



The USBA Newsletter 3-Cushion Billiard News

www.USBA.net

Would you like to write an article or submit a shot? email articles to: jimshovak@usba.net or you can mail it to Jim Shovak/USBA Secretary 58 Hawthorne Avenue East Islip, NY 11730

USBA Officers President

Secretary/Treasurer
Jim Shovak
58 Hawthorne Avenue
East Islip, NY 11730
516-238-6193
jimshovak@usba.net

Northeast Directors
Mazin Shooni
2006 USA Champion
135 Broad St-Unit#3A5
Hudson, MA 01749
cell: 248-910-4466
work: 603-623-5330
Merrill Hughes
Huntington Station, NY
cell: 631-338-9698
home: 631-421-6814

Southeast Director
Henry Ugartechea
1132 SW 44th Terrace
Deerfield Beach, FL 33442
561-929-8100

Mid-America Directors
Steve Andersen
3861 Byron Center Ave. SW
Wyoming, MI 49519
616-530-8665
Juan Elizalde Sauz
7212 Hardwood Trail
Dallas, TX 75249
214-908-2411
Felipe Razon
2218 S 59 Ct
Cicero, IL 60804
708-878-4197

Northwest Director
Darrel Stutesman
7709 Zircon Dr SW
Lakewood, WA 98498
253-584-3994

Southwest Directors
Bruce Warner
Santa Monica, CA
310-738-5429
Gilbert Najm
4335 Vineland Ave # 213
Studio City, CA 91602
818-761-0484

3-Cushion Billiard Challenge "Shot Contest"

The Rack in Memphis, Tennessee held their 2nd Shot Contest with 10 pool players that signed in and willing to test their skills at the game of 3-Cushion Billiards. As the event date was set for Sunday at 1:00pm, on April 25th 2010, players had a full month to practice the shots. Entry Fee was \$15, plus Jerry

Ramey owner of The Rack also included in a free lunch for the players that were sponsor by locals Chuck and Claude for the barbecue, and Old Timers Restaurant.

Paul Frankel tournament director went over all the rules before the start of the "Shot Contest" and thanked all contestants for accepting the Challenge.

As the contest entered the last shot there were several players that were close in score. After all players finished their shots, 2 players were tied for 2nd place. The tied breaker shot was a lag.

The Rack would like to thank Professor Q-Ball, Iwan Simonis, USBA and Josh for assisting with the cameras and everyone who participated in this shot contest!

Payout:

Jeremy Marcello	1st place	\$200
Paul Dodge	2nd place	\$100
Mat Martin	3rd Place	\$50

How the contest works.

Format: Players will shoot only 8 diagram shots. Each player will shoot each of the 8 shots 3 times (24 shots total). Each shot is worth 2 points (48 pts max) and the total number of points wins. Three small round dots (stick-ons) are placed on the table, which represents the exact placement of the diagrammed shots. All players will have the same shot and same placement of the 3 balls.



Then the dots will be removed and replaced for the next shot selection.

Special Note: After each shot a player has a straight rail carom shot (no rails required) as the balls come to rest. If they make it, it will be worth 1 point added to their previous scores. This means that the maximum possible score will be 72 points if they made every shot.

The quickest way to get new players to play the game of 3-Cushion is to reach out to pool players.

This billiard program is designed to attract Pocket Billiard Players to the game of 3-Cushion Billiards. It is called the "3-Cushion Billiard Challenge Shot Contest" and it is unique in its own way. For the first time room owners that have only one or two billiard tables will be part of a bigger picture. The format is simple, easy and fun to play. All paper work and diagrammed shots are sent to the room owners in a small packet ahead of time to be displayed on a bulletin board giving their players a chance to learn their shots. This also gives room owners some additional time and revenue on their tables while the players practices the shots several weeks ahead of time.

Attention room owners: Professor-Q-Ball and Jim Shovak, USBA Secretary, asks room owners to call 901 756-2594 to find out how your room can participate.

**April 30th-May 2nd 2010
Marshalltown, IA**

USBA Mike Kelley Memorial 3-Cushion Billiard Tournament

1-r LupeCruz (1st), Fred Lamers (2nd), John Jacobson (3rd)



Mazin Shooni Wins the First Stop of the 2010 Tour!

