



The USBA Newsletter 3-Cushion Billiard News

www.USBA.net

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6th Annual Bob and Marti Tracy USBA B/B Tour Event

**by Marc Smith: Tournament
Director and Billiard Chairman**

The 6th Annual Bob and Marti Tracy USBA Sponsored B/B+; C/C+ Tour Event was held at the Ashland, OR Elks Lodge September 29-October 1st. Wow! We attracted 35 players, including 18 B's and 17 C's. We put them in 5 Flights of 7 mixed B/B/ The winner of each Flight went to the Finals. The C/C= Player with the best record in each Flight went to the C/C+ Finals. Both finals were Round-Robin Format. All players were in the money.

We want to mention this event was fortunate to receive a \$3000 gift from the Bob and Marti Tracy Trust, and we also thank the USBA for send the matching funds to make this a great event. This was by far the most competitive tournament to date in Ashland. Thanks to the Elks and everyone who helped make this run smoothly.

Red Flight: Cesar Cardoza defeated last year's champion and went undefeated in a 25-23 thriller. J R Greenlee advanced in the C's

White Flight: Ertan Tarhan went undefeated while averaging .949. Rudy Vigil advanced in the C's
Purple Flight: Lalo Avila went undefeated defeating our May Tournament Champion Robert Spicknall 25-22. Bob Hilton had a great tournament and advanced in the C's

Green Flight: Homero Landa, lost to Ramses Verlinden, who averaged .670 but ran into Alfred Wenzl who advanced in the C's

Blue Flight: Antonio Rivera went 5-1 to finish first over Mark Hanson and Galen Lee who both finished 4-1. Berine Pettipiece advanced to the C Finals and had a great tournament.

B Finals: It was crazy! Landa beats Cardoza, Cardoza defeats Tarhan, Tarhan beats Landa. And the winner is: Cardoza with a 3-1 record!!

1st Cesar Cardoza (right) 3-1

2nd Ertan Tarhan 2-2

3rd Homero Landa 2-2

4th Edwardo Avila 2-2

5th Antonio Rivera 1-3



Group Photo Player from left to right: Harvey Wixman; Bob Horecky; Don Dayan; Tim Poole; Duke Clark; Galen Lee; and Bob Hilton





Casino Del Sol Resort

Amateur B-Classic USBA 3-Cushion Tournament



January 8-13 2018



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49 Player Field Is Full
7 Groups of 7

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C Finals: Extremely competitive, every game could have gone the other way. Hilton beats Pettipiece; Pettipiece beats Greenlee; Greenlee beats Hilton and the Winner is Pettipiece with a 3-1 record

1st Bernie Pettipiece (right) 3-1

4th Rudy Vigil 1-3

2nd J R Greenlee 3-1

5th Alfred Wenzl 1-3

3rd Bob Hilton 2-5

High Run went to Edwardo Avila with an 8 run in the B Division and Bob Hilton also won \$50 for his run of 7 in the C Division.

We had players from Arizona, Idaho, Colorado, 7 from Washington, 11 from the Bay Area, 3 from way out there in Oregon, 2 from Portland, 1 each from San and Sacramento, and 7 from the Ashland area, 4 of which reached to C Finals!!

A special thanks to those who helped out at the scoring table, especially Alice and Tommy Thomsen. Also thanks to the Elks Lodge for hosting this event, including the employees and volunteers who made it so wonderful.



Today I Happen To Be On Cloud 13

by Paul Frankel • Professor-Q-Ball

On Tuesday October 24, 2017 approximately 4 o'clock in the afternoon, I went to my carom table in my home and started to practice and hit a few balls. My friend and I for the last year or so have been saying to each other that who ever runs ten first must call the other. Weeks went by and so did months.

Each time I'd go to the table to play I'd think about my highest run in the past. It was in the early 70's that I made a glorious run of 12. But on this day something was different. As I made shot after shot I suddenly realized I was on a run of 9. I thought: "Wouldn't it be nice to run 10 so I can finally call my friend. But as you know, no shot is guaranteed in 3-cushion. I wanted this point so badly that as I went down to shoot I got back up right away and thought to myself: "I must chalk up."

What I didn't want to do was to miscue on my 10th point. I studied the shot again and again. Then, when I was finally ready, I pulled the trigger and watched my cue ball go 3 rails to score my 10th point. Even though it was on my own table in my home, and I was all by myself, I jumped up and had a big smile on my face. I felt as if there were people applauding me and "yelling that's the way to go Professor-Q-Ball". I couldn't wait to make the call to my friend.

