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**Cristobal Sanchez Wins the
 MGM "C" Tournament**

MGM Billiards, formerly known as Gabriels Billiards in Woodside, NY, hosted a USBA Tour "C" Tournament on May 27-29, 2011.

There were 24 players in all, split up into 4 groups of 6 players each, to 15 points. The top 2 finishers in each group advanced along with one lottery and one auction winner. Those 10 players would play the semi-finals, 2 groups of 5 players each, to 20 points. In order to advance to the final single-elimination rounds, the players needed to finish in the top 2 of their semi-final groups. Then those top 4 players would play single-elimination. The single-elimination rounds were 15 point matches, the best-of-3.

The top 2 in each group advanced along with one lottery winner (Cristobal Sanchez) and one auction winner (Nick Bonavita).

In the semi-finals, you needed to finish in the top 2 in your group to advance to the final rounds. In the final single-elimination rounds, Cristobal Sanchez advanced to the final round by defeating Nick Bonavita.

Ricardo Cruz advanced to the final round by defeating Tommy Park. In the final matches, Nick Bonavita (3rd place) defeated Tommy



**I-r, Ricardo Cruz (2nd place)
 Cristobal Sanchez (1st place) Nick
 Bonavita (3rd)**

Park (4th place).

Cristobal Sanchez (1st place) defeated Ricardo Cruz (2nd place) to win the tournament and the \$1200 first place prize. Congratulations to Cristobal!

The best game of the tournament was 15 points in 16 innings (.938 average) by Juan Carlos Molina against Tommy Park in the preliminaries.

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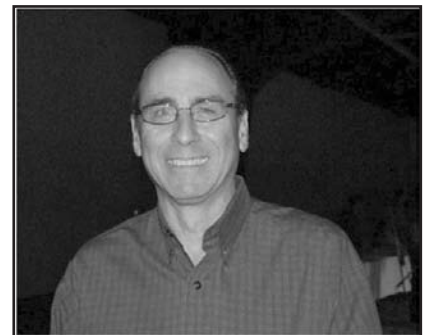
David Levine, Jim Shovak, Bob Jewett, Professor-Q-Ball (Paul Frankel), Creative Billiard Shirts, Marty Isserlis, Bruce Warner, Tommy Thomsen, Mike Walo, Bob Watson.

Doug Deitel Elected as New Director

Doug Deitel, from Katy, Texas, has been elected by the Board of Directors to serve as one of the 2 new "at large" Directors.

These Directors need not be from a certain region of the country.

We are hoping that Doug will be instrumental in promoting more USBA tournaments and members in the booming Houston, Texas area. Congratulations, Doug and welcome aboard!



Jim Shovak Wins the MGM "B" Tournament

MGM Billiards, formerly known as Gabriels Billiards in Woodside, NY, hosted a USBA Tour "B" Tournament on June 10-12, 2011.

There were 24 players in all, split up into 4 groups of 6 players each, to 20 points. The top 2 finishers in each group advanced along with one lottery and one auction winner. Those 10 players would play the semi-finals, 2 groups of 5 players each, to 25 points. In order to advance to the final single-elimination rounds, the players needed to finish in the top 2 of their semi-final groups. Then those top 4 players would play single-elimination. The single-elimination rounds were 15 point matches, the best-of-3.

The top 2 in each group advanced along with one lottery winner (Javier Garcia) and one auction winner (Jim Shovak).

In the semi-finals, you needed to finish in the top 2 in your group to advance to the final rounds. In the final single-elimination rounds, Laureano Gomez advanced to the final round by defeating Lloyd Wallace in a very close and tense final set.

Jim Shovak advanced to the final round by defeating Jae Cheon Seong in straight sets.

In the final matches, Lloyd Wallace (3rd place) defeated Jae Cheon Seong (4th place).

Jim Shovak (1st place) defeated Laureano Gomez (2nd place) in straight sets to win the tournament and the \$2000 first place prize. Congratulations to Jim! Jim is now a 4-time USBA TOUR "B" Champion.

The best game of the tournament was 20 points in 9 innings (2.222 average) by Jim Shovak against Christian Portilla in the preliminaries.

Sponsors: Iwan Simonis and Aramith

2011 USBA Tour Financial Sponsors: David Levine, Jim Shovak, Bob Jewett, Professor-Q-Ball (Paul Frankel), Creative Billiard Shirts, Marty Isserlis, Bruce Warner, Tommy Thomsen, Mike Walo, Bob Watson.



