



USBA

August 2006

The United States Billiard Association

Newsletter

The New 3-Cushion Billiard Enterprise

Inside:

President's Column – Review of Caudron's Video

Secretary's Desk

Upcoming Tournaments

Wider Spots?

Email Bag



UNITED STATES BILLIARD ASSOCIATION
The New 3-cushion Billiard Enterprise
August 2006
www.usbilliardassn.org
MEMBER OF THE UMB (UNION MONDIALE DE BILLARD)

From the President

A Must-Have DVD from Frederic Caudron

If you love billiards, you must get a new set of two DVDs by Frederic Caudron. It's called "Master of Billiards" and was produced by a billiard production company called Kozoom in France.

The first DVD in the set has four parts. First there is a brief listing of Caudron's titles -- 14 as a Junior player and 57 senior titles including 5 world championships in four different carom disciplines.

Next is a 40-minute interview. Don't worry about the language, since if you don't speak French or Dutch, there is also an English track. Frederic covers how he got into the game, his early teachers, his memories of competition, and the qualities he feels are necessary for top play.

Next on the DVD is a demonstration of straight rail. If you have never seen a straight rail champion before, this will be an eye-opener. At straight rail, no cushions are required, you just have to hit both the other balls with the cue ball. For the "champions' game" such as would be played in major competitions, triangular areas in the corners are marked and only one point can be scored while both balls remain in one of the areas.

The demo begins from the break, and the purpose of each important shot is explained. It takes about 20 shots before the object balls are well under control, and during this first phase, you learn things to avoid and things to accomplish to make sure the run continues.

Once the balls are gathered near the cushion, Caudron begins the rail nurse. In Europe, this is called the "Serie Americaine," since it was US players who originally introduced the technique. The basic idea is to have one object ball near the cushion, the other at about a 45-degree angle from that ball and quite close. The cue ball is kept at about 45 degrees in the other direction. You hit the ball on the cushion and then the other ball. With the right angle and speed, the original position will immediately reappear. More likely, there will be some error in speed or angle, and then a range of other shots is brought into play.

A particular problem is the corner, where a line is marked from the first diamond on the end rail to the second diamond on the long rail. If the two object balls end up in the corner area, the referee announces "entree" and the player has one preparatory shot that keeps the balls in the corner before a ball must be driven out of the corner. The referee says "dedans", which is French for "within" when you must drive one ball out of the corner area.

This corner rule, which is not often seen in games among beginners, was put in because it's possible to score hundreds of thousands of points if the two object balls are wedged one against each cushion right in the corner.

In any case, Frederic shows you how to walk the balls down the line past the forbidden zone, keeping one object ball just outside, and usually sending the other to the cushion and back to rejoin its mate.

250 points are scored in going once around the table. There is continuous commentary on the progress or problems encountered. I suspect that some of the problems were intentional to show the various methods used to recover the ideal position. The run goes very quickly. Straight rail is not the sort of game where you ponder over each shot.

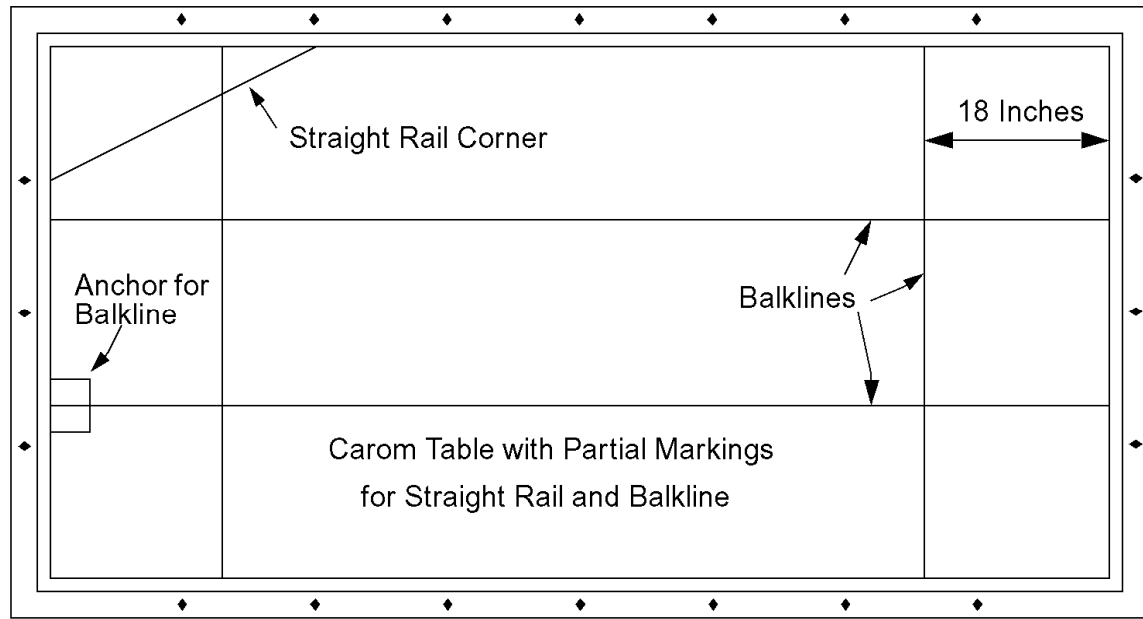
As impressive as the straight rail demonstration is, it pales in comparison to the second demo on the first DVD -- 47/2 balkline. In the US, we would call this 18.2, but the rest of the world measures things in centimeters. Lines are drawn 47 centimeters from the cushion, and when the balls end in one of the nine regions, one preparatory shot is allowed before sending one of the object balls out of the region on the second shot.



