



The USBA Newsletter
3-Cushion Billiard News

www.USBA.net

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

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Gentleman Dave Prevails in Savannah

David Van Lokeren from Rhode Island traveled south to Savannah to capture the 2012 USBA Endorsed Tournament with a .714 grand average in the finals and a .690 in the preliminaries. Known as "Gentleman Dave," Van Lokeren posted a perfect 9-0 record in the three-day tournament. He also posted the high run for the tournament, with a 6 in the finals.

Finishing second was Jim Bishop, with a .587 grand average in the finals. Bishop dominated his preliminary, finishing with a .637 average, but he fell short in the finals. He finished

3-1, with his only blemish a 30-18 defeat at the hands of Van Lokeren. Bishop shot a respectable .629 in the match, but Van Lokeren's 1.000 was too strong. Third place went to Jairo Lenis (2-2, .435), Agi Balas finished fourth (1-3, .380), and Eric Salles (0-4, .295) took home fifth place.

Ten players began play in two groups of 5. The top two and one wildcard advanced to the finals. The tournament was held at Southside Billiards in Savannah and was run by Jamie Sibley.



Pool Players Moves to Dark Side at Medford Qualifier

by Tommy Thomsen, USBA Director

We billiard players are always trying to get pool players interested in our game. Not since Dallas West and Larry "Shorty" Johnson have we had a pool-player that comes close to .500. Well, as I stated above, we finally got what we wanted.

Danny Louie, a fixture on the tour, has decided to join our ranks. In Medford, Oregon at the Medford Elks Lodge on, he went undefeated in the preliminaries and lost only once (in the 1 hole!) in the finals to finish first in the NW qualifier for the USBA Nationals. NW USBA Director Tommy Thomsen was the only player to beat him and came in second. Both Danny and Tommy will be in Edison, New Jersey for the USBA Nationals.

We wanted a good size field but we had to offer the "C" players a half-price entry fee. We ended with sixteen players, eight "B" players and eight "C" players. The field was evenly divided with four "B" and four "C" players in each flight. That gave us a chance to have a



"C" tourney at the same time as the "B" qualifier tourney.

The "C" finalists were Marc Smith, Alfred Wenzl, J R Greenlee, and Jerry Gibson. Marc finished first, Alfred second, J R Third with a best game of 1.000, and Jerry finished fourth. Toshi Moriguchi had the high run of 5.

In the "B" finals Danny finished first, Tommy second, Bob Tracy third, and Ramses Verlinden fourth. Bob Tracy, our oldest competitor at 81 years of age, had the high run of 8 and the best game of 1.042, 24 in 25 innings.

We especially want to thank the Medford Elks Lodge for allowing us to hold the tournament there. The Lodge was given a gift of eight Gabriels billiard tables last year and is by far the best 3-cushion venue north of Los Angeles.

USBA Tournament at Hard Times Billiards

Pedro Piedrabuena (upper right) demonstrated his incredible billiard skills as he cruised to another victory going undefeated in the USBA Tour Open Tournament At Hard Times Billiards in Bellflower, CA.

After winning his flight in the preliminaries going 5-0, he proceeded to rack up the same undefeated record in the semi-final flight. Then, in the last two matches in head-to-head competition he bested his long-standing rival Hugo Patino 30-13 in 18 innings (1.667) followed by his ultimate win against Luis Avila (lower right) 35-26 in 21 innings (1.667.)

The prize distribution and final rankings were as follows:

PRIZE FUND = \$18,400.00

Entry Fees = \$8400

Added by Hard Times Billiards & USBA Sponsors = \$7,500

Lottery Receipts = \$1,400

Auction Receipts = \$1,100

1) Pedro Piedrabuena	\$3,800	7) Michael Kang	\$1,200
2) Luis Avila	\$2,900	8) Kevin Kwak	\$1,000
3) Hugo Patino	\$2,200	9) Carlos Palafox	\$800
4) Ricardo Carranco	\$1,800	10) Gilbert Najm	\$600
5) Sonny Cho	\$1,600	11) Mazin Shooni	\$500
6) Javier Teran	\$1,400	12) Jim Shovak	\$400

High Run Finals = \$100, (11, Javier Teran and Carlos Palafox)

Best Game Finals = \$100 Javier Teran, (3.000 - 30 points in 10 innings)



President's Desk

A new year brings new hope and new news. Qualifiers for the USBA national three-cushion tournament are well underway and more loom on the horizon.

So far, eleven players have earned the right to participate in the national tournament,



which will be held at the Super Billiard Expo at Allen Hopkins' Super Billiards Expo at the New Jersey Convention and Expo Center in Edison, New Jersey.