I-r, Laureano Gomez
(2nd place)
Jim Shovak (1st place)
Lloyd Wallace (3rd place)

President's Desk

Another day at the USBA and another President, or that might be the way it seems



to some. I became President in early June, the fourth person to hold that office in the last year. Some might perceive the change at the top as a sign of chaos. It is not. Let there be no mistake, the USBA is alive and well and growing, as is carom billiards. And I'm excited about the challenges and the future.

We are witnessing the revival of a great game in the United States. Pool halls are adding billiard tables. Sales of billiard tables to individuals have increased dramatically in the last year. The Champion of Champions Tournament in Valley Forge and the USBA National Tournament at the Tropicana in Las Vegas were outstanding successes. Two of our players (Pedro Piedrabuena and Michael Kang) just participated in the three cushion world championship in Lima. A women's international tournament was held in New York, followed immediately by an Open USBA tour event. Several more tour events are scheduled in the next months. The USBA has begun work on next year's national tournament, and we are exploring hosting an international event (perhaps two) next year. Our membership is growing.

Yes, the USBA is strong, but we need your help. Promote the sport. Most of all, introduce younger players to the game: they are our real future.

Andrew

Andrew Janquitto Elected New President

Interim-President Henry Ugartechea has decided not to stay on as President or Southeast Region Director for personal reasons. Victor Cuzzi, who was serving an interim position in place of Mr. Ugartechea, will stay on as the Southeast Region Director.

The USBA Board of Directors unanimously elected Mr. Andrew Janquitto from Maryland as the new USBA President. Andrew will hold the position until the term expires in March of 2013.

The vote was 10-0 in favor (unanimous). Those voting: Steve Andersen, Tommy Thomsen, Juan Sauz, Raye Raskin, Mazin Shooni, Pedro Piedrabuena, Merrill Hughes, Jim Shovak, Felipe Razon, Victor Cuzzi.

About Mr. Janquitto:

Andy Janquitto learned to play straightrail and balkline from Ely Castleman, a famous Baltimore player. A little over five years ago, he started playing three-cushion billiards. His game is still evolving. When not playing billiards, Andy practices law in the Baltimore, Maryland, area. He is the author of a legal treatise (now in the 3rd edition) and was an adjunct professor of law for a number of years. From 1983 to 1996, he was the head wrestling coach at The Johns Hopkins University. He recently finished writing the manuscript for a non-fiction work entitled: *Tricky Dick and the Oleomargarine Heir: The Story of Bogus Butter, the Great Vice Trial and the Hippie Millionaire who Ended the Vietnam War*. He lives in Ruxton, Maryland, with his wife, Liz, and his Gabriels Imperator.

Lamers Takes the Dubuque Open II

Defending champion Fred Lamers of Andover, Minnesota, successfully held his crown at the second Dubuque Open, June 10 to 12, 2011. He prevailed over a field of eighteen players from six states at the historic Masonic Temple in downtown Dubuque, Iowa. All the players were members of the U.S. Billiard Association.

Entrants were divided by blind draw into three flights of six for round-robin play. The top two in each flight went on to the final round robin. Games were to 25 points in both the pre-lims and the finals.

In the "Diamond" flight, Lamers and Billy Kim of Chicago advanced with records of 4-1. James Richards of Richfield, Wisconsin, gave Lamers his only loss in the tournament. 25-20, narrowly lost to Kim, 22-25, and suffered two one-point losses to Gary Eake of Oshkosh, Wisconsin and Greg Vavra of St. Paul, Minnesota.

In the "Hearts" flight, tournament director Bob Byrne had only one loss—to fellow-Dubuquer Ed Wedge, 25-17 in 33 innings. Also advancing to the finals with a record of 4-1 was Doug Taber of Wakefield, Nebraska, a history professor at Wayne State University.

Surprise winner of the "Spades" flight was Russ Rosenberger of Gladbrook, Iowa, who lost only to second-place finisher Tom Paley of Fenton Missouri.

The finals began at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. Lamers and Kim advanced through the field without too much trouble; both were undefeated going into the last round against each other. The title game was close and at the end of the 26th inning it was 17-15 in favor of Lamers. Kim managed to make



I-r,
**Bob Byrne (3rd), Tom Paley (5th), Doug Taber (4th),
 William Kim (2nd),
 Russ Rosenberger (6th) and Fred Lamers (1st).**

only three more points, as Lamers took the game 25-18 in 38 innings to claim the \$650 top prize. Lamers averaged .767 in the finals.

