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Parker Hess Memorial 3-Cushion Billiard Tournament

by Mark Williams, Tournament Director

The third Annual Parker Hess Memorial 3-Cushion Billiard Tournament was held at the Ashland, Oregon Elks Lodge on April 29 through May 1, 2016. Seventeen players, ranging from

Edmonds, Washington to San Diego, California, were divided into one eight- and one nine-man round-robin flights. B, C+, and C players all played to 25 points. The exception was that when two C players played each other—in both the prelim rounds and the finals—each player started with five points on the string. (Averages for the C Finals were adjusted to reflect this, but not for the prelim rounds.) The top two finishers in each prelim flight from each of these three levels were sent to separate four-man round-robin finals flights.

In the B division finals, Ertan Tarhan from the Seattle area took first place with an impressive performance, winning all of his finals matches with a grand average of 0.843. In fact, Ertan had only lost one game in the prelims, and that was by a single point. Rigo Cuevas, an experienced player from the greater San Francisco Bay Area competing in his first Southern Oregon billiard tournament, placed second. Third place went to Raye Raskin, also from the Bay Area, and fourth place to Tim Poole from the Seattle area. The prize for the high run in the prelims went to Ertan for a run of 7.

In the C+ division finals, everyone assumed that Galen Lee, from the Bay Area, would finish first, given that he was undefeated in the prelim round, had a grand average of 0.619, and even handed Ertan Tarhan, the eventual B Division winner, his only defeat in the event. (So Galen, you can definitely say goodbye to competing as a C/C+ player ever again.) However, at the end of the final game of the tournament, John Fleming of Portland came from 7 points behind to beat Galen in the one hole, giving both players the same 2-1 win/loss record and the same number of total points. Since the third tie-breaker for this tournament was Head-to-Head, John overtook Galen for first place, leaving Galen to finish second. Third place went to Andy Dalisa, a local player who had a very strong tournament with the second best record in the C+ category in the prelims and a grand average of 0.488. Harvey Wixman from Hood River came in fourth. The high run prize went to yours truly for a run of 5 in the first game of the tournament (and unfortunately the only game in which I played decently in the entire event).

The C division finals were hotly contested, and the results were not known until the last match was completed. Bill Wood of San Diego, CA, ended up taking first place by total points, tying in win/loss record with second place finisher Victor Lee of Stockton, CA. Victor also had the high run in the C division prelim round with a run of 5. Harold Reid of Burns, Oregon was third and Ron Hopkins of Edmonds, Washington came in fourth.

I want to thank both Tommy Thomsen and Tim Poole for all their help in running the tournament desk, since we were all playing matches at the same time. Many thanks are also due to the officers and staff of the Ashland, Oregon Elks Lodge # 944 for supporting this tournament and making the lodge as comfortable as possible for all the players. Finally, I want to thank all the participants, not only for attending, but also for being so flexible and cooperative.

B Finalists

L to R, Tim Poole, Ertan Tarhan, Raye Raskin, Rigo Cuevas

Parker Hess Memorial 3-Cushion Billiard Tournament



C+ Finalists

L to R, Harvey Wixman, John Fleming, Galen Lee. Not pictured: Andy Dalisa



C Finalists

L to R, Victor Lee, Bill Wood, Harold Reid, Ron Hopkins



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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

SBE 3-Cushion Team Challenge

Once again three-cushion billiards was featured prominently at the 2016 Allen Hopkins Super Billiards Expo in a series of events presented by Professor-Q-Ball Promotions. Featured was the SBE 3-Cushion Team Challenge. Twelve players were divided into two groups of six to compete over the course of three days.



Team A was headed by Co-captains Hugo Patino and Mercedes Gonzales with Tom Rossman, Don Sperber, George Theobald, and Andrew Janquitto comprising the rest of the team.



Team B was headed by Co-captains Mazin Shooni and Frank Torres were joined by Ester Park, Tom Paley, Jerry Karsh, and Dennis Dieckman.

