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*Silver Strikers*

C/O Kevin Pyles - 1st VP  
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# SILVER STRIKERS CLUB NEWSLETTER

Issue #42

July, 2006

*Silver Strike  
 Machines*  
 92

*Casinos with Silver  
 Strike Machines*  
 45

*Silver Strike Club  
 Members*  
 662

Check out our  
 Website...  
[www.silverstrikers.com](http://www.silverstrikers.com)

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 newsletter at:  
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## President's Remarks by Pam Martin



Welcome home to all. There were some unfortunate things that happened during the convention, but now I am hoping that all of us as a club will move forward. Bill Jollie and Neil Willman have agreed to help John, Kevin and myself as Interim Secretary and Treasurer as we move forward with the special election process that is needed to fill these vacant positions. We appreciate their help and look forward to working with them.

I have plenty of thank you letters to write, El Cortez, Four Queens, Plaza and Vegas Club for having their coins to help us celebrate our Lucky 7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Jo Reifer for making the beautiful club album to honor Strike of the Year and Hall of Fame Strikes and of course Jimmy and Ed Mahan for making our 7<sup>th</sup> Anniversary party at the El Cortez such a success. It was quite a hit, standing room only, we had to bring in more tables, chairs and food!

A lot of good ideas came out of this year's convention and I would like to try and get as many of them accomplished as possible. Our club members made it known that they want a party, love to win something, want a slot tournament, trade sessions, and just have fun and enjoy each other. I think this can be accomplished.

Gary Heinz is working on trying to continue a slot tournament for the people who are interested. If the club needs to back off on promoting this event that is fine. I think they will get plenty of support without the clubs help. Our club coin is a great way of making money to pay for our newsletter and convention events, we all need to continue support of this and also try to have more members receive their newsletter via email to cut postage and printing costs. We hope to continue the contest again next year and are looking for a volunteer to lead the committee.

Kevin Pyles wants your next membership card to be a collectible card like a slot card, and to have our roster available on a CD. Bob Chambers has volunteered to print some great cards for all

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Club Contact Information

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Treasurer	Position Open	
Secretary	Position Open	
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Pub. & Promo Chair	Gary Heinz	N/A
Grievance Chair	Bill Brooks	<a href="mailto:wkbrooks@cox.net">wkbrooks@cox.net</a>
Hall of Fame/Elections	Jo Reifer	<a href="mailto:jo-rick@lycos.com">jo-rick@lycos.com</a>
Historian	Position Open	
Webmaster	Jim Moser	<a href="mailto:strikerofgold@yahoo.com">strikerofgold@yahoo.com</a>

## Special Election

There will be a special election to replace two of our officers that have resigned. We need nominations for the office of secretary and the office of treasurer. Please check with the person you nominate to be sure they will be willing to serve in that office. We will accept nominations by mail postmarked not later than August 31st, 2006. The nominees will be announced in the September newsletter. Each nominee will have an opportunity to write a short article about why they are running for the office. The voting will take place after that with a cut off date of October 25th, 2006. If you have questions please feel free to contact me by email or regular mail.

Please send all nominations to:

**Jo Riefer**  
**2283 Panoramic Dr.**  
**Concord, CA 94520**

## Making Our Trade Sessions Fun for All

Following this years convention, the board has received several letters about our club sponsored trade sessions. Several individuals feel the trade sessions are intimidating and do not serve as a positive experience, especially for new members. The board agrees that this is something we must fix and will. We need to make sure that trade sessions are a fun, positive experience for club members with all levels of experience and knowledge. We thank those who wrote letters and raised the issue. One of the authors of those letters has volunteered to chair a committee to generate ideas and suggestions for improvements. The board will work with the committee to make sure the next SS Club Sponsored Trade Session is a success for all members, new and old.

## Token Controversy Continued

organization is being run than they should get on the board and bring about the changes as they see fit but don't destroy the organization because they don't agree with what the board is doing. It is great for someone to input constructive criticism but this turned into destructive actions. Integrity is a pretty big word and it has been used a lot during this controversy. Let's start with the integrity of the two board members who announced their resignation at the meeting without even the common courtesy of telling the other board members prior to the meeting. That was a brilliant example of integrity at its worst. I've heard of complaints of personal attacks during the meeting I'm not sure how people could expect anything else when they pursued their particular method of "exposing these supposedly unethical practices" (their words not mine). Some on the board tried to handle this on higher level of integrity, they wanted to investigate the matter and if no wrong doing was found, they did not want to publish names and point fingers as they did not feel it would serve any good purpose. However, since a few members want to keep this going we have now reached the point where that high road can no longer be taken. In this article I published only the letters, emails and names needed to briefly state what the controversy was, where it started, who investigated it and what the findings were. The whole file is a public club record, it is embarrassing to read and shows some very low points of our club. I will email it to anyone wanting to look at it. It is in excess of 30 pages and that is why it is not all in the newsletter. If you do ask for it to be emailed to you please bear with me as it will take a number of days to respond. Last but not least is that most all of the people involved were friends at one time or another and some have allowed this controversy to come between them, it is indeed a sad chapter in our clubs history.

