



THE OPAL 'GEM' EXPRESS



NLF2014-04
October 6, 2014



HIDDEN (*Except when in parenthesis*)

(somewhere in this Newsletter) are "5" APA Membership numbers just waiting to be discovered. One person from the Sept 22nd newsletter called in to save

himself from disgrace and that was: **Tony Altman** (97208549) who plays for Sam's Hollywood Billiard "Tabula Rasa" in the Downtown D.J. division. Sadly though, there's going to be a Loser's Party of four for you to ridicule this week.

From the September. 29th Newsletter no caring souls wanting to save their assets have yet to come forward. There are still 5 numbers out there from this past week, plus the "5" new one's from this week. So that's 10 numbers. Grab your eye glasses and get hunting or else maybe you'll be seen on the back of the very next newsletter like those silly loser's you can see this week.

REMEMBER, You have only until the writing of the 2nd Newsletter following the one your number is in to call the league office with the magic words "Gimme My Shirt" Otherwise, you'll find yourself in the Loser's Corner for all to see, and minus a shirt that'll go to someone else! So, don't let that happen to you...So get on the ball and get to looking!

BE AN OPAL WINNER INSTEAD 97220499

OPAL: 4 out of 5 in FALL SINGLES REGIONAL



October 4-5 Kolby's Bar 'n Grill in Salem hosted the NW APA Fall Singles Regional with **Randee Lee** 97220285 of Salem, APA League Operator as the tournament director, and **Merle & Boomer** assisting. There were 58 players (25 in 8-Ball & 23 in 9-Ball) that got qualified. All were hoping for one of 5 slots total (3 in 8-Ball & 2 in 9-Ball) to the APA National 8-Ball Singles Championship at the Riviera in Las Vega during April 2015. In 8-Ball there was one "Blue" Tier (SL-2 & 3) slot, One "Red" Tier (SL-5) slot, and one "Orange" Tier (SL 6) slot. In 9-Ball there was one "Green" Tier (SL's 1-3) slot, and one "White" Tier (SL's-4 & 5) slot. The Format was Modified Single elimination.

The 8-Ball format started and finished on Saturday, and 9-Ball was started and finished on Saturday. Both disciplines finished up around 6:30 PM on their respective days.

In the 8-Ball Blue (SL-2 & 3) Tier Board, One finalist OPAL's **Daniel Weeks** of Portland took the long way around while OPAL's **Anna Mixon** from Yacolt Wa., went straight away to the finals undefeated. **Daniel** started out in the first round with a 2-Zip win over OPAL's **Marcia White**. Then in the 2nd round he got wiped by **Anna Mixon 2-1**. Limping his way over to the one loss side **Daniel** took out OPAL's **Le Donovan** first 2-zip, then went on to 2-zip OPAL's **Roger Pinder** to win the backside and gain the rite of passage to return back across the board to come face to face against his arch nemesis **Anna Mixon** in the finals.

Anna Mixon's journey started with a 2-2 win over **Roger Pinder** who had risen to a SL-4. Then, **Anna** weakly won over **Daniel Weeks 2-1**. After **Anna's** narrow escape from **Daniel** she went up against OPAL's **Nancy Lockwood** who she destroyed 2-Zip and the right to set up housekeeping on the winner's point to see who would be coming along to play for the title slot into Nationals. Eventually along came the return of **Mr. Daniel Weeks**. Would it be Summer Re-Run's or **Daniel's** revenge? In wasn't **Daniels** revenge. **Anna** took him down 2-Zip to claim the bragging rights to the very first regional slot into the Las Vegas Singles National tournament in April 2015. (Continued on Pg 2.)