In the first stage of the competition, each member of a team would play every member of the opposing team. Matches were played to 12 points with a 25-inning limit and this proved to keep the excitement level high and moving at a rapid pace. The Shooni-Torres Team B took an early lead but Team A quickly fought back. As expected, team leaders Patino and Shooni dominated their early matches but in the third round

Hugo Patino was stunned by Ester Park who had already shown great form and composure winning her first two matches. Leading 8-4, Patino sat comfortably only to watch Ester rip off 6 points to take a 10-8 advantage. Patino followed with 2 to equal at 10 but Ester immediately dispatched of the current US National Champion with a run of 2 finishing in 13 innings. The crowd erupted with applause as an astonished Patino greeted her with a well-deserved handshake.

In another early upset, Team A's Andrew Janquitto got the best of Frank Torres finishing 12-11 in 15 innings in a tense match. Janquitto missed several shots to finish but eventually closed the door. Tom Paley (Team B) won against Mercedes Gonzalez again shifting the balance in favor of Team B who after the first day of play was leading. Opening the second day of play Mercedes managed to hold off Ester who looked unstoppable but Mercedes lost to Frank Torres in the last round as Patino defeated Shooni. At the end of two days of play Team B had won the first stage with a 21 wins and 15 losses collecting \$3000.00 in prize money for the team while Team A received \$1800.00.

In the second stage of the competition, the captains of one team would select a player to compete and then the opposing captains could choose which of their players to pit against them. After six matches the score was tied so additional matches were instated. Now it was Hugo's turn to win against Ester needing only 6 innings and Mercedes upset Shooni 12-11 in 7 innings to seal the victory for Team A.

After the SBE 3-Cushion Team Challenge ended there was a scotch doubles competition featuring **Hugo Patino & Mercedes Gonzalez vs Mazin Shooni & Ester Park**. After dominating in the team competition it seemed that the Shooni-Park combination could have the edge but Shooni



2016 SBE Team Challenge First Stage

	Patino	Gonzalez	Rossman	Sperber	Theobald	Janquitto	Shooni	Torres	Park	Paley	Karsh	Dieckman	W/L LOSS	TOTAL POINTS	TOTAL INNINGS	GRAND AVERAGE	HIGH RUN	BEST GAME	FINAL RANKING	
TEAM-A																				
Hugo Patino							12	12	10	12	12	12	5	70	43	1.628	11	3.000		
Mercedes Gonzalez							9	7	12	6	12	12	3	58	102	0.569	4	1.000		
Tom Rossman							1	5	11	12	12	12	3	53	80	0.663	4	1.000		
Don Sperber							1	8	8	4	12	12	2	45	91	0.495	3	0.923		
George Theobald							8	4	8	4	8	8	1	40	109	0.367	3	0.320		
Andrew Janquitto							2	12	7	8	6	5	1	40	109	0.367	5	0.800		
TEAM-B																				
Mazin Shooni	1	12	12	12	12	12							5	61	71	0.859	5	1.333		
Frank Torres	2	12	12	12	12	11							4	61	62	0.984	6	1.200		
Estor Park	12	8	12	12	12	10							5	66	116	0.569	6	0.923		
Tom Paley	2	12	8	12	12	12							4	58	103	0.563	6	1.091		
Jerry Karsh	2	8	6	12	12	7							2	42	93	0.452	5	0.5		
Dennis Dieckman	0	5	10	6	6	12							1	39	87	0.448	6	1.333		
													TOURNAMENT AVERAGE:		0.594					

struggled continually with difficult positions and Hugo and Mercedes both shot well to cruise to victory to collect the \$400.00 prize for the team. The Shooni and Park team received \$200.00.

A special thank you goes to Dennis Dieckman for sponsoring these events. Over the years Dennis Dieckman has been involved in many ways in cue sports. He has been a prolific cue builder and has been extremely generous in supporting players in this fashion. He has also sponsored many junior events in 3-cushion as well as individual players in professional tournaments. We all know that Deek-a-Mon has at times been a little wild—or perhaps a better choice would be eccentric—and each of you could share at least one ‘colorful’ story (only one! you say) from your experience but what

resides at the core of this eccentricity is a man with a truly wonderful heart who continues to give unconventionally with tremendous spirit to the cue sports and it was a great pleasure for all to work with him, to compete with him, and yes—simply to experience once again what we all know as Dennis Dieckman.

Professor-Q-Ball (Paul Frankel) wants to personally thank the sponsors Simonis, Tiger, Gabriels, Aramith, Nothing But Billiards and IBS for once again helping to make this event successful.