## Good Year for Silver Strikers Membership!

*By Kevin Pyles*

The Silver Strikers membership had a good year signing up new members for the Club. We signed up 87 new members during our drive and total of 99 since the 2005 convention. During the business meeting Thursday night, awards were given out for the top three members that signed up the most new members. Winning third place was Richard Anderson, who signed up 3 new members. He was given a 2005 IGT NCV strike. Coming in second was Ray Ulinski with 4 new members. He won a 2005 Palms NCV strike. And the winner was Larry Jones, signing up 5 new members. He won a 2004 and 2005 Silver Strikers Club strike. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to everyone who signed up a new member to make our drive successful.

The Club table was very busy again during the convention. We signed up 7 new members, which brings our total active membership to 662. We also had 60 members renew their dues. A BIG THANK YOU to all the members that volunteered to help run the Membership table during the convention. Thank You for taking the time. Everyone did a terrific job and I enjoyed working with you and meeting some new strikers as well.

Now, onto the 2006-2007 Membership Drive. The dates for the drive will be from August 1, 2006 to July 31, 2007. We are still working out the details, so look for all the info in the next newsletter.

## Classified Ads

The catalog that's always updated and only printed when ordered. **"Comprehensive Nevada Silver Strike Reference Guide"** only \$28.85 including postage. **"Illustrated Nevada Errors and Variances"** for \$40.00 including postage. [wcohenour@earthlink.net](mailto:wcohenour@earthlink.net)  
William Cohenour, 11206 Saticoy St., Sun Valley, CA 91352-4728

**Full Line of Airtite Capsules and Storage Containers** to protect the beauty of your strikes in all denominations. Lowest prices, fastest service guaranteed. Only company to offer wall frames for 1-42 Silver Strikes. **If you collect it, we can FRAME it!!!** 1-800-747-8469, visit the Website: [www.tinytreasures.com](http://www.tinytreasures.com) Tiny Treasures, Inc., PO Box 336089, N. Las Vegas, NV 89033

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Visit the auction site especially for **Silver Strikers** – truly economical!  
**Hundreds of strikes are sold at reasonable prices every week!!!**  
"Try it – you'll love it!!!"

**4th and Last Edition of "Striking Differences" now available.** A 48 page booklet on significant Nevada Silver Strikes by Lisa Jung. \$15, plus \$3 for postage & handling; total price, \$18. Email: [lisa@lvha.net](mailto:lisa@lvha.net) Also, all silver strikes (**except \$10 Gold River, Laughlin, NV/Isle of Capri, Biloxi, MS error strike**) on Lisa's webpage are 10% off listed price.  
E-mail: [lisa@lvha.net](mailto:lisa@lvha.net) or Web page: <http://chippermel.lvha.net>

**Silver Strikes FOR SALE OR TRADE. Visit my NEW Website at**  
<http://2ht2wlk0.tripod.com> or contact me at [valeriehoran@frontiernet.net](mailto:valeriehoran@frontiernet.net)  
You can also write me to request a list of strikes available at:  
**Valerie Horan, 3350 Partridge Run Street, Laughlin, NV 89092.**

### COLLECTION FOR SALE

Nevada \$10 only, including copper rims. Have collected since '95, over 1700 different strikes. Send us your want list. e-mail [grc71873@msn.com](mailto:grc71873@msn.com), fax list to 801-254-0455 or mail to **Gary & Robyn Curtis 1597 W. 9775 So. South Jordan, UT. 84095**

## Token Controversy Continued

ethical practices, lack of integrity and a plot to get rid of the tournament. I'm not going to rehash the findings of the sub-committee; they found that there were no unethical dealings in any area in which the club would have any jurisdiction over. If you read everything that was printed it looks like there was a lot more going on here than just the tournament and the token. We all need to take a very serious look at what was going on. If we conclude that there were unethical dealings concerning the tournament then we have a lot more people who have been involved in unethical dealings over the past several years. Under the jurisdiction club, nothing unethical took place concerning the tournament. Maybe poor business practices but that is not for the club to legislate. It appears that if some do not agree with the findings of the sub-committee they feel it is OK to continue with the rumors and disruptions. If someone doesn't like the way an

## The Lucky 7th Anniversary Party



(President's Remarks Continued from page 1)

members to hand out with information about the club. Larry Jones, Mike Hennessey and Claude Argo will be working on ideas to help new members feel more at home at our next trade session. These are wonderful ideas.

I think we need to implement something that acknowledges the casino that wins our Strike of the Year award. Jack Budde received a beautiful plaque from CC&GTCC for winning their Silver Strike of the Year Award. Maybe we could do something along this line for the Casino's that we vote for as our club winners. Jo Riefer will be helping me with this idea and is staying on as Elections chair. These are just my idea's from the convention, your thoughts and idea's would be greatly appreciated.

