

Billiards Buzz

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POLISH PRIDE

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FROM THE Head Rail

MIKE HOWERTON


It feels like I am saying this every month, but "whew, there is a lot going on in the pool world". Congratulations to Poland's Wiktor Zielinski and Wojciech Szewczyk. Wiktor won the Alfa Las Vegas Open and Wojciech won the World 10-Ball Championship (just as we were finishing up this issue). They weren't the only big winners from Poland over the last month, as Oliwia Zalewska also took two European Championship Medals back to Poland. You can learn a little bit more about Oliwia in the pages of the magazine this month.



I had a chance to spend a couple of days in Vegas during all of the festivities and "hats off" to Predator and CSI, who put on a great show out there. Between amateur and pro events, they had their hands full. One of the problems that they had to deal with out there was some of the tables playing funny. The rolls that were shared on social media were certainly a bad reflection of the event, but if there is anyone in the billiards world that can be counted on to get these problems resolved, it is Karim Belhaj with Predator. I've known Karim for years, and the man eats, breathes and sleeps pool. I have no doubts that he will deal with these issues quickly.

On a personal note, I am getting ready to expand my presence in the Pool World and I will get to do it alongside one of the greats in the "behind the scenes" part of the game. I'm excited about the opportunity and should be able to make a lot more public by next issue.

Until next time,
Mike



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Avoid **STALENESS** & **MENTAL FATIGUE** to Play Your Best!

The Sports Doc - Dr. CHRISTOPHER STANKOVICH
www.drstankovich.com

When it comes to pool playing success how you train will have a direct impact on your confidence, focus, perseverance, and resiliency.

Specifically, by varying routines you are more likely to keep your mind fresh, allowing you to regularly learn new things and improve your game. On the other hand, players who rarely change their practice routines run a much greater chance of mental staleness, fatigue, and burnout. Your mindset, something that is completely under your control, has our everything to do with your potential for future success – but it is also your responsibility to keep your mind fresh so that the game continues to challenge you to be your best.



Boredom leads to bad habits

When pool players get into the habit of just “banging them around” instead of going through a more focused practice, there is a greater risk for bad habits to develop. For example, when randomly hitting them around rarely do players go through their pre-shot routine, focus on controlling anxiety, and play with the overall precision necessary when playing in leagues and tournaments. Instead, what often happens is players try new things to counter boredom, don’t get down on shots as they would in competition, and allow their minds to wander and float around the pool room occasionally watching television and talking to friends. None of this is bad or wrong, of course, but those habits won’t help you take your game to the next level in the most efficient ways.

You can ward off boredom and laziness in practice by creating specific



drills to complete and keeping a tally of your success rate as you go. For example, you might shoot 20 spot shots a day, and for each one bear down and focus just as you would if it were the last ball to make for a victory. In fact, you could create several drills like this (i.e., rail shots, bank shots, caroms, etc) and keep track of how well you do. Not only will this make your practices more fun and interesting, but it will also allow you to minimize outside distractions that prevent players from improving their game.

Final thoughts

Vary your routines and have a purpose each time you play pool, and the results will be better focus, confidence, and inevitably you will become a better pool player. On the other hand, simply hitting balls around without a purpose leaves you more likely to get sloppy, lose focus, and become bored – all things that steal from your potential.

Dr. Christopher Stankovich is a nationally acclaimed expert in Sport & Performance Psychology and the Founder of Advanced Human Performance Systems. For more information on performance-enhancement products, including the popular “Mind of Steel for Pool Success” DVD please visit www.drstankovich.com

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FIVE WAYS TO PLAY A MORE CONFIDENT GAME OF POOL

ANTHONY **BEELER**

When asked, many pool players say that they want to play their best pool so they can feel more confident. Most players believe the cause-and-effect relationship between having more confidence starts with improved play.



But this isn't entirely true. Confidence is a skill like any other and can be worked on daily, but you must know the right techniques first. Furthermore, working on your confidence first will directly impact your ability to also play better pool. So, let's take a more direct look at where confidence really comes from... and some methods for improving your confidence both "on" and "off" the table.

1. SELF-TALK

How you talk to yourself daily shapes you as a player. People have an emotional response to words... especially when the words come from ourselves. Uplifting and encouraging words help you feel more confident and help you to play your best. Research reveals that the more "negative" self-talk you have is a leading cause of performance anxiety in sports.

A common misconception is that "thoughts" and "self-talk" are the same. This isn't true. Thoughts happen to us whereas self-talk is a choice. The right self-talk can help get you into a positive mindset before playing, help you focus on what's important, motivate you, and guide you through negative situations.

Some of the best players in the world rehearse a list of positive things they

want to believe about themselves. They say these things to themselves until they fully believe they are true. Positive self-talk doesn't work if you don't believe it. When I coach a student, I help them to create self-talk scripts, so they develop a winning mindset.

2. TRAINING OPTIMISM

Confidence and mental toughness are both related to your personal perspective. Is the glass "half-full" or

"half-empty"? Are you seeing yourself "succeeding" or "failing"? What is positive about your current situation and your future? The world's best players believe that something "good" is about to happen on their very next shot... not something "bad"! A player's negative bias will always pull them towards negativity and what could go wrong. The good news, however, is that optimism can be enhanced with the right training exercises and mental rehearsal.



3. MENTAL IMAGERY

Starting each day and each match with the clear intention of being the person and player you want to be that day, and seeing the success that is possible, will increase your confidence and the chances of achieving that success. The best pool players in the world practice mental imagery before shooting. Pre-match mental imagery routines are an important factor in improving your game and achieving your goals.

4. SELF-TRUST

Another source of confidence is being able to trust yourself to act in a way that is consistent with your values and goals. You'll need to be disciplined with the things you "can" control and make sure you execute and reinforce them with fidelity. Keeping small promises to yourself each day ultimately leads to big increases in self-trust and confidence.



YOU'LL NEED TO BE DISCIPLINED WITH THE THINGS YOU "CAN" CONTROL AND MAKE SURE YOU EXECUTE AND REINFORCE THEM WITH FIDELITY.



5. PREPARATION

Preparation helps you feel like you've earned the right to be successful. Do you do everything you can to feel mentally and physically prepared to overcome the challenges that lie ahead? At Virtual Billiard Academy I'll show you how to prepare for a match

so you feel like you can be victorious. This will include quieting your mind, mental rehearsal of past and future success, preparing for future challenges you might face, preparing your performance strategy, and having an attitude filled with positivity and gratitude.

Anthony Beeler is the current *Billiards Instructor of the Decade* and is a former BCAPL National Champion. He has numerous "Top 25" national finishes and is the primary author of the ACS *National Billiards Instructor's Manual*. He has also authored the book *Unstoppable! Positive Thinking for Pool Players*. Anthony currently has the highest established Fargo Rating of any Master Instructor. He has won over 300 tournaments and has defeated numerous professional players in tournament competition.

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Larry Vigus

By MICHELLE HUGHES
Social Media Specialist
Biggelbachs.com

His cues may be known for their elegant *silver* designs, but they certainly earn *gold* in our book. This Month's "Meet the Cue Maker" features Larry Vigus of Vigus Cues.

Larry Vigus, 60 Resides in Anna, Texas. He lives there with his wife Barbara and youngest child Brock, age 19. Larry was first introduced to pool at the age of 13. He played regularly in the recreation center at the Naval base where his dad was stationed. He continued playing throughout his teenage years but once he was introduced to cars at the age of 19, pool took a backseat. Larry took his new interest and gained employment painting cars until age

21, then changed over to trucks. He continued painting vehicles for work until 1995. At that time Larry was about 33 and decided to switch directions. He began a new career drilling holes in foundation. As he describes it, "anything that requires a hole in the ground". To this day, he continues his work in drilling full-time. Circling back to Larry's involvement in pool, things heat back up around 2009 when his daughter Dani was in college and joined a pool league. Once she came back to visit, Larry took up an interest in the game as well. When playing, he found he always wanted a longer cue than the standard but says he was too frugal to pay someone to make it. That's when he decided to pursue building his first cue. Larry had a budget of \$100 and a house cue his brother had given him to convert. He already had a small lathe originally used for car restoration, making it inconvenient for cue building but doable. He also already knew how to spray and finish cues from his prior painting experience with vehicles. The rest of what he needed to learn for basic cue building he found on AZBilliards. It was trial by error and "messing up a lot of wood". With a few finished cues under his belt, he began getting requests to build some for his friends. In 2010, Larry finally purchased a bigger lathe and established Vigus Cues. He converted an area of his 2,400 sq ft shop previously used to



work on cars for a cue building workspace. To this day, he maintains that same workspace next to his home in Anna, Texas.

Larry continued building cues on his own until 2012 when an opportunity arose to learn from Hall of Fame cue maker, Paul Drexler. At the time, Drexler was holding a 2-week class on cue building which was broken into two parts; the first week was basic cue building and the second week was advanced. It was Larry's friend and fellow cue maker Jake Hulsey who was taking the class and invited him to go along. Because neither were able to take two full weeks off from their full-time jobs, they decided to split the class. Larry would take the first week and learn the basics and Jake would take second and more advanced half. Afterwards, they shared the information they each learned. Larry even credits learning the full splice technique from Jake Hulsey. He also mentions that it was another cue maker, John Nemec who taught him the basics of using a CNC machine. Both skills he uses heavily in his craftsmanship to this day.

When it comes to his building technique, Larry says he uses both full splice and half splice almost evenly.



However, he describes his full splice as non-traditional due to his regular use of bridge points. Along with his bridge points, Vigus cues are also recognizable for their elegant display of silver. He doesn't have a standard design and instead enjoys doing anything he hasn't done before. He was also one of the first to make the decorative joint ring the centerpiece of the cue. Although he has experience in making his own bumpers and pins, he now chooses to buy and modify them to his own specifications. Finishing the cue, he signs them in pencil which can sometimes be hard to find as Larry would prefer his work to be identified by style rather than its signature. However, if you really look, you can usually find it hidden on the black beneath a Hoppe ring or as far back as he can on the ebony.

Larry says the best part about building cues is having a creative outlet and



seeing the final product. You do all the work and after “putting the finish on, it all comes alive”. In contrast, all the hard work creates quite the mess, and he will laughingly tell you his least favorite part is the cleanup. Putting tools away and wiping the grease up is something he doesn't look forward to. While Larry says he tries not to have any influences, he does admit Jake Hulsey has been the most influential cue maker on his career. When it comes to admiring others' work, he does have a couple favorites. Besides Hulsey, he appreciates Thomas Wayne for his artistic abilities and execution; as well as Shelby Williams who he finds inspirational and having his own edge.

To date, Larry's career highlight has been winning “Full Splice Cue of the Year” in 2019 at the Derby City Classic held in Indiana. He calls the award-winning cue a “Reflection 360”. The design included 2 sets of points and butterflies, each going in opposite directions and then finished with silver. Impressively, this award-winner was his first cue that included silver. We will undoubtedly see more of his work in upcoming cue shows. Larry's

artistic vision allows him to create stand out pieces while also maintaining their classic, sleek looks. With no intention of becoming a full-time cue maker, he will continue with his yearly production of about 10-15 cues. Of these, each cue involves about 40-100 hours of work and range in price between \$2,000 - \$10,000 depending on the build. With no official

waitlist, the best way to get one of his cues is to contact one of his brokers such as Greg Antanokis on the East coast, Dean Campbell in Texas or Bigglebachs.com (worldwide). Make sure you hang on to yours if you're fortunate enough to get your own Vigus cue. Each one is an original and you'll certainly have your hands on a timeless work of art.



Michelle Hughes is a long-time pool enthusiast from the Pacific Northwest. During Covid, on a furlough from her full-time career as a flight attendant, Michelle opted to hang out with the Bigglebachs helping with social media, streaming, and cues. She quickly fell in love with the craftsmanship and artisanship of custom cues. Join her in this monthly column on her quest to learn more about cue makers and their respective craft.

Gospel Trick Shot #26

Right Side of the Road

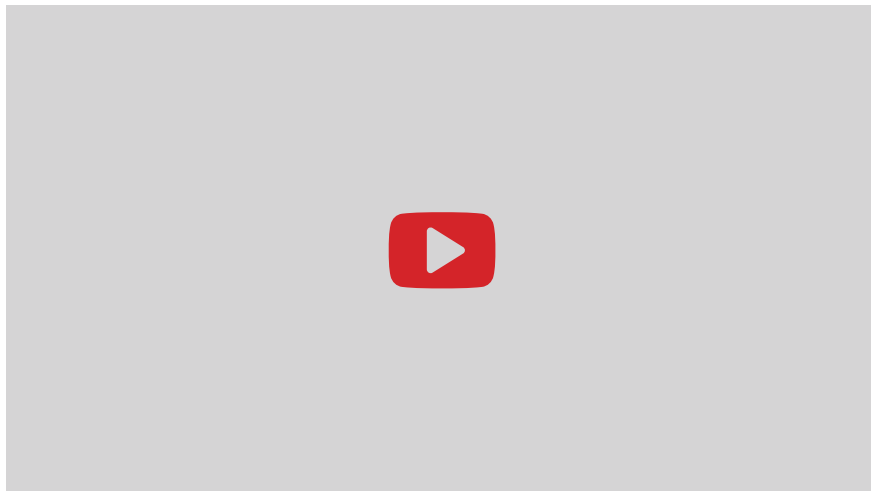
History of the Trick Shot: Once again we are in the 2020 WPA Artistic Pool program converting them in Gospel Trick Shots. We are using a stroke shot from Discipline 6 Shot 2c worth 7 points on the first attempt. You get three attempts and the point value decreases by one point after each unsuccessful attempt. Again, this shot is relatively easy by professional Artistic Pool standards and that is why it is worth only 7 points out of 10 maximum points. Brian “Superman” Pauley is a world ranked Artistic Pool player and demonstrates this shot in the video. He decided to call it the “Right Side of the Road” when converting it into a Gospel Trick Shot. This is yet another example of using an Artistic Pool shot or any other trick shot for that matter to relay a spiritual principle or life lesson message that will not only entertain the crowd but will leave them with perhaps a life changing message.