Also for all the people that personally donated financially no matter how small or big I can only say “A big thank you from the bottom of my heart”.

President’s Desk

With summer approaching, my thoughts turn to one of the greatest 3-Cushion tournaments in the world. The Verhoeven Open (August 1 to 6 at Carom Café in Flushing, New York) will host some of the best players from around the globe, including reigning World Champion and No. 1 ranked Torbjorn Blomdahl and the mighty Belgium duo of Eddie Merckx (No. 2) and Frédéric Caudron (No. 3).

Turkey’s Tayfun Tasdemir (No. 5), Dick Jaspers of Holland (No. 6) and Murat Naci Coklu (No. 14) from Turkey, France’s Jérémy Bury (No. 16), Korea’s Heang Jik Kim (No. 19) and our own Pedro Piedrabuena (No. 20) will be joined by a foreign players from Denmark, Belgium, Sweden, France, Mexico, Colombia and Ecuador. The US will also have a

strong showing. In addition to Piedrabuena, current US champ Hugo Patiño will play, as will Sonny Cho and Miguel Torres (all former US National champions). I hope to be there as well.

Charles Brown, the tournament director, indicates that there likely will be 96 players in the preliminary rounds with another 8 players to be seeded into the semi-finals. The event will be broadcast on Kozoom.

The USBA is currently working on plans for a more user-friendly website, increased membership, and some exciting venues for 2017 tournaments. We are hoping to return to Las Vegas for the Nationals.

Youth 3-Cushion Challenge and Clinic

Sponsored by Professor-Q-Ball Promotions and YURA (Nothing But Billiards)

Master of Ceremonies – Tom “Dr. Cue” Rossman

On April 15, 2016, a very special event took place at the Super Billiards Expo in the 3 – Cushion arena before a standing room only audience. Over a dozen juniors (18 years of age and younger) participated in a unique “lag challenge” on the two beautiful Gabriel billiard (carom) tables. There was no charge to take the challenge and each player was presented with one or more billiard gloves valued from \$8.00 to \$24.00 each (donated by IBS).

After taking the challenge, each player was given a “once in a lifetime” opportunity to receive “free” clinic lessons from two National Champions of the “carom art” – Hugo Patino (current) and Mazin Shooni. Learning the basics of the “no pocket” game and taking the 3 – Cushion Lag Challenge was a hit “combo,” establishing a foundation of enhanced cue sport skills for our youth while providing special moments in billiard history to last a lifetime for all in attendance.

On April 16 2016 another “lag challenge” took place for the juniors in a “match play” single elimination format awarding respective “zone points” for the finish position of each lag attempted. Two hours of competitive excitement and close matches with awesome “lagging” executed on the Gabriel table created one of the most fan-friendly events ever held.

Each of the 20+ players received a billiard glove (donated by IBS) and a raffle ticket just for entering. In each “head to head” match the player with the highest total “zone points” scored moved on to the next match and so on, until only one player remained in the victory circle. The winner of each match received 3 more raffle tickets and the other player received 2 more raffle tickets.

When the final lag had been taken, 16 – year old Darian Deitz from Elizabethtown, PA emerged as the determined lag champion and bragging rights, so to speak in this inaugural event. All of the players remained in the arena as a final point of the evening festivities had to be done. One raffle ticket was drawn by YURA (Nothing But Billiards) to find out which junior would win a beautiful Hanbat carom cue valued at \$150.00 (donated by IBS).

All of the players participating in the event had multitude chances of winning as a large number of raffle tickets had been collected in the individual matches played. Darian Deitz continued his “victory journey” as his ticket was drawn. A special presentation of the cue to Darian capped off a night that he will never forget. Each junior



“enjoyed the lag challenge” immensely, with a rare opportunity to play on the 3 Cushion table with its professional amenities.

Stay tuned for more in the future for our youth (and others) as 3 Cushion moves forward with exciting new promotions, which are both player and fan – friendly.



