



# The Ringer Report



## Congratulations! MHPA State Champions



**Cadet**  
Bryce VanCleave



**Men**  
James Dunlap



**Women**  
Helga Hewlett



**Elder**  
JD Drake

Photos courtesy of Darrell Harris

The distinctive clang of metal horseshoes hitting the stakes and one another punctuated the other sounds during the 2022 MHPA state tournament. It was a beautiful weekend in Kalamazoo and a great tournament. Congratulations to all the state and class champions, and award winners.

**Helga Hewlett**, was crowned the new first-time women's champion, with challengers Lisa Smith, Brandy Morehead, and Jennifer Hess finishing in that order.

**James Dunlap** defended his 2021 Men's title with wins over challengers Andy Adams, Eric Soltis, Quincy Johnson, Wayne Friesmuth and Tom Williams.

**JD Drake** continued his string of Elder's championships followed by Tom Gombos, Robert Peek, Douglas Bailey, Clip Connin, and George Parsons. It was JD's 10th consecutive championship.



Josh Lull,  
our new President.



Bob Carr, HOF

**Bryce VanCleave** is the Boy's Cadet champion with a 13.59 percent average.

A big thank you to the executive committee of Keith Schafer, John Stephenson, Brandy Morehead, Debbie Markley, and Pam Nelson.

And, to Josh Lull for his interview on FOX 17 West Michigan TV boosting MHPA Horseshoe Pitching.

Also, to the Kalamazoo Area Horseshoe Club for all their hard work in putting on such a great event. With a multitude of great volunteers and scorekeepers, we were able to cover all shifts.

**Bob Carr** has been elected to the MHPA Hall of Fame. Bob, a 30 year member of the MHPA, has pitched horseshoes for many years and has demo's published on how to pitch horseshoes.



## FALL MEETING

Our fall scheduling meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 1, Jackson Horseshoe Club at 10 a.m. All tournament directors and/or assistants are encouraged to attend, set dates, and discuss directing successful tournaments.

All MHPA pitchers are welcome.



## 2023 World Horseshoe Tournament



**July 17-30, 2023**

This tournament will feature nearly 1000 competitors. Most consider this trip their "Family Vacation," and bring along their husbands, wives, children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles and friends. They will spend their free time touring the area - visiting local events and attractions, and patronizing local businesses.

All competitors are at the venue a minimum of three days – many for the full two weeks. It is estimated that they, along with their friends and family will bring approximately three to five million dollars into the host community, depending on regional economy.

—NHPA

## The Ringer Report

Official Newsletter of the Michigan Horseshoe Pitchers Association

Michigan Division of the NHPA - Established 1935

Issues published whenever necessary - Advertising Rate: \$50 for a 1 column x 2 inch ad, per year

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Letters to the Editor and news items are encouraged via email.



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<b>Grievance:</b>	2nd Vice-President
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## History of the Brighton Horseshoe Pitchers Club

By Paul Bachelor, August 18, 2022

The Brighton Horseshoe Pitchers Club (BHPC) has its roots in a sand/bar league. For several years Dan Stremick, the Tanners, myself and a few others pitched in a sand league sponsored by the Brighton Athletic Club. After the Brighton Athletic Club folded, Dan Stremick, who was a member of the WSHPA (now the MHPA) had the desire to build sanctioned courts and hold sanctioned tournaments. He was a teacher at the Scranton Middle school and received permission to build the courts under the same use as the baseball and soccer fields at the school. Thus began the work of building the courts. Dan formed an officers committee for the fledgling BHPA, and we began the work of building the courts and setting up a league. Dan was a master at getting all the supplies we needed to build the courts. He got most everything used, in good shape and often at no cost. It is incredible how much we were able to do for so little cost. All thanks to Dan.

In the summer of 1994 we started the first league, the courts were not yet sanctioned. We pitched on Tuesday evening (which we did for the entire existence of the league). We pitched singles, count all to 50 shoes, filling all 12 courts ( 3 pitchers per court). Dan was the Secretary/Statistician - before use of computers - doing all the league stats by hand.