Byrne edged Taber for third on the basis of average. Paley was 5th and Rosenberger 6th. Best game in the finals was Lamers over Paley, 25 points in 23 innings. Lamers also took the \$55 prize for high run with an 8 in the same game.

Ed Wedge won \$50 for best game out of the money—25 points in 33 innings. The \$50 high run prize out of the money was shared by James Richards, Greg Vavra, and Bob Jacobson.

Thanks to Gary Eake and Dale Saunders for scheduling the matches and to Thom Determan for providing snacks and soft drinks. Money was added to the prize fund by Byrne, Wedge, the Minneapolis Billiard Club, an online cue site called cue2u.com, and David Levine of New York City.

Tiger Products Becomes USBA Sponsor

Tiger Products Teams Up With the USBA

An agreement has been reached between Tiger Products and the USBA and Tiger is now the "Official Cues and Cue Tips of USBA".

Tiger will be providing cues for USBA Tour Events and the Nationals up until the end of 2012. The USBA is also now a distributor for ALL Tiger products which will benefit members and room members alike.

"We are very excited to have Tiger on board. This is a great day for our organization and we are so looking forward in promoting their fine product line for our members." said the new president of USBA, Andrew Janquitto. For more information you can visit USBA's official website or www.tigerproducts.com



"The Official Hotel Sponsor of the United States Billiard Association"

C H O I C E H O T E L S I N T E R N A T I O N A L

Official Player Levels Established

The USBA Board voted to adopt official player levels as follows:

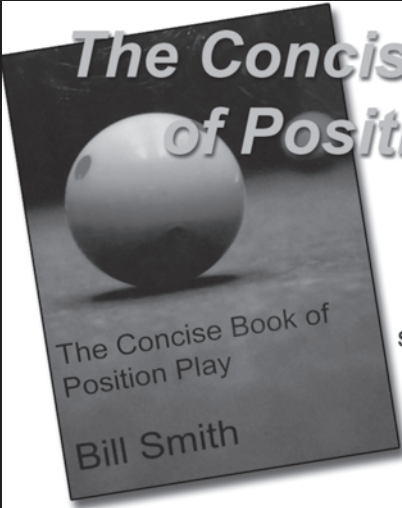
- Below .500 = C
- Between .500 and .649 = B
- Between .650 and .799 = B+
- Between .800 and .999 = A
- Between 1.000 and 1.199 = Master
- Between 1.200 and 1.499 = Grand Master
- Over 1.500 = International Grand Master

Carl Strassberger Trophy to Stay at Carom Café Billiards

Motion:

That the Carl Strassberger Trophy will be permanently held at Carom Café Billiards until further notice and will be updated annually with the name of the most recent USBA Nationals' Champion.





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This book by 3-cushion star Bill Smith, offers billiard players some great learning opportunities in an easily understood format with an accompanying DVD to demonstrate the concepts even further. This 270 page book is logical in sequence with great approaches to both common and complicated shots. It is intended for the intermediate and advanced player. All of the various systems covered in the book are clearly demonstrated on the 80 minute long DVD. The Theory of Position Play, Big Ball Position Shots, Short Angle Position Shots, Four and Five Cushion Position Shots, Across The Table Position Shots, Shot Making versus Position Play and Simple.

Constitution

Two Additional Directorships Created

The USBA Board of Directors has approved the following Constitutional Amendment

Existing Section 5.03: Board of Directors

1) The Board of Directors shall be elected by the general membership and shall initially consist of eleven (11) persons: the President, the Secretary/Treasurer, one [1] director from each of the five regions of the United States as defined in Article 1.04(7): Southwestern, Northwestern, Mid-America, Southeastern and Southwestern (Regional Directors); and one [1] additional Regional Director from each of the Northeastern and Southwestern Regions and two [2] additional Regional Directors from the Mid-America Region.

2) The Board of Directors shall have ultimate authority over the business, policies, affairs, and activities of the USBA, including, but not limited to, the authority to remove any Officer or Director or terminate any member for cause; and, to enact, amend, or repeal provisions of this Constitution,

3) The Board of Directors may make such rules and regulations covering it's meetings as, in its discretion, it determines is necessary.

