



The USBA Newsletter 3-Cushion Billiard News

www.USBA.net

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The first qualifying tournament of the 2017 season was held in Tacoma Washington as part of the annual Ken Higgins Memorial Tournament.

Eleven players assembled for the Ken Higgins Memorial Tournament on March 3, 2017. The event was to serve as the first USBA National Qualifying tournament of the season, where two players would win entry and expense to compete in the USBA 3-Cushion National Championship.

One preliminary flight of six and one preliminary flight of 5 were played in round robin format. Two players from each flight would move on to the 4-man round robin final round.

The results of the match as pictured left to right: Ertan Tarhan (1st), Robert Spicknall (2nd) - each qualifying for the Nationals - Jesus Quinones (3rd) and Monty Rodriguez (4th).



Ertan Tarhan (left) and Robert Spicknall (2nd from left) have qualified to play in the USBA 3-Cushion National Championship.

	Quinones	Spicknall	Tarhan	Rodriguez							WINS/LOSSES	TOTAL POINTS	TOTAL INNINGS	GRAND AVERAGE	HIGH RUN	BEST GAME	FINAL RANKING
Jesus Quinones	45	28	30	28	56						0	86	129	0.667	1.071		3
Robert Spicknall	45	30	19	30	20						0	79	102	0.775	1.500		2
Ertan Tarhan	28	37	30	30	43						0	90	108	0.833	1.071		1
Monty Rodriguez	56	20	13	27	43						0	70	119	0.588	0.650		4
											0						
											0						
											0						
											0						
											0						
Points Against	90	71	76	88	0	0	0	0	0		TOURNAMENT AVERAGE: 0.710						

2017 Professor-Q-Ball 3-Cushion Rushville Tournament

Story Courtesy of 3cushionbilliards.com

This was Ashby's second time as Rushville champion having won the very first event in 2013. Lupe Cruz, also a repeat winner, was 5th this year. Right behind Ashby was Fred Lamers (2nd) and Felipe Razon (3rd). (pictured right) More about the event and our picture gallery follows.

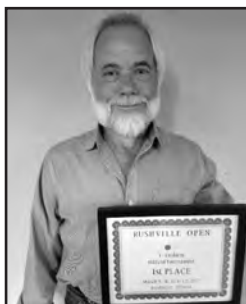
On March 9-12 thirty players assembled for eighth Rushville Open Tournament, each hoping to cash in on the prestige and big payout of a win. Tournament Directors, George Ashby, Gary Eake and Bruce Venzke have been running this event since 2013. Players from all over the country traveled to play in this challenging and fun competition.

An event like this cannot be run without the help of many people. Thanks goes out to all the players, sponsors and supporters who continue to make this a fantastic tournament. That list includes: Noel Mendoza for donating a Schuler Cue, Bill Smith for donating his instructional DVD's sets and Mazin Shooni for donating

three sets of billiard gloves. All donations were placed in the raffle, with the winners being Craig Powers for the Schuler cue, John Jacobson for the Bill Smith DVD and Gordon Hamblen, Luis Milan and Fred Lamers for the gloves.

Here are the prize payouts for the event: 1st \$1,100 - 2nd \$1,000 - 3rd \$825 - 4th \$700 - 5th \$565 - 6th \$450 - 7th \$350 - 8th \$200 - 9/10 \$100

The total payout amounted to a whopping \$5,390.00! Just another reason all the players are looking forward to the next installment of the Rushville Open Tournament on October 12th-15th 2017



FINALS															
	Razon	Powers	Ashby	Bishop	Lamers	Viguera	Milan	Cruz	Winkloss	Total Points	Total Average	Grand Average	Hot Roll	Best Game	Final Ranking
Razon		25	25	25	17	25	25	25	6	167	177	0.944	6	1.136	3
Cruz	22		15	12	4	3	20	3	1	100	216	0.463	4	0.833	8
Powers	15	15		18	25	11	7	13	11	169	182	0.929	6	1.786	1
Ashby	19	25	25		25	25	25	25	1	105	198	0.530	8	0.762	7
Bishop	13	11	14	14		16	8	25	18	169	215	0.786	7	1.389	2
Lamers	25	25	19	25	25		25	25	25	142	167	0.850	8	1.250	4
Viguera	10	25	8	25	25	25		25	25	146	260	0.562	4	0.778	6
Milan	11	25	20	22	22	21	25		25	148	192	0.771	6	1.000	5
Cruz	24	25	14	25	19	18	23	25		TOURNAMENT AVERAGE: 0.713					
Points Against	117	161	118	172	134	129	161	154							

President's Desk

At the time of this writing, 3 qualifiers have been completed and the top-placing 6 USBA members are making plans for their participation in the 2017 National Championship in June. As you know, the USBA is heading back to Tucson, Arizona to enjoy the wonderful hospitality and glamorous setting of the Casino Del Sol as players from around the country compete in this prestigious tournament.