The first stop of the USBA Tour was held in Hooksett, New Hampshire, at Cue & Cushion Billiard Lounge, owned by 2006 USBA Champion, Mazin Shooni. The guest of honor at the tournament was 3-time USBA Champion, Pedro Piedrabuena, owner of College Billiards in San Diego, California.

There were 12 players in all and there was enough time to play a 12-player round-robin format. Each player plays every other player one time, 11 matches for every player. Plenty of billiards. 25 point matches were played and a scoreboard with a 45-second shot clock was used for every match, to keep the games moving along.

The obvious favorites to finish 1st and 2nd were Mazin and Pedro, but 3rd and 4th places were up for grabs with a field loaded with some fine “B” level players.

Tournament Highlights

Mazin Shooni had a run of 14 against Tony Ferrara for the tournament high run and a \$50 bonus.

Pedro Piedrabuena had a 12 inning game against Tim King and a tournament-best 11 inning game against Tony Ferrara (2.273 average) for a \$50 bonus

Ellis Lawrence scored 20 points and averaged .909 against Pedro. He lost his last game against Rick McGuire which would have put him in contention for 4th place.



Mazin Shooni (1st), Pedro Piedrabuena (2nd), Tim King (3rd), and Andrew Dangelmayer (4th)

Tim King played steady, losing only 3 matches. He defeated Jim Shovak 25-21 in a great defensive match. The winner of that match would end up in 3rd place automatically.

Jim Shovak had a 16 inning game against Ellis Lawrence (1.563 average) and also defeated Pedro Piedrabuena 25-16, handing Pedro his first loss of the tournament.

Andrew Dangelmayer needed to win his final match against Raymond Tower to finish in fourth place and was trailing throughout the entire match. He came back to rally in the end and finished in the money. Great shooting, Drew!

Pedro, having one loss going into the

final match against the undefeated Mazin Shooni, needed to beat Mazin twice in order to win the tournament. But Mazin took the lead and never lost it, winning 25-17. Mazin went undefeated, 11-0.

Pedro finished 2nd at 9-2, Tim King was 3rd at 8-3 and Andrew Dangelmayer (7-4) edged Jim Shovak (7-4) for 4th place by just 7 billiards. Tony Ferrara (7-4) also came real close, but settled for 6th place.

Raymond Tower got a special award from Mazin for having the “most innings”. Everyone had a good laugh. Prizes were raffled off afterwards and Pedro Piedrabuena won the Schuler Cue, donated by Noel Mendoza. Everyone had a great time!

Chalk Etiquette (but it has nothing to do with your tip)

by Bert van Manen

Contributed Story

We all use chalk on our tip, to prevent a miscue. If we do miscue though, we do not blame the chalk. We blame the tip. We put on our “I hate this shaft – face” and take another one from our bag. This second shaft is not as good as the first one; we started the match with the other one for a reason. The substitution is merely to tell the audience that the miscue was not our fault. (It was).

But I do not want to talk about shafts. I want to discuss chalk, and its main use: to applaud a good shot from your opponent. You take your chalk and tap it against your cue once or twice. Again, this is all for the spectators. It tells them you are a good guy, with a good attitude. It has little or nothing to do with your appreciation of the shot. You did not like the shot at all (mostly because he or she made it), but you go through the motions, and tap your cue with the chalk. This also helps to contain your opponents level of motivation.

Maybe I should explain that one?

Let's say YOU make a great shot. A fabulous point! The audience rewards you with applause, but your opponent has a straight face and there is no tap. It is like an insult. You think to yourself: what an ass... this guy has another thing coming. He is not going to win this match, not if I have to eat these balls without pepper or salt. See?

