

CRIBBAGE WORLD

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1980 NATIONAL OPEN

Something new every year, that's the motto of the National Open Tournament so says its director, Nick Pond. The Consolation Tournament was the added feature this year. It proved popular in that 143 early-outs signed up for the second-chance event. It went over so well that there is talk of a third chance event being considered for next year. It will give the players something to do on Monday while the top eight in the main event are knocking each other around.

Nick was proud as punch when the 256 slots were filled in just 28 days. Over 50 players had to be turned down. This proves one thing for sure, the National Open is the best there is. Here are the results of the 7th annual - and our hearty congrats to Dan Barlow, who mowed em all down....

Dan Barlow	Chapel Hill, NC	\$2700.
Howard Baum	Fayetteville, NC	1350.
Edna Boyd	Bluefield, WV	675.
Charlie Fulton	Raleigh, NC	375.
Dennis Lillo	Alexandria, VA	250.
Maxine Maddox	Wilmington, NC	250.
James Foley	Myrtle Beach, SC	200.
Ed Schotanus	Groton, CT	200.
George Bickford	Agawam, MA	150.
Bill Linehan	Raleigh, NC	150.
Virginia Taylor	Greensboro, NC	150.
Tommy Woodall	Rockwood, TN	150.
Alan Joseph	Biloxi, MS	100.
Robert Read	Jesup, GA	100.
Phyllis Schmidt	Williamstown, MA	100.
Johnie Wilkinson	Raleigh, NC	100.

NOTES FROM RALEIGH

Of the 256 players in the National Open, 131 were members of the Congress. That's a cool fifty-one percent. Our goal next year is 75 percent....

Fifty ladies played in the seventh annual & that's the record number of ladies to play in any of the tournaments since they began away back in 1974....

Edna Boyd, our Director from Bluefield, West Virginia, was the third place finisher and this is the highest finish for a lady. Nice going Edna, we're proud of you.

Congratulations are in order for the former All American Defensive QB, Ernie Driscoll & his crew. They handled the Consolation Tournament and they made all the parts fit together seamlessly. As Mr Kessler would say, "Just as smooth as silk."

Doc Petrea won the Consolation and he smiled for the first time when they handed him the check for \$500.00. The runner-up was Dave Holmes, a young fellow who didn't mind telling you the only time he plays the game is once a year in this tournament. Lucky Dave won himself \$350.00. Arnold Crews and Jim Arblaster, a couple of Florida lemons, tied for third place and took home \$175.00 each. Young Bert Hargesheimer of Hamburg, NY was the (\$250) champ of the loser's bracket.

The luck of the draw paired husband and wife, Jack and Dorothy Davis of Raleigh, against each other in the opening round of the Consolation tournament which was played on Sunday. It was no sweat, as usual, for Dorothy, she soundly beat the socks off her ol man, showing no pity for the older, gray-haired set.

NOTES FROM RALEIGH

Two gentlemen from Raleigh, Steve Chiles & Johnie Wilkinson, played and scored one of the 28 hands. Each had it with the ten of hearts and to continue the coincidentals, they had their all-time whopping high hands while playing against each other in the main event. Coincidentally, they will be awarded a framed certificate to commemorate this once in a lifetime happening....

In the finals of the main event and the Consolation, the players were all tarheels from North Carolina. AND did you happen to note that seven of the top 16 finishers were from the tarheel state? Could it be the home-court advantage? It is a known fact that the troops put up a better battle from their own trenches.

This year the \$7000.00 prize list topped all previous prize funds. Many thanks to Nick and his fine group of tournament patrons.

Congress president, Joseph P. Wergin and Jim Arblaster our hard wroking secretary, were sporting the latest fashion in cribbage wear. They received several compliments about their fancy shirts with the Congress logo on the back with a beautifully embroidered cribbage board. Joe says we're not in the shirt business, we wore them for identification purposes only. Maybe next year each director will be wearing one, so you will know who we are. In a couple of years we will become real elegant, wearing a blazer with a high style pocket emblem.

