

(Director's Column continued)

d) There are a host of great guys (and gals) in OUR association. I am probably not alone, but I have not always made the effort to get to know people past just putting a name to their face. There are plenty of people who are willing to share advice and their experience. The monthly meetings are a real good time, if you participate. I am also slowly finding out at the Board level that I can learn more by listening than talking. I am fortunate just to be around such a sharp group of guys.

In closing, I want to say what a privilege it is to be directly involved in an association such as OURS. I am doing my part to help and learning a great deal in return. I urge anyone interested in helping to sign up for committee duty at the annual meeting at Medinah. The more participation on your part, the better OUR association becomes.

## Annual Charity Gin Tournament

by Paul Voykin

The Annual Charity Gin Tournament was held on Monday, March 27th at Hackney's famous Restaurant in Wheeling. The weather was cold and wet, a perfect day for us to play gin. A record turnout of 45 donars showed up, some to play and some just brought their checks and stayed for a super lunch which "Geeg" Masterson, the owner, always prepares for us. What a great bunch of generous friends we have in the Midwest! A new high of \$2,500.00 was raised by the gin charity event. Some of the money donated went to brave little Jake Arden, the three year old son of Mike Arden who works for his brother Jerry as assistant and mechanic at Old Orchard Country Club. Young Jake is a cancer victim and already has lost a kidney to the terrible disease, which is especially tragic when it hits children. Say a prayer tonight for courageous Jake Arden. This is one tough little guy.

A portion of the money went to Rodrigo Sanchez whose wife passed away suddenly with a massive cerebral hemorrhage leaving behind four young children. Rodrigo has been a vital part of Mike Bavier's crew for 17 years as spray technician and assistant mechanic. If you read this and your heart is touched, please send a check to my office for \$40.00. It's not too late to help Jake & Rodrigo.

Peter "The Voik" and Johnny "The Bear" did a classy job of welcoming everyone with their cheer and good humor. No one complained about the pairing or the rules, except yours truly who in the first round drew old pay "Duddles" Smith who promptly proceeded to whip me with ease. Dudley has a killer instinct when he plays gin. He doesn't talk or smile and wears a poker face. The only utterance by Dudley every 15 minutes was, "Hey Ricky, bring me another beer ... only one!"

In the end, the final gin round, we all gathered around the finalists, two skilled participants "Big John" Treichler, Al Pondale's assistant and Jim "The Mask" Mascarella, one of the four very nice members that Mike always brings to the tournament. (We missed you this year, "Pops" ... get well!).

"Big John" and "The Mask" went neck and neck to the very end and then "The Mask" got a slight edge and beat out "Big John". Next March I hope we even get a bigger turnout.



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