

CRIBBAGE WORLD

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
THE AMERICAN CRIBBAGE CONGRESS



Vol. III No. 12

December 1982

A Glittering Crown!

Cribbage was invented by an English poet,
Many, many years ago.

The National Championship for cribbage
was brought to Vegas by a man named Joe.

Held at the Riviera on the Strip,
On the 11th and 12th days of December,
Players vied for the elusive crown
In this weekend to remember.

Row on row, the peg boards
Lined each banquet table.
"15-2...15-4" contestants chanted
Happily pegging as they were able.

From all around the world they came
--One from Hawaii's distant blue--
To travel far for the favorite game,
Seemed just the thing to do!

For Cribbage is the Game of Games
--This Tournament adding to its renown--
What could be more satisfying
Than to capture its Glittering Crown?

by:

Mrs Grant (Scotty) Rehse

Mrs. Grant (Scotty) Rehse
Las Vegas, Nevada
December 12, 1982

Our Cover

Scotty Rehse is a former resident of Port Washington, Wisconsin, where she was associated with a weekly newspaper. Several of her poems have received national recognition.

Public Relations

Congress activities were beamed throughout the Las Vegas viewing and listening area during the week of the Tournament Champions.

Station KVVU TV-5 located in Henderson and hosted by Dennis Hunt taped 10 minutes the day before the tournament.

Interviews were also recorded on K-DWN Radio Talk Show which is conducted by Ken Stahl and with Station K-RAM hosted by J. C. Simon.

Julie Bookman, a staff writer for the Las Vegas Sun, the morning newspaper, wrote a super feature story on the American Cribbage Congress telling about its programs and the efforts of the officers and directors to extend the playing of the game.

The net result was making players in the Las Vegas area aware of our organization and its efforts to standardize the rules and regulate tournament competition.

Comparison of Tournaments

Assistant Secretary Robert A. Read CG has filed a report with the secretary listing the sanctioned tournaments according to the percentage of return, attendance, number of Congress members participating, and other details.

While Jim Arblaster is vacationing this month, President Joe Wergin is pinch-hitting in producing this issue.



The Judge Rules

Dear Judge:

No.1 When I cut the pack prior to the dealing of the cards, an opponent of mine always picks up the bottom packet and deals from it.

Isn't he supposed to put the two parts back together before dealing? St. Louis Cribber

Ruling: You are correct. A person is not permitted to deal from a half deck. There is no penalty at this time because it is not mentioned in the rule book. Now it is a breach of etiquette but it will be spelled out in the 1983 rule book.

No.2 It is noted that the officials always furnish the pegs for the boards. At a recent tournament several of my opponents used their own special pegs.

May a player use such pegs in a sanctioned tournament. Art Martens, Milwaukee

Ruling: Yes. There are no rules regarding this practice. It is the opinion of this Judge that a person have his own pegs when the racetrack type of board is used in tournaments. This would help eliminate a person moving an opponent's markers.

In order to give the Committee assistance in conducting a smooth tournament, your advance entry is requested.

It makes the job easier by eliminating money handling and paper work on the tournament day. Also, the Committee knows how many players to prepare for.

In case of emergency, entry fees will be refunded.

Chit Chat

Let's get on the stick and sell some memberships. If each person would sign up just one new member, the membership would be doubled.

Ken Lessmiller and Clayton Brotski of Green Bay were given a lesson in membership promotion as your writer sold three memberships to airline employees at the Las Vegas terminal while awaiting departure homeward. The two dedicated players extended their vacation a few extra days.

Ralph Madsen, the director of the Northern Illinois tournament, reports that a \$6 steak dinner with salad bar and no tip is being planned for his March 5-6 tournament. He has also in mind a FREE LUNCH on Saturday noon.

He has another idea to help the tournament by requesting the hotel to make a donation to the expenses based upon the number of rooms rented to players. Why not? Ralph has now qualified as a "Big Thinker" with the welfare of the players in mind. Nice going, Ralph!

If you are planning a tournament, select a tentative date and then contact Secretary Jim Arblaster so that there are no conflicts with neighboring tournaments.

The Congress approved the "long board"--60 holes up First Avenue and return 61 holes on Second Avenue down the center of the board.

If you are planning to secure boards for your league or tournament, obtain a board to use as a pattern, and then find a hobbyist to make them for you.

An expense that must be controlled by tournament managers is that of postage. Mailing lists must constantly be revised and inactive players purged from the lists to stop the drain.

Tournament Logic

With all the tournaments sprouting up the competition for players is growing. People have a limited amount of money to spend for recreation and cannot play in all the events scheduled within 300 miles.