UNITED STATES BILLIARD ASSOCIATION
The New 3-cushion Billiard Enterprise
August 2006
www.usbilliardassn.org
MEMBER OF THE UMB (UNION MONDIALE DE BILLARD)

The way Caudron controls all three balls is amazing. The main technique is to take the balls to a line and keep one on each side. On paper this is easy, but the speed control of all three balls, as well as the control of any ball off the cushion is nearly unbelievable. The total run shown is 180, and again many problems are encountered and solved, with explanation.

I'll talk about the second DVD next month. I don't know of any source in the US for this, but you can order a copy from www.kozoom.com or www.i-billiard.nl with video clips available on at least one of those sites. The production is very high quality with on-screen graphics and a count of the score.



Regional Directors Reports

Charles Brown – 2006 Sang Lee International Open Tournament August 13 to 20, 2006

Carom Café Billiards in Flushing, New York will host the second annual Sang Lee Memorial Tournament August 13 to 20, 2006. Featured players include 2005 defending champion Torbjörn Blomdahl plus Frédéric Caudron, Raymond Ceulemans, Dick Jaspers, Semih Sayginer, and Marco Zanetti. Current US National Champion Mazin Shooni along with other top US players Sonny Cho, Carlos Hallon, Michael Kang, Hugo Patiño, Pedro Piedrabuena, and Miguel Torres will join a stellar international field of players for the annual three-cushion tournament and tribute to the late Sang Chun Lee, former world champion and twelve time US National champion.

Find complete tournament information online at www.sangleeinternational.com.

ATTENTION PLAYERS - Inscription is still open - Contact Charles Brown to reserve a spot in the tournament cbrown54@speakeasy.net or tournament@sangleeinternational.com 646 528 3238 TEL

Advance Ticket Sales and Information tickets@sangleeinternational.com 917 670 4728 TEL

SAVE THE DATE August 13 to 20, 2006 Carom Café Billiards 34-02 Linden Place Flushing, NY 11354
718 358 8585 TEL tournament@sangleeinternational.com



UNITED STATES BILLIARD ASSOCIATION
The New 3-cushion Billiard Enterprise
August 2006
www.usbilliardassn.org
MEMBER OF THE UMB (UNION MONDIALE DE BILLARD)

Ken Higgins –
USBA “Mike Fahey Memorial” 3-Cushion Billiards Tournament

When: Friday, Saturday, Sunday – August 25-27, 2006
Where: Tacoma Elks #174
1965 S. Union Tacoma, WA 98405
Entry: \$60 - 1st Division Players
\$35 - 2nd Division Players

USBA membership required. Add USBA annual membership fee if not already a member.

Cash

Payout: \$10 from each entry (1st or 2nd division) will go to the NW Billiard Foundation (Tacoma Elks Billiard Fund). \$5 per player will be paid to the USBA. All remaining funds from entry fees will be paid in prize money. One half of the entry fees of the 2nd Division will form a cash pool eligible only to this group. The total number of awards in the Tournament payout and 2nd Division payout will be determined once all entries have been received.

The tournament is limited to the first 24 players paid.

Entry fee needs to be paid by August 18, 2006. By August 23, you will be advised as to your schedule of play.

The schedule will try to accommodate a flexible Friday & Saturday schedule. Some matches may be played Thursday, August 24, evening if players so desire. Entry fee should include name, address, phone number (or email id), and the time you can be available for play. Entries not requesting special start times will be scheduled as best fits.

Play will start at 10:00 AM on Friday. All players will know their schedule in advance. Sunday finals will start at 9:30 AM.

Send your entry fee payable to Ken Higgins, Northwest USBA Director, at:

Ken Higgins
19342 47th Ave NE
Seattle, WA 98155
425-709-8718
email: ken.higgins@sun.com

Secretary's Desk

We have developed an email list for members to get email update notices for our website content. If you want to be included for the freshest info, email secretary@usbilliardassn.org with “Subscribe” as the subject and your email address in the body.