GTS Name and Why: As Brian explains in the video sometimes in life, we get on the wrong road which can lead to problems and difficulties. Most importantly God will not be with us when we decide to take another road apart from His divine will and purpose for our lives. All of us are unique and special as God created us with individual talents and abilities. He also orchestrates the circumstances of our life to give us every opportunity to get on the right road. If we choose the wrong road, we suffer the consequences! If we allow Jesus the Chief Shepherd of our soul to direct us He will get us back on the right road. The Bible says that the road to destruction is wide but Jesus (The Word of God) will light our path if we let Him!

Scripture References in NIV Translation: Matthew 7:13 “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.” and Psalm 119:105 “Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path.”

Cue Ball Placement: In hand, but no more than 1 chalk width from the ‘5’ ball.

Object Ball(s) Placement: ‘5’ ball is slightly above the 2nd diamond line. Yellow striped ‘9’ ball is hanging in the corner pocket as



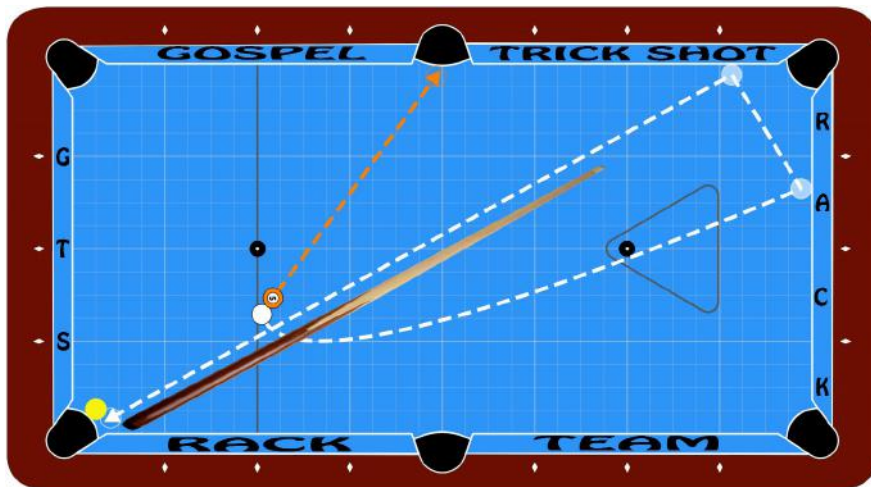
shown in diagram. A prop cue has butt end frozen to side cushion and lies between ‘5’ ball and side cushion as diagrammed.

Objective: Make ‘5’ ball in the side pocket. Cue ball will jump over the prop cue and land between the prop cue and side cushion, contact the head cushion and opposite side cushion, optionally contact the prop cue, and then make the ‘9’ ball in the corner pocket.

Special Notes: Cue ball may not contact prop cue until after hitting side cushion.

Crowd Reactions Through the Years: In Artistic Pool competition this shot is

expected to be made by all competitors and if not the contestant as well as their peers are disappointed as most Artistic Pool players and fans want to see the shots go in. Yours truly Steve “Leapin” Lillis does not use this particular shot in his Gospel Trick Shot shows but almost always uses the message to help people come to a place of decision. Many people realize when they are on the wrong road and sense a need to change direction. Through the years I have witnessed many people make the choice to get on the right road and follow Jesus. Try it and see what God can do for you!

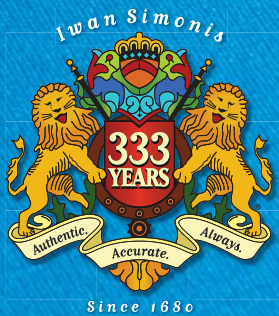


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Zielinski Victorious at Alfa Las Vegas Open

Article by KEITH PARADISE - CSI / Photos by MATT PORINSKI - Predator

Poland's Wiktor Zielinski received the full U.S. Pro Billiard Series experience on Saturday night.

Playing on the final day of the Alfa Las Vegas Open, he shut out Switzerland's Dimitri Jungo 4-0 in the first set of the quarterfinals only to have Jungo defeat him by the same 4-0 score in the following frame. He survived back-to-back shootouts, first against Jungo and then against Billiard Congress of America Hall of Famer Mika Immonen in the semifinals. And in the finals against Aloy-

sus Yapp, he looked like he'd miss his chance to snag the opening set only to have a fortunate roll toss it right back into his lap.

Through it all, the 21-year-old persevered, defeating Yapp in straight sets 4-3, 4-0 to win the Open at the Rio All-Suites Hotel and Casino, pocketing \$30,000 and an automatic invitation into next year's World 10-Ball Cham-

pionships. Zielinski not only won, but did so in an event that was equal parts double-elimination tournament and endurance test, with a record 192 players competing over four days to crown a champion.

After Yapp climbed onto the board in the first set with an opening rack win, Zielinski used a victorious safety exchange and a missed 2 ball from



Wiktor Zielinski with sponsors Karim Belhaj and Esteban Robles

his opponent to jump out to a 2-1 advantage. Yapp snagged the next two games when he ran out the fourth rack after his opponent couldn't pocket a ball on the break, then added a break-and-run but relinquished table control in the sixth game when he failed to pocket any balls on the break. Zielinski cleared the table to tie the match only to break dry again in the seventh game.

As Yapp worked his way through the rack, he appeared positioned to clear the table and snatch the set until he overran position on the 6 ball and played safe. Zielinski left an opening after a safety attempt of his own but watched as Yapp left the object in front of the side pocket, handing his opponent a routine shot and a 4-3 first set victory.

The second Set was all Zielinski, taking advantage of a Yapp miss, a victorious safety exchange and a break-and-run to build a commanding 3-0 lead. The young man from Singapore had one last chance to mount a comeback in the fourth rack but watched as the cue ball caromed off of another ball into the side pocket after he pocketed the 1 ball. Zielinski cleared the table then tossed his cue on the table and raised both arms in victory.

The three-time EuroTour champion earned the victory despite struggling with his break throughout the championship match, failing to pocket balls on the opening shot four times and scratching once.

Zielinski reached the finals by overcoming unforced errors and breaking



Aloysius Yapp

struggles of his own to down a resurgent Mika Immonen in a shootout in the first semifinal match of the afternoon.

After Zielinski used a foul and scratch by Immonen in the first two games to take a 2-0 lead, the Hall of Famer tied the score by capitalizing on a dry break by his opponent in the third game then tacking on a break-and-run. As Immonen worked his way through the fifth rack, he misplayed position on the 4 ball then fouled when he failed to make contact with the ball. Zielinski cleared the table to grab a 3-2 lead then took advantage of an opening left by his opponent on a safety attempt in the following game to claim the set, 4-2.

The young man from Poland would struggle in the second set and Immonen took advantage, capitalizing on missed shots by his opponent in the

first and fifth games and a dry break in the fourth rack to steal victories. Zielinski continued to battle, taking advantage of two Immonen breaks where he failed to pocket a ball to snag wins of his own. Standing at the table with a 3-2 advantage, the Hall of Famer broke and ran to send the match to an extra set shootout.

Immonen struggled in the spot shot extra frame, missing on his first and third attempts while Zielinski managed only one missed shot in three tries. The 49-year-old Immonen continued to apply pressure to his young opponent, making his fourth and final attempt and forcing Zielinski to either make his last attempt and secure the victory or miss and move on to sudden death. The young man from Poland calmly executed the shot, ending the match and sending Zielinski to the championship match to face Yapp.

Playing in the quarterfinals against Poland's Mateusz Sniegocki, Yapp controlled the opening set from the start and cruised to a 4-1 victory. Sniegocki, a three-time winner on the EuroTour, was far from finished, taking advantage of a couple of openings and squeaking out a 4-3 win to force sudden-death shootout.

“ ZIELINSKI NOT ONLY WON, BUT DID SO IN AN EVENT THAT WAS EQUAL PARTS DOUBLE-ELIMINATION TOURNAMENT AND ENDURANCE TEST, WITH A RECORD 192 PLAYERS COMPETING OVER FOUR DAYS TO CROWN A CHAMPION. ”

When Yapp and Sniegocki locked up to determine who would advance to the semifinals, it practically looked like two guys practicing free throws at the end of a basketball game. Neither one missed, as 10 ball after 10 ball continued to tumble into the corner pocket. They remained deadlocked after the opening innings, then remained tied after the first round of sudden death, then the third, and then the fifth. Finally, in the 11th frame of the set, Yapp successfully pocketed his ball and watched as his opponent blinked, handing the young man from Singapore the win.

As he advanced to the semifinals, Yapp had to be wondering who he may have upset in Warsaw to receive the draw he did. Waiting for him was Wojciech Szewczyk, a 27-year-old who twice won the European Pool Championships as a junior.

The Pole jumped out to an early 2-0 advantage in the first set thanks to a victorious safety exchange and a missed 4 ball by his opponent in the second rack. Yapp climbed onto the board in the third game after his opponent failed to pocket a ball on the break but lost control of the table in the next game when he lost a safety exchange with Szewczyk, who cleared



Wojciech Szewczyk

the table to take a commanding 3-1 lead. Yapp tied the score with back-to-back victorious safety exchanges on the 1 ball but forfeited the table again when he failed to pocket a ball on the break. Szewczyk appeared positioned to clear the table but missed a cut shot on the 6 ball, handing Yapp the table and the victory, 4-3.

After Yapp won the first rack of the second set he scratched on the break in the next game, handing the table back to his opponent who tapped in a combination shot on the 10 ball to

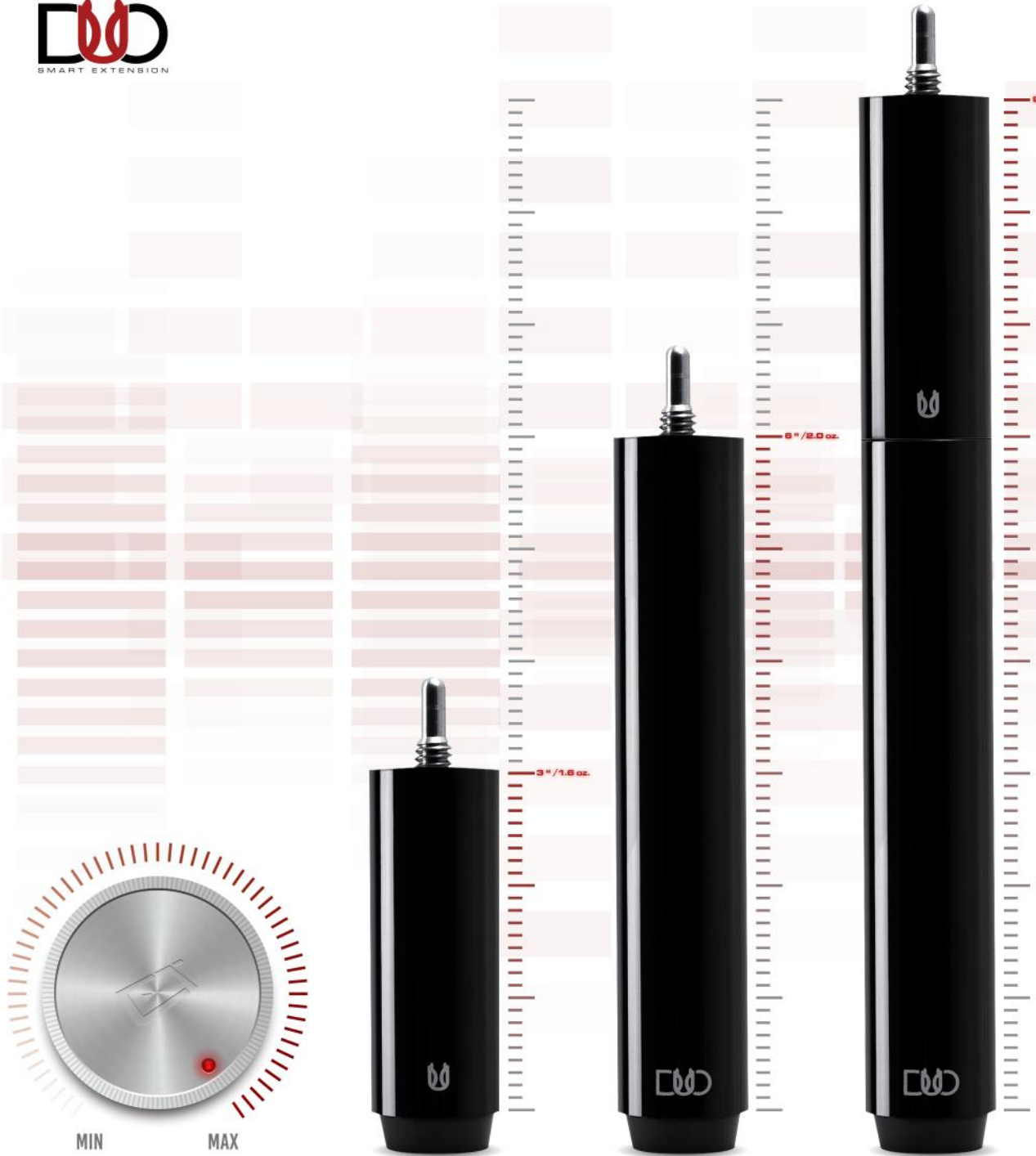
tie the score. Szewczyk added another rack after his opponent scratched after pocketing the 6 ball but misplayed a safety on the 1 ball in the next game that allowed Yapp to carom the cue ball from the 1 ball into the 10 ball and tie the score. Standing at the table with a chance to regain the lead, Yapp failed to pocket a ball on the break once again and watched as his opponent walked to the table and once again fired in a combination shot on the 10 ball to regain the lead. Yapp had the chance to tie the match after Szewczyk failed to pocket a ball on the break but misplayed position on the 6 ball, then lost a safety exchange on the ball which allowed his opponent to win the set and send the match to a shootout.