Then I realized I was alone and the next thought that came to mind was "wait a minute I am still at the table". Maybe I can break my all time record of 12. As I made the 11th and 12th point my heart was pounding and I was praying, please let



me make the next shot to break my record. I had two shots to pick from. One was very difficult and the other was easier, but had a possible kiss. As I went down to shoot, my mind was telling me not to take the easy shot. I always heard the better players say, if you think there may be a kiss, avoid the shot. So instead I chose to shoot the more difficult one... and I made it! And once again the crowd went wild. (Only to realize again it was in my mind).

Finally... after all these years, I had broken my record for a high run on my Gabriels Carom table. The 14th shot was not an easy one. So that is where it ended. But it was truly a great feeling being up there on cloud 13.

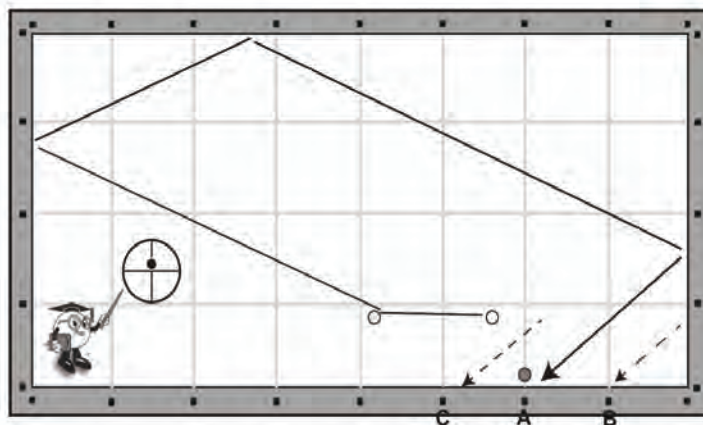
A Simple and Lovely System from a National Champion

by Phil Panzera
Contributing Writer



During the 90's I took lessons from 5-time National Champion Allen Gilbert for a few years. For those who knew him, Allen was a consummate technical maestro of the game, and he had a system for pretty much every shot (many of his own invention). Here is a very simple long angle system of his, requiring no counting or math, and it really works quite well.

All the system requires is to know that if the cue ball and the yellow are parallel to the long rail, then a 1/4 ball hit on the yellow will take the cue ball three rails to the second diamond (A). Allen said the yellow could be “anywhere,” but I generally only played it if the yellow was on the left half of the table (as I was looking at the shot), and not within a diamond of the top rail. Allen emphasized the need to follow through, with a slow to medium speed, and a just above center hit. Of course if the cue ball was just slightly left or right of parallel to the long rail, you can still play this system, and just adjust the ball hit slightly (don't adjust with English). You might think you need or want English with this shot, but you don't, and hitting on the center vertical axis makes aiming and execution much easier. In fact, I know a perhaps 150 level player who knows and executes this system remarkably well.



There are two important variations to know. If you want to go to the first diamond (B), just hit a half ball with a little more high. If you want to go to the third diamond (C), just use slight reverse, a half tip left and high. You should definitely practice and know all three versions.

Allen's “anywhere” is a slight exaggeration. It's not a perfect system for every location, but the shot (to A, B or C) comes up quite often, and if you're under 700 level you'll like how easy and reliable it is. Depending where the yellow starts from, it often leaves nice position as well.

President's Desk

It's that time of year again – the road to the 2018 USBA 3-Cushion Nationals! I am extremely excited to announce that the beautiful Casino Del Sol in Tucson Arizona will once again host the Nationals, this time with \$10,000 added. The event will be held May 28th through June 1st.

The Casino will be offering other perks to welcome players and to make their stay comfortable. Family members and friends also enjoy the warm weather and the many amenities of this luxurious resort, so bring them along. It's always nice to have spectators cheering you on!

Room owners should prepare for the qualifiers leading up to the Nationals. More information will be posted soon on our

website (www.USBA.net).

The roster is filled, with players on the waiting list, for our much-anticipated B Championship at Casino Del Sol in January. The event will be held alongside a Cue Sport International (CSI) pool event. Professional lighting will be used for this event – and also at the Nationals – which should enhance competition.

Due to the lack of nominations to the Board of Directors, elections have been postponed for a year. I am requesting the Board appoint to the Board the only nominee, Dennis Dieckman.

Have a happy holiday season, and I hope to see everyone in Tucson next year!

Amateur "B" Classic their will be 2 Tables on sale after the event and is now offered to first come buyers at a tournament discounted price.

