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**USBA Qualifier at Pendennis Club
 in Louisville, Kentucky**



February 7, 2013 twenty-four players eagerly assembled for what has truly become one of the most anticipated USBA Tournaments - the National Qualifier held at the historic Pendennis Club in Louisville, Kentucky.

Paul Frankel (aka Professor-Q-Ball) once again brought his love of the game and his tournament management skills to Louisville where the play was sharp, the camaraderie warm and the results gratifying for the combatants who emerged triumphant.

The four winners (above) who qualified to move on to the National Championship event are Jim Bishop, Brian Haff, Tom Rossman and George Theobald

Official Handicaps Established for Tournament Play

The USBA has established official handicaps for player levels to be used in handicap tournaments.

The handicaps have been established based on the five official USBA player levels recently established and announced by the board:

- A = .900 +
- B+ = .700-.899
- B = .550-.699
- C+ = .400-.549
- C = below .400

In handicap tournaments, the following levels and points will apply:

- "A" players go to 30 points (100%)
- "B+" players go to 25 points (83.3%)

"B" players go to 21 points (70%)

"C+" players go to 17 points (56.6%)

"C" players go to 15 points (50%)

New Official Player Levels for 2013

The USBA has Adopted NEW Official

Player Levels for Tournament Play

Beginning immediately all USBA tournaments

will be able to restrict players based on

their Official Player level as determined by

tournament play and the USBA rankings

committee. Here are the new player levels:

.900 average and higher = A level

.700-.899 average = B+ level

.550-.699 average = B level

.400-.549 average = C+ level

.399 average and below = C level



The Pendennis Club Dining Room

How it all Started for the Pendennis Club in Louisville, Kentucky!

In 2006 at the Derby City Classic in Louisville, KY at the Executive West, I held a USBA Regional Qualifier with 24 players with the help of Diamond Billiard Products. It was such a success that in 2007 we held it again at the Derby City Classic. In 2008 Greg Sullivan offered me the hotel across the street, which was called the Executive Inn, and asked me to do another event. That's when I started to think about bringing in, for the first time, the 2008 Ladies and Men's Nationals. The following year I did just that! It was the first time outside a poolroom that we held the USBA Nationals.

It was a huge success and right after it was over we started to plan for the following year to make it a yearly event. But as things turned out the hotel was demolished, and the land was sold. Which now brings me to the Pendennis club!

There were a couple of players that were from the Pendennis Club that entered that the event in 2008. They called me during the year, and asked if I was going to do another event alongside the Derby City in Louisville. I told them about the situation with the hotel. They asked me if I would like to do a Qualifier at the Pendennis Club. They told me they had three carom tables in the venue, and it would be a nice location for it. I gave it some thought and called a couple of weeks later. I spoke to someone at the club and asked them if they would like me to bring in a regional qualifier to their site.

They said sorry, but the Pendennis Club is a private membership facility and not open to the public. A few weeks went by and one of the members who plays 3-Cushion at the club called me to see if they were going to hold the event next year at the club. When I mentioned they said no, he was very upset and told me he was on the board. He would see what he could do and call me back later in the week. Well, he called back and told me it was a go – the rest is history as 2013 was the 5th year for the event!!

I never imagined that relationship would blossom into a perennial reunion now anticipated by players from all over the country.”

President's Desk

The USBA national three-cushion championship is a few weeks away. The nationals are always special. A time to meet old friends and make new ones.

A time to play and watch and learn. A time to trade



systems and stories and unusual shots. A time to enjoy the marvelous game of three-cushion billiards. This year, we are honored to hold our most prestigious tournament as part of Allen Hopkins' Super Billiards Expo in Edison, New Jersey, from April 3 to 7. It seems like only yesterday that we were in Las Vegas watching Pedro Piebrabuena storm back from a big deficient to defeat Mazin Shooni for his fifth title. Pedro will be a heavy favorite to win again. For 10 of the last 11 years, he has finished first or second. While not as impressive as Sang Lee's run of 12 consecutive titles from 1990 to 2002, Pedro's streak isn't bad, as they say. Looking for revenge will be Mazin Shooni, the 2006 champion who has finished second in 2007 and 2012, each time falling to Pedro. Joining them as players to beat are Hugo Patiño, Sonny Cho, Miguel Torres, George Ashby, Carlos Hallon and Jae Hyung Cho, all former national champions. But the field is much deeper. Indeed, it just may be the toughest field in a decade. Hope to see you there! If you can't make it in person, go to www.usba.net for information on the live stream.

Results of Ken Higgins Memorial 3-Cushion Tournament

by Tommy Thomsen, USBA NW Director

Ken Higgins



Our combination "B" & "C" tournament was held at the Medford Elks Lodge in Medford, Oregon March 1 – 3, 2013. We had 14 players.

There were 6 "B" players and 8 "C" players. Two flights of 7 players each were used with 3 "B" players and 4 "C" players in each all playing a complete round-robin. The 2 top finishers from each flight went to a 4-man round-robin.

In the Red flight Marc Smith and Joe Brisson were the winners in the "B" division while Mark Williams and Dave Ehlers were winners in the "C" division. In the Blue flight Jesus Quinonez and Raye Raskin won the "B" division and J R Greenlee and Alfred Wenzl were the winners in the "C" divi-

sion.

