



CASINO DEL SOL RESORT - TUCSON, AZ  
 2018

USBA  
**3-CUSHION**  
**NATIONALS**

*National Championship*

BILLIARDS

GUARANTEED ADDED  
**\$10,000**

MAY 28TH - JUNE 15TH, 2018  
 CASINO DEL SOL, TUCSON AZ

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# The USBA Newsletter 3-Cushion Billiard News

[www.USBA.net](http://www.USBA.net)

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## Trinh Do Captures 2018 Amateur "B" Classic Title

by Tom "Dr. Cue" Rossman

One of the largest USBA 3 Cushion events ever – the 2018 National "B" Championship – took place from January 8th – 13th at the magnificent Casino Del Sol in Tucson, AZ. Fifty-six carom players from across the US were placed (by random draw) into 8 round robin brackets of 7 players each. The top 2 players from each bracket based on several factors of performance (match wins, points scored, etc.) would move on to a final single elimination shootout, which would ultimately determine the 2018 USBA National "B" Champion.

Anyone with an average of .850 or less was eligible to play in the tournament, so each match revealed exciting match play competition in a friendly and fair format structure. Every bracket had its share of tense finishes as each player tried to score 20 points before their opponent. Many matches finished at 20 – 19, creating a fan friendly, edge-of-your-seat venue environment.

After the preliminary brackets were finished 16 players emerged to start the shootout challenge, where the games would be played to 25 points each. In the 1st round of 8 matches, results revealed rising carom star Craig Powers over Ta Nguyen, Ertan Tarhan besting talented Danny Kolacz, veteran player Raye Raskin defeating Hector Ocampo, Mercedes Gonzalez (solo lady entrant in the event) over Tres Kane, Trinh Do catching fire with an event high single game average of 1.471 in a dominating win against BCA Hall Of Famer Tom "Dr. Cue" Rossman, ever consistent Fred Lamers beating Pete Folsom,



Trinh Do and Mercedes Gonzalez

determined competitor Jim Hendrickson edging out Casino Del Sol favorite Paul Feltman, Jr., and highly skilled Ramses Verlinden taking victory honors against Tung Nguyen.

With 8 players moving to the second round of matches, the stage was set for more exciting 3 Cushion billiard play. The special "shootout" format revealed match winners: Tarhan, Gonzales, Do, and Hendrickson. To determine 5th through 8th



places of finish, Powers took victory honors with a “run of 10 points” against Lamers and Verlinden won over Raskin in a close fought battle.

In an amazing display of carom artistry, the 4 final players showcased the fine points of each carom cue movement, as Gonzalez continued her winning ways with a victory over Tarhan and ever consistent Do putting one more notch in his billiard belt with a free-flowing win over Hendrickson. An additional match was played between Hendrickson and Tarhan to determine 3rd and 4th place. Both players played brilliantly with Hendrickson crossing the finish line first.

Everyone present in the arena was poised for the final match between 2 tried and true players of the carom art. When the final shot was executed, Trinh Do remained undefeated for the entire event (10 matches “total”) as he steadily captured the National “B” Championship title over a gracious and determined Mercedes Gonzalez.

A special awards ceremony was conducted after the final match with monetary payouts to the top 16 players, “custom” awards to the top 8 finishers, and unique “contribution” awards to Mickey Campbell, and George Hart. Sponsor raffles were won by Bobby Page (McDermott Cue), Paul Feltman, Jr (McDermott Cue), Geraldine (Tiger Cue), Pete Folsom (Casino Del Sol Hotel room 2 nights), and Joe D’Amato (Casino Del Sol food vouchers 2 buffets). A special thanks to these sponsors, plus the USBA, Professor-Q-Ball Promotions, Gabriel Tables, POV Pool, Aramith, and Simonis Cloth!

The resounding success of this event was evident by all players and fans in attendance. Stay tuned for more USBA 3 Cushion action in 2018 and beyond!!



