

SSA Player Profile Eleanore "Heinrichs" Baker

Sometime "after Kent but before Gayle" Eleanore was born in England. After sailing over she lived in Elma, Manitoba (east of Winnipeg) before moving to Regina, SK in 1963. Eleanore & her husband have a daughter Wanda & 5 grandchildren in Alberta, a daughter Sheryl & sons Dion and Donnie & 7 grandchildren in & around Regina.



In the 1969 Eleanore met Kent & Gayle Conn, Art Evans, Gino Buskow. What did a person do - Play Shuffleboard of course!! And so the story unfolds. In those days, besides the Elks Club, all the boards were located in bars around the city. If you wanted to play you soon got over the stigma of going into a bar "alone".

Slinging beer at nights in the Drake Hotel (never worked on a Tuesday night tho', that was league night) Eleanore was always open for a game or two. Maybe even have to call for a partner or two. Slack times meant you could practice, just don't get caught.

In the Fall of 1969 when Art & Kent were the very first Presidents of the Saskatchewan Shuffleboard Association (SSA) & Regina & District Shuffleboard League (RDSL), Eleanore was able to play in League where there were 8 teams. All teams had to have a woman on the roster. Kent & Art brought in a rule "at least one woman had to play 60% of the games which was later changed to 80%, with the hopes of eventually including Women's Events in the Canadian Championships. Along with playing in this new league, Eleanore was the very first Secretary/Treasurer for SSA in 1969 thru to 1973 and also the very first Secretary/Treasurer of RDSL. With everything being a new experience, she along with the other executive were implementing rules & regulations, drawing up score sheets & along with honing her skills, Eleanore helped in organizing tournaments, scorekeeping & promoting the game along with Gayle, Kent, Art, Al & Gino.

1972 saw Eleanore & Gayle having their chance to attend the Canadian Championships held in St. John, New Brunswick. They both paid their own way to play in the "first" ever Ladies events. Eleanore won the Ladies Singles & Eleanore & Gayle Conn won the Ladies Doubles. Eleanore & Gayle played a triple round robin & lost their first two games. Once they were in the groove, they couldn't be beat.

At the 1975 Canadian Championships held in Regina, Eleanore recalls how embarrassing it was when she froze in front of her home town players, family, friends & spectators. Never before did she play with a crowd cheering her on!

Eleanore met her husband Bob through shuffleboard as he played on the Sedley team. But the true story is, "Bob could never beat Eleanore at board so he married her"!! 1976 saw Eleanore & Bob move Sedley, Saskatchewan & Eleanore retired from league play in 1980 to devote time to the growing family & help run the farm.

Provincial Championships (2 Singles, 3 Ladies Doubles & 1 Mixed Doubles)

Ladies Singles

1972 (SSA)

1975 (SSA)

Ladies Doubles

1972 (SSA) Eleanore "Heinrichs" Baker & Gayle Conn

1974 (SSA) Eleanore "Heinrichs" Baker & Anita Runge

1975 (SSA) Eleanore "Heinrichs" Baker & Doreen Sproule

Mixed Doubles

1974 (SSA) Eleanore "Heinrichs" Baker & Eugene Buskow



Gayle & Eleanor, March 2008

Canadian Championships (1 Ladies Singles & 1 Ladies Doubles)

Ladies Singles 1972 (SSA) **Ladies Doubles** 1972 (SSA) Eleanore "Heinrichs" Baker & Gayle Conn