



The USBA Newsletter
3-Cushion Billiard News

www.USBA.net

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**Sitting l-r, Mazin Shooni, Jim Shovak, Dennis Douberteen, Brian Haff,
 Standing l-r, James Stoner, Dan Kolacz, Gilbert Najm, Jim Watson,
 Gary Eake, Jim Bishop**

**Kentucky Landmark Presents
 3-Cushion At Its Finest!!**

On January 18, 2012 a talented field of thirty 3-Cushion Billiard players from across the United States converged on the beautiful and historic Pendennis Club in downtown Louisville. For 4 years now Professor-Q-Ball Promotions / Paul Frankel has promoted / directed a USBA Qualifier to determine a select group of players that will earn free entry into the USBA National 3 Cushion Championship. For 2012 these Nationals will take place from May 6 – 10 in Las Vegas, NV at the Tropicana Hotel and Casino.

Kicking off the festive Pendennis Club presentation of event activities was a special Artistic Pool performance by ESPN and World Masters Trick Shot Champion Tom “Dr. Cue” Rossman. Players, fans, and a host of valued Pendennis Club members / special guests enjoyed the entertaining and enlightening moments demonstrated on the pool table on Wednesday evening.

After the player’s meeting and draw on Thursday 5 flights of 6 players each approached the newly recovered tables with resolve and determination. The 2 top players from each group would move on to the final rounds with 5 players in 2 separate flights.

After some amazing shot making performances in the prelims with several players scoring a high run of 7 (Mazin Shooni, Brian Haff, and Gilbert Najm) an elite group of 10 players emerged to start the final rounds on Saturday evening (See complete flight charts for all the players, including the 1st and 2nd place finisher in each bracket that made the final shootout).

Final Round F started off with a nail-biter match between Dan Kolacz and Mazin Shooni.

Dan took an early lead, looking like he was on his way to victory when Mazin called upon his champion spirit to net the score at 24-24. Dan looked like he was going to pull off an upset, but missed by less than a whisker on his next shot. Mazin sealed the win on his next turn at the table while the audience applauded both players for a super match. When the smoke had cleared bracket results for Round F revealed Shooni in 1st with a perfect 4-0 record, Kolacz in 2nd with 2 wins and 2 losses, and tuned competitor Jim Stoner in 3rd place, winning 2 out of the 4 matches also, but with less points overall.

Final Round G revealed more superb play as Gibert Najm dominated his bracket with 4 wins and 0 losses. Jim Shovak, Jim Bishop, and Brian Haff each won 2 matches and lost 2 with Shovak taking 2nd place scoring 91 points out of 100 possible. HI-run went to Shovak and Shooni for running an 8 among all finalists. Bishop finished in 3rd with 88 points, and Haff settled for 4th with 85 points.

To determine the overall champion for the qualifier, Shooni played Najm with Shooni taking the championship honors. A special match took place with Jim Stoner playing Jim Bishop to see which 3rd place finisher from each final bracket would receive free entry and expense allowance to the Nationals in May. Bishop remained cool, calm, and collected as he enjoyed a well-earned victory in a hard fought match.

This magnetic carom event proved once again to be a great success for the players, the fans, the host Pendennis Club location, and the much appreciated promoter efforts of Professor-Q-Ball.

Special thanks to our sponsorship donations, Bob Watson, Rick Kirk, Gary Eake, Tom Rossman, Bill Smith and to the Barnett Family of Texas. Also special thanks to Jim Shovak and our Live-Streamer Andrew Dangelmayer.

President's Desk

A few weeks into the new year, I'm excited about what lies ahead for the USBA. Billiard players across the country are playing in regional tournaments hoping to qualify for the national tournament in Las Vegas in May. Jim Shovak, the USBA Secretary/Treasurer, is fine tuning the schedule for the 2012 USBA tour. The USBA is reviewing proposals for re-vamping its website. And the Champion of Champions event is just six-weeks away.



