



Newsletter
January 2007
www.USBilliardAssn.org
Member of the UMB

Newsletter

**THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST NEWSLETTER UNLESS YOU RENEW
YOUR MEMBERSHIP IMMEDIATELY!!!**

FIND OUT WHY YOU SHOULD RENEW INSIDE

Inside:

New USBA Secretary/Treasurer

President's Column

Secretary's Desk

USBA 2007 National Championship

USBA 2007 3-Cushion Billiard Tour!!!

In Memoriam

Tournament Results

Upcoming Tournaments

Renew Your Membership Now!!!

Shots that are NOT Safe

Recent USBA Board Decisions

Board of Directors Information



Newsletter
January 2007
www.USBilliardAssn.org
Member of the UMB

THIS WILL BE YOUR LAST
NEWSLETTER UNLESS YOU
RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP
IMMEDIATELY!!!

FIND OUT WHY YOU SHOULD
RENEW INSIDE



Newsletter
January 2007
www.USBilliardAssn.org
Member of the UMB

It's Time to Renew Your Membership!

Find out why by reading this newsletter. Time to get excited!

Visit our website!!

www.USBilliardAssn.org

We now accept PAYPAL! You can renew or donate online with a credit or debit card or even directly from your bank account. See the renewal section.

Would you like to write an article or submit a shot?

Please consider submitting something. It can be anything of publishable, non-copyrighted material – shots, remembrances of great games/players, etc. E-mail articles to: JimShovak@aol.com or you can mail it to Jim Shovak. Address is at the back of the newsletter.

New USBA Secretary/Treasurer

On, or about December 1, 2006, Jim Shovak was unanimously voted in as the new secretary/treasurer of the USBA. Brian Morgan has passed the torch and has decided to pursue many of the other things he has on his plate. We wish him all the best and thank him for his time and dedication to the USBA and it's members. Thank you, Brian!!!

About the new secretary:

It is difficult to write objectively about myself, but here goes: I was born in Brooklyn, New York on March 15, 1965, so now I am 41 years old. I held many jobs during my youth, among them: Record-Keeper at Saloman Brothers in Manhattan, bus driver, car salesman, mortgage originator, to name a few. I started my own business in 1998 and the business became very successful.

I started playing pool when I was 27 years old. At the age of 31, I first discovered a 3-cushion table. I went to local pool rooms twice a week and played pool and 3-cushion with other players. Finally, in the year 2001, I decided to play 3-cushion exclusively. I purchased a brand new Soren Sogaard table which I have in my heated, detached 2-car garage.

I got married to my wife, Patricia, in 2002. We have 2 children.

In July of 2004, I made a commitment to 3-cushion, and decided that I would make the time to practice as often as I could, for as little as one hour or as much as 7 hours, alone in my garage. I am happy to report a major improvement in my game over the last 2 ½ years.

I am very excited and humbled about my new position as secretary and I promise to put the members needs above all else.



Newsletter
January 2007
www.USBilliardAssn.org
Member of the UMB

President's Column

President's Message
from Bob Jewett

2007 -- a new year and lots of new happenings for the USBA.

Brian Morgan has passed the Secretary's baton. During his two years in the office, Brian ably kept track of our memberships and finances and almost single-handedly got the newsletter out, and also helped organize and run tournaments.

Taking up the duties of Secretary/Treasurer is Jim Shovak who has been a frequent competitor in USBA tournaments. He brings a lot of energy and a pretty good per-inning average to the position.

The year began with a super set of qualifiers in Louisville that were organized by Paul Frankel. 38 players were entered in three separate qualifiers that spanned a whole week. The site was the hotel where the Derby City Classic pool tournament was being held and lots of pool players got to see what our game looks like.

Next up is the Nationals next month in Maywood, California. We will have the luxury of nine tables, so everyone will get a lot of play.

In March we will be sending our two top finishers from 2006 -- Mazin Shooni and Pedro Piedrabuena -- to the World Team Championships in Viersen, Germany. This is the strongest team we have sent in quite a while, and they have an excellent chance to get through to the final rounds.

For later in the year, a six-stop tour is being organized -- more information is elsewhere in this issue.

Other events in the planning stages are championships for juniors and women with Dennis Dieckman arranging donations and venues. Also tentatively planned are Artistic Billiards and straight rail competitions. If you are interested in any of these, as a player, spectator or helper, please contact me or Jim Shovak.

Finally on a sad note, 2006 saw the passing of two of the top US players, Allen Gilbert and Harry Sims. They were both USBA champions and represented the US multiple times in international competition. They were very different personalities, but they shared a great intensity for billiards.

Yours for better billiards,
Bob Jewett



Newsletter
January 2007
www.USBilliardAssn.org
Member of the UMB

Secretary's Desk

Greetings to all:

I realize that there has not been a newsletter in a while. The change of office has delayed a lot of things. This will be my first newsletter. I have not had time to include articles, emails, etc., because I was in a rush to get the newsletter out quickly before the Nationals next month. I will make it a point to keep all the members informed of all that is happening, through the newsletter, emails and on the website from here on.

A lot is happening, believe it or not!!!

Read the rest of this newsletter to see all the things that we have planned. I'll bet you will be surprised.

I am hoping to make a difference and do all I can to make YOU, our valued member, excited about being a part of the USBA and excited about where 3-cushion billiards is headed. The USBA 2007 3-Cushion Billiards Tour is just the beginning. Read on for more details.

I am happy and thrilled to be your new secretary/treasurer. I am asking all members, previous and current, to unite. Let's stand together and do all we can for BILLIARDS. Let's forget about everything else, let's forget about ourselves, let's forget about personal glory. That will not do any good for BILLIARDS. I am asking you all to stand behind us, support us, renew your memberships, make donations, ask us to teach you how to run tournaments, stay informed and we will work together to put 3-Cushion back on the map!!!

You have my word, and anyone who knows me will tell you: that's good enough!

Your humble servant,

Jim Shovak



Newsletter
January 2007
www.USBilliardAssn.org
Member of the UMB

USBA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

The USBA National Championship Tournament will be held at **Eight Ball Billiards**, 5250 Atlantic Blvd., Maywood, CA 90270 - February 7-11, 2007.

