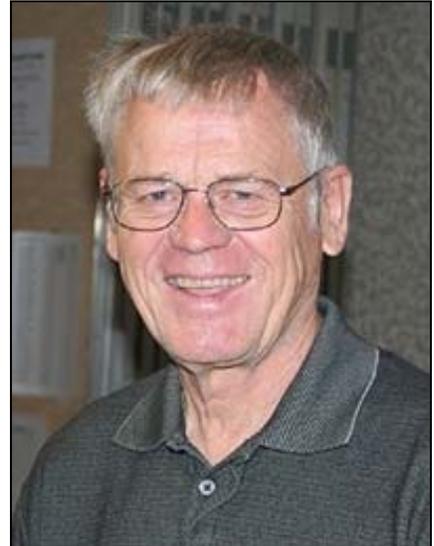


# THE RED BARON SPEAKS

Feb 2010 – Larry Creakbaum

After returning from Houston, I spent January going to Indiana events with the first being at a local establishment with a long time operator who always adds money to the entry fee. The previously scheduled events before Christmas at this location, the attendance were either light or non existent, but things our improving and sixteen teams entered. Five minutes late should make it in plenty of time but not this time I limped in with my cane five minutes late and they were already making the pre event announcements. The condition of the country must be going up.



The next event was held by a rookie establishment operator and with a little prodding things got moving after only thirty minutes late. That is not bad compared to others. That is one thing promoters need to do is start the event on the advertised time. If you have no intention of starting until later, put the time on the poster and stick with it. Ten teams entered the advertised open doubles event with the best rated being a black zero. There were young and middle aged, middle aged being any one under seventy, player's new to the event scene but not new to the game as they shot great. The turnout of local players was as good as I've seen for sometime. But all of you better players stay away and I will limp in with my cane , be a good sponsor and smile all the way home.

Next was a mixed doubles event at and old established location in Muncie. Nine able bodied females showed with nine feeble males. An experienced crew signed up the entrees, completed the sponsor sale and we were ready to draw. I called attention to the fact that you cannot play first available and no back to back on a two board event because at some point the two rules collide and suggested to program the first two rounds where every team played each board once, except the odd team, and then go first available. This was agreed too and the drawing completed the teams were called to play. One player was busy sorting out the sponsor sale and asked for a game bypass which was granted and the next game called. Play began and as I studied the chart and how to redo the games I saw all the games played on one board and dead end on every fix. We returned to the first available format and let teams play back to back and finished the event.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> game with the leading team having 12 points and the hammer the trailing team player shot his fourth weight and left his opponent with two points on the table. In disgust, he picked up his opponents weight and threw it down the board thinking the game was over. His opponent retrieved the weight and lagged the necessary third point with about three feet of board remaining from an opposing weight. As they walked by I said the game should have been called complete with errant shot. I had forgotten my blue notebook and did not have the rules with me and the event had none posted. After returning home I consulted the rule book and can find nothing in either the TSA rules or the Federation rules that cover the situation. What would the result have been if he had hit the weights or if the lag had been short or off the board? Score another point for having a set of rules available.

The next event was a true round robin 1.4 amateur doubles event at the American Legion in Bourbon, Indiana. The entry was limited to 16 teams and they ended up with 15. A sixteenth was entered but with drew at the last minute. No one asked me to play so I watched. Four players from Geneseo, Illinois arrived along with a player from Michigan which again shows the attraction by these events which are possible because of the Bowers rating system and the calendar in **shuffleboard.com** so make a donation to each keep it going. I had left Indy in a snow storm and the forecast for more and so I had planned on not even trying to go home until Sunday. Now it is off to Hurst TX.