We're looking for other 28 hand holders. Ol Nick Pond was forever rushed for time and he didn't have time to announce about the 28-hand awards given by the Congress.

PEGGING POINTERS

By Dan Barlow, 1980 National Open Champion

Even the best of cribbage players haven't a chance when their opponents get all of the cards. But in many games, the cards run even, and you will win more than your share of the close games by outpegging your opponent. This column will provide tips each month on how to do just that. Some may be things that have always been obvious to you; hopefully a few will start you thinking.

You're early in a game against an excellent opponent. What would you lead from each of these hands: a. K-3-2-2, b. Q-4-A-A ? Don't get in the habit of always leading from your pair. Good players will refuse to double up on your opening lead anyway, and if they do double up, you risk giving up 12 points if you triple. Ignore the fact that you have a pair.

We all know the advantage of leading from 3-2 or 4-A. If your opponent plays a ten-card, we get a safe 15-2. But are the 3 and the 2 interchangeable ? No! The 3 is a better lead, because your opponent, in trying to avoid the play of a ten-card, has only three safe plays: a 7, 8 or 9. If you lead the 2, he has two additional safe plays: a 5 or 6. For instance, if he holds 4-5-6-J, and you lead the 2, he can play the 5 or the 6; if you lead the 3, his best play is the Jack. Thus, if you lead the 3, not the 2, from hand "a" your opponent will be forced to play the ten-card you are hoping for more often. In hand "b" the safe plays on your 4 would be a 7, 8, or 9; on an Ace, 5, 6, 8 and 9 are safe. The 4 being a slightly superior lead.

In conclusion, when holding two cards which add up to five, play the higher card. You'll be pleasantly surprised at how often your opponent concedes a nice, sweet 15-2....

HONORABLE ORDER OF CRIBADIER GENERALS

For the sum of \$2.00 per month you business people may have your card printed in this column to indicate you are a loyal member of our Booster Club.

For \$25.00 your card will appear in each issue for the entire cribbage year. It will, if you get your check in on time, otherwise your card will appear eleven times.

Each Booster enrolling for a one year hitch will be commissioned a Cribadier General in the Pegging Forces of the United Cribbage World. These commissions will be similar in size and content as those issued in the ever popular Kentucky Colonel program. Sign up now for a one year hitch and receive your official commission with gold seal and blue ribbon.

The extra income will be tagged for upgrading the appearance of our official newsletter. Joseph P. Wergin, our forever thinking big president, says a cover would add a little class and it wouldn't hurt any if we added a few more pages. Ol Joe hasn't been wrong yet, so let's give it a good shot and see what happens. Who will be the first Cribadier General on the Honorable Roll?

A Playboy Enterprise

GAMES

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AWARDS PROGRAM

The Awards Committee presented its program before the Board of Directors at the annual meeting in Raleigh. The vote in favor was unanimous, so here is what is on tap for the cribbage year 1980-81....

A large, beautifully engraved plaque will be awarded for the 29 hand. Such a plaque was on display at the National Open last month & it drew many favorable comments.

A framed certificate will be awarded for the 28 hand. These certificates were put together and printed, however, upon closer examination, a couple of errors were discovered. As soon as the corrections are made these very handsome certificates will be placed in the mail to those who were lucky enough to hold-play-score one of the 28 hands. There were several 28 hands at the National Open but we only know of two, Johnie Wilkinson and Steve Chiles, both of Raleigh. Let's hear from you others & we at the Congress will do our part.

Certificates will be awarded to the winner & runner-up of each sanctioned league or tournament. These certificates are already on the drawing board and hopefully will be mailed out by the end of September.

The best trophy we can put together will be awarded annually to the best tournament player in the Congress and that is just how the inscription will be worded "BEST" in the USA. The next nine best tournament players will be awarded "TOP TEN" plaques.