The following year the courts were sanctioned and we held our first tournaments on Saturday and Sunday near the 4th of July, then on Saturday and Sunday the weekend before Labor Day Weekend (last chance to qualify for State Tournament). Attendance was great, even for the Sunday tournaments.

For many years Brighton held tournaments near the 4th of July weekend, and if the 4th was on Friday or Monday, we would also pitch then.

We also continued to hold tournaments the weekend before Labor Day Weekend. Attendance was always good, as Brighton seemed to be fairly central for many of the pitchers.

Somewhere along the line we changed the league to 40 shoe games, to beat the sunset at the end of the season.

After about five years, Dan Stremick retired and moved to Arizona. Steve Summerlin took over as tournament director, and I took over the league stats. Steve was tournament director for a few years, then I took over as tournament director, along with the league stats.

Tournament attendance along with league pitchers was still pretty high, but starting to decline.

After several years, due to personal conflicts, I had to change our tournament schedule away from the 4th of July and away from the weekend before Labor Day Weekend. It was hard to do because it had been such a long standing tradition. We continued to hold tournaments for weekends in July and August. But tournament and league attendance was dropping for many clubs.

Attendance at Sunday tournaments was becoming very low, and the club was losing money at these tournaments. So we dropped Sunday tournaments and held tournaments only on Saturday. Attendance continued to decline for both the tournaments and league.

In 2009 we did not hold league play due to lack of pitchers. We were able to resume league play in 2010. But the number of pitchers continued to be low. Finally, this season the number of pitchers dropped to a handful, and often we didn't hold league play due to lack of pitchers. It became evident the time had come to end league play. And without the support of a league, it becomes too much work to maintain the courts only for tournaments. Hence the end of tournaments at Brighton.

The BHPA held tournaments for 27 years. And it is with a very heavy heart that this string comes to an end.

—Paul Bachelor



Paul Bachelor



The following items are from The Brighton Club and are available to any club that wants them.

Contact Paul Bachelor at 810-772-8678 or email at paulbachelor@aol.com

1. Clay for pit ( needs to be dug out - I'll help) - 20 pits
2. Stakes in cement in 5 gallon buckets ( need to be dug out - I'll help) – 20
3. Stakes with flange for railroad tie mounting (some need to be dug out - I'll help) – 20
4. 5 gallon buckets to make stakes – 10
5. Backboards with 1/4 inch rubber facing – 16
6. Boards to make backboards (2"x6" x36") - 5 boards (2-1/2 backboards)
7. Plastic cover for pits - 8 [ ] Carpet to fit over pit – 20
8. Plastic Molded chairs – 5
9. United States Flag with swivel mount.
10. Score keeping folders, worn -5
11. 55 gallon water barrel with water spigot at bottom – 2
12. 55 gallon water / trash barrel - 3



The last sanctioned tournament at Brighton



# MHPA HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT RESULTS

## Brighton - Saturday, August 13

Class A	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. Andrew Adams	66.91	5-0	141	210	67.14
2. J.D. Drake	64.81	4-1	139	212	65.57
3. Robert Peek	58.74	2-3	100	186	53.76
4. Douglas Bailey	52.51	2-3	93	208	44.71
5. Ken Kuss	48.58	1-4	70	178	39.33
6. Paul Bachelor	48.81	1-4	64	174	36.78

Class B	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. Danny Markley	46.34	5-0	106	198	53.54
2. Keith Schafer	45.82	4-1	110	228	48.25
3. George Parsons	48.50	2-3	102	244	41.80
4. Tom Gombos	40.57	2-3	79	200	39.50
5. Wayne Friesmuth	32.75	1-4	84	198	42.42
6. Dave Buikema	45.55	1-4	79	220	35.91

Class C	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. Krystle Price	30.07	4-1	75	188	39.89
2. Cathy Ardelean	28.85	4-1	69	218	31.65
3. Ron Nelson	30.53	3-2	70	212	33.02
4. Clay Strange	28.00	3-2	51	240	21.25
5. Valerie Jones	23.00	1-4	55	216	25.46
6. Sean Saumier	21.00	0-5	28	186	15.05