New Addition: Section 5.03 (4):

4) The Board of Directors will elect 2 (two) additional "at large" Directors. These "at large" Directors may live anywhere in the United States. The "at large" Directors' terms will expire at the same time as the rest of the Board of Directors: on the March 1st which follows the next General Election.

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Thanh Tam Billiards

Presents

USBA-3-Cushion Billiards International Open Tournament 2011

PRIZE : \$ 10,000 *

DATE: OCT. 7-9, 2011

Entry fee: 200.00

House adds \$2,000.00 for full field

40 players will play 10 flights of 4.

The players will be handicapped as follows:

A+1.2= 32 Master International 1.4 = 35

A . 1.0 = 28 C 0.6 = 23

B .75 = 25 D 0.5 = 24

Following the preliminaries there will be 5 flight of 4 players.

Two player will go into the final round of five + two auction =2 flight of 6.

The 12 qualifying player will finishes in the money.

All entries must pay in cash, money order or cashier check by Friday or before. Players meeting at 8:00 pm on Friday.

Full tournament attire required: vest collared shirt, Black pants and Black shoes.

For more information contact:

Paul Pham : (714) 823-1359

Women's Open Tournament

Nine women from different parts of the world competed in the Women's Open held at **Carom Café Billiards** in Flushing, NY from July 24-26, 2011.

Therese Klompenhouwer from the Netherlands and the #1 ranked player in the world came out on top. Gerrie Geelen, also from the Netherlands came in 2nd and Orië Hida, the current World Champion came in 3rd.

The tournament was live-streamed on CaromTV.com. A special thank you to Jan Carl and Merrill Hughes for arranging and running the live-stream. A lot of work went into making this event happen and a special thank you should go out to Steve Andersen, USBA Regional Director and Therese Klompenhouwer for working out all the details behind-the-scenes. As usual, special thanks goes out to Charlie Brown for another outstanding job as tournament director, room owner Michael Kang and all of the players and fans that attended that made this event a success.

Thanks to all the sponsors: David Levine, Michael Kang, Bob Jewett, Jim Shovak, Felipe Razon, Andrew Janquitto, Mazin Shooni, & Verhoeven tables. Special thanks to all the foreign players that participated and came a long way at great expense: Orië Hida, Bora Jeong, Therese Klompenhouwer, Karina Jetten, Gerrie Geelen, Mercedes Gonzales.

Format: Round Robin, 30-point games or 60 innings which ever came first with equal innings.

Player List:

1. Orië Hida - Current World Champion - Japan
2. Therese Klompenhouwer - # 1 World-Ranked Player - Netherlands
3. Karina Jetten - World Top 10 Ranked Player - Holland
4. Gerrie Geelen - World Top 10 Ranked Player - Netherlands
5. Mercedes Gonzales - Current USA Champion - Florida
6. Ester Park - New York
7. Olivia Lee - New York
8. Bora Jeong - Korean Top Player
9. Jennifer Shim - New York

Prize Fund Based on 8 players
= \$4,900

1st Place: \$2,200

2nd Place: \$1,300

3rd Place: \$800

4th Place: \$600



I-r, Gerrie Geelen 2nd, Therese Klompenhouwer 1st and Orië Hida 3rd



back I-r, Orië Hida, Tokyo, Japan, Mercedes Gonzales, Florida, Gerrie Geelen, Netherlands, Therese Klompenhouwer, Netherlands, Jennifer Shim, Queens, NY, Olivia Lee, Queens, NY front I-r, Bora Jeong, Seoul S. Korea, Ester Park, Queens, NY, Karina Jetten, Holland

