

OPAL: *Putting The Fun Back Into Playing League*

## Boomer's Page



### Singles Regionals Scores

It will take a couple weeks for Headquarters to get the scores from last weekend's Singles Regionals merged into each participant's individual player record. Go with the skill level that is printed on the score sheet for right now, unless you are doing a make up match, in which case you will use the most current skill levels.

### Office Hours For March 3-11

I will be out of the office March 3-11 for some much needed R & R. Doctor's orders, really! No Phone, No Merle and No internet. It is the one time every 2 years that I disconnect from the real world and just relax and enjoy the company of some good friends. In my absence, Cindy will be in the office between 10 am and 5 pm Tuesday through Saturday. The office will be closed Sunday and Monday. Any office related questions need to be directed to her during office hours. After hours, for rule questions or questions that come up during league play, please call your division rep, whose number is listed at the top of your score sheet or John Blue at 503-481-0323.

### Goodbye Jim

We are sorry to report that Jim "Lucky" Carlson passed away on February 26 from cancer. Jim joined the league Fall session 1998. He served as captain and played out several locations in the Oregon City area, most recently playing for the Coney Dawgs in the Southern double jeopardy division out of The Coney Island. We will always remember his great smile and he will be missed by many. A wake for Jim will be held at The Coney Island on Saturday, March 5 between 10 am and 5 pm.

### Going to Two Tables

This is not an option, you will go to a 2nd table even if only one team wants to do so. Please refer to the Official Team Manual, page 28, section 10. "Normally a team match is played on only one table. Occasionally, lengthy matches makes it logical to put a second table in action, if one is available. So, if the fourth match has not started by **official League start time plus two hours**, then it would begin on the second table. The fifth match would then be played on whichever table becomes available first. A team is subject to penalty if an *available* table is made *unavailable* for a **splitting matches** situation and it is later determined that they, in any way, caused it to be *unavailable* or resisted using the second table. **Splitting matches** is waived if both teams want to continue on one table." We are seeing way too many matches go into the wee hours of the morning. **If your team is consistently running over the 3 1/2 to 4 hour mark to complete your match, there is time being wasted somewhere. Remember, you are on a 20 second shot clock, 1 minute timeouts and 2 minutes to get the next match started.** Double jeopardy teams may need to put a 3rd table into play if the match is lagging. Let's all work together to keep the matches moving along at a reasonable pace.

## **“Sandbagger”**

Sandbagger: The term is overused and inappropriate in the majority of cases. Absolutely no one is qualified to use that term during a league match unless you are an official member of the handicap review committee, which 99.9% of you are not. There is absolutely no way to determine a person’s skill level after watching one league match. You, as player, simply do not have enough information to determine what a player’s skill level should be. Any one can have a good game or good match. It can take as many as 10 scores for a new player to get to their proper skill level. Calling a player a sandbagger during a match is sharking and will be considered a sportsmanship violation from here on out. The way to keep sandbagging out of the league is to keep score properly. Mark those intentional misses as defensive shots. Make your comments on your score sheet. Do not verbalize your frustration or concerns during a league match. All that does is cause controversy and hard feelings. League is supposed to be fun!

## **How To Take the “Bite” Out Of The Shark**

League is supposed to be fun, however, we all know that handful of players that take the game too seriously and make the night miserable for everyone. You know who they are. They are the players that don’t have enough confidence in their own game and have to try to get you to lose your focus so they can get that edge that they need to win the match. They will call fouls that aren’t fouls, bang their stick on the floor or table every time they miss a shot, talk trash to you while you are shooting, slam the balls on the table while racking. They will call you a sandbagger, tell you how lucky you are when you make a shot that required a great deal of skill to execute, stand in your line of sight, root for the 8-ball to go in the wrong pocket or for the cue ball to scratch. They can be loud, obnoxious or drunk on their butts. They will drag out their shots and timeouts to the very limit. Will not shake your hand at the end of the match if they lose, or give you the limp wrist hand shake. They are the ones that complain about the music, the table, the seating, the service or anything else that would explain why they are not playing well. They will argue about the score, not call their own fouls, not get the balls out for you when you are racking, argue about whether a shot was defensive or not, so on and so forth. All of these things are unsportsmanlike behavior and will not be tolerated. If we could have a referee at each and every match, you would never have to endure the antics of these types of players. Unfortunately, this is not possible and many of these things go unreported. These incidents need to be written up so we can get the problem solved. But, should you get mad? Should you let them get you out of your game? Should you retaliate by sinking down to their level and act like they do? Heck no! The best revenge against people like this is to keep your focus and beat them on the table. Turn a negative into a positive. Let their negative energy empower you to play to the best of your ability. Easier said than done sometimes, I know. But ultimately, it is up to you to make the best of a situation like this. Why are they sharking you? It’s because they think you can beat them. Sad, I know. The game should be won by the person that plays the best, not by the one that can get their opponent to lose. Think about this the next time you run across one of these poor, pathetic souls.

**Have A Great Week!**