Class D	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. Aprilie Friesmuth	12.41	5-1	64	260	24.62
2. Jacqueline Quillen	19.83	4-2	62	256	24.22
3. Matthew Thomas	15.36	3-2	41	248	16.53
4. Frank Quillen	18.28	2-3	45	250	18.00
5. Rod Bashore	16.19	1-4	40	238	16.81
6. Russ Dice	16.00	1-4	38	240	15.83

## Lansing, St. Jude - Saturday, August 20

Class A	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. J.D. Drake	64.73	5-1	167	278	60.07
2. Helga Hewlett	50.87	4-2	146	262	55.73
3. Robert Peek	58.74	3-3	165	302	54.64
4. Douglas Bailey	52.51	0-6	121	274	44.16

Class B	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. Boyd Howe	37.41	4-1	95	216	43.98
2. Danny Markley	48.01	3-2	79	180	43.89
3. George Parsons	48.50	3-2	97	222	43.69
4. Jerry Mitchell (AZ)	43.00	3-2	102	236	43.22
5. Michael McDaniel	36.02	2-3	78	232	33.62
6. Paul Howard	37.75	0-5	71	206	34.47

Class C	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. Becky Sullivan (FL)	28.20	5-1	81	200	40.50
2. Josh Lewandowski	25.86	4-2	69	286	24.13
3. Mario Stewart	19.48	2-4	39	250	15.60
4. Clayt Robinson	18.33	1-5	44	260	16.92

Class D	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. Sean Saumier	15.05	4-0	44	180	24.44
2. Lawrence Hinton	15.88	3-1	23	190	12.11
3. Chris Nyenhuis	15.27	2-2	21	192	10.94
4. Rod Bashore	16.62	1-3	29	200	14.50
5. Rosemarie Nowacki	11.50	0-4	15	194	7.73

## Lansing, Website - Sunday, August 21

Class A	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. Robert Peek	56.83	4-0	80	154	51.95
2. Brandy Morehead	46.33	2-2	68	176	38.64
3. Keith Schafer	47.38	0-4	73	178	41.01

Class B	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. Paul Howard	38.02	4-1	94	250	37.60
2. Michael McDaniel	36.02	1-4	80	250	32.00

Class C	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. Lawrence Hinton	14.64	4-1	31	198	15.66
2. Keara Hunter	17.09	1-4	17	198	8.59

## State Tournament - August 26, 27, 28

Elder Class A	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. J.D. Drake	64.17	10-0	217	362	59.94
2. Robert Peek	56.83	7-3	243	466	52.15
3. Douglas Bailey	49.53	4-6	203	436	46.56
4. Clip Connin	55.27	3-7	188	436	43.12
5. George Parsons	48.50	3-7	177	424	41.75
6. Danny Markley	47.80	3-7	154	412	37.38

Elder Class B	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. Tom Gombos	41.33	9-1	217	462	46.97
2. Bob Dale	38.52	6-4	182	420	43.33
3. Ken Kuss	47.01	6-4	171	426	40.14
4. Michael McDaniel	36.02	4-6	165	446	37.00
5. Steve Florek	47.41	4-6	162	450	36.00
6. Paul Bachelor	46.62	1-9	130	408	31.86

Men Class A	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. Andrew Adams	67.37	10-0	258	380	67.89
2. Eric Soltis	56.03	7-3	251	446	56.28
3. Quincy Johnson	49.25	5-5	215	416	51.68
4. Tom Williams	58.56	4-6	176	394	44.67
5. James Dunlap	65.25	3-3	122	210	58.10
6. Greg Burke	53.14	0-0	0	0	0.00

Men Class B	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. John Banks	35.64	8-3	187	504	37.10
2. Wayne Friesmuth	35.92	7-4	185	476	38.87
3. Warren Westbrook	42.24	6-4	171	448	38.17
4. Kevin Bastian	37.12	4-6	137	424	32.31
5. Dave Buikema	45.55	4-6	126	426	29.58
6. Zachary Spanke	36.89	2-8	101	418	24.16