Photo by Merrill Hughes, USBA Director

	Hida	Klompenhouwer	Gonzales	Jetten	Geelen	Jeong	Park	Shim	Lee	WIN/LOSS	W/L	MATCH POINTS	TOTAL POINTS	TOTAL INNINGS	GRAND AVERAGE	HIGH RUN	BEST GAME	FINAL RANKING
Orië Hida	25	7 27	5 41	3 58	3 34	4 51	4 46	4 24	5 5	5	2	11	237	310	0.765	8	1.250	3
Therese Klompenhouwer	26	4	41	30 30	30 30	30 30	30 30	30 30	30 30	8	0	16	240	242	0.992	9	1.579	1
Mercedes Gonzales	27	5 41	3	44	52	40	54	54	53	2	0	4	182	349	0.521	6	0.789	7
Karina Jetten	41	4 29	44	56	55	51	45	39	5	5	0	10	212	340	0.624	6	0.769	5
Gerrie Geelen	58	2 26	3 52	5 4	12	53	43	34	6	2	0	12	227	354	0.641	6	0.938	2
Bora Jeong	34	2 34	2 40	4 35	5 32	5	31	54	3	5	0	10	200	298	0.671	6	0.968	4
Ester Park	51	5 38	7 51	5 4	15	3	38	3	2	3	0	5	185	364	0.508	7	0.545	6
Jennifer Shim	49	2 26	2 54	2 45	4 43	4 31	3 55	5	60	4	1	2	168	363	0.463	5	0.433	8
Olivia Lee	24	2 41	2 53	3 34	1 54	1 54	3 40	2	1	7	0	2	137	364	0.376	4	0.566	9
TOURNAMENT AVERAGE:																	0.599	

The Spin Shot

by Robert Byrne

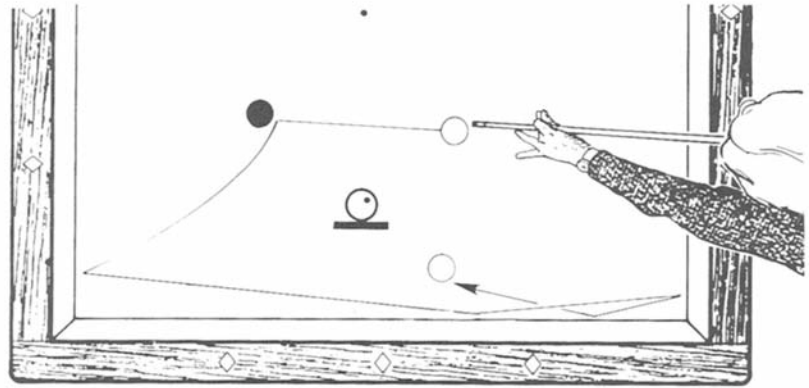
Contributing Writer • from Byrne's "Advanced Techniques in Pool & Billiards" with permission



The through-the-hole double-the-rail pattern drawn in the diagram is not normally called a spin shot, but it has two characteristics after the cueball leaves the first rail—slow speed and tremendous spin. It is stroked as a force follow with high right-hand English. The speed on the cueball is killed not by the full hit but by the negative angle of approach into the first rail. The action is beautiful because the cueball speeds up after hitting the fourth rail.

I cry real tears for players forced to play on tables with cheap, coarse cloth that takes away many spin shot options. If your proprietor is too cheap to provide imported cloth, I urge you to take up a collection and buy it yourself. Go to a billiard supply store and ask for Simonis (Belgium) or Granito (Spain). Too much greater degree than pool, the

pleasure to be derived from three cushion is dependent upon the quality of the equipment. If the rubber on your table is dead and the cloth is cheap or worn out, you might as well go bowling.



Rip's Tips

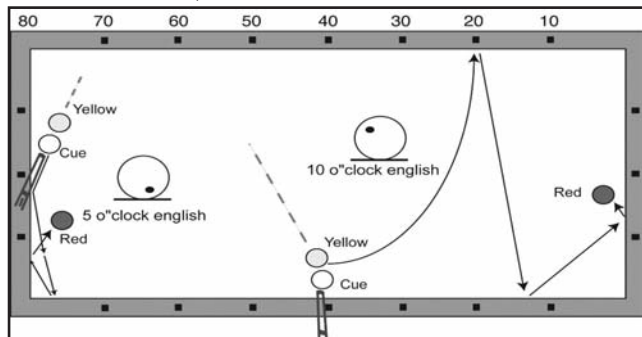
Two Great Shots?



With cue balls 1/8" apart, the shot on the left is a nice nip stroke force draw shot back along the short rail and out of the corner to the red ball. Using a quick short stroke hit the yellow ball full with slightly elevated cue. Speed and wrist are required. Use 5 o'clock English.

The shot on the right is a nice force follow shot with the cue and yellow balls only 1/8" apart. Using 10 o'clock English stroke perpendicular to the rail with 10 degree elevated cue. A perfect stroke will send the cue ball to the opposite side of the table in a swooping manner diving back to long rail and the remaining spin will score on the red ball. Let us hope that one day all referees and tournament directors will say, "those were great shots!"

"George Rippe is a former billiard room proprietor and artistic billiard enthusiast," He can be reached at 978 975-9958



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