



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

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Marti Tracy Memorial

USBA Tour B/C

The Medford Elks Lodge once again hosted the Marti Tracy Memorial 3-Cushion Billiard Tour Tournament for B and C players. The event took place July 26-28, 2013 and was a huge success.

We had 39 players sign up for this event – 21 “B” players and 18 “C” players, The “B” players were divided into three, 7-man groups; the “C” players were divided into three, 6-man groups. Round-robin was played for both groups and the top two players were sent to the 6-man round-robin finals.

We played two final rounds on Saturday night and three final rounds on Sunday finishing around 3:00 PM. The awards were presented at that time.

Because of the generosity of many people we were able to garner \$3050 in donations. We had \$1525 donated by the USBA and had \$3960 in entry fees for a total of \$8535. We then deducted for the USBA and for the Medford Elks Lodge leaving us with a total of \$7755 in prize money.

Since the “B” entry fee was \$120 and the “C” entry fee was \$80 the prize money was split 60% for the “B” and 40% for the “C” divisions. The total prize fund distribution is listed below.

Homero Landa of Redwood City, California won the “B” division with an unbeaten record in the finals. Francisco Bautisto, also of Redwood City, and Mark Hansen of Sacramento, California tied for 2nd on wins but Mr. Bautista had 3 more points so he was given 2nd place and Mark was given 3rd. Hard on their heels were Eduardo Avila of San Jose, California and USBA SW Director Raye Raskin. They also tied on wins but Mr. Avila had more points so he finished 4th and Mr. Raskin fifth. (Mr Avila also had the high run

of 9). The only local player in the “B” finals, Joe Brisson, finished in 6th place.

In the “C” finals young Pablo Flores of San Jose, California finished first; he also had the high run with an 8. Local Marc Smith finished in 2nd place; he needed but one point in his last game or he would have been first. Another local, Mark Williams, was tied with Marc but lost out on points. And yet another local, Alfred Wenzl was tied with San Diego, California native Bill Wood in wins. Mr. Wenzl won out on points for 4th place putting Mr. Wood in 5th. Stockton, California resident Vic Lee rounded out the “C” division in 6th place.

Everyone had a very good time in HOT Medford, Oregon (over 100 degrees almost every day!). We especially want to thank the Medford Elks Lodge for their hospitality and for allowing us the use of their facility. Ashley, you cutie-pie, thanks for taking care of all us men at the bar.

Prize Fund Distribution

“B” Prize Fund = \$4650

1	\$1740
2	\$1280
3	\$860
4	\$430
5	\$120
6	\$120
HR	\$100

“C” Prize Fund = \$3105

1	\$1165
2	\$850
3	\$545
4	\$285
5	\$80
6	\$80
HR	\$100



3rd Harry Pena, 5th Mazin Shooni, 8th Jim Shovak, 1st Sonny Cho, 2nd Hugo Patino, 6th Gilbert Najm, 4th Miguel Torres, 7th Joe Deamato not shown.

Sonny Cho Takes It All at Amazin Billiards

Amazin Billiards in Malden, MA hosted a USBA TOUR Open Tournament the weekend of September 13th. The room, which is a private club owned by Mazin Shooni, has 5 beautiful three-cushion tables along with many pool tables. It is a wonderful place to play. Eighteen players converged to compete with some of the country's top players, including Mazin Shooni, 2006 US Champion; Sonny Cho, 2005 US Champion; Miguel Torres, 2008 US Champion; Hugo Patino, 2003 and 2009 US Champion, as well as other top players such as Harry Pena, originally from Queens, NY, then moved to Colombia for several years before recently returning to Queens; Vicky Pineda from California who was visiting the New York area; Gilbert Najm who flew in from California and Jamil Isreal who flew in from Michigan.

With three groups of 6 players each in the preliminary rounds, the matches were played to 30 points. The top 2 from each group plus two wild-card third place finishers would advance to an 8-player round robin in the finals based on wins/losses, total points, head-to-head and points-against.

Winning the groups were Mazin Shooni, Harry Pena and Miguel Torres.

Second-place finishers were Sonny Cho, Hugo Patino and Joe DeAmato.

The two best third-place finishers were Gilbert Najm and Jim Shovak. Vicky Pineda just missed out on the finals because of points.

In the finals it was an 8-player round-robin to 30 points based on wins/losses, total points, head-to-head and points-against. Sonny Cho played the first few rounds undefeated and was playing strong. Hugo Patino lost two of his first three matches, one to Sonny Cho and the other to Gilbert Najm. Mazin Shooni lost an early round to Joe DeAmato. Harry Pena played very strong throughout and lost a real squeaker to Sonny Cho 30-29.

