Some Thoughts from the President of the Zephyrhills Shuffleboard Club. David Earle.

DEMONSTRATING LEADERSHIP

The facilities at the ZSC have improved tremendously since April of 2007. It is amazing what a few dollars and a very few dedicated members have been able to accomplish. All the courts have been resurfaced using local talent (George Darwin et al), new washroom facilities built, a patio added plus a very general sprucing up all over. Visitors will no doubt be surprised with the changes already in place.

The next step will be to articulate a vision for the future. I believe that with the enthusiasm and support of the membership we will build a mecca for shuffleboard competition here in Zephyrhills. To do that we will need more funding and enormous input from the entire membership. I do expect that with the input of Earl Ball, Henry Strong and other active tournament players we will attract more District and State Tournaments. Efforts are underway to prepare a formal plan for making all 16 courts fully playable in almost any weather.

All this activity will be a challenge for the Board of ZSC.
David Earle, President 2007 11 05.

The Really Good Players!! Demonstrating Humility

Earl Ball and Wilber Estes have each contributed much to The Shuffler including some thoughts on what makes a good shuffleboard player...dogged determination, eagle eyes to watch the scoreboard, a love of the road so you will travel untold hours to play, the desire to play anyone better than yourself, and attention to detail, as examples. But one thing that they don't mention is an incredible memory especially adapted to shuffleboard. Have you noticed how Earl, or George Darwin, or Glen Peltier among others, can recall almost every shot from an exciting match played last year, or the year before, or .....And they're not just blowing smoke because on occasion I was getting the 'lesson'. Pity I can't even remember who was my partner for that last tournament!!!

David Earle @ gkearle@hotmail.com  2007 05 30

WOW!! WHAT A FINISH!! (Hawthorne, FL) DEMONSTRATING PLAYING ABILITY!

If you weren't there you really missed it! Grisly old veteran, Paul Prescott playing like a hungry young kid and the up and comer, who surely is up there now, David Earle, put on a show to see in winning the Hawthorne Championship making everyone there as proud as can be.

They took on the FSA’s top show in Stan Williamson and Earl Ball and won the 1st and 3rd games by the narrowest of margins. In game one, Stan had the winning block on the board but couldn’t cover it well enough to keep Paul from running the alley and not only getting it off but scoring an absolutely necessary block as well. At the foot David stuck on a hide block and Earl got one half hidden but David got it off and stayed on the board forcing Earl to play a hit and roll behind the hide which he did but didn’t get David’s block off. David, facing game on the board,
not so calmly made his hammer for victory! Game three was another nail bitter as Stan and Earl came roaring back from a huge deficit. Stan tried all the tricks to get two blocks from 55 but cagey old Paul would have none of it and just to top it off got one hidden to move into the 60’s. Stan calmly put one dead center in the ten for 65, giving Earl one last chance at victory. David, who pulled a stunning two block trick at Bradenton a couple weeks ago for a major upset would have none of Earl’s tricks for two blocks so Earl put his 3rd shot on the center line forcing David to leave the ten open or give up a winning double, Earl picked that time to come up short, by a hair missing the ten. Paul worked Stan up around the point giving him no chance at a kitchen and with his hammer made a double 10-8 by a hair for victory, Rob Robinson’s “bleacher bums” went wild as did David but grisly old veteran, Paul acted as he should, just like he’d been there before!
Earle Ball. 2008 Dec