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SINGLES REGIONAL (Continued)



(Continued from Pg. 1) Moving right along now into the 8-Ball SL-5 "Red" tier bracket where it was a match race to 4. OPAL's **Dave McDowell** took the long

Way around to get to the finals. **Dave** began his bumpy journey with a double hill Thriller Diller 4/3 win over OPAL's **Richard Kiltz**. In the next round **Dave** took out OPAL's **Kelly Kent-Micheau** 4-2 only to come up against a heavy brick wall—OPAL's **Steve Heavyside** who gave **Dave's** clock a thorough 4-Zip cleaning. Now "Tick Tocking" over in the one loss side, **Dave** found himself paired off against OPAL's **Susu Migaki**. **Dave** sort of steamrolled over **Susu** by upending him 4-1 and sending **Susu** out the door and back down the road to home. **Dave**, on the other hand, found himself zig-zagging back over to the winner's side to take on OPAL's **Jeff Hiatt** from Vancouver. **Dave** got by him 4-1, sending him to follow after **Susu**, and move into the finals.

OPAL's **Steve Heavyside** meanwhile had started his undefeated pilgrimage by upending OPAL's **Joni Remster** 4-1 to send her into the one-loss side. In Round 2, **Steve** blasted **Dave** 4-Zip sending him to follow after **Joni**. In Round 3 **Steve** kept his momentum going by taking down **Richard Kiltz** 4-Zip and put himself on the winner's point for the Las Vegas slot. **Steve** didn't have to wait too long as **Dave McDowell** emerged from out of the pack hell bent on achieving vengeance. **Dave** came out smoking taking the first two games. **Steve** decided enough was enough, and put the pedal to the metal to take the next four straight games, claim the match, the victory, and the 2nd 8-Ball slot to Las Vegas nationals.



In the SL 6 8-Ball "Orange" Tier board—race to "5" it was again two OPAL players in the final—**Robert Solomon**, and **Binh Huynh** 97209391. In first round action **Rob** started out by taking out OPAL's **Richard Lavine** 5-2. Next in round 2 **Rob** got kicked to the one-loss side 5-3 by OPAL's **Tony Graham**. In the one-loss side, **Rob** regained his focus while OPAL's **Tim Higginson** fell asleep at the wheel. When **Tim** woke up it was too late as **Rob** had defeated him 5-3. Now off to play for passage back to the winner's side **Rob** managed to maintain his good luck by taking down OPAL's **Aaron Platenberg** 5-3. Happy as a fly on a road apple, **Rob** was propelled back across the board to play for the last remaining slot to the APA Las Vegas Nationals.

Returning back to round one OPAL's **Binh Huynh** took a different route to get to the finals. It was none of this see-saw path stuff for him, but rather he charged like a mad bull straight away and undefeated **Binh** began right out of the gate with double hill thriller against OPAL's **John Woolen**. **John** took the first game, **Binh** won the 2nd. **John** won the 3rd game, and **Binh** won the 4th, then the 5th. **John** answered winning the 6th game and tied the match up at 3-3—then went on to win game 7 as well and put himself on the hill 4-3. with his back to the wall, **Binh** squeaked out game 8 to bring the match to double hill. One last game to decide, and **Binh** pulled it out to claim the 5-4 victory. In round 2 action **Binh** got the best of OPAL's **John Blue** 5-1, but then found himself walking on egg shells again in round 3—the semi's—with another double hill thriller against OPAL's **Tony Graham**. **Tony** charged out of the gate taking the first 3 games. **Binh** rallied and answered by taking games 4 and 5, and found himself in dire trouble down 4-2 when **Tony** rallied to take game 6 putting himself up on the hill. **Binh** didn't give up. He won game 7, then game 8, to bring the match to double hill 4-4. **Binh** persevered in game 9 to claim the match victory, and move on to the finals while **Tony** gathered up his belongings for the trip back home.

It was an all OPAL "Orange Tier" final. **Robert Solomon** versus **Binh Huynh**. Two great guys, but unfortunately only one winner. Taking the match 5-Zip, the bragging rights, and the very last competing slot into the April 2015 National Singles Championships at the Riviera Hotel and casino in Las Vegas was **Binh Huynh**. **Robbie**—so close yet so far.



