



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

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MGM Billiards

right, "B" Tournament: Christian Portilla (3rd), Rudy Legler (2nd) & Laureano Gomez (1st)



left, C" Tournament: Eric Hughes (6th), Ademil Sanchez (4th), Jamie Sosa (2nd), Room owners Miguel Torres and Grace, Jose Luis Lopez (1st). Not pictured: Ester Park (5th) and Jorge Gonzalez (3rd).

Thanh Tam Billiards, Garden Grove, CA

by George Aronek

Forty one lovers of 3-cushion billiards came together in Garden Grove, California to participate in a USBA sanctioned tournament open to all entrants.

The entry was \$155 which included the \$5 sanction fee for the U.S.B.A. The owner, Paul Pham of Thanh Tam Billiards, together with the USBA Sponsors added \$1200 to the prize fund.

The players were drawn into seven flights, six of six players and one of five. The handicaps were as follows:

Grand Masters: 35 points

Masters: 30 points

A players: 27 points B players: 25 points C players: 23 points

Pedro Piedrabuena and Mazin Shooni were the only two grand masters.

After the preliminaries (104 games) were played on Saturday, the semi-finals were played Sunday in two groups of seven. The final round consisted of the first place finishers in each semi-finals group playing for first and second place overall. The next two finishers were playing for 3rd and 4th place, etc.

The order of finish was as follows:

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1 Pedro Piedrabuena | 2 Jose Lizarraga | 3 Vicky Pindea | 4 John Lee |
| 5 Gilbert Najm | 6 Soon Hong | 7 Mazin Shooni | 8 Eduardo Gomez |
| 9 Martin Magana | 10 Long Le | 11 Song Young Chul | |
| 12 Kevin Nguyen | 13 Carlos Alvarez | 14 Charlie Shin | |



2010 USBA Tour Open Tournament

Carom Cafe Billiards August 4 to 8, 2010
Final Ranking

FINAL RANK	NAME	TOTAL POINTS	TOTAL INNINGS	GRAND AVERAGE	HIGH RUN	BEST GAME
1	Luis Avila	328	252	1.302	9	2.222
2	Sonny Cho	240	220	1.091	12	1.923
3	Jae Hyun Cho	314	237	1.325	10	1.739
4	Hugo Patino	295	230	1.283	14	1.538
5	Pedro Piedrabuena	272	201	1.353	19	1.739
6	Miguel Torres	238	229	1.039	6	1.429
7	Luis Aveiga	262	201	1.303	13	1.818
8	Michael Kang	246	261	0.943	13	1.111
9	Javier Teran	253	220	1.150	8	1.739
10	Francisco Parra	199	228	0.873	8	1.481
11	Min Jae Pak	192	228	0.842	7	0.909
12	Chris Bartzos	172	221	0.778	6	0.690
13	Kwang Ok	138	205	0.673	4	
14	Jorge Rubio	147	222	0.662	5	

Does not include qualifications



Luis Avila, Sonny Cho & Jae Hyung Cho

PrizeFund

1st	\$3800	2nd	\$2600	3rd	\$2300
4th	\$2000	5th	\$1600	6th	\$1400
7th	\$1200	8th	\$1000	9th	\$800
10th	\$700	11th	\$500	12th	\$500
13th	\$350	14th	\$350		

Jim Watson Emerges Victorious at World Class Billiards World Class Billiards, Peabody, MA

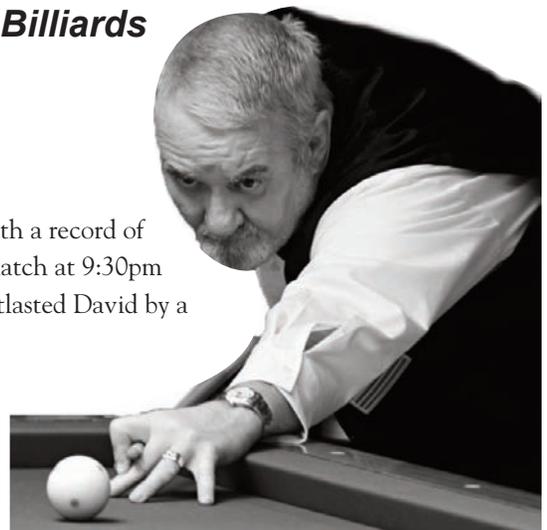
“B” Tournament (under .800 average)

Finals

Jim Watson and Dave Van Lokeren finished the 6-player round robin tied with a record of 4-1. A playoff match to 30 points would determine the winner. Starting that match at 9:30pm on Sunday night, the match was finally over at about 11:15pm. Jim Watson outlasted David by a score of 30-27.