Paul Frankel, aka Professor-Q-Ball, has been able to entice 11 of the best three-cushion players in America to play a round robin tournament. Returning for the second year in a row are Pedro Piedrabuena, Jae Hyung Cho, Mazin Shooni, Sonny Cho, Miguel Torres, Hugo Patiño and the lovely Mercedes Gonzales. They have 11 national three-cushion titles among them. Joining this elite group in the hunt to be called the best of the best are four newcomers, two former national champions, Frank Torres and George Ashby, and two second place finishers, Michael Kang and Bill Smith. Last year, Pedro Piedrabuena won with a grand average of 1.717.

This great event is part of Allen Hopkins' SuperBilliard Expo, which will be held at the Philadelphia Expo Center in Oaks. USBA partner Gabriels will supply three Kronos tables.

Play begins on March 8 and concludes on the 11th.

Finals - F	SHOONI	WATSON	STONER	DOUBERTEEN	KOLACZ	WIN/LOSS	TOTAL POINTS	TOTAL INNINGS	GRAND AVERAGE	HIGH RUN	BEST GAME	FINAL RANKING
<small>MAZIN</small> SHOONI		25	25	25	25	4/0	100			8		1
<small>JIM</small> WATSON	12		22	17	25	1/3	76			5		4
<small>JAMES</small> STONER	16	25		25	16	2/2	82					3
<small>DENNIS</small> DOUBERTEEN	12	25	14		17	1/3	68			6		5
<small>DAN</small> KOLACZ	24	18	25	25		2/2	92					2
Points Against	64	93	86	92	83		TOURNAMENT AVERAGE:					

Finals - G	BISHOP	HAFF	SHOVAK	NAJM	EAKE	WIN/LOSS	TOTAL POINTS	TOTAL INNINGS	GRAND AVERAGE	HIGH RUN	BEST GAME	FINAL RANKING
<small>JIM</small> BISHOP		25	22	16	25	2/2	88					3
<small>BRIAN</small> HAFF	15		25	20	25	2/2	85					4
<small>JIM</small> SHOVAK	25	20		21	25	2/2	91			8		2
<small>GILBERT</small> NAJM	25	25	25		25	4/0	100					1
<small>GARY</small> EAKE	23	16	18	15		0/4	72					5
Points Against	88	86	90	72	100		TOURNAMENT AVERAGE:					

Dec 2-4: Regional Qualifier-Dick Takano Memorial-Tacoma Elks, WA

Jim Henrickson, Mark Hansen & Ramses Verlinden Qualify in Tacoma

19 players: Top 3 Qualify into the 2012 Nationals in Vegas

Tournament Director Tommy Thomsen and the Finalists: Jesus Quinonez (5th), Mark Hansen (2nd), Jim Henrickson (1st), Ramses Verlinden (3rd), Neal Olson (4th), Bob Tracy (6th)



Dec 2-4: Open Handicapped - The Carom Club - Wyoming, Michigan Razon Wins Again!!!!

by Steve Andersen

Twenty players rounded out the field of 3-cushion players who took part in The Carom Club-Olhausen Handicapped tournament held at The Carom Club in Wyoming, Michigan on December 2-4. There were 2 round robin flights of 7 and one of 6 in the prelims where the top 2 finishers in each flight went on to play in the finals. Being a handicapped tournament equalized the field which included 2 national champions by the names of Mazin Shooni and Sonny Cho and a very good A player by the name of Felipe Razon. Pat Sage in his first 3-cushion tournament managed to beat the 2005 US National Champion Sonny Cho for Cho's only loss in the prelims.

The finals proved to be more tumultuous with national champions Mazin Shooni winding up in 5th place with a record of 2 wins and 3 losses and Sonny Cho ending in 3rd place with a record of 3 wins and 2 losses. There were 4 players that ended with a record of 3 wins and 2 losses and their places were determined by percentages. When the dust settled Brian Haff had the highest percentage of .939 to Razon's .928. Since there was a tie between 1st and 2nd, this forced a playoff between Haff and Razon to determine the ultimate champion.

