

HOWARD WORKMAN



Howard Workman worked as a fireman for the Grand Rapids, Michigan Fire Department for 31 years before retiring to Zephyrhills in 1984. He was introduced to and became interested in shuffleboard, when he vacationed in Florida prior to retiring. After moving to Zephyrhills he joined the Tourist Club in 1985 and seriously became involved in the game.

He started playing as a District Amateur in State and District tournaments from 1985 through the 1988 season. In 1988 he qualified for the Reiny Schleier tournament and placed in many State tournaments with his amateur partner, Jack Grant.

Unfortunately, for the years that Howard played tournaments, 1985 through 1995, points were not rewarded to successful players as they are today, and one of Zephyrhills finest players will not be recognized in the Central District records or HOF.

Howard achieved Pro status in 1989 and collected nine District Championships, three 2nd's and five 3rd's in Main, two 1st's, one 2nd and one 4th place in Consolation in tournaments through the 1994 season. Many of

these tournaments fielded more than 60+ teams and were scheduled for 3 days. He participated in the Central District Masters in '90 and '91. He shuffled for the U.S. team in the 1990 International tournament. Also in 1990, Howard bowled the only perfect game ever rolled at the Unity Bowling Lanes in Zephyrhills.

His excellent tournament play was curtailed in 1995, when tragedy struck the family with the death of his son-in-law, forcing Howard and his wife Terry, to move back to Michigan. Later in 1996, they returned to Florida and settled in Lakeland. In 1997, Howard and Terry made another move and returned to Zephyrhills. He rejoined the Tourist Club and rekindled his desire for shuffleboard, mainly for recreation, but continued to play in a few tournaments.

Howard has a passion for the game, but felt for a few years and for some unknown reason, his play was declining. In 2006, he discovered the cause, when he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. It was taking a toll on his shuffleboard skills, but he worked very hard and constantly practiced various shooting methods to regain his stroke. It worked, and today you will find Howard at the courts competing almost every morning, at Frolics, and many evenings, especially in the summer. Howard is one of our most popular members, is a great asset to our Club, is one who knows the game very well and is always willing to share this knowledge with anyone who asks.

"I get very frustrated at times and threaten to quit", Howard said, "but I always seem to find my way back to the courts." We're very fortunate he does, we congratulate him on all his accomplishments and hope we will be able to "keep on shuffling" with him for many years.

Chuck Moulton