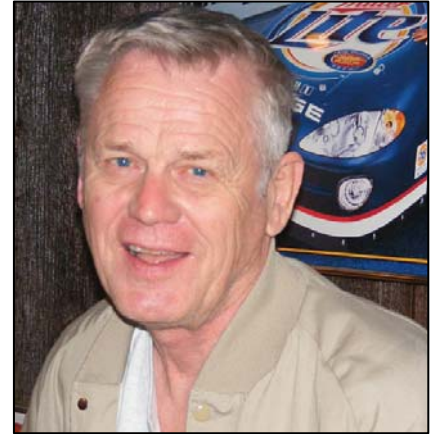


THE RED BARON SPEAKS

June 2008

Now that we have put the ratings issue to bed and it has been decided to stick with what we have and we go to events around the country and complain, lets go on to some thing else. One last comment, I think Ron Bowers rating system is one of the greatest things to happen to shuffleboard. He puts a lot of time and effort into the ratings and if you have not financially contributed please do so. This comes from one who is as guilty as the rest of you but I hope to rectify the issue in Del City.



The next issue you here around the “water cooler” at events is on registration fees. I think most players understand that there is considerable effort to move in fifteen to thirty boards for a large tournament and some how the promoter has to recoup the cost. But at the smaller local events where the facility has two or three permanent boards and to hit the players with a fifteen or twenty dollar registration fee seems a little high. On top of that they have the players put in there own quarters or dollars and half the scoreboards do not work. It would be nice if every owner could afford the newer triangle scoreboards that can be seen from almost any location. Also as mainly a spectator anymore and of limited mobility, I can never find a spot where I can see the score.

I think we as shuffleboard participates have to understand a promoter or facility has to recover the cost of holding the event. The factors involved in holding and event which requires six, eight, ten or more boards are much different then a local watering hole with two or three boards.

When I first started attending tournaments in the late fifties and early sixties they were scheduled by asking the owner if he would hold one on such and such date. The owner would jump at the opportunity because of the increased business. The owner supplied the powder and every player put in his own “dimes”. Practice consisted of getting there on Friday to play money games or on Saturday morning. If a game was quick there were times the owner would bring out a plastic rake to use on the board and sprinkle a little fresh powder to save on powder, even during the tournament. All events were normally one board events. Then multiple boards, practice, players own weights, double elimination and many other factors entered the game.

So as a player all I ask is of the promoter or owner, if a registration fee is charged, make it reasonable or equal to what you are providing.

Another issue is the boards we play on. I am still convinced the one who wins is the one who figures the board out the quickest. In my fifty plus years of shuffleboard I have only come across three or four boards I considered unplayable, and one we played anyway because it was the only board available. So as I said in Reno “quit your beefin and shoot”.