

BAY STATE RINGER REPORT – HOLIDAY SEASON, 2018



HELLO TO ALL – It's been a long time! This has been a busy year and now we are ready to welcome in a new one. **Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas** to all of you from the Massachusetts Executive Board – we hope for a good New Year in 2019. We already have almost 30 members, several of them new members, so we are looking forward to some great competition – new formats and new membership options.

On that note, the first new option in 2019 is for non-sanctioned pitchers to pitch in ONE sanctioned tournament. They will not be eligible for NHPA awards but CAN win, place, or show AND they will get their feet wet while obtaining an average to continue in tournaments if they so wish. There are other incentives for new members, especially, in our state. Ask Stacey Perron, Ken Corrigan, and Joe Hansen about those! Essentially, they receive their membership card free, once, if they participate in 2 sanctioned events during their first year. Not that hard when you consider that participating in a sanctioned league is one “event”.

Awards given out this year were to Scott Bedard for being Most Improved from 2016 – 2017. He improved 6.85% and is over 50% ringers now. This from a guy who has 2 small children and rarely finds time to practice. Some natural talent there, methinks!! Rookie of the Year for 2017 was Ken Corrigan who participated in 4 tournaments, travelled to Keene, NH for the New England tournament on Labor Day weekend (twice now!), and averaged over 21% in his first year.

A NEW, prestigious award came into being in 2018, thanks to Alan Fauteux and his generous Booster donation. The award is the Al Cardinale Sportsmanship award, named for Alan's father-in-law. Voting was held on-line and the first honoree was – *drum roll!* - **RICK HOWE!** A popular choice, Rick has been in horseshoes since he was a mere child. He is one of the most positive voices out there - Congratulations to Rick! And, thank you again, Alan Fauteux.

The 2018 State Tournament struggled through a major rainstorm but **was** completed in Belchertown. Ray Bedard is the Men's State Champion while Theresa Howe successfully defended her Women's crown. Dave Bliss Jr. is the new Elder State Champion. Nice pitching! Next year's State Singles tournament will be held in Hamilton on their newly renovated (Yes!!) courts. They put together a nice little video to show the work in progress and after it was completed- catchy video, nice work, Shelly Martinez! It will be nice to visit Hamilton again for the State Tournament – get a carpool full of pitchers to travel up there next August! The State Doubles will be held in Belchertown. The Loon Pond H.C. will have their normal first of the year Doubles tournament later in the year, on June 1st, but their Friday Night Challenge and Hamilton's first singles tournament will both be held in May. The full outdoor schedule will be available on the New England website sometime in early March so keep your eyes peeled for that. Horseshoe Manias will be held about once a month in Lakeville. Many of the events, scheduled or added on, are posted on Facebook and on the New England website, newenglandhorseshoes.net

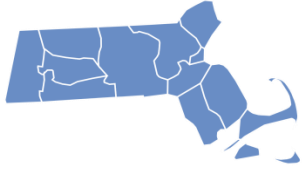
It may be quiet for most of you now but winter pitching continues in E. Hartford, CT, Thompson, CT, Gardner, MA and in Lewiston, ME. All but Gardner hold sanctioned events and casual leagues along with Doubles play on some weekends. That winter pitching keeps you going AND it is nice to see horseshoe friends in the winter as well as in the summer.

On that note, those of you who DO pitch in the winter, either here or down south, need to get your 2019 NHPA cards pretty soon, hey? An application is attached below for you to print up and send. If you are a long time pitcher and nothing has changed, just send the \$33.00 annual fee to me at: Debby Michaud, 379 Hodges St., Taunton, MA 02780. Make the check out to: MA HPA

For now, have a wonderful Holiday/Christmas season- good pitching, good health, and a good winter for all. Let me know if you have news, keep in touch. We are SO lucky to have this sport that brings together from all walks of life and from all ages!



Take CARE!!



Welcome to

the **Massachusetts Horseshoe Pitchers Association**! The following application is to renew your membership or to join for the first time. When this is completed and received by the State Secretary, you will receive your 2019 MAHPA/NHPA membership card. Keep it in your wallet or your horseshoe box to show at tournaments.

Adults \$33.00 Juniors (18 & below) \$8.00

Please make the check out to : MA HPA Ck. # (sec. to fill in)_____

Send to Sec: Debby Michaud, 379 Hodges St., Taunton, MA 02780 508-822-9610

Check out the New England website: newenglandhorseshoes.net for more information and for the 2019 tournament schedule/entry forms in Massachusetts and the other 5 New England states.

Name(first)_____ (MI) _____ (Last)_____

Address: _____ MA _____ Zip _____

Telephone (_____) _____ E-mail address: _____

Winter address(if different)_____

Applying as: New member _____ Renewal _____ Years as member? _____ NHPA # _____

Provisional Membership - \$10.00 First Year Only_____

Birth Date _____ (required for Juniors and Elders, age requested for others)

CATEGORY: Men 40 ft. _____ Men 30 ft*/Med.Exemption*. _____ Women _____

Junior Girl** _____ Junior Boy** _____ Cadet*** _____

*Men 70 and older or with a physical limitation. **Juniors = 18 years of age or less for the entire calendar year & under – ***Cadet is 12 yrs. of age or less for the entire calendar year.

Breakdown of Adult Membership Fees NHPA - \$25.00, MA HPA - \$8.00 Breakdown of Junior Membership Fee (**FREE** if new or if previous yr. member **and** participated in 2 sanctioned events) NHPA - \$5.00, MA HPA - \$3.00

BOOSTER (contribution for publicity, 1st yr. Juniors, etc.)_____