

# Casino Del Sol Resort

Presents

## Amateur Classic USBA 3-Cushion Tournament



Casino Del Sol Resort 5655 West Valencia Rd Tucson, AZ 85757

**January 8-13 2018**

48 Player Field - 6 Groups of 8

.850 below \$300

.700 below \$225

.500 below \$150

[Ladies play free]

65 age or older

10% Off Entry Fee



Format details will be posted on usba.net soon

All players must be a USBA member

★ Free Buffet for each player that enters the tournament

**Mandatory  
Dress code**

**ADDED MONEY GUARANTEED**



Contact: Mazin Shooni

(248) 910-4466

mazinshooni@yahoo.com

Or

Andy Janquitto

(410) 599-8177

AJ@mhblaw.com

cheqio





**The USBA Newsletter**  
**3-Cushion Billiard News**

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

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**Letter to the USBA and Members**

I remember many years ago following a 3 Cushion National Championship tournament I felt inclined to pen a letter to the then tournament director out of appreciation for a job well done.

I am moved today to do something similar.

The 2017 version of the 3 Cushion National Championship was just concluded at the Casino Del Sol Resort in Tucson, Arizona. What a setting!! There were 35 players, a few spectators and a few USBA enthusiasts running the show. The staff at the Del Sol Resort was magnificently accommodating and much credit must go to their CFO Paul Feltman Jr. who by the way has upped his 3 cushion prowess and will be a force in upcoming events.

It takes many people to coordinate and make successful an event of this size and stature but I'd be remiss if I were not to acknowledge and show my personal appreciation to the one person who truly is responsible for the entire concept to come to fruition. That would be the USBA's current President, Mazin Shooni. Together with Paul Feltman Jr, they had a dream. They had to have worked tirelessly to make that first week of tournaments happen in January of 2017 and then push through the difficulty and continue on with their desire to give the National Championship a fitting setting and stage. And succeed they did.

New equipment, excellent lighting, comfortable and elegant surroundings, amenities galore at one's fingertips, relatively inexpensive hotel accommodations, exemplary service and a week of ease and comfort where all a player had to do was play.

My experience tells me that every tournament has its' detractors and although they were present here, they were considerably outnumbered by appreciative happy players.

The 2017 Nationals had its' drawbacks but every tournament has a glitch or two. This was the first in this setting and I'm totally confident that Mazin Shooni will welcome feedback and input from players and combine it with what he knows to make the 2018 version of the National Championship that much better.

So a sincere 'thank you' to Mazin Shooni, Paul Feltman Jr and all the other people involved in making this event a welcoming and successful one. I and many others I assure you, look forward to the 2018 National Championship. Anonymous

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# Pedro Piedrabuena Wins 9th USBA 2017 National Championship

Pedro Piedrabuena is our new National champion for 2017 after impressing players and spectators alike at the USBA Nationals with a nearly flawless performance. Undefeated throughout the preliminaries and the finals, Pedro demonstrated a world-class skill and concentration at the table that was inspiring. Whether facing a C-Player or a top player, Pedro brought his A-Game to every match. We are extremely proud that he will be representing us at the World Championship.

Wonderful play was also provided by 2nd place finisher Miguel Torres, whose big stroke, beautiful shots and ready smile has always been a crowd pleaser. Third place Jae Cho was ever steady with his smooth, light touch at the table. In fourth place was Hugo Patino, whose game of finesse netted him, high run in both the prelims and the finals, a considerable achievement on tables that proved to be challenging.

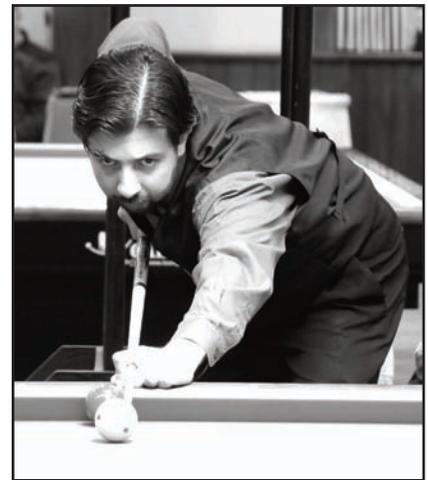
### More Thoughts on the Event

I may be biased, but I have to give a nod to my Boston boys. Three of us made the finals: myself, Joe Deamato and Tony Ferrara. It doesn't get much better than that.