Men Class C	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. Dan Mendham	34.12	7-1	107	374	28.61
2. Sam Moore	30.94	6-2	124	376	32.98
3. Roger Higgins	31.02	4-4	86	344	25.00
4. Jake Mendham	31.23	3-5	91	372	24.46
5. Chad Fleisher	29.28	0-0	0	0	0.00

Men Class D	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. Chuck Osborn	27.93	7-3	140	468	29.91
2. Joe Hettrick	27.62	6-4	127	446	28.48
3. John Cousins	26.83	6-4	116	422	27.49
4. Rich Hare	27.48	5-5	115	366	31.42
5. Johnnie Smith	27.47	4-6	138	468	29.49
6. Michael D. Waldon	28.70	2-8	91	418	21.77

# MHPA HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Men Class E	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. Josh Lewandowski	25.86	9-1	122	416	29.33
2. James Belfiori	26.56	7-3	120	460	26.09
3. Darrell Harris	23.94	6-4	99	444	22.30
4. Roger Keyes	21.55	5-5	95	418	22.73
5. Richard Andrews	20.96	3-7	101	452	22.35
6. Martin Quillen	21.09	0-10	45	402	11.19

Men Class F	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. Kary Christiansen	19.25	6-2	69	352	19.60
2. Rod Bashore	16.62	5-3	75	384	19.53
3. Frank Quillen	16.71	4-4	65	356	18.26
4. Tiffany Bouvrette	19.38	3-5	71	362	19.61
5. Mario Stewart	19.48	2-6	51	354	14.41

Men Class G	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. Myrick EL	12.83	8-0	59	430	13.72
2. Chris Nyenhuis	15.27	6-2	44	430	10.23
3. Jr Wyatt	14.67	4-4	44	436	10.09
4. Rosemarie Nowacki	11.50	2-6	45	428	10.51
5. Brandon Tremlett	7.19	0-8	12	376	3.19

Women Class A	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. Helga Hewlett	53.47	7-1	188	318	59.12
2. Brandy Morehead	46.33	4-4	148	308	48.05
3. Lisa Smith	54.18	1-7	152	314	48.41

Women Class B	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. Cathy Ardelean	30.27	7-2	106	428	24.77
2. Jennifer Hess	28.92	6-3	122	444	27.48
3. Jacqueline Quillen	21.67	3-6	93	444	20.95
4. Tina Payne	20.87	2-7	67	396	16.92

Mixed Class	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. Aprile Friesmuth	16.93	8-0	75	342	21.93
2. Bryce VanCleave	12.95	4-4	59	434	13.59
3. Keara Hunter	17.09	3-5	34	358	9.50
4. Lawrence Hinton	15.85	3-5	25	334	7.49
5. Larry Majerski	19.68	2-6	41	390	10.51

Championship Men	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. James Dunlap	58.10	5-0	131	220	59.55
2. Andrew Adams	67.89	4-1	143	224	63.84
3. Eric Soltis	56.28	3-2	114	212	53.77
4. Quincy Johnson	51.68	2-3	112	210	53.33
5. Wayne Friesmuth	38.87	1-4	38	140	27.14
6. Tom Williams	44.67	0-5	88	210	41.90

Championship Women	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. Helga Hewlett	59.12	5-1	155	280	55.36
2. Lisa Smith	48.41	4-2	134	232	57.76
3. Brandy Morehead	48.05	3-3	115	240	47.92
4. Jennifer Hess	27.48	0-6	44	184	23.91

Championship Elders	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. J.D. Drake	59.94	4-1	117	206	56.80
2. Tom Gombos	46.97	3-2	122	244	50.00
3. Robert Peek	52.15	3-2	82	176	46.59
4. Douglas Bailey	46.56	3-2	80	210	38.10
5. Clip Connin	43.12	2-3	84	208	40.38
6. George Parsons	41.75	0-5	83	216	38.43

## Lansing, Senior Tournament - Saturday, Sept. 10

Class A	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. J.D. Drake	63.70	4-0	118	190	62.11
2. Clip Connin	53.98	2-2	106	192	55.21
3. Keith Schafer	47.38	0-4	73	178	41.01