Prizes

1) Jim Watson \$1400 2) Dave Van Lokeren \$900 3) Joe DeAmato \$650 4) Dan Kolacz \$550 5) Bob Page \$450 6) Jim Shovak \$350



Mike Fahey Memorial, Tacoma Elks, WA

Mark Hansen and John Fleming Win the Mike Fahey Memorial

Mike Fahey Memorial USBA Prize Fund Aug. 2010 Tournament

Total “A” players entries 11 @ \$60 per player = \$660

Room fee \$10 per player = \$110

USBA fee \$5 per player = \$55

Total player prize money \$495

1st place \$200

2nd place \$140

3rd place \$80

4th place \$60

High run \$15

Total “B” players entries 5 @ \$60 per player = \$300

Room fee \$10 per player = \$50

USBA fee \$5 per player = \$25

Total player prize money \$225

1st place \$120

2nd place \$90

High run \$15

Could the Great Billiard Players of Old...Hold their Own Against Today's Best?

by John Stauffer

Well, we'll never really know, but changes in the game, both purposeful and incidental provide a distinct advantage to today's players, especially under tournament conditions:

Today's carom balls are larger than the 2" ivory balls that were standard in the 1950s; these newer balls; provide larger cue balls with attendant greater chance of striking the object ball, provide larger object ball targets, and roll further, all else being equal

Today's carom balls are made of precisely molded phenolic resin, which provides straighter and more consistent roll than the non-uniform ivory used in the old days; those ivory balls were hand turned and not always perfectly true. Ivory was subject to frictional and dimensional change, depending on humidity and temperature.

The slower, napped 100% wool cloth has been replaced with un-napped worsted wool/nylon blends, which provide for longer rolls and higher scores.

Heated tables today keep the cloth dry for greater speed, longer rolls, maximum consistency, and better response to light strokes.

Lighting of the playing surface today is more intense and uniform. Today's cues are fine-tuned for optimum response and control of the cue ball; some are made of compound longitudinal composition; cue tips are available in many characteristics, to suit the player. Today's European cushions are deeper and faster than were the old-time Brunswick red rubber, which lost resilience after a few years. Old time table prep consisted of brushing the cloth with the direction of the nap, whereas before a game today, vacuuming and damp rag wiping is common. Tournaments today are often played on new or near-new cloth, whereas for many matches, the old timers played on whatever was there, which could have been worn and inconsistent.

Today's European-made carom tables have slate beds, while softer than the old Vermont and Pennsylvania slate, are more than twice as thick, providing more stability to the table and less chance of roll-off. Today's welded-steel frameworks are more stable than even the heaviest wood construction of old, and unaffected by changes in humidity. The European tables are not so pleasant to look at, compared to the higher end tables of the 1890 – 1930 era.

Today's better players take long and careful aim on shots; who knows how well the old timers might have been if they concentrated like this, instead using their usual step-up-and-shoot.

The old time players did have some advantages, though:

Billiard tables then generally had rail caps $2\frac{3}{4}$ " wide (measured from the edge of the rail cloth), which is less than some of today's wide rails (necessitated by the means of attachment of the rails used today), which allowed the player to get closer to the ball, and also to better place the hand on the rail to make a bridge.

Old time play was with plain, unspotted balls, whereas spotted balls used today may be a distraction to some shooters, as well as revealing to competitors the English that the shooter employs on unusual or difficult shots.