Probably the player who worked the hardest at the table never picked up a cue. Boston's own JoJo Chiasson single-handedly kept the tables clean and the players provided with chalk and water through the entire tournament. A true champion is our JoJo!

We are indebted to Tournament Director Andy Janquitto, who was assisted by our Web Master Doug Deitel and Professor-Q-Ball's (Paul Frankel). Also to our sponsors Gabriels, Simonis, Aramith, Tiger, McDermott, Cheqio and AdoEma Realty.

The games were played at the beautiful Casino Del Sol, a Four Star hotel and entertainment venue in Tucson, Arizona. The accommodations, amenities and service were over the top. Thank you to USBA player and Casino Del Sol CFO Paul Feldman for helping to make this happen.



Here are the final standings with wins & loses, averages, high run and prize payout from the finals:

1 Pedro Piedrabuena	11-0	1.584	9	\$3,500
2 Miguel Torres	9-2	1.233	7	\$2,500
3 Jae Hyung Cho	9-2	1.208	8	\$1,800
4 Hugo Patino	7-4	1.395	15	\$1,500
5 Mazin Shooni	5-6	0.965	8	\$1,200
6 Frank Torres	5-6	0.899	9	\$1,000
7 Tung Nguyen	5-6	0.753	6	\$750
8 Craig Powers	4-7	0.722	6	\$650
9 Joseph DeAmato	4-7	0.706	6	\$500
10 Robert Spicknall	4-7	0.638	7	\$450
11 Anthony Ferrera	2-9	0.584	6	\$400
12 Camilo Medina	1-10	0.519	6	\$350
Total Prize Fund				\$14,600



Left to Right-Craig Powers, Jae Hyung Cho, Pedro Piedrabuena, Mazin Shooni, Miguel Torres Hugo Patino, Anthony Ferrara, Camilo Medina, Frank Torres, Tung Nguyen, Joseph DeAmato, Robert Spicknall

# Pedro Piedrabuena Wins the 2017 Pan American Championship

Courtesy of [3cushionbilliards.com](http://3cushionbilliards.com)

**U**SBA 2017 National Champion Pedro Piedrabuena has completed the "double" by defeating Javier Teran of Ecuador 40-36 in 33 innings in the final match to win the 2017 Pan American Championship.

In an undefeated performance, matching his effort earlier in June to win the USBA National title, Pedro duplicated the feat of his fellow countryman Hugo Patino. In 2016 Hugo was also a dual champion winning both the USBA and Pan American titles.

This year the tournament was played in Quilmes, Argentina. The Colombian contingent included Robinson Morales, Alexander Salazar, Huberney Catano, Carlos Campino and Jose Juan Garcia. Many considered them the favorites, but they were all eliminated in the run-up to the semi-finals, as were two of the US players Hugo Patino and Miguel Torres. Only Fernando Diaz of Colombia reached the last four. He was eliminated by Javier Teran in a shootout after a draw in the regular match (40-40 in 34). Pedro Piedrabuena took the other semi-final against Erick Tellez from Costa Rica 40-22 in 26.

The US players continue to dominate the Pan American event for the second year in a row.