Forty-eight players are expected to participate, but the field can be expanded if needed. The tournament will begin on Wednesday, April 3 with player registration, practice, the players' meeting and possibly a preliminary round. Play will continue from 9:30 to 7:00 p.m. each of the following days and will conclude on Sunday, April 7. Please visit the USBA website (www.USBA.net) for more information about the tournament and the Super Billiards Expo.

As for some of the breaking news. The USBA will live stream the semi-finals and finals of the nationals with the assistance of J.R. Calvert of Inside Pool Magazine (www.insidepoolmag.com). Check the USBA webpage for more information as the nationals approach. The other news of note is the new USBA webpage itself. It was launched last fall and is now up and running and getting better every day. We are adding articles and new features every day. We recently added many videos to the video gallery. Check them out. If anyone has any ideas about features or content, contact me.

With Tony Ferrara and Joe DeAmato Leading The Way

Ten players converged at World Class Billiards in Peabody MA on Saturday, January 5, 2013 to compete for 2 spots in the USBA 2013 National Championship.

The field was divided up into two flights of five for the preliminary rounds:

The quality of play was as high as any similar tournament held at World Class. Even without any of the USBA ranking "A" players participating, at least 4 games in the preliminaries had the winner averaging over 1.0. Best of all... this was accomplished by 4 different players, which attests to the high

quality of play and competitive spirit of the players. The overall tournament average through the prelims including all the winners was at .775.

The 4-man final consisted of Bob Page, Norman Zuluaga from flight spades and Tony Ferrara and Joe DeAmato from flight hearts. Their preliminary averages were .789, .790, .904 and .765 respectively.

Although highly competitive, after 2 rounds, Tony and Joe stood undefeated at 2 and 0 and Bob and Norm were 0 and 2. The final match did not have to be played. Joe DeAmato averaged .909 and Tony Ferrara averaged 1.11 in the final round. Both gain entry into the National Championship to be held at the Super Billiards Expo in Edison New Jersey, April 3-7, 2013.

Ashby Tops Field in Rushville

Former USBA national champion George Ashby won the USBA open tournament held at Rushville Billiards in Rushville, Illinois, from January 11 to 13. Ten players gathered to play a round robin, and after two and a half days of play, Ashby emerged undefeated (9-0) with a .840 grand average. Lupe Cruz finished second with a 8-1 record, losing only to Ashby 25 to 19. Cruz had the best overall grand average (.924) and the best game (1.136). Veteran George Theobald finished third with a 6-3 record just edging Justin Tobin, who also posted 6-3 record. Though Theobald lost to Tobin, he finished with 195 points to Tobin's 191 to secure third place. Rounding out the field were Jose Cruz (5-4, 5th place), Lee Tobin (3-6, 6th place), Gary Eake (3-6, 7th place), Kevin Zaputil (3-6, 8th place), Joe Van Vooren (2-7, 9th place), and Joe Dymit (0-9, 10th place).



Cuevas Qualifies for USBA 3-Cushion Nationals



Rigoberto Cuevas won the qualifier held at Edgies in Milpitas, California, by finishing with a 4-1 record, losing his only game in the one hole. Finishing second was Jim Hendrickson with a 2-2 record. With the win, Cuevas earned a spot in the USBA three-cushion national championship in April 2013 at the Super Billiards Expo at the New Jersey Convention and Expo Center in Edison, New Jersey. Also participating in the Edgie's qualifier were Cesar Cardoza, Jesus Corona and Raye Raskin.

Hallon Triumphant in Miami Qualifier

Former national champion Carlos Hallon won the USBA qualifier held at Doral Billiards in Miami from January 12 to 13. He bested the field of 10, losing only one game in the process. Sergio Hernandez finished second with an 7-2 record. Both Hallon and Hernandez earned the right to play in the USBA national tournament in April 2013 at the Super Billiards Expo at the New Jersey Convention and Expo Center in Edison, New Jersey. The field at Doral was very strong. Victor Cuzzi took third place with a 6-3 record, followed by Roberto Arana also with a 6-3 record. Also participating were Andres Fernandez, Armando Wong, Alfonso Torres, Jim Bishop, Camilo Medina and William Higgins.

The USBA is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the game of carom billiards in the United States. Like any organization, the USBA has costs associated with its operation including the cost of running its website. Although member dues defray some of these costs, we continue to rely



on the generous contributions of our members and supporters to continue to grow. Any donation, no matter how small, is greatly appreciated and will be used directly to further the beautiful game of carom billiards.