In Sunday's 9-Ball format we had two skill level groups competing. The "Green" Tier (SL's 1-3), and the "White" Tier (SL's 4 & 5). In the SL-1-3, Green Tier 9-Ball bracket, there was just one slot up for grabs. Reaching the finals was OPAL's SL-3 **Ryan Todd** and Salem Apa's SL-3 **Carolyn Burgduff** (Continued on Page 3.)

SINGLES REGIONAL (Continued)



(Continued from Pg. 2) Starting on opposite ends of the bracket in the first round both players successfully made it all the way to the finals undefeated.

Carolyn jumped out of the gate in round one by defeating OPAL's **Dee West 25-15**, and sending her to the one-loss side. Next in round two **Carolyn** duplicated that feat by taking down OPAL's SL-2 **Hannah Gelok 25-15** to send her following to the one loss side as well. In Round three —the semi finals—**Carolyn** was faced off against OPAL's **Karen McDougall**, who had just emerged back from the one loss side, and took her down **25-18** to earn her spot in the finals while sending Karen out the door and down the road to home.

Meanwhile, OPAL's **Ryan Todd** had started the day off by receiving a "forfeit" as OPAL's **Theresa Huerta Mendoza** who was a "No Show." In **Ryan's** actual first match against a present opponent he won a real nail biter against OPAL's **Clarice Burkhart 25-23** to send her off to the one-loss side. In his round 2 action **Ryan** repeated the nail biter drama by barely winning over OPAL's **Richard Fry 25-23**, thus sending **Richard** off to the one-loss side too. In the Semi-Finals OPAL's SL-2 **Hannah Gelok** had re-emerged back from the dead in the one-loss side to spoil **Ryan's** hopes. That didn't happen as **Ryan** successfully took her down in a close **25-15** match contest. With that win, OPAL's **Ryan** moved on into the finals against Salem APA's **Carolyn Burgduff** whereas **Hannah** headed out the door to the road home.

In the Green tier finals Salem APA's **Carolyn** took an early lead and from there just kept building on it because **Ryan** developed a terminal case of "scratch-itis" compounded with a series of just bad rolls. **Carolyn** on the other hand, couldn't seem to do anything wrong, and when she did miss **Ryan** was either hooked, or made the ball and scratched. **Carolyn** won 25-13 to claim the match, the bragging rights, and the slot to the APA singles nationals in Las Vegas next April 2015.



In the SL-4 & 5, White Tier 9-Ball bracket, there was one last slot up for grabs. In the end, it emerged to be an all OPAL final between OPAL's SL-4 **Tina Peralta** and OPAL's SL-4 **David Starr** Starting on opposite ends of the bracket in the first round both players successfully dodged bullet after bullet all the way to surprisingly find themselves undefeated, and in the finals.

Tina jumped out of the gate in round one by defeating OPAL's **Jason Alexander 31-20**, and sending him bouncing over to the one-loss side. Next in round two **Tina** barely defeated OPAL's SL-5 **David L'Heureux 31-35**, and send him over to the one loss side as well. The Round three match came right down to the last ball in the last rack, **Tina** was matched up against OPAL's **Donna Huffman**, and just squeaked by her **31-37** to take the match, eliminate **Donna** out of the competition, and move ahead into the Semi-Finals against SL-5 **David L'Heureux** who she had sent to the one-loss side earlier, but now had just emerged back from the one loss side with revenge on his mind. It was "Summer Reruns" as **Tina** took him down scratch for the second winning **31-30** to earn her spot in the finals while indicating to **David** the path out the door and the road to home.

