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★ **USBA "B" Level Tournament - (16-18th)**

Qualifications: Entry \$160- 40 Players

8 Groups of 5 Players - 80 Matches

Total 16 Rounds on 5 tables

(This will take 2 days, 8 rounds per day)

Finals: Single Elimination

16 Players-5 Rounds total

Played on 5 tables

Special Note: "B" Players can play in both tournaments for \$160 Each.



January 16-21 2017



★ **USBA "Open Tournament" - (19-21st)**

Qualifications: Entry \$260 - 40 Players

8 Groups of 5 Players 80 Matches

Total 20 Rounds on 5 tables

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Finals: Single Elimination

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The USBA Newsletter 3-Cushion Billiard News

www.USBA.net

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Jeremy Bury, Miracle Man in New York

Jeremy Bury, the glorious winner of the New York tournament in a final with Dick Jaspers

By Frits Bakker

August 1-6th NEW YORK - The first major triumph in the career of Jeremy Bury can be highlighted as a world-class victory. The 35-year-old Frenchman defeated in New York in the final of the Open Verhoeven not only Dick Jaspers, the winner last year, but also Frederic Caudron, Eddy Merckx and Semih Sayginer. The impressive series of wins brought him a huge success in New York, the \$9.000 dollar top prize and the greatest moment in his sporting life. The glorious winner in the famous Carom Café, in a field with so many big names, survived a marathon of matches from Monday in which he showed his mental strength and overcame the hard battle on the final day. The winning carom in the final against Dick Jaspers (40-32 in 16) was followed by an emotional release. Minutes later, after the joy and happiness, the Frenchman returned to earth.

Jeremy Bury has never been a real winner in his young career so far, apart from the great successes with the famous Agipi team. , I really wanted to get rid of the reputation of a losing finalist", he said right after the ceremony. Three times Bury lost a World Cup final, once the final of the Agipi tournament against Sung-Won Choi. In the Carom Café, on Saturday, with full stands and an enthusiastic audience, it was the day of the revenge and the recognition. Jeremy Bury joined the gallery of greats in the New York tournament. The Frenchman's name now flaunts on the honour roll, succeeding Dick Jaspers and



amongst others Frederic Caudron and Torbjörn Blomdahl.

He earned this victory fully with wins on the final day over Frederic Caudron and Dick Jaspers. , I had to put up two tough fights, first against Caudron and then against Jaspers, who came back in the match and was dangerously close at the end. I kept my concentration and managed to score on the right moments." He concluded, I'm so happy, gosh... what a fabulous and unforgettable moment in my career."

Prior to the final, two Belgians from the top five in the world were stopped in the semi-finals, in which Dick Jaspers defeated Eddy Merckx by a big margin and Jeremy Bury perhaps played the best three innings of his career against Frederic Caudron. The contest turned into a fabulous fight for the Frenchman, who was 33-23 down, found his trance and scored runs of 10 (33-33), 5 (38-33) and finally two precious ones to decide the match 40-36 in 21 innings.

Frederic Caudron, earlier on the final day winner against Haeng Jik Kim (40-16 in 19)

and Tayfun Tasdemir (40-39 in 22), had to bow to the player with whom he celebrated successes with the Agipi team for years. The Belgian number one in the world couldn't repeat what he did against Tasdemir (with five to the finish after the Turk missed his match ball) and had to compete with Merckx for third place. Eddy Merckx, who twice was the losing finalist in New York, reached his breaking point in the semi-final after two strong performances against Torbjörn Blomdahl (40-30 in 22) and in the quarter final against Forthomme, in which he could not show his great quality this tournament: the high runs on crucial moments. Therefore, Forthomme had no chance at all, when Merckx scored a 10 and a 9 and finished 40-24 in 14 innings. When those feared breakaways didn't show up against Dick Jaspers, the Dutch/Belgian derby was a struggle without tension, because Jaspers ran away between the sixth and twelfth inning to 33-16 and then decided the match 40-16 in 14 innings.

The match for third place between the two Belgians, a real classic in three cushion, was won by Eddy Merckx on the line: he bested Caudron 40-38 in 28 innings. Martin Horn took the fifth place by a victory over Tayfun Tasdemir 40-35 in 20 innings.

