



Karen Graham

Pitcher/Promoter

Karen Graham has been a member of the New York State Horseshoe Pitchers Association since 1993. For the past 15 years Karen has been an active pitcher locally at the Pine Grove Horseshoe Club and also at the State and World Tournament level. She attended 3 World tournaments: in 1995 in Perry GA, in 1997 in Kitchener, ON, Canada, and in 1999 in Greenville, OH. Her first World Tournament experience was a real success as Karen took 1st Place in the Women's H Class in Perry, GA. Unfortunately, buying a business curtailed further opportunities at World Tournaments.

It didn't stop Karen at the State level as she and her husband Bill continued to travel around the state to many tournaments each year. On a State level Karen has accomplished more than most of our women pitchers. She has been a participant in the Women's Championship Class at the NY State Tournament 13 times, from 1996-2008. After coming close a number of times, in 2005 she took the Women's Championship title beating Ellen Perry in a playoff. She posted a 7-1 record, pitching 61.11% for the day. In 2000 with a change in the State pitching format, Women's A Class play was included. Since 2000 Karen has been in the Women's Class A and has won it 5 times, in 2000, 2001, 2002, 2004, and 2005.

She was also the NY State Doubles Champion in 2002 with pitching partner Rose Wright.

Another side of Karen Graham comes to light when you consider her involvement with horseshoes off the courts. It started at tournaments that she was pitching in. Karen was always on hand to help wherever she was needed: court set up, scorekeeping, stats or clean up after a long day. She has helped out as a Pine Grove member when her club hosted their annual

tournament, and State Tournaments in 1995 and 1997, and the State Doubles in 2002 in Camden. Along with being a past Secretary/Treasurer for Pine Grove, Karen has been the Tournament Director for the Pine Grove Open for the past few years.

In 2000 Karen stepped up to the plate as State Tournament Director when the competitions were set in Camden. She repeated these responsibilities again in 2005 in Camden, and at Waterloo in 2007 and 2008. She was also the State Doubles Tournament Director in 2008.

Karen is currently serving as a member of the New York State Hall of Fame Committee.

When we consider her dedication to horseshoes both on and off the courts it is obvious to me that Karen Graham should seriously be considered for induction into the New York State Horseshoe Pitcher's Hall of Fame.