

ARE YOU A GIVER OR A TAKER!

No. 3

Life is full of both, but Harriet Smith belonged only on one side of the line! I only knew her for a few years, but after she got here we asked her to join our “Masters” committee. We were about to host the State Pro “Masters” for the first time; her response was that she really couldn’t do much to help. We told her we had people to do the work, what we needed was her experience because we didn’t even know the questions to ask, let alone the answers. She very gently steered us perfectly through all the details and the “Masters” was a huge success, thanks in, no small part, to her willingness. I remember one of the first times I saw her, it was summer time and we had installed a high volume fan over one of our courts and we needed to replace the rest of them. One of our guys, Dick Goody walked in with a fan, she saw him and the next day when we got there guess who was standing there with her fan, that’s right Harriet just trying to do her part! Needless to say the rest of our summer folks stepped up and finished off that set of six courts. Dick Goody decided to hold a French Toast Breakfast for the whole park to pay for the next set of six courts. Betmar was so impressed with our tenacity that they decided to pay for the remaining 12 courts of fans. All because a new “lady” decided to do her part!

We are fortunate at Betmar because we have a lot of givers, when we put the roof over the second 12 courts we were able save and to get our members to put up \$28,000. We were short \$18,000. Betmar issued bonds and our members bought them all! We worked so hard to pay them off that non shuffleboard members got involved and started giving us money or joining the club just to help. The entire “Golf Club Board” joined the club just to help. That’s how it’s been weather it comes to raising money or just rolling up your sleeves and going to work, our people give what they can, one way or another. And we are most proud that we’ve never missed paying Betmar our \$3500 per year assessment, which covers our share of the property taxes, insurance, utilities and the parks employees.

I know other clubs have great success stories to tell. I’m hoping Stan will tell you about Avon Park and maybe he can get Charlie Sussex to tell us about St Cloud or Gus Bondi to tell us about Winter Haven.

Earl Ball.....July, 2005