Additional perspective provided by Robert Byrne, with reference to Gerhard Hupper of Germany, on why today's top players do play better three-cushion billiards than those of yesterday:

1. More competition, especially in Europe (but not in the U.S.)
2. Earlier starts for promising players. In Europe, because most play takes place in clubs, not public rooms, players start playing earlier, at 12 or 14, and have plenty of instruction.
3. Today's top players practice more. The top 20 or so practice 4 or 6 hours a day.
4. There are many shots and patterns that have been discovered and refined in the last several decades. The fast cloth has made many shots feasible, such as length-of-the-table backups, that were impossible or extremely difficult in Hoppe's day.
5. Position play is better understood today and has been carefully analyzed... including the realization that too much position play is counterproductive because more shots are missed.
6. More systems have been invented. There are now hundreds of systems, while in the old days there were only a half-dozen.

President's Desk

When I first started playing 3-cushion billiards over 40 years ago in Los Angeles learning the game from others was difficult to do. It was very hard to get others to show me much of anything. Carom billiard knowledge seemed to be jealously guarded, probably to keep a competitive advantage. There were no teaching programs in place for beginners. There were a few people teaching here and there, but I couldn't afford them. Whatever knowledge I got usually came at 2am when I observed one player telling another about seeing a particular shot played years ago. There was just no organized way for a new player to learn the game.

Between then and now learning 3-cushion in the United States became a little easier. There are more people teaching. There have been some good books published. We can watch videos online or on DVD's/tapes, and there are websites that provide information. But there is still no structured way that new players, particularly new young players can learn the game.

In October I am traveling to Spain on behalf of the USBA (my nickel) to attend the Congress of the UMB (world carom governing body). Two themes this year at the Congress are youth in carom billiards and the training and development of players. Besides making invaluable contacts for the USBA, I want to learn how methods in the rest of the world for teaching players and expansion of the carom game can be applied in the United States.

Bruce Warner

Luis Aveiga Wins At Chris's Billiards

Twenty-four players came to Chicago's legendary Chris's Billiards to compete in the 2010 USBA TOUR 3-Cushion Billiards Open, held September 10-12. The players were divided into 3 groups with 8 players each, round robin to 25 points. One player from the "B" flight dropped out, so the "B" flight only had 7 players. The top 2 finishers of each flight would advance to the finals along with the 2 best 3rd-place finishers (wild cards). There was also one auction and one lottery spot, making it a total of 10 players in the finals.

The finalists were divided into 2 groups with 5 players each, round robin to 30 points. The top 2 finishers from each finals flight would advance to a 4-player single elimination to determine the champion.

Preliminaries:

Flight A: Hugo Patino (2003 & 2009 US Champion) wins the flight at 7-0 with a high run of 15. Luis Aveiga (Ecuador & PanAmerican Champion) finishes 2nd at 6-1. Local player David Camarena comes in 3rd at 5-2.

Flight B: Mexican and PanAmerican Champion Luis Miguel Avila wins the flight at 5-1 and local player Alejandro Cruz comes in 2nd, also at 5-1. Jae Hyung Cho (2010 US Champion) comes in 3rd at 4-2.

Flight C: Pedro Piedrabuena (2002, 2004 & 2007 US Champion) wins the flight at 7-0. Sonny Cho (2005 US Champion) comes in 2nd at 6-1. Adrian Viguera comes in 3rd at 5-2.

Adrian Viguera and David Camarena both finished with a 5-2 record. Viguera had more points scored, so he advanced to the finals. Camarena was 5-2 but Jae Hyung Cho was 4-2, having played one less game. In order to select the last wildcard, the two players played a 15 point match to determine who would go to the finals. Jae Hyung Cho won the match 15-9. Jim Shovak won the auction and Felipe Razon won the lottery to round out the group of finalists. The finalists were then seeded into 2 separate flights based on their performances in the preliminaries.

Finals:

Flight D: Hugo Patino finishes 1st and Luis Aveiga finishes 2nd. Patino had a run of 13.

Flight E: Pedro Piedrabuena finishes first with a grand average of 1.644, a run of 12 and a best game of 30 points in just 8 innings (3.750 average). During that incredible 8 inning



Adrian Viguera (4th), Pedro Piedrabuena (3rd), Hugo Patino (2nd), & Luis Aveiga (1st)

match against Adrian Viguera, Viguera ended up with 19 points in just 8 innings for an average of 2.375 and a run of 9. What a game! One of the most exciting matches of the tournament was the one between Luis Avila and Pedro. Avila was winning 27-20 and Pedro ran a 10-and-out to win the match. Adrian Viguera comes in 2nd in the group and also had a run of 10.