If an event is sanctioned, participants do not have to be members of the Congress to be eligible for these awards, except of course, the BEST and TOP TEN tournament player awards will go to members only.

AWARDS PROGRAM

Continued

These same awards will one day be made available to sanctioned leagues and the sooner the better. At present the Elks League, Orlando, Florida is the only sanctioned league in the Congress. The only possible way to determine the "BEST" league player(s) in the Congress is to require league secretaries to maintain "averages" for all singles competition. The Orlando Elks is an all singles competition league and averages are maintained, however, the "BEST and TOP TEN" league player awards will not be available until a sufficient number of leagues become sanctioned around the country. Spread the word, it may help.

Members who finish well in sanctioned tournaments will be awarded "Player Rating Points" See story in this issue.

Now you good players, especially those of you who get around to the major tournaments, if you are after our most coveted awards, our very best, the most prestigious in the Cribbage World, you had better make sure the tournaments in which you participate are sanctioned by the Congress. The \$1.00 sanction fee is added to the entry fee and is paid for by the players. Several tournament directors were under the impression that this was an out of the pocket expense. Not so! It sure will prove to be a buck well spent for the top ten tournament players at the end of the upcoming cribbage year 1980-81. The TOP TEN will have the status of our All American Team.

The tournament sanction fee will be an ongoing thing and hopefully it will provide the funds for the Congress Awards Program each year. The more events that are sanctioned, the better the awards program will be.

Continued next page

AWARDS PROGRAM

Continued

Let us not forget the Mr & Mrs Cribbage World awards. This year the honored couple, Tim & Pat O'Connor of Dedham, Massachusetts were awarded a large, beautifully engraved plaque to commemorate the occasion. All other couples nominated received beautiful plaques but only half the size. Next year our distinguished couple will again be awarded the same type plaque while the actual runner-up will be awarded a framed certificate and all other couples who are nominated will receive the certificates.

It was decided that the Junior Program would be funded through donations from the members. Next year our Junior Program Committee, which is headed by Tim O'Connor, have their sites set on a National Junior Tournament with the target being Raleigh, NC. The target date is the Friday before the National Open and so far the place and date look very good indeed. Plaques are to be awarded to the winner and runner-up in each of the age groups (6-8, 9-11, 12-14, 15-17) and two fine plaques for the overall winner and runner-up. That's a mess of plaques and at fifty bucks a whack, that's about \$500.00 we'll be needing for the kids. So send in an extra buck or two when you submit your 1980-81 dues. The kids will really appreciate it - to be sure.

Thus far the donations total up to \$84.00....

Jim Arblaster	Kissimmee, FL	\$20.00
Alan Lichty	Des Moines, IA	20.00
Dagg Henderson	Groton, CT	15.00
Herb Farwell	Fern Park, FL	10.00
John Grygo	Alden, NY	8.00
Dan Barlow	Chapel Hill, NC	5.00
Frank Abernathy	Troy, NC	3.00
Carl Biltoft	Tucson, AZ	3.00

PLAYER RATING SYSTEM

The rumor mill has been working double time since word leaked out that a "Player Rating System" was in the making. Now you can set your mind at ease, here it comes straight from the horse's mouth. Here it is as approved by the Directors at the annual meeting last month in Raleigh. The vote was unanimous, which was rather surprising since the committeemen bickered back & forth for a couple of months over the point spread.

Before we delve into the point system, one must figure out how many players in a given tourney would receive rating points. This part is simple arithmetic, divide by eight; one out of every eight entries, however, the maximum number to be rated in any tournament will not exceed the top 32 players.

Now comes the point spread; the winner will be awarded one full point for each official entry in the tournament. The runner-up will be awarded eight points less than the winner, while third place will receive eight points less than the runner-up and so on down the line to the last place being rated.

