



USBA

June 2006

The United States Billiard Association

Newsletter

The New 3-Cushion Billiard Enterprise

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UNITED STATES BILLIARD ASSOCIATION

The New 3-cushion Billiard Enterprise

June 2006

www.usbilliardassn.org

MEMBER OF THE UMB (UNION MONDIALE DE BILLARD)

From the Secretary's Desk

We have 175 paid members. This means that many of you receiving this are not current for 2006 in our records. Pro-rated dues – June through December are \$18. Please consider renewing for 2007 also for an additional \$36. A dues statement is inserted at the bottom of the last page if you're not current.

USBA National Tournament Results:

- 1- Mazin Shooni, High Run: 18 USBA RECORD, Best Game Average: 3.889, Grand Average: 1.268
- 2- Pedro Piedrabuena, High Run: 9, Best Game Average: 1.842, Grand Average: 1.248
- 3- Sonny Cho, High Run: 10, Best Game Average: 1.944, Grand Average: 1.319
- 4- Adrian Viguera, High Run: 6, Best Game Average: 1.061, Grand Average: 0.842
- 5- Michael Kang, High Run: 8, Best Game Average: 1.750, Grand Average: 1.003
- 6- Young Gull Lee, High Run: 10, Best Game Average: 1.250, Grand Average: 0.925
- 7- Khalil Diab, High Run: 9, Best Game Average: 1.094, Grand Average: 0.858
- 8- Roberto Arana, High Run: 6, Best Game Average: 1.161, Grand Average: 0.752
- 9- Doug Brink, High Run: 7, Best Game Average: 1.094, Grand Average: 0.672
- 10- Robert Raiford, High Run: 6, Best Game Average: 1.167, Grand Average: 0.585

Other participants - David Van Lockeren, Felipe Razon , Bill Johnson, Carlos Hallon, Don Sperber, Bob Page, Tom Rossman , Mark Sullivan, Bob Letherby, Tim Moreno, Sid Banner, Jake Zymmeck, Aaron Steinberg, George Theobald, Jim Shovack, Kaoh Nguyen, Armando Wong, Tom Hardwood, Jamil Isreal , George Vittini, Norm Lofgren, Billy Maloney, Luis Martinez, Luis Amat, Bud Askov , Joaquin Salinas, Edward J. Dowling, Daniel B. Silver, William Higgins, Charles Brown, Adolfo Zunino, Oliver Mayoral, Tony Cardona, Larry Weir, Darrell Stutesman. Thanks to NEW WAVE BILLIARDS in Miami for hosting this year's event.

New Board Installed:

Your new Board was installed on March 1, 2006. We had a vacancy in the Eastern Region. The Board appointed Charles Brown in May to fill the four year position. A complete board list is on the back cover.

Tips from Amazin' Mazin - by Mazin Shooni - 2006 US Champion

1; THE TABLE.

The 3-cushion game can be played on several sizes of tables, the most common being the match tables (inside length of 2.34 or 2.54 meters), depending on the country. Since the proportions remain the same, the game is not fundamentally modified.

Of course, the bigger the table, the more accurate the player should be. We do not advise to play on too big a table because of the level of difficulty.

2; THE BALLS.

The balls must be clean and in good shape, otherwise one cannot achieve proper results. A set of balls should not be used more than (6) six months when used intensively, such as in a pool hall.

3; THE CUE STICK.

Billiard sticks come in quality and prices that vary a lot. Just as for the table and the balls, the stick is an essential element in order to play well.

One should use a stick weighing a minimum of 510 or 520 grams, because the length of the shots requires a heavier weight. In addition, the stick should be well balanced: the gravity center must be about 40 centimeters from the butt. Also, the stick should obviously be perfectly straight. The shaft should not be too flexible of it will bend when hitting the balls, causing unpredictable effects. Finally, the tip should have a diameter of 11 to 12 millimeters, made of leather, and slightly rounded.



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#4; POSITIONING THE BODY

Holding the stick.

The stick is held by the right hand and rests on the bridge made by the left hand. The right hand should hold the stick not too tight and close to the end of the stick. The right arm should stay in the same vertical plan as the stick, even during the shot.