Shockingly, the player who had pocketed 11 consecutive spot shots in the previous match, missed his first attempt. Then he missed his third. Thankfully for him, Szewczyk was struggling as well, missing three straight shots down the stretch to hand Yapp the victory, 3-2.

Matches can be watched on Billiard TV and World Billiard TV, the official YouTube channel of CueSports International.



Mika Immonen



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Kelly Fisher Goes Undefeated

Allison Fisher Is Runner-Up At Wpba Northern Lights Classic

Article by SKIP MALONEY - Photos courtesy WPBA & JAY CHIU

There are any number of back stories to the \$20,000-added, WPBA Northern Lights Classic, held this past weekend (March 16-20) that offer a striking 'snapshot' of the WPBA's past, present and future.

Encompassing all three of those time periods, at the event to which 64 entrants were invited to the Northern Lights Casino Hotel and Event Center in Walker, MN, were the competitors who squared off in the event finals; the Fishers, Kelly and Allison, who've played so many matches against each other over the years, that they have no idea how many times it has actually happened.

The last time they faced each other in an event final was a little hazy to them, as well. Two days after the

Northern Classic, from Allison's home in Charlotte, NC, they pondered the question together over coffee. Kelly came up with a possibility, and after a moment or two of mutual reflection, they both settled on 2016 as the last time they'd met in a final. At that event – the 19th Annual International Women's Tournament of Champions, held in September at the Taj Mahal Casino in Atlantic City – Kelly started both sets of the races-to-four finals, up 2-0, but Allison came back to win four straight, twice, and claimed the title.

"We've played against each other since then," said Allison, "and the last time was pre-COVID, of course, but I think that was the last time we were in a final together."

Kelly had won the WPBA's Sondheim Kiwanis Invitational Tournament last year, while it had been just weeks over three years since Allison had last appeared in a WPBA event, which, as it turned out, was the last time they'd faced each other in a match that wasn't a final. It was the 2019 WPBA Masters Tournament, held in

September at the Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort in Michigan. Kelly had been sent to the loss side of the event in the second round by the eventual winner (Siming Chen) and went on a nine-match, loss-side run that would propel her to the finals. Six matches into that loss-side run, Kelly ran into Allison, who'd been sent to the loss side by Kristina Tkach in a winners' side semifinal. Kelly advanced and was eventually defeated by Chen in the finals.

Noting something of a protracted absence away from a more regular schedule of WPBA events, together, they made note of the fact that it was good to gather with their mutual WPBA friends and acquaintances, old and new.

"The WPBA competition is back on schedule and it was great to see a lot of the old faces, and some new faces, some youngsters, too," said Kelly, "and the future is bright."

"I think it's wonderful that we had juniors at this event, especially by WPBA invitation," said Allison. "It's nice for us to see them, because they represent well, they look good, they're playing great. . .

"Professional," Kelly interjected.

"Yes, they're very professional," Allison said, "and I think that's the move, anyway. To invite more younger players as much as we can."

It should be noted before moving on to the event itself, that in addition to its junior contingent which included 12-year-old Savannah Easton, it also featured 84-year-old Jeri Engh, making the demographic representation at this WPBA event, span almost four generations of the WPBA's ongoing history.

Appearing in the same half of the upper bracket, the Fishers meet in the only two places possible

They knew from the start, that they were not going to play in the hot seat match. Positioned in the upper half of the 64-entrant bracket, it put the Fishers in a possible first match against each other in the winners' side semifinals. The second possibility was in the finals and both were exactly what happened.

Kelly Fisher got by Kelly Isaac (forfeit), Bonnie Arnold 8-4 and Dawn Hopkins 8-1 to reach Allison Fisher. Allison Fisher shut out Peg Haggerty and Catherine Tschumper before downing Kim Newsome 8-3 and Monica Webb 8-6, to draw Kelly. From the lower half of the bracket, Joann Mason Parker, who, prior to winning a stop on the Garden State Pool Tour, a 3rd place finish on the Tri-State Tour and cashing in three events of a New Jersey-based Women's Invitational event last year, had not won or even cashed in a tournament in over a decade, sent Loree Jon Brown, Cathy Metzinger, Janet Atwell (double hill) and Brittany Bryant to the loss side, drawing Jennifer Barretta in the other winners' side semifinal.

Kelly sent Allison to the loss side 8-6, as Barretta and Parker locked up in a double fight that eventually sent Parker to the loss side. Kelly claimed the hot seat 8-4 over Barretta and waited for Round 2 of Fisher v. Fisher.

On the loss side, Allison picked up Bryant, who'd followed her loss to Parker with a victory over Sara Miller 8-5 and survived a double hill battle against Ashley Burrows. Parker drew Monica Webb, who'd followed her loss to Allison Fisher in a winners' side quarterfinal with victories over Sarah Rousey 8-2 and Angela Janic 8-4.

Parker's somewhat improbable run was ended by Webb 8-5. Allison advanced to the quarterfinals after eliminating Bryant 8-5. Fisher leap-frogged over the quarterfinals on a Webb forfeit and then, defeated Barretta 8-5 for



Jennifer Barretta

a second shot at Kelly, waiting for her in the hot seat.

In a race to 10, the two Fishers came within of game of forcing a 19th deciding game, but Kelly pulled out in front to claim the WPBA's Northern Classic title 10-8.

"She's at the top of her game," said Allison of Kelly. "She's always improving, rarely misses a shot. She's a tough opponent and you have to be in top form to play her."

"All the stuff she's been doing in the past year is showing up in her game," she added. "We're good friends, so she's helped me out with my game, too. It's always fun playing her."

"Both matches we played were really good, high standard, great quality matches," said Kelly, "and the final was very, very exciting for spectators, I'd say; a high standard match."

"Allison's thoughts of retiring are going to have to go out the window," she added. "She's playing too good for that, to be honest. She's playing great."

Kelly will be headed for Las Vegas to be competing in both the WPA 10-Ball World Championships (March 28-April 1) and the WPBA Predator Event (March 31-April 3), both being held at the Rio All Suite Hotel and Casino. Allison will follow to participate in the later of those two events.

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Skylar Hess

Like many of her Junior International Championship (JIC) colleagues, 13-year-old Skylar Hess of Queenstown, MD, steps up to competitive pool tables displaying an impressive array of significant skills; a good stroke, an ability to make sound shot-selection decisions, cue-ball and speed control, an awareness of pattern play and an age-appropriate, intense desire to win any game she plays.

Roy Pastor, a BCA-certified Professional Billiards Instructor, who's been working with Skylar (and other JIC competitors) in a BCA *Break and Run* program over the past year or so, notes that there is generally not one thing that separates one junior player from another, since they all work on the basics and advance at (more or less) the same speed.

What he has noticed about Skylar, though, is an ability she has developed to focus at the table, to avoid distract-

tions. She's only been a teenager for about three months and she appears to have mastered the ability to identify and move beyond distractions to which new teenagers otherwise tend to be prone; frustration, borne of the disconnect between expectations and performance, the pressures of any given moment, whether it be about being watched, or being behind 0-6 in a race to 7. She has developed in that regard to an extent that people *four times* her age can envy.

"She has really good focus at the table and is not easily distracted," said Pastor. "She has the kind of focus that I'd expect in an older junior player. She works really hard, her parents are really supportive and she's an all-around great kid."

"She's doing really well and I think she has unlimited potential," he added. "She's 13, always a critical age in teenagers and pool players, but it she sticks with it and does what she needs to do, she'll be fine."

It's one thing to develop in a given area. It's quite another to recognize that development and see it happen, as it's happening to you. Hess has recognized and overcome an early sense of frustration over what has become one of the premier rivalries on the JIC series since they began in January, 2021. Since then, she and Tampa, FL's Sofia Mast (slightly older), have waged a girls' 13-and-under division war against each other numerous times, with Mast dominating in their early matchups, and Hess, most recently in the opening three events of the 2022 JIC season, coming out on top. Hess remembers the early frustration well.

"After the first two times she beat me, I got it in my head that I couldn't beat her and I was making simple mistakes," she recalled. "Since then, I've had the confidence to step up and beat her and *know* that I can beat her."

She admits to a certain degree of frustration regarding how often they face each other ("I keep having to play her, over and over"), but that frustration is somewhat pleasantly combined with an enjoyment that's unique to their matchups.

"It can be very tiring that way," she said of the regular, tight matches the two of them play against each other, "but it's still exciting."

"In that last year and a half," said her mother, "when the Pink Dagger (Sofia Mast's nickname) came along, it became Skylar's mental block."

"She's kind of over it now," she added, "and they've started to talk to each other, to realize that while it's battle time on the table, off the table everybody can be friends."

At the end of the JIC's first season, the 13 & Under Girls division held two separate tournaments; one, the final event (#8) of the season and a second, the division championships. Mast, (who'd won five of the seven earlier events), took the Stop #8 title, downing Hess in the hot seat 7-4. Hess lost her semifinal match and Mast downed Noelle Tate in the finals. In the concurrently-run division championships, it was Hess who claimed the hot seat over Mast, but after downing Noelle Tate in the semifinals, Mast returned, downing Hess in the finals to claim the second title.

In contrast, in the opening three events of the 2022 JIC season, Mast took the opening event in January, downing Hess in the finals. In the second event, it was Hess who claimed the title, downing Mast in the finals. Mast was competing in Las Vegas at the BCA Pool League's World Championships at the time of the third event,

when Hess chalked up her second straight title, downing Noelle Tate in the finals. It should be noted that both Mast and Hess compete in the 18 & Under Girls division, as well. Mast finished 5th and 2nd in the opening two events of the season for that division, while Hess has finished 7th, 9th and just last month, finished as runner-up to Noelle Tate's sister, Bethany Tate. In more ways than one, the JIC series of events has become something of a 'family' affair.

Common threads highlight families of junior players

Since initiating the Junior Profile feature, a variety of common threads have emerged from talking to the families of the young competitors. Of course, among the more significant factors at work with emerging juniors are supportive parents that play the game(s), a pool table in the home, some level of initial recognition that a given child has a personal interest in pursuing the sport in a competitive atmosphere and often (though not always), shock from the grandparents.

"You're raising your kid in a *bar*????!!"

That, according to Skylar's parents, Rachel Moran and Robbie Hess, was the initial reaction from Skylar's grandparents. This, of course, happened much later, after Skylar had already developed a strong interest in the game from being around the pool table in their home, and before her grandparents were made aware that the venues where their grandchild eventually began playing were no longer the 'dens of iniquity' that the grandparents may have been thinking about, based on the sport's earlier (and still lingering) reputation.

Skylar's interest began at around the age of four, when she first picked up a cue and started working on the mechanics of using it to hit a cue ball and drop a target ball into its designat-



Junior Player of the Month

ed hole. That interest preceded her ability to actually perform that task because she was too short to put the idea into practice.

“I liked it a lot,” she said of her initial reaction to the game, in a recorded interview for eventual sponsorship by Predator Cues, “but then I started playing pool and I couldn’t reach the table very well, so my Dad built a platform around the table for me.

“And that,” she added, “was when I took off.”

Four years later, she began to compete outside of their home.

Skylar’s father, who reportedly grew up with a pool table in the home, and her mother, who didn’t pick up a pool cue until about 10 years ago, were instrumental in developing junior leagues associated with their local APA franchise, which began the competitive phase of Skylar’s emerging career at the tables. And it was at this point, that the grandparents’ initial concerns came into play.

“There was some initial trepidation (about the atmosphere),” said Rachel, “and we didn’t even think about getting her involved until she was eight.

We knew the Spain family (whose children also compete in JIC events) and we were all very close; playing in the same pool hall, playing against each other, practicing against each other.”