## Upcoming USBA Tournaments

### August 07-13

Verhoeven Open - Carom Cafe Billiards  
Flushing, NY (718) 358 8585

Featuring: Torbjorn Blomdahl, Frederic Caudron, Jae Ho Cho,  
Sung Won Choi, Dick Jaspers, Daniel Sanchez  
Info call: Charlie Brown (646) 528-3238

### August 18-20

Million Dollar Billiards - North Hollywood, California  
Tiger Cup \$20,000 - Contact Hector 323 304-3156  
A players, \$300 to 30 points - B players, \$275 to 27point  
C players, \$250 to 25 points

### September 22-24

12th Annual Minneapolis Billiard Club  
Fall Classic Billiard Tournament  
16-Man tournament-two-8 man round robin bracket)  
\$125 Entry for current USBA Members  
25-Point Games, W/L, Total points  
Send entries to: Fred Lamers (763-300-6370)  
1282 140th Ln. NW Andover, MN. 55304

### 23 September

Southern Oregon Billiards 55th Annual Billiard Tourney  
Ashland Elks Club, Ashland, Oregon, USA Entry fee \$60  
Marc Smith 541 582-0336 or Tim Poole 360 463-3248

### September 29-October 02,

Marti/Bob Tracy Memorial USBA B/C Tour Event  
Ashland Elks Club, Ashland, Oregon, USA  
USBA Tour: B and C Tournaments, Entry: \$120.00 for all  
players, C, C+, B, and B+, Marc Smith, 541-582-0336

### October 12-15

Professor-Q-Ball Rushville Event  
Entry fee \$150 - can me paid by PayPal using  
geagebroker.com, Players meeting on Thursday at 2pm-Play  
starts at 3pm, Contact: Gary Eake at (920) 420-1303,  
Email-geagebroker.com

### October 27-29

Russ Guppy Memorial Tournament Hood River Elks Club,  
Hood River, Oregon 541-386-1507  
Contact Harvey Wixman hwixman@hoodriverelectric.net

# Rail First Hug the Wall

by Phil Panzera  
Contributing Writer

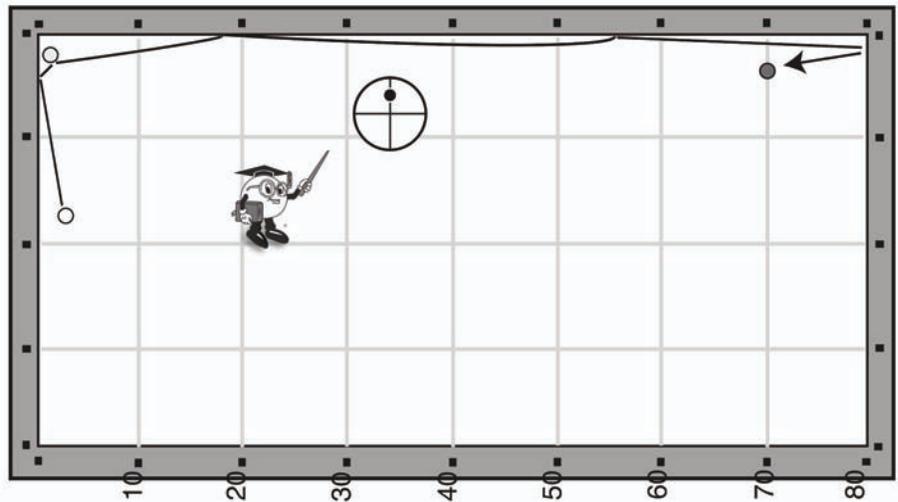


This is an instructive shot in the use of highball to bend back to a rail, thereby creating a bigger ball and an easier chance to score. Why worry about shooting the red, with a long distance hit off the rail, and a kiss to avoid? With just a little practice the diagrammed shot is very playable when you get the feel for it.

Two keys to the shot are speed and the hit on the first object ball. You should hit the first ball very full and just a bit right of center, but not too full or you might get a kiss. Speed is critical, as a key part of the shot is getting the cue ball to bend back to the long rail and catch it a second time, thus making the red a big ball with two ways to score. If the cue ball is struck too softly, the follow will be lost too soon, and it will not bend back for the second long rail hit. If struck too hard, the follow won't be able to take, and again you'll lose the second contact. Just a bit more than medium speed is all you need.

Naturally, you want a heavy dose of high, with a good stroke and follow through. No English is needed (or wanted), as either left or right would increase the chance of missing the red off the fourth rail. The cue ball will pick up some running English off the long rail anyway, which will open the angle a bit. Finally—as I often say—stroke is what is needed here, NOT power.

