



TSA HOF NOMINATION HISTORY ATTACHMENT FOR DICK GORMAN

Personal History:

- Dick Gorman - Born over 77 years ago – Born: August 25, 1928
- Resided in Wilmington, Delaware all his life except for a few short times in Phoenix City, Alabama (some might remember Fort Benning, Georgia) and New York City.
- Enlisted in the U.S. Army – served in Italy with 88th Division and was discharged as Staff Sergeant from World War II.
- Enrolled and graduated from the University of Delaware where he participated and lettered in varsity sports.
- After graduation went to work for DuPont Company and retired early at age 55 as a middle manager of a large department.
- During early career and unknown at Dupont became a professional racecar driver NASCAR, ARDC under the name of Dick Kelly. Retired from driving in 1958.
- Joined the JAYCEE'S and became very involved winning several National Honors including "Outstanding National New Jaycee of the Year" competing with about 35,000.
- Started and operated his own real estate investment company in 1959 and operated it as a side business venture for about 30 years.
- Family – wife, Connie and two sons, Mike and Glenn. Two daughter-in-laws Carol and Pam and six grandchildren ages 5- 12 including a pair of twins. Dick and his wife love to travel and have been to over 100 foreign countries.

Shuffleboard History:

- Played Horse Collar in Wilmington bars for several years. Got pretty lucky and wanted to play more competitive. Found a travel team in Chesapeake City, Maryland called "Taproom" and they invited him to play on their team. Played there for 5 years – last 3 as captain. The board was sold and he moved to the Beachcomber Team and captained their team for 2 years (still in the same travel league).
- Then he went to his first tournament (local) at Rendezvous Inn and his partner was Nick Lutsesky and they took first place.
- After Beachcomber shut down he went to play for Nelson Renzo's Team at the Lafayette Inn and was captain.

Lafayette Inn wanted to have its own tournament – one board. He entered with partner, John Lukas, and won it. After the tournament they all thought it was a great idea, but realized they needed more boards and more organization. Agreed with Nelson Renzo that Dick would try to organize another tournament if he could get another board.

To organize it Dick went to a tournament the Eastern Shore League held for its members run by the ever-remembered “Scratch Todd” and saw his first “calcutta auction.” He realized it was a must to provide additional incentive. Began planning – went to every place that he could find with a shuffleboard, particularly leagues and handed out flyers. The interest seemed to be growing, but they needed another board. They finally found a donor who said they could move his board on a Wednesday if it was returned the following Monday. They also found another person about 3 miles away that said they would use his board if Nelson provided the food for his place. They were ready to go with big plans and 3 boards.

First, the guy 3 miles away changed his mind. So one board was gone. The same day, Tuesday, before the tournament and we expected about 30-40 people and the second place that offered to loan their board backed out. Here they were – their first tournament – way too many people for a double elimination tournament and only one board. On Wednesday they located a board that was down to bare wood and made a deal with the owner to have his board refinished after the tournament if he would loan it to them.

So it was on Thursday that Nelson, a driver of a rollback and Dick went to the bar (which was closed) to get the board. They had no equipment except desire and hadn't ever moved a board. They couldn't get it out of the building. They stood outside and asked every male person they saw if they would help them – never talked to so many people with bad backs. Finally in desperation, went to a furniture store and got some of their employees to help them. Took the board to Lafayette Inn, got some paste wax and a high speed buffer and burned the wax in for a whole day. Finally at 3 pm Friday you could throw a weight, not very fast, but the tournament was to start. The tournament was great, the crowd was great and they had learned a lot. It was the first time anybody had been to a tournament with more than one board in the area.

Two boards were purchased (probably for less than \$300 each) for the next tournament. Now they were up to 3 boards and a bigger crowd. Finally within one year they had 4 boards including a brand new “PLAYFAIR” and sell out crowds. So they had maximum number of entries paid with a paid waiting list. If you didn't arrive on time someone on the waiting list substituted for you.

