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Billiards Buzz

Volume 6, Issue #52

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FROM THE Head Rail

MIKE HOWERTON

With a year's worth of event postponements and cancellations in 2020, 2021 is starting to show some of the positivity that the pool world has been looking forward to. Most fans see Matchroom Multi Sport as the banner carriers for the sport right now, and they did not disappoint with the announcement of their 2021 schedule. In addition to their regular list of events that includes the World Pool Masters, World Cup of Pool, US Open 9-Ball Championship and Mosconi Cup, they also announced dates for their first running of the World Pool Championship in April and another brand new event, Championship League Pool that is scheduled for late March. More details on this new event, as well as the rest of the Matchroom calendar should be coming soon.



Matchroom wasn't the only positive note lately though. The World Pool Association released their 2021 schedule just past the deadline to get it into this month's issue. That schedule includes four Predator US Pro Tour events. Those stops are listed as being in Arizona, Las Vegas, Michigan and Puerto Rico. Predator is also listed as title sponsors for The Junior World 9-Ball Championship that is scheduled to take place in Las Vegas alongside the Predator World 10-Ball Championship in early September. The WPA calendar also includes the Women's World 10-Ball Championship and a Predator World Team Event that are both scheduled for later September in Austria.

With everything that looks to be coming up in 2021, the entire pro pool world has a lot to look forward to, and it's only February. Who knows what else might be announced to take place this year.

Until next time,
Mike

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Simonis Cloth and Aramith Balls

play so true,

you really have to ask yourself

would you rather play against your

opponent...



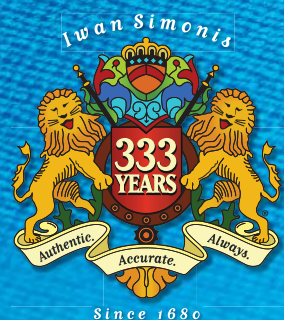
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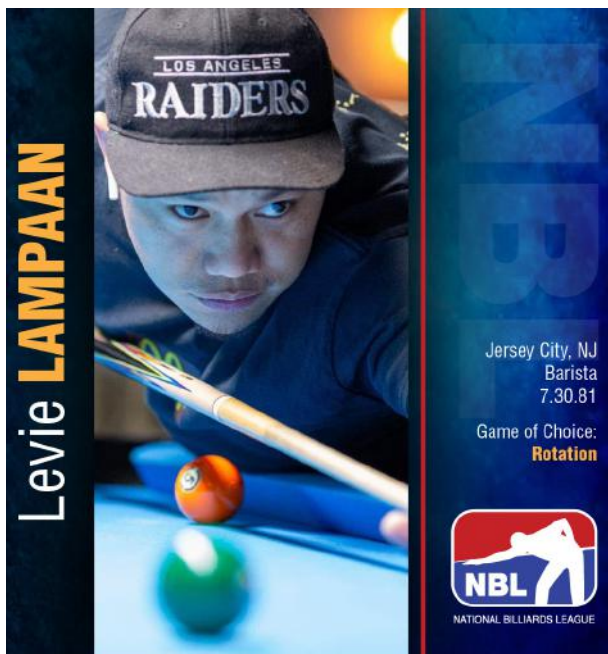
The Winning Combination



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ANGLE IN EQUALS ANGLE OUT

Angle in equals angle out. This mantra of banking is correct, sometimes. Unfortunately, for players trying to pocket an elusive bank shot to win a game, this conventional wisdom sometimes clouds their judgement, causing a missed shot.



JERRY BRIESATH

When faced with a fairly straight forward bank shot where the object ball is no more than one diamond to the left or right of the intended pocket, but on the opposite side of the table an inch or two off the rail or less, and the cue ball lies at a point that doesn't require a difficult cut on the object ball, in-experienced bankers tend to make the same mistake over and over. If the object ball is on or near the rail, it will always come off that rail short. If you were to remember specifically the last twenty times that you were faced with a shot of this nature, you would have undoubtedly come up short of your intended pocket on the vast majority of your attempts. Our mind is able to pick the correct contact point on the object ball that you would expect would bank the ball in, and yet it hits the opposite rail short of the intended pocket. There are several reasons why this happens, balls banking short consistently, but we needn't examine why this occurrence happens as much as just acknowledge that it does happen and compensate for it.