The highlights of the tournament were the high level

matches of Haeng Jik Kim (9 innings for 40 caroms, 4.444), Dick Jaspers (9 innings for 35 caroms, 3.889), Martin Horn, Semih Sayginer and Frederic Caudron, 35 points in 10 (3.500 average), the top runs of 19 and 17 of Tasdemir and the 18 of Sayginer and the stunning comeback from Martin Horn on the international stage. The German, who announced he would play the World Cup in Hurgada, demonstrated in New York that he could still perform on the highest level. The evidence could be seen in the ranking after the playoffs with fourteen players, where Martin Horn with 1.959 was the best player on average.

Raymond Ceulemans (79) was one of the players for whom the public came to the Carom Cafe. Watching the master in the tournament where he fought so many heroic battles in the past was worth a big round of applause. Three wins were not good enough to reach the final round. The respect for the phenomenon was no less.

The Open Verhoeven attracted hundreds of spectators to the Carom Cafe in the days of the final matches. Many players praised the atmosphere and the format of the tournament. Tournament director Charlie Brown deserves a huge respect for the way he led the long marathon of matches to the end.

- 1st \$9,000
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- 12th \$1,600
- 13th \$1,400
- 14th \$1,300
- 15th \$1,200
- 16th \$1,000
- 17-20 \$600
- 21-25 \$500
- 26-40 \$300
- Hi-Run \$250
- Best Game \$250

FINAL RANK	NAME	TOTAL POINTS	TOTAL INNINGS	GRAND AVERAGE	HIGH RUN	BEST GAME
1	Jeremy Bury	384	249	1.542	11	2.500
2	Dick Jaspers	395	200	1.975	13	3.889
3	Eddy Merckx	362	204	1.775	11	2.875
4	Frederic Caudron	370	205	1.805	13	3.500
5	Martin Horn	395	211	1.872	11	3.500
6	Tayfun Tasdemir	399	214	1.864	19	3.182
7	Roland Forthomme	361	243	1.486	11	2.188
8	Ly The Vinh	348	252	1.381	8	2.188
9	Quet Chien Tran	384	225	1.707	13	2.692
10	Jae Ho Cho	352	211	1.668	10	3.182
11	Huberney Catano	316	219	1.443	11	2.692
12	Murat Naci Coklu	372	212	1.755	10	2.692
13	Heang Jik Kim	371	214	1.734	15	4.444
14	Torbjorn Blomdahl	375	202	1.856	11	2.667
15	Nguyen Quoc Nguyen	321	242	1.326	14	2.333
16	Semih Sayginer	362	229	1.581	18	3.500











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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

Choose the Big Ball over the Obvious Show

by Phil Panzera
Contributing Writer

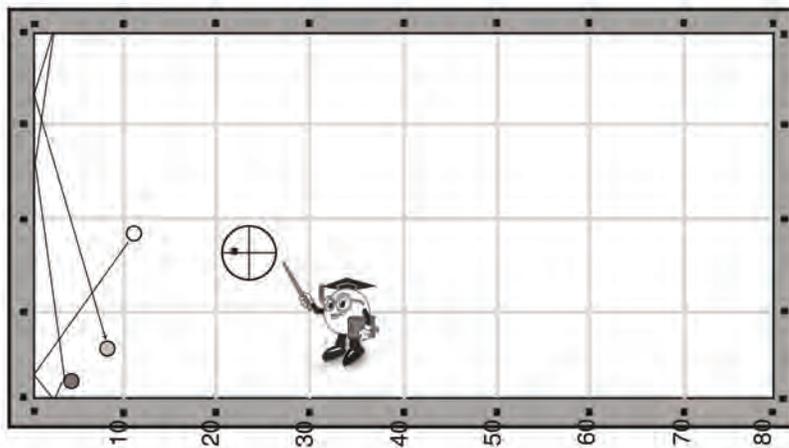


A round-the-table bank choices are very difficult, so most people would shoot a double-the-rail shot here (long-short-long). The diagrammed path is a much better solution though, if you take the time to look for it. The double-the-rail is not sitting that well, as you basically have only a half-ball target (the bottom side of the yellow). The diagrammed shot however has at least four different ways to score. Yes, the hit is a bit harder, but the red is close to the corner, and there's a large margin for error.

You want to hit this a touch less than medium speed. Don't baby this, for two reasons. You need to hit it hard enough to keep the English on the fourth and fifth (and maybe sixth) rails, which opens the path, making for a bigger target. Position wise, it is also good to drive the red to the opposite short rail and back to this half of the table, where you have a good chance for a nice short angle.

The normal way to miss this is by hitting the red too thin, so try and hit as much of the red as you can. The

red is so close to the rail (about a third of a ball) that it's very hard to hit it too full. You may think this shot is difficult, but it's not. Besides, it's pretty, and you'll enjoy shooting it.