Single Elimination Matches:

Luis Aveiga vs. Pedro Piedrabuena: With Pedro winning 26-21, Luis Aveiga runs a 9-and-out to advance to the last round.

Hugo Patino vs. Adrian Viguera: Hugo wins 30-18 in just 19 innings.

Final Matches:

Luis Aveiga vs. Hugo Patino: With Jim Shovak as the referee and Ted Olshansky keeping the score, Luis Aveiga averaged over 1.500 winning the match 35-21 in just 23 innings to win the tournament.

Pedro Piedrabuena finishes 3rd, Adrian Viguera 4th, Jae Hyung Cho ran a 15 to finish in 5th, Luis Avila came in 6th, Sonny Cho in 7th, Felipe Razon in 8th, Alejandro Cruz in 9th and Jim Shovak in 10th.

Bill Smith was gracious to donate his book and DVD, "The Concise Book of Position Play" which was won by a local patron.

Noel Mendoza of Schuler Cues also donated a beautiful Schuler Cue to the event which was won by a local patron.

A special thank you to Mike Melloy and Kevin, who worked very hard cleaning the tables and the balls throughout as well as handling the entry fee money.

<p><i>"The Official Hotel Sponsor of the United States Billiard Association"</i></p> <p>CHOICE HOTELS INTERNATIONAL</p>								

More Shots with a Curving Cue Ball

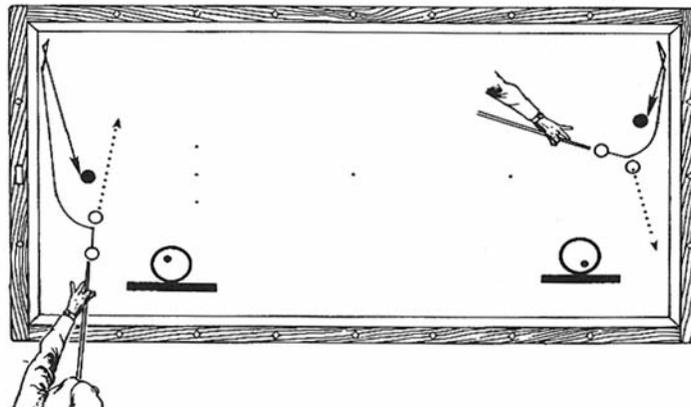
by Robert Byrne

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



Shot 3- demonstrates a common application of follow. Trying to double the rail by going thin off the white is impossible because the angle into the first rail would be too steep. With a full hit, however, the cue ball steps sideways before diving forward, hitting the first rail at such a shallow angle that the shot becomes relatively easy.

Shot 4- is similar to 3, but makes use of draw. The shot is surprising to beginners and laymen that it can be used for showing off.



Robert Byrne has a new book, "Behold My Shorts - The Best of Robert Byrne". To see him in his polka-dot shorts, go to: <http://www.thonline.com/store/bookBrowse.cfm> To view his new book's Press Release, go to: <http://www.usba.net/BreakingNews/ByrnePressRelease-11-2-09.pdf>

Obituaries

Robert L. McManus, beloved husband and father passed away Sunday morning. He was 87 years old.

A resident of Chicago, Illinois, Robert McManus was born in 1922 in Carmi, IL. He was captain of the Havana High School football team and attended Bradley University on a football scholarship. When World War II erupted, he enlisted in the US Army Air Corps where he flew 2-wing Stearman aircraft. His military career cut short by tuberculosis, he returned to Illinois and graduated from the University of Illinois at Champaign.

In the late 50's, he formed his own plastering and acoustical engineering company, R.L. McManus & Company in Peoria, IL. Later, he became a partner at John Hackler and Co. In 1980, he joined the consulting-engineering firm, Beling Consultants in Chicago as a Senior Vice President. He was a National Past President and Distinguished Member and Fellow of The Construction Specifications Institute. He was also an advocate for the rights and needs of Senior Citizens and assisted in the creation of the Central Illinois Agency on Aging in Peoria IL.