“When they were that young, you couldn’t get them off the tables,” she added, “and Sklyar was becoming more competitive. Practicing more, focusing more. And then, one of the (venue’s) older ‘pool heads,’ a guy they called Bus Driver (Ronnie Williams), a One Pocket Pro, watched her play a few times and approached us about teaching her *pro bono*. He spent about a year with her, teaching her the basics; about her stance, about doing drills and then practicing and doing what you’re supposed to do.”

It was Williams, Rachel noted, who contributed to the first level of Skylar’s developing ability to focus properly. That became necessary when, during their time together, the aforementioned disconnect between a child’s expectations and performance became apparent.

“At that time,” said Rachel, “she wanted to win so bad and she was having a hard time coping with losing. (Bus Driver) told her that she was going to

take a lot of losses before she was going to be chalking up many wins.”

Skylar was only out there in the competitive world of pool for about two years, when, as a 10-year-old, she qualified for the Billiards Education Foundation’s annual Junior Nationals in their 14 & Under Girls Division. She travelled to Las Vegas that summer and came away with her first major title.

“She was super excited about that,” recalled Rachel. “She was supposed to get an invitation to the World Junior competition for 14-year-olds, but she didn’t get to go.”

And then . . . there was this pandemic

The arrival of COVID 19 drove Skylar back to the pool table in her home, about which there was both good news and bad news. The bad news was that it removed a lot of the outside-of-home competition for quite a while and had a way of dialing back some of the progress she’d made. The good news was that during the forced break, she underwent what her mother described as a ‘humungous growth spurt.’



“She could see the table a lot better,” noted Rachel.

That proved to be good news for Skylar, but ultimately, bad news for the juniors competing against her. So, too, was the training she was beginning to acquire from working with Roy Pastor.

“He broke her back down, solidifying the basics,” said Rachel, “and then put her back together again.”

As 2020 rolled on into 2021, the JIC began its first season (“a revelation,” noted Rachel), providing juniors all across the country with more consistent opportunities to play juniors at their own level, that included Skylar’s initial ‘mental block’ about Sofia Mast. Their rivalry, according to Rachel, has become a source of mutual growth for both of them.

“They challenge each other,” she said, “to work harder, to do better and play better.”

In the meantime, there is this 13-year-old, who’s growth spurt has also become something of a maturity spurt. With her eyes and pretty much everything else focused on getting better with pool, she is already looking ahead to a future well beyond the 7th grade. Her mother spoke of emerging plans that Skylar is developing to own her own business.

“Oh, yeah,” said Skylar. “I’m already, like, looking. If I want (pool) to become a career, I need to start planning it out.”

Though she knows that it’s a little early to be very specific about where her interest might lie eventually, she does have an initial idea. She is looking closely at the field of cosmetology.

“Playing as a girl,” she said, “I learned how to do my own hair and needing it to be up and out of the way, and that got me interested.”

“I started thinking about it as a business,” she added. “Hiring people, getting them to do it and traveling when I can.”

In the last weekend in March, she traveled back to Las Vegas where, by invitation, she signed on to the Predator Pro Billiard Series’ Alfa Las Vegas Women’s Open. She went with some height to her expectations, but kept them in perspective.

“I’m looking forward to my first WPBA event,” she said before she left, “but as long as I play well, I’ll be happy. My short-term goal is to win one match.”

She lost her opening match (races to 4, two sets) to Naomi Williams 4-1, 4-1 and then fell to Teruko Cuccuculelli 4-0, 4-2 on the loss side. That fed quite well into words she’d used earlier to offer advice to other juniors, who might be thinking of following in her footsteps.

“Don’t stop because you’re not progressing,” she said. “You’re going to hit a brick wall once in a while, but don’t get upset. Stick with it.”

She’s sponsored by Predator Cues, Taon Billiards, Center Pocket in Bowie, MD and Brews and Cues on The Boulevard in Glen Burnie, MD. She was interviewed on-camera prior to her selection to be sponsored by Predator Cues and in that interview, described how she and anybody else considering competitive pool.

“You’ve got to have that mentality of ‘I’m gonna win!’” she said. “You have to tell yourself, ‘I’ve got this. I can do this.’”

She’s proven it before and no doubt, will be doing so in the future.

She does and she can.



Briana Miller

Takes Season Opener On J. Pechauer Northeast Women's Tour

Article by SKIP MALONEY - Photos courtesy JAY CHIU

She's back.

After almost three years in which she had failed to record any sort of a payout in any pool tournament (that we know of), Briana Miller returned to Pennsylvania from St. Charles, MO, where she'd attained a degree in finance, thanks to a pool-related

scholarship to Lindenwood University. She got a job upon graduation and then, later, just beyond the height of the pandemic, was allowed to transfer and do that job remotely, back at home in Allentown, PA. Just this past weekend (March 5-6), Miller went undefeated to chalk up her first win on the J. Pechauer Northeast Women's

Tour (JPNEWT) in five years. Her last two recorded payouts came during the 2018 and 2019 Super Billiards Expo's Women's Championships in which she finished 9th and 5th, respectively.

Miller's last win on the JPNEWT, in November of 2017, featured two,



Briana Miller

back-to-back victories (hot seat and finals) over Tour Director Linda Shea. In a circumstance that at the time, we described to be “as rare as a teenager that doesn’t play video games,” Miller shut Shea out in both matches. Like that event, the tour’s 2022 season opener, with its 29 entrants, was hosted by Triple Nines in Elkridge, MD.

“It’s great to see her out and playing again,” said Shea after this past weekend’s event. “I loved it. She’s all grown up now; nice and settled and doing well. Her game showed it. She shot the lights out.”

It was, all told, a big come-back weekend for Miller that happened to accompany a turning point for the JPNEWT, as well. Their season opener capped an overall effort to revitalize the tour. Their 2022 season has begun with a new ‘look.’ They’ve partnered with a new streaming company – TTMD Streaming (ThinkTechMD) – which has brought a degree of professionalism and new vitality to the streaming services, including such improvements as multiple camera angles, the ability to do instant replay and steady commentary from the familiar face and voice of pool instructor George Hammerbacher and Wayne Everhart, owner of TTMD. The company has also undertaken to improve the tour’s presence on varied forms of social media and have been instrumental in creating a new tour Web site.

“They were very professional,” noted Shea of TTMD Streaming’s presence at the tour’s season opener, “and I’m looking forward to a great union with them.”



Briana Miller

“Not only that,” she added, “but feature this: we held an amateur event, as well, for 450 and below Fargo rates that I’ve been trying to grow for two years. TTMD’s on board for our first event of the season and they get 25 women to participate. The most I ever got was eight. They worked that very hard and for sure, get all the credit for that 450 and under event. They even put four players in the main event, sponsored them.”

The winner of the ‘450 and under’ event was Lynn Richard, who came from the loss side (three matches) and claimed the title, with Linda Cheung as runner-up. There was also a preliminary, 17-entrant ‘chip tournament’ on Friday night, March 4, with races to one that proved immensely popular.

“It was a lot of fun,” said Shea. “Only 17 people (mixed genders, won by Pete Boyer), but it was a blast and they want it to come back every week.”

In main event, Millers runs a gauntlet of some of the better-known competitors on the tour

In spite of what Miller encountered as a lot of new faces, she ended up facing people that she knew, beginning with Lai Li and following with Judie Wilson and Linda Cheung, which brought her to a winners’ side semifinal against another familiar face, Eugenia Gyftopoulos. Kathy Friend, in the meantime, got by Melissa Jenkins, Alyssa Solt and survived a tough double hill challenge by Caroline Pao before advancing to her winners’ side semifinal against Ada Lio.

Friend downed Lio 7-3 and met up with Miller, who’d sent Gyftopoulos to the loss side by the same 7-3 score. Miller claimed the hot seat, her first in a long while, 7-2.

On the loss side, Lio picked up Linda Shea, who’d lost her opening match

“ I’M NOT AT THAT LEVEL OF PLAY (TO BE) IN A PRO EVENT YET. I’LL JUST GET OUT THERE WHEN I’M READY. RIGHT NOW, I’M JUST PLAYING POOL TO HAVE FUN.

– BRIANA MILLER





Caroline Pao

to Shanna Lewis and embarked on a six-match, loss-side winning streak that was almost derailed by Melissa Mason's double hill challenge in the second, losers' side round. Shea survived that, advancing to eventually eliminate Linda Cheung and Kia Burwell. Gyftopoulos drew Caroline Pao, who, following her defeat at the hands of Friend, had eliminated Lewis 7-4 and Judie Wilson 7-1.

Pao defeated Gyftopoulos 7-5, as Shea was busy getting by Lio 7-3. It set up

a classic JPNEWT quarterfinal match between two of the tour's most enduring event champions; Pao and Shea. Pao won this round of that ongoing rivalry 7-4 and then, dropped Friend 7-3 in the semifinals.

The finals of the 2022 season, pitting Pao against Miller, was, by almost any standard, a classic of the tour's long-standing and still ongoing history. Behind them, at this event, were quite a few former JPNEWT champions; Shea, Burwell, Friend, Lewis,

Lai Li and in absentia, the memory of Karen Corr. Ahead of them, as is always the case, was the table in front of them. Miller completed her undefeated run with a 7-4 victory over Pao to reclaim her spot among the tour's best.

She'd taken a break and had now come back, to her hometown and pool.

"After I graduated (in 2018, from Lindenwood), I felt like I needed a break," she explained. "I'd been playing since I was eight (but) felt as though I wasn't having as much fun anymore. So, I shifted my focus to other things."

As for future plans, she's keeping her expectations and specific plans on a 'tight rein,' so to speak. A sort of one day at a time approach.

"I think I'm going to stick with the JPNEWT for right now, to get back into the swing of things," she said, adding that her 'future' eye is extended forward a little, toward future WPBA events and CSI's Predator Pro Series, as examples. She's considering attending this year's Super Billiards Expo, but more likely as a spectator and to get reacquainted with some of the women she'd come to know over the years. "I might just go and say 'Hi' to everyone.

"I'm not at that level of play (to be) in a Pro event yet," she added. "I'll just get out there when I'm ready. Right now, I'm just playing pool to have fun."

Tour director Linda Shea thanked the ownership and staff at Triple Nines for their hospitality, as well as title sponsor J. Pechauer Cues, ThinkTechMD for their streaming and social media services, as well as Gina Cunningham (real estate agent of Keller Williams Integrity) and George Hammerbacher.

The next event on the JPNEWT, scheduled for April 9-10, will be hosted by Markley Billiards in Norristown, PA.

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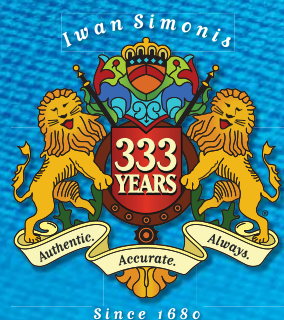
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2022 Mosconi Cup Captains: Jones Vs Lely

Jeremy Jones and Alex Lely will return as captains for Team USA and Team Europe respectively at the 2022 Mosconi Cup, Bally's Las Vegas from November 30-3 December with only limited tickets available for fans to soak in the action at pool's biggest event.

Jones returns to lead the United States for the first time on home soil after leading the side for the last two years in Europe as he guns to return the trophy to American hands for the first time since 2019 in Las Vegas.

Europe's two-time winning captain Lely will return for a third stint as chief as he looks to seal a three-peat and a first victory in the USA since 2017 when Europe ran out 11-4 victors.

The USA put up a spirited display last year with Jones having to step up to playing captain after losing Earl Strickland just 24 hours before the action got underway and will be seeking to take inspiration from their

Jeremy Jones and Alex Lely



showing last year, in Las Vegas this time around.

Jones is fired up more than ever to deliver success for the home fans: “I am grateful. I wanted this opportunity again to put the last two years to bed and show what the USA is all about. I can’t freakin’ wait to get revenge on Europe in front of a home crowd. I want to give them something to cheer about.”

“Fans, be prepared. We’re red, white, and blue all the way through and we will deliver a year to remember for the USA and most importantly Lely. This will be the best Mosconi Cup ever.”

Lely led his side to a dramatic turnaround after a slow opening two days in 2021 to seal an 11-6 win at Alexandra Palace with Jayson Shaw starring as MVP for the second year in a row.

The Dutchman is aware this year will be a much sterner challenge though: “It feels great. I am honoured and I am looking forward to going to the USA. I am happy, I get the chance to defend the cup in Las Vegas. I will fight for it more than ever before. The atmosphere will be intimidating, and my players must react to it. In 2019, it was the first time the fans got into the European player’s faces.”

“I know how much the USA want to take the Mosconi Cup trophy back. I’m not willing to let them get their hands

on it. We have so much more to give, and we will silence the USA crowd.”

After record sales, there are only limited seats now available to watch the teams compete live. The new theatre-style arena will be created at Bally’s Las Vegas to accommodate the biggest seating capacity staged for a Pool event in the USA, catering for 2,000 supporters travelling from far and wide to catch a glimpse of the action. Remaining tickets start from \$69 right here.

News on both sides Vice-Captains will come soon.