In reviewing our constitution to check on all of the things we need to do, two things really stood out to me, they are that " the Club is organized exclusively as a social

club for pleasure", and that our main purpose is "to promote good will and closer relationships among collectors of silver strikes". This is where I plan to put my efforts in the coming year. Please start thinking about what we can do to support our members and involve the casinos more with our club activities.

A special thanks to all of you for supporting the club and working on bigger and better events and looking forward to times to make wonderful memories and friends of The Silver Strikers Club. Pam.



## Historian Needed by Mary Lou Waterbury CHSS-001

As most of you know who attended the convention this year, I have resigned my position of Historian. Since I have been the one and only historian for the Club, I feel that it is time for someone else to step up and take over this very important position. I intend to have my records up-to-date and in printed form by or before the end of this year.

To be a Historian is an important part of our Club. New members will want to know **How** the Club got started, **Who** was instrumental in seeing it through, **Where** was the first meeting, **What** were the goals and **When** was it all accomplished. There are many Clubs out there and we need to put our best foot forward as we search for new members.

The Historian's job is to keep track of our main accomplishments. If some day we were to have a small museum or enough space in the CCGTCC building, we would have room for all the Newsletters from Day One, plus other artifacts. The Historian needs to make sure that a picture is taken of each new set of officers.

This position will not take up a lot of your time, so will you volunteer now?

## Locations with Silver Strike Machines

Casino	City	State	Qty.
Aladdin Resort & Casino	Las Vegas	Nevada	3
Atlantis Casino Resort	Reno	Nevada	2
Bad River Bingo & Casino	Ohdanah	Wisconsin	2
Barbary Coast Hotel and Casino	Las Vegas	Nevada	1
Bellagio	Las Vegas	Nevada	4
Bill's Lake Tahoe Casino	Stateline	Nevada	2
California Hotel & Casino	Las Vegas	Nevada	2
Casino Morongo	Cabazon	California	4
Circus Circus Hotel Casino	Las Vegas	Nevada	2
Delta Saloon	Virginia City	Nevada	1
El Cortez	Las Vegas	Nevada	1
Eldorado Hotel & Casino	Reno	Nevada	2
Ellis Island Casino	Las Vegas	Nevada	1
Fitzgerald's Casino Hotel Reno	Reno	Nevada	1
Flamingo Laughlin	Laughlin	Nevada	1
Four Queens Hotel & Casino	Las Vegas	Nevada	2
Gold Coast Hotel & Casino	Las Vegas	Nevada	1
Golden Eagle Casino	Horton	Kansas	1
Golden Nugget	Las Vegas	Nevada	2
Gold Ranch	Verdi	Nevada	1
Hard Rock Hotel & Casino	Las Vegas	Nevada	2
Harrah's Casino Hotel Reno	Reno	Nevada	2
Hotel Nevada & Gambling Hall	Ely	Nevada	1
Imperial Palace Hotel and Casino	Las Vegas	Nevada	1
Las Vegas Club Hotel & Casino	Las Vegas	Nevada	2
MGM Grand Hotel & Casino	Las Vegas	Nevada	4
Mirage	Las Vegas	Nevada	5
Monte Carlo Resort & Casino	Las Vegas	Nevada	2
Mr. B's Casino - Mill City	Imlay	Nevada	1
New York New York	Las Vegas	Nevada	4
Orleans Hotel & Casino	Las Vegas	Nevada	2
Palms Casino Resort	Las Vegas	Nevada	2
Peppermill Hotel Casino Reno	Reno	Nevada	1
Plaza Hotel and Casino	Las Vegas	Nevada	2
Reno Hilton Resort	Reno	Nevada	3
Reno Tahoe Airport	Reno	Nevada	4
Sam's Town Hotel & Gambling Hall	Las Vegas	Nevada	2
Sands Regency	Reno	Nevada	1
Sierra Sid's	Sparks	Nevada	2
Silver Legacy Resort Reno	Reno	Nevada	2
Silverton Hotel & Casino	Las Vegas	Nevada	1
Slots A Fun	Las Vegas	Nevada	2
South Coast Hotel and Casino	Las Vegas	Nevada	2
Stardust Resort and Casino	Las Vegas	Nevada	4
Treasure Island (LV)	Las Vegas	Nevada	2