**I-r, Jim Hendrickson, Mercedes Gonzalez, Craig Powers, Raye Raskin, Ramses Verlinden, Fred Lamers, Ertan Tarhan, Trinh Do**

USBA “B” Championship Prize Fund \$12,000

Name	Averages	
1 st :Trinh Do	\$2,200	0.915
2nd : Mercedes Gonzalez	\$1,800	0.647
3rd : Jim Hendrickson	\$1,200	0.695
4th : Ertan Tarhan	\$1,000	0.694
5th : Craig Powers	\$900	0.785
6th : Fred Lamers	\$800	0.676
7th : Ramses Verlinden	\$700	0.720
8th : Raye Raskin	\$600	0.447
9th : Paul Feltman Jr.	\$350	1.045
10th : Danny Kolacz	\$350	0.923
11th :Tung Nguyen	\$350	0.750
12th : Hector Ocampo	\$350	0.440
13th :Tres Kane	\$350	0.368
14th : Tom Rossman	\$350	0.353
15th : Pete Folsom	\$350	0.327
16th : Ta Nguyen	\$350	0.310
10 - High Run	Craig Powers	\$100



# A Very Simple Bend Shot

by Phil Panzera  
Contributing Writer



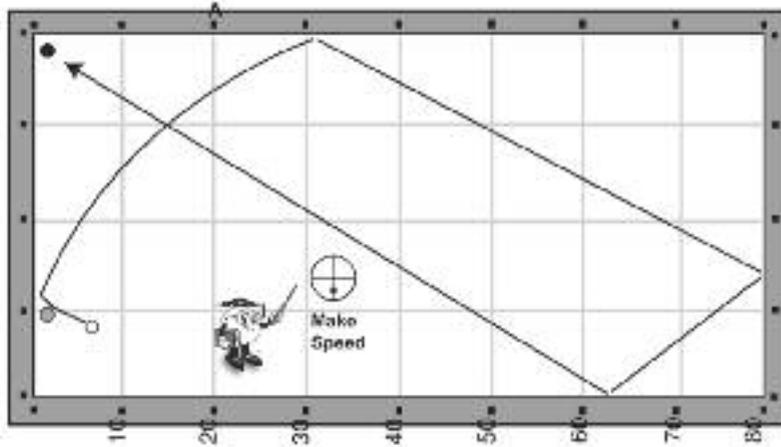
This article is for those enthusiasts who think bending the ball is only for A players. Actually, EVERY time you've hit an object ball at an angle with any speed, using either high or low (NOT left or right), you've been bending the ball. To improve your game, you must not only understand that you ARE bending the ball on most shots, but you must also learn to see it, control it, and then use that bend to make shots you wouldn't think possible.

The shot diagrammed is a good example of this. Set the yellow and red close to the short rail as shown, and then place the cue ball about where shown, but move the cue ball bit by bit downward until a very thin hit will go no higher than point A. Now—for those who don't understand "bend"—the shot looks unmakeable, but with just a few minutes of practice you'll see it's rather simple.

Just hit the cue ball with heavy draw, and it will bend to the second rail nicely (and perhaps bend slightly to the third rail as well). The amount of draw should be adjusted with various angles to the first ball, and how much bend you need, but generally you want more draw at the slowest speed possible to make the shot. Hit too hard, and the ball won't have time to bend. I would avoid using only a little draw (less than a tip), as it's quite easy then for the draw to be lost. Use less draw for newer cloth, and more draw for slow or dirty cloth or balls (or if it's raining outside). If a

down-stroke is in your repertoire, that makes this shot easier. If you don't normally draw the ball very well, concentrate on a longer follow through, and/or just hit the ball lower (these two are usually 99% of the answer for a weak draw).

People think English has something to do with bend, but it doesn't. Understand that the bend occurs because the ball is over-spinning at a diagonal to its path, so it fights to go along that diagonal. I would never use right English on a shot like shown, but you can consider using favor left (just a touch!) if the angle is very extreme. As always, spend some time with variations of the shot, and you'll be happy to add it to your arsenal.



## President's Desk

*Happy New Year to all the members of the USBA. The year 2018 promises to be a good one with regard to 3 cushion billiards.*

*We're fresh off the biggest "B" tournament ever held and the tournament was a rousing success. Held at the beautiful Casino Del Sol in Tucson, Arizona, the tournament was competitive as ever and featured 56 players and over \$12,000 in prizes being doled out. Trinh Do emerged the undefeated victor. We hope you'll take time to visit the USBA website or Professor Q-ball's publication for stories and pictures.*

*We'd like to announce that the 2018 National Championship will also be held at the Casino Del Sol, and urge players and room owners to get qualifiers scheduled as soon as possible to ensure your place in this prestigious tournament. The plan is to have a maximum field of 45 players and payout the top 16 places. The Casino Del Sol will be adding \$10,000 towards the prize fund*

