

FOUR DEAD

Official Newsletter of the Idaho Horseshoe Pitcher's Association

Volume XX, # 1

Winter 2009

President's Message

Hope your Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years were pleasant and filled with good memories. I had a great time with family and friends.

I am still trying to figure out all that I need to do as your President but am sure it will come to me as the time passes. I really feel overwhelmed at times but because of my love of horseshoe pitching, I am willing to do what I can to promote it and to make it better for everyone.

My comments and message for this 2009 season will be directed at what we can do to help promote and make our clubs and the State Association better and bring our decreasing membership numbers up.

I would like to propose that all current members invite at least one new person to every tournament this next year. Talk to family, friends and neighbors and show them the fun and enjoyment we all have competing together at our tournaments. I would like to see each club support other club's tournaments the best we can and within each of our own budgets. Hopefully gas prices will hold under \$2 which should help each of us with our travel costs.

I would also like to propose that each club have some sort of Youth program that promotes horseshoes as a healthy and fun activity. Have some fun clinics that will help teach kids the rules and the skills to play horseshoes.

The last thing is to get each of our clubs together in the goal to have everyone in the club share in the responsibilities of the club and management of the affairs like the holding and running of sanctioned tournaments during the summer. It is really hard if we all just let one or two people carry the burden of managing the clubs and organizing tournaments. If we all do one thing and do it to the best of our abilities, our clubs will grow and the sport of horseshoe pitching will live on forever.

See ya on the courts!

Brian J Poole
ISHPA President

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Regional Director Message:

Dave informs all tournament directors that the patches and certificates will sent out sometime in March.

Good Pitchin in 09,
David Spears
Idaho R.D.

* * *

Secretary Sez

The membership for the ISHPA ended the year of 2008 at 115, a loss of 6 from the 2007 numbers. This represents a decrease of 5% and is the 5th consecutive year of lower membership in Idaho. The tournament attendance is also way down and both may be a factor of the economy and gas prices. To make matters worse, the NHPA raised the national dues by \$5.00 which in turn raises the Idaho membership cost to \$25.00 per year. It is time we reversed the downward trend of our membership. Horseshoe pitching is still a very cheap entertainment and offers good clean competition as well as some good exercise. Lets increase our membership by getting old members back and rounding up some new ones.

The State Tournament this Fall will be held at the brand new horseshoe pitching courts in Meridian. The 16 new courts feature full runways, synthetic turf, shelter house, clean rest rooms, and a snack bar all within a beautiful park featuring many activities for all ages. The Treasure Valley Horseshoe Pitching Club invites and encourages everyone to get their 2 tournaments in and sign-up for what will be one of the season's best tournaments.

Jerry D. Smith
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Feel free to call me at 208-467-2524 or email me at:
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2008 State Tournaments Results

Idaho State Horseshoe Pitching Championships

August 30-31, 2008
Pocatello, Idaho

Class	Name	Wins	Losses	Pct.
Mens A				
	Gary Opper	10	0	54.47%
	Jim Price	7	3	40.18%
	David Spears	6	4	36.76%
	Robert Mathews	5	5	33.33%
	Garth Blattner	2	8	27.21%
	Paul Taylor	0	10	27.00%

Mens B				
	Bobby Faulkner	12	3	39.67%
	Brent Wood	11	4	39.00%
	Danny Hendricks	8	6	29.64%
	Doug Palmer	7	7	30.18%
	Clyde Marquez	6	8	36.07%
	Dave Heiner	6	8	21.43%
	Wes Blattner	4	10	29.11%
	Warren Glahn	3	11	22.14%

Mens C				
	Ray Carpenter	9	3	23.13%
	Curtis Crane	8	4	27.92%
	Tony Marquez	8	4	26.46%
	Durell Lewis	7	5	21.25%
	Dave Wilkes	6	6	24.17%
	Rick Sprague	3	9	12.29%
	Shane Davidson	1	11	12.50%

Mens D				
	Brian Poole	8	2	20.50%
	Jerry Smith	7	3	16.50%
	Jim Robinson	6	4	16.00%
	Gale Cole	5	5	15.50%
	Steve Lenon	3	7	11.75%
	Jr. Fuentez	1	9	9.50%