**Total Silver Strike Machines**

**92**

## Token Issue Continued

- March 14, 2006 - Item posted and mentioned on Strike Point
- April 10, 2006 - Initial letter to Board from Jack Haddock
- April 13, 2006 - All Board Members have submitted responses to Jack Haddock.
- April 14, 2006 - Final comments from Jack Haddock
- April 15, 2006 - Silver Strikers Executive Board Meeting to discuss Issue
- April 17, 2006 - Invites sent to C. Gregory and J. McFadden to serve on sub-committee
- April 21, 2006 - No response from general members invited to serve so follow up to invited members on sub-committee (Phone call to McFadden & Email to Christie Gregory)
- April 22, 2006 - Christie Gregory resigns from sub-committee (letter in file)
- April 24, 2006 - Norm Chrzanowski invited as back up member nominated for committee
- April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2006 - Final version of Token History Document sent to all sub-committee members for review and discussion
- May 3, 2006 - Sub-Committee Teleconference to discuss issue and draft response
- May 4, 2006 - Draft language of decisions sent out to sub-committee for approval
- May 9, 2006 - Final language of decisions sent out to sub-committee for review
- May 12, 2006 - Final approvals received and response sent back to Silver Striker's Board & Grievance Chair

### Grievance Chairman's Summary

Note: Jack Haddock's letter was an inquiry not a Grievance; he stated such in writing and at the meeting.

The board members responded to Jack Haddock's letter and he accepted what they had to say, that does not mean that he agreed with all of the conclusions. The findings of the sub-committee were posted on SilverStrikers.com in early May, the only missing link was the summary by the Grievance Chairman. The event was not a club function and the club had no control over it. The fact that articles concerning the tournament were in the newsletter does not make it an event which is sanctioned by the club. The production of all the tokens was between the Vegas Club and the Money Company. The club is not in a position to tell either how to conduct their business. The ten tokens involved are not the same as the tournament tokens. The plating is different and using the precedent set by Slots A Fun Casino different plating qualifies it as being a different token plus the word "PATTERN" is stamped on the edge of the ten tokens in question. However, concerning this matter, the stories continue and rumors keep growing. The President was told that she would be embarrassed at the club meeting during the convention plus a few days before the Club meeting one member was talking how the meeting was going to be blown wide open. It sounds as if some were bragging about how they were going to make some people look bad. I was not at the convention or the club meeting but I heard plenty, it sounds like and looked like a small number of people went to the meeting with the intent to disrupt, embarrass and in general cause chaos all under the disguise of un-

(Continued on page 18)

## 2006 Silver Strikers Club Commemorative Coin Designed by Peter Van der Kar - CHSS116

Limited Edition 400  
**SEVEN YEAR ANNIVERSARY – GOLD PLATED**  
This is a real beauty and the very first of its kind!



All initial orders of this year's club coin have been filled and there are still some left. If you have not ordered one and would still like to, please do so immediately. If you would like to order a second one and have not done so, please also use this form to do so

**Coin to be mailed: U.S. Mail \$30.00 each with postage insurance and any taxes included:**

**Member/Associate Name (s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Is this an order for your first 2006 coin or for a second one?**

**First** \_\_\_\_\_ **Second** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make check payable to the Silver Strikers Club and mail to:**

**Silver Strikers Club**  
c/o Pam Martin, President  
9395 Lake Hickory Nut Drive  
Winter Garden FL 34787-9718

## Silver Striker Forum on June 29, 2006

by Sharon Pamperin

Kathryn Kane from eBay gave us a nice presentation about collectibles on the eBay site. She told us that collectibles in general are down as far as eBay is concerned but Silver Strike listings and sales are up. For the first quarter of 2006, silver strike listings were up twenty percent. She told us that there are one hundred, fourteen strikes sold per day or sixteen per hour.

Casino items, in general are up thirty five percent and there are one thousand, six hundred casino items listed every day. eBay has one hundred, ninety three million registered users with about one hundred, twenty five thousand people on the site at any given time.

eBay has introduced a new program called "Skype". This enables buyers and sellers to communicate with each other from all over the world at no charge. It will be much easier than it is now and you will be able to chat with each other.

Kathryn also told us about "Collector's Corner" which will be a site for people buying and selling collectibles. It will provide more details about collecting etc. People will be able to learn more about collectibles.

A question and answer session followed her presentation. I think we all learned a little bit more about eBay and got a real person to contact if we have any problems. Kathryn's e-mail address is:

[KK2@ebay.com](mailto:KK2@ebay.com).



John Miller presents Katherine Kane with Club Strike



*Cut the card below out and use it to recruit a new member the next time you meet someone at a Silver Strike Machine.*



### Join the Silver Strikers Club!

Do you enjoy winning and collecting Silver Strikes?  
Over 600 members worldwide that buy, collect, trade and sell.  
Six great newsletters a year.  
Sign up today and start learning all about these collectibles.