Selection Process

For the first time, the Live Nineball World Rankings will come into play, with three players from each side who will qualify on order of merit from the Nineball World Rankings. The Live

(2023) Nineball World Rankings are updated after every event recognised by the Nineball World Rankings Schedule this year and still poised to grow further. The final two players from each side will be wild cards.

The Cutoff

The top two players from each team off the Live (2023) Nineball World Rankings will be selected after the conclusion of the 2022 US Open Pool Championship at Harrah’s Resort, Atlantic City October 10-15.

The final three players from each team will be picked after the conclusion of the European Open Pool Championship from November 15-20 with one further player from each side joining from the Live (2023) Nineball World Rankings followed up by two wild card picks.

The 2022 Mosconi Cup returns stateside for the first time since 2019 when the USA secured a famous 11-8 victory over their European counterparts, and they will be looking for a similar scoreline come this fall at Bally’s after back-to-back defeats in 2020 and 2021.



Dynamic Billiard European Pool Championships

Medal Round-Up And Table

After 11 days of play, the 42nd annual Dynamic Billiards European Championships for Men, Women and Wheelchair users concluded on Saturday 12th March. With 15 separate events to contend for, nearly 200 athletes from across Europe came to the picturesque Slovenian town of Lasko.

In the end it was the German squad who topped the medal table with five gold, three silver and three bronze to total 11 medals overall. They were some distance ahead of Finland in second place who secured five medals – three gold, a silver and a

bronze. In total, 21 different countries were among the medals.

Individually, there were four multi-medallists in the men's divisions. Veteran Niels Feijen (NED) headed the table with a gold medal

in the 9 ball plus two bronzes. Sanjin Pehlivanovic (BIH) grabbed a gold in the 10 ball plus a bronze in the 8 ball. Poland's Wojciech Szewczyk took two silvers in the 10 ball and team event respectively. Finally, Mario He of Austria took a silver and a bronze.



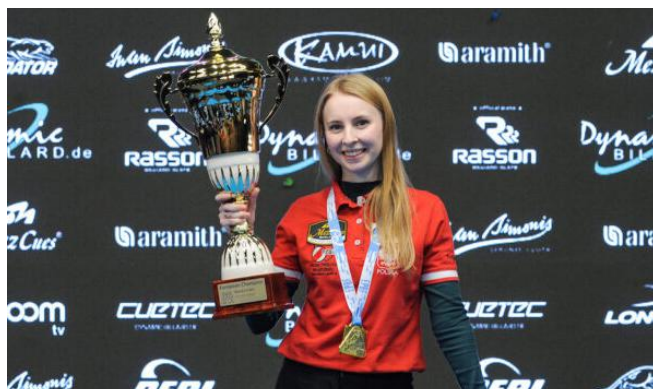
Ladies German Team: Veronika Ivanovskaia, Melanie Subenguth, Tina Vogelmann and Pia Filler and National Coach Tom Damm



Team Finland: Jami Siekkinen, Casper Matikainen, Jani Uski and Petri Makkonen



Wheelchair 9-Ball: Jouni Tahti



Ladies 9-Ball: Oliwia Zalewska



Men's 9-Ball: Niels Feijen



Under 23 8-Ball: Emil-Andre Gangflot



Wheelchair 8-Ball: Henrik Larsson



Ladies 8-Ball: Pia Filler



Men's 8-Ball: Ralf Souquet



Wheelchair 10-Ball: Jouni Tahti

In the ladies' events, it was the fast-improving Pia Filler of Germany who led the way. She collected gold medals in the 8 ball and the team competition as well as a silver in the straight pool. In total, seven other players collected two medals each. Amalia Matas (ESP), Oliwia Zalewska (POL), Tina Vogelmann (GER) and Eyllul Kibarog-

lu (TUR) all won a gold plus a bronze while Ana Gradisnik (SLO) took two silvers. The other two multi-medallist women were Line Kjorsvik (NOR) and Sara Rocha of Portugal.

In the wheelchair division, it was once again Finland's Jouni Tahti who came out on top with two gold med-

als. The other gold was won by his long-time rival Henrik Larsson who also left with a silver and a bronze. Ireland's Fred Dinsmore came close twice but had to settle for two silver medals and a bronze. The remaining double-medallist was Britain's David Beaumont who collected a brace of bronzes.

European Championships



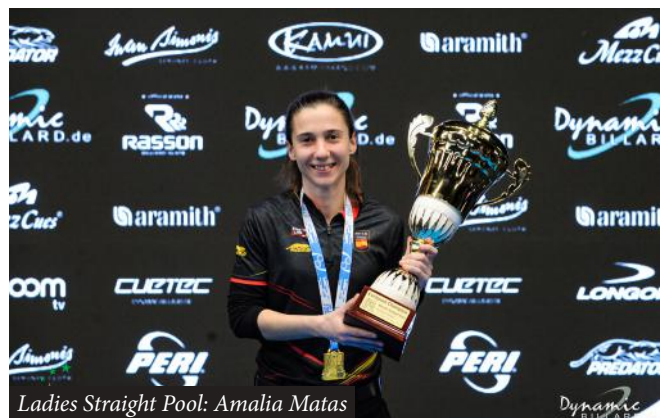
Ladies 10-Ball: Eylul Kibaroglu



Men's 10-Ball: Sanjin Pehlivanovic



Men's Straight Pool: Joshua Filler



Ladies Straight Pool: Amalia Matas



Under 23 9-Ball: Moritz Neuhausen

MEDAL TABLE

		Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Germany	5	3	3	11
2	Finland	3	1	1	5
3	Poland	1	2	1	4
4	Norway	1	1	4	6
5	Sweden	1	1	1	3
6	Bosnia Herzegovina	1	X	2	3
6	Netherlands	1	X	2	3
6	Spain	1	X	2	3
9	Turkey	1	X	1	2
10	Austria	X	2	1	3
10	Ireland	X	2	1	3
10	Slovenia	X	2	1	3
13	Czech Republic	X	1	X	1
14	Great Britain	X	X	2	2
14	Portugal	X	X	2	2
16	Belgium	X	X	1	1
16	Croatia	X	X	1	1
16	Denmark	X	X	1	1
16	Serbia	X	X	1	1
16	Slovakia	X	X	1	1
16	Switzerland	X	X	1	1

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EARL STRICKLAND

Booking Appearances Across The Country

Fans of five time US Open 9-Ball Champion, Earl Strickland, are getting more and more opportunities to hear his thoughts on the game and interact with him in their local rooms.

In addition to his massively popular “Earl Strickland Presents” series of videos on the Billiard Network’s YouTube channel, Strickland has also been booking appearances all over the country.

Strickland is recently back from trips to Pennsylvania, Montana, and Idaho where he appeared alongside Josh Brothers, Shane Van Boening and Oscar Dominguez. These appearances have included challenge and exhibition matches, Q&A sessions, autograph signings and private lesson opportunities from one of the top players that the game has ever seen.

Strickland already has the following upcoming appearances booked:

June 9th / 10th (with Jeremy Jones) - Fort Worth Billiards Superstore, Fort Worth, Texas

August 13th – Keys Pool Hall, Winnemucca, Nevada

Earl is also scheduled to compete in the Diamond Open 10-Ball Pro Players Championship at the Super Billiards Expo, as well as the Earl Strickland Invitational Open in Montego Bay, Jamaica on July 25th – 27th.

Strickland thanked all of the fans that he has met out at the events. “I would like to take time to thank everyone involved in my exhibitions recently. It has been a blessing to me, especially after the disappointment of not being able to play for the Mosconi Cup last year.

I also want to thank all the pool fans everywhere. Pockets billiards is a wonderful game and it excludes no one. I still play everyday and can’t get enough of it.

It’s great that I have the opportunity to work with these poolrooms because we need to help the pool rooms and pool in general. We all love this game and we have to do everything we can to keep it strong and thriving.

Thanks again to all the pools fans.”



If your local poolroom is interested in booking an appearance from Strickland, they can contact Diana Hoppe at (828) 674-6485.



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OLIWIJA ZALEWSKA

Gold Medalist, A Mom And USA Bound

Anyone who was following the recent European Championships saw the ladies division in the final discipline (9-Ball) was won by Poland's Oliwia Zalewska.

Like all of the European players, Zalewska was away from the game during Covid. Different than most other players though, was what she was doing with her time away from the game.

"I had a problem with my hip and I couldn't make proper position with the table" she stated. "I had to go to a physical therapist, but that didn't help". Then came the good news: Oliwia found out

that she and her husband were pregnant with their first child who born on September 9th of 2020. "When I gave birth to Antoni, the pain in my hip stopped" she beamed.



2021 Antalya Open

Zalewska's first tournament after Covid was the 2021 Polish Championships. Leading up to the event, she and her husband both caught Covid. She then questioned whether she wanted to continue with competition. "For sure it was a test for us, how we will manage the whole logistics with a toddler and sleepless nights – we were checking if pool can be part of our lives, how hard it would be. I won gold, silver and bronze medals," she declared, "Which resulted in our decision to keep fighting for pool."

Zalewska soon made another change that benefited her game. "Few weeks after the Polish Championships, I started cooperation with Mezz which had a positive impact on my motivation for practicing. I had everything needed to further work – a supportive environment and great pool equipment"

With Zalewska and her husband building their family, it was that same feeling of family that brought Zalewska to Mezz. "Miki and Juri (who manages MEZZ in Europe) are people with vision. They are creating something bigger than just a firm. The way they do they are helping players. By the cooperation they are giving the chance to grow and develop skills. Nowadays it's very hard to find people who will



care for you and treat you with respect. The moment I started partnership with Mezz I felt as I was a part of big team. This is like family and each member is supporting each other and noticing each other. This is the most important part for me to feel this connection between fellows."

For the first time in her career, Zalewska is now working with a coach. "When I started to play pool, it was because my Dad wanted me to play. Everything I learned in the first five

years was his knowledge. With so many years without a proper coach, all based on intuition, we realized that it was a very good moment to do that. We started cooperation with Piotr Kudlick. He was the best option. He is living in the same city as we are living in now. We started working together on my weaknesses. I am very hopeful and I am seeing that my level is really going up now."

That coaching has obviously helped Zalewska as she took home a Gold and a Bronze medal from the European Championships last week. It was Zalewska's third career Gold Medal.

Zalewska is now making plans for her next big goal, as she has qualified to represent Poland at the upcoming World Games. This will be Zalewska's first trip to the States and she is excited about this opportunity. "Mostly the goal this year is World Games. Everything I do right now is just to make my level good and to be happy with my game. World games is a big chance, and I can't wait."



“THE MOMENT I STARTED PARTNERSHIP WITH MEZZ I FELT AS I WAS A PART OF BIG TEAM. THIS IS LIKE FAMILY AND EACH MEMBER IS SUPPORTING EACH OTHER AND NOTICING EACH OTHER.”

”

DIAMOND BILLIARDS SET FOR 2022 WORLD POOL CHAMPIONSHIP

Matchroom is delighted to announce Diamond Billiards as the Official Table & Light Provider for the 2022 World Pool Championship this April 6-10 at the Marshall Arena, Milton Keynes, England.

Diamond's partnership with Matchroom has gone from strength to strength with the US-based manufacturer providing 34 tables for the US Open Pool Championship and it will now see the tables become the official World Pool Championship table for the first time in the new era.

The 2022 World Pool Championship tables will be tougher than ever with the corner pockets measuring at 4.25 inches as part of the Nineball vision in producing standardized regulations for the ranking events.

VP of Diamond Billiards Chad Scharlow said: "Diamond Billiards is honoured to be working with Matchroom on one of the most prestigious tournaments on the calendar. I am looking

forward to seeing a new world champion crowned while playing on our professional tables."

"Matchroom are world leaders in pool and paired with our world-class tables and playing conditions, we're excited to see our world-class tables in the Nineball Arena."

Emily Frazer, Matchroom Multi Sport Managing Director said: "I would like to thank Diamond and Chad first for their resilience in making sure we have 17 playing tables and 4 practice tables available for players at this year's World Pool Championship. Logistically, it has proven tough with the ongoing pandemic, but thanks to their work, it promises to be our best World Pool Championship to date. The 4.25-inch pockets offer a true test for what will be the best of the best going head-to-head for a record \$60,000 first-place prize."

The 2022 World Pool Championship will be played on Diamond 9ft Pro-

fessional Tables and clothed with Iwan Simonis 860 Shark Grey Cloth, Aramith Tournament Black balls, and Diamond Professional Lights.

As part of Matchroom's commitment to the global recognition of Nineball as the primary discipline of pool worldwide, the World Pool Championship will see prize money increase from \$250,000 to \$325,000 with the winner now taking home \$60,000, the largest winners' cheque in Nineball.

Tickets are on sale now to get up close and enjoy action across all 17 tables from only £20 for the day and £100 for the whole week. Limited tickets are available for the final day from only £20.

For the first time, fans can also enjoy the VIP experience for the semi-finals and final for only £150 with canapes on arrival, free programme, a two-course meal between the sessions plus an open private bar for ten hours along with a premium front three-row seat to soak in the action.



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NINEBALL INTENSIFIES – *Nineball Ranking Schedule Continues To Build*

Matchroom is delighted to announce two additions to the Nineball World Rankings with the addition of the Bucharest Open promoted by Romania’s own IDM Pool Tour from May 13-15 at the IDM Club, Bucharest as a ranking event and a further EuroTour tournament in Slovenia from October 1-3.

