

THE RED BARON SPEAKS

APRIL 2009– Larry Creakbaum

The 2009 KC Shoot out is now history and when I left Sunday they were already discussing improvements for next year. Gone, I hope, will be those little scoreboards you can not see from either end of the table and if you have perfect eye sight only from a few spectator seats. The directors table is to be moved to the southeast corner of the room and hopefully, make room for sixteen boards. Four boards will be in the south room for a total of twenty. This is just preliminary talk and nothing is cast in stone yet.



Back to this year. 125 players registered for the four events played in four and one half days. Ninety six players entered the four person draft for twenty four teams and the same for the AB draw for forty eight teams. Forty five players entered the division I singles and forty in division II with forty eight teams in the bring partner. With this many singles players the draft ran into Thursday, the AB into Friday and the singles into Saturday. The event directors had to make some kind of change to finish reasonably on Sunday. They changed the division I singles from two out of three to a single game twenty one point event. The only thing I see we need a solution too and I have no suggestions is “when does the last event end to make airline reservations”. This is true every event you travel too. We played way too late on Wednesday night and started to early on Thursday morning. Six hours to travel, eat and sleep were not enough.

Not every one was happy, but what is an event without something to yip about. One pro player said he would not play in another single game singles and another pro player will not play in a two out of three. Both players look back to their 70th birthday. Maybe we need two singles events at the same time and let the player choose which one he or she wants to play. There did not appear to be too much comment on the negative spot although I believe it could be played to 21 and mark 6 as the negative score could be put on the scoreboard.

The economy did not appear to be a factor but I did hear airfares were lower than Oklahoma City. Availability is better for both Reno and KC than Houston or Oklahoma City because of the non holiday crunch. Both Reno and Del City are nine days which takes two weekends and the Houston you have to travel the day after Christmas so the length of KC and a non holiday appears to be a good fit. To attend all four would take four plus weeks of vacation which no one gets accept are friends in Detroit and that appears to coming to an end. When is this country going to catch up with Europe? An item of note is not one player from Michigan was in attendance so maybe the economy did have some effect.

Overall it was a very well ran program and should draw well next year.

Back home in Indiana the next Saturday was supposed to be an open week end, but one owner threw a not to advance notice handicapped singles together and 34 players entered, a good showing. The next big event is Indian Creek in Washington. I am still pondering that one. Depends on a roommate and a ride from Seatac Airport.