Now let's go over a few types of chalk-applause. the insincere, early in the match-tap. Needs little explanation. The shot was not THAT great, you (the tapper) merely want to establish yourself as a good guy, the score is 3 – 4 in a match to 40, who cares. the sympathy tap. You have the match in the bag, you lead 35 – 8 in a match to 40, and you are throwing the poor guy a bone. Any hanger he now makes, you tap. the ironic tap. He makes an

obvious fluke, you tap. That is risky behaviour, but not openly hostile. Do it with a smile, and you'll get away with it. the sarcastic tap. He makes a disguised fluke, and tries to pass it off as a good shot. There is no gesture of apology, and boy, does that piss you off. The audience may or may not have spotted it, but you KNOW he got lucky there. You are telling him: I SAW that. That one is hostile. the Arie Weijnenburg tap. (a very good three cushion player from Holland). The tap has his name, because of his ultra-fast judgment, once the balls are rolling. Weijnenburg's opponent hits the ball. The audience is on the edge of their seats. The cueball still has 5 or 6 cushions to travel. Weijnenburg taps, instantly. Several seconds later, he turns out to be right (he always is) : great point. What he has in fact done, is shift the attention from his opponent's shot to himself. His tap steals his opponent's thunder. the Raymond Ceulemans tap. It's almost the opposite of the Weijnenburg – tap. If you are in a business meeting, say nothing for the first 10 minutes. This will guarantee that people listen when you finally speak. Ceulemans taps very little. Why should he? Not many shots are great, by his standards. Where the Weijnenburg – tap precedes the response from the audience, the Ceulemans tap follows it. After all the applause has died down and there is silence again, Ceulemans taps. He is saying: **This Time** you were right folks, **That** was a good shot. Different method, same result. Like Weijnenburg, Ceulemans has shifted the attention to himself. He is telling everyone that HE is the alpha and the omega of this game, and don't you forget it.

My chalk tip: be very, very frugal with taps 1 / 6. Be generous however, with tap 7, certainly if it is your gut response, as a lover of the game:

“Wow! That was a beautiful shot”.

Dieckman Resigns

Newly-elected President Dennis Dieckman has resigned as USBA President for personal reasons. In his short tenure, he established several committees and gave the Board of Directors some good ideas for developing a nationwide handicapping system for 3-cushion billiards.

The Board is currently in the process of finding his replacement. In the meantime, the Board will continue its work and will try to fulfill Mr. Dieckman's ideas for handicaps as well as other suggestions he has made. We wish him nothing but the best in all his endeavors.

Meanwhile, the Board has approved the sending of 4 players to the Pan American Championship Tournament to be held July 5-8, 2010 in Arequipa, Peru. Pedro Piedrabuena is the defending Champion. If two of the players finish in the top 8, they will be sent to the World Championship Tournament on October 20-24, 2010 in Sluiskil, Netherlands. Good luck to our top players!

The 2010 USBA TOUR is underway. We are still seeking donations for the Tour. Every dollar that is donated is matched with an additional 50 cents. Therefore, if we receive \$20,000 in donations from the members, we actually have \$30,000 to add to the prize funds of USBA Tournaments. Contact the Secretary, Jim Shovak at 516-238-6193 to make a donation. Any amount received will be appreciated. If you are interested in holding a USBA Tournament or a USBA TOUR Event, then also contact the Secretary.



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Dan Kolacz Wins at the World Class Billiards Tour Event

The 2010 USBA TOUR continued at World Class Billiards in Peabody, Massachusetts for an exciting "B" level tournament. Twelve players entered so a round-robin format was used which gave everyone plenty of bang for their buck, eleven matches each in three days.

Dan Kolacz, Dave Van Lokeren, Joe DeAmato and Jim Shovak started their tournaments strongly, all advancing through the early rounds undefeated. Dave Van Lokeren had an early match against John Magulas, going out in just 13 innings for the tournament best game average of 1.923!!! Jim Watson, a tournament favorite, had 2 unexpected losses early on; one to Bob Ferrara and another to Northeast Regional Director Merrill Hughes. With a lot of matches left and some strong players to face, it didn't look good for Jim Watson, especially after he lost his 3rd time to Bob Page who was also winning all his matches except for an early loss to Joe DeAmato. Jim Watson would turn things around, however.

Dave Van Lokeren had an unexpected loss to newcomer Tony Ferrara who played consistently throughout the tournament and was always a threat. Many of the players were evenly matched and everyone began to beat each other. Dave Van Lokeren, Bob Page and Joe DeAmato finished Day 2 with 3 losses each. Jim Shovak had 2 losses and Dan Kolacz had just 1 loss going into the final Day.