The entry fee for those who have played in a Qualifier is \$ 300.00. Otherwise, the entry fee is \$ 500.00. Formal Attire required: vest and tie, black pants and shoes. **Checks and money orders only** should be made out to "**USBA**" and sent to:

Jim Shovak-USBA Secretary
58 Hawthorne Avenue
East Islip, NY 11730

At this printing, almost all slots are filled already. Call or email Jim to find out if there is availability at 516-238-6193 or JimShovak@aol.com.

We have found a reasonably priced decent hotel for players coming from out of town for the Nationals. The hotel is the Ramada Inn in City of Commerce, which was recently refurbished, is interested in promoting itself, and is about a 10 minute drive from 8 Ball Billiards. For our group, the rate we obtained for a room with two double beds or a king bed is \$55 per night plus tax. A roll away bed can also be added for an additional \$10 per night. Rooms are subject to availability, not blocked or reserved. Players wanting accommodations should reserve their rooms as soon as possible. Here is the contact information:

Ramada Inn
7272 East Gage Avenue
City of Commerce, CA 90040
Tel: (562)806-4777

To get the quoted rate, players must ask for Toti and say they are coming for the United States Billiards Association tournament.

Current List of Players Who Have "Qualified" into the National Championship:

Mazin Shooni (1 st place 2006 Nationals)	Kahlil Diab (Burbank, CA Elks)
Pedro Piedraena (2 nd place 2006 Nationals)	Edwardo Borbolla (Burbank, CA Elks)
Sonny Cho (3 rd place 2006 Nationals)	Vicky Pineda (Burbank, CA Elks)
Adrian Viguera (4 th place 2006 Nationals)	Carlos Hallon (New Wave, Miami, FL)
Dan Kolacz (Derby City # 1, Louisville, KY)	Lenne Luis Pinal (Edgie's, Milpitas, CA)
Fred Lamers (Derby City # 2, Louisville, KY)	George Ashby (Ashby's Room, Jacksonville, IL)
Felipe Razon (Jilly's, Marshalltown, IA)	John Jacobsen (Jilly's, Marshalltown, IA)
Jamil Isreal (Derby City #3, Louisville, KY)	Min Jae Pak (Carom Café, Flushing, NY)
Bill Spadafore (Dick Takano Memorial, Elks, Tacoma, WA)	
Tommy Thomsen (Dick Takano Memorial, Elks, Tacoma, WA)	
Joe DeAmato (World Class Billiards, Peabody, MA)	
Dave VanLokeren (World Class Billiards, Peabody, MA)	



Newsletter
January 2007
www.USBilliardAssn.org
Member of the UMB

USBA 2007 3-CUSHION BILLIARD TOUR:

The USBA board has approved a 3-cushion tour for 2007.

6 tournaments to be held at various locations throughout the USA. Rooms and dates to be announced in the near future.

Each tournament will be held for 3 days: Friday, Saturday and Sunday to accommodate players having to take off from work and business.

It will be a "Split" tournament format: "A" players play only other "A" players and "B" players play other "B" players. An "A" player will have a solid .800 average or better as determined by the Tour Directors: Jim Shovak (USBA secretary), Mazin Shooni (2006 National Champion), Pedro Piedrabuena (2-time National Champion) and Paul Frankel (Professor-Q-Ball). "B" players will have an average below .800 and may opt to play with the "A" players if they so desire.

In effect, there will be 2 separate tournaments going on at the same time, with prize money, trophies and recognition for the top "A" players and also the top "B" players.

A minimum of \$ 3,000.00 will be added to each tournament. The proposed entry fees will be \$ 300.00 for "A" players and only \$ 150.00 for "B" players.

There will also be "Qualifiers" held for each tournament, similar in concept to the qualifiers we now have for the National Championship. For example, if you are a "B" player, you can play in a local qualifier and if the qualifier has 10 players, the entry fee may only be \$ 15.00 or \$ 20.00. Or the tournament director may opt to raise the entry fee and include expense money for the winner(s). Details need to be ironed out. The number of entries into each tournament will be LIMITED due to the obvious time constraints of a 3 day tournament.

Further details will be given soon. Stay informed!!!



Newsletter
January 2007
www.USBilliardAssn.org
Member of the UMB

IN MEMORIAM:

In 2006, we lost 2 billiard legends:

With great sadness, I report to you that **Allen Gilbert** died peacefully early yesterday morning, July 15, 2006, at the Veterans Administration Hospital in West Los Angeles, after battling a long illness. He was 77. As you know Allen was seven times United States National 3-Cushion Billiard Champion and four times "Champ of Champs". He was also the author of Systematic Billiards, a renowned billiards instructor, a charter and life member of the United States Billiards Association, and a friend of innumerable players and others in the billiards community. During his many playing years he was also a BWA contract player and played on the world tour. He leaves a sister and daughter.

November 21, 2006: **Harry Sims** was found dead this morning in his home. He had not been feeling well for about a week and I suppose he thought he'd recover. Everyone thought it was simply a real bad cold or some kind of bug.

Harry was a great friend and my Billiard Mentor. I would not be playing the game if it wasn't for Harry moving to St. Louis. I'd already quit for nearly 10 years when I found out he moved here. Harry took an interest in me and my game bringing me from nothing to competing in Regional Competition. This could possibly be the end to 3 Cushion in St. Louis. Only a couple of .200 and .300 players around.

I had a goal to qualify for the Nationals to honor to him in the only way I could think of. Guess I didn't make it in time.

His last pieces of advice to me before I left for Marshalltown will forever be ingrained in my soul.

Sure miss him.

by Tom Paley

All of us in the billiard world are saddened by their passing, but we are grateful for their contribution and dedication to 3-cushion. Thanks, guys. We will ALL miss you.



Newsletter
January 2007
www.USBilliardAssn.org
Member of the UMB

TOURNAMENT RESULTS:

Derby City Classic Qualifier #1:

Derby City, Louisville, KY January 5, 6 and 7, 2007 at the Executive West Hotel.
3 Gabriels Tables with new cloth.
15 Players- 3 Flights of 5

Flight A: Tom Rossman and Dan Kolacz each went 3 and 1 to advance to the final 6.

Flight B: Jim Shovak went 4 and 0 and Steve Anderson went 3 and 1 to advance.