There are a certain percentage of players that consistently shoot their banks shots using outside english on the cue ball in order to widen the angle by which the object ball leaves the rail. Although using this technique will work with some table arrangements, it opens up a Pandora's Box of potential pitfalls like squirt and deflection, plus the position problems that will



occur when inside english is required to send the cue ball to its next position location. As a better alternative to adding outside english, you should alter your cut angle. Once you are aware of the problem and its simple solution, which is to over-cut these shots as if to bank the ball two to four inches past the intended pocket, part of the analysis that you perform in your pre-shot routine, if you are faced with a bank shot of this type, is to automatically compensate by changing your cut angle slightly.

How much to compensate is a tricky question in that each layout still has a few variables in its compensation.



The best way to familiarize yourself with this concept is to practice it occasionally. Perform some of the banks as cross side and some as cross corner banks with the object ball within one diamond of the intended pocket and far enough off the rail that a double kiss problem doesn't exist. After shooting fifty of these practice banks, you should be consistently making them if you are compensating correctly. Once you see that slightly over-cutting them puts many more banks in the pocket, expect the added confidence that you will have in your banking ability to have you taking and making more simple bank shots in the course of your play.

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER, BUT ONLY IF YOU USE IT

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

You have probably heard the famous saying “Knowledge is power,” but is simply learning about something really a “powerful” life experience? Specifically, my question pertains to learning something, *but not applying what you learned* – is that “power?”



At my office I have had countless clients over the years say to me “Wow, that advice really makes sense.” Then, the next time I see the client he tells me that while he thought the advice was good, *he never actually applied the advice to his problem!* So I ask again: How is knowledge power in the instances where the knowledge is never actually used??

Pool players learn things all the time, including (hopefully) a few things from my columns on mental toughness. Here is an example of what I am talking about where important information is overlooked – but can be the difference in becoming a really good player. All athletes, including pool players, experience nerves. We also know that taking a few really deep breaths is the

fastest, surest way to reduce anxiety and allow athletes to regain focus and composure. Breathing is incredibly effective, but it is also so remarkably simple to do that many athletes dismiss its value, forget about it, or remain skeptical because it is so simple. Regardless, if you don’t apply knowledge, you won’t likely be any better tomorrow than you were yesterday.

Keep in mind the difference between good and great has far more to do with focus, work ethic, and the ability to bounce back from adversity than

it does natural human talent. Great athletes are often great because they not only put in the work, but they constantly look to learn new things – and then put those learning experiences toward good use. Ask yourself the following questions:

- Do I regularly learn new things, but not always put that knowledge into action?
- How much better of a pool player could I become if I regularly sought new information, including mental toughness training that would allow me to play with confidence?
- If I want to be the best, am I willing to do *everything I can* to accomplish this goal?

You might be surprised how much better you can become by simply using – not just thinking about – good information when you come into it. Similarly, how can you expect to reach your full potential when you don’t use the knowledge you acquire? Pool is tough enough, don’t make things harder on yourself!

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

FIVE MISTAKES PLAYERS SHOULD ELIMINATE FROM THEIR POOL GAME

ANTHONY BEELER

Most pool players miss shots, not because their mechanical skills desert them, but because of mental mistakes that change the delivery of their stroke. In this article, I'm going to cover what

consider to be the five top mental game mistakes that pool players make and how to overcome them.

MISTAKE 1: A POOR MINDSET

Preparing your mind before your match is important if you are going to give yourself the best possible chance to play well. Too many pool players put pressure on themselves by setting expectations around match score or how they finish in the tournament. They think that if they don't play well,

it is a failure. When I asked a young student what their goals for their next tournament were they answered, "get at least third place", "don't give up ball in hand" and "don't get white-washed".

