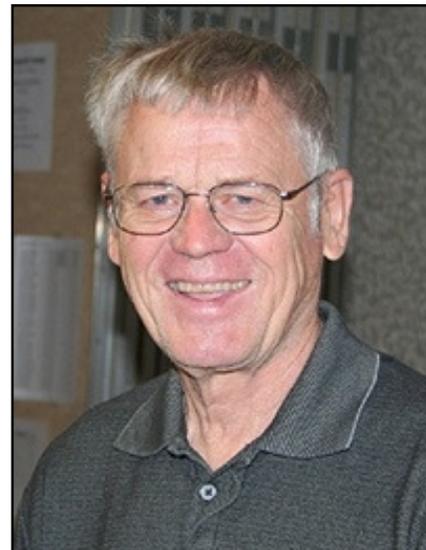




THE RED BARON SPEAKS

May-June – Larry Creakbaum

We arrived in North Kansas City early Saturday morning on May 6th and stopped at a restaurant for breakfast before going to the facility. When we got to Harrah's check out time was 11:00 and we were way too early to be assigned a room. We went to the shuffleboard room to find it still locked and not open. We had a short wait until 8:00 when the room opened and other players started to arrive. I heard the comment made that this was going to be a very expensive place to eat. We were issued cards which would give us a twenty percent discount through the week at most of the places. When evening came I went looking for a place to eat and settled on "Mike & Charlie's". I had a nice Salmon dinner only to lose a bridge and two fillings in my upper molars and have a chewing problem the rest of the week. Also the twenty percent discount did not apply at "Mike & Charlie's". Sunday morning I went to the breakfast buffet and with my discount card "brunch" cost was \$15.36. Monday I went to the buffet, asked for the senior discount presented my discount card and had breakfast for \$7.67. Tuesday I was told you can only use one discount per meal and the cost was \$8.53. My analysis is if you do more investigating, read the signs closely, and ask more questions, except for Saturday and Sunday, the cost was reasonable.



Kansas City, in my opinion went pretty well, as the events started close to the published time. The big time waster is the roll call which except for the draw partner and the draft team events is totally unnecessary. The sponsor sale requires that players be present and if they are not present passed over until the end and if not there by then, can be dropped from the event, without a refund. When sitting in the audience you can only hear about half respond and then you are not sure if it was the player or someone answering for the player.

Another issue is the late fee. I can see the need on trying to get an entry count but it sounds better to give a discount incentive per event for players who take the time and expense to write and mail a check for pre-registration. Then at the event set a time for other entries to be paid and after the close the sponsor sale sheets could be prepared and any entries during this period would pay a late fee.



The boards were good with all being adjusted about the same, although I am sure some out there will disagree. The wax or powder used was slower which I think was a positive. I mentioned a few months ago that I thought boards were becoming too fast. The speed issue made for a bigger difference between boards which is what makes this game so interesting being able to adjust to the conditions.

I heard rumors of some vast changes for next year, but I am not going to expound on any of these until information is published and distributed. This brings me to face book and to why I don't join. I have not heard anything positive that can be gained but I sure read a lot of newsprint about politicians, athletes and other celebrities, some of which end up in court. I also have heard some of the stories going around about me and it is ninety percent false and ten percent fabrication. This is the first, last, and only comment on the issue.

I will at least write a final note when I do, but don't be surprised when I suspend the writing of the "Red Baron Speaks". Along with Parkinson's I am developing severe arthritis in my back and hip. Traveling and sitting on high stools is becoming painful. Those little wood stools in Kansas City were extremely bad as the seat was too small, too hard, and too high, and the legs were too close together which made them unstable. I fell off one into two others, a table and the barrier fence separating the players and spectators. Fortunately it was during practice and the commotion did not disturb anyone's shot.

Returning to Indiana, the schedule for May and June is very light. I attended the sponsor sale for a couple but left early and have not seen any results posted. Del City starts the last week end of June and I will probably attend but have not committed yet. Hope to see all of you there.