On Day 3, Jim Watson destroyed Dan Kolacz 25-6 in just 26 innings and Leonard Collibee played strong to defeat both Jim Shovak and Joe DeAmato. With Kolacz and Shovak still needing to play, everything was still wide open. If Kolacz won, then he would finish in first place, but if he lost, then Dave Van



Dave Van Lokeren 2nd Dan Kolacz 1st, Joe DeAmato 3rd

Lokeren would finish 1st, Bob Page would finish 2nd, Jim Shovak would finish in 3rd, and Kolacz would finish in 4th. But Kolacz rose to the occasion, starting off the game with a quick 6 run and another 3 to give him a 9 points to 0 early lead over Shovak. Shovak fought back and got to 18 points but Kolacz played strong, going out in just 27 innings to win the tournament.

It was a lot of fun for everyone who played. Plenty of billiards, plenty of drama, plenty of excitement, plenty of great shots (and not-so-great shots). Everyone was a good sport and supportive of each other.

Dan Kolacz	1st	\$1500
Dave Van Lokeren	2nd	\$1000
Bob Page	3rd	\$700
Jim Watson	4th	\$400
Joe DeAmato	5th	\$200

Dave Van Lokeren earned \$50 for his best game of 1.923.

The high run prize of \$60 for a run of 7 was split between Dave Van Lokeren, Joe DeAmato and Tony Ferrara.

A special thanks to room owners Joe DeAmato and John Magulas for their hospitality and donated money to the prize fund. Thanks to Merrill Hughes who ran most of the tournament, making sure all the scores were recorded and getting the players onto the table. Also to PJ, a local player, for making sure that all the tables were vacuumed and the balls were cleaned.

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Shots with a Curving Cue Ball

by Robert Byrne

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

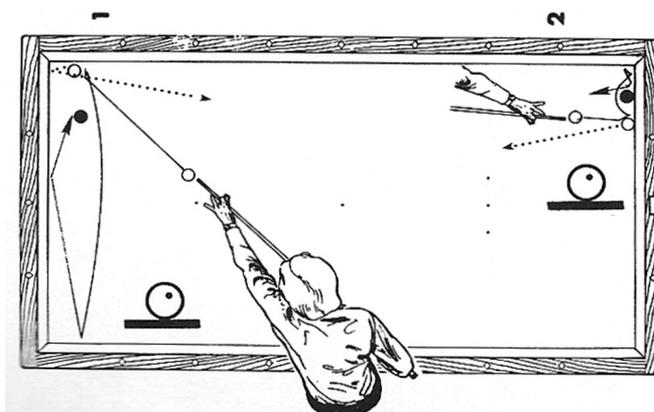


When a cue ball with topspin hits an object ball at an angle the carom path will be curved. Keep in mind that sidespin has practically no effect on the path of the cue ball off the object ball – it is topspin and backspin that introduce distortion. How far the cue ball travels from the object ball before its path begins to curve depends on how hard you hit it.

Shot 1- is a cross-table. Note that the red ball is farther from the end rail than the white, which means that the cue ball has to travel "uphill" off the first rail to get around the red, then bend forward because of the follow action. A touch of right

English is sometimes needed to make the cue ball rebound properly off the first rail. The same shot sometimes comes up in the center of the table, where the cue ball hits three side rails before scoring.

Shot 2- this is not an easy shot. It's a double the rail with the curve ball curving around the second ball. Don't shoot too hard or the cue ball won't have time to dip into the corner for the third rail. I once saw Boston Shorty make this against Luis Campos with the cue ball at the other end of the table.



Robert Byrne has a new book, "Behold My Shorts - The Best of Robert Byrne". To see him in his polka-dot shorts, go to: <http://www.thonline.com/store/bookBrowse.cfm> To view his new book's Press Release, go to: <http://www.usba.net/BreakingNews/ByrnePressRelease-11-2-09.pdf>

Medford Elks Club

Medford, Oregon
May 21-23, 2010

There were ten "A" players and seven "B" players both played as a round robin in each group.