**Check out our website and get an application at...**  
[www.silverstrikers.com](http://www.silverstrikers.com)

*Please mention my name and number on your application!*

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Member Number: \_\_\_\_\_

My Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2006 Auction Results

103	<b>\$13.00</b>	MISC	2005 Silver Striker Club Commemorative
104	<b>\$67.00</b>	\$7.00	King 8, LV - truck
105	NO SALE	\$7.00	Calif. Hotel, LV - Oahu (full reed)
106	NO SALE	\$7.00	Calif. Hotel, LV - Hawaii (full reed)
107	NO SALE	\$10.00	Sundowner - Pony Rider
108	<b>\$455.00</b>	\$10.00	Plaza, LV "2 fer"
109	NO SALE	\$10.00	O'Sheas, LV ccgtcc 2001 convention
110	<b>\$425.00</b>	\$10.00	O'Sheas, LV Elephant/donkey ltg. 150
111	<b>\$61.00</b>	\$10.00	Bellagio, LV Xmas Tree copper rim
112	<b>\$50.00</b>	\$10.00	3 LV strikes - Aladdin, Hard Rock, Bally's
113	<b>\$350.00</b>	\$10.00	Flamingo Hilton, Reno "no word bowler"
114	NO SALE	\$10.00	Atlantis, Reno (error hotel)
115	NO SALE	\$10.00	Reno Airport, 2 of 2 - 2002 chase ltd 444
116	<b>\$450.00</b>	\$10.00	Bally's, LV running 7
117	<b>\$250.00</b>	\$10.00	Delta, VC V&T coin aligned
118	NO SALE	\$10.00	Aladdin, LV Ali Baba "3 dot"
119	NO SALE	\$10.00	Mill City - Gold Panner "G" mint
120	<b>\$81.00</b>	\$10.00	Tamarack Junction, Reno
121	<b>\$58.00</b>	\$10.00	Stateline, Wendover Race Car face right
122	NO SALE	\$10.00	O'Sheas, LV - 1st silver strike tourney
123	<b>\$435.00</b>	\$10.00	Sam's Town/Fremont error - stagecoach
124	NO SALE	\$10.00	Sundowner - Bronc Rider
125	<b>\$500.00</b>	\$28,10,7	Golden Nugget set of 13
126	<b>\$400.00</b>	\$10.00	Flamingo Hilton, LV bldg ROTATED DIE
127	NO SALE	\$10.00	Circus Circus, LV clown error
128	<b>\$125.00</b>	\$10.00	Gold Coast, LV - Royal Flush "S" mint
129	<b>\$435.00</b>	\$10.00	Gold Ranch set of 4 - original "G" mint
130	<b>\$88.00</b>	\$10.00	Riverboat, Reno Far West
131	<b>\$100.00</b>	\$10.00	Riverboat, Reno Sylvan Dell
132	<b>\$210.00</b>	\$20.00	Nugget, Sparks Last Chance Joe
133	<b>\$100.00</b>	\$28.00	Aladdin, LV "gold on Taj Mahal"
134	<b>\$77.00</b>	MISC	2005 Silver Striker Tourney Coin
135	<b>\$88.00</b>	MISC	2006 Silver Striker Tourney Coin
136	NO SALE	MISC	2006 Silver Striker Club Coin DYE

**\$4,818.00 TOTALS**

## Token Controversy Continued

*member. Most people I've talked to seem to believe the same thing. I will forward copies of the correspondence between Pete Ryan and Richard Nelson. I hope these make it into the investigation file because, in my opinion, it clearly states these tokens were made for profit by a club member. These are my opinions only. I've never met Richard Nelson and I'm sure he's a nice guy. I do appreciate his help with the things he's done for the club but I don't think he's right concerning this matter. Good luck to you in your quest for the truth. Sincerely, Christie Gregory*

At this point Norman Chrzanowski replaced Christie Gregory on the committee

### **The Sub-Committee Findings (Published on SilverStrikers.com first part of May)**

*Follow Up On The Sub-Committee Findings For The Letter Concerning the Production/ Distribution Of The Ten Prototype Tokens After the Vegas Club Silver Strike Tournament: After reviewing all the information available and discussing the issues, the following are the final findings and decisions of this appointed subcommittee.*

- 1) All Silver Strikers Club Board Members have been completely cleared of any wrong doing. The only board member to acquire a token did so several weeks after other individuals acquired one. They had no prior knowledge of their existence until a call from another member. Sufficient evidence exists that no privilege was given because of their role as a member of the Board. This was a unanimous decision.*
- 2) The Silver Striker Tournament was NOT a club event and as such, the club and/or board does not have domain or responsibility over the creation and distribution of the tokens. All attendees, both members and non-members, can choose to not participate in the future if they are not happy with the tournament, casino or mint involved in this situation. This is their own personal decision, and not governed by this club. This was a unanimous decision.*
- 3) Understanding that some members are not happy about the production and distribution of these pattern medallions, and that this event was promoted as an item of interest to club members, we recommend the development of some simple guidelines to avoid this issue in the future. Given that this was not a club event, but promoted free of charge in the newsletter and website, we will ask anyone wishing the club to promote an event to our membership to agree to these guidelines in advance. If they refuse to do so, the club will NOT promote the event to club members at all. This was a unanimous decision.*

All of the information concerning the controversy was forwarded to the Grievance Chair (Bill Brooks) who was going to summarize it for the membership and the board was going to accept or amend it as seen fit. This was supposed to happen prior to the convention. However, the process stopped on Jun 6 when Bill Brooks and his wife, Ann, were in a bad car accident in which Ann was seriously injured. Bill had all of the information but no further steps were taken till late July.