If you would like to make a donation we have provided a convenient way to do so online. By clicking the donation button on our website (www.usba.net) you will be connected to our Paypal account. You may use your own Paypal account to make a direct transfer or you may use your credit or debit card to donate even if you do not have a Paypal account of your own.

For those who prefer to send a check, make your check payable to USBA and send to:

Jim Shovak, Secretary
United States Billiard Association
58 Hawthorne Ave
East Islip, NY 11730

Thank you for your continued support.

Upcoming USBA Tournaments

Fri Feb 01, 2013
Open Tournament - Marshalltown 3-Cushion Connection - Marshalltown IA
Groundhog's Day Open
\$110 Entry Fee for USBA Members
Contact John Jacobson Phone: 641-751-4696
Thursday, February 7-10
USBA National Qualifier, Pendennis Club
Louisville, KY
Contact: Paul Frankel, 901 210-7251
Wednesday, April 03 - 7, 2013
Super Billiards Expo - New Jersey Convention Center

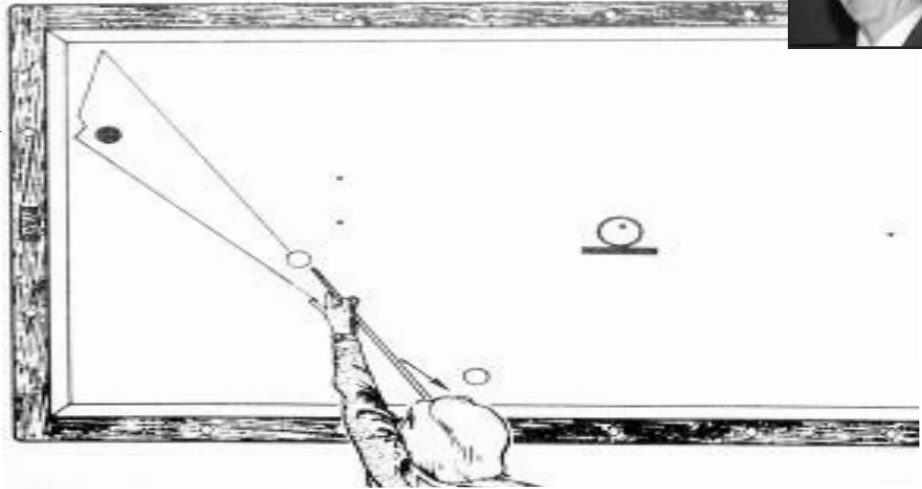
Shots From A Master Play

by Robert Byrne

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



There certainly doesn't seem to be any way of playing a backup ticky in this position, but Gus did it by using highball and some right English. The cueball, at least when he stroked it, popped off the third rail at a surprisingly steep angle.



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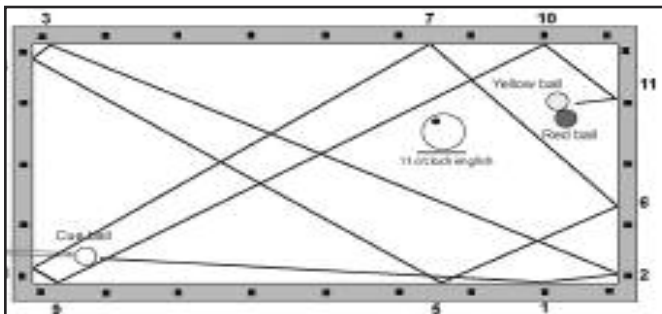
C H O I C E H O T E L S I N T E R N A T I O N A L

Rip's Tips



My sparring partner from Manchester, NH, Tom Sansouci, who has a Godzilla type stroke, is one of a few players who can make this eleven cushion shot. A 5x10 Brunswick Arcadian table with Monarch cushions, unheated and no silicone involved, is set up in his recreation room, and I've seen him do it many times. I know Larry Grindinger, and perhaps Roberto and Semih can make the shot but the majority of players would have to settle for nine rails or, ten rails with the help of a ticky from the ninth rail, but the eleventh rail would still be another ten feet away. Give it a try friends and "may the force be with you" ! P.S. Please take into account that the more modern tables are perhaps more for speed and distance than the 100 year Brunswick table describe above.

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



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The United States Billiard Association (USBA) will hold the 2013 Three-Cushion National Championship at the Allen Hopkins Super Billiards Expo (SBE) from April 3 to 7th, 2013, at the New Jersey Convention and Expo Center in Edison.

The tournament will be played on 8 Gabriels Element tables provided by Gabriels, the official partner of the USBA. Table lighting will be provided by Diamond Billiard Products, Inc.

Tables are now on sale and offered to first come buyers at a discounted price.



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