A champion's mindset is different. Sure, they have the belief they can win and play well, but they don't put pressure on themselves. Instead, they accept that the outcome is not completely within their control and all they



can do is control what they have 100% control over – their focus during each shot, responses to shots, self-talk etc. If they can achieve these "process" goals, they did all they could to maximize their chances of success.

MISTAKE 2: OVER-ANALYSIS

For many pool players, a few bad shots can cause them to focus more and more on their stroke and become more "mechanical". Instead of focusing on the point of contact on the object ball, there's more focus on what the body should be doing during the stroke. When this happens, tension, tempo and rhythm changes often occur. This can cause unwanted stroke errors.

A player is always better off focusing on the shot, than what the body has to do to make that shot. Sure, there can be some awareness of the stroke, but in the seconds before you shoot, you have to be fully committed with the intention, not prevention of mistakes. It should be the shot that makes the stroke, not the stroke that makes the shot!

MISTAKE 3: "NEGATIVE" THOUGHTS

Studies have shown that we have between 40,000-80,000 thoughts per

day and over half of them could be described as being “negative”. Most players will miss a few shots and then embrace a negative mindset.

“Negative” thoughts are inevitable during a match. We all have them. The trick is to not give those negative thoughts power and turn them into negative self-talk. Instead, be an observer of your thoughts, not a participant. Let them flow and disappear without focusing on them.

MISTAKE 4: LABELING SHOTS AS “GOOD” OR “BAD”

Most players label their shots as “good shots” or “bad shots”. When we do this, we can miss valuable learning opportunities. There’s a reason you make some shots and miss others. I try not to label them as “bad” shots. There are shots that are good and then there are shots that are learning opportunities. Instead of reacting to shots you consider “bad” you should

choose to have a more constructive response. I don’t want you to judge your performance by the score of your match, and I want you focus more on what is learned, than the result of each shot.

MENTAL GAME MISTAKE 5: LACK OF COMMITMENT

Even the best players in the world sometimes fail to be 100% committed to their shots. When this happens, there is no clear message from the brain to the muscles to deliver a straight stroke. Without a clear inten-

tion there is less focus on the cue ball, allowing time for doubt and negativity to take control. It’s imperative to have a clear intention for every shot you shoot. We must be 100% committed.

Take the time necessary to eliminate these mistakes from your pool game. Stop missing unnecessary shots and losing games you should win. Start focusing more on the shot at hand rather than your mechanics during play. Technical skills have their place but you should not make them your focus during match play.

Anthony Beeler is the 2017 Pool Instructor of the Year and is a former BCAPL National 9-Ball Champion. He has numerous top 25 national finishes and is one of only 8 ACS Master Instructors in the world. He is the primary author of the *National Billiards Instructors Manual* and 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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Small portraits of students and instructors on the keyboard keys.

A large 8-ball pool ball on the right side.



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Gospel Trick Shot Bonus 2

Rise Up

History of the Trick Shot: This shot requires the use of a Bobble Ball invented in 2009 by Fred and Devra Robledo who also made the GTS portable pool table in 2013. The Bobble Ball can be ordered at bobbleball.com. The shot was invented by WPA top 10 world ranked Artistic Pool player Jason “The Michigan Kid” Lynch. It was later used by another WPA top 10 ranked Artistic Pool player Brian “Superman” Pauley, plus BCA Hall of Famer Tom “Dr. Cue” Rossman.