Razon continued to tally the points against Haff who was helpless in trying to find a way to stop this dynamo by the name of Razon who scored his 25th point in the 33rd inning securing 1st place with a prize of \$1200. Haff who played great during the tournament brings home an envelope worth \$960 for 2nd place. William Kim from Chicago received \$50 (Donation from Cue2u.com) for high run out of the money with a run of 6.

Upcoming USBA Tournaments

February 17-19: USBA TOUR "OPEN" -MGM Billiards - Woodside, NY

Contact: Charles Brown 646-528-3238 or Miguel Torres 347-961-5099

Feb 24-26: Regional Qualifier-Southside Billiards Club-Savannah, GA

Contact: Jamie Sibley 402-617-5447

March 2-4: Ken Higgins Memorial -Tacoma Elks Lodge - Tacoma, WA

Contact: Tommy Thomsen 509-240-2027

March 3-4 Regional Qualifier -Trish Dida Billiards- Houston TX

Contact: Doug Deitel 713-319-5335

March 8-11: Champion of Champions - Oaks, PA:

Contact: Paul Frankel Bus. 901 756-2594 or Cell 901 210-7251

April 13-15: Medford Elks Lodge - Medford, OR:

Contact: Tommy Thomsen 509-240-2027

May 6-10: USBA National Championship-Tropicana Hotel-Las Vegas, NV

Contact Jim Shovak 516-238-6193

I am proud to announce that the "Medford Oregon Billiards Players Association" has purchased 8 newly designed 3-Cushion Element Gabriels tables for their club. Don Dayan, Pres. of the Elk's Club and Mark Williams, Treas. are excited that the Elks Club will have these tables for their 50th Anniversary Medford Fall Tournament in late September 2012.

The 8 Elements tables will be used for the USBA Nationals in Las Vegas in May 2012, and then all 8 tables will be going to the Elk's Club. As the exclusive U.S. Rep for Gabriels I wish the Medford Elk's Club all the best. Paul "Professor-Q-Ball" Frankel 901 753-2594

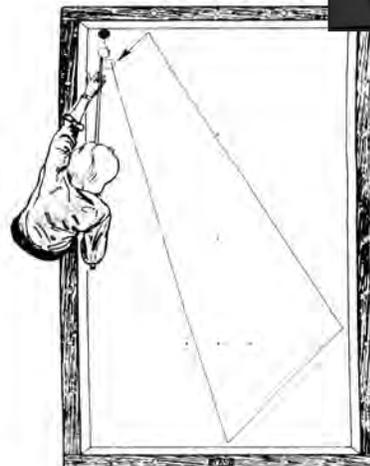
The Jump Shot

by Robert Byrne

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



The shot in this Diagram is by no means as hard as it looks. The idea is to shoot with an elevated cue into a ball frozen to a rail and then jump back over the second ball, going around the table, as shown to score. I don't mean to imply that it is easy, which is why I have rolled up my sleeve in the drawing, but once a good player gets the hang of it he may be able to make it one time in three. It helps to use a bit of draw as well as left English on the cueball, otherwise the cueball will slow up on its way to the other end of the table.



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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

Rip's Tips

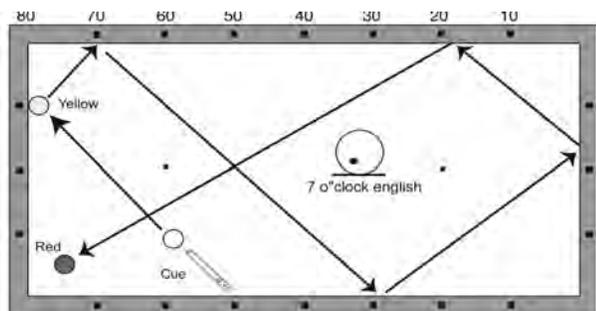
Kiss Reverse



I had the pleasure of sparring with my friend Bob Byrne in SanRafael, Ca, in the 70's. I thought he would play this shot by hitting the yellow ball on the left with 7 o'clock English and my eyes did a double take when he kissed off the face of the ball and sent it to the long rail using the same English.

