

# CRIBBAGE WORLD

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF  
THE AMERICAN CRIBBAGE CONGRESS



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Vol II No. 10

October 1981

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Dick Cornwell of Sunnyvale, California had his computer working overtime last month. Dick is the good member who worked out the odds on having the 29 hand dealt (and cut). He says the odds are 216,580 to 1.

A lot of you folks may remember a few years ago the International Cribbage Association of Gardena, California announced in its newsletter, Crib Crier Vol 3 Number 8, that the odds on the perfect hand were 649,740 to 1. Whoever did the computing apparently quit computing a bit too soon because this figure is exactly three times greater than what Mr Cornwell has come up with.

For years the cribbage world accepted this first California figure as the ONE. Now we have another figure and who are we going to believe ? That is the question. Mr Cornwell has undoubtedly given us the correct figure. This was proven a short while after receiving his letter bearing the odds information. During that same week we received a letter from Mr Mark Steinhauser of Wheeling, Illinois bearing the exact same odds... How about them apples ?

216,580 TO 1

Dick also tells us the odds on having a 28 hand are only 15,028 to 1. He figured out approximately 47,476 hands are dealt each year at the National Open tournament and he says the 29 hand should be popping up on the average of once every 4.6 years. Big Nick Pond's grand event just celebrated its 8th annual occurrence and NO 29 hand had been manufactured as yet. Wait til next year !

In this connection, the Congress recently announced it would put up \$100.00 for the 29 hand. There are two slight hitches; 1) the tournament must be sanctioned, and 2) the holder of the dream-hand must be a member in good standing.

Mr Steinhauser, just for the fun of it, tried to figure out how long it would take to play 216,580 hands. If the average game takes  $13\frac{1}{2}$  deals to complete, and a person played three games a day, seven days a week, 52 wks a year, it would take almost 15 years to play that many hands.

Mark also tells us, if a 21-game qualifying type tournament had 100 players the chance of a 29 hand showing up would be 1 in 8. For a 21-game tournament to have a 50-50 chance of producing a 29 hand, it would require 536 contestants.

Now stash this info away in your memory bank or on a slip of paper tucked in the dark folds of your wallet; to be whipped out only when a know-it-all-loud-mouth happens by waving some green stuff, and bingo, you got your dues paid up for a few years.

Thank you Dick Cornwell & Mark Steinhauser, hopefully we will be indebted to you.

## LEAGUE CRIBBAGE

This cribbage-year was the start of rating league players. That's correct, National Master Points for league players and the selection of an All American Cribbage team made up of top rated league players.

Evidently most of the league secretaries missed the initial announcement. A league player rating system with all the particulars was published in the July 1981 edition of Cribbage World. The article contained a couple of type-setting errors in the calculation "Example" and this could be the reason players are shying away - they do not want to be involved with something crazy... Believe me, the system works. Just ignore the example which messed up in the columns Skunks Won & Skunks Lost.

Thus far only one league has responded. The Wayne County Cribbage Assn ten player league is underway and doing nicely. The players are from in and around the Jesup, GA area.

The Rhode Island state league is back in operation but no word regarding sanctioning has reached the Secretary. The Orlando Elks league is scheduled to start in early November and will operate thru early spring. The Orlando Elks league was the very first to ever become sanctioned and it appears likely they will pick up on it again for the 3rd straight year.

The BoD agreed to rate league players & award Master points for the 1981-82 season on a trial basis. If more leagues do not join in the sanctioning process, it's a good bet the National Master points system for leagues will go down the drain & stay there. Come on now, get your league sanctioned and save the Master point system (for leagues) from certain death.

- NIBS & NOBS FROM HERE & THERE -

Cribbage Bill Warburg of Minneapolis will soon celebrate his 80th birthday and looking back over the years and his cribbage experiences he proudly tells us that in his lifetime he made over 6000 cribbage boards which were given away to hospitals, police & fire stations and to just good friends. He even has a board in a time-capsule buried at the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas, NV. Bill's board was placed in the capsule back in February 1978 along with 39 other items, including a baseball autographed by Billy Martin, peanuts from President Carter's farm, dancing shoes belonging to Ray Bolger and several other items from other celebrities. The capsule is scheduled for opening on December 15th in the year 2002 as part of the celebration to commemorate the Sands Hotel 50th year on The Strip. Nice going Cribbage Bill, we are proud as punch to have you on our membership rolls.