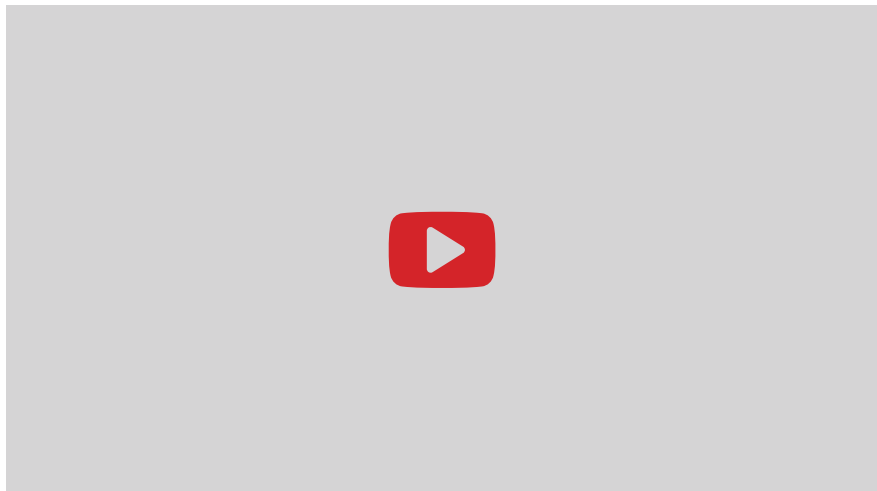
GTS Name and Why: Like most Gospel Trick Shots when you see the visual image of the shot, the principle becomes obvious. Gospel Trick Shots were created to give an illustrated message using billiards. It can be in story format or simply one spiritual principle that applies to the visual created by the shot. In this particular shot, the Bobble Ball will rise up when struck in just the right way!

Scripture References in NIV Translation: Philippians 4:8, Psalm 27: 1, and Psalm 37:39.

Cue Ball Placement: The cue ball or any object ball can be used as the resistance ball as show.

Object Ball(s) Placement: Place Bobble Ball in front of resistance ball. Normally the Bobble Ball is placed with a gap of 1/8 to 3/16 of an inch between it and an object ball center to each other.

Objective: Hit the Bobble Ball straight into the “gapped ball” next to it and straight in line to pocket B and object ball will disappear into pocket B and Bobble Ball will remain spinning af-

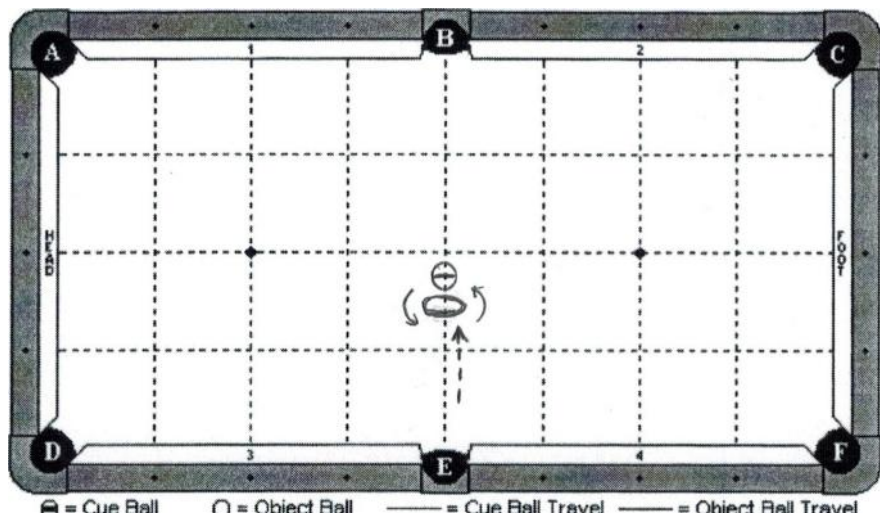


ter it rises until it takes its rest (lying down) again.

Special Notes: You must hit the Bobble Ball very hard and as far to the right of the thin side as possible. This will generate maximum speed and spin. The record is about 30 seconds spinning like a top!

Crowd Reactions Through the Years: This shot has not been seen by most

people. Because of its uniqueness like the Bobble Ball itself, there are a lot of oohs and aahs from the crowd when the Bobble Ball rises up. The performer of this shot can share a personal triumph over tragedy through Jesus or simply remind people that no matter what they are facing they can rise up with the help of the Lord. Another alternate meaning can include lying down to get your rest and rising up to do God’s work.



