



The USBA Newsletter
3-Cushion Billiard News
www.USBA.net

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**USBA TOUR "Open" - Napoles Billiards
 East Boston, MA: June 14-17, 2012**

Pedro Does It Again

The event was live-streamed by Andrew Dangelmayer. To view recorded matches of this event and past events streamed by Andrew Dangelmayer, please visit:

<http://www.ustream.tv/channel/caromcorner>

Please visit his site: <http://www.carom-corner.com/live.html>

Cash, check or paypal donations for supporting streaming are being accepted (already a button for this on the stream page provided).

Eighteen players divided into 3 groups of 6 players each going to 25 points.

The top 2 from each group advanced to the finals along with one auction winner and one lottery winner.

Prelims

by Andrew Janquitto

Mazin Shooni and Luis Avila advanced from group A, with Avila supporting a perfect record and Shooni with one loss. In the final game of the preliminaries, Avila bested Shooni 25 to 15. Shooni jumped to an early lead 11 to 2 but Avila ran a 9 and followed up with a 7. Dave Egdahl finished 3rd with close wins over Rick Kirk, Ellis Lawrence and Andy Janquitto.

Group B was the group of death with Pedro Piedrabuena, Miguel Torres and Sonny Cho, along with Jim Shovak and two very good local players, Camillo Medina and Norman Zulaga. Piedrabuena and Cho advanced. Cho needed to score 12 in his last game against Piedrabuena to move ahead of Torres, and he managed 13. Torres finished 3rd and Shovak 4th.



Pedro Piedrabuena (1st), Sonny Cho (2nd), Hugo Patino (3rd)

Photo by Jorge Sanchez

Hugo Patino and Michael Kang moved into the finals from Group C. On the outside was Roberto Rojas, who lost to both Patino and Kang. Bob Page played well but finished 4th. Rounding out the group was Joe DeAmato and a local player, John Gomez.

In the lottery, Jim Shovak won to fill the 7th spot in the finals. Miguel Torres won the auction to become the 8th player.

The folks at Napoles have been great. The patrons are billiard fans and have packed the place to watch all of the games.

Finals

by Jim Shovak

The final was an 8-player round robin with matches played to 30 points. Some brief highlights:

Luis Avila posted a 15 inning game (2.000) against Mazin Shooni.

Sonny Cho then posted the tournament best game of 30 points in just 12 innings (2.500) against Luis Avila.

Early on, it looked like Pedro & Avila would be the final 2 as both were undefeated early on.

**USBA TOUR "B" Tournament -Chris's Billiards
Chicago, IL: June 1-3, 2012**

**Lupe Cruz and Paul Navarette Share
1st Place Honors in Chicago**

I-r, Lupe Cruz (1st), George Pawelski (3rd), Paul Navarette (1st)

Lupe Cruz and Paul Navarette were tied with just one loss each. They were supposed to play a playoff match to determine the winner, but both players were tired and opted to split the first and second place prize money. Both players were awarded first place.



We wish to thank the following people for helping to clean the tables and the balls throughout the tournament:

Elmi Faek, Felipe Razon, Brian Haff, Lupe Cruz, and Gary Eake

Thanks to John Langhoff and Gary Eake for photos of the finalists.

2012 USBA Tour Sponsors: David Levine, Jim Shovak, Bob Jewett,

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But Hugo Patino had just 1 loss and he would be playing Avila in the next-to-last round after Avila lost his first match to Sonny Cho. The match was fantastic and tense for both players as Hugo edged Avila 30-29 in just 16 innings! The win kept Hugo's hopes alive and Avila no longer could win first place.

Meanwhile Sonny Cho had 2 early losses and things didn't look good for him in the beginning. Except for the fact that he didn't lose anymore matches after that.

Hugo would play Pedro in the final match with Pedro having no losses, meaning that Hugo needed to beat Pedro which would force a playoff match between the two of them for the Championship. But Pedro played his very best match of the tournament in his last match: 30 points in just 13 innings (2.308).