Mary Elizabeth Pendergast of Easthampton, MA joins the Congress on her 88th birthday. We are willing to bet that Mary Elizabeth is the oldest member on our rolls. Her son Nelson is still toting his cribbage board around the Albany, NY VA hospital. Nelson says he has played at least a million games with hospitalized vets. Nice going Nelson and delayed birthday greetings to Mary Elizabeth....

Nick Lewis of Monon, IN wants to bet there are more members per capita in Monon than any other city in the USA. Any takers ??? Where the hell is Monon anyway ?

**DUES INCREASE:** The Congress officially announces there will be a dues increase for cribbage year 1982-83. That's next year.. Change is necessary to cover the recent increase in postal rates.

- NIBS & NOBS FROM HERE & THERE -

New members, joining for the first time during the 1981-82 season will also receive the new rules book. However, it would be toooo expensive to ship them out via first class mail, so we are waiting til the pile reaches 200, which is the minimum shipment for bulk mail. Right now the pile is up to 190, so it shouldn't be too much longer. Then we will pile up another 200 before making the next shipment. Sorry, but we have to do it this way - it's a tremendous savings for the Congress.

A Congress committee will soon start putting together multiple choice type tests for the grading of cribbage judges. Members who pass the test and are selected by the committee will be certified by the Congress as qualified and competent to judge sanctioned events. Framed certificates will be issued to those accepted by the Congress judging committee.

Reminder: National Master Points will be awarded to those who finish well in Consolation tournaments (singles only). Points will be awarded on a 50 percent basis. No Master Points will be awarded to Doubles tournaments where players remain partners throughout the event. There must be some head-to-head elimination play and the tournament must be "open" to all.

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## SCORE-BOARD

**Wilmington, NC:** The second Annual Riverfest Classic doubled its first year attendance but could still use a good shot-in-the-arm. None the less the Riverfest set a record. The pay-back percentage was a whopping 127 percentage which is the highest since the Congress has been keeping tabs. The Riverfest was the 1st tournament of the new season to receive a 5-Star (\*\*\*\*\*) rating. Bill Carder knocked Raleigh, Joe Kirchgassner and Tom Miller, finished 2nd and 3rd respectively. The Consolation was won quite easily by John Moore, down from Virginia-way, who did it by winning eighteen straight games without a defeat. That too is some sort of a record. The runner-up was Jim Arblaster of Florida, while Marion Kerr of Rutherfordton, NC finished third.

**Newington, CT:** The Connecticut Super-7 went off without a hitch and it was the first time the qualifying rounds type tournament was introduced to New England. Word is that the players enjoyed it very much and will try it again next year. Albert LaRose of Esmond, RI was the big winner while Don Moulton of Easthampton, Mass. was runner-up. Don Janelle of Newington and Chuck Newberg of Colchester finished 3rd and 4th. The Consolation champ was Gil Swanson of Mansfield with John Marshall of Providence, RI finishing second...The 2nd Consolation saw Mike Bergeron of New Britain take first prize while Steve Sklar of Bloomfield was the runner-up.

**Reno, NV:** The Sierra Cribbage Classic saw Steve Fickle of California merging from a field of 130 to take the top honors. Mr. Art Golden, the whiz out of Broomfield, Colo., was the runner-up. Champ Steve Fickles played & scored the big-dream-come-true, 29 hand, which was good for another one hundred dollars. One other gentleman had a 29 hand but we didn't get his name straight. Tournament operator, Tony Stempeck, is contemplating Congress sanctioning next year.

**Orlando, FL:** The Orlando Elks recently held their eighth annual tournament. The double elimination event went on for two nights which included sandwich buffets. Jerry Gagnon of Orlando came out of the loser's bracket to whip Jim Arblaster of Kissimmee two straight matches to capture the championship. Dick Smith, another Orlando cribber, was the 3rd place finisher. The winner and runner-up will be presented engraved trophies at a special celebration dinner next week. This event paid-back 107 percent and is registered as a five-star (\*\*\*\*\*) tournament.