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On The Wire Creative Media Launches **JUNIOR INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOUR**

Fracasso-Verner wins Pro Am Division of five-event weekend

In an effort to provide junior players with more opportunities to compete beyond those offered by the Billiards Education Foundation with their single national championship every year, On the Wire Creative Media has launched a nation-wide effort to create a Junior International Championship Tour. That effort premiered on the weekend of Jan. 7-9 with five events, held under the auspices of On the Wire Creative Media and hosted by Wolf's Den in Roanoke, VA.

At this premiere event, with plans in motion to create five more this year, five champions were crowned; one each for Boys and Girls, 18 and under, as well as one each for Boys and Girls,



Lazaro Martinez

Courtney Hairfield (VA) finished third in the Girls, 18 and Under.

Gabriel Martinez from Texas, came out on top among the Boys, 13 and under (9 entrants), with Adrian Prasad (CA) finishing as the runner up. D'Angelo Spain (MD) finished in third place. In the Girls, 13 and under event, which featured a round robin format for its four entrants, Sofia Mast from Land of Lakes, FL was the winner. Sisters Bethany and Noelle Tate finished 2nd and 3rd.

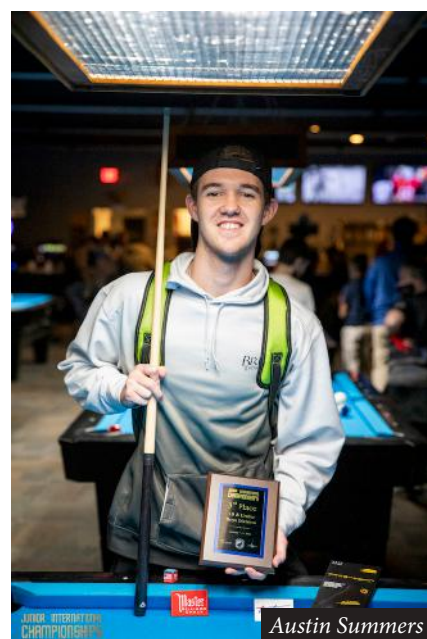
Winners of the events received a variety of prizes. According to Ra Hanna, owner of On the Wire Creative Media, the tour was designed to create some-



Cameron Lawhorne

13 and Under. In addition, a Pro Am event for competitors 20 and under crowned a champion.

Cameron Lawhorne from Lynchburg, VA took the top prize in the Boys, 18 and Under event, which drew the largest number of entrants (39). Lazaro Martinez was runner-up, while Austin Summers finished in third place. Kennedy Meyman (MN) picked up the title in the Girls, 18 and under category (12 entrants), with Bethany Tate from Raleigh, NC as runner-up. Tate was playing above her 'weight,' so to speak, as she was eligible and also competed in the Girls, 13 and under event. She was runner-up in that event, as well.



Austin Summers



Kennedy Meyman

thing of a middle ground between the single BEF yearly event and a junior player's ability to compete in cash-prize tournaments in their local area.

"I wanted the junior players to have a platform where they could play, year round," he said.

Hanna also created what might be thought of as a transitional event, designed to offer players who've aged out of the '18 and under' category.

That Pro Am event at this inaugural championship drew 33 entrants and was won by Lukas Fracasso-Verner, who had also won the precursor of this event, a junior championship held in conjunction with Accu-Stats International Open in 2019.