All of the board meetings following the sub-committee findings were taken up with convention items plus they were waiting for the final summary from Bill Brooks.

### **Timeline of Events**

*January 20-22, 2006 - Silver Strikers Tournament at Las Vegas Club Casino*

*March 12-19, 2006 - Prototype Token Listed on eBay, Item #*

*(Continued on page 16)*

## Vegas Club Slot Tournament/Token Controversy

*by Bill Brooks, Grievance Chair*

### **Background**

The first slot tournament in which cash value silver strikes were given as prizes to some of the tournament winners and also to each person who entered the tournament was held in December 2001. It was hosted by O'Sheas Casino but held at the Flamingo Casino, 150 people attended. A second tournament was scheduled for December 2002 but was canceled one to two weeks prior to the scheduled date. There were/are many rumors as to why it was cancelled but no official reason was ever given. One thing that did come out was that the Gaming Commission would not approve another cash value token to be used strictly as prizes and /or participant tokens. Many ideas surfaced on how to get around the ruling and one was to use a no cash value token however the opinions as to whether the club members would be interested in such a token were very mixed. The club's board decided to request input from the members as to what they wanted but the response was very poor, only 25 responses with 17 for and 8 against. Because the response was so poor the board decided that the club would not be involved with nor sponsor a tournament. Some of the members who felt it would be a good idea said they would attend if one were to be held. At that point one of the club members, Gary Heinz (SS-120), talked with the Vegas Club about a tournament in which the participant would receive a Silver Strike. After many meetings and much discussion the Vegas Club embraced the idea and a tournament was held January 2004, 125 attended. The participant token was a limited to 250 \$40 silver strike. The participants were allowed to trade four current Vegas Club \$10 strikes for one of the \$40s, this was done at the awards ceremony and all 250 \$40 strikes were taken by the tournament participants. A second tournament was held in January 2005 with 100 attending, it was the same as the 2004 tournament with one exception that is the token given to participants was a Quarter Pound all silver (no gold) limited 200 no cash value token. All of the tokens were taken by the tournament participants. Side note: Bill Brooks (SS-208) thought the token would look better if it also had gold on it, he put out the word and found others who felt the same way and 39 tokens were sent to the Money Company for plating.

A third tournament was held January 2006 with 134 attending and it was the same as 2005 except the tournament tokens were silver with some gold plating.

NONE of the tournaments were sponsored by, sanctioned by nor endorsed by the Silver Strikers Club; in fact the club board said they would not have anything to do with a tournament. All of the tournaments held at the Vegas Club were open to anyone who wanted to attend. No club funds were spent on any of the tournaments. At the second Vegas Club tournament it was proposed that a Club meeting be held prior to the trade session and at that proposed meeting the club did provide light Hors d'Oeuvres. Prior to the meeting being held it was decided that a formal club meeting would be in violation of club bylaws so an "informational" session was held and not a club meeting. The Vegas Club combined with a LOT of push from Gary Heinz put on

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## Token Controversy Continued

the tournaments and no club funds were spent on or during the 2004, 2005 or 2006 tournament festivities. Gary Heinz's persistence in contacting, planning, follow up, follow up and more follow up is the only reason that the Vegas Club tournaments took place. Gary Heinz is solely responsible for getting the tournament off the ground each of the three years it was held at the Vegas Club. At the formal club meeting in 2005 it was proposed that a committee be set up to do something with a slot tournament. Pam Martin, Dennis Finn and Gary Heinz were appointed to the committee. Other than a dinner get together no tournament committee meetings were ever held. Gary Heinz took it on his own (not as a committee member) to set up the tournament.

The Tokens for the Vegas Club tournament were purchased by the Vegas Club. The no cash value tokens, for the second and third Vegas Club Tournaments, were produced from the Money Company, a company owned by Richard Nelson, SS – 248. The contract for production of the tokens was strictly between the Vegas Club and the Money Company.

### How did the controversy come about?

About three or four weeks after the tournament Jeff Bitzer (SS-291) put a Vegas Club Token up for auction on eBay. While talking to the buyer of that auction Jeff was asked if he had one of the prototype tokens from the last tournament. Jeff did not as he did not know of it and followed up with a call to Pam Martin (SS-365) asking if she could tell him anything about the extra prototypes. Pam did not know anything about them and called Gary Heinz to find out what Gary knew. Gary knew of them but did not know how many were made or if any more were available. Pam called Richard Nelson and asked him about them, Richard said 10 prototypes (called PATTERN) were produced and that he had three left, one for his collection, one on reserve for Pete Ryan and the third one he would sell. Jamie Martin bought the third token which Richard referenced. Pete Ryan cancelled the one which he had on reserve. The ten prototypes are different plating than the 200 used for the tournament. The precedent for different plating on a token and not being called the same token was set when Slots of Fun Casino reversed plated three different \$200s and restarted the numbering system at number one when they did it. Neither IGT nor the Nevada Gaming Commission objected.