Class B	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. John Banks	36.34	4-0	84	220	38.18
2. Ken Kuss	45.82	3-1	76	184	41.30
3. Sam Moore	32.29	1-3	84	236	35.59
4. Paul Howard	35.93	1-3	67	208	32.21
5. Michael McDaniel	36.91	1-3	41	160	25.63

Class C	Entry%	WL	Rgrs	Sh	R%
1. Cathy Ardelean	29.30	3-1	49	196	25.00
2. Lawrence Hinton	14.56	2-2	25	176	14.20
3. Thurman Brown	20.32	1-3	41	192	21.35

After the State Tournament results hit EShoe, the following pitchers are in the top 100 nationally:  
 Men: **#16** Andrew Adams 67.53, **#19** James Dunlap 64.88, **#42** Tom Williams 58.56, **#57** Eric Soltis 56.54, **#87** Greg Burke 53.14, and **#92** Quincy Johnson 52.03.  
 Women: **#42** Helga Hewlett 56.86, **#50** Lisa Smith 55.32, **#56** Terry Beagle 54.66.  
 Elders: **#46** J D Drake 63.70



Congratulations to Jacqueline Quillen for taking first place in the 2022 Lake Orion Horseshoe Club League.

MHPA Regional Director Keith Schafer training new TD Helga Hewlett at Mecosta's First Sanctioned Tournament.

Remember, clubs, tournaments, and leagues do not run themselves. Don't be afraid to volunteer. Learn and observe the rules of the game and have fun.  
**Keep Horseshoe Pitching Alive!**

**2022 MHPA SANCTIONED TOURNAMENT PITCHING SCHEDULE**

Outdoor Tournaments - Check-in by 9:30 a.m

Indoor Tournaments must pre-register with the Tournament Director - Check-in by 9:30 a.m. - Starting time 10:00 a.m.

**September**

NON SANCT			09/17/22	Woody Cup - Lansing
30-22-047			09/24/22	Mecosta
30-22-039		Sunday	09/25/22	Jackson

**Fall Indoor Tournaments @ Jackson Facility**

**October**

			10/01/22	SCHEDULING MEETING
30-22-040			10/08/22	Jackson
30-22-041	PRE-REGISTER		10/15/22	Brighton
30-22-042	FOR YOUR SPOT		10/22/22	Lake Orion Mike Ardelean
30-22-043	FOR ALL FALL		10/29/22	Scheduled but no tournament director
	TOURNAMENTS			

**November**

30-22-044			11/05/22	Jackson
30-22-045			11/19/22	Jackson

**PITCHING TIPS...**

- The back swing is more important than the front swing. If it is not right, the front swing will have to be forced, and ringers will be harder to come by. Keep your eye on the stake, and do not flatten the shoe prematurely, but try to drag the shoe thru the swing.
- Continue to watch the top of the stake and do not watch the shoe in flight. In this way you are aware only of the stake. It helps to keep out of your mind all interferences, the spectators, opponent, the score or the situation.
- Generally speaking, a shoe that turns too much may be slowed down either by pitching it lower or leveling it up sooner. A shoe that turns too little may be speeded up either by pitching it higher or waiting longer to level it up.
- As you prepare to pitch your horseshoe, glance down at your feet to see that they are pointed directly at the opposite peg.
- Attempting to hold the shoe flat through the swing will destroy the alignment.
- Aim at the top of the stake, step straight at the stake and keep your eyes on the stake throughout the complete delivery.
- Don't get all uptight during a game. This causes you to pitch much worse than your normal ability.
- Relax and pitch your game even if your opponent is pitching 50 or 60 percent. If you tighten up you will pitch short.



**Tournament Directors**

<u>Club</u>	<u>Director</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
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St. Clair Shores	Tina Payne	(586) 774-3223	tinapayne0828@gmail.com



## The Woody Cup Challenge

*(Non-sanctioned event)*

Established in 2004 as the Michigan Horseshoe Pitchers Association league championship tournament and later to include non-sanctioned leagues.

*Sponsored by Larry and Juanita Woods*

With the **Woody Cup Challenge** being open to all Michigan Horseshoe Pitchers Association Club Leagues, upwards of six clubs have been represented at the annual tournament. Berkley, Lake Orion, Lansing, Lincoln Park/Romulus, St. Clair Shores and Taylor have been participating teams.