If you like the shot, here's a recipe for some more fun: with a very aggressive stroke and follow through, a loose wrist and light grip, more speed, and just a tad of elevation, you might even catch the long rail three times! That'll definitely put a smile on your face!



## President's Desk

For nearly a decade, USBA members have asked the Board of Directors to hold a national championship for B and C players. The inquiry was understandable and justified, as B and C players far outnumber A players. While everyone agreed it was a good idea, the tournament never happened for a variety of reasons. That has changed.

The USBA proudly announces the Amateur Classic USBA 3-Cushion Tournament, an open tournament for all players with an average below .850. To be held at the Casino del Sol in Tucson, Arizona from January 8 to 13, 2018, the tournament will be played alongside the Cue Sports International Arizona State 8-Ball Championship.

The USBA has established tiered entry fees and a special

committee to assure that players are slotted into the proper tier. There are 64 slots open for players, and we anticipate a full field. See the flyer on page 25. The full tournament information will be posted on the USBA website, and registration will begin on August 15.

For many years, the USBA National Championship Tournament was a small affair, an invitational limited to the top 12 players in the country. Gradually, the tournament morphed into an open format, like what we had a few weeks ago. But the Nationals are dominated by the same handful of A players. The Amateur Classic USBA 3-Cushion Tournament gives us the opportunity to find out who is the best of the rest. Good luck to all those who enter.

# USBA Pays Tribute to Bob Byrne at National Championship Banquet

On Thursday, June 8 the USBA paid tribute to one of 3-Cushion's legends - player, author and raconteur Bob Byrne. On hand at the event were all the players in the National Championship who were joined by Bob's wife Cindy and many friends who traveled to the Casino Del Sol Resort in Tucson to join in the gala.

Pete Folsom served as Master of Ceremonies, and POVPool created a tribute video, which was played on the big screen for all the guests to enjoy.

Daniel Busch and Geraldine Thibodeaux of POVPool created and recorded the entire tribute and have made the video available for all. So enjoy the celebration and listen to the kind words of Bob's friends in loving memory of our great friend. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/y7es7ka9> to see some incredible footage of Bob and the many great players who knew him and loved him.

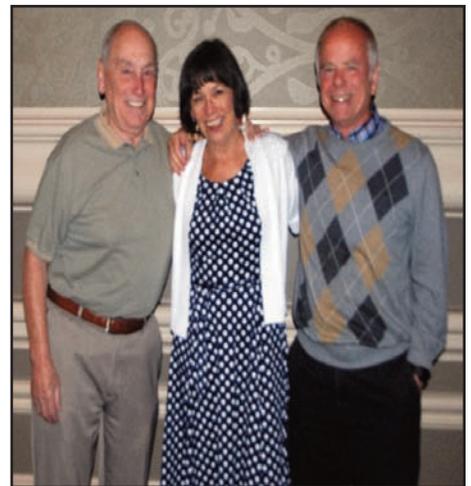
With **Pete Folsom, (right)** a true professional at the podium, the crowd was entertained and informed with stories and memories from the past. Many in the crowd stepped up to say a word about their memories of Bob including his wife Cindy Byrne and USBA president Mazin Shooni.



Cindy Byrne



Mazin Shooni  
USBA President

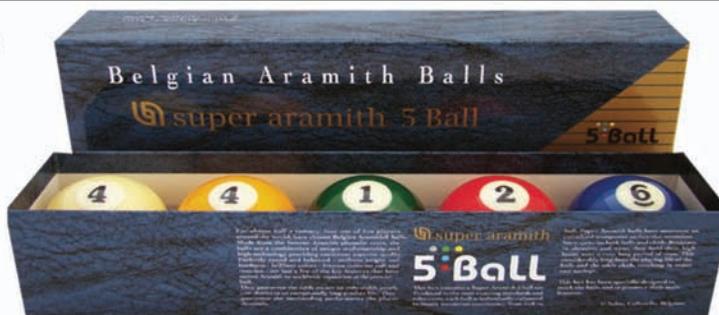


Darrell Stuteman, Cindy Byrne, and  
Bob Jewett



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