

CRIBBAGE WORLD

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN CRIBBAGE CONGRESS

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MEMBERS PRAISE NATIONAL RATING SYSTEM

The Congress administers to the needs of more than 600 members on the North American continent. Chartered as a nonprofit & fraternal organization, the Congress has pioneered and developed many programs for the benefit of its members. These along with the fraternal aspects of our organization, have contributed directly to the rapid growth of the Congress in the early going.

The most recurring cribbage item before the Congress as of late is probably the new Player Rating System. The plan was introduced to the members in the August issue of Cribbage World. Since then we have received thirty-nine letters, all in favor of the establishment of the new system. Many players have already admitted they plan to hit the tournament trail seeking National Rating Points with hopes of making the All-American team.

Here is a sampling of letters (exerpts) offering suggestions and ideas:

"Recommend Congress members receive rating points for all tournaments in which they play whether sanctioned or not." (Jesup, GA)

"There are tournaments which donate part of the proceeds to charity. These donations should be considered as part of the prize list." (Cupertino, CA)

"The current system of awarding points for the prize list would only encourage tournament directors to increase the entrance fee. Suggest the prize fund not be used in the Rating System." (Goldsboro, SC)

(Continued)

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- "Some tournaments include the cost of lunches in the entry fee and some do not. If lunch is included (a benefit to the player) the cost of such should be considered as part of the prize fund and not as an expense." (Orlando, FL)
- "I would like to see Consolation tournaments (singles only) be allowed to sanction at half the cost to the player (50¢) and award half the National Rating Points. The reason for awarding half points is because in most cases the main event will still be in progress with the better players still participating." (Jax, FL)
- "What amount, if any, does the Congress allow or think is fair for a tournament director to pocket for his service?" (Madison, WI)
- "Last year there were no ties in the Wisconsin Classic. All places were played-out in special matches. The Congress should require that all sanctioned tournaments do likewise." (Madison, WI & Northfield, MN)
- "Canada is part of the American continent and its provinces should be considered the same as states in the U.S. rather than a foreign country when awarding points in the Geographical Drawing Power category." (Regina, Sask)
- "The only fair way to involve the prize list in the rating system would be to use that percentage of the total intake which goes into the prize fund." (Racine, WI)
- "Suggest that the invitations to the banquet on the eve of the National Open Tournament be extended to include all cribbage players. This event could easily become the highlight of the cribbage year; Annual Cribbage Awards Night." (Wilmington, NC & Jesup, GA)

Your suggestions and comments are most welcome.

PEGGING POINTERS

By Dan Barlow, 1980 National Open Champion

Some players never pair up an opponents lead. The two holes they score just aren't worth the risk. The "risk" of course, is the net loss of four holes if the opponent was leading from a pair. This is a good policy when the game situation demands that you keep the opponent's pegging to a bare minimum, but is it always a good policy ?

The answer is NO. If you will examine your cribbage hands more closely, you will see that the risk is not always four holes !!!! Look at these two hands:

a. 10-9-8-5

b. 9-4-4-2

Your opponent leads a nine. In hand a, if you play 18 for two, and your opponent has the third nine, he scores 27 for six, plus a go. You lost five holes. But look at hand b. If your opponent plays 27 for six here, you play your four; 31 for two. Total loss is only two holes. Since you can not lose more than two holes by pairing the nine in hand b, your opponent must hold the third nine 50 percent of the time just to break even. You don't need a computer to tell you he won't hold the third nine that often.

Suppose you hold hand b, and your opponent leads a 2. Should you play your 2 ? Yes, because if he does have the third 2, you can play your 9; 15 for two. Again, you have lost only two holes. Remember, when two holes are all you can lose, that's no great risk at all. After all, you risk losing two holes almost any time you lay down a card, right !!!!

In short, if you pair up only when the danger is least, you will make a steady profit in the long run.

CRIBBAGE WORLD HAPPENINGS

Junior Program Donations: Since the last reckoning another \$52.00 has been added to the Jr program, bringing the total to \$213.00, slightly over forty percent of our goal:

Bob Immel	Northfield, MN	\$20.00
Jim Arblaster III	Vidalia, GA	10.00
MAJ Bill Campbell	Andrews AFB, MD	8.00
Richard Dacey	Bear Creek, NC	6.00
Joe Jones	Arlington, VA	5.00
Tony Koenig	St Paul, MN	3.00

Joe Wergin, our Think Big president, says we have nine/ten months in which to solicit the remaining 60 percent. Joe sez, it shouldn't be too much sweat with cribbage players. When the kids' fun and games are on the line, that is when the members will come through, if not sooner....