Flight C: George Theobald went 3 and 1 and Gary Eake went 2 and 2 to advance.

Finals: Dan Kolacz finished in 1st Place with a 4 and 1 record and 123 points.

Tom Rossman finished in 2nd place with a 4 and 1 record and 118 points.

Jim Shovak finished in 3rd place with a 3 and 2 record and 115 points.

Steve Anderson finished in 4th place, Gary Eake finished in 5th and George Theobald finished in 6th place overall. Other participants: Dale Saunders, John Shaver, Steve Lomako, Paul Frankel, Thom Zimmerman, Robert Byrne, Eric Hughes, Scott Robinson, Bert Van Arsdale.

Derby City Classic Qualifier #2:

January 9, 10 and 11, 2007

Flight A: Glen Dockstader went 4 and 0 and Bill Johnson went 3 and 1 to advance to the final 6 players.

Flight B: Ted Rubinstein went 4 and 0 and Jim Ream went 2 and 2 to advance.

Flight C: Fred Lamers went 4 and 0 and Steve Buchoff went 3 and 1 to advance.

Finals: Fred Lamers wins the tournament with a 4 and 1 record and the high run of 6

Glen Dockstader finished 2nd with a 3 and 2 record and 107 points.

Bill Johnson finished 3rd with a 3 and 2 record and 105 points.

Steve Buchoff also finished with a 3 and 2 record and 105 points, but settled for 4th place because he lost his match with Bill Johnson.

5th place: Ted Rubinstein and 6th place: Jim Ream. Other participants: Ed Friedman, Sam Bach, Andrew Janquitto, Chris Clodfelter, Mark Haun, Bob Letherby (who did not play because of a medical emergency), Rick Kirk, Bob Lichtenberger and Bill Shenk.



Newsletter
January 2007
www.USBilliardAssn.org
Member of the UMB

Derby City Classic Qualifier #3:

January 12-13, 2007
8 Player Round Robin

Winner: Jamil Isreal who went 7 and 0 with the high run of 7.

2nd: Gary Elias went 6 and 1.

3rd: Rob Waldron at 5 and 2.

4th: Owen Hagovsky at 4 and 3.

Other finishers: Don Kohler, Reed Scism, Ken Olschewske and Billy Carrelli.

Carom Café Qualifier:

January 13-14, 2007
8 Player Round Robin

Results: Min Jae Pak and Michael Kang both finished with a 6-1 record. A 30-point playoff game was played to determine the winner.

Winner: Min Jae Pak won the playoff game by a score of 30-27.

Michael Kang finished in 2nd place.

3rd: Young Gull Lee 5-2

4th: Jim Watson 4-3

Other finishers: Charles Brown, Jim Dimitrakopoulos, George Hobson and Ed Donerly.

Doral Billiards International Open:

December 11-15, 2006, Miami, FL

Nineteen players converged in a grueling 18 games apiece round-robin tournament at Doral Billiards, Abel Calderone's place, in Miami, FL in mid-December of 2006.

Players: Luis Aveiga, Luis Avila, Javier Teran, Sonny Cho, Miguel Torres, Francisco Taylor, Michael Kang, Carlos Hallon, Abel Calderone, J. Lee, Jauregui, Gallegos, Robert Raiford, Juan Medina, Ledesma, Carlos Bazo, Henry Ugartechea, Tony Cardona and Arango.

1st Place: Michael Kang 16-2

2nd Place: Luis Aveiga 15-3

3rd Place: Sonny Cho 14-4

4th Place: Miguel Torres 13-5

5th Place: Luis Avila 13-5

6th: Javier teran, 7th: Carlos Hallon, 8th: Francisco Taylor, 9th: J.Lee of Korea,

10th: Gallegos of Mexico, 11th: Ledesma, 12th: Abel Calderone, 13th: Jauregui,

14th: Juan Medina, 15th: Robert Raiford, 16th: Carlos Bazo, 17th: Arango,

18th: Henry Ugartechea and 19th: Tony Cardona

Congratulations to Michael Kang and to all on a hard-fought tournament.



Newsletter
January 2007
www.USBilliardAssn.org
Member of the UMB

World Class Billiards Qualifier:

Peabody, MA, December 2-3, 2006.
4 Soren Sogaard Tables with new cloth.
11 players- Round Robin

World Class Billiards in Peabody, Massachusetts hosted a qualifying tournament for the upcoming 3 cushion National Championship in February of 2007.

Eleven players converged in Peabody from 5 different states. The players agreed to an entry fee that would send the top 2 finishers from an eleven man round robin to California in February.

The participants were John Magulas, Bob Page, Ben Parker, Joe Orlandello, Joe Costa and Joe DeAmato, all from Massachusetts, Scott Hewitt and Marty Ephraim from New Hampshire, Eric Hughes from Maryland, Jim Shovak from New York and Dave VanLokeren from Rhode Island. (Dave is formerly from Michigan)

Mazin Shooni, current US Champion was the tournament director and did a wonderful job. Play was conducted on 4 Soren Sogaard tables that were newly covered with Simonis cloth virtually single-handedly by Mazin in 3 days.

Two-time Nationals finalist, Joe DeAmato went undefeated (9-0) to gain the top spot in the qualifier while Dave VanLokeren, after an early loss, finished 8 and 1 to gain the 2nd spot and a place in the Nationals. Joe and Dave did not play their match as the outcome would have been meaningless to the order of finish. Dave and Joe did play in the 2005 Nationals together where they finished 7th and 9th respectively. In their 2 games against each other in Tacoma, Joe won in the preliminaries 35 to 34, and in the finals, Dave bested Joe 50 to 49. We'll see how they fare in 2007. Good luck to both.

Third place went to Bob Page with a record of 7 and 3. Bob also had the high-run of 9. The order of finish beyond that was as follows:

4th Place: Joe Costa 6-4
5th Place: Jim Shovak 6-4
6th Place: Scott Hewitt 6-4

Other finishers: John Magulas, Ben Parker, Marty Ephraim, Joe Orlandello and Eric Hughes.

Thank you and congratulations from World Class Billiards to all the players who participated in the qualifier. We hope we can have an even bigger and more competitive field next year. Good luck to everyone who plays in the 2007 National Championship.



