

CRIBBAGE WORLD

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MR & MRS CRIBBAGE WORLD

Tim & Pat O'Connor of Dedham, Massachusetts walk-off with Mr & Mrs Cribbage World title. The popular O'Connors received 102 first place votes which was more than triple the amount received by any other couple. They received votes from all over the country but the majority were from Massachusetts and NY.

There was a major recruiting effort in and around the Dedham area by the many cribbage friends of the honored couple. During the last two weeks in June over 80 new members were signed-up from the Bay State and just about every one a vote for the O'Connors.

What do we know about this O'Connor couple ? Do they play cribbage ? You better believe they do and so do their seven kids, that is correct, seven kids. Even the youngest won a trophy playing in a summer league. That was young Joe and he was only seven years old at the time. Eleven year old Marjorie also is the proud owner of a junior trophy.

Mom & Dad are no push-overs when it comes to playing Sir John Suckling's game. Big Tim won the New England Open earlier this year and he has collected twice in the National Open in the last three years. Patricia had a second place in the Marshfield Classic back in 1977 and she and Tim won the doubles that same year.

The O'Connors are very active in the Marshfield Cribbage Association where they have

(Continued)

leagues and tournaments coming out the ears. They even fly a special crib-flag when cribbage events are in session. At the end of the season they sponsor and take part in a cribbage parade in the downtown streets honoring the Association champions. All the while the dazed townfolk are wondering from what funny-farm these kooks escaped. Fast Eddie Bowes is the parade marshall-for-life, so you know it is an event to behold.

Tim & Pat are also active in junior cribbage which is easy to understand. Kids leagues are formed according to age groups and the youngsters start league action as soon as the schools let out in June and they play right up until near Labor Day.

Tim's experience with junior cribbage has led to his appointment as the latest member of the Congress Board of Directors. Tim has been asked to chair the committee which will set up our Junior Program. Tim says we will have a National Junior Tournament next year for sure; maybe the first one should be held in Raleigh in conjunction with the National Open (for adults).

Our hearty congratulations to Tim & Pat, Mr and Mrs Cribbage World for 1980-81. It could not happen to a nicer couple or to a more deserving couple.... end

MEMBERSHIP PARADE: From out of nowhere, Massachusetts jumps up to take the lead in the charter membership parade. The Bay Staters now can boast having 113 members. Florida & Wisconsin are tied for second place with 54, followed by Rhode Island 48, North Carolina 42 and California 38. Membership goals for crib-year 1980-81 are one thousand members & having members on the rolls from each of the fifty states.



IN HIS HANDS



MIRACULOUS FINISH

It was the third and final game of what was billed as the Bicentennial Higgins Beach Independence Day Cribbage Classic. My dad, Bob Gribbin and his partner Bill Mooradian were the dealers, but were 20 points away from the finish line. They seemed to have a very slim, if any chance to take this game and the title that went with it. The opponents Pat Sesto & Bill Burke were only eight points away and had first count.

After most of the cards had been played, my father's team needed 15 points as my father was about to lead. He had two cards and each of the other players had one. He led a three, followed by Burke's seven, to make the count 10. Partner Mooradian then paired the seven for two points, making the count 17. Sesto came in with the third seven, making it 24 for six points. This put the opponents in the deadhole and apparently ensured them the 1976 championship.

My father had the last card and his team was 13 points away from victory. Of course it was a seven, making it 31 for 14 points and the championship of Higgins Beach.

Somehow, it does not seem as exciting as I read it in this letter, but at the time, with everyone crowded around for the last hand of the last game, it was spectacular.

Story by Peter Gribbin of Portland, Maine.



ANNIVERSARY - Strike up the band, set-off the fire works. pass out the paper hats & horns & bellringers & kazoos & whatever else makes a noise. Let's not forget to bake a cake with one large candle. The American Cribbage Congress will be one year old on August 6, 1980. Happy Birthday - Happy Birthday and many, many more to come.

SIR JOHN'S CUP - A cribbage team, eight players strong, representing the Three Oaks Pub of Harpenden, England will be making the big splash across the ocean to play a challenge match against the Elks Lodge team of Orlando, Florida. This will take place sometime in February 1981. A special trophy, the Sir John Suckling Cup, will be awarded to the winning team. The Three Oaks Pub team is headed by Roy Bentley, a sports writer for the London Sun. The Orlando Elks team will be led by Jim Hodgskin who was recently elected vice president of the Florida Cribbage Association.

NAME DROPPING: Smith & Jones are listed on 100/200 pages in some of the big city telephone books. Just like Kim and Park dominate the pages of the Seoul, Korea phone catalog. This is not the case here in the American Cribbage Congress. Our rolls have listed four people named Smith and one Jones. The most predominant names on our roster are O'Connor and Gribbin. We have 16 O'Connors from Massachusetts and an even dozen in the Gribbin family of Portland, Maine.