Shortly thereafter one of the prototype tokens was listed on eBay and it was bought by the daughter of the man who bought the Vegas Club token from Jeff Bitzer, the daughter was buying it for her father. As it turns out her father is an acquaintance of Richard Nelson and already had the prototype. At first some people thought there was some shill bidding going on, the one suspected of shill bidding won the bid and bought the token, no shill bidding was actually taking place. There has not been any indication that that token was ever resold.

In Mid April the board received the following Jack Haddock letter: *April 11, 2006*

To: All elected officers of the Silver Strikes Club

Subject: Ethics Involving "Prototype" 2006 Silver Strike Tournament Token

Several Silver Strikers Club members have contacted me regarding the issuance of ten additional tournament strikes (with reverse gold plating) that have been produced and distrib-

## Token Controversy Continued

*Richard Nelson without permission from anyone to mint anymore than the two hundred tokens that he was contracted to do. If there is any wrong doings here it should fall on the shoulders of Richard Nelson. He minted a copyrighted logo of a Casino along with a copyrighted logo of the Great Moments Restaurant. My opinion, illegal and unethical on both accounts.*

*Anybody that got the tokens, good for them, they were just in the right spot at the right time. You and Dennis were in the right spot when you got the two Two Hundreds from Ceasar's in Las Vegas, they didn't come through the front door, was it ethical or unethical for you two to get them when no other club member had any chance to get one. Was it ethical to sell one for \$16K? Not much different than getting one of the ten bastard Tournament Tokens in my opinion. I tried to win one on Ebay but wasn't willing to fork out what it took to get one and YES I would bid on another one if it surfaced, I'm a collector and would like one of everything I can get my hands on.....*

*Thanks again for asking, hope my babbling made some sense to you. Jeff Bitz*

*(Christie Gregory) wrote:*

*Hello.....I've been put on a sub-committee to review the issue of the 10 LVC "prototypes" which have surfaced recently. I've talked to several people and your name comes up as questioning them. I'd like your opinion. I'm trying to get a feel on other members thoughts since it hasn't been made public to all our members. Any help will be appreciated. Email or call me whenever you have time. Thanks.....Christie Gregory*

### **Christie Gregory's email dated 22 April, 2006**

*From: swisscaps@venus.net, To: msailfish@aol.com, Date: Sat, 22 Apr 2006 17:42:00 GMT  
Subject: Sub- Committee*

*To the Board Members of the Silver Strike Club:*

*At this time, I'd like to step down from the sub-committee investigating the Vegas Club "prototype" tokens. I have never been out to "get" anyone. All I did was question the who, what, when and why regarding the extra ten tokens. I was never interested in buying one of the tokens or I would have bid on the one on ebay. I just wanted to know the history of these tokens. I did email Jack Haddock because I do alot of business with Jack plus I value his opinion and knowledge. Since I've been collecting strikes, Jack has been one of the fathers" of the strike community and I know he cares about the club.*

*2) I didn't realize my integrity and ethics would be questioned because of my involvement in this matter. I was shocked, to say the least, when I read Jeff Bitzer's email.*

*3) I don't agree on the " keep this thing quiet" policy that seems to be going on. I have talked to around six people and emailed two, those being Jeff Bitzer, whose response you have and Doug Connelly, who hasn't replied.*

*Everyone I talked to already knew about it and had their own opinions. I have never pushed my opinion on anyone. I understand the slot tournament was not a club function but the release of these 10 tokens does affect our members which is the reason why, in my opinion, our elected officers need to truly get to the bottom of this matter and not sweep it under the rug. I do believe the matter has hurt the club regardless of the outcome of the investigation. Several collections are already for sale and that's the sad reality of the situation. I firmly believe Richard Nelson's decision to produce these 10 tokens and call them rare prototypes was an unethical action and done without a thought of how it would effect the club in which he is a*

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## Token Controversy Continued

people to look into it who had not been involved with setting up the tournament or involved with Richard Nelson. The board picked four people (Two board members and two members at large) plus an alternate to look into the matter; the four were Christie Gregory (SS-123), James McFadden (SS-289) John Miller (SS-633) and Kevin Pyles (SS-087). The alternate was Norman Chrzanowski (SS-305). None had been involved in setting up the Tournament or in the procurement of the token. Four had attended the tournament and one had not.

