

CRIBBAGE WORLD

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN CRIBBAGE CONGRESS

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March 1980

OUR STORY

It began at the National Open Cribbage Tournament last August in Raleigh, North Carolina. Here is how it happened.

Cribbage leaders and players from across the country, each of them competing in the National Open, were vocal in their concern about the game of Cribbage on a national basis. They were aware of the proliferation of local and regional associations everywhere & they agreed to a man that this was good for the venerable old game. But, they were concerned that there might be a fly in the ointment.

Among the many regional groups promoting the game was the International Cribbage Association based in Gardena, California. The ICA is headed up by John Mixer, undoubtedly one of the finest players anywhere in the world. John, in fact, won the National Open in 1978, breezing through the double elimination event without suffering a loss.

At the time of last year's National Open, the ICA was involved in a vigorous campaign to solicit members and sell stock. This, in a nutshell, was what was bothering the players in Raleigh. They were openly anxious about a cribbage organization which was obviously structured for personal profit. They didn't like this approach & wanted to do something about it.

The result of their concern was a meeting in Raleigh of about 15 players from different regions of the country. When the dust had settled, following this meeting, the American Cribbage Congress had been formed. Its goal: To promote

the game of cribbage on a truly national basis, at a minimum cost to its members, and under the guidance of a national Board of Directors which in turn would be given direction by an Executive Committee made up of acknowledged cribbage leaders from not just one region but from a large geographic area.

Specifically, the Congress was to be an incorporated, nonprofit organization with a definite constitution and detailed set of by-laws. We are very pleased to inform you that each of these steps have been completed and we're off and running.

There have been some bumps along the way, but thanks to the generosity & diligence of those 15 people, and many others who first saw the need for a national organization, the bumps have been paved over. The original members of the Board contributed \$250 to get the Congress off the ground, and have made subsequent donations to cover formation expenses such as legal fees, mailing permits, bonding of our Secretary-Treasurer, printing costs for our new and beautiful stationery, and other sundry items that were felt to be beyond the realm of cost underwriting from membership dues.

There has been only one cloud on the horizon, one which the Congress has had no part in, and which we have steadfastly tried to ignore simply because it was felt that any type of comment or reference to it might lend it credence it does not deserve.

The problem is a campaign of vilification which has been waged for the past six months by the ICA through its newsletter and series of letters to individuals associated with the Congress. Our Executive Committee has discussed these smear tactics, and though the inclination has been strong to counterattack, we have refrained since we honestly believe that the

best interest of Cribbage would not be served by such a step.

We intend to continue with this approach, but it was strongly felt that a brief explanation was in order, in this, our very first Congress edition of Cribbage World.

We have no beef with the ICA, in fact, several of our members have attempted to help ICA. The mailing list for the National Open for instance, which was evolved over the past seven years, was sent to the ICA to assist in a membership drive. Congress President Joseph P. Wergin of Madison, Wisconsin, one of the world's leading authorities on card games, has traveled to Gardenia and has carried on a long interchange of letters with ICA officials in an attempt to bring an end to the ICA's apparent purpose of sabotaging the Congress.

These steps however have so far made no difference to ICA officials, with one exception. The ICA has apparently changed its corporate structure following correspondence with Congress officials. They tell us they no longer are in business for profit, and if this is true, we are extremely happy about it. There is no room for self-aggrandizement in the promotion of our game. Nevertheless, the ICA which is basically a West Coast organization, continues its attack. So be it. The Congress will continue to disregard these attacks and apparent jealousies so far espoused by the ICA.

Following the organization meeting last August, a 26-member Board of Directors was named and a nine member Executive Committee was appointed. The Executive Committee met in closed session in Cincinnati in January and began the nuts and bolts steps involved in making the American Cribbage Congress the most viable association of its type in the country.

Under the expert guidance of President Joseph Petrus Wergin, committees were formed in the important areas of constitution and by-laws, tournament and league playing rules, awards program, tournament and league sanctioning, player ratings and several other areas where it was felt that input from the national headquarters would be consequential.

The Executive Committee members, who met in Cincinnati at their own expense, shared their ideas and concepts in each of these areas, and agreed to personally chair each of the committees formed.