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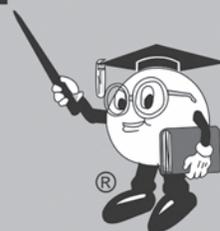
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President's Desk

My last message described the very exciting news that the USBA had reached agreement with the Casino Del Sol Resort in Tucson, Arizona, to host USBA 3-cushion tournaments in 2017, 2018 and 2019.

Now, it is my pleasure to announce that the USBA and Gabriels have entered into a sponsorship partnership. Gabriels has become the official title sponsor for the USBA for 2017, 2018 and 2019. As part of this arrangement, Gabriels will supply tables for the tournaments at the Casino del Sol Resort. What could be finer than playing billiards on the best tables during the day and then relaxing at the resort facilities during the evening?

Gabriels has been a loyal supporter of the USBA over the last 5 or 6 years. We are lucky to have that support, and our current sponsorship agreement assures that Gabriels will play a significant role in the development of carom billiards in the United States in the near future. We hope to have a further announcement about Gabriels by the end of the year.

Many of you know that the USBA is having a membership drive. Until October 31st, there is a 50% discount on the annual membership dues. You may purchase a one-year membership for \$25.00 or a three-year membership for \$75.00. It is no secret that we are trying to increase our membership and build up our bank account because we have great plans to expand billiards over the coming years. Go to the USBA website for details: www.usba.net.

Upcoming Events

Rushville - Professor Q-Ball Fall 2016

3-Cushion Tournament

Player Meeting + Pomp & Circumstance - 6:00 p.m. October 13, 2016

Play Begins - 7:00 p.m. Thursday October 13, 2016

Questions: Gary Eake – Call or TEXT – 920.420.1304

Dick Takano Memorial Open Tournament

Hosted by the BPOE 174 Elks Club, Tacoma, WA
December 2-3rd 2016 Deadline for Entry fee \$75
is November 28th

Ed Brasfield 253 468-9839 or Email him at
Bfsteddie41@aol.com

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On a Personal Note

A few days ago, I turned 59. You could say that I'm a kid in the eyes of Raymond Ceulemans, and a senior citizen from Haeng Jik Kim's point of view. Just days before my birthday, I had a TIA (transient ischemic attack), which is like a mini-stroke. The unpleasant effects wore off quickly; my neurologist has me on medication, and I feel fine now.

Makes you feel very mortal, I can tell you. You take so many things for granted: the ability to speak, for instance. Take that away for just a day, and you'll appreciate it for what it's worth. If only one or two of the 640 muscles in your body malfunction, you can forget about enunciation.

Or about billiards, for that matter. I'll confess that I had that thought on my mind for most of the day. Can I play billiards tomorrow, next week, this season? It looks like I can, but that's not the only reason I should consider myself lucky.

Most senior players will recognize this, and it has little or nothing to do with our playing strength. We are over the hill, and we are discovering that life is not so bad on the other side. It has its perks. We can relax a bit. For many years, each of us on our own level, we have tried to become the best player we could be. We kept setting the bar higher, until we simply couldn't jump it anymore. And now the pressure is off.

We have not won World Cups, maybe we've never even competed in one. But in our finest hour, we played inspired, magical 3-cushion. That hour lasted only twelve minutes, but boy, did it feel good. We were never more alive than with a cue in our hands. It was our paint brush, our racket, our camera, our bat, our pencil, our 3-iron, our guitar, our gun.

That is really what a cue is: destiny in your own hands.

And now we are 50, or 60 or 70. We are still pedaling on a bike, and the race is all around us. But we know we are not going to win it, and that's okay. We have time to look around us, and see the beauty of the land. We still fit on that saddle. The mountain does not scare us, we've climbed it so many times. And we love the road, probably more than when we were young and our eyes were firmly on the prize.



I am one of those guys who is not going to win races anymore (not that I won that many in the past, mind you). And frankly my dear, I don't give a damn. My average will go south in the upcoming years: fine with me. I will be giving handshakes, far more often than receiving them. And - as much as I dislike losing - I intend to love every minute of it.

Why is that? Because at some point, winning matches stops being your motivation to play billiards. How well or how poorly the other guy plays, seems to lose much of its relevance.

You find reasons to play, deeper inside of you. You against the other guy: that will fade. You against the balls and the table: that stays. The game has nestled itself into your bloodstream and nervous system, it has become part of who you are. You need the endorphins from your good shots so bad, you'll put up with the aggravation from your muck-ups. You have the incurable disease called billiarditis, and it causes an itch you can't stop scratching.