### **Email from Christie Gregory Dated 21 April**

To: "John F. Miller", Subject: Re: Token Sub-committee

Date: Fri, 21 Apr 2006 22:22:49 +0000 [View Source]

John.....I will be on the sub-committee so just let me know a day and time for the call and I'll be available. I have been asking a few questions on my own. I do have a little problem with the fact this hasn't been made public. I've talked to a couple of people whom I'm friends with and I value their opinion. So far, everyone I've talked to seems to know more about it than I do so I'm certainly not spreading the news. Sincerely, Christie Gregory

### **Email from Jeff Bitzer on April 21, 2006**

Date: April 21, 2006 7:36:16 AM PDT, To: [johnfmiller@att.net](mailto:johnfmiller@att.net), Subject: tokens

Hi John, Christie sent me an email asking me a question about the ten tokens and I want you to have a copy of it and my response.

I personally think there's a lynch mob starting here for no reason. Pam and Jamie are friends of mine and I don't think a few chosen people have the right to decide the fate of our President and Club over a token that any club member would have snapped up.

Hi Christie, Thanks for asking me for my opinion. I think I was one of the first people to find out about them. I did so in a round about way. I had three of my Tournament Tokens up for sale on Jackpot and they were purchased by Bob Chaffin through his Daughter who has a computer not him. Bob called me to confirm the purchase of my tokens and asked me if I had one of the new ten special minted tokens and that he had number 10. I had no clue about these tokens and started asking questions. I called Pete Ryan and Pam and Jamie Martin and neither knew anything about them but said they would ask around.

Pam called Richard Nelson and asked him about them and he told her that he minted them and gave her a list of names and numbers of all that had a token which was shared with me. At that point I think there was six on the list and four unspoken for tokens. A few days after that one was listed on auction which I bid on at an amount that I was willing to pay for it and I lost the auction to Bob Chiffin's Daughter ( I recognized the bidder name from the tokens that she won from me ) which I thought was strange, no actually I thought she was still bidding for Richard Nelson because Bob and Richard are best of friends. I found out later that she was bidding for someone else. So much for the history part.

My concern about the whole thing was "who gave Richard Nelson permission to mint ten extra numbered tokens ?? This to me was an ethics problem, that is to mint something that wasn't authorized by anyone. I called Pam Martin to ask what the club's stance would be on this and she told me that it had nothing to do with the club and that it was a Las Vegas Club sponsored event and the club had no involvement in the tournament only input of ideas. So, did Freddie give permission ?? I can't answer that but it was still wrong and unethical for

## Token Controversy Continued

uted in an apparently restricted and preferential manner. Over ten members have discussed this with me and four requested that their names be included with this inquiry: Van der Kar, Curtis, Ryan, and Gregory.

I am taking the lead in this inquiry because the Club presently does not have an ethics committee chairman and there is a question as to the involvement of the Club officers so members were uncertain as to whom to contact. Since I am a past charter officer, I am personally interested that this situation so it does not hinder the future growth of the Silver Strikers Club.

The Club is a non-profit organization and every effort must be taken to maintain a high degree of integrity for its officers. This inquiry is directed at any of the Club Officers or members who may have produced or now own one of these "prototypes." I urge each of you to consider a response to these questions especially so you can be cleared of any involvement. In order to avoid any future ethical questions, a Club policy or statement to be added to the "Club Code of Ethics" should be considered by the Board.

The basis for concern centers on the fact that participants in the tournament enrolled with the understanding that only 200 tokens were to be made and their participation in the tournament enabled them to obtain these tokens.

There are some questions that the membership is seeking answers to:

1. Who authorized these strikes? Las Vegas Club? Silver Strikers Club Board or – who?
2. Did any of the Club Officers become the owner of these and how did they obtain them? And, if so, why were they privileged to be able to obtain them? (Only one was ever offered on Ebay where most of the information known about these strikes was obtained.)
3. Is a Silver Strikers Club member profiting by producing and selling these strikes?
4. Why were these produced if not for profit?
5. Do the officers of the Silver Strikers Club see any ethical violations in the production of these "prototypes?"
6. If an ethics grievance were to be filed, with whom should it be filed?
7. Is the fact of "reversing plating" enough to identify the strike as one of the original 200?

It is understood that the Nevada Gaming Commission was not involved in any approval process for the tournament strikes. Since the ten strikes in question contain the Las Vegas Club logo, it is assumed that they were a part of any authorization which puts them in a position that they falsely advertised there were only 200.

I realize this inquiry is controversial but it is not healthy for the Club to ignore situations which ill feelings with the members. I believe that some major conflicts at the convention can be avoided if these questions can be satisfactorily answered, and any necessary resolution, be taken now.

Sincerely, Jack Haddock

The Ethics Chairman position was vacant at the time due to a death. Bill Brooks was asked to fill the position and accepted but, asked that the Jack Haddock letter be handled by someone else as Bill Brooks had been a big supporter of the tournament and had had two dealings with Richard Nelson. Bill Brooks recommended the board pick

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