Newsletter
January 2007
www.USBilliardAssn.org
Member of the UMB

Dick Takano Memorial Qualifier:

Tacoma Elks # 174, Tacoma, WA, December 1-3, 2006

Greetings from the frozen tundra. At long last, the results from the USBA Dick Takano Memorial Regional Qualifier 3-Cushion Billiards Tournament:

Bill Spadafore won! Tommy Thomsen came in second.

Bill and Tommy are hereby designated to be the two Qualified Entries to the 2007 USBA National Championship Tournament from this qualifier. \$500 for each of these gentlemen will be sent to the USBA to cover their \$300 entry fees and to provide \$200 expense money for their time at the Nationals in February. Bill's first place finish earned him an additional \$100, beyond the Nationals funds. (As per published rules, should either of these gentlemen be unable to attend the Nationals, a next-in-line lower place finisher will be promoted to take the spot in the Nationals, inheriting both the entry fee and the \$200 expense money.)

As expected, the strength of the field ensured that nobody survived undefeated, although Bill and Tommy both entered the final day with a shot at the "Dick Takano Special" fifth of Crown Royal, reserved for anyone with a spotless record. The bottle will have to wait yet another year for a future undefeated champion to claim it. It is aging nicely, though.

Norm Lofgren placed 3rd, winning \$290, and Neal Olson placed 4th, collecting \$140. Neal also won the \$75 Tournament High Run prize with a run of 6. Gerry Vandenberg and Bill Bulpin were 5th and 6th, respectively in the Tournament Championship.

Kip Hocking won the 2nd Division, going undefeated in the 2nd Division finals to collect the \$130 first place prize. Tom Hofstedt took second place in the 2nd Division, worth \$90. Ken Higgins and Ralph Weiss placing third and fourth, collecting \$60 and \$35, respectively. Bill Bulpin won the 2nd Division High Run prize with a run of 5, for which he received \$35.

Bill Bulpin's excellent play included victories over three 1st Division players, landing him in the Tournament Championship Finals flight of 6. Congratulations, Bill, on a solid "top 6" finish in this tournament, and welcome to the 1st Division!

Ralph Weiss won the coveted "Mr. Congeniality" imaginary trophy by virtue of having permitted Neal Olson's 6-run as well as by allowing Ken Higgins to score a 7-run in the 2nd Division Finals match. (Ken's run came too late for consideration for prize money, but just in time to mark the entire year a success, this being Ken's second-highest run ever, and the only one of note that he accomplished without scratches.)

Jim Henrickson traveled all the way from Arizona for this tournament, and came within 3 billiards of having a perfect record in his flight. A considerable distance to travel, only to run into "Buzzsaw Bill" Bulpin, but it was a pleasure to have Jim join us, and we



Newsletter
January 2007
www.USBilliardAssn.org
Member of the UMB

certainly look forward to seeing him again. This was the second time Jim has made the trip from Arizona to Tacoma for a USBA tournament. A fair number of years intervened between the two, but those of us who spot trends figure it is just a matter of time before he next graces us with his presence and his excellent play.

Score sheets for the preliminary flights and championship finals are available on our website: www.USBilliardAssn.org under "Tournament Results". I thank all who entered the tournament, and especially thank Doc Miller who spent considerable time manning the scoring table.

The tournament contributed \$190 to the Northwest Billiard Foundation, and \$85 to the USBA (not counting the National's Tournament entry fees).

All who entered this tournament earned special consideration for entry into the Nationals, should they chose to submit entries. I hope to see a number of you competing in that tournament in February in southern California (guaranteed to have nicer weather than we've had the last week or so) and/or lending vocal support to the efforts of Mssrs. Spadafore & Thomsen.

- Ken Higgins

Burbank Qualifier:

November 17-19, 2006, Burbank Elks Lodge # 1497, Burbank, CA

In memory of Allen Gilbert.

24 players

1st Place: Khalil Diab qualified at 6 and 1

2nd Place: Edwardo Borbolla qualified at 5 and 2

3rd Place: Vicky Pineda qualified at 4 and 3.

4th- Gary Cohen, 5th- Lou Goldsmith, 6th- Timo Moreno, 7th- Herman Arfyani,
8th- Alfredo Reyes

Edgie's Qualifier:

January 6th, 2007, Milpitas, California

1st Place: Lenne Luis Pinal is the winner.

2nd Place: Raye Raskin

3rd Place: Antonio Rivera

4th Place: Gilberto Delgadillo

Other participants: Vicente Aparicio, Miguel Bautista, Paul Stoddard, Homero Landa, Javier Cuevas and Rogelio Aredo.



Newsletter
January 2007
www.USBilliardAssn.org
Member of the UMB

Jilly's, Marshalltown, IA Qualifier

John Jacobson and Felipe Razon qualify for the USBA Nationals at the Marshalltown, IA Qualifier on November 17-19, 2006 held at Jillys!

The finalists – Fred Lamers, John Jacobson, Jose Jimenez, Brian Morgan, Doug Brink and Felipe Razon.

Other participants: Mike Leimer, Bob Jacobsen, Jim Shovak, Kevin Callahan, Mike Melloy, Armando Garcia, Tim Gardner, Carl Nelson, Joe Van Vooren and Tom Paley.

Jacksonville, IL Qualifier at George Ashby's Room

George Ashby went undefeated in the Jacksonville, Illinois, 3-Cushion Regional Qualifier held at George Ashby's room on September 15-17, 2006. Nine players traveled from Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Wisconsin and New York to participate for the chance to be sent to the National Championship in February. The winner gets his/her \$ 300.00 entry fee paid, plus \$ 200.00 expense money.

George Ashby, 8-time United States 3-Cushion Billiard Champion, averaged .971, finished with 200 points and had very little trouble in all of his 25-point matches. The closest anyone got was "Boomer" Brumley who managed 19 points against Ashby, Jim Shovak with 17, and Brian Morgan with 14.

Doug Brink finished in 2nd place and only lost 2 matches, one to Ashby and one to Shovak. Brink finished with 187 points. Jim Shovak finished in 3rd place, averaged .675 and had 189 points. Jack Knoerr came in 4th and had 166 points.

