hope you all will get some Florida visitors. We know you will treat them royally, as you do all visitors from out-of-state. We were in your area of The World of Shuffleboard a few years ago and we had a great time, plus we've gotten good reports from other visitors.

**Your News & Views
are Welcome!**

**Deadline: must be received by the
15th of each month**