First, cribbage leaders must develop and find their players within a radius of 150 miles and not to depend upon players residing 300 or 400 miles away. May I refer you to the article on page 9 entitled: "Take the Tournaments to the Players". You must develop your own areas so that you are guaranteed enough entries.

Secondly, promoters must shop around and find hotels that have rooms under the \$40 mark. There are other places with reasonable rates. Food and drink prices also ripoff the players. A bottle of beer for \$1.75 and \$2.50 for a high-ball is entirely too much.

This year the MASTERS CLASSIC will be played at Mt. Horeb short distance west of Madison. Choice rooms in this complex are pegged at \$25 per night single, 2/34, 3/37, and 4/39. With 60 rooms rented for two nights, the net savings will be over \$2,000. Food and drink prices are reasonable with beer at \$1 per bottle.

Thirdly, an overloaded top prize does not bring out players. They come because of the love of the game and the rating points. Top prize should never exceed 25% of the award money and 22½ or 20 percent is better yet. The top pro sports pay 22½% to their champions. In this way the other winners obtain a respectable amount.

In this discussion it must be mentioned that there is no place for "skimming" managers in our organization. THREE TOURNAMENT MANAGERS HAVE BEEN PLACED ON PROBATION and if they don't meet our minimum standards in 1983, the manager and tournament will be suspended. Always remember-- OUR TOURNAMENTS ARE FOR THE WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE.

Be Nice!

The Etiquette of Cribbage

The Official Rule Book does not specifically cover all situations and very conspicuous by their absence are the unpardonable offenses against the ethics and etiquette of cribbage.

The only way to enforce the unwritten law is to avoid playing with those who constantly indulge in unsportsmanlike acts such as those enumerated herewith. However, in tournaments one must expect to compete against anyone and everyone so, politely call attention to this list.

According to educational standards this may be a negative approach, but the use of "do nots" is the most effective method to describe these situations.

1. Do not break the seal on a new deck or handle the cards before your opponent comes to the table.
2. Do not fail to follow the riffling of the cards with an over and over shuffle so the final position of any card is not known.
3. Do not deal from the bottom packet or a cut deck without first putting the two sections back together.
4. Do not cut the pack before your opponent discards to the crib. Do not touch the pack ahead of time.
5. Do not reveal the nature of your holding by a remark or gesture.
6. Do not hesitate on the play of every card. Some people hesitate and think even though they have only one play to make.

Think Nice. . . .

7. Do not detach a card from your hand before your opponent has made his or her play.
8. Do not pull a card from your hand and subsequently play another one. Make up your mind which card you wish to play before reaching for it.
9. Do not chatter continuously during the contest as your opponent does not appreciate your meaningless talk. If you must have post mortems after a hand, shuffle the cards while you are talking.
10. Do not lay a counted hand on your own side of the board as you proceed to count the crib. Place it face up on your opponent's side.
11. Do not reach over the board to pick up an opponent's counted hand or the pack. Ask for it to be placed on your side.
12. Do not conclude a match without resetting the pegs and gathering the cards together and leaving the pack in an orderly fashion. Also, be sure to remove your drink glasses.

* * * * *

(If you have any additions for this list, please send them in.)

Tournament Notes

The sentiment is mounting for qualification rounds to consist of one game against 21 opponents rather than three games against each of seven opponents.

The Tournament of Champions followed this plan of placing 22 people at a table, 11 on each side, and rotating to the right until this schedule was completed.

Singles and Doubles

Leaders are convinced that an individual championship tournament should not be staged along with a doubles event. These two types of competition should be played on different week-ends.

The partnership pool which is scored right along with a singles tournament is a good substitute for doubles competition.

In this system a person may pick as many as seven partners to use their scores in this added attraction. The picker pays the fee and wins the entire reward for a combined high score. Permission is not needed from a picked partner to use his or her score in this competition. This system has been used in about seven meets since last September and is proving to be very popular. Partners must not be on the same table.

Qualifying Games

In the discussions during the Las Vegas gathering, leaders expressed the opinion that one-day tournaments consist of at least 13 qualifying games in order to be sanctioned. Several want the minimum set at 15 games. Of course, there must be an elimination series of top qualifiers to determine the final standings.

Undoubtedly, this requirement will be acted upon at the next Board of Directors' meeting.

How to Win at Cribbage

by Joseph Petrus Wergin

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Thinking Big

Take the Tournaments to the Players

Just can't sleep some nights when great ideas circulate through my mind. Here is one of my latest notions and I am enthusiastic with the results.