As an added incentive, it has been decided, to tender Cribadier General commissions to those who donate \$20.00 or more to the Junior program. These commissions are on the drawing board and should be ready for mailing by the end of the month....

HONORABLE ORDER OF CRIBADIER GENERALS

CG Gordon Fisher	Madison, WI
CG Donald J. Leonard	Sanford, NC
CG Lisa Feder	New York, NY
CG William F. Tuttle	Cincinnati, OH
CG John Luckman	Las Vegas, NV
CG Jim Arblaster	Kissimmee, FL
CG Alan Lichty	Des Moines, IA
CG Joseph P. Wergin	Madison, WI
CG Bob Immel	Northfield, MN

The list of generous members grows longer with each issue. Join this fun-program and this fun group, it's all for a worth while cribbage cause. Everyone will benefit in the long run....

NATIONAL PLAYER RATINGS

The National Rating System is off & running. A couple of minor events from the Mini Trail produces the early leaders in the National Point Parade. The first sanctioned event of the season was the Wilmington Riverfest Meet which came up with 22 entries. This isn't too bad considering this the first try & it got off with a late start with very little publicity. Players in this neck of the woods have been looking for another tournament and when the word gets around the Riverfest Meet will become top drawer. Sandy Sanderfer and Jim Falin, the winner and runner-up, would be one and two in the standings had they been members of the Congress. Third place finisher, Jim Kraus, is a member in good standing and his 18.56 points has him well up in the race for All-American honors.

The second sanctioned event of the young season was the Orlando Elks Annual Peg-Fight which is in its eighth year. This word-of-mouth event will always remain on the Mini Trail, that's the way they like it. The Elk tourney came up with 16 players & everyone of them a member of the Congress. Frank Wise won his own tournament and he is the first double winner since the start back in 1973. Frank and runner-up George Heunisch are 1st and 2nd in the National Point standings.... There are 18 members tied for 4th place with ten points each:

Frank Wise	Orlando, FL	28.85
George Heunisch	Orlando, FL	20.85
Jim Kraus	Wilmington, NC	18.56
Eighteen Tied	FL, NC, SC	10.00

The next three sanctioned events that will definitely change the standings picture are coming up on the November 1-2 weekend; The Wisconsin Classic, Western Mass & the Ocean State Classic....

TOURNAMENT TRAIL

November 22-23 -- 2nd Annual Florida State at Elks Lodge in Orlando. Qualifying rounds of 21 games on Sat. Top 16 play in single elimination (4 out of 7) on Sun. Entry fee \$25. includes Sat lunch. Entries close Nov 17, 80. For info or send entry to; Florida Cribbage Assn, PO Box 565, Kissimmee, FL 32741. Sanctioned by the American Cribbage Congress.

January 17-18 - Rocky Mountain Championship, Paradise Valley Country Club, Denver, Colo.. Entry fee \$25.00 for singles & \$25.00 for the doubles competition. For info or send entries to Dick Graham, 300 E. Hampden Ave, Englewood, CO 80110. Sanctioned by the American Cribbage Congress.

The 3rd Annual International Cribbage Championship originally scheduled for October 11, in San Francisco, sponsored by the San Francisco Cribbage Assn, was cancelled. The SFCa personnel regret having to make such an announcement, however, they hope to reschedule the event in the near future. It would be a pity to see this fine show go down the drain. Help out if you can.

Sierra Cribbage Classic took place in Reno, NV on Sept 13th. No one saw fit to call or write in the results.

M&M Open (Sept 27-28) Marinette, WI drew 186 entries from all parts of the country. Buck Yshinski of Marquette, MI (better known as THE cribbage haven) was the winner & Gerd Henken of Garner, Iowa was the runner-up. These two gentlemen took home the greater portion of the \$3480.00 prize fund. Ben Nowak of St Paul, MN was the \$250.00 winner of the Consolation Tournament played on Sunday.

February 81 - Watch for the Western NY State and Minnesota State tournaments. Both sanctioned by the American Cribbage Congress...

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THE CONGRESS NEEDS YOU

The best informed cribbage player is a member of the American Cribbage Congress. Join the only nation-wide, nonprofit & fraternal organization for cribbage players and help us grow. We need to grow if our existence and deeds are to have any meaning.

Just think about it. Would our All-American team (Top Ten), selected as a result of our National Player Rating System, mean anything coming from an organization of scant membership? No. Of course not.

Let's get the membership up in the four figures where it belongs. Let's double our efforts of the first three months. Sign-up your cribbage playing friends, cohorts and do not forget the little woman at home - though a beginner she may be.. We need them all. AND so do you !!!!

AMERICAN CRIBBAGE CONGRESS

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