16 year old Darian Deitz (above left) from Elizabethtown, PA is Lag Champion





Left to Right Mazin Shooni, Paul (Professor-Q-Ball) Frankel, Hugo Patino

Professor-Q-Ball Promotion's Paul Frankel presented Mazin Shooni and Hugo Patino each with a special plaque for their continued service in supporting three-cushion billiards at the Super Billiards Expo. Over the years, both Mazin and Hugo have attended the SBE and in addition to participating in the tournaments have been involved in many promotional events including lessons and clinics for juniors, Scotch Doubles and Pro-Am exhibitions, team competition with players from other cue disciplines, Challenge-the-Pro events, lessons and demonstrations, and much more. Mazin and Hugo have been instrumental in facilitating the three-cushion events at the SBE and the success of these events is largely due to their contribution in helping Paul Frankel realize his vision for promoting three-cushion billiards to a wide audience through a range of varied events.

Open 3-Cushion Tournaments

Each evening for three nights an open tournament with a race to 5 was held. This short format gave every player, skilled or beginner, a chance to win. The play was limited to 32 players with a \$20 entry. First place received \$1,000, second \$250 and third \$100. The event was fully subscribed every night and attracted both 3-cushion and pocket billiard players to take the challenge. Pictures of the winners for each night are listed below with their payouts. Many thanks to our generous sponsors Dennis Dieckman and Yura K. Ra and his company Nothing But Billiards.

Day 1 Winners - Right To Left

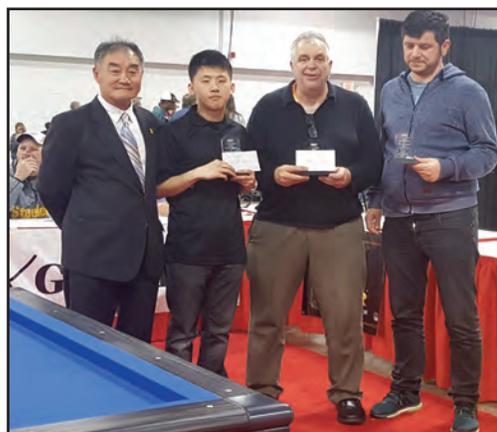
- 1st Mehmet Goren \$1,000
- 2nd Christian Portilla \$2,50.00
- 3rd Antoniou Yanni \$1,00
- Tournament Director Yura

Day 2 Winners - Right to Left

- Tom Paley-Tournament Director
- 1st Christian Portilla \$1,000
- 2nd Kang Lee \$250
- 3rd Shayne Morrow \$100

Day 3 Winners - Left to right

- Tournament Director Yura
- 1st Kang Lee \$1,000
- 2nd Merrill Huges \$250
- 3rd Mehmet Goren \$1,00



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Twenty Player Turnout for Houston Tournament at Bida Goodays

On Saturday May 14 tournament play roared back to Houston as 20 players met for a handicapped event at Bida Goodays directed by room owner Tim Nguyen. Jorge Gonzalez emerged as the winner out of the C entries. Cong Nguyen (A) was 2nd, Dung Nguyen (A) was 3rd and Lan Vo (B) was 4th to round out the top finishers. Lan Vo also took high run honors and the \$100 prize for his run of 8.

Houston has more than a dozen carom rooms and more than forty 10-foot heated tables in town. Unfortunately, tournament action has always been pretty sparse. Tim Nguyen, owner of Bida Goodays at 13442 Bellaire Blvd aims to change all that. His two-step plan: First, recover his Gabriels and Chevillotte tables with Simonis 300 Rapide cloth; then hold a handicapped event with multiple cash prizes and serve lunch and drinks to the players "on the house!" The run-up to the tournament generated a huge buzz around Houston with the result: the plan was more than a success.

Attracting additional prize sponsors from the likes of Professor-Q-Ball (Paul Frankel) and two local players Doug Deitel and Jay Karahan, Tim added another \$100 for high run and the event was quickly over-subscribed.

It was \$50 entry fee, 20 players and they were grouped as follows: five players entered as A, eleven as B and four as C. With the goal of completing the event in one day. "A" players raced to 18, "B" players to 15 and "C" players to 12. There was a blind draw to divide the group into five round robin flights of four for the preliminary round.

Winner of each flight plus the three best second-place finishers moved on to finals.

Tie-breakers were based on score, then points for and lastly points against.