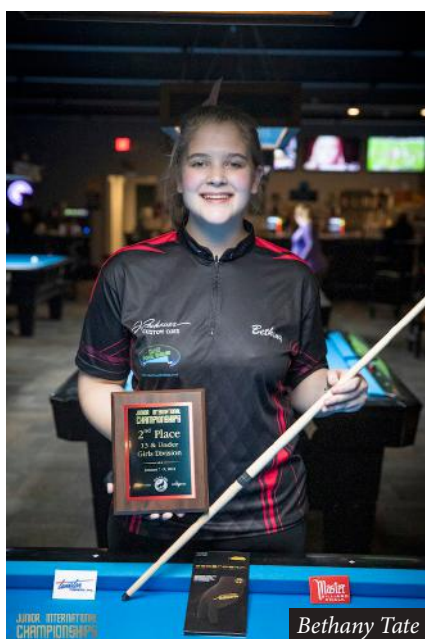
Courtney Hairfield

Fracasso-Verner faced separate opponents in the hot seat and finals of the Pro Am event. Both of those opponents were former BEF Junior

Champions. His hot seat opponent, Nathan Childress, was the BEF Junior Champion in the 14-and-under Boys division, two years in a row ('15 & '16). Fracasso-Verner's opponent in the finals, Ricky Evans, was the 14-and-under Boys champion in 2014 and the 18-and-under Boys champion in 2016 (the year after the 18-and-under Boys champion was Chris Robinson, recent member of the USA's 2020 Mosconi Cup team and the photographer at this junior championship event).

Fracasso-Verner opened his campaign with a 7-3 win over Julio Estevez and followed it with victories over Eddie Vondreau 7-1 and Riley Adkins 7-3, which set him up to face Ricky Evans for the first time, in a winners' side semifinal. Childress, in the meantime, had defeated Adrian Prasad 7-1, Trenton White 7-5 and Eric Roberts 7-4 to square off against Kodi Allen (BEF Junior Champion, 16-and-under, '19) in the other winners' side semifinal.

By identical 7-5 scores, Fracasso-Verner and Childress sent Evans and Allen, respectively, to the loss side and turned to face each other in the hot seat match. Fracasso-Verner claimed the hot seat over Childress 7-2.



Bethany Tate



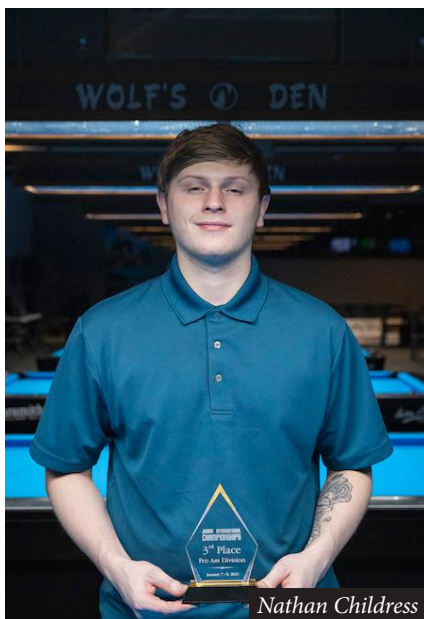
Adrian Prasad, Gabriel Martinez and D'Angelo Spain

Junior International Championship



Noelle Tate

On the loss side, Evans picked up Eric Roberts, who'd been defeated in a winners' side quarterfinal by Childress and then, defeated Brent Worth 7-5 and Joey Tate (brother to the Tate sisters and BEF Junior Champion, 14-and-under, '17 & 18) 7-1. Allen drew Trenton White, who'd also been defeated by Childress, and was working on a five-match, loss-side winning streak that had most recently eliminated Riley Adkins, double hill and



Nathan Childress

Austin Summers (BEF Junior Champion, 18-and-under, 2017) 7-2.

Evans advanced to the quarterfinals 7-5 over Roberts and was joined by White, who'd defeated Allen 7-3. Evans ended Allen's loss-side winning streak with a 7-2 victory in those quarterfinals.