Rounding out the field was Brian Morgan, the USBA secretary/treasurer, "Boomer" Brumley, Bob Litchenberger, Gary Eake, and Steve Agnew.

The last match was between Ashby and Brink. If Brink won the match, he could have won the tournament, since Brink scored 24 points in his only loss coming into the last match. But Ashby would not let that happen.

Jim Shovak defeated Doug Brink in a very close and tense match 25-24. Shovak would have come in 2nd place had he won his last match but he was defeated by "Boomer" Brumley 25-23, securing 2nd place for Brink.



Newsletter
January 2007
www.USBilliardAssn.org
Member of the UMB

New Wave Billiards, Miami, FL
November 10-15, 2006

**DION NELIN DEFEATS PEDRO PIEDRABUENA IN A PLAYOFF GAME
TO CAPTURE THE 2006 NEW WAVE INTERNATIONAL OPEN**

The field of 44 players in 4 groups of 11 began on Wednesday morning: a round robin in each group. Then the top 3 players from each group would play a 12 man round robin to determine the championship. The tournament favorite Dion Nelin from Denmark was back to defend his title from last year, This year Americas finest were gunning for him, as Piedrabuena, Patino, Kang, Hallon, Torres, and Shooni prepared for battle.

FINALISTS:

From group A Nelin, Lee, and Maloney who beat Bengals in the final match to decide who gets in the A finals. Group B, Torres, Patino, and Hallon who beat Torres and Patino to edge out Kang for third spot in A finals. Group C Piedrabuena, Shooni, and Gallegos edged Shovak for the third spot. Group D Taylor, Arana, and Calderon.

Dion Nelin played at a very high level as most of his opponents did not get over 20 points, he also ran 10 and out 3 times which is amazing in a 30 point game, Not seen since the Sang Lee ERA and his high run was 12, and he was undefeated

Going into his final match with Piedrabuena who had 1 loss 30-29 as Hallon beat him earlier, he had to win to reach a 15 point playoff game. Patino had the high run of 13 and also ran an 11 and 12 in the finals, he finished third. Hallon playing very well edged out Taylor by points finished 4th, Taylor 5th, and American Champion Shooni, won his first 6 games then lost his next 5 games came in 6th. Torres finished 7th, and put on Exhibition Artistique!!

There was a huge crowd, tense and nervously watching, as Piedrabuena played explosively, running 6 off the break then 8 a few innings later to soar to the front 23-7 and hold on to defeat the phenom from Denmark 30-21. But in the playoff match Nelin ran 5 off the break and then ran 5 and out to win 15-3 in 6 innings

Results are available on the USBA website under "Tournament Results".



Frederic Caudron is Champion at the 2006 Sang Lee International Open

The players burned up the heated carom tables for eight straight days as eighty-two world class three-cushion players from 18 countries descended onto Carom Cafe's ten-table arena from August 13-20, 2006 in Flushing, NY for a grueling round-robin competition to vie for the \$85,000 prize fund and to determine who would be this year's strongest billiard player.

After playing over five-hundred matches from start to finish, two players remained standing - and it all came down to a single momentous point between defending champion Torbjorn Blomdahl of Sweden and the great Belgium carom player, Frederic Caudron, in the final match.

If Blomdahl would score his last point, both players would then have an identical 6-3 record and thus force a sudden-death 15-point playoff. Caudron, who is undisputedly the supreme straight, balkline, and one-cushion carom player of all time, was on a mission to prove that he stands above the greatest giants in three-cushion billiards – by winning this Sang Lee title. To start the final match, in the presence of a huge crowd and in front of the TV cameras, Caudron literally burst out of the gates with a sudden 19-6 lead over Blomdahl in a race to 40 points. Intent on defending his "home-turf", as Blomdahl affectionately terms New York – due to his numerous titles taken down in the 3-cushion city, Blomdahl fought back aggressively to narrow the gap 28-26. Caudron immediately responded by surging ahead and was the first to hear the referee's call, "Playing for three" – leaving his opponent trailing desperately behind 37-28.

In typical "Blomdahl" fashion, the great champion stepped right up and ran an amazing ten points - missing his 39th point by a single hair. At this critical moment, both players traded unbelievable near-misses while they simultaneously hedged themselves with carefully planned safety moves - bringing the score up to 39-39 while every single audience member inched themselves to the very edge of their seats in anticipation. Then, Caudron unleashed a breathtaking out-shot and immediately upon delivering the winning blow, shook his cue tightly with two clenched fists and let out a deep victory roar that was heard all around the three-cushion world. As he hoisted the massive Carom Cup trophy over his head, the enthusiastic crowd gave him a highly spirited and lengthy standing ovation for his monumental accomplishment.

The overall level of performance during the final round was spectacular. Prizes were awarded for "best game" and "high run" honors and every player pushed hard to raise the performance bar higher and higher. The final round saw a total of twenty-one runs over 10, including four runs of 12 by Raymond Ceulemans, Peter Ceulemans, Murat Naci Coklu, and Miguel Torres; a run of 13 by Semih Sayginer; a 15 by Dick Jaspers; a 16 by Blomdahl; and a bewildering series of 20 consecutive 3-cushion shots by the champion, Caudron!!! There were twenty-four games played with an average of over 2.000. Blomdahl finished one 40-point game against Roland Forthomme of Belgium in 11 innings (3.636 avg), but best game honors went to Dick Jaspers - for his blistering average of 5.000 (40 points in 8 innings!) against Korea's number-one ranked player, Kyung-Roul Kim. Kim, incidentally, posted a high run of 17 during his semi-final round and a general average of 1.758 over the course of



Newsletter
January 2007
www.USBilliardAssn.org
 Member of the UMB

those 7 games. Also, during the semi-final rounds, both Caudron and Jaspers finished 35 points in 8 innings for a 4.375 average. Jaspers and Blomdahl finished their semi-final rounds with 1.960 and 1.929 averages respectively.

During the final ten-person round robin, Caudron finished with the best record of 7 wins and 2 losses and a grand average of 1.881 and a best game of 3.077. Jaspers, who posted the highest grand average in the final-round of 2.026, suffered five unusual losses and settled for a very surprising 6th place. Blomdahl averaged 1.851 for his last nine matches – falling short of his usual 2.0+ New York performances. The total tournament average for the final ten players was a sizzling 1.653.