The final standings and prize money awarded:

1st Jorge Gonzalez \$350	2nd Cong Nguyen \$250	3rd Dung Nguyen \$150	4th Lan Vo \$100
5th Joel Rivera \$50	6th Huy Nguyen \$50	High Run: Lan Vo \$100	



**Jorge Gonzalez, 1st
Tim Nguyen Owner**

Exceeding Double-the-Rail Maximums

by Phil Panzera
Contributing Writer



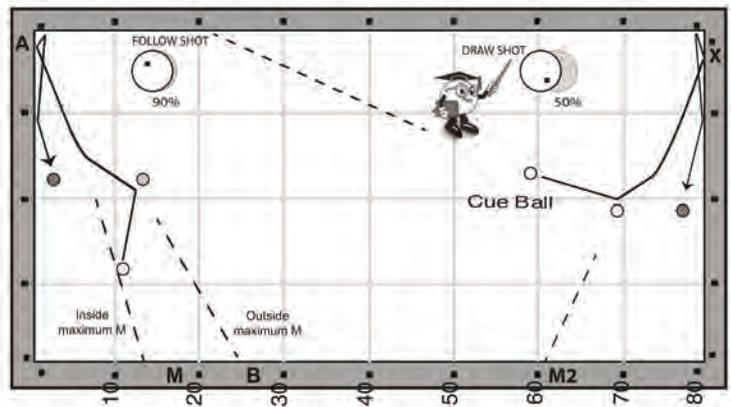
These two shots demonstrate the principle of bending the ball slightly to change the angle of approach to the first rail. This is a very useful technique, and comes up often when you need to go past your maximum. While your maximum may be different, I find about 1.8 on the long rail (or 3.6 on the short rail) is the highest cue ball origin (M to A, or M2 to X) that can double the rail (if you don't know what your maximum is, you should!).

For the shot at left, a line from A through the yellow's contact point would hit the long rail around point B, well beyond the maximum. The shot is still quite possible though if struck as a force follow (rather than the typical about half-ball carom to point A). Instead hit the yellow about 90% full. The cue ball will bounce off the yellow and slide for a while until the follow action grabs the cloth and bends the ball towards the corner. After the bend the ball resumes a straight and normal roll, and if you follow the dotted line back to the long rail you will see it now hits the rail at a point left of M.

Both shots should be hit with a quick stroke, loose wrist, level cue and long follow through. The shot at right is much easier than it looks. For both shots aim to pull the cue ball towards the first diamond (leaving room for it to bend). The fuller hit of the follow shot requires at least medium speed, while the draw shot should be hit well below medium speed.

If you're not getting enough draw, the two almost certain culprits are not hitting the cue ball low enough, and not fol-

lowing through fully. Your follow through should be at least 2 to 3 inches beyond the back side of the yellow (draw action without follow through "just ain't gonna happen"). In fact, a well hit half-ball draw shot here can pull the cue ball past the corner, hitting the long rail. You also don't need max English; the draw is more important, so use a



5:00 hit.

Both these shots are made with stroke, NOT power. On your last warm-up stroke be sure not to jerk or snap-stroke. Pull the cue back slowly and all the way to your bridge (providing more room for acceleration), and use a long smooth follow through. Too much speed and the cue ball will bend too late (and vice versa), so balance the speed with the bend point. To see a video of both these shots (and another sweet variation) go to my rocketceo page on YouTube.

Mike Kelley Memorial Won Again By Lupe Cruz

Sixteen players entered the 2016 tournament. Top 3 finishers out of the diamond flight were John Jacobson, Fred Lamers and Joe VanVooren (who edged out Russ Rosenberger in the deciding match by one point). Newcomer, Tim Mumma, ran a 6 to claim the high run out of the money prize. (\$150).

Top 3 from clubs were Lupe Cruz, George Ashby and Bob Manske.

Lupe and Fred finished the final flight with one loss each, with Lupe having 3 more points, to garner the win. George had 2 losses against the top 2 to come in 3rd.

Thanks to all of the Kelley Family for their donations in time, food and money! Also would like to thank Kelcey at Ben's Tire who is always generous. Thank you Joe VanVooren who added \$100 to high run out of the money prize and to Tom Paley who added \$100 to the prize fund. Another great year. Thanks USBA for the support and the added \$\$\$ JJ