UNITED STATES BILLIARD ASSOCIATION
The New 3-cushion Billiard Enterprise
August 2006
www.usbilliardassn.org
MEMBER OF THE UMB (UNION MONDIALE DE BILLARD)

Email Bag

Belgium has issued a beautiful sheet of postage stamps with photos of great Belgian carom players past and present. Their stamp agency has for sale the sheet of twelve stamps, two first day covers, each with six stamps, and a first day sheet. Here are URL's for the stamp agency and images of what's available:

Belgian stamp agency:

<<http://www.post.be/site/nl/postgroup/aboutus/structure/subsidiaries/philately/stamps/2006/items/08.html>>

Full sheet:

<<http://albums.photo.epson.com/j/ViewPhoto?u=3010424&a=30053147&p=74319176>>

First day covers:

<<http://albums.photo.epson.com/j/ViewPhoto?u=3010424&a=30053147&p=74513375>>

<<http://albums.photo.epson.com/j/ViewPhoto?u=3010424&a=30053147&p=74513376>>

First day sheet:

<<http://albums.photo.epson.com/j/ViewPhoto?u=3010424&a=30053147&p=74513398>>

Wider Spots?

How far from the center line of the table do you put the spots for the cue ball for the break shot? The current USBA rules and the UMB rules differ on this point. By the USBA rules, the left and right cue ball spots are six inches from the center line. By the rules used in the World Championships, the distance is 7-3/16 inches, or 18.25 centimeters.

It seems like we should adopt the world standard. Please forward your comments.

When you pay your dues for an additional year, you'll receive this wonderful premium quality embroidered USBA patch as a thank-you. It measures 3"X3". Border is black and yellow, background behind USBA is blue, red and white stripes with yellow cues and a red with two white balls. Example: If you owe for 2006, simply renew now for 2006 and 2007. If your dues are current for 2006, or any year, simply renew for an additional year and get the patch free. If you're a life member and want the patch, send in a donation of \$36. Quantities are limited. Renew/extend your USBA membership today. 2006 pro-rated dues and 2007 dues is \$51. Dues for additional years is \$36 per year.





UNITED STATES BILLIARD ASSOCIATION

The New 3-cushion Billiard Enterprise

August 2006

www.usbilliardassn.org

MEMBER OF THE UMB (UNION MONDIALE DE BILLARD)

USBA Membership ____ New Member ____ Renewal

- Prorated – August – December 2006 \$15
- Dues 2007 \$36 (Total \$51 if 2006 is owed)
- Dues 2008 and beyond @ \$36 per year – each additional year gets a patch
- I wish to donate to the USBA _____ (Travel or General Fund)

PRINT PLEASE

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 E-Mail: _____
 Local Room Name: _____
 Local Room Address: _____

May we release personal data to other members? ____ Yes ____ No

Send completed form and a check to:

Brian Morgan, USBA Secretary



United States Billiard Association
801 Diane Court
Springfield, Illinois 62702-3503 USA

<p>President: Bob Jewett 1000 Kiely Blvd Apt 86, Santa Clara, CA 95051 408-615-7479 president@usbilliardassn.org</p>		<p>Secretary/Treasurer: Brian Morgan 801 Diane Court Springfield, IL 62702-3503 1.877.CAROM22 (227.6622) secretary@usbilliardassn.org</p>
<p>Eastern Region Directors: Mazin Shooni – 2006 USA Champion 135 Broad Street Unit # 3A5, Hudson, MA, 01749 978-562-8595 cell phone: 248-910-4466 work phone: 978-535-7000 mazinshooni@yahoo.com</p> <p>John Zymeck 6520 North Ocean Blvd. #31 Ocean Ridge, FL 33435 561-670-0240 jzymeck@bellsouth.net</p> <p>Charles Brown cbrown54@speakeasy.net</p>	<p>Central Region Directors: George Theobald 1N260 Prince Crossing Rd. West Chicago, Illinois 60185-2417 (630) 231-9444 gtheobald4@comcast.net</p> <p>Bill Johnson 734-368-3315 williamharryjohnson@gmail.com</p> <p>George Ashby – 8X USA Champion 206 E. State Street Jacksonville, IL 62650 217-440-0069</p>	<p>Western Region Directors: George Aronek 19120 Nordhoff St. Northridge, California 91324-3654 AGQcase@aol.com</p> <p>Ken Higgins 19342 47TH Ave NE. Seattle, Washington 98155-2954 (425) 709-8718 ken.higgins@sun.com</p> <p>Bruce Warner (310)738-5429 bw-@ix.netcom.com</p>