Go to <https://matchroompool.com/schedule/> to view schedule.

The Bucharest Open benefits from extensive TV coverage in Romania from national TV station A1 with four tables also available to watch for free on the IDM Pool Tour Facebook page throughout the tournament. The eventual winner will take home \$5,000 in first place with the likes of the USA’s Shane Van Boening already amongst the list of entrants with vital ranking points on offer.

With the inaugural UK Open Pool Championship set to get underway at the Copper Box Arena, London set to get underway from May 17 to May 22, the Bucharest Open offers the perfect warm-up for players looking for a tune-up ahead of the action in England with a double-elimination stage



till the last 32 and a Race to 9 format throughout.

The EuroTour’s Slovenia Open joins the schedule alongside the Lasko Open, Treviso Open, St Johann im Pongau Open, and Petrich Open promoted by the EuroTour as ranking events.

Money earned by players during Ranking Events, Major Events, and Blue-Ribbon Events featured on the Nineball schedule will contribute to the standings on the 2023 Rankings as part of Matchroom’s goal to recognise Nineball as the primary discipline of pool worldwide as well as offering the chance for European and USA players the opportunity to qualify for the 2022 Mosconi Cup through the merit of their 2022 performances.

Matchroom Multi Sport Managing Director Emily Frazer said: “It is fantastic to have the Bucharest Open added to our list of Nineball World Ranking events. The tournament offers a great opportunity for players to force their way into contention for the 2022 Mosconi Cup as well as at the same time warm-up for the inaugural UK Open. The team in Bucharest have big ambitions for where they see the tournament heading and with such great exposure already in Romania, I am excited to see where it will head and how we will help maximise exposure for future events. It’s already pleasing to see the likes of Van Boening willing to travel for tournaments globally like this. For these events, it’s all about careful scheduling sandwiching between the sports major events.”



The Nineball World Rankings:

Feature the primary rankings list of an initial Top 32 ranked players with a top-up of a further 8 players, this list will be used throughout the 2022 events for qualification and seeding to the Nineball schedule of events

Feature the secondary rankings list of live actual ranking points of prize money earned that will come into effect December 2022 and therefore contribute towards the Mosconi Cup 2022 team qualification

Feature 8 Matchroom promoted events

Event Status (subject to change and review on a yearly basis)

Blue Ribbon > \$300,000 +

Major Events > \$150,000 – \$299,999

Ranking Events > Up to \$149,999

The Nineball World Rankings are open to any tournament recognised by Matchroom and given the approval of Matchroom and sanction of the WPA. Want to be a part of the schedule? Email Rob.Spencer@matchroom.com

nineball.



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Hodder & Stoughton To Publish Legendary Sports Promoter

BARRY HEARN'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY

Hodder and Stoughton have snapped up the autobiography of legendary sports promoter Barry Hearn.

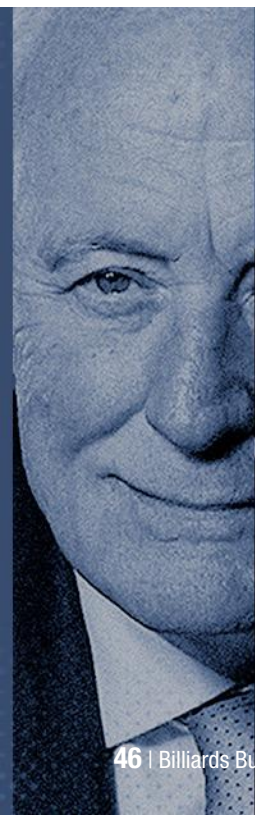
Senior Commissioning Editor Huw Armstrong acquired World Rights in My Life direct from the author. The book will be written with journalist Nick Pitt. Hodder & Stoughton will publish on April 28th 2022.

Born in a council estate in Dagenham, his journey to the top has been remarkable. In a career spanning four decades, Barry Hearn has shaped modern sport and has been respon-

sible for many of the biggest sporting moments this country has ever seen. Largely responsible for the snooker boom in the 1980s, Hearn has played an important role in the development of the sporting landscape in Britain. When he became chairman of the Professional Darts Corporation, he oversaw the most successful period of growth in the sport's history, with prize money now currently heading

towards £20M per year. After founding Matchroom Sports – a unique TV sport promotion company – Hearn subsequently put boxing, darts and many other sports like fishing and poker, on the map. He was also the owner of Leyton Orient for 19 years, saving them from financial disaster.

In 2021, he was given an OBE for his services to sport.

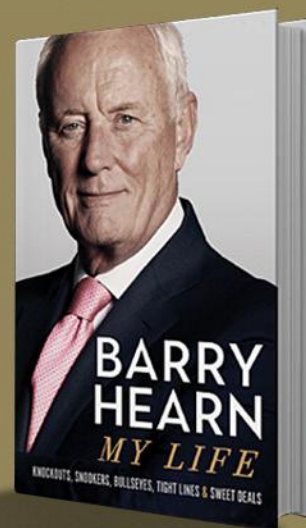


BARRY HEARN

MY LIFE

ON GENERAL RELEASE

28 APRIL



In *My Life*, Hearn looks back at some of the moments in his life that made him. With his inimitable, no-nonsense delivery, Barry brings us a story filled with humour, passion, and good sense, taking you inside every drama of his illustrious career. From his power struggles with media moguls and boxing promoters, to his vital role in the careers of Davis, Eubank, Phil 'The Power' Taylor, Ronnie O'Sullivan and a host of other champions, Hearn's story is one for the ages.

Packed full of never-before-heard stories, and wonderful encounters with a colourful array of characters, this is an unforgettable and unique story of a legend in the game.

Barry Hearn says: "It has been an absolute pleasure to chronicle my life and in particular my career in various

sports. I hope this book will educate and entertain readers by following my journey as my company Matchroom evolves from just me and a PA under a billiard hall in Essex, into one of the biggest and most successful sports promotion companies in the world. Enjoy the journey."

Huw Armstrong says: "There's a point in this book, a few pages in, when you realise just how much Barry has achieved. It's insane. Barry changed the game. Ripped up the rulebook and provided an outlet for sports like darts, snooker and boxing that simply didn't exist before. It should come as no surprise, then, that he can also tell a story. He's had a hell of a life and this book is a real joy from start to finish. The only thing to really say is this: read it."

Barry Hearn OBE qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1970 and spent several years with a major firm of international accountants. In 1974, he became chairman of Lucania Snooker Clubs and began to involve the snooker-hall chain in amateur tournament promotions.

In 1976 Steve Davis began playing at the Romford Lucania Club and the two struck up a partnership which transformed the world of snooker.

With the formation of the Matchroom organisation in 1982, Hearn managed most of the world's top snooker players and promoted the sport around the world. He subsequently developed Matchroom Sport as global promoters and TV producers of boxing, darts, pool, netball, golf and a host of other sports.

The advertisement features a dark green and black background. At the top, three yellow circular icons with the letters 'A', 'Z', and 'B' are arranged horizontally. To their right, the word 'MARKETPLACE' is written in large, bold, yellow capital letters. Below this, the text 'The Official Billiard Supply For AZBers' is written in a smaller, white font. The central focus is a close-up, angled view of several P3 REVOLUTION cue sticks. The cue sticks are dark wood with a textured grip and feature the 'P3 REVOLUTION' logo in white. In the bottom right corner, there is a small logo for 'SEYBERTS.COM' which includes a stylized cue ball and the text 'Powered By SEYBERTS.COM SEYBERTS BILLIARD SUPPLY'.

Tourney Results

Mar 01 - Mar 06

2022 Scotty Townsend Memorial Open 9-Ball

Arena Billiards

West Monroe, LA

- 1 Alex Pagulayan \$5,300
- 2 Robbie James Joaquin Capito \$2,800
- 3 Joe Keith \$1,800
- 4 Sergio Rivas \$1,300
- 5 Aloysius Yapp \$725
- 5 Lee Vann Corteza \$725
- 7 John Morra \$450
- 7 Skyler Woodward \$450
- 9 CJ Wiley \$350
- 9 Joshua Carter \$350
- 9 Pijus Labutis \$350
- 9 Sharik Sayed \$350
- 13 Can Salim \$275
- 13 Kenny Loftis \$275
- 13 Shane McMinn \$275
- 13 Tony Chohan \$275
- 17 Adam Ledlow \$150
- 17 Chuck Raulston \$150
- 17 David Walker \$150
- 17 Mark Krech \$150
- 17 Noah Contreras \$150
- 17 Roberto Gomez \$150
- 17 Shane Wolford \$150
- 17 Skyler Brown \$150

Mar 01 - Mar 06

2022 Scotty Townsend Memorial Ladies Division

Arena Billiards

West Monroe, LA

- 1 April Larson \$1,300
- 2 Nicole Keeney \$700
- 3 Janeen Lee \$450
- 4 Melissa Smith \$300
- 5 Mille Almaraz \$175
- 5 Molly Montoya \$175

Mar 01 - Mar 06

2022 Scotty Townsend Memorial 10-Ball Mini

Arena Billiards

West Monroe, LA

- 1 Alex Pagulayan \$1,850
- 1 Lee Vann Corteza \$1,850
- 3 Can Salim \$650
- 3 Justin Espinosa \$650
- 5 Drew Jordan \$275
- 5 Noah Contreras \$275
- 5 Roland Garcia \$275
- 5 Skyler Woodward \$275

Mar 01 - Mar 06

2022 Scotty Townsend Memorial One Pocket Division

Arena Billiards

West Monroe, LA

- 1 Alex Pagulayan \$9,000
- 2 Scott Frost \$5,400
- 3 Carlo Biado \$3,600

Mar 05 - Mar 06

Sunshine State Pro Am Tour 2022 Stop 2

Cue-Phoria Billiards and Cafe

Winter Park, Florida

- 1 Tommy Kennedy \$960
- 2 Anthony Meglino \$620
- 3 Justin Gilsinan \$400
- 4 Bobby Garza \$275
- 5 Justin Toye \$170
- 5 Tony Robles \$170
- 7 Monthep Hongs \$115
- 7 Raymond Linares \$115

Mar 05 - Mar 05

Q City 9-Ball Tour Event

The Clubhouse

Lynchburg, Virginia

- 1 DJ Brads \$650

- 2 Greg Taylor \$450
- 3 Justin Knuckles \$230
- 4 Scott Largen \$100

Mar 05 - Mar 06

12th N.E. Pool & Billiard Hall of Fame Second Chance Event

Snookers - Sports Billiards, Bar & Grill

Providence, RI

- 1 R.J. Carmona \$300
- 2 Robert Lee \$220
- 3 Jamie Gauthier \$160
- 4 Steve Edmiston \$100
- 5 Chris Benoit \$60
- 5 Dave Powis \$60

Mar 05 - Mar 06

12th N.E. Pool & Billiard Hall of Fame 9-Ball Open

Snookers - Sports Billiards, Bar & Grill

Providence, RI

- 1 Jayson Shaw \$1,550
- 2 Raphael Dabreo \$1,100
- 3 Phil Davis \$800
- 4 Steve Tavernier \$600
- 5 Greg Winbush \$450
- 5 Mhet Vergara \$450
- 7 Francisco Salas \$325
- 7 Rich Britt \$325
- 9 Jared Demalia \$225
- 9 Kevin West \$225
- 9 Reggie Cutler \$225
- 9 Ryan Lineham \$225
- 13 Frank Wolak \$150
- 13 Greg Hoagland \$150
- 13 Jeremy Sossei \$150
- 13 Tristan Speedwell \$150

Mar 05 - Mar 06

Arizona Women's Billiards Tour 2022 Stop 2

Griff's

- Las Vegas, Nevada
1 Rae Evans \$1,280
2 Susan Williams \$490
3 Pearl Ortiz \$260
4 Rebecca Wagner \$165
5 Ashea Erdahl \$105
5 Mandy Schultz \$105
7 Jaye Succo \$60
7 Savannah Easton \$60
9 Heather Snyder \$35
9 Joanne Mattingly \$35
9 Kaia Fujimoto \$35
9 Terri Johnson McCauley \$35

Mar 05 - Mar 06

JPNEWT Tour 2022 Stop #1

Triple 9 Bar & Billiards

- Elkridge, MD
1 Briana Miller \$700
2 Caroline Pao \$450
3 Kathy Friend \$300
4 Linda Haywood Shea \$200
5 Ada Lio \$130
5 Eugenia Gyftopoulos \$130
7 Judie Wilson \$90
7 Kia Burwell \$90

Mar 05 - Mar 06

Delaware State Barbox 9-Ball Championship

Milford Billiards

- Milford, Delaware
1 Fedor Gorst \$1,000
2 Matt Krah \$470
3 Vinnie Cimarelli \$350
4 Mike Saleh \$220
5 Brett Stottlemeyer \$160
5 Shaun Wilkie \$160
7 Joe Stem \$120
7 Pampi Pamplona \$120
9 Derek Hestera \$90
9 John Moody Sr. \$90
9 Kristina Tkach \$90
9 Tom Zippler \$90
13 Christopher Wilburn \$60
13 Joe Scott \$60
13 Josh Brothers \$60
13 Matt Douglas \$60