This is not the end of point reckoning, there is more. Points shall be awarded to each rated player, as follows:

a) The number of years the tournament has been in existence comes into play. One-quarter point will be awarded for each year. Let us assume this is the 7th annual, there'd be 1.75 points awarded in this category.

b) Next comes what is known as the geographical drawing power. One-quarter point will be awarded for each state or foreign country represented. For instance, the National Open drew players from 26 states and one foreign country for a total of 6.75 points awarded.

c) Now the prize fund enters the picture.. The total prize fund including cash, trophies and other valuable goods which may have been donated shall be taken into consideration. For instance, the World Championship Cribbage Tournament operated by Everett Bey out in Quincy, California, give away prize money, plaques, cribbage boards, T-shirts, playing cards and a \$19.00 savings account. The total value of all the prizes is the figure we're looking for. Suppose the total is \$7000.00 ? The system calls for this figure to be divided by the official attendance = $(\$7000 \div 256 = 27.34)$; one-tenth of the resulting figure, in this case 2.73, would be awarded as points in this category. Note - the playing cards used in the tournament, usually given away to one of the losers, may not be considered as part of the prize fund.

d) Every player in the tournament will be awarded ten points just for participating.

A columnar form has been devised for entering the various points. Instructions for completing the form and calculating points will be printed on the reverse side.

A tournament which does not include some head to head elimination play is not qualified to rate its players. The instructions also include that when several players are eliminated at the same point in a tournament, the points for each position will be added together and then divided by the number of players involved, each player being awarded equal points. In this connection the Congress favors a special play-off in all such instances thereby eliminating ties.... END -

NOTICE - THIS IS LAST ISSUE FOR 1979-80

MAJOR TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

September 13 - Sierra Cribbage Classic, 3d annual. Wahoe County Fairgrounds, Reno. Entry fee \$30.00 includes lunch & dinner. For info: Tony Stempeck, PO Box 11731, Reno, Nevada 89520.

September 27-28 - M&M Open, Marinette, Wisc. Qual rounds on Sat. Single elimination play-off on Sun. Entry cut-off Sept 13. For info: Pete Danielson, 49 Elder Dr, Marquette, Michigan 49855.

October 11 - International Cribbage Tournament, 3d Annual at Knights Restaurant in San Francisco. Free parking. Entry fee \$43.50 includes lunch & dinner with \$1500. guaranteed prize list & 25 trophies. Info: San Francisco Cribbage Assn, PO Box 26658, San Francisco, Calif 94111. Sanctioned by the American Cribbage Congress.

~~NOV-2~~
~~October 18-19~~ - Western New England Open in West Springfield, Mass. Double elim open to first 128 entries. For more info and application write to: George Bickford, 35 Elbert Rd, Agawam, MA 01001. Sanctioned by the American Cribbage Congress.

November 1-2 - Wisconsin State Classic, 2nd annual at Bergets Recreation Parlour in Milwaukee. Entry \$27.00. For more info: Russ Berget, 2107 20th St, Milwaukee, WI 53215. Sanctioned by American Cribbage Congress.

November 22-23 - Fla State, 2d Annual, Elks Lodge in Orlando. Qual rounds on Sat. Single elimination play-off on Sunday. Entry \$23.50 incl morning coffee & lunch for participants. For info: Fla Cribbage Assn, PO Box 565, Kissimmee, FL 32741... Sanctioned by American Cribbage Congress,

- DUES ARE DUE -

Dues are rolling in. Already 100 have signed up for the upcoming cribbage year 1980-81. We have four Life Members on the rolls with the first being Dagg Henderson of Groton, CT, and you know how ol Dagg likes being first, but he had to move it to beat out Marion Quackenbush who was wearing her track-shoes. If any of you are wondering about becoming a Life Member, it is quite simple. All it takes is a check for \$25.00 & yu must be 60 years old or older.....

AMERICAN CRIBBAGE CONGRESS
(Application for 1980-81)

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AMERICAN CRIBBAGE CONGRESS

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