The left hand makes a bridge to guide the shaft. The bridge should allow the stick to guide effortlessly, but without allowing it to move laterally.

The distance between the tip of the stick and the bridge will change: the harder you hit the ball, the longer the distance should be. Note that a longer distance will not be as accurate.

Positioning of the player.

The player should position his body so that he can move his stick very straight and still have a good view of the balls and a good balance.

The face should be vertical to the stick, facing the balls, low enough for a good aim.

Feet should guarantee a natural balance: the right foot vertical and perpendicular to the stick, while the left foot should be about 45 to the left.

If you respect these conditions, you should not be too far from the ideal position. On certain shots, however, the table will get in the way of the player, who will not be able to achieve a perfect position. He will nevertheless need to keep the positioning of the face and right arm, while the rest of the body maintains balance. Reminder: the rules of the game dictate that at least one foot should touch the floor.

Movement of the stick.

To simplify the gesture and limit the mistakes, the right elbow should be the only moving joint. This way, the only moving part will be the forearm, which will stay vertical to the stick.

Before throwing the stick into the ball, the players should do a few practice strokes to check that everything is in place and the direction of the stick is right. The player should stay in this position for a few moments after the shot to make sure that he will not move while shooting.

5; PARAMETERS OF THE SHOT

The parameters are the elements that determine the trajectory of the balls. They make for the technical foundation of the game. The player should proceed in several steps. First he must analyze the different possibilities to score the point, taking into account the level of difficulty of each one. This analysis should be based on his knowledge of theories and his experience. Once he has chosen a solution, he will have to determine which parameters to use in order to read his goal. Finally, he will have to make the shot.

Ball quantity.

The ball quantity measures the angle of impact on ball #2 (The ball hit first by the player's ball.), this determining the initial direction of the ball, this direction being the same as the cue stick's.

This quality can have an infinite number of values, so we will look only at a few ones commonly used by players.

The ball quantity determines almost entirely the initial direction of ball 2 after impact with ball 1. As for ball 1, the direction it takes will be determined by this quantity and also by the height from which it was struck (top, center or low effect.).



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Bruce Warner – New Western Region Director

A Profile

I am a 62 year old business lawyer, living with my wife of 21 years and our two teenagers, in Santa Monica, California. I was born and raised in Los Angeles, and have lived in this area my entire life, although I have traveled within the United States and abroad. I have participated in many local tournaments, regional USBA tournaments in Burbank, California and Tacoma, Washington, the Medford, Oregon Elks Club tournament, two of the three BWA Worldcup tournaments in Las Vegas that Bob Jewett organized, and in the Sang Lee International tournament in New York in August 2005.

Like many of us in this country, I started out as a pool player, but was smitten (there is no other word for it) by three-cushion billiards while I was in college at UCLA. Later, I became the UCLA 3-cushion billiard champion. But where I really cut my teeth as a 3-cushion player was at Tiff's in North Hollywood, California (now called North Hollywood Billiards). That was in the early 1960's and began my 40+ year love affair with this wonderful game. And it was then that I was first exposed to wonderful players such as Allen Gilbert, Bill Hines and John Fitzpatrick, among many others.

I do whatever I can to promote 3-cushion billiards, including teaching for free, and running monthly handicapped 3-cushion tournaments at the House of Billiards, the room where I play in Santa Monica. I am very excited at having become a member of the USBA Board of Directors and the prospect of serving our members. I hope to bring whatever energy and talent I can to reinvigorate our organization and carom billiards within the United States.

Web Site

Current news is always as close as your computer on the USBA's web site – www.usbilliardassn.org. For those of you wanting to see a slide show of this year's National Championship go to the web Site at - http://www.usbilliardassn.org/html/2006_nationals_slide_show.html

GREAT JUNE MEMBERSHIP EXTENSION DEAL

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.





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If this is included in your newsletter, our records indicate that you are behind in your dues. Please renew now!

USBA Membership ____ New Member ____ Renewal

- Prorated – June – December 2006 \$18
- Dues 2007 \$36

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