Mar 05 - Mar 06

Tha Iron Masters Open

Rock House Tavern

- Gastonia, NC
1 Mike Davis \$2,000
2 Jesus Atencio \$1,300
3 BJ Hucks \$900
4 Brian Francis \$600
5 Jacob Brooks \$400
5 Kevin Hall \$400
7 BJ Ussery \$300
7 Jimmy Tanner \$300
9 Brian White \$200
9 Jose Irizarry \$200
9 Kelly Farrar \$200
9 Runal Bhatt \$200
13 Bill Fowler \$125
13 Clint Clark \$125
13 Hunter White \$125
13 Jeff Richards \$125

Mar 06 - Mar 06

Mezz Cues LA 9-Ball Series Stop

Gladi8or Billiards

- Los Angeles, California
1 Chris Wedekind \$500
2 Melissa Herndon \$300
3 Al Garcia \$220
4 David Butler \$150
5 James Harris \$100
5 Jason Wetherald \$100
7 Clay Murray \$65
7 Johann Uriarte \$65

Mar 08 - Mar 13

Oklahoma Winter Classic One Pocket

Deep Pockets Billiard Bar & Bistro

- Tulsa, Oklahoma
1 Roberto Gomez \$4,150
2 Carlo Biado \$2,490
3 Charlie Bryant \$1,660

Mar 08 - Mar 13

Oklahoma Winter Classic 9-Ball

Deep Pockets Billiard Bar & Bistro

- Tulsa, Oklahoma
1 Roberto Gomez \$4,470

- 2 CJ Wiley \$3,010
3 Robbie James Joaquin Capito \$2,050
4 Sharik Sayed \$1,610
5 Brady Behrman \$1,080
5 Darren Everett \$1,080
7 Aloysius Yapp \$700
7 Carlo Biado \$700
9 Chuck Raulston \$410
9 Jacob McMichael \$410
9 Jeff Melton \$410
9 Joey Gray \$410
13 Greg Hogue \$330
13 Ryan Braselman \$330
13 Shane McMinn \$330
13 Shawn Baldwin \$330
17 Billy Dyke \$230
17 Brandon Firey \$230
17 Christian Young \$230
17 Eric Pickar \$230
17 John Barton \$230
17 Jr, Mike Banks \$230
17 Richard Webb \$230
17 Tony O'Donnell \$230

Mar 09 - Mar 13

2022 Southeastern Triple Crown of Billiards One Pocket

Zingales Billiards

- Tallahassee, Florida
1 Tony Chohan \$5,600
2 Lee Vann Corteza \$3,400
3 Robert Frost \$2,100
4 Josh Roberts \$1,150
5 Can Salim \$500
5 Michael Delawder \$500

Mar 09 - Mar 13

2022 Southeastern Triple Crown of Billiards Banks

Zingales Billiards

- Tallahassee, Florida
1 Skyler Woodward \$5,700
2 John Morra \$3,500
3 Robert Frost \$2,250
4 Scott Frost \$1,250
5 Can Salim \$525
5 Lee Vann Corteza \$525

Mar 09 - Mar 13

2023 Southeastern Triple Crown of Billiards 9-Ball

Zingales Billiards

Tallahassee, Florida

- 1 Lee Vann Corteza \$6,000
- 2 John Morra \$3,700
- 3 Skyler Woodward \$2,400
- 4 Billy Thorpe \$1,200
- 5 Josh Roberts \$600
- 5 Tony Chohan \$600
- 7 Lee Sanders \$250
- 7 Mika Immonen \$250

Mar 09 - Mar 13

2023 Southeastern Triple Crown of Billiards All Around

Zingales Billiards

Tallahassee, Florida

- 1 Lee Vann Corteza \$3,000

Mar 12 - Mar 12

New England 9-Ball Tour 2022 Stop #4

Branford Brew & Cue

Branford, CT

- 1 Jim Vollhardt \$600
- 2 Jim Gravel \$375
- 3 Lukas Fracasso-Verner \$260
- 4 William Aley \$185

Mar 12 - Mar 13

2022 On the Ball Ladies Tour Stop 2

Betsy's Billiards

Austin, Texas

- 1 Chris Fields \$800
- 2 Ming Ng \$640
- 3 Jennifer Kraber \$465
- 4 Michelle Yim \$345
- 5 Kim Pierce \$175
- 5 Kim Sanders \$175
- 7 Natalie Rocha \$100
- 7 Stephanie Reyes \$100

Mar 12 - Mar 13

The Dynaspheres Cup Junior 9-Ball Open 20 & Under

Bank Shot Bar & Grill

Laurel, MD

- 1 Landon Hollingsworth \$450
- 2 Nathan Childress \$260
- 3 Joey Tate \$190
- 4 Kamrin Kohr \$130
- 5 Brent Worth \$75
- 5 Precilia Kinsley \$75

Mar 12 - Mar 12

Predator Tri State Tour 2022 Stop

CueBar Billiards

Bayside, NY

- 1 Henry Cha \$1,000
- 2 KC Clayton \$560
- 3 Thomas Schreiber \$360
- 4 Carlos Duque \$215
- 5 Jay Chiu \$130
- 5 Mikhail Kim \$130

Mar 12 - Mar 13

The Dynaspheres Cup Junior 9-Ball Open 16 & Under

Bank Shot Bar & Grill

Laurel, MD

- 1 Joey Tate \$425
- 2 Landon Hollingsworth \$225
- 3 Garrett Vaughan \$155
- 4 Tanner Elliott \$75

Mar 12 - Mar 13

Q City 9-Ball Tour Event

Still Cluckin

Providence, NC

- 1 Jonathan Ailstock \$550
- 2 Cameron Lawhorne \$350
- 3 Justin Knuckles \$200
- 4 Scott Roberts \$100
- 5 Jesse Cortner \$50
- 5 Orlando Marcus \$50

Mar 12 - Mar 13

2022 Maryland State 8-Ball Championships

Brews & Cues on the Boulevard

Glen Burnie, Maryland

- 1 Steve Johnson \$815
- 2 Brett Stottlemeyer \$575
- 3 Scott Haas \$400
- 4 Thomas Haas \$250
- 5 Eric Lyons \$125

5 Jimmy Rivera \$125

- 7 Rick Scarlato \$90
- 7 Tom Zippler \$90
- 9 Brian Jones \$70
- 9 Matt Krah \$70
- 9 Shawn Bogutskie \$70
- 9 Tuan Chau \$70

Mar 12 - Mar 12

2022 DFW Ladies 9-Ball Tour Stop 2

Snookered Billiards

Frisco, TX

- 1 Tara Williams \$610
- 2 Aryana Lynch \$450
- 3 Ginger Abadilla \$300
- 4 Alicia Stanley \$150
- 5 Jamie Tidmore \$75
- 5 Jennifer Kim \$75
- 7 Jennifer Pavlovick \$50
- 7 Orietta Strickland \$50

Mar 15 - Mar 15

2022 Midwest Open Banks Ring Game

Michael's Billiards

Fairfield, OH

- 1 Billy Thorpe \$3,850
- 2 Michael Delawder \$1,650

Mar 15 - Mar 17

2022 Midwest Open Bank Pool Main Event

Michael's Billiards

Fairfield, OH

- 1 Tony Chohan \$3,100
- 2 Fedor Gorst \$1,800
- 3 Louis Demarco \$1,050
- 4 John Morra \$750
- 5 Mark Slye Jr. \$500
- 5 Mike Eck \$500
- 7 Dee Adkins \$350
- 7 Troy Jones \$350
- 9 Jesus Atencio \$200
- 9 Mike Brown \$200
- 9 Robert Frost \$200
- 9 Shannon Murphy \$200
- 13 Bernard Walker \$100
- 13 Billy Thorpe \$100
- 13 Mark Mariani \$100
- 13 Scott Philbrook \$100

Mar 15 - Mar 17

2022 Midwest Open Ladies Event

Michael's Billiards

Fairfield, OH

- 1 April Larson \$840
- 2 Angela Mears \$450
- 3 Danielle Lunsford \$275
- 4 Tam Trinh \$185
- 5 Erin Geyer \$100
- 5 Tracy Featherly \$100

Mar 15 - Mar 20

2022 Midwest Open Billiards Championship 10-Ball

Michael's Billiards

Fairfield, OH

- 1 Fedor Gorst \$4,000
- 2 Sanjin Pehlivanovic \$2,300
- 3 Alex Pagulayan \$1,500
- 4 Kristina Tkach \$1,050
- 5 Billy Thorpe \$575
- 5 Louis Demarco \$575
- 7 Michael Delawder \$350
- 7 Robert Frost \$350
- 9 Dee Adkins \$275
- 9 Jesus Atencio \$275
- 9 Kash Keaton \$275
- 9 Matt Carman \$275
- 13 Can Salim \$200
- 13 Houston Rodriguez \$200
- 13 Riley Adkins \$200
- 13 Willie Butler \$200
- 17 Hermie Dee \$125
- 17 Jeff Cole \$125
- 17 Jerry Arvelaez \$125
- 17 Johnny Watkins \$125
- 17 Scott Haas \$125
- 17 Shane Wolford \$125
- 17 Trey Frank \$125
- 17 Troy Jones \$125

Mar 16 - Mar 20

WPBA Northern Lights Classic

Northern Lights Casino

Walker, MN

- 1 Kelly Fisher \$10,000
- 2 Allison Fisher \$5,200
- 3 Jennifer Barretta \$4,000
- 4 Monica Webb \$3,000
- 5 Brittany Bryant \$2,000
- 5 JoAnn Mason Parker \$2,000

- 7 Angela Janic \$1,500
- 7 Ashley Burrows \$1,500
- 9 Caroline Pao \$1,000
- 9 Dawn Hopkins \$1,000
- 9 Sara Miller \$1,000
- 9 Sarah Rousey \$1,000
- 13 Beth Fondell \$700
- 13 Billie Billing \$700
- 13 Bonnie Arnold \$700
- 13 Veronique Menard \$700
- 17 Ada Lio \$400
- 17 Cheryl Baglin \$400
- 17 Emily Duddy \$400
- 17 Janet Atwell \$400
- 17 Jasmin Ouschan \$400
- 17 Joanne Ashton \$400
- 17 Kim White-Newsome \$400
- 17 Laura Smith \$400

Mar 17 - Mar 19

2022 Midwest Open One Pocket Event

Michael's Billiards

Fairfield, OH

- 1 Tony Chohan \$8,000
- 2 Alex Pagulayan \$4,700
- 3 Shane Wolford \$2,575
- 4 Fedor Gorst \$1,800
- 5 Dee Adkins \$1,000
- 5 Jason Sheaer \$1,000
- 7 Mike Brown \$750
- 7 Shannon Murphy \$750

Mar 17 - Mar 19

2022 Midwest Open 10-Ball Invitational

Michael's Billiards

Fairfield, OH

- 1 Fedor Gorst \$4,200
- 2 Jesus Atencio \$1,800

Mar 18 - Mar 20

Andy Mercer Memorial 9-Ball Tournament 2022

Rum Runner

Las Vegas, NV

- 1 Vilmos Foldes \$5,000
- 2 Gary Lutman \$2,500
- 3 Dave Datillo \$1,600
- 4 Blake Baker \$1,100
- 5 Ian Costello \$850

- 5 Sam Cordova \$850
- 7 Don Branson \$600
- 7 Max Eberle \$600
- 9 Goran Mladenovic \$425
- 9 Josh Kondo \$425
- 9 Joshua Farris \$425
- 9 Shane Van Boening \$425
- 13 Bui Xuan \$300
- 13 James Harris \$300
- 13 Luis Jacobo \$300
- 13 Paul Silva \$300

Mar 19 - Mar 20

Joss Tour 2022-2023 Stop 11 Second Chance

Brickhouse Billiards

N. Syracuse, New York

- 1 Bill Goodman \$300
- 2 Josh Welsh \$220
- 3 Ron Ince \$160
- 4 Rick Bentley \$80

Mar 19 - Mar 20

West Virginia State 9-Ball Championship

Sonny's Billiards and Bistro

Princeton, West Virginia

- 1 Bill Fowler \$1,700
- 2 Josh Heeter \$1,000
- 3 Cameron Lawhorne \$700
- 4 Shannon Fitch \$400
- 5 Corey Morphew \$300
- 5 Mike Clevinger \$300
- 7 Craig Brown \$200
- 7 Trent Talbert \$200
- 9 Cole Lewis \$50
- 9 Joseph Arbuckle \$50
- 9 Robert McCoy \$50
- 9 Scott Roberts \$50

Mar 19 - Mar 20

Joss Tour 2021-2022 Stop 11

Brickhouse Billiards

N. Syracuse, New York

- 1 Bucky Souvanthong \$1,050
- 2 Ron Casanzio \$750
- 3 Mark Creamer \$550
- 4 Sean Zeng \$400
- 5 Aaron Greenwood \$300
- 5 Dan Sharlow \$300
- 7 Len Gianfrate \$200