Among the top ten finishers at the event were two top-ranked Koreans from a younger generation (both in their twenties) that both delivered upset matches for Blomdahl: Kyung-Roul Kim (who made his NY debut one year ago and finished 5th) who this year finished in 7th place and Sung-Won Choi, a new face on the international three-cushion scene, who finished in 4th place. Choi completed his final round robin with an impressive 1.607 general average and a best-game of 3.077. Former US National Champion Pedro Piedrabuena finished in 10th place.

The Sang Lee International Open is the largest open three-cushion event in the U.S. played in round-robin format attracting the world's greatest players. The 2006 memorial event was held at Carom Cafe in Flushing, NY within the 25,000 sq/ft ten-table carom billiard facilities created by the late carom champion, Sang Lee. The competition was played on the finest equipment available: the official table of the event was the Gabriels Emperor heated 3-cushion table; the official cloth was ultra-fast and super-accurate worsted 300 Rapide from Iwan Simonis; and the official balls were the Pro-Cup Aramith spotted balls.

By Ira Lee - August 22, 2006
 2006 Sang Lee International Open
 Prize Fund

1ST	\$12,750	11th	\$2,975
2n	\$10,200	12th	\$2,550
3rd	\$8,500	13th	\$2,210
4th	\$6,500	14th	\$1,925
5th	\$5,950	15th	\$1,785
6th	\$5,100	16th	\$1,675
7th	\$4,675	17th	\$1,530
8th	\$4,250	18th	\$1,445
9th	\$3,825	19th	\$1,360
10th	\$3,400	20th	\$1,275

HI-Run \$425 Best Game \$425



Newsletter
January 2007
www.USBilliardAssn.org
Member of the UMB

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS:

If you are a room owner or tournament director and you would like to inform us of upcoming tournaments, please email or mail the secretary.

From Western Director Bruce Warner -

MONTHLY 3-CUSHION TOURNAMENTS IN SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA

Monthly handicapped 3-cushion billiard tournaments are being held at the House of Billiards in Santa Monica, California, and have been for the past year and a half. They are run by USBA Director Bruce Warner, who also establishes the handicaps based on each player's general ability, recent performance, and handicap relationship to the other players. Each tournament is announced early in the month and usually ends on the last Sunday of the month. All players without a handicap play to 25 points. All other players also play to 25 points but start with their handicap amount, or in the case of a negative handicap play to 25 plus the negative handicap amount. Handicaps, which are adjusted monthly, currently range from +14 to -4. There is a \$10 entry fee, and prizes range depending on the number of entrants, but for sixteen entrants the prizes are 1st - \$85, 2nd - \$35, 3rd - \$20, 4th - \$10, high run - \$10. There are usually between 16 and 25 entrants. The tournament is conducted on a single elimination basis. All pairings are random, except that no first round pairing is allowed if it would pair two players who played each other in the first round of the previous month's tournament. All pairings until the quarter finals are announced via e-mail, and players are provided with each other's e-mail addresses and telephone numbers. The players are given a fixed period within which to arrange and play their matches and report their scores. Innings are not kept. This format has worked quite well, and allowed the tournament to function smoothly with the two billiard tables at the House of Billiards (one Verhoeven and one Soren-Sogaard). Here are some recent results:

March 2006: 1st – Mike Stewart \$85, 2nd – Bernie Trachtenberg \$40, 3rd – Ken Mand \$20, 4th – Bruce Warner \$10, high run - 5 Fred Hellman \$10

April 2006: 1st – Alan Dukar \$75, 2nd - Spencer Winston \$35, 3rd – Bruce Warner \$20, 4th – Rudy Giordani \$10, high run – 5 Alan Dukar \$10

May 2006: 1st – Bruce Warner \$55, 2nd - Claude Harvey \$35, 3rd – Paul Perlove \$15, 4th – Bob Kaminski \$10, high run – 6 Mike Stewart \$10



Newsletter
January 2007
www.USBilliardAssn.org
Member of the UMB

Tacoma Elks & Northwest 2007 3-Cushion Billiards Events & Activities

1. No committee meeting, calendar will be done by email
2. First Saturday of the month, no handicap, (entry fee ½ your handicap - maximum \$ 20;) third Saturday of the month a handicap tournament and entry fee \$ 20 for everyone. Play from 9AM to 6PM. Flights, points & prizes determined by the number of entries.
3. 2nd and 4th Saturday is being tried to support play in the Winter Tournament. Show up at 10AM and let's try it.
4. President's day "King of the Hill". Feb. 24th, Saturday 10AM to 6PM. Note, the Lodge has decided to celebrate this day on a Saturday.
5. USBA Tournament at Tacoma, March 2-4, Fri-Sun.
6. Northwest Open April 12-15 at Tacoma Thurs-Sun
7. Committee Meeting. Handicap Setting April 23, Monday 6:30PM Board Room
8. USBA Tournament at Medford Elks, May 4-6, Fri-Sun
9. "A" Division Championship is Saturday May 12, start at 10AM
10. "B" Club Championship is Saturday May 19, start at 10AM
11. Annual Awards Billiard Banquet and Auction Saturday June 23, 6:30PM
12. USBA Mike Fahey Memorial Tournament, August 24-26, Fri-Sun at Tacoma
13. Medford Tournament Sunday Sept. 29 through October 6
14. Winter Tournament November 2007 thru March 2008
15. Hood River Tournament, Nov 9-11 Fri-Sun
16. Friday Shootout, day after Thanksgiving Nov 23, 10AM-6PM
17. USBA Dick Takano Memorial Tournament Tacoma Dec 7-9, Fri-Sun
18. Thursday Night Shootouts 6PM-11PM

Happy New Year!!!

-Darrel "Stutes" Stutesman



Newsletter
January 2007
www.USBilliardAssn.org
Member of the UMB

A GREAT REASON TO RENEW YOUR USBA MEMBERSHIP:

The next **USBA Newsletter** will be printed in **Professor-Q-Ball's National Pool & 3 Cushion News** publication. That means that as a member of the USBA, you will receive a **FREE SUBSCRIPTION** to PROFESSOR-Q-BALL! **A \$ 17.00 BONUS!!!**

This is only the beginning. We are working on providing more and more benefits and "freebies" for YOU, our valued member.

