

SSA Player Profile Kent Conn

Kent was born in Indian Head, SK "a long time ago" but after Art Evans! Kent & his wife Gayle have been married for 36 years and have 2 daughters Susan and Kathy and 1 grandchild Alex and at time of printing another grandchild on the way.

Kent & Gayle now live in Lethbridge, Alberta.



Kent & Gayle Conn 1972

In the mid-60's Kent worked for a Hotel in Saskatoon when shuffleboards were not allowed in a bar. When permission was given to have a board put in the bar, Kent's boss who had an interest in shuffleboards, brought a board in & left it in front lobby until the day it was allowed to be moved in. Well Kent worked at the front desk and he took advantage of this, when it was slow he would practice on the board. He knew he had much more experience at playing by the time it was moved into the bar area and his boss wanted him "after he finished work" to promote this game of shuffleboard, which of course Kent did gladly. His shuffleboard career was on a roll.

Kent moved to Regina (via Edmonton) in 1967 where Bankboard was the popular game in bars with only the odd straightboard, therefore not much "action" going on. Kent found these few boards around the city in bars such as the Drake & Brock Hotels. In 1969 Kent met Art Evans. At that time Art & Al Cooper had contacted the President of the Canadian Shuffleboard Congress, Dave Neufeld, for permission to enter the 1969 Canadian Championships & they were granted permission provided they form the Saskatchewan Shuffleboard Association and Regina & District Shuffleboard League upon their return. The Fall of 1969, Kent Conn, Art Evans and Al Cooper formed the SSA and the RDSL. Kent became the first President of SSA and Art first President of RDSL. They started with 8 teams with a rule at least one woman had to play 80% on every team, with the hopes of eventually including Ladies Events in the Canadian Championships. Along with his duties as President of SSA Kent was also 1st Vice President of Canadian Congress from 1970-1977.

1970 saw the very first "Sasquatch Tournament" to be held in Regina (now the "Sask Open") with Kent winning the Singles, Doubles and Mixed events. After many a discussion between Kent & Art before the 1971 Canadians, it was decided Art make a motion at Canadian Congress Annual General Meeting at the Championships held in Vancouver, BC to have Ladies Singles and Ladies Doubles events introduced at the Canadian Championship level being played in 1972. Kent along with Art were also involved in first re-write of the Canadian Congress Rule Book in 1971.

1972 the Canadian Championships were played in St. John, New Brunswick where the very first Ladies Singles & Doubles events were held with SSA Ladies winning both events. Kent & Art made a motion at the Annual General Meeting (which was accepted) of the "no gambling" rule at the Championship level. Kent was a very serious guy at the end of the board and didn't put up with any nonsense from other players, but away from the board has many a story to tell. Kent's glass eye has also been the source of many a joke or mischief over the years. Just ask him!! In 1972 Kent & Gayle moved to "Alberta" and Kent continued his shuffleboard playing for the Alberta Shuffleboard Association. To this day Kent & Gayle and Art & Irene have a long standing friendship.

Provincial Championships (3 Men's Singles & 3 Men's Doubles & 2 Mixed Doubles)

Men's Singles	Men's Doubles
1970 (SSA)	1970 (SSA) Kent Conn & Art Evans
1972 (ASA)	1974 (ASA) Kent Conn & Doug McKenzie
1976 (ASA)	1976 (ASA) Kent Conn & Bill Vucurevich

Mixed Doubles
1974 (ASA) Kent Conn & Gayle Conn
1975 (ASA) Kent Conn & Gayle Conn



Kent & Gayle Conn, March 2008

Canadian Championships (1 Men's Singles, 1 Men's Doubles & 2 Mixed Doubles)

Men's Singles	Men's Doubles	Mixed Doubles
1972 (ASA)	1976 (ASA) Kent Conn & Bill Vucurevich	1974 (ASA) Kent Conn & Gayle Conn
		1975 (ASA) Kent Conn & Gayle Conn