### Funds raised since the inception of The Woody Cup

2004 - \$180 - Friends of Horseshoe Pitching

2005 - \$132 - American Red Cross

2006 - \$176 - MHPA Junior Fund

2007 - \$383 - MHPA Junior Fund

2008 - \$315 - MHPA Junior Fund

2009 - \$245 - MHPA Junior Fund

2010 - \$260 - MHPA Junior Fund

2011 - \$215 - MHPA Junior Fund

2012 - \$500 - St. Jude

2013 - \$520 - St. Jude

2014 - \$557 - St. Jude

2015 - \$600 - St. Jude

2016 - \$700 - St. Jude

2017 - \$1000 - St. Jude

2018 - \$850 - St. Jude

2019 - \$1,100 - St. Jude

2020 - (No tournament held, Covid-19)

2021 - \$1000 - St. Jude

**Total - \$8,733.00**

Mike Ardelean of the Lake Orion Club, the SCSHC, Juanita and Larry Woods, owners of LDJ Trophies, created The Woody Cup Challenge. Mike is also credited with the tournament name.

The purpose of this event is to raise money for a charity, to make the public aware of the fun of pitching horseshoes, meeting our friends, making new friends and enjoying the great game of horseshoe pitching.

This trophy is presented annually to the MHPA league champion to create an awareness of local clubs, MHPA, NHPA, promote youth participation, and encourage membership in organized horseshoe pitching.

The Cup is to be displayed promoting Club and State Horseshoe Pitching.

The 2022 Woody Cup Challenge will be held in Lansing, Sept. 17, at 11:00 a.m. Come hungry, the lunch is great!

## September 17, 2022

**Lansing will be defending the Woody Cup again in 2022. The tournament will be hosted at West Side (Wilson) Park on September 17, 2022.**

The Woody Cup Challenge was played at the horseshoe courts at Westside (Wilson) Park - 801 Stanley St., in west Lansing on September 11, 2021. Lansing was defending the championship won in 2019 by competing against clubs from Lake Orion and St. Clair Shores both from east Michigan. Lansing again was victorious in edging out the other two clubs. The final scoring was Lansing 27, St. Clair Shores 23 and Lake Orion with 22 points.

All money raised was given to St. Jude Children's Hospital as part of our ongoing support from the horseshoe pitching community.





# Here's a little NHPA/MHPA Horseshoe Pitching History

Contributed by Peggy Ann Smith, inducted into MHPA Hall of Fame in 2010

On May 16, 1922 the *Kalamazoo Gazette* said Michigan was one of 14 states affiliated with the "National Association of Horseshoe Pitchers", and that group had just merged with the "National League of Horseshoe and Quoit Pitchers of the US" (formed in 1919). In 1925, this league then merged with the "Grand League of the American Horseshoe Pitchers Association" (formed in 1914 in Kansas), which became the NHPA we still have today!

An article by Arthur Headlaugh (Ohio) from 1920, indicated that no attempt to form an association in Michigan had taken place yet, but Robert A. Harton, of Lansing, was considered to be the Men's State Champion. Harton was also 2nd Vice President of the "National League of Horseshoe and Quoit Pitchers" in 1919 and 1920. He pitched in World Tournaments held at St. Petersburg, Florida (1919-1921), and placed 3rd in 1921. His name does not appear in any "official" Michigan

State tournament records, or newspaper articles, but he was inducted into the MHPA HOF in 2006, for being one of the founding fathers at the national level. The NHPA granted Michigan's first charter in 1928 (titled "Michigan State Horseshoe Pitchers Association"), but membership lapsed in 1932 and 1933, and two separate State tournaments were held on different sides of the state. No State tournament was held in 1934 and Michigan was finally granted its current NHPA membership in 1935, combining all clubs into one entity, originally named the "Wolverine State Horseshoe Pitchers Association, or WSHPA. The name was changed to "Michigan Horseshoe Pitchers Association" in 2009.