Meanwhile OPAL's **David Starr** had started the day off by receiving a forfeit as OPAL's **Brad Gerow** was a "No Show." In **David's** next and first match against a real live opponent **David** easily won against OPAL's **Roger Pinder 31-20** sending him off to the one-loss side. In his round 2 action which was now into single elimination—lose now and it'd be out the door to home. **David** repeated his winning way with a win over OPAL's SL-5 **Christine Bonin, 31-27** and move into the semi's. In the Semi-Finals OPAL's SL-4 **Kyle Cunningham** had re-emerged back from the graveyard of the one-loss side to try and extinguish **David's** hopes. That didn't happen as **David** successfully took him down in a fairly close **31-25** fierce match battle. With that win, **David** was able to move on and compete in the finals against "little Dynamite" **Tina Peralta** whereas **Kyle** had to head on out the door to the road home.

It had been a long day of fierce competing for both **Tina** and **David**, but the end was near and in sight. Both were SL-4's so it was a race to whoever reached 31 points first. There's an old adage where one hopes to save the best for last, and this match was no exception to that adage. **David** came out of the (Continued on Pg 4.)

SINGLES REGIONAL (Continued)

9 gate and built up an early lead against **Tina**. **David** steadily built upon the lead throughout the first few racks. Then slow and methodically **Tina** picked and picked away at that lead slowly and methodically etching herself closer and closer until it got down to the next to the last rack. At that point **David** was on the hill comfortably confident, and at 30 points when **Tina** blasted a shot that happened to legally pocket not only two numbered balls, but the two point 9-Ball as well—a total of 4 points on just one shot!

That spectacular shot brought the match to 30 (**David**) to 29 for (**Tina**) with **Tina** Breaking. **Tina** blasted the rack and made a ball —match now 30-30 double hill..! **Tina**, was then faced with a difficult lay of the table to where she was hooked on the 1-Ball which was way down table. She tried to pass by the 9-Ball to kick off the side rail and hit the 1-Ball, but clipped the 9-Ball with the cue ball on the way by giving up Ball in Hand to **David**. With ball in hand **David** placed the Cue Ball down on the table, and then carefully stroking—shot the 1-Ball into the side pocket to win the match 31-30. Folks it just doesn't get any closer then that. With that underwear changing win—**David Starr** claimed the 5th overall, and last 9-Ball slot into the Singles Nationals in Las Vegas along with all the bragging rights, and the title of 2014 Fall White Tier 9-Ball Fall Regional Champion.



Special Thanks to **Corky Kyle, Kevin, Crys, & Staff** for being such gracious and generous hosts for this event. The tables were all in great shape, the food was great, and there was plenty of cold liquid refreshment to be had! Also Kudos' and gratitude's to Referee's: **Lonnie Knotts**, and **Glen Shoup** who gave up their weekend to officiate.

REMEMBER—If you want to participate and possibly get a chance to win your way into the Nationals Singles Championship in April 2015. you will only have until November 30 (That's Only about 6 weeks away) to get qualified for the Spring regional coming in February 2015.



Submitted By:
Jim Elphick



THE LOSER'S CORNER

The four persons listed below are "Losers" from the Sept 30th Newsletter. If you happen to see these individuals, give 'em your best razzing. And don't forget to give 'em the old "L" sign,—while thanking 'em for leaving a shirt in the box—possibly just for you!

- 1—STEPHEN KERNER (97207668) who plays for Underground's "**Bench Warmers**" in TPM-West division
- 2—KRISTI APPERSON (97215490) who plays for Ickabod's "**Rack 'Em Amadeus**" in Western 9-Ball Div.
- 3—JACOB BAKER (97220477) who plays for Tik Tok's "**Crocodelli's**" in the Midnight D.J. Division.
- 4—JESSICA STURM (97219207) who plays for Touche's "**Can't Touch This**" in the Central 9-Ball Div.

If you don't want to be caught here for everyone to see, then look to see if your number isn't hidden somewhere.

REMEMBER, it is possible for your number to come up at anytime. Therefore, pay attention to 97200006 detail, **READ THE NEWSLETTER..!**

