

CHAMPIONS "A" AND "B" TOURNAMENTS

By Harry Minion

"I sincerely believe that Dr. Moore hit the nail on the head when he said: 'Shuffleboard is the greatest sport we older people can participate in to keep us in the pink, both mentally and physically.' Has shuffleboard in the last two years been on the wane? Some Preview-scheduled tournaments show less entries than usual. There must be a reason for this—and an answer.

"Properly conducted tournaments are one of the greatest assets of any sport, and an added inducement for players to continue in that sport. I am sure our officials are interested only in the appointment of the best qualified persons to direct our tournaments.

"It was about three years ago that some of the districts set up amateur A and B tournaments. This was intended to create more interest to participate in the Preview-scheduled tournaments. Entries in the B Division in 1966 in the 67 tournaments held by the central district dropped off considerably. For example, in our own district tournament at Zephyrhills, held Nov. 17 and 18, 1966, there were only 14 entries outside of our own club in the B Division. With no more interest than this being shown, there is not much inducement for any club to sponsor an A and B tournament.

"In 1964, as an added inducement to get more players interested in tournament play, two members of the Zephyrhills Tourist Club donated a trophy for Novice players only. Anyone who had never won a trophy was eligible to play. One man and one lady winner had their names inscribed on this trophy each year. The winners were ineligible to play again. In the four years this has been in effect, all but one of the winners are now playing Preview-scheduled tournaments, and have become enthusiastic tournament players with gratifying results. Interest in this Novice Tournament has increased each year, having 58 entries in 1967.

"I know this is not the only answer to the lack of interest, but it surely has created new enthusiasm for tournament shuffleboard in our club. There is also a need for members in every club to help create interest and promote the game. Our officers cannot do it all, so let us get behind them to show that we feel they are doing a great job."