The MHPA online records list the first Men's State Champion in 1923, with Lewis M. Wilks, of Battle Creek, winning the title. However, an article from the *Battle Creek Enquirer* from June 24, 1923, stated that "the State championship was won by Mr. Wilks last September at the Michigan State Fair in Detroit.

He also finished 7th in his last National tournament. He intends to enter the next National tournament in August at Cleveland (he placed 7th). Mr. Wilks will also defend his State title at the state fair this year."

Yes, that is correct! **The first publicized and news-reported State tournament was conducted 100 years ago in 1922 in conjunction with the State Fair in Detroit, Sept 1-10, 1922.** The event was organized by "Michigan Business Farmer" of Mount Clemens and George W. Dickinson, manager of the State fair. Tournaments were to be held throughout the summer to determine county and regional

champions who would, in turn, advance to the state tourney. The Champion crowned would represent Michigan at the next World tournament. The tourney finals were held on Thursday, Sept 7, which was "Farmer's Day" at the fair, and a crowd of 45,000 people entered the grounds that day. Lewis M. Wilks of Battle Creek won the title with a 14-1 record. Other contestant/s names are unknown as they were not listed in any of the Detroit Free Press articles published after the event. Lewis M. Wilkes was also the 1924 State Runner-up, to Champ Ralph Baxter.

Here are two newspaper clippings from back in the day.

## THE BAY CITY TIMES

### MICHIGAN TO HAVE HORSESHOE CHAMP

*Tournament to be conducted at State Fair in Detroit this fall.*

**Detroit** - The state horseshoe pitching title will be decided during the coming state fair; it has been determined to conduct a tournament in which any person who desired may enter. The Michigan Business Farmer, a magazine published at Mt. Clemens, will present a prize cup to the winner.

The Michigan champion will meet those of other states at the national tournament in Florida next winter, and reports to George W. Dickinson manager of the fair, are to the effect that the leading quoit throwers of Michigan are practicing daily, each with the hope of becoming national champion.

Preliminaries for the tournament will be held in different parts of the state during the summer at farmer's picnics and other meetings of Rural folk. Winners of the county tournaments will play in district contests, those victors meeting at the finals tournament during the fair, September 1 to 10. Entries for the preliminaries may be made through county agricultural agents.

*Date: July 7, 1922 - Paper: Bay City Times*

## Detroit Free Press

*Detroit, Michigan, Friday, September 8, 1922*

### Horseshoe Pitching Ends

Much interest was taken in the final contests of the first state horseshoe pitcher's tournament which were conducted on the infield of the race track. Fourteen crack pitchers were aligned early in the day and fought for state honors until late afternoon. L.M. Wilks, 544 Hamblin Avenue, Battle Creek, won the tournament. His score was 14 games won and one game lost. He becomes State Champion.

**8/28/22 MHPA  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order @6:47 PM by John Stephenson, President

Brandy Morehead, 1st VP, led us the the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

The April 30, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes were approved.

Financial Report - Pam Nelson, Sec/Treas.

General Fund	\$6347.16
Jr. Scholarship	\$2464.65
HOF	\$1073.00
World Tournament	\$ 500.00
TOTAL	\$10,076.81

The Secretary/Treasurer explained the allocation of incoming membership dollars as indicated below:

State Tournament	\$6.00
Ringer Report	\$7.00
Sec/Treas.	\$1.00
Statistician	\$1.00
NHPA	\$25.00
General Fund	\$5.00
TOTAL -	\$45.00

Upon the completion of the Treasurer's report the topic of dollar allocations was raised by the membership.

They wanted to know why \$7.00 was allocated to the Ringer Report and only \$6.00 to the State Tournament Fund.

After much discussion the Treasurer indicated she will do a study on how much we spend on the Ringer Report and Report said findings at the next Board Meeting in the Spring.

The membership also asked how the Jr. Scholarship is disbursed to the winners of the Scholarship. The disbursement of the JR Scholarship was explained by John Stephenson. There were no other inquiries into this topic.

There was no report from the President, the 1st VP, of the 2nd VP.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES Continued on next page



Dan Markley, HOF manager, announced to new member to the HOF; Bob Carr. Dan indicated that Bob has been a 30 member of the MHPA, has pitched horseshoes for many years and has demo's published on how to pitch horseshoes.