After 5 of the 7 rounds were completed, Sonny Cho was still undefeated and since everyone else had at least 2 losses, he only needed to win one more match to clinch victory and he did by easily defeating Jim Shovak. Sonny lost his last match to Mazin, but it didn't matter. Sonny was the king this day.

Bravo, Sonny Cho!

President's Desk

The work of the USBA continues. In the upcoming weeks, the USBA board will finalize plans for the 2014 USBA national championship tournament. The B regional tournaments begin this month and will continue throughout the fall.



Other tournaments, including tour events, will soon be scheduled to complete the fall and winter schedule. Please visit the USBA for information on all these events.

But, for this column, I need to focus on another matter. The quadrennial election for USBA office is upon us. As many should know, the USBA constitution was recently revised. The number of board members was reduced to seven. In this election cycle, the USBA membership will be able to vote for all seven board positions. The seven elected board members will then choose from themselves who will act as chairman (president), secretary and treasurer. The constitution was revised with the hope that it would streamline the bureaucracy and help the USBA govern more efficiently. But the revision also provides the membership with great opportunity.

The USBA needs, and wants, candidates with energy and vision. Now is your chance. Support a candidate. Above all, vote. The USBA is an organization designed to be run by the members for the benefit of the members. The USBA's purpose is simple: to promote carom billiards in America. Join the effort. Become involved. The future of the USBA is in your hands and in your vote.

USBA to Hold "B" Regional Championship Tournaments

The United States Billiard Association will hold six regional "B" championship tournaments in the fall of 2013. The winners of each tournament will qualify to play for the "B" Championship title next year at the USBA national tournament. A first place prize of \$3,000 is projected.

The six regional tournaments are open to any player who resides in the United States and has less than a .900 average as of August 1, 2013, based on the records and statistics kept by the USBA. Citizenship or green card is not required. All players must be verifiable permanent residents of the USA. Borderline "A" players can check with Jim Shovak, USBA Secretary, to determine whether he is eligible.

The first regional tournament will be held at Chris's Billiards in Chicago from September 27 to 29. The entry fee will be \$105 for USBA members and \$125 for non-members.

Winners to Compete for National "B" Championship Title

Regional tournaments are also planned for New York, Miami, Houston, southern California and either northern California or Oregon. Dates and final locations will be announced shortly. The winners will meet at the 2014 Nationals site (to be announced) where they will play for the ultimate championship to crown the King of the "B"s.

In addition to vying for the "B" championship crown, all six winners will also receive free entry into the USBA national tournament if they otherwise meet the qualifications for the national tournament. The date and time of the USBA national tournament will be announced in the coming weeks. Please check your email regularly and also the Tournament section of the USBA website.

New Room Memberships

There are now 2 types of Room Memberships: Premium and Standard. Premium Room Members are eligible to hold USBA TOUR Events in their room and agree to hold 6 USBA Tournaments in their room each year which can include larger tournaments as well as small, local tournaments. Standard Room Members agree to hold 3 USBA Tournaments in their room per year, large or small. Both Memberships come with distinct benefits such as great prices on Simonis pool & billiards cloth, Aramith balls, Tiger Cues and accessories, Accu-Stats DVD's and donated Tiger Cues. The complete list of requirements and benefits is outlined on the USBA website (www.USBA.net) or call one of your directors for more information.

New Carom Ball Reimbursement to Rooms that Hold Qualifiers:

The USBA Board of Directors has established the addition of a carom ball reimbursement policy for Qualifiers as an alternative to the current cloth reimbursement policy. The same rules will apply for the carom ball reimbursement as does for the cloth reimbursement. The room purchases new sets of balls from the USBA for a Qualifier. The USBA reimburses the room for one set of carom balls for each table used at the Qualifier as long as there are 5 players in the Qualifier for each table in accordance to the rules of the cloth reimbursement policy.



Upcoming USBA Tournaments

Fri Nov 08

USBA ENDORSED - Hood River Elks - Hood River OR
Friday-Sunday, November 08-10th
Contact Tom Thomsen, NW USBA Director,
509-240-2027 or 541-938-6889

Equipment: Four 5'X10' Brunswick tables with
European rubber and cloth

Fri Nov 08

USBA TOUR OPEN - Edgie's Billiards - Milpitas CA
Tournament Directors:
.900 average and above: \$385 (\$360 for USBA Members)

.899 average and below: \$235 (\$210 for USBA Members)

Susie Bangoy 408-942-9500

Jose Lizarraga 510-713-0614

Jose Castillo 408-469-3839

Estimated Prize Fund \$16,000.00 based on 35 players, +
\$4,500 added + auction+lottery