Some good players say goodbye to the game, at a certain age. They don't want to see their level go down, they think that playing poorly is more painful than to not play at all. I understand and respect that, but my choice will be different.

I am going to play until I can't lift the cue anymore. If I stop playing 3-cushion, I'll still write about it. If I'm all done writing, I'll still watch it. And others will create the magic for me.



Professor-Q-Ball's 3-Cushion Shot Contest

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

On Labor Day Weekend, The Rack in Memphis, Tn. held their 5th Annual 3-Cushion Shot Contest. A \$20 entry also included table time and \$250 was added money. It was played on a Gabriel table with Simonis cloth. All diagram shots were placed on the Racks bulletin board for several weeks to give the players a chance to practice the shots if they chose to, giving the room an opportunity for extra table time.

Paul Frankel, tournament director, went over all the rules before the start of the Shot Contest and thanked all 7 contestants for accepting the CHALLENGE.

3-Cushion Shot Contest Format:

There were 8 diagram shots. Each player shoots each of 8 shots 3 times (24 shots total). Each shot is worth 2 points (48 pts max) and the total points wins. Three small round dots (stick-ons) are placed on the table, which represented the

exact placement of the diagrammed shots. All players had the same shot and same placement of the 3 balls. Then the dots are removed and replaced for the next shot selection.

Special Note: After each shot a player takes a straight rail carom shot as the balls come to rest. If they make it, it is worth 1 point and added to their previous scores. It was not only an excit-



ing time for the pool players, but very funny at times to see the players missing by just a little bit and listening to some of their remarks. Half way through the event the shots were tallied so the players knew their score.

Payout out 3 places.

1st Bob Hunter \$225 2nd Gary Baker \$90

3rd Paul Spain \$75

USBA		3-CUSHION CHALLENGE SHOT CONTEST										www.profmorebill.com		
		SCORE SHEET												
		Shots are worth 2 points, Straight rail shots are worth 1 point												
		Top box is total of 3-cushion shots made	Bottom box is total of straight rail shots made	Yellow box is combined Total Points										
	NAME	SHOT-1	SHOT-2	SHOT-3	SHOT-4	Add Score	SHOT-5	SHOT-6	SHOT-7	SHOT-8	Final Score			
1	Joe Montoya	0/1	4/1	5/4	0/0	11	2/0	2/2	1/3	4/2	6/2	1/3	25	
2	Paul Spain	2/1	3/2	2/4	6/0	18	2/0	2/2	2/4	4/0	4/2	1/3	31	
3	Amy Accera	2/0	2/0	1/1	6/1	13	4/2	6/0	2/2	2/2	4/0	0/0	25	
4	Winner Bob Hunter	2/2	4/4	4/0	2/2	19	2/3	5/2	1/3	4/2	6/4	0/4	37	
5	Virgil Davenport	0/1	1/4	0/4	4/1	16	2/1	3/0	1/1	2/1	3/0	0/0	23	
6	Gary Baker	2/1	3/2	0/2	6/2	16	0/2	2/6	1/7	4/0	4/2	1/3	32	
7	Jeremy Mercello	0/3	3/2	0/2	2/2	16	2/1	3/2	1/3	6/1	7/0	1/1	30	

George Theobald Passes August 14, 2016

The first time I met George and his goofy grin was I think at the USBA Nationals at Chris's in the mid 1990's and the last time was at the just concluded Verhoeven Open in NYC. In the years between practically every billiard tournament I attended Georgie Porgie, as I called him, was there supporting the game that he loved so dearly and playing his heart out. He was not a great player but his knowledge and love of the game transcended that. Many times, as I passed through Chicago, he put me up for a night of billiards and the libations of our choice, as he did with many others, whether champions or just schmucks like me. I loved listening to his stories of Lennie Bruce and all the other outlaws he had associated with over the years during the course of many meals we ate and the many good times we had together.

He had a brilliant mind and could and would discourse on any subject you cared to bring up. In many areas we disagreed philosophically but even so, worked together over the years attempting to promote billiards in this country, a task we agreed was almost impossible, but he soldiered on despite all. Many times we talked philosophy over the phone for hours at a time trying to solve the problems of the world and failed miserably to come to terms. He was a dear man, an outlaw; I will miss him and his goofy grin as I know many others out there will also. Knowing I will never see him again saddens me, but I will never forget him and his kindness and love of the game.

Dennis Dieckman