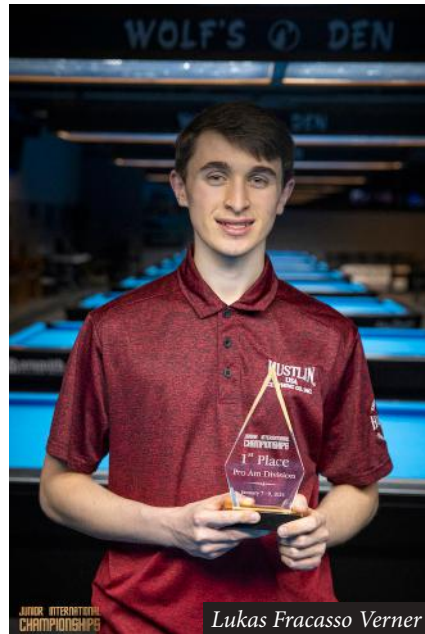
Evans and Childress battled to double hill in the semifinals, but it was Evans dropping the final ball and advancing to his second shot against Fracasso-Verner. Fracasso-Verner made short work of the final race to 9, allowing Evans only two racks before claiming the inaugural event of the International Junior Championship Tour.



Ricky Evans

According to Hanna, there are five other events scheduled on this junior tour, pending confirmation of a variety of sites. He is hoping to elevate the juniors' game and set it on a path toward the future.

"The future of US junior pool shone brightly on this past weekend at the Wolf's Den in Roanoke, VA," he wrote in a press release about the results this past Sunday. "I dare you to find a more committed group of young men and women who are dedicated to this beautiful game of ours."



Lukas Fracasso Verner

Hanna thanked title sponsor Littman Lights, Tournament Director and Wolf's Den owner, Kory Wolford (as well as his staff) and official tour photographer, Chris Robinson.

TOP THREE FINISHERS:

18 and under Boys

Cameron Lawhorne
Lazaro Martinez
Austin Summers

18 and under Girls

Kennedy Meyman
Bethany Tate
Courtney Hairfield

13 and under Boys

Gabriel Martinez
Adrian Prasad
D'Angelo Spain

13 and under Girls

Sofia Mast
Bethany Tate
Noelle Tate

Pro Am

Lukas Fracasso Verner
Ricky Evans
Nathan Childress

AVID



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Sandcastle's final eight players ready for battle

LIDDAWI CONTINUES TO DO BATTLE WITH THE PANDEMIC IN ROLLOUT OF NBL QUALIFIERS

League debuts at Liddawi's Sandcastle Billiards in Edison, NJ

National Billiard League (NBL) director Ed Liddawi promised people entertainment with the rollout of his new league and on Sunday, January 10, beginning at 1 p.m., he delivered. A part of the interior of Liddawi's pool room, Sandcastle Billiards in Edison, NJ, was turned into a stage, and with stage lighting, interior fireworks and live music, it became the focal point for the launching of Liddawi's league. As host/MC,

he used the stage to introduce the Facebook Live Stream commentators (Earl Strickland, Jennifer Baretta and Neight Mindham) and the 32 players who competed for the top prize of a free entry to the league's Main Event (a \$1,000-dollar value), free flight to the venue, hotel accommodations, a tour card and a league jersey. He also introduced performers Ciara Brooke, Telli MusicHead Stonemen, and 17-year-old Kellie-Anne, who

sang the National Anthem. These introductions and the manner in which Liddawi stage-managed the entire process of launching the league, reflected his desire to elevate the experience of a garden-variety tournament into a grand event, complete with a half-time show. In addition to the grand event he hosted personally, the league held two other premiere Amateur 10-ball events in Texas and California.

In the signature event at Sandcastle Billiards, Levie Lampaan took home the coveted first place prize and became the first competitor in the newly-formed league to qualify for the one of league's Main Events. These Main Events, as well as a number of the scheduled qualifiers have had to be rescheduled due to the pandemic. Liddawi has had to requalify rooms for the league's events, because some of the original establishments that signed on have closed due to the pandemic, some of them permanently. This requalifying process has already altered the schedule that Liddawi had set for this league's first year; eight qualifiers, in Jan/Feb, April/May, July/August and Oct./Nov, followed by four Main Events. With the pandemic still exacting its price from the pool community, Liddawi has had to scale the original eight qualifiers, down to six and the Main Events down to three, as he continues to complete the process of scheduling the rooms and dates for the year ahead.

