



Mens singles dart champion Jock Walker of Nakusp accepts his award from tourney organizer Harry Pepper.

P J T A L K

MAR 27/86

with
Harry
Pepper

This past weekend at the Legion in Rossland we held a Zone Dart Tournament which, if you take it literally, was a misnomer. Three branches out of a possible eleven were all that showed up. One couldn't fault the tournament management as all possible dart-playing branches were contacted and instead of some 70 to 80 players we had less than half that number.

One branch in particular boasts a dart club of 30 or more players but not one showed up. At a time when the Legion is trying to show strength through comradeship, this, to my mind is a very poor attitude. One club that deserves a lot of credit travelled the most distance that any club in the Zone would have to travel. Some ten to fifteen members from the branch at Nakusp booked rooms and stayed over two nights to participate and one of their own members deservedly took home the most silverware.

There were three competitions in the tourney. Teams of mixed or straight fours, doubles and singles with the usual high score for men and ladies and it was a lot of fun. I along with Ed Caswell and Al Stinson took charge of the scorekeeping and as we found out, you don't want to have any foul-ups in your draw. It can be quite a headache. We got half way through the singles competition on Sunday afternoon and we hit a snag. We got it all ironed out but not without some restless participants and some busy scorekeepers. Everyone took it all in stride, that's what I like about dart players, everyone thoroughly enjoyed the part where you pick up the prizes and all the problems of the past are forgotten.

In the team competition, Trail's foursome of Doug McIssac, Bill Reed, Ray Dart and Jack Nugent came out on top as they topped the Rossland four of Dennis Hirons, Iris Moore, Kim Gillies and Jamie Richardson. In the doubles it was Jock Walker and partner of Nakusp who won out over Doug and Phyll McIsaac of Trail and in the singles Dennis Hirons of Rossland was the clear winner while four played off for the runner-up spot. The winner of the playoff was Walker who turned back the challenges of three Rossland players, Gerry Waite, Darrell Morrow and Quentin Delio.

The ladies' high score was won by Karen Searle of Trail with a 121 and in the men's it was that feller again as Walker came up with a 140.

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When a tournament like this is run you always have dissenters and sports chairman McIsaac told the gathering that changing of rules during the competition must be stopped as the rules are there to be followed specifically but one must suffer with the tournament management who have set up for a certain number of players and when you get the ground chopped out from under you by a number of no-shows, one might tend to cut corners, something which the chairman said has got to stop. One cannot afford to take that attitude. If someone shows up who hasn't sent in an entry they will have to be passed up, that way your schedule is set before you start then and only then, can you follow the rules as laid down, otherwise you have to improvise and you can only do this within the rules structure. Any other way is courting disaster.

Anyway, it was a situation that worked out after the prizes were distributed, pictures taken, and methings most people went home happy. I was unhappy to see one competitor storm out of the club after he had made a really impressive showing and I shall personally miss him very much if he doesn't change his mind. We can only hope that when the chance comes to look back he will change his mind.

Among coming events are the Rossland Minor Hockey Banquet on Wednesday evening to which I have an invitation. The youngsters had a good season and I look forward to helping them celebrate it.

The Rossland Retirees will also celebrate a good season which wound up on Thursday with some fun and games. We closed our regular visitation schedule with a trip to Grand Forks last Wednesday and came back with our heard maybe hanging a little as the Grand Forks chaps took six of eight games played. Our winners were Russ Broughton and Angus Popplewell, Angus was playing his second game as he filled in for Dan Burnett. As always it's good to get over to the Forks, you meet so many fellers you've known for years now living at the lake and doing their curling at the Forks Club. Ches Edwards, Don Haymond, Art Snuggs, Doug Gilchrist, Cec Mathieson are seven of them and there are many more who just slip the old memory. Great company, everyone.

And with that we'll say,
'Til next time, then!