Nov 15

USBA Open: Marshalltown, IA

Contact John Jacobson 641-751-4696

\$115 entry for USBA members

Round Robin format

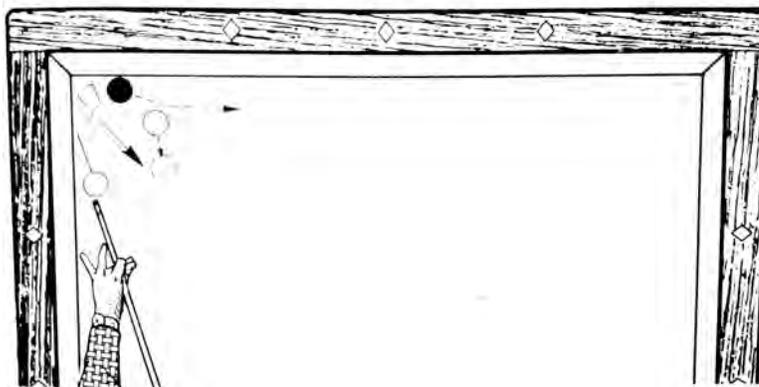
Shots From A Master Play

by Robert Byrne

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



This is a cute shot. Every three-cushion player knows the general pattern: rail first with reverse English to the first ball, and then spin out of the corner. In the diagram, though, the second ball is in the wrong place. With practice, you can learn to drive the red into the white, moving the white into the path of the cueball.













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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

Election Board of Directors

Attention all USBA Members:

This fall we will be having our elections for the new Board of Directors of the USBA. The election will be held from October 1 through December 31 of 2012. The newly-elected Board Members will begin their 4-year terms of office on March 1, 2014.

With the recent changes made to the Constitution, the USBA Members will elect a Board consisting of 7 Directors. There will be no voting for President or Secretary. Instead, the 7 newly-elected Board Members will elect a Board Chairman and a Secretary and/or Treasurer as well as decide the responsibilities and duties of each Board Member.

All current USBA Members will receive a paper ballot in the mail which should be received by October 31st. If you don't receive one by October 31st, then please contact the Secretary, Jim Shovak at 516-238-6193 or email him at JimShovak@usba.net

Thank you for your commitment to the USBA and to carom billiards.



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Send completed form and check or money order payable to USBA to
Jim Shovak/USBA Secretary
58 Hawthorne Ave. • East Islip, NY 11730.





3-C World Championship Groups Picked

The sixteen groups of three players have been selected for the three-cushion world championship that begins next month in Antwerp, Belgium.

Eddie Merckx from Belgium returns to defend the crown he won last year in Portugal. He will face tough competition from Torbjörn Blomdahl and Frédéric Caudron, currently ranked first and second, respectively, in the world by the Union Mondial de Billard (UMB).

The United States has two players participating, both of whom qualified through the Pan American championship. Six-time national champion and two-time Pan American Champion Pedro Piedrabuena will battle Sung Won Choi from Korea and Christian Rudolph from Germany I Group H. Choi is currently ranked fifth in the world by the UMB.

Michael Kang will compete in Group N with Adnan Yüksel from Turkey and Roland Forthomme from Belgium.

The groups are...

- A Eddy Merckx, Dinh Nai Ngo, Peter Ceulemans
- B Torbjörn Blomdahl, Riad Nady, Javier Teran
- C Frédéric Caudron, Jérôme Barbeillon, Emilio Sciacca
- D Jérémy Bury, Jung Han Heo, Michael Lohse
- E Marco Zanetti, Jef Philipoom, Khaled Salem
- F Dani Sánchez, Kouji Funaki, Arnim Kahofer
- G Dick Jaspers, Jean Paul de Bruijn, Martin Bohac
- H Sung Won Choi, Christian Rudolph, Pedro Piedrabuena
- I Kyung-Roul Kim, Ryuuji Umeda, Sergio Jimenez
- J Jae Ho Cho, Nikos Polychronopoulos, Miguel Canton
- K Filippos Kasidokostas, O Takeshima, William Villanueva
- L Lütfi Cenet, Dong Koong Kang, Alexander Salazar
- M Murat Naci Coklu, Eddy Leppens, Huberney Catano
- N Adnan Yüksel, Roland Forthomme, Michael Kang
- O Martin Horn, Sameh Sidhom, Mario Aranha
- P Tayfun Tasdemir, Choong-Bok Lee, Juan Carlos del Salto.

The tournament will be conducted on four Gabriels tables.

Group play will begin on October 16.

For schedule go to the UMB.org



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