

OPINION: “Women Push Women Back 50 Years”

This should be the news headline in today's papers. "Women push Women back 50 years" Today, members who attended a special meeting at the Betmar Shuffle club to determine the format for a future National tournament from an "Any Doubles" to the old and tired "Men's and Ladies" separate tournament format, voted to approve the latter. The meeting was attended by the promoter for the change as well as other ladies, whose primary reason given for wanting the change was that they cannot compete with men, and that men are better than women which gives them lesser chance of making "points" towards the association point system. The democratic system worked for these ladies, but in this writer's opinion, sets womanhood backwards and sets a cheap precedence of earning (?) points as there is obviously much less competition amongst women than there has ever been for men. Even more amazing is we're talking about a June tournament when the majority of shufflers are not here in Florida. And, beyond that, those making the motion as well as carrying the 2/3 necessary to get the vote, are not here in the month of June and have no intention of playing in the subject tournament. Well, that's politics and the power of lobbyists. We'll just have to wait and see how much damage is done as a result of this action.

This subject has come up before and I just can't get my mind around the concept as it relates to the game of shuffleboard. Women beat men every day, every tournament where men and women do play together we have women beating men regularly. Why this particular tournament? Someone tell me - I can't figure it out based on honest evaluation. Florida State

tournaments are largely the Men/ladies format. These tournaments have roughly twice as many men players as women players, making it much harder for men to earn points than women due to the size of the field of competitors. So, a man with 50 points had to work a lot harder than a woman with 50 points. Many of these State tournaments only draw 11-12 teams, ensuring that 80% of the women go home with these sacred "points" because they showed up. The more I look into this, the more I see "Hollow Victories"... If I would accumulate a Bazillion points and have little competition - I really don't have anything nor do I want it that way..... If I get a win against a large field that includes the best out there, Men or Women, I've got something. The "Any Doubles" format does change the odds of winning points for women, but also changes the odds of winning for the men due to the increased number of players in the field. That may explain the small number of men who supported the women's vote. I can only come to the conclusion that the people who agree with this change in format are being selfish and self centered, it's my way or the highway, I'll cry if I don't get a win; they want "points" but want to control the weaker players into submission so the stronger ones can clean up and go home with those earned (?) points. I'm sorry girls, but there are those among you who claim they feel weak and timid when it comes to playing against men. This women's group has a handful of leaders pulling the other women down and they apparently revel in those hollow victories and points they have accumulated. **Those out there who play in the Central District tournaments and win points should be proud - you're the strong ones and you'll continue to do well. Watch out ladies though, when you play for the State and National points. If you win, what did you actually win? - You only beat up a bunch of helpless women.... Beat a man and other top women like you did in the District and you've got something.**

Back to the vote. What this vote means is that the Betmar club will submit a request to National to change the format for June 2011 from an Any Doubles to a Men's and Ladies tournament. June 2010 will still be Any Doubles. It will then be up to National to either accept or deny the request. That will be an interesting discussion, if in fact it gets discussed. The majority of Nationals are already Men/Ladies. Florida already has M/L tournaments, and this is the only one that's different and only one of two like this nationally. Rumors were around that the women would boycott the June tournament if they didn't get their way. What difference does that really make if you can't compete with men? I just hope that truly, the rumors were false for the sake of our sport. We'll see in June 2010. If the women don't show who have in the past, I would call that a boycott. I would also say if that happens, that I have drastically underestimated my faith in most of the women out there. I believe the vast majority of you feel you can play against men and that you'll see this for what is - A selfish attempt to get points from the weaker players and small numbers.

I know I've just made some women very mad at me, (probably some men too) but, I also know I've got a lot of support, men and women..... Thanks.... Terry (Rainwater) 2009-11-08