Joseph P. Wergin

Upon analysing where the players came from for the 1982 MASTERS' CLASSIC, it was noted that the area around Madison did not supply many. So, something had to be done about that.

Several supper club managers were called and tournaments were scheduled for Thursday nights at their places of business. No charge for the space and they would be paid by the drink business. Towns 20 to 25 miles apart were selected for September and October meets and now with the coming of winter, places within ten miles have the tournaments.

We bring the long boards, the cards, and about a dozen Madison players. Here are the entries so far: DeForest 34, Oregon 28, Belleville 20, Pardeeville 26, Mt. Horeb 30, Edgerton 42, Verona 30, Sun Prairie 50, Waunakee 46, and Madison 36. A total of 158 different individuals have competed.

Last year our Thursday night tournaments in Madison averaged about 12 per evening. The secret is-- TAKE THE TOURNAMENTS TO THE PLAYERS"

Souvenirs

Imprinted Libby glasses, souvenirs from the Congress Tournament in Milwaukee and the Las Vegas competition, are still available. The glasses are priced at \$3.50 each or two for \$6.50 plus postage. Send your order to the Congress at Box 5584, Madison, Wis. 53705.

How to Stage a Tournament

Your president is now engaged in the project of writing a book entitled: "SO YOU WANT TO STAGE A TOURNAMENT!"

The experience gained in competing in public card parties since the age of 13 as well as 55 years of conducting tournaments in Wisconsin serve as adequate credentials for editing this treatise. The list includes international competition in Germany, Canada, and Panama.

Among the subjects to be discussed are the selection of the date and place, how to deal with hotel managers, building a mailing list, inexpensive and necessary advertising, how to apply for sanctioning, plan of the tournament, expenses, awards, supplies and equipment, and reports to the players and to the American Cribbage Congress.

Publication is slated for late spring.

PAIRS TOURNAMENT

The Softball Club of Saukville, Wis., is staging a doubles tournament on Sunday, Jan. 16, to raise funds for community recreation. Play begins at noon with entry fee of \$10. Congress rules will prevail.

Tournament of Champions

1. Dwight Van Cleve, Denver	\$1,200
2. Lee Franklin, Aurora, CO	750
3. Norman Wright, Madison, Wis	600
4. Warren L. Bush, Santa Clara CA	450
5. Leo Schwedersky, Lyndon Sta, Wis	375
6. Geo. E. Bickford, Agawam, Mass	300
7. Iris Fuller, Denver	250
8. Doris Donalies, Union Grove, Wis	200
Eight other qualifiers	900

(A detailed report of this event will be published in the January issue.)

Tournament Trail

* February 5-6: Minnesota Open - Postponed until mid-summer 1983.

* February 12=13: Milwaukee Charity at Marc Plaza Hotel in downtown Milwaukee. Mr Pat Flannick, 11017 W. Church St, Franklin, WI 53132.

February 19-20: Gateway to the Worlds at Kissimmee, FL. Florida Cribbage Assn, PO Box 565, Kissimmee, FL 32741.

* February 26-27: MGM at Green Bay, Wisc.. Chris Martin, PO Box 552, Green Bay, WI, 54305.

* February 26-27: Rocky Mountain Championship at Littleton, Colo. Dick Graham, 300 East Hampden Ave, Englewood, CO 80110.

* March 5-6: Northern Illinois Championship at Crystal Lake, IL. Ralph Madsen, 7415 Marlboro, Crystal Lake, IL 60014.

March 19: Sontag's Cribbage Classic at San Jose, CA. Harold Sontag, 3194 Mattos Ave, San Jose, CA 95132.

March 19-20: Western NY Open at Buffalo, NY. Elbert Hargesheimer Jr, 40 Main Street, Hamburg, NY 14075.

April 9-10: Tri-Cities Open at Marinette, WI. Bob Michaelis, 1120 Pierce Ave, Marinette, WI 54143.

* April 30-May 1: Corn Belt Open at Des Moines, IA. J. Crouch, 508 Madison Pl, Indianola, Iowa 50125.

* Indicates latest change.....

The Petition Project

Over 16,500 signatures have been sent to the Postal Department requesting the issuance of a commemorative stamp honoring the wonderful card game of cribbage.

The project is getting into high gear as we have shifted our attack to Congressmen and our Senators.

If you have a completed petition, send it to your state representative. Everyone, and that includes each and every cribbage player, should write a letter to Washington with a personal request.

WE CAN GET A STAMP, YES WE CAN!

AMERICAN CRIBBAGE

CONGRESS

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