More qualifiers are scheduled in the coming weeks. Check your USBA website for dates and details. We're anticipating a large turnout of players for this year's Nationals, so get your registration in early.

At the Nationals we'll be honoring the life and 3 Cushion career of Robert Byrne, who passed away recently, by inducting him into the newly formed USBA 3 Cushion Hall of Fame. The USBA Board and I will be looking into honoring

other players who also would be worthy of such an honor and basically setting the criteria for future inductees going forward.

We'd be remiss if we didn't mention that POV Pool will be with us once again at the nationals to live stream the event. We'd like to take the time to send a huge 'thank you' to Daniel and Geraldine for the effort they've made for us: quality live streaming and almost instantaneous YouTube availability of all our matches for your viewing pleasure. We're so fortunate and happy to have these pros on board.

We'd like to make a quick announcement: We're happy to announce the appointment of our next USBA Treasurer, Andrew Janquitto. The USBA is happy to have Andy back in this new capacity and look forward to his future tenure. We thank outgoing Treasurer Merrill Hughes for his hard work and dedication.

Open 3-Cushion Tournament held at SBE

Each evening for three nights an open tournament with a race to 5 was held. This short format gave every players, skilled or beginner, a chance to win. The play was limited to 32 players with a \$20 entry. 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, Yura K. Ra and his company Nothing But Billiards.



**Day 1 Winners Left to Right
Tournament Director Yura**

1st	Mercedes Gonzales	\$500
2nd	Chris Bartzos	\$250
3rd	Berkay Keskin	\$100



Day 2 Winners – Left to Right

1st	Hugo Patino	\$700
2nd	Frank Ricelli	\$350
3rd	Mercedes Gonzales	\$150

Tournament Director Yura



During Saturday night's Nothing But Billiards Race to 5 event, a short intermission was taken allowing Miguel Torres and Mazin Shooni (former U.S National Champions) to demonstrate their skills at Artistic Billiards.



Day 3 Winners –Right to Left

1st	Hugo Patino	\$1000
2nd	Miguel Torres	\$500
3rd	Manuel Lindao	\$350
4th	Chris Bartzos	\$150

Tournament Director Yura

Other Qualifiers

Europa Billiards in Boyton Beach, Fl held a USBA Qualifier. The top 2 winners won Entry into the USBA Nationals.

1st	Camilo Medina
2nd	Carlos Ramos

Amazin Billiards in Malden, MA held a USBA Qualifier. The top two winners won Entry into the USBA Nationals



**Tony Ferrara 1st and
Joe DeAmato 2nd**

A Lovely Kiss-back Double-the Rail

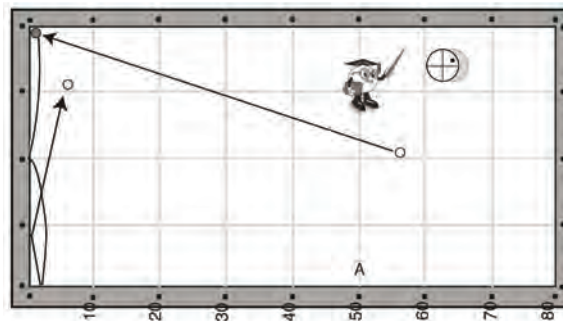
by Phil Panzera
Contributing Writer



This shot is both very pretty and lots of fun. It is also the best scoring option, as both cross-table options have a very small final target. It might not look like it, but the yellow here is actually a big ball, with three ways to score: three rails as shown, four rails (if you hit the red too thin), or long rail first (if you hit the red too fat). These three scoring possibilities make the shot easier than it looks.

You want plenty of right on this shot, as well as enough high (not max) to get the bending action back to the short rail. As always, a smooth stroke with good follow through helps a lot.

The key to the shot is just finding the right amount of ball hit on the red, and just a few minutes practice will give you a good feel. As you learn the shot move the cue ball around to experiment with different amounts of ball hit. This shot is better selected (easier) if the cue ball is two to three diamonds above the numbered long rail.



