

Alf Oates Christmas tournament Wednesday

By Alex Tough

This evening (Wednesday) at the Georgetown Legion, the Alf Oates Christmas tourney takes place at 7 p.m., an earlier start than usual. Most players are aware of the change.

The draw has been made based upon those who are playing. No doubt a few latecomers will be accommodated. The last few years the Christmas "do" has altered from time to time and this year is no exception.

League play went on last week in the leagues around town. Legion Three continue in front after beating Charleys Two by 10-4 even though shorthanded.

Bracky's Boys kept up the chase with a maximum win over Legion #2, 14-0. McGibbon move into third spot following their 12-2 victory over Royal Pizza.

Legion #4 and Charleys One had a fine battle with Legion coming out on top by two points. Copper Kettle registered almost a maximum dropping one to Legion One. Time Out's One and Two met each other with the first team squad winning by four points, 9-5.

Mike Hope and Todd Axford fired 180 each. A high finish of 116 went to Paul Mousseau with Bruce Hope closing out 114. Dave Paterson fired 171. Paul Kirby shot three 140s. Paul Goudie, Paul Strassberger and Dan Abercrombie each

Darts

fired two 140s. Several players scored a single 140 and a few single bonus point scores were also recorded. Too many to mention! Most bonus points of the week were 10 by Kirby, Hope (Mike) had seven and Abercrombie had five.

A quick reflection back to the early part of the season shows that last season's champions, now Legion three, would be a difficult team to overtake has proved correct to date. An eight-point lead at this stage is significant, to say the least. They will be hard to catch.

The odd shortage of players has not been too much of a handicap, such is the overall strength of the squad. It is up to the chasers to maintain a strong challenge to keep the interest going to the very end.

On Wednesday, it is the Dream Team, newly up from the second division, as it was at the start of the season, which are setting a healthy pace. A pace almost too much for those behind, including last season's champions, the perennial Hustlers, with Gasketman Cutters the strongest other challenger of recent years. Dream Team stated their intention to run away with the league this season and they are moving along quite nicely, thank you.

They lead the league by a cool 13 points from Hustlers after last week's results. Westenders,

Gasketman Cutters and Steeprock are fighting matters out just behind the front two. Ensigns have slipped back a little the past couple of weeks and Hotshots are closing upon them. Bandits won their second match of the season and Firemen their first match of the season. Some matches are still outstanding which makes the lower half of the league lopsided for the present.

While Dream Team were seeing off Ensigns by 8-1, on the next board Steeprock surprised Hustlers and themselves, by storming back to win 5-4 after going 1-5 down. Shame on Hustlers for failing to capitalize on a fast start! Westenders sunk Acadian Pools 8-1 as Hotshots were cooled off Cutters by 5-4. Firemen trumped Aces 6-3 and Bandits fell to Independents, 2-7.

Jim Franks showed a fine form in starting with 156, the highest of the night. Rick Harden opened 125,

Stan Rhynold 120 and Dennis Thorogood 112. Shawn Warwick scored high with 168 and 140. Don Wilson, Ron Scarlett, Erwin See, Russ Hillier and Mike Hope also scored a single 140. Beau Beaumont scored 126, Horst Schirm 125 and Dean Rayner 120. Brian Hicks finished 125 and Joe Cairns took out 100. Ken Gritten finished a fine 97 to round off the high finishes of the week. Jim Franks' five starts and four finishes is arguably the performance of the night.

Do not forget your intent to sign up for the Ed Paterson Memorial tourney to be held at the Georgetown Legion in January, on the 8th to be precise. Proceeds are in aid of the Hearth and Stroke Foundation.

Grant Richardson, Dave Paterson and self are available for registrations from now until the big day.

Merry Christmas, y'all.



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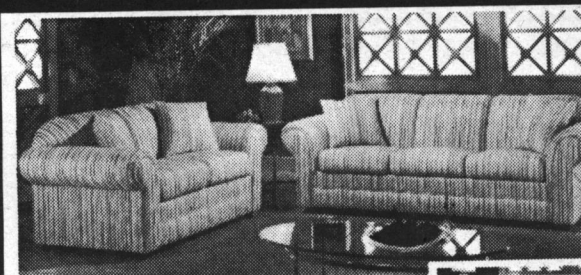
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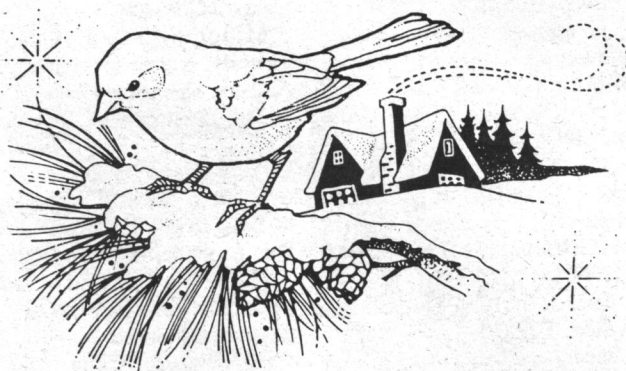


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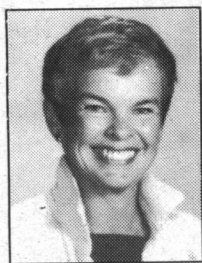


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