**Welcome to Bob Carr.**

Brandy Morehead proposed By-Law Changes as follows at the request of the membership.

1. Have participants register with the MHPA president/tournament director 5 days prior to the doubles tournament. Entrants can then be matched with another pitcher, if a team has not been formed prior to submitting entry the Tournament Director will find another pitcher to form a team.

The reasoning for this is the amount of food needed for this event is a cost to the host club, and without knowing the number of entrants, adds unneeded expenses to the host club.

**This amendment was tabled for further review by the Board.**

2. Change Article VI Tournaments Section 15 Delete this Article: Reason below

Any pitcher leaving a tournament when they have money coming and does not wait for final positions to be posted, shall forfeit all money back the the MHPA. Money forfeited shall be used by the Friends of Horseshoes for a flower fund.

This Article should be eliminated because it is not followed.

**APPROVED**

3. Change VII, Section 4: Tournaments Section 12:

This by-law should include doubles for cadet/junior players.

**APPROVED.**

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

President: Josh Lull was voted in as President. He ran unopposed.

2nd VP.

Nominations:     Debbie Markley  
                          Keara Hunter  
                          Zach Spanke

The winner is Zach Spanke as the new 2nd VP.

The meeting was adjourned around 8 PM by John Stephenson.

**FULL MEMBER** – Dues for full adult members are the National dues of twenty- five dollars (\$25.00) plus the amount set for State dues within their Charter. Three dollars (\$3.00) of every adult membership will be set aside for the World Tournament prize fund, for the next year. Only full members may enter State and World tournament.

\_\_\_\_\_ **FULL MEMBER (\$45.00): Voting member will full privileges to entry all sanctioned tournaments upon paying fees.**

**PROVISIONAL MEMBER** – Dues for provisional adult members are the National Provisional dues of ten dollars (\$10.00). Provisional members are allowed to entry to regular tournaments/leagues (upon paying their full entry fee) for the period beginning at their first entry to the end of the current calendar year. At which time they must become full members in order to continue participating in NHPA tournaments/leagues. During their provisional time, a member can upgrade to full member at any time by paying the remainder of their National dues of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) and their state charter dues. Provisional member tournament/league statistics are reported to the NHPA. Provisional members cannot vote and do not count toward the awarding of charter delegates, but are reported on charter membership reports to the NHPA.

\_\_\_\_\_ **PROVISIONAL MEMBER (\$10.00): Must pay entry fees and can play in as many tournaments as you like for the year.**

**TRIAL MEMBER** – All dues for trial members are waived and the member is allowed entry to one regular tournament/league (upon paying their full entry fee). Trail member tournament/league statistics are not reported to the NHPA. Trail members cannot vote and do not count toward the awarding of charter delegates, but are reported on charter membership reports to the NHPA.

\_\_\_\_\_ **TRIAL MEMBER (\$0.00): Must pay tournament entry fee and allowed only one tournament.**

## NHPA/MHPA Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last NHPA Card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Is this a new address? [ ] Yes

Phone: (        ) \_\_\_\_\_, Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*How do you wish to get the Ringer Report?*     *website*     *standard mail*

(Circle One) Category:    Man 40'    Man 30'    Woman    Junior Girl    Junior Boy    Cadet

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_ **Mandatory for Juniors and Men Pitching at 30'.**

*(We would appreciate all pitchers providing birth date for statistical purposes.)*

\_\_\_\_\_ **Full Member \$45:** Voting member with full privileges, able to enter all sanctioned tournaments upon paying fees.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Provisional Member \$10:** Must pay entry fees and can play in as many tournaments as you like for the year.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Trial Member \$0:** Must pay tournament entry fee and allowed only one tournament.

Make Check Payable to: MHPA

Mail to: **Pamela Nelson, 660 S. Coats Road, Oxford, MI 48371**

FULL MEMBER Card Costs: \$45.00 Adults - \$38.00 for second card in the same household.

\$0.00 Juniors    \$7.00 for a junior wanting to receive the newsletter

\$8.00 Ringer Report Subscription only. (Subscription included in full membership.)