7 Marko Clarke \$200
9 Bruce Carroll \$100
9 George Lashoff \$100
9 Jerome Rockwell \$100
9 Tito Ortiz \$100

Mar 19 - Mar 20

2022 DFW 9-Ball Tour Stop 3

Snookered Billiards

Frisco, TX
1 Daniel Herring \$1,465
2 Sharik Sayed \$980
3 Don Baker \$620
4 Paul Sifuentes \$480
5 Joel Nabia \$365
5 Matt DeVance \$365
7 Jesus Sorto \$250
7 Nando Benavides \$250
9 Doug Winnett \$170
9 Robbie Smith \$170
9 Robert Reighter \$170
9 Samuel Escalona \$170
13 Brian Roberts \$100
13 Miguel Hernandez \$100
13 Ray Hinton \$100
13 Tony Top \$100

Mar 19 - Mar 20

Stroker's Spring Classic

Stroker's Billiards

Palm Harbor, FL
1 Donny Mills \$1,000
2 Anthony Meglino \$700
3 Gerson Martinez \$500
4 Tony Crosby \$350
5 Jose Delrio \$200
5 Justin Hall \$200
7 Jason Richko \$140
7 Penera Mota \$140
9 Dave Stem \$90
9 Mike Lear \$90
9 Travis Croft \$90
9 Trevor Braymore \$90

Mar 20 - Mar 20

Stroker's Spring Classic Sunday Super 16

Stroker's Billiards

Palm Harbor, FL
1 Anthony Meglino \$1,050
2 Donny Mills \$750

3 Scott Tollefson \$500
4 Travis Croft \$300

Mar 22 - Mar 26

2022 Alfa Las Vegas Open

Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino

Las Vegas, NV
1 Wiktor Zielinski \$30,000
2 Aloysius Yapp \$15,000
3 Mika Immonen \$8,000
3 Wojciech Szewczyk \$8,000
5 Dimitri Jungo \$4,000
5 Kun Lin Wu \$4,000
5 Lee Vann Corteza \$4,000
5 Mateusz Sniegocki \$4,000
9 Marc Bijsterbosch \$2,000
9 Pin-Yi Ko \$2,000
9 Quoc Hoang Duong \$2,000
9 Roland Garcia \$2,000
9 Stephen Holem \$2,000
9 Thorsten Hohmann \$2,000
9 Vilmos Foldes \$2,000
9 Yu-Lung Chang \$2,000
17 Carlo Biado \$1,000
17 Chia-Chen Hsieh \$1,000
17 Danny Olson \$1,000
17 David Alcaide \$1,000
17 Denis Grabe \$1,000
17 Eklent Kaci \$1,000
17 Hunter Lombardo \$1,000
17 Jan Van Lierop \$1,000
17 John Morra \$1,000
17 Jung-Lin Chang \$1,000
17 Niels Feijen \$1,000
17 Omar Al Shaheen \$1,000
17 Shane Van Boening \$1,000
17 Shane Wolford \$1,000
17 Sharik Sayed \$1,000
17 Tyler Styer \$1,000
33 Alejandro Carvajal \$500
33 Alex Montpellier \$500
33 Alex Pagulayan \$500
33 Alexandros Kazakis \$500
33 Billy Thorpe \$500
33 Christopher Tevez \$500
33 Corey Deuel \$500
33 Daniel Maciel \$500
33 Darren Appleton \$500
33 Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz \$500
33 Gerson Martinez \$500
33 Ian Costello \$500
33 James Davee \$500

33 Jason Theron \$500
33 Jesus Atencio \$500
33 Joe Spence \$500
33 Jonas Souto Comino \$500
33 Joven Bustamante \$500
33 Justin Martin \$500
33 Kang Lee \$500
33 Marco Teutscher \$500
33 Mario He \$500
33 Masato Yoshioka \$500
33 Mickey Krause \$500
33 Naoyuki Oi \$500
33 Nick De Leon \$500
33 Pijus Labutis \$500
33 Radoslaw Babica \$500
33 Raymond Linares \$500
33 Roberto Gomez \$500
33 Tae Young Ko \$500
33 Yannick Pongers \$500

Mar 25 - Mar 27

41st Annual Midwest Bar Table Classic

John Wayne's Pub

Indianapolis, Indiana
1 Fedor Gorst \$5,000
2 Jordan Davis \$2,500
3 Brett Cruser \$1,400
4 Kristina Tkach \$1,000
5 Brian Wilson \$800
5 CJ Wiley \$800
7 Dee Adkins \$500
7 John Maki \$500
9 Brian Gregg \$400
9 Hendrix JR \$400
9 Kevin Hall \$400
9 Wilbert Francisco \$400
13 Bucky Souvanthong \$300
13 Chuck Raulston \$300
13 Evert Snow \$300
13 Nathan Wallace \$300
17 Alex Olinger \$100
17 Andrew Hutchins \$100
17 Billy Karschner \$100
17 Daniel Scranton \$100
17 Fred Babcock \$100
17 Martin Zavala Jr. \$100
17 Mike Lowe \$100
17 Shawn Bucholtz \$100

Mar 26 - Mar 26

Q City 9-Ball Tour Event

Hummy's Bar

Newport, Tennessee

- 1 Michael Gann \$600
- 2 Adam Pendley \$400
- 3 Brady Brazell \$300
- 4 Josh Newman \$145
- 5 Brandon Stiltner \$50
- 5 Dalton Messer \$50

Mar 28 - Apr 01

WPA World 10-Ball Championship 2022

Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino

Las Vegas, NV

- 1 Wojciech Szewczyk \$60,000
- 2 Christopher Tevez \$40,000
- 3 Eklent Kaci \$20,000
- 3 Jayson Shaw \$20,000
- 5 Darren Appleton \$8,000
- 5 Edgie Geronimo \$8,000
- 5 Naoyuki Oi \$8,000

- 5 Sanjin Pehlivanovic \$8,000
- 9 Carlo Biado \$3,750
- 9 Chris Reinhold \$3,750
- 9 Daniel Maciol \$3,750
- 9 Denis Grabe \$3,750
- 9 Francisco Sanchez-Ruiz \$3,750
- 9 Lee Vann Corteza \$3,750
- 9 Mieszko Fortunski \$3,750
- 9 Robbie James Joaquin Capito \$3,750
- 17 Alex Pagulayan \$1,500
- 17 Blaine Barcus \$1,500
- 17 David Alcaide \$1,500
- 17 Eric Roberts \$1,500
- 17 John Schmidt \$1,500
- 17 Jonas Souto Comino \$1,500
- 17 Justin Martin \$1,500
- 17 Konrad Juszczyszyn \$1,500
- 17 Marc Bijsterbosch \$1,500
- 17 Michael Schneider \$1,500
- 17 Mika Immonen \$1,500
- 17 Oscar Dominguez \$1,500
- 17 Ralf Souquet \$1,500
- 17 Roberto Bartol \$1,500

- 17 Shane Van Boening \$1,500
- 17 Sharik Sayed \$1,500

Mar 31 - Apr 03

WPBA Predator Event

Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino

Las Vegas, NV

- 1 Kelly Fisher \$15,000
- 2 Brittany Bryant \$9,400
- 3 Amalia Matas \$4,600
- 3 Jasmin Ouschan \$4,600
- 5 Angeline Ticoalu \$2,300
- 5 Ashley Burrows \$2,300
- 5 Kyoko Sone \$2,300
- 5 Mary Rakin \$2,300
- 9 Allison Fisher \$1,200
- 9 Angela Janic \$1,200
- 9 Heather Cortez \$1,200
- 9 Kaylee McIntosh \$1,200
- 9 Line Kjorsvik \$1,200
- 9 Melissa Herndon \$1,200
- 9 Susan Williams \$1,200
- 9 Woo-Jin Lee \$1,200



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Upcoming Tournaments

Each month *Billiards Buzz* looks ahead at the events on our calendar to give both players and fans the information they may use to plan their activities.

MARCH

Mezz Pro Am Tour 2022 Stop 5

Apr 02 - Apr 03

South Jersey Billiards
Somedale, NJ

Joss Tour 2021-2022 Stop 12

Apr 02 - Apr 03

Utica Billiards On The Boulevard
Utica, New York

New England 9-Ball Tour 2022 Stop #5

Apr 03 - Apr 03

Snookers Pool Lounge
Providence, RI

US Open 10-Ball Championship 2022

Apr 03 - Apr 05

Griff's
Las Vegas, Nevada

US Open 8-Ball Championship 2022

Apr 05 - Apr 08

Griff's
Las Vegas, Nevada

WPA World Pool Championship 2022

Apr 06 - Apr 10

Marshall Arena
Bletchley, Milton Keynes

2022 US Open One Pocket Championship

Apr 08 - Apr 11

Griff's
Las Vegas, Nevada

Mezz Pro Am Tour 2022 Stop 6

Apr 09 - Apr 09

South Jersey Billiards
Somedale, NJ

2022 Virginia State Women's 10-Ball Championship

Apr 09 - Apr 10

Diamond Billiards
Midlothian, VA

2022 Virginia State 10-Ball Championship

Apr 09 - Apr 10

Diamond Billiards
Midlothian, VA

Sunshine State Predator Pro Am Tour 2022 Stop 3

Apr 09 - Apr 10

Brewlands Bar & Billiards
Lakeland, FL

Joss Tour 2021-2022 Stop 13

Apr 09 - Apr 10

Yale Billiards
Wallingford, Connecticut

2022 Maryland State 9-Ball Championships

Apr 09 - Apr 10

Brews & Cues on the Boulevard
Glen Burnie, Maryland

2022 DFW Ladies 9-Ball Tour Stop 3

Apr 09 - Apr 09

Stixx And Stones Billiards
Lewisville, Texas

JPNEWT Tour 2022 Stop #2

Apr 09 - Apr 10

Markley Billiards
Norristown, PA

2021 US Open Bank Pool Championship

Apr 11 - Apr 14

Griff's
Las Vegas, Nevada

2022 National Billiards League 8-Ball Championship

Apr 14 - Apr 16

Sandcastle Billiards
Edison, NJ

2022 Bob Stocks Memorial 9-Ball

Apr 15 - Apr 17

First Break Cafe
Sterling, VA

Mezz Pro Am Tour 2022 Stop 7

Apr 16 - Apr 16

Markley Billiards
Norristown, PA

2022 Super Billiards Expo

Apr 18 - Apr 24

Greater Philadelphia Expo Center at Oaks
Oaks, PA

Chris Reinhold vs Shane Mc-Minn Champion's Challenge

Apr 22 - Apr 24

Action Palace Billiards & Gameroom
Huber Heights, Ohio

2022 DFW 9-Ball Tour Stop 4

Apr 23 - Apr 24

Rusty's Billiards
Fort Worth, Texas

Halftime Sports Bar Pro-Am Tournament

Apr 25 - Apr 25

Halftime Sports Bar & Music Venue
Newark, Delaware

Mezz Pro Am Tour 2022 Stop 8

Apr 30 - May 01

South Jersey Billiards
Somedale, NJ

Bar Box Bonanza Series Open Fargoate 8-Ball

Apr 30 - May 01

Brews & Cues on the Boulevard
Glen Burnie, Maryland

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	Alex Kazakis	 GRE	40.067,00 US\$	
	Jayson Shaw	 SCO	40.000,00 US\$	
	Wiktor Zielinski	 POL	38.377,00 US\$	↑
	Franciso Sanchez-Ruiz	 ESP	31.469,00 US\$	↓
	Lee Van Corteza	 PHI	31.225,00 US\$	↑
	Tony Chohan	 USA	31.025,00 US\$	↑
	Roland Garcia	 PHI	28.535,00 US\$	↓
	Aloysius Yapp	 SIN	28.325,00 US\$	↑

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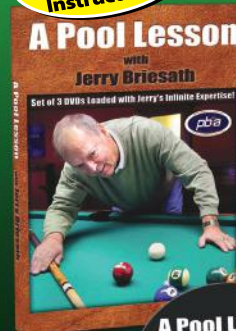
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WE ARE POSTING

ONE PHOTO EACH MONTH

on our Facebook account and in the AzBilliards forums.

It is up to you readers to send us your **best caption** for the photo and we will
PRINT THE BEST ONE HERE EVERY MONTH.

There were a couple captions that were along the same lines as our winner, but our favorite this month came from easy-e on the AzBilliards forums.



Referee: "Is there a 'Niles Feejen' here?"
Niels: *sighs* "here..."

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MAY 25-29

\$26,000 ADDED GUARANTEED

PRO ONE POCKET \$20,000 ADDED

\$2,000 ENTRY 24 PLAYER LIMIT
RACE TO 5 BOTH SIDES NO FEES 100% PAYOUT
BALL ON THE BREAK/RERACK THREE FOUL RULE
CALCUTTA STARTS AT 6PM THURSDAY

OPEN NINEBALL \$5,000 ADDED

\$100 ENTRY 128 PLAYER LIMIT
RACE TO 7 BOTH SIDES DOUBLE ELIMINATION
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NO THREE FOUL SPLIT QUARTERS
CALCUTTA STARTS NOON SATURDAY
FINAL 16 PLAYERS IS A RACE TO 9 SINGLE ELIMINATION

\$1,000 ADDED ONE BALL ONE POCKET TOURNAMENT
7PM WEDNESDAY SINGLE ELIMINATION RACES TO 4
CALCUTTA 7PM 32 PLAYER LIMIT \$200 ENTRY

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