The formula was a success. Total payouts were averaging between 10 and 15 thousand dollars per weekend and holding crowds of over 100 people from Friday afternoon through Sunday night. It wasn't long and other bar owners wanted to have tournaments also. Dick told them his philosophy was that he would help anybody as long as their schedule did not conflict and they must have someone available to learn and work with him. Dick said, “If I get run over by a truck the tournaments had to continue. Otherwise, my efforts were for nothing.” They also

had to have a minimum of two boards with plans how they could add a third. The program was a success and he started tournaments at 8 different places. Within a year some places had as many as 4 and 5 boards. There were far too many tournaments on the east coast. The crowds stayed up and they had representatives from 9 –12 states including Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio besides the East Coast.

- With interest still running high they decided to have a national tournament. Dick had gone to Harvey Comer, owner of Harvey's Place in Street, Maryland who had four boards and got 3 more boards and put them in another bar Harvey owned nearby. So with 7 boards and two radio-controlled shuttle buses to transport the players – a one-week tournament was scheduled. With players from 14 states participating, the 11th Annual Board Talk Tournament was held.
- Dick has been assisting others besides Harvey's Place ever since, but most importantly many of the places where he assisted have remained in the tournament business and have grown.
- At one time Dick developed a point system that was placed into effect for several years. However, it was abandoned after about 5 years – it worked, but it was heavily labor intensified. Hats off to the **Bowers Rating System** – we need something and it appears that it provides the best we have for now. Dick has always been a big supporter and promoter of the Bowers Rating System and in every tournament results write-up always mentioned that the Bowers Rating System is crucial for holding tournaments with competitive skill matches, giving all a chance to learn and maintain interest in improving and continuing to expand shuffleboard to new players each year.
- Who has been the most influential? Two particular people were constantly behind and encouraging Dick, such as Don Casula and John Lukas. They were always there encouraging Dick and giving him new ideas. When he needed advice or what to do about difficult tournament decisions he always went to even tempered "Scratch Todd."

In order to economically make it Dick started a shuffleboard supply business that has been successful on the East Coast. This helped pay for all the traveling and cost of flyers.

- One of the biggest contributors to the success of tournaments was "**The Board Talk**" thanks to Donna & George Wilber, The Board Talk founders/publishers until 2000. Dick was always a firm and dedicated supporter and promoter of The Board Talk in the early years with George & Donna Wilber and 2000-2005 when Tom & Lynda French were Editors/Publishers (after George & Donna retired). He was awarded for this contribution at the first Board Talk Open tournament in Las Vegas with the Board Talk Promoter/Supporter Award for his dedication and promotion of shuffleboard and The Board Talk from inception!

- Dick also received the prestigious Sol Lipkin Award for his global promotion and support of shuffleboard on in Reno, Nevada. This is one of the highest honors/awards that is given to shuffleboard players and promoters.

But most importantly, he receives the help in making all of the tournaments and his shuffleboard business a success with his present shuffleboard partner, Wendy Davis. Not only can she play shuffleboard (look at the “Bowers Ratings” – better than his), but she understands the game and runs his shuffleboard business while he is traveling around the world. She is great on the computer and bails him out all the time. He says he couldn’t do it without her!

Dick has been a Captain, Co-Captain or player In the Cecil/Harford County league for many, many years. Some of the teams include Lafayette Inn, Harvey’s, Harvey Jr’s, Market Street Cafe, Beachcomber and the Taproom.

He also has played for several years in the Eastern Delaware (Philadelphia, PA) Shuffleboard League. Some of the teams there include McFadden’s, Callahan’s, and has played the last 2 years for Tommy’s in Upper Darby.

He still loves the game and enjoys the fellowship of his many shuffler friends across the nation.

Dick has supported and promoted this game for many years which is reflected not only in his accomplishments contributing to the great growth of the sport in the Northeast, but also on a global scale as reflected in his Sol Lipkin and The Board Talk prestigious awards. This special one-time award was presented to those that promoted The Board Talk from inception until closure in 2005 and was presented to Dick during a special ceremony held in Las Vegas at the 1st Annual Board Talk Open Tournament (2002)

We, the petitioners, are submitting this Table Shuffleboard Association (TSA) nomination package for the TSA Directors to consider. We feel that Dick Gorman definitely most deserves to be considered as a potential inductee as a “Promoter” of the game of shuffleboard across the country for many years of dedicated efforts. Even after having several major surgeries (including cornea implants), he continues to be a dedicated supporter in an all aspects.

Thanking all concerned in advance for your review and consideration in induction of Dick Gorman into the TSA Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

Petitioners

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