The cueball took off when it hit the long rail and made the shot shown here. Although it's a fairly easy shot, you have to practice a while to get that angle from the ball frozen to the short rail. It's only worth one point on the wire but it sure was fascinating. Great shot Bob!

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



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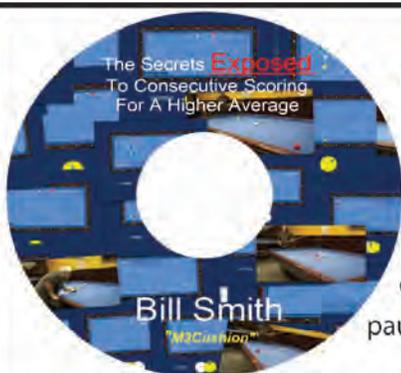
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Alh-Apkan

3-Cushion

20th SUPER BILLIARDS EXPO



March 8-11th, 2012

Greater Philadelphia Expo Center at Oaks



Hugo Patino
Two time USA
Champion



Mazin Shooni
Former USA
Champion



Miguel Torres
Former USA
Champion



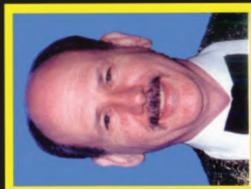
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Champion



Michael Kang
Runner up USA
Champion



Paul "Professor-Q-Ball"
Promoter
Frankel



Frank Torres
Former USA
Champion

Regional Qualifier - World Class Billiards - Peabody, MA Joe DeAmato Qualifies at World Class

Only 6 players made up this year's Nationals Qualifier at World Class Billiards in Peabody, MA but that didn't hurt the competition and level of play. Any one of the 6 players could have won the round robin event and the tournament was not decided until the final round.

Joe DeAmato emerged victorious going 5 & 0 while averaging .824 overall. In second place was Bob Page who went 4 & 1 losing only to Joe D.

Rounding out the field were the following players:

In 3rd place at 3 & 2 was Tony Ferrara fresh off his USBA "B" tournament win. In 4th place at 2 & 3 was last year's winning qualifier Dave VanLokeren. In 5th place at 1 & 4 was Ellis Lawrence who was in every game. In 6th place was Bob Ferrara who lost some tough games early and finished 0 & 6.

World Class Billiards thanks the USBA for their continuing efforts and support making these tournaments possible.



Regional Qualifier Cornershot, Chico, CA Khalil Diab Wins

As expected, Khalil Diab takes the first Chico Qualifier. Originally planned for 5 players, games were reduced to 20 points making it possible to include 6 players. 9 rounds the first day, 6 rounds the second. Only one table was available.

Final Rankings

- Khalil Diab
- Raye Raskin
- Bob Tracy
- Alfred Wenzl
- Tom Resk
- Mark Williams

Special thanks to Tom

and Jill Resk for providing the venue and putting up with the group.



Finalists: Alfred Wenzl, Khalil Diab, Raye Raskin, Bob Tracy, Tom Resk, Mark Williams

Regional Qualifier Commerce Township, Michigan:

A qualifier was held in Commerce Twp, Michigan on Sunday, January 22, 2012 with 5 players attending. Jamil Isreal prevailed and will be attending the 2012 Nationals in Las Vegas this May. Congratulations to Jamil.



Ricardo Carranco Named New Director At-Large



The Board of Directors has elected Ricardo Carranco from Los Angeles to the Board as an at-large Director. Ricardo Carranco is 27 years old and has been playing 3-cushion since 2007. He has run many local tournaments in the Los Angeles area. Los Angeles, as many of you may know, is probably the most heavily-populated area as far as 3-cushion billiard players are concerned. In fact, there may be thousands of players in that area alone consisting primarily of Latinos but also of many Korean and Vietnamese players as well. We hope to welcome and include all these players and rooms into the USBA family.