American Cribbage Congress Members,

Thanks for your response to our book  
"Play Winning Cribbage!"

For a Christmas gift to your cribbage-playing friends, how about an autographed book, inscribed with your message (humorous or serious)? \$7.95 postpaid.

...and if you buy five books (all autographed and inscribed if you wish) we offer a Christmas special for \$29.75 (postpaid). The regular price is \$39.75 ... a saving of \$10.00.

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Nobs to you all ... and keep pegging!

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## TOURNAMENT TRAIL

**Oct 31-NOV1:** 1st Annual Beer City Open at Tyrolean Towne House in West Allis, WI. Entry fee \$26.00; 21 qual games on Sat with top qualifiers returning Sun for head-to-head (3/5) elimination play. Consolation Singles on Sunday. Qual Pools available with 100% return. For info: Beer City Cribbage Assn, Box 153, Greendale, WI 53129. Sanctioned by the American Cribbage Congress.

**November 1:** Western New England Open in West Springfield, MA. Double Elimination open to first 128 entries. For more info or application form write to George Bickford, 35 Elbert Rd, Agawan, MA 01001. Sanctioned by the American Cribbage Congress.

**November 14:** Second Annual US Cerebral Palsy Championship at Elks Lodge #783 in Marsville, CA. Entry Fee \$40.00 includes Singles, Doubles, Lunch and Awards Banquet. For info: Cribbage Committee, PO Box 1110, Marysville, CA 95901. Sanctioned by the American Cribbage Congress.

**November 21-22:** Florida State Championship at Elks Lodge in Orlando, Entry fee \$26.00 includes morning coffee and Saturday luncheon. 21 qual games on Sat; head-to-head (4/7) elim play on Sun for top qualifiers. Consolation Singles on Sunday only \$15.00 entry fee with 100% pay-back. Qual Pools available with 100% pay-back. For Info: Florida Cribbage Assn, PO Box 565 Kissimmee, FL 32741. Sanctioned by the American Cribbage Congress.

**January 16-17:** Rocky Mountain Championship at Denver, Colo. Entry fee for Singles & Doubles \$25.00 each, Sat luncheon included. For info: Dick Graham, 300 E. Hampden Ave, Englewood, CO 80110. Sanctioned by the American Cribbage Congress.

**February 6-7:** Minnesota Open at Ramada Inn, St Paul, as part of the annual Winter Carnival. Twenty-one qual games on Sat with top 32 returning to play head-to-head Single elimination (4/7) on Sun. Consolation tmt on Sun on \$10.00. Q-Pools available. For info: Bob Immel, 1220 Washington St, Northfield, MN 55057. Sanctioned by American Cribbage Congress.

**April 25:** Iowa State at Memorial Colliseum, Marshalltown, Iowa. Starts promptly at one o'clock PM. If you want to play be there to register between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM on April 25th (Sunday). Singles \$1.00, Doubles and team events are optional at \$1.00 per player. Enter Doubles and Team events as often as you wish. Lunch will be available by Blue Star Mothers. Entry form not necessary. Not eligible for sanctioning but endorsed by the Congress.

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Would you believe at this early stage of our 1981-82 membership drive we have 925 on the rolls. We're growing in leaps and bounds, multiplying faster than rabbits. Already we have members in 43 states, four provinces of Canada, Grand Caymen Island and we even have one from jolly olde England.

Wisconsin leads all the states which is nothing new. But now we have heard from Saint Paul and we are told Minnesota will soon be up there in the running for top honors..... Whew, that's a mighty big order but it can be done. Minnesota must have at least a trillion cribbage players - they'll find more after the snow has melted next June..

Wisconsin	180	Illinois	45
California	80	Colorado	44
Florida	63	Michigan	40
No Carolina	57	Georgia	35
Iowa	53	Minnesota	34
Virginia	47	Maine	32

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