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Upcoming USBA Tournaments

December 8-9th 2017

Dick Takano Memorial Tournament

Tacoma Elks Club,
Tacoma, WA

Contact Ed Brasfield
541 490-1192 bfasted-
die41@aol.com

March 15-18th 2018

Professor-Q-Ball
Rushville Event

Entry fee \$150

Players meeting on
Thursday

Contact: Gary Eake at
(920) 420-1303

Email-geagebroker.com

January 8-13th-2018

Amateur B-Classic
Tournament

Casino Del Sol Resort,
Tucson, AZ

See flyer on page 25

**May 28th through
June 1st 2018**

USBA Nationals

Full details for all
events are on usba.net
website



It's Billiard Season Again in Rushville, IL

by Rick Shryack

On Oct 12th -15th, over thirty 3 cushion billiard players from all over the Midwest will be at Rushville Billiards to compete in the Professor-Q-Ball 2017 Rushville Fall Tournament. Previous Rushville tournaments have included former national billiard champions and players from both coasts.

Most everyone thinks of pool or billiards as the same game. In the pool/billiard world, there is pocket billiards and carom billiards. 3-cushion belongs in the carom category. Pocket billiards is your normal home/bar games where you shoot balls into a pocket.

For this article I will abbreviate 3-cushion billiards as 3c. The last article didn't explain the game of 3c, so I'll do that



Fred, George and Mazin.

balls can be spotted depending on the situation.

Games are usually played to 15 points and higher. One player always shoots the white cue ball and the opponent always shoots the yellow cue ball. The object of the game is to make your cue ball contact at least 3 cushions and both object balls. You cue ball must contact at least 3 cushions before it strikes the 2nd object ball. Example: you shoot the white cue ball into the yellow ball, your cue ball contacts 3 cushions and hits the red ball. That is a point. It does not matter in what order the 1st object ball and cushions are struck. You could go cushion, cushion, cushion, 1st object ball then 2nd object ball. There are many possibilities. Hitting the same cushion 3 times on the shot is perfectly acceptable but difficult. If your cue ball hits the 2nd object ball before it contacts at least 3 cushions, your turn is done.

The rails have "diamonds" evenly spaced all around the

now. 3c is usually played on a 5 foot x 10 foot table with no pockets. There are 3 balls: a white cue ball, a yellow cue ball and a red object ball. There are 5 dots on the table where

FINALS																Lammers	Manriquez	Powers	Le	Shooni	Miller	Logan	Ashby	WIN/LOSS	TOTAL POINTS	TOTAL ININGS	GRAND INVERAGE	HIGH RUN	BEST GAME	FINAL RANKING
First																														
Lammers																			4	3	170	233	0.730	6	1.087	3				
Salmes	46	2	3	25	5	53	15	4	41	4	16	5	23	5	116	3			2	5	134	269	0.498	5	0.714	6				
Manriquez																			3	4	120	228	0.526	9	0.806	5				
Craig	24	3	11	1	1	27	27	2	34	4	10	3	18	3	116	3			4	3	139	230	0.604	5	0.926	4				
Powers																			6	1	173	210	0.824	6	1.316	1				
Theng	16	2	45	1	1	19	12	2	19	5	15	4	4	1	116	3			2	5	134	269	0.498	5	0.714	6				
Le																			3	4	120	228	0.526	9	0.806	5				
Mason	39	5	15	27	2	4			33	15	28	8	2	6	116	3			4	3	139	230	0.604	5	0.926	4				
Shooni																			1	6	104	235	0.443	5	0.735	8				
Miller																			5	2	130	251	0.518	6	0.615	7				
John	5	1	3	1	1	18	4	1	34	3	11	1	12	1	116	3			6	1	164	198	0.828	6	1.190	2				
Logan																			1	6	104	235	0.443	5	0.735	8				
Gaige	31	2	11	1	1	12	2	21	34	3	11	1	12	1	116	3			6	1	164	198	0.828	6	1.190	2				
Ashby																			1	6	104	235	0.443	5	0.735	8				
Points Against	121	161	149	138	117	172	169	107	TOURNAMENT AVERAGE:					0.612																



Cue winner Gary Scharf



Tiger Cue Winner Paul Frankel

table. There are systems for shooting your cue ball toward a specific diamond and knowing where it will end up. There are multiple systems depending on the number of cushions your cue ball needs to hit. Most 3c players learn multiple systems. Most systems are fairly easy to learn and can be used on a pocket table with some minor adjustments. YouTube has hundreds of 3 cushion videos and diamond system instruction videos if you want to learn more.

Tournaments are usually held in March and October at Rushville Billiards. Admission is free to watch the tournament. All ages are welcome as the atmosphere is fun, and you can meet some great people and watch some fine 3-cushion.

There are multiple sponsors involved with these Rushville tournaments. Consistent Rushville sponsors are the Green Gables Motel and Los Charros restaurant. Sponsorship is always appreciated by the staff and players.

Rushville Billiard Club is located at 333. N Monroe St. Rushville, IL 62681