Elders A				
	Nick Piva	11	1	64.62%
	Art Ross	9	3	61.06%
	Bob Zausch	3	9	48.83%
	Dan Rollins	1	11	41.47%

Elders B				
	Keith Lewis	9	4	27.12%
	John Warren	8	5	23.65%
	Don Manwill	7	5	21.67%

Pete Petersen 1 11 14.79%

Womans A				
	Delisa Blattner	8	2	22.43%
	Rosita Park	7	3	17.01%
	Virginia Manwill	6	4	23.17%
	Sherry Wilkes	4	6	16.49%
	Mary Blattner	2	8	9.07%

Junior A				
	James Price III	3	7	16.43%

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The 2008 Annual Meeting Minutes

Date: August 30, 2008
Place: Pocatello, Idaho

President Bob Zausch called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm and welcomed all.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Bob held a moment of silence for all of those who are no longer with us.

The minutes of the 2007 meeting were published in the Four Dead and were passed out. Jerry went over the highlights without reading them. Virginia Manwill made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Jim Robinson seconded. Motion passed.

Jerry Smith passed out the financial report and went over it line by line. The movement last year to lower the year end balance worked as the balance showed only \$818.59. Keith Lewis made a motion to accept the financial report as presented. Melanie Poole seconded. Motion passed.

No reports were given by the Vice Presidents.

Jerry Smith spoke for the Statistician by stating that Gary Opper was resigning as of the end of September. Bobby Faulkner stated that he would take the Statistician position and would like to take over the Website as well. President Bob appointed Bobby Faulkner to both positions.

The Sec-Treas., Jerry Smith stated that this would probably be his last year and stated that if anyone was interested in running next year, please feel free to talk to him about the position.

He went on to state that the NHPA voted and passed a \$5.00 increase in national dues and asked what we

wanted to due in Idaho. Brian Poole made a motion to pass the raise along and charge \$25.00 in Idaho for State and National dues. There will be no increase to Juniors. Virginia Manwill seconded. Motion passed.

President Bob spoke about our continued lower attendance at tournaments, our lower membership numbers and the low turn out for this meeting. He encouraged everyone to promote new memberships and work on old members to bring them back. He thanked Melanie and Brian Poole for cooking the delicious meat for the tonight's meeting.

Under correspondence, Jerry read a letter from the NHPA concerning the sponsorship of the new World Tournament portable courts. We could sponsor a court for \$500.00 and get our name on it. After some discussion, no action was taken. Jerry then read a memo from Dick Hanson relating the membership nationwide. Idaho's figure show: 136 for 2006, 116 for 2007 and we are at 106 so far in 2008. The figures reflect a national trend.

Under old business, we discussed the signup procedure for the State Tournament. The 7 day cut-off period is written in the By-Laws and was published in the Four Dead. We let pitchers in as late as Friday this year and in fact let a "walk on" pitch in the tournament. In order to encourage proper sign-ups, Brian Poole made a motion that any player who signs up after the deadline is to be charged an additional \$10.00 entry fee if they can be fit into the tournament and in fact are able to pitch. Bobby Faulkner seconded. Motion carried.

Virginia Manwill brought up a concern about the date of the State Tournament. She feels it should be flexible. After much discussion, Bobby Faulkner made a motion that we suspend the rules. Virginia Manwill seconded. Motion passed. Jim Robinson made a motion that we change the By-Laws to read, "The date for the State Singles Tournament shall be set by the host club and will be the weekend of, the weekend before, or the weekend after Labor Day. The date should be chosen and published by the time the schedule is released" Jim Price seconded. Motion passed. Jim Robinson made the motion to reinstate the rules. Jim Price seconded. Motion passed.

Brian Poole made motion to send the web master, Steve Summerlin, \$50.00 as thanks for his work. Brent Wood seconded. Motion passed.

The newsletter was discussed and it was decided to continue with it, but to send it out electronically to whomever we can. Everyone should get their E-Mail address to Jerry.

Under new business, everyone was encouraged to get their schedule into to Jerry Smith by the end of December.