The loss gave Hugo a 5-2 record which was the same record as Sonny Cho and Sonny edged out Hugo for 2nd place based on average by a very slim margin (1.243 to Hugo's 1.219). Miraculously, Sonny Cho managed 2nd place, Hugo got 3rd and Luis Avila got 4th place, losing his last 3 matches to Sonny, Hugo and Pedro.

The crowd at Napoles Billiards was amazing and their enthusiasm for the game was so refreshing to see! At the awards ceremony, the local patrons kept coming up to us asking for a picture with them and to sign the pictures. Everyone felt like a celebrity! It was a nice experience. World Trick-Shot Champion Roberto Rojas finished off the event with a dazzling display of amazing trick shots and masse shots that defied the laws of physics! I believe that Andrew did get to record it through the livestream, so check out his website and/or UStream.

Thanks to Napoles Billiards, especially Orlando and the wonderful man who cleaned the tables and the balls. Your hospitality was second to none!

President's Desk

I'd like to use this space to share some thoughts about the tournament held each summer by Michael Kang and Ira Lee (and run by Charlie Brown). I've been a spectator or player since 2006. It is truly a great event, bringing together three cushion players from around the world.



I was mesmerized the first time I saw the top players. It was simultaneously inspiring and depressing. Inspiring because I could see how the game could be played, how I could mimic the pros to improve my game, etc. Depressing because, well, I knew that no matter how hard I practiced or how long I played, I could never approach the level of the top players. But, I keep coming back to watch, meet new players, listen to stories, discuss systems and enjoy the camaraderie and atmosphere. There's nothing like it.

You hear some great stories at Carom Café. I'll pass on one of my favorites. It's about Torbjörn Blomdahl, the great Swedish player who now lives with his wife, Beate, and two children in Germany. Torbjörn speaks 11 languages and is recognized by many as a genius, on and off the table. A German television station was doing a full-length feature on Torbjörn. The director wanted to interview his wife for the show. At the end of the interview, the director asks Beate: "What's it like being married to a genius?" And Beate says, "I don't know, you'll have to ask Torbjörn." That's one sharp gal.

Dubuque Open III - Dubuque, IA: June 8-10, 2012

Winner Ashby Adds to Resume

by Robert Byrne

Eighteen three-cushion players from seven states gathered in Iowa on June 8, 9, & 10 for the third annual Dubuque Open. The competition was played on three reconditioned Brunswick tables in the Masonic Temple's majestic billiard room. Favorites going in were George Ashby of Murrayville, Illinois, who won the national tournament in 1976, 1981, and 1984, and Fred Lamers of the Minneapolis Billiard Club, who won the Dubuque Open the last two years. As many predicted, the two made it to the championship game.

The format of the tournament was typical for a three-cushion event. The top two from each of three flights advanced to final six-man round-robin. Players were chosen for the flights by blind draw except for Ashby and Lamers, who were put in separate flights.

In flight A, Lamers was upset in the early going by Tom Paley 25-15 in 39 innings, but won his other four matches to finish first. Paley also advanced to the finals.

Flight B saw Ashby sweep, tested only by tournament host Bob Byrne, who managed 21 points in his only loss. Ashby averaged .740 in his five wins.

Flight C caused some excitement when Jay Pettlon beat Bob Keller 25-3 in only 22 innings. He cooled off after that eruption, finishing the flight with an average of .607. His only loss was 25-22 to James Richards, who joined him in the finals.

The two tournament favorites advanced unscathed through the finals, meeting for the title late Sunday afternoon. It was 14 to 9 in favor of Ashby after 15 innings, and in the following 11 innings he outscored Lamers 11 to 4 to take the game 25-13 in 26 innings and the first prize of \$620. The champion also won cash prizes for the high run of 7 and the best game of 25



George Ashby

points in 14 innings, both scored against Pettlon. For the five-game finals, Ashby averaged .801.

The other finishers were Tom Paley, third, Jay Pettlon, fourth, Bob Byrne, fifth, and James Richards, sixth.