In the finals J R Greenlee won the "C" division while Mark Williams was 2nd, Dave Ehlers was 3rd and Alfred Wenzl was 4th.

In the "B" finals Jesus Quinonez was 1st, Raye Raskin 2nd, Joe Brisson 3rd, and Marc Smith 4th. Jesus Quinonez had high run of 8 in the "B" division and Alfred Wenzl had the high run of 5 in the "C" division.

A great thank you to the Elks Lodge and Mike Conte, ER.

USBA tournament at Las Delicias in Revere MA.

On Friday March 1, eighteen players assembled for a handicap tournament endorsed by the USBA. The handicapping system was established at the time the event was announced, so the levels were grandfathered in before the new Official USBA Handicap levels were announced. Here are the levels that applied:

Handicaps:

B+ Players (.700-.899 average) go to 25 pts

B Players (.500-.699 average) go to 20 pts

C Players: (below .500 average) go to 15 pts

As it turns out, the handicapping enabled two B players to finish ahead of the B+ players in what proved to be some exciting and well-fought play..

1st Enrique Ramirez

2nd Sergio Bedoya

Chris's Billiards

The last qualifier for the 2013 USBA nationals was held over the weekend of March 2 and 3 at Chris's Billiards in Chicago. Three players qualified, George Ashby, Lupe Cruz and Thang Lé. Ashby is a former national champion, having won five BFUSA and three ABA titles in the 1970s and 1980s.

Lupe Cruz is a strong player with several USBA tour victories in his possession. Little is known of Thang Lé except that he is a strong player deserving of the honor of playing in the nationals. These three join 18 other qualifiers and at least 18 other players who have announced their intention to participate in the championship tournament.

Upcoming USBA Tournaments

Shot Contest

Breakers Billiards, April 28, 2013

Pittsburg, PA

412-531-2250

Contact: Paul Mottey

April 26-28, 2013

Marshalltown, IA

Mike Kelley Memorial

\$110 Entry for current USBA Members

Contact: John Jacobson @ 641-751-4696

May 16-19, 2013

NW OPEN-Tacoma Elks

Tacoma Elks Lodge No. 174

Contact: Tom Thomsen, 509-240-2027 or 541-938-6889

July 14-16, 2013-USBA Women's Tournament

July 17-21, 2013 Verhoven Open Tournament

Carom Cafe - Flushing NY

Contact: Charles Brown 646 528 3238

cbrown54@speakeasy.net

USBA Marti Tracy Memorial

Medford Elks - Medford OR :: USBA Tournaments

July 19-21, 2013

"B/C" Event

Contact: Tom Thomsen, 509-240-2027 or 541-938-6889

Shots From A Master Play

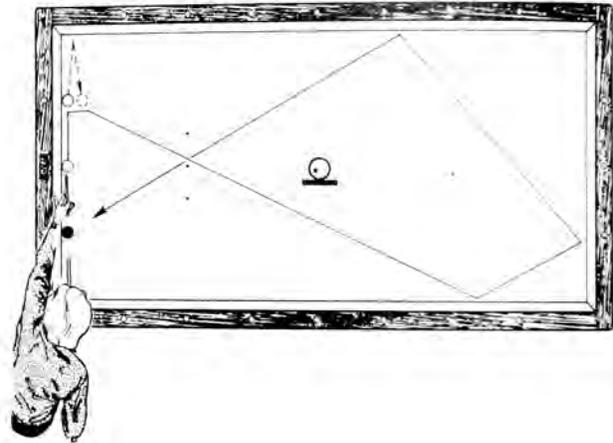
by Robert Byrne

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



A beautiful kiss-back pattern, the balls are frozen on the three end-rail diamonds. Shoot at the white with low left English, angling the line of aim slightly into the cushion.

The idea is to have the white bounce off the side rail and collide with the cueball at the position of the dashed ball, sending the cueball around the table to score on the red. It's easier, of course, with the red big in the corner and the white closer to the other corner.



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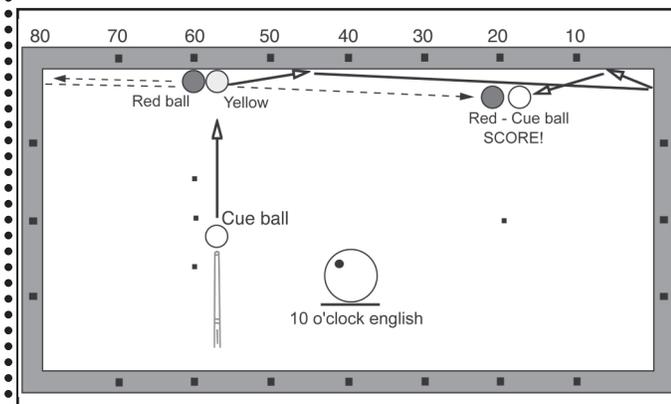
C H O I C E H O T E L S I N T E R N A T I O N A L

Rip's Tips



- Freeze the red & yellow balls on the cushion as shown.
- Set the cue ball perpendicular to yellow ball, (give or take 2 or 3 inches), and hit the yellow ball with cue ball using 10 o'clock English and a medium firm stroke. You should make this shot fairly easily and have some fun doing so.
- "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.

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