In the "A" Division Darrel Stutesman was 1st with no losses; 2nd was Raye Raskin; 3rd was Mark Hansen & 4th was Tom Thomsen. High Run was Hansen with a 9. First place paid \$200, 2nd \$140, 3rd \$80, 4th \$60 & HR \$15.

In the "B" Division there were only 2 places paid; John Fleming was first and Mark Williams was 2nd. Both had 1 loss and in the offensive tie breaker Fleming won by 1 billiard. First place paid \$170, 2nd place \$130 & HR was \$15 which was won by Williams with a run of 5.

The entry fee was \$60, with \$10 a player going to the Medford Elks as a room fee and \$5 to the USBA per player.

One player had an emergency and had to drop out before the final 2 games so if you tried to calculate entries and pay out they would not balance because 11 players started the "A" Division.

Simonis & Aramith Discounts!

Attention USBA Members (and non-members):

The USBA is now offering Simonis cloth (for carom, pool or snooker) at a special discounted price for individuals looking to purchase 1 or more pre-cut Simonis cloths.

Contact the Secretary for details: JimShovak@USBA.net or 516-238-6193.

The USBA is also offering Super Aramith Pro Cup carom balls to both members & non-members. USBA Member cost is \$85 per set, non-member cost is \$95/set.

If you are a Room Owner and you would like to purchase Simonis cloth and/or Aramith carom balls at an even greater discount, then consider holding a small USBA Tournament in your room or you can even hold a larger event such as a USBA Tour event.

For details, go to: <http://www.usba.net/BRNews-2010TOURPKgs-3-25.asp> or contact Jim Shovak.

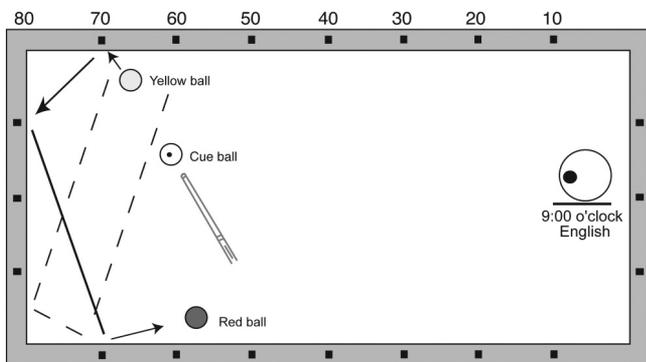
Rip's Tips

'Rev' Up the Cue



Tired of trying to pick up the 2nd object ball off the rail on this setup? Go to the other side of the table and follow straight through the yellow ball using 9 o'clock english on the cue ball with a firm stroke. The RMPs developed by the full hit will make a large target out of this red ball.

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



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2010 Upcoming Tournaments

June 4-6:

USBA Tour Open-College Billiards-San Diego, CA

June 11-13:

The Dubuque Open - Dubuque, IA

June 25-27:

USBA Tour "B+" - Carom Cafe - Flushing, NY

July 5-8:

CPB Panamerican Championship- Arequipa, Peru

July 9-11:

USBA Tour Open - Available

July 23-25:

USBA Tour "B" and "C" - Gabriel's Billiards - Woodside, NY

July 30-Aug 1:

Thanh Tam Billiards - Handicapped - Garden Grove, CA

August 4-8:

USBA Tour Open - Carom Cafe - Flushing, NY

August 20-22:

USBA Tour "B" - Available

August 20-22:

Mike Fahey Memorial - Tacoma Elks, WA

September 10-12:

USBA Tour Open - Chris's Billiards Chicago, IL

September 24-26:

USBA Tour "B" - The Carom Club Wyoming, MI

October 12-14:

CPB Grand Prix Event - Doral Billiards Miami, FL

October 15-17:

USBA Tour Open - New Wave Billiards Miami, FL

October 20-24:

UMB World Championship Sluiskil, Netherlands

October 29-31:

USBA Tour "B" - Carom Cafe Flushing, NY

2010- November 12-14:

USBA Tour Open - Available

December 3-5:

Regional Qualifier Dick Takano Memorial- Tacoma Elks, WA

For more information, go to www.USBA.net or call Jim Shovak at 516-238-6193.

For Instructional videos or the latest Event News, Visit us at www.professorqball.com



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