Start with a ball hit about two-thirds full, or a little less. Hit correctly, the cue ball will carom towards the lower left corner, hitting the short rail once and sometimes twice, before spinning back to double the rail. Don't be stingy with the English, as it really helps the shot. The extended version of the shot (with the third ball at "A") is especially pretty, as the cue ball has a tendency to spring up to 45-50 on the long rail.

Don't pass up this shot thinking it's too hard. It's not, and you'll crack a big smile when you make it!

Upcoming USBA Tournaments

USBA National Qualifiers

April 8 - Carom Café Billiards

Flushing, NY, 718 358 8585

Entry Fee: \$105.00 for USBA Members

\$130.00 for Non-USBA Members

Dress Code: formal wear tie and vest.

Contact: Charles Brown 646 528 3238,

cbrown54@speakeasy.net, Michael Kang 917 204 6070

mikekang3c@yahoo.com

April 22-23 - Mancave Billiard Club

Luis Carranza - 520 631-0911

2128 South 6th Ave – Tucson, AZ

9:45am (players meeting; play starts at 10:am)

Entry Fee: \$120 (covers table time & sanction fees)

Format: Round Robin

Limit: 20 players maximum (minimum 5)

April 29-30

MT Billiards - Charlotte NC

Entry Fee: \$120 (covers table time and sanction fees)

Contact Miguel Torres 980-785-8610

May 6-7 - Hard Times Billiards -Bellflower, CA

Qualifier, \$130 Entry fee-Entries can be paid at counter.

For every 5 players 1 player qualifies

For more info Contact: Geraldine (310) 889-4799

June 6-11 USBA 2017 National Championships

To be held at the Del Sol Casino, Tucson, Az.

Any room that wants to hold a 3-Cushion National Qualifier

Contact Mazin Shooni right away at: (248) 910-4466

Other tournament Events

April 28-30 - 12th Annual Mike Kelley Memorial

Jake's Game Room - Marshalltown Iowa

USBA 3-Cushion Tournament \$110 entry for USBA members, Round Robin format to be determined by # of players, Field limited to 18 players!!

For More info call or text John @ 641-751-4696

May 5-7 - 4th Annual Parker Hess Memorial

USBA B/C 3-Cushion Billiard Tournament

Ashland Elks Club, Ashland, OR

Contact: Mark Williams mark.b.williams@charter.net

Tournament is open to players at levels from C to B+ Limited to the first 24 players paid.

May 19-21 - Nationals Warm-Up Tournament

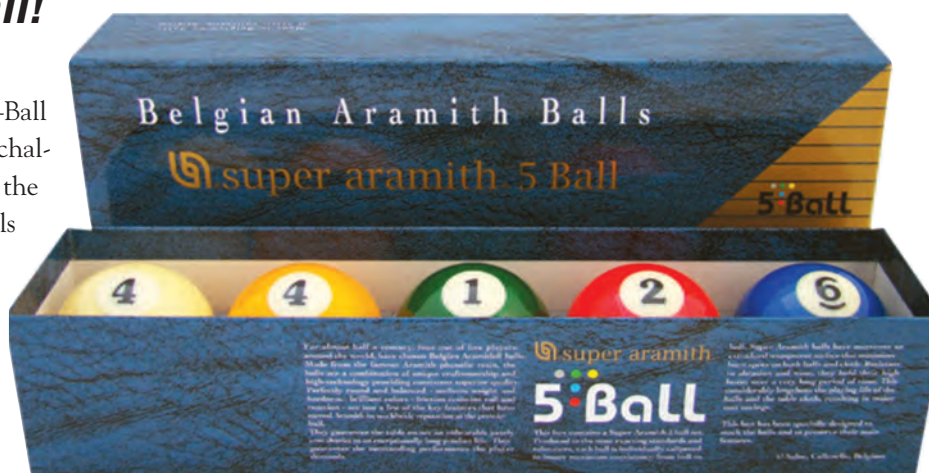
Amazin Billiards - Malden MA USA Entry Fee 'A' - \$260

'B' - \$160 'C' \$110, Prize fund Added \$2,000 based on full field of 24 players,

Contact Mazin Shooni for my info 248 910-4466

Super Aramith 5 Ball!

On March 31, 2017 Professor-Q-Ball Promotions held a very special challenge in the 3-cushion arena at the Super Billiards Expo. Junior boys and girls plus their parents teamed up to enjoy an innovative “new carom game” called Super Aramith 5 Ball! Tom “Dr. Cue” Rossman assisted Paul “Professor-Q-Ball” Frankel with an explanation of the rules and scoring.