Dave Spears spoke about starting an Idaho Horseshoe Pitchers Hall of Fame. After discussion, Dave made a motion that, a committee be formed for the purpose of setting up the criteria for and the methods having and electing members to an Idaho Horseshoe Picher's Hall of Fame. Jim Price seconded. Motion Passed.

Jim Price made a motion that Dave Spears head up the Hall of Fame Committee. Jim Robinson seconded. Motion passed.

Bobby Faulkner made a motion that Pocatello host the Idaho State Doubles in 2009. Dave Spears seconded. Motion passed.

Jerry Smith made a motion that the Treasure Valley host the 2009 State Singles Tournament. Dave Heiner seconded. Motion passed.

Jim Price led a discussion about the \$1.00 player fee being reinstated in 2009, but that is already in place.

Brian Poole was re-elected as 2nd Vice President, but later was nominated for President by Bobby Faulkner. Jim Price seconded. Brian Poole was elected President for the next two years.

Brent Wood nominated Bobby Faulkner for 2nd Vice President. Jim Price seconded. Bobby was elected 2nd Vice President for the next two years.

Bob declared the meeting adjourned.

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NHPA WEBSITE
www.horseshoepitching.com

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Tips from the top
By
Don Titcomb

Push the arm out and above your sighting on the opposite peg, letting the arm swing as far back as it will naturally, starting your lift at the bottom of the swing, and letting the shoe go when your hand is about at the level of the top of the opposite peg. Practice this at home, with your shoe in the living room until you are aware of the entire swing. You should feel the shoe during the entire swing, allowing the arm to do its thing out interruption. This is how your clutch shots are made; you are concentrating on your swing, so hard, you eliminate the negative thoughts, such as the score, the wins and losses, the weather, lights, court condition, your opponent's personality, etc. If he or she complains about the courts, the weather, the noises, the lights, etc. just agree with them and go on. That means they are not concentrating on their game. Let them worry about those things, and get back into your mantra, your dark tunnel of concentration.

To give you an idea about concentration, I have had photographers taking pictures, people hanging over the fence and talking to me, even opponents gabbing at me and I didn't even notice. I also remember playing Casey Jones, one of the greatest players ever. It was the first time that I had played him, and I was nervous. We went over one hundred and twenty shoes, and I had won the game with around 85%. After the game I was sitting on a park bench with a hot dog, and an orange drink. Games then took about 45 minutes and some longer, so we had to wait for the courts to empty. Anyway, someone tapped me on my shoulder and said, "Don, may I have shoes?" I didn't know what

he was talking about. He then said you pitched my shoes when you played Casey." When I checked the horseshoes, he was right. My shoes were still hanging on the fence. The shoes I used in that game were a brand that I had tried once, but didn't care for and didn't like the feel of, But during that game I threw them for 120 shoes, and never realized they were not mine. I guess that is concentration. I never told Casey that I had beaten him with an oddball pair of shoes.

And that's just the point, you can throw any model of shoes, if you believe you can. If you think negative and that you can't, you can be sure you won't. Many times during my demonstrations, I will ask for other shoes from the audience, and be able to make four ringers with four different shoes. You've got to believe in yourself.

GRIP ...Once you have your stance and swing, I normally will have a person hold a shoe starting on one side and working their hand down and around the shoe until they have held the shoe in every possible position. Swing and release the shoe from all these positions, not worrying about ringers, only finding out which grip allows the shoe to land open. This includes the flip. Most people will throw a natural open shoe from one of these grips. And if your stance and swing is good, you will find that the pitch will fall into a rhythm, almost the same as you probably have for bowling, if you bowl. One, two, three, four. One is the push away, two-three is the down and back swing and four is the forward swing and lift. This should be a pendulum like swing. Feel it, say it in your mind, or count while swinging the shoe. This all may seem too much to remember, but as you learn each step in stages, they will become part of you, and your mistakes will become fewer and fewer.

Your main mistake will be the one you repeat most often, normally in the back swing, starting the arm forward too soon.

I've had people say I make it look easy. If so, it's because I've put together a complete package; Stance, Grip, Swing, and Concentration, from start to finish. I have always been more mentally tired after a World Tournament than I was physically tired.

* * *

Reminder

2009 dues are now ;

\$25.00 for adults
\$6.00 for Juniors