MR & MRS CRIBBAGE WORLD BALLOTS - Two hundred and forty-two ballots were returned by the members. That's a cool 47 percent, a lot better percentage of the eligible voters who will elect the president this November.



BIRTHDAY GREETINGS - Here we are, the American Cribbage Congress, just about to turn one year old and as predicted by some unkind sources, we did not disappear behind a tidal wave of red ink and red faces.

500TH MEMBER - Dick Cornwell of Sunnyvale, California recently became the 500th charter member of the Congress. His wife Mary was the 501st member to sign up. Dick and Mary will be awarded free membership for the upcoming cribbage year (1980-81). We wish it could be more - AND many thanks.

ODDS ON FAVORITE - Jimmy the Greek, the famous odds-maker, tells us that English babies cut their first teeth on old cribbage boards and they learn the game as soon as they dis-pense with their diapers. He posts odds of 30-1 that the Limey pub team will win the Cup. Then he pours salt on the wound by making them the 10-1 favorite to hold onto the Cup for the next ten years straight.

COMPUTER CRIBBAGE - Good member Tracy Den-ninger of Orlando, Florida wrote that he played cribbage against a computer. He says it is tough, he only won forty percent of the games. He wrote it was lots of fun and quite an experience. Naturally a letter was quickly dispatched to Tracy asking at least a million questions but as of this writing we have no reply. BUT when we do get the word from Tracy, you people out there in the wonderful land of Cribbage World will be the first to learn what we find out.

RICA CHAMPS - The Rhode Island State League super-pooper play-off was won by the team of John Chambers & Jim Gallagher.

Letters

AWARDS PROGRAM - We received several letters, seven to be exact, pertaining to the awards program. That's the most mail received on any subject since we started the newsletter. Anyway, the writers sounded rather excited about the program. They liked the idea of a plaque "BEST in U.S.A" and where the next nine best players will be awarded "TOP TEN" framed certificates. They asked that the system get off the drawing board and into the program for the coming crib-year 1980-81. They all agreed the program, as a whole, was quite generous.

DIFFERENT GAME - The English, at least in most parts of England, while playing head to head games, deal out five cards to each player with the next two cards being dealt to the crib. Each player then discards one card to the crib. Chances of a 29 hand in jolly ol England are much greater than the odds of 649,740 to 1 in the U.S.A....

POT FOR THE 29 HAND - Ralph Wood of Ft Knox, Kentucky writes that at the National Open tourney there should be a 29 hand committee of two or three players. He thinks every participant would gladly put up \$1.00 in a special pot for the 29 hand. If no one gets it this year, add another \$256.00 next year. The committee would have to bank the money between tournaments. It could add up to a tidy sum for some lucky player. Ralph says it is possible to have two 29 hands at one meet, so be sure the first player doesn't get it all and leave #2 holding an empty bag.

TRIVIA - The Rhode Island Cribbage League has over 50 members, they play eight months out of the year and they have been in existence for five years, and no 29 Hand as yet....

- MAJOR TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE -

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

September 27-28 - M&M Open, Marinette, Wisc. Qualifying rounds played Sat. Top 32 will play-off single elimination matches, best of five games, on Sunday. Cut-off date for entries is Sept 13, 1980. For info: Pete Danielson, 49 Elder Dr, Marquette, MI 49855, phone 906 228-7321.

November 1-2 - Wisconsin State Classic, 2nd annual at Bergets Recreation Parlours, Milwaukee, Wisc. Entry fee \$27.00. For more info & entry blanks write to: Russ Berget, 2107 20th St, Milwaukee, WI 53215. Sanctioned by American Cribbage Congress.

November 22-23 - Florida State, 2nd Annual at Orlando Elks Lodge. Qualifying round of 21 games on Sat. Top 16 qualifiers play-off on Sunday, Nov 23. Entry fee is \$23.50 which includes morning coffee and luncheons for participants. For Info: Fla Cribbage Assn, PO Box 565, Kissimmee, FL 32741. This meet sanctioned by the American Cribbage Congress.

GEORGIA CRACKER CLASSIC: Hey all you hominy gritters from the southeast, let's get the word to brother Bob Read about playing in a tournament he wants to set-up in or near the Jesup, Georgia area during January or February 1981. Bob tells us he only received a couple of letters. We should do better than that. Write to: Bob Read, PO Box 206, Jesup, Georgia, 31545.

- DUES ARE DUE -

Dues are due, this is a goofie phrase no one really wants to hear about except of course, our scroogie secretary-treasurer. But like it or not, dues will become due Sept 1, 1980 which is the start of crib-year 1980-81.

Dues are still \$2.00 per year & that's a bargain in any outfit & it's definite proof you are a member of a nonprofit organization.

AMERICAN CRIBBAGE CONGRESS
(Application for 1980-81)

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