*which promises to make the payouts the highest in Nationals history to date. The format will be posted on USBA and Professor Q-Ball websites.*

*I would ask that room owners contact me with their plans for qualifying tournaments so we can get them on a schedule and announce those dates to our members.*

*As always, I implore all members to contact me with thoughts or ideas about solidifying our organization. I'm hoping this year we will see all the directors and officials of the USBA as well as its membership, become more participatory than ever before in an effort to not only grow the USBA, but to also solidify and sustain it for years to come.*

*Once again, a happy and healthy New Year to all and I hope to hear from you soon. See you at this year's National Championship in Tucson, Arizona.*

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



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### **Upcoming USBA Tournaments**

#### **February 25**

USBA National Qualifier  
Amazin Billiards, Malden, MA

Entry Fee: \$110

Contact: Mazin Shooni  
(248) 910-4466

#### **March 02-04**

Ken Higgins Memorial  
USBA National Qualifier  
Tacoma Elks - Tacoma Washington

Contact: Ed Brasfield  
(253) 468-9839 Bfasteddie41@aol.com

#### **March 15-18**

Professor-Q-Ball Rushville, IL Event  
Entry Fee \$150  
Gary Eake ge@gebroker.com  
(920) 420-1304

#### **April 12-15**

Professor-Q-Ball presents  
at the Super Billiard Expo  
A USBA National Qualifier  
Contact: Paul (901) 756-2594

#### **April 13-15**

Hood River Spring Tournament  
Hood River Elks Club, Oregon  
(541) 386-1507,

Contact Harvey Wixman  
hwixman@hoodriverelectric.net

#### **April 20-22**

13th Annual Mike Kelley Memorial  
Jake's Game Room  
\$110 entry for USBA members  
Send entries to: John Jacobson  
501 Terry Terrace, Marshalltown, IA  
Call or text John @ 641-751-4696

#### **April 26-29**

Velvet Touch Billiards  
1960 S King St., Honolulu, HI  
16 player field-Open Tournament  
\$5,000 Added (808) 255-1005

Contact: Mazin Shooni  
(248) 910-4466

#### **May 18-20**

Parker Hess Memorial Tournament  
Ashland Elks Club  
Ashland, Oregon

Contact: Tommy Thomsen  
tombrooks999@gmail.com

#### **May 28, June 01**

2018 USBA  
3-Cushion National Championship  
Casino Del Sol-Tucson Arizona

\$10,000 Added  
Contact: Mazin Shooni  
(248) 910-4466

#### **July 23-29th**

Verhoven Open  
Carom Café  
Contact: Michael Kang  
(917) 204-6070 Leave a message

# Carom Clash

A special 3 Cushion event took place January 11 & 12, 2018 at the beautiful Tucson, AZ Casino Del Sol Casino in conjunction with the USBA National “B” Championship. This unique feature presentation was called the Carom Clash and was designed to entertain those in attendance, as well as interested viewers on the POV. Pool stream network. Participants included USBA National Champion Mazin Shooni, top USBA ranked player Gilbert Najm, plus BCA Hall Of Famers Mike Massey and Tom “Dr. Cue” Rossman.

On Thursday night two matches took place with Mazin besting “Dr. Cue” in an energetic and entertaining matchup and Gilbert defeating Mike Massey in a magnetic display of billiard skills. On Friday evening Mazin maintained his winning ways by defeating Gilbert in a brilliant exhibition of highly skilled shots. Mike Massey got in stroke and defeated “Dr. Cue” in an enjoyable contest between two close friends both on and off the table.

A final feature presentation took place after the single matchups with entertaining appeal and tremendous fan appreciation. Mazin teamed up with Mike Massey, while Gilbert joined forces with “Dr. Cue” in a unique “scotch doubles” game to 30 points. Friendly banter between the players, coupled with coaching allowances, kept the overall challenge match lively and helped those watching to learn how certain shots were calculated and executed. When the “carom dust” had settled Gilbert and “Dr. Cue” took the victory honors over Mazin and Mike Massey. Mazin and Mike had a high run of “5” as players rotated from shot to shot.

This latter format (scotch doubles) was a joy to witness and has the potential to become a vital ingredient for inclusion in future 3 Cushion competitions...either as a main event or as a “very special” feature presentation during the regular tournament. A special thanks to all in attendance for making the Carom Clash a resounding success.



**l-r, Mike Massey, Mazin Shooni, Tom “Dr. Cue” Rossman, Gilbert Najm**