It was obvious from the beginning shot that this unique game created a special bonding of competitive spirits and shared cue sport interest and fellowship. Each of the youthful competitors received a billiard glove supplied by Mazin Shooni, President of the USA.

On April 1, 2017 several matches were also played with anyone in or near the 3-cushion arena. The unique game of 5 Ball drew the attention of dozens of players and fans that were eager to hit the colorful carom balls and garner a “new game” experience on the carom table. Each match provided a magnetic excitement for the players, plus a large audience watching the interaction of each player assured the enjoyment of each shot.



The novel game of Super Aramith 5 Ball was a “Super” hit at the “Super” Billiards Expo with all that participated, and several individuals purchased a set of balls to take back home and to share their challenge memories with their fellow billiard room players and friends!

Note: 5 Ball sets are produced by Aramith and are available from Paul “Professor-Q-Ball” Frankel by calling 901.210.7251 or by email: paul@professorqball.com.

Enjoy the “Carom” Roll!



Professor-Q-Ball Qualifier at SBE Sends 4 To Nationals

Once again 3-Cushion Billiards was prominently featured at the 2017 Allen Hopkins Super Billiards Expo. Held in Oaks, Pennsylvania from March 30 through April 2. Professor-Q-ball Promotions (Paul Frankel) presented a series of events all centered around 3-Cushion Billiards, culminating in a USBA National Qualifier tournament.

Twelve players entered the event at the SBE with the hope of winning one of four entries to the USBA 3-Cushion National Championship to be held June 6-11 at the Casino Del Resort in Tucson, Arizona.

The players were divided into two flights of six to play in round robin format. The top two players from each flight were awarded the free entry into the National Championship. In addition, the third place finishers in each flight received \$100. And each flight also awarded the player making the high run \$50.

In Flight A it was Tom Paley going undefeated to take first place with Ken Holstrom taking 2nd. Third place and \$100 went to Jairo Lenis. The high run of 4 was split among 5 players.

In Flight B it was Peter Hull first and Paul Frankel 2nd winning free entry into the Nationals. Third place and \$100 went to Tom Rossman. High Run of 5 was split between Peter Hull and Paul Frankel.

The Super Billiards Expo held each year by Allen Hopkins has been host to a number of great 3-Cushion events in the past. Besides the tournament, this year's event featured an introduction to the new carom game of "Five Ball" which attracted many new players to the beautiful Gabriels tables that were brought in for the event.

And next year? Who knows what surprises Professor-Q-Ball has in store. Stay tuned.

**Ken Holstrom, top right
Tom Paley 1st, right and
Peter Hull 1st and
Paul Frankel 2nd far right**

Group A	Paley	Holstrom	Cozza	Carpenter	Lenis	Warren	Willcos	Total Points	Total Wins	Game Average	High Run	Best Cue	Final Ranking
Paley		20	20	20	20	20	15	100	177	0.565	4	0.690	1
Holstrom	9		19	20	20	20	15	88	205	0.429	4	0.556	2
Cozza	10	20		20	15	16	15	81	174	0.466	3	0.541	5
Carpenter	6	7	19		20	16	15	68	210	0.324	4	0.385	6
Lenis	14	18	20	19		20	15	91	203	0.448	4	0.800	3
Warren	15	14	20	20	19		15	88	196	0.449	4	0.606	4
TOURNAMENT AVERAGE: 0.443													

Group B	Palmer	Keskin	Rossman	Hull	Hughes	Frankel	Willcos	Total Points	Total Wins	Game Average	High Run	Best Cue	Final Ranking
Palmer		20	20	20	16	13	15	85	161	0.528	4	1.000	4
Keskin	11		20	18	20	8	15	77	178	0.433	4	0.588	5
Rossman	11	16		20	20	20	15	87	169	0.515	4	0.645	3
Hull	20	20	17		18	20	15	95	169	0.562	5	0.833	1
Hughes	8	14	12	20		4	15	58	162	0.358	4	0.435	6
Frankel	20	20	16	14	20		15	90	142	0.634	5	0.952	2
TOURNAMENT AVERAGE: 0.502													



JUNE 6TH - 11TH, 2017

AT THE CASINO DEL SOL, TUCSON, AZ



2017 USBA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP



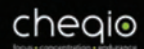
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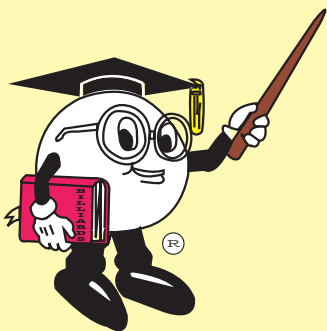
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