An avid bass fisherman and lifelong fan of the Fighting Illini football team, the Chicago Bears and the Chicago Cubs, Robert McManus was also a world class 3-cushion billiard player. He won several Peoria City 3-Cushion Billiard Championship titles and achieved national prominence when he won the National Amateur 3-Cushion Billiard Championship in 1985.

He is survived by his wife, Dr. Carroll Cradock, and three daughters, Laurie Spillman of Raymond, OH, Katie McManus-Faye of Dothan, AL and Bridgit Marquez, of Washburn IL. He has four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother, Jack McManus of Peoria, Illinois and nephew, John McManus of Sarasota, Florida.

He was a man of great honor, quick wit and impeccable character. He will be missed by his friends and especially his family.

Walt Harris died on Saturday, August 21, 2010 in Cape Canaveral Hospital due to a massive stroke.

Besides being an Author of several books, he also started the Senior Tour that lasted several years when he was feeling good. He will be missed by all. May there be 3-Cushion Billiards up there. Paul Frankel

David Cannon My name is Wil Cannon; David's son. Unfortunately, I am saddened to announce that he has passed earlier today. He lost his bout with cancer.

Billiards and his friends whom he played with were very special to him as he was to you. If you would still like to send messages to the family you can send to 3317 Cadman Rd. Fremont, Ca. 94538. We will be holding the service soon at Lima Campagna Alameda Mission Chapel at 600 South 2nd Street San Jose, CA 95112. If you like, I can keep you updated as to time and date.

Thank you for reaching out to us. It means a lot to us during this time of grief.

Wil Cannon

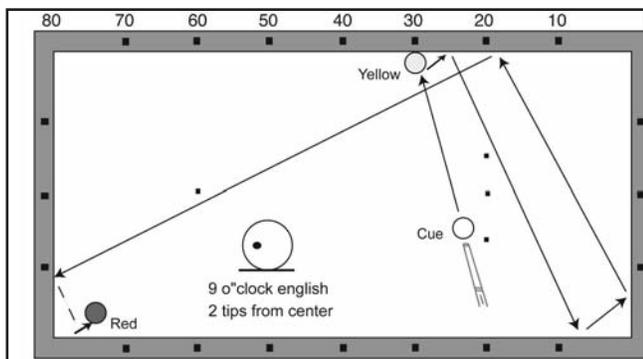
Rip's Tips

Here's a nice shot to warm you up.



Use left hand English, and with a firm stroke, hit the yellow ball as full as you can without getting a kiss back. Don't worry about spin because when the ball leaves the yellow it will be spinning like a top. Try till you can get the cue ball into the second rail corner and you'll be on the way to a beautiful shot!

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



Upcoming Tournaments

Oct 15-17:

USBA TOUR Handicapped OPEN-Cue and Cushio - Hooksett, NH
Contact Mazin Shooni: 248-910-4466

October 15-17:

USBA TOUR "C" - Carom Cafe - Flushing, NY:
Contact Charles Brown (646) 528-3238 or Min Jae Pak (917) 407-3620

October 29-31:

USBA TOUR "B" - Carom Cafe - Flushing, NY
Contact Charles Brown (646) 528-3238 or Min Jae Pak (917) 407-3620

November 12-14:

USBA TOUR OPEN - Doral Billiards - Miami, FL
Contact Henry Ugartechea: 561-929-8100

November 12-14:

Regional Qualifier-Blue Note Lounge-Marshalltown, IA
Contact: John Jacobson: 641-753-7168

December 3-5:

Regional Qualifier-Dick Takano Memorial-Tacoma Elks, WA
Contact Darrel Stutesman: 253-584-3994

December 17-19:

USBA TOUR OPEN - Edgie's - Milpitas, CA
Contact Raye Raskin: 415-497-8732

January 14-16:

Regional Qualifier - Pendennis Club - Louisville, KY
Contact Paul Frankel: 901-756-2594 or 901-210-7251

For more information, go to www.USBA.net or call Jim Shovak at 516-238-6193.

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