

GIVERS & TAKERS, DO YOU KNOW WHICH YOU ARE!

NO. 4

Shuffleboard and life for that matter, are full of both! It's not unusual to hear a new retiree say, "I retired to play, not to work". It, also, usually doesn't take long though for that person to fine out they need to do something or life is empty and you'll see them out doing their part. Sometimes their part and someone else's also (Jim Bailey, Joan Wheeler and many others like them), we could always use more of them. "Helping out" and "doing something to help" is contagious, I'm sure you've seen players who don't do anything and then a new guy comes along and is struggling to do a job and he asks the old-timer for a hand or the old-timer just "steps up" and says let me show you how to do that, all of a sudden you have a new contributor. Happens all the time, all you need is the right circumstance!

Let me give you an example of what can happen. Some "Clubs" are very fortunate because they have more than their fair share of "givers" or are very gifted at turning their "takers" into "givers". Betmar is one of those clubs. We have to pay \$3500 a year to the Betmar Organization for our share of the Insurance, Property Taxes, Utilities and the common area Employee's wages. And on top of that we have to earn enough money to keep the "Club" up and pay for improvements. There's nothing like being behind the 8 ball to start each season to get people to pull together. We started and still maintain the Parks Aluminum recycling program, that's not a hard job, but it gives people a chance to help out. We serve lunch, available to everyone in the park, each time we have a tournament. That's a big job, but each job in and of it's self isn't hard to do and it gives people a chance to help out, many are not members of the shuffle club. We have people who just want to give money, we take it, but really prefer they just help out. And after all of this, we still have a few takers, and they aggravate you to death! What's worse is it takes only one really "bad apple" to ruin it all, we've been fortune not to have one. We've worked hard enough to cover all of our courts, refinish the courts, enclose the entire facility, install fans over the head and foot of each court, replace the office, cue room and maintenance room and now we are saving to refinish the courts again! We've made the Facility available for two Central District "Masters" and two State "Masters" as well as District & State Tournaments the last few years. Give yourself a treat, come play a tournament and see for yourself.

I'm sure there are lots of examples like this and I know there are many other opportunities and situations that need the "Givers" to step forward!

Earl Ball.....June, 2004