The award for best game out of the money went to Russ Rosenberg for his 42-inning win over Gary Eake. The prize for the high run of 6 out of the money was shared by Doug Taber, T.R. McElligott, and Greg Vavra.

Had there been a prize for coming the greatest distance, it would have gone to Dave Ehlers, who came from Washington state. Runner-up in that category was Jack Leitzinger of Kettering, Ohio. In the field were six players from the Minneapolis Billiard Club, including Mickey Campbell, a member of the Sioux Nation, who came within one win of making the finals.

Upcoming USBA Tournaments

Aug 24-26: USBA TOUR "B" - Trish Bida Billiards
Houston, TX • Director Doug Deitel, 713 319 5335
To Be Announced: Sep 7-9: USBA TOUR "Open"
Sep 21-23: USBA TOUR "B" or "B/C"
Doral Billiards - Miami, FL • 305 592 8486
October 13-14: ENDORSED -
Edgie's Billiards - Milpitas, CA, 408 942 9500
Oct 19-21: USBA TOUR "Open"
Paris Bida - Houston, TX, Director Doug Deitel, 713 319
5335



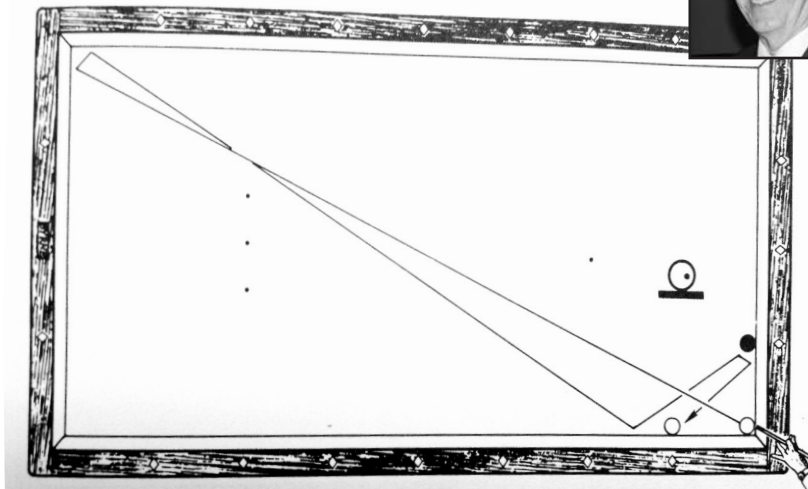
A Beautiful Idea

by Robert Byrne

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



This shot is not as hard as it looks. After hitting three rails, the cueball misses the white, retuning to the white off the red. Related positions come up in games, so it well to remember the pattern. In a sense it is a two-way shot, because if the cueball feathers the white on the way to the red the point still counts.













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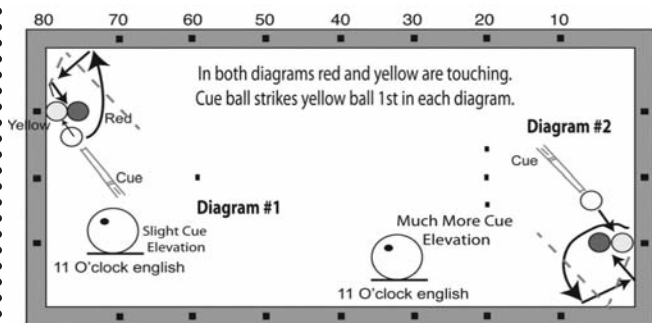
Rip's Tips

Two Shots... not quite the same



Here are two beauties for you to work on. Diagram #1 shows what can be done with a slightly elevated cue keeping the cueball on the table and using all of your force over an open bridge hand, hit the cue into the yellow ball and let the tip jump over the rail while the yellow ball compressed the cushion and gets out of the way. Diagram #2 is different because we want to jump the cueball to a little above the nose of the cushion to have it air-born with the force allowing the cueball to return to score on the red. Wow, that sounds easy enough, LET'S TRY IT!

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



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