Be on the lookout for more benefits as time goes on.

RENEW NOW!!!

Complete the form on the following page.

Send completed form and a check or money order payable to "USBA" to:

Jim Shovak/USBA Secretary
58 Hawthorne Avenue
East Islip, NY 11730

You can also pay online through PayPal. Go to www.PayPal.com If you don't have an account, you can create one free. Once you have an account, Click "Send Money".

Our email address is:

secretary@USBilliardAssn.org (Make sure you don't make a mistake)

PayPal may only be used for donations and payment of dues. You may not use PayPal at this time for entry fees. Indicate that the payment is for your 2007 dues, advertisement or donation of your choice and click "Service" as the reason for the transaction. You can use your credit or debit card or your bank account to pay.

Please consider donating to our organization. We could really use the money to help us promote billiards in this country. I, as your secretary, will be continuously looking for ways to give you, our member, more and more benefits and goodies as time goes on. Please support us and back us any way you can.

Even \$ 10.00 will help if that is all you can afford.



Newsletter
January 2007
www.USBilliardAssn.org
 Member of the UMB

USBA Membership ___ New Member ___ Renewal

- Dues 2007 \$36.00
- I wish to donate to the USBA _____ (Main Fund)
- I wish to donate to the USBA _____ (Champions Travel Fund)
- I wish to donate to the USBA _____ (Nationals 2007 Prize Fund)
- I wish to donate to the USBA _____ (Junior Billiards Fund)
- I wish to donate to the USBA _____ (Ladies 3_C Fund)

PRINT PLEASE

Name: _____

If we do not have your correct address or if we do not have your email address or phone number, etc., please enter that information below, otherwise you can leave it blank:

Correct Address: _____

Correct City, State, Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Local Room Name: _____

Local Room Address: (If we may not have heard about it)

We are in the process of setting up a member directory. Which information may we include in the directory?

Address yes_____ no_____

Home Phone yes_____ no_____

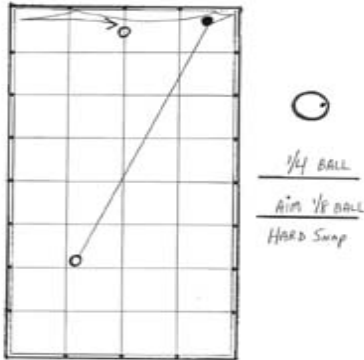
Cell Phone yes_____ no_____

Email Address yes_____ no_____

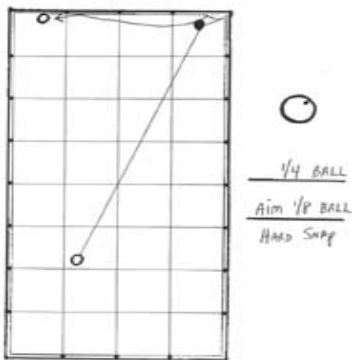


SHOTS THAT I LOVE TO PLAY: by Jim Shovak

These 4 shots are common shots that most players consider “safe” but are not. They are basically the same shot off the first ball, but since the last ball is in a different position, it is necessary to use 4 different englishes. The 2 object balls are far away near the top rail and your cue ball is coming from the opposite corner. Your cue ball can be anywhere close to that same line unless you are very close to the first object ball.



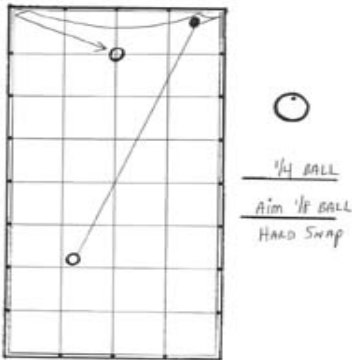
In the first shot, use a lot of right center-ball spin (reverse), a $\frac{1}{4}$ ball hit which means aim for a $\frac{1}{8}$ ball hit because of deflection, and a hard snap stroke which means don't follow through. You are trying to hit the LONG rail first, not the top rail.



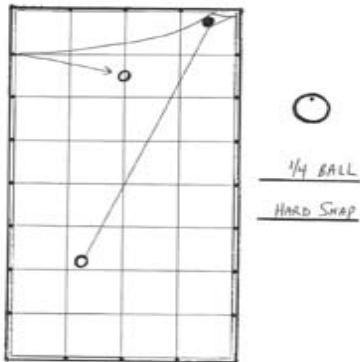
In the 2nd shot, use the same hit and aim, but use high right reverse English with the same stroke.



Newsletter
January 2007
www.USBilliardAssn.org
Member of the UMB



In the 3rd shot, use the same hit and aim, but use high English with just a hair of right spin (reverse) and the same stroke. If the cue ball goes BEHIND the last ball, you are using too much reverse English.



In the 4th shot, use a 1/4 ball hit and also aim for 1/4 ball since there will be no deflection on this shot. Use a high ball hit with no English and the same stroke.

If the cloth is new, then you will need to adjust your English. First shot, use high reverse; 2nd shot, use 1 tip reverse; 3rd shot, use no English high; 4th shot, use a hair of running (left) English.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at:
JimShovak@aol.com



Newsletter
January 2007
www.USBilliardAssn.org
Member of the UMB

Recent USBA Board Decisions:

Board of Directors Meeting - Sunday October 1, 2006

Six month member in good standing rule abolished

Old text: Section 7.02(a).Residency Requirement Participation in USBA national carom championships (and all qualifying tournaments leading up to the Nationals) shall be limited to persons who have been members in good standing of the USBA for a minimum of the prior six (6) months from the tournament date and who are citizens of the United States or who are legal resident aliens that have a valid green card.

New text: Section 7.02(a).Residency Requirement Participation in USBA national carom championships (and all qualifying tournaments leading up to the Nationals) shall be limited to persons who are members in good standing of the USBA and who are citizens of the United States or who are legal resident aliens that have a valid green card. (Secretary's note: This basically means that you can pay the appropriate dues before or at the tournament to become a member in good standing.)

Pro-rating of dues question

Pro-rating will apply **only to new members** and the amount will be not less than \$18.