Such specific items as incorporation, membership, newsletter production, etc. were also discussed and acted on. It was decided to incorporate in North Carolina because the National Open is held there and Board meetings would be easy to organize during the big tournament every August. A prominent North Carolina law firm, one of whose members is himself a nationally prominent Bridge and Cribbage player, agreed to undertake the process of incorporation, a process that has been completed. Membership dues were to be kept to an absolute minimum, and the figure of \$2 was agreed upon. The production and distribution of our newsletter was delegated to Secretary-Treasurer Jim Arblaster of Kissimmee, Florida. In other words, the Congress was in business....

This is our story. But, it is only the first chapter. There is more, much more to be written, and that is where you can play a part. We hope you already belong to a Cribbage Association for there are many fine organizations in the states of California, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Iowa, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Rhode Island and Wisconsin. The Congress actively supports this organizations and has already begun dialogue with many of the officers of these fine groups to help in

anyway possible. In turn, we ask you for your consideration in helping us to make the Congress the organization that our founding members first envisioned last August. Consider membership in the Congress, talk among friends and fellow players, and let us know your thoughts.

We also hope that many of you will be at the National Open this year and we invite you to talk with us at that time about any ideas or innovations that you might have in mind. Our Board will meet at that time and it will want as much input as possible from players from every part of the country.

Remember, the only ax the Congress has to grind is a simple one: Bring national unity and a sense of direction to our game, to promote it, to make it truly THE game, the game that all of us already know is the best two-handed card game in the world

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MAILING LIST: The first two editions of our brand spanking new newsletter, Cribbage World, will be mailed free of charge to approximately 2000 cribbage players throughout the country. The third mailing, May 1980, will be dispatched to members only. Therefore, if you are interested in keeping abreast of happenings in the cribbage world, you had better sign-up. The dues is very reasonable, \$2.00.....

BULK MAILING: Bulk mailing rates are less expensive, but there is one draw back which can cause its share of migraines. Bulk mailing pieces which are not deliverable are not forwarded or returned to sender.. So "IF" you have a change of address, be sure to let us know about it tooo. Everyone is much happier when the mail goes through, even the mailman.

MAJOR TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Spring 1980

March 22-23 - WESTERN NEW YORK STATE OPEN, Hamburg, NY. Double elimination with a \$20.00 entry fee. For info write to Tournament Director, 40 Main St, Hamburg, NY 14075.... This tournament sanctioned by the American Cribbage Congress.

April 4-5-6 - HAWAII STATE OPEN, Singles on Fri and Sat, doubles on Sunday. Entry fee only \$10.00 For info write to Bob Herkes, Kona Surf, Box 128, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740.

April 13 - IOWA STATE. At Veterans Memorial Coliseum, Marshalltown, Ia. This is the biggest little tournament in the world and has been in operation for 28 years. For info write to Lillian Rasmussen, 503 North Third Ave, Marshalltown, IA 50158.

April 19-20 - MIDWEST MASTERS CLASSIC, Madison, Wisconsin. One of the major tournaments in the midwest. Qualifying rounds (21 games) on Saturday, final rounds on Sunday. First prize is \$850. For info write to Edward Green, Box 5584, Madison, WI 53705. This tourney sanctioned by the American Cribbage Congress.

MAY 10 - WORLD MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIP Quincy, CA. Singles and doubles. 9th Annual Awards Banquet makes it an all day affair. For info write to Ev Bey, PO Box B, Quincy, CA 95971.

Send tournament announcements to Cribbage World
PO Box 565, Kissimmee, FL 32741.

Send tournament and league results to the same address. Tournament Directors are asked to write to this same address for information regarding sanctioning procedures and the benefits derived therefrom.

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Asterisk (*) indicates Executive Committee.

- WE NEED MEMBERS -

This is right. We need members if we are to survive and continue operating on behalf of the American cribbage player.

Support your favorite pastime. Send a check or money order for \$2.00 made out to the American Cribbage Congress, P.O. Box 565, Kissimmee, Florida 32741.

Membership Application

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Membership card(s) will be in the return mail.

AMERICAN CRIBBAGE CONGRESS

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

P. O. BOX 565

KISSIMMEE, FLORIDA 32741

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