Hypothetical scenarios at \$3 per month pro-rating:

You're a new member and pay in February - \$33

You're a new member and pay in May - \$24

You're a new member and pay in July thru December - \$18

If you have **ever** been a USBA member - \$36.00 no matter when you reinstate during the calendar year, for that calendar year only. (Secretary's note: This basically means that you can pay the \$36 and reinstate for the whole year if paid on January 1 or as little as a day if the USBA sanctioned tournament you're entering falls on December 31.)

Secretary's note: All dues are payable on a calendar year basis. Example: 2007 dues are due on January 1st, 2007.



Newsletter
January 2007
www.USBilliardAssn.org
Member of the UMB

USBA's Name To Be Used For 2007 3-Cushion Billiard Tour

1/1/2007: The board voted unanimously on the following question:

"Should the USBA allow it's name to be used as part of the 2007 3-Cushion Billiard Tour (run by "Tour Directors" Jim Shovak, Pedro Piedrabuena, Mazin Shooni and Paul Frankel) along with the formation of a (3 person) "Tour Committee" who will decide whether or not the USBA name should be kept as part of the tour afterwards?"

Additional details: 3 person "Tour Committee" will be Bob Jewitt, Bruce Warner and George Theobald.

Addendum:

- 1) The Tour Committee would be constituted as a subcommittee of the USBA Board;
- 2) The Tour Committee would, on an ongoing basis, and timely, be provided by the "Tour Directors" with all information about all aspects of the operation of the Tour. This would include, but not be limited to, rules, formats, room selection, promotions, commitments, sponsorships, finances, and plans and projections for future operations—in other words, the Tour Committee would be promptly advised about all aspects of the Tour. For potential decisions being considered by the Tour Directors, this means that the Tour Committee would be informed by the Tour Directors in sufficient time, and with sufficient detail, so that the Tour Committee can intelligently and timely consider the effects, if any, on the USBA, and obtain clarifying information if any is believed to be needed. In general, any of the Tour Committee members could obtain further information from the Tour Directors about the operations of the Tour upon request;
- 3) The Tour Committee would report back to the USBA Board on a quarterly basis about the operations of the Tour;
- 4) Besides for the Tour Committee having the ability to remove the USBA's name from the Tour, the USBA Board would also retain that ability. In other words, even if the Tour Committee did not see a need to remove the USBA's name, the Board of the USBA could do so. Name removal can occur at any time and for any reason that the Tour Committee or the Board believes appropriate, in their absolute discretion. If there is a feeling by the USBA Board that runs contrary to the Tour Committee, the final authority rests with the USBA Board. Further, to the extent that the USBA's involvement in the Tour might be interpreted to have gone beyond just providing it's name for the Tour, the Tour Committee and the USBA Board would also have the ability to terminate any such involvement, at any time, in their absolute discretion. All of these abilities of the USBA, either through the Tour Committee or the USBA Board, would include the ability to notify third parties.
- 5) At the end of one year, after the USBA Board has had a chance to see how the Tour is functioning, the issue of the USBA's relationship with the Tour will be revisited by the USBA Board.



Sanction Fees Waived When No Cloth Reimbursement Requested

1/5/2007: The Board approved the following question:

“Should the USBA automatically waive sanction fees for National Championship Qualifying Tournaments if the room where the “Qualifier” is held does not ask for cloth reimbursement from the USBA (assuming they have changed the cloth)?”

Minimum Number of Players For National Qualifiers Changed

1/6/07: The Board approved the following question with stipulations:

“Should there be no minimum number of entrants for National Championship Qualifying Tournaments as long as the USBA receives \$ 500.00 for each person who is sent to the National Championship?”

Stipulations (Compromise):

6 Players Minimum = 1 player “qualified” into the National Championship

10 Players = 2 players “qualified” into the National Championship (space permitting)

15 Players = 3 players “qualified” into the National Championship (space permitting)

20 players = 4 players “qualified” into the National Championship (space permitting)

Every additional 5 players = 1 additional player “qualified” into the National Championship (space permitting)

Measure begins retroactively from December 1, 2006.

Since the number of entrants into the National Championship Tournament may be limited, the USBA still has the authority to limit the number of qualifying tournaments and/or entrants.

Newsletter to be printed in Professor-Q-Ball Magazine

1/15/07: The Board approved the following question:

“Should the USBA have it’s Newsletter printed in Professor-Q-Ball’s publication?”



Newsletter
January 2007
www.USBilliardAssn.org
 Member of the UMB



United States Billiard Association
58 Hawthorne Avenue
East Islip, NY 11730 USA

<p>President: Bob Jewett 1000 Kiely Blvd Apt 86, Santa Clara, CA 95051 408-615-7479 president@USBilliardAssn.org</p>		<p>Secretary/Treasurer: Jim Shovak 58 Hawthorne Avenue East Islip, NY 11730 516-238-6193 JimShovak@aol.com</p>
<p>Eastern Region Directors: Mazin Shooni – 2006 USA Champion 135 Broad Street Unit # 3A5, Hudson, MA, 01749 978-562-8595 cell phone: 248-910-4466 work phone: 978-535-7000 mazinshooni@yahoo.com</p> <p>John Zymeck 6520 North Ocean Blvd. #31 Ocean Ridge, Fl 33435 561-670-0240 jzymeck@bellsouth.net</p> <p>Charles Brown cbrown54@speakeasy.net</p>	<p>Central Region Directors: George Theobald 1N260 Prince Crossing Rd. West Chicago, Illinois 60185 (630) 231-9444 gtheobald4@comcast.net</p> <p>Bill Johnson 734-368-3315 williamharryjohnson@gmail.com</p> <p>George Ashby – 8X USA Champion 206 E. State Street Jacksonville, IL 62650 217-440-0069 PoolTableDoctor2@verizon.net</p>	<p>Western Region Directors: George Aronek 19120 Nordhoff St. Northridge, California 91324-3654 AGQcase@aol.com</p> <p>Ken Higgins 19342 47TH Ave NE. Seattle, Washington 98155-2954 (425) 709-8718 ken.higgins@sun.com</p> <p>Bruce Warner (310)738-5429 bw-@ix.netcom.com</p>



Newsletter
January 2007
www.USBilliardAssn.org
Member of the UMB

USBA Secretary/Jim Shovak
58 Hawthorne Avenue
East Islip, NY 11730