At Big Tyme Billiards in Spring, TX, the NBL qualifier drew 15 entrants, and was won by Ernesto Bayaua, who defeated Blaine Barcus in the finals. Tommy Tokoph and Carl Honey finished third and fourth, respectively. In California, where The Rack Billiards in Fresno drew a full field of 32 entrants, Spencer Ladin took home the top prize. Al Moreno was runner-up. Dan-



Earl Strickland and Jennifer Barretta were special guests at Sandcastle Billiards

iel Campos finished third and Curtis Partch finished in fourth place.

"Overall," said Liddawi on the league's Facebook page, "things went very smoothly, especially for a first time. I give all credit to the incredible "A-Team" I assembled and am honored to have supporting me with their experience and distinguished professionalism."

"All the players involved were excited and enjoyed their time, while being very patient and cooperative," he added. "It was great to see a nice, clean organized event once again with the pandemic still going on."

The pandemic continues to wreak havoc with the league's scheduling

While Liddawi took heart from all that went right on his league's opening weekend, and understood why many of the events that were originally scheduled for that weekend did not occur, the situation on the ground, so to speak, remains difficult. Many of the venues scheduled to host the league qualifiers in these first two months have been and remain at the mercy of their various communities and the mandates of local, regional and state-wide governments.

"We can't get the first qualifying events going in 90% of the locations because of the pandemic," said Liddawi. "We're waiting to hear from a number of locations that have had COVID restrictions lifted recently, as well as other areas and their pursuit of special permits for private events."

"The commitments are there," he added, "but a lot of (organizing) people are struggling to find venues that are open and can hold tournaments that are compliant with local regulations related to the pandemic."



Levie Lampaan

Community by community, state by state, the issues vary. Michael's Family Billiards in Fairfield, OH is not doing any tournaments. Players in Rhode Island appear to be reluctant to sign on. "We just lost Maryland," said Liddawi. Janet Atwell has expressed an interest in hosting at her site, Borderline Billiards in Bristol, TN. It's a combination of people who've signed on to direct the tournaments and the venues prepared to hold them. Sometimes, they're one and the same – Tournament director and room owner – but sometimes they're not. Tournament directors back out for various reasons, leaving rooms with no one to run an NBL event. Sometimes, a room opts out of hosting due to local regulations, leaving a willing tournament director scrambling for a new location.

The endeavor itself, though, is still very much alive and kicking, thanks in no small part to a stubborn perseverance by Liddawi. It's virtually unshaken by a nation-wide pandemic that's brought the economy and a sizeable chunk of the citizenry to its figurative knees. It manifests itself, as persever-



Ciara Brooke was part of the entertainment at Sandcastle.



Jerry Dunn

ance almost always does, in a 'take no prisoners' attitude that can catch some people off-guard.

"I'm not in this to make friends," said Liddawi. "I'm here to make a difference."

"I'm actually glad," he added, "that a few locations that did kick things off, highlighted issues that needed to be and are being addressed for future events."

So, as Liddawi, continues to "pull teeth" from tournament directors, work with room owners, and get local jurisdiction answers about the difference between a regular tournament and a private event, he is relatively sure (barring any last-minute restrictions or personnel issues) that on the weekend of Feb. 20-21, his own Sandcastle Billiards in Edison, NJ will hold its second qualifier, while Skinny Bob's Billiards in Round Rock, TX, the Wolf's Den in Roanoke, VA and Felt Billiards in Englewood, CO, hold their first. A week later, the League Room in Parkersburg, WV will hold its first qualifier.

"And that," said Liddawi, "is all I know that's 100%."

There is a turning point that is, at the moment, difficult to ascertain because so many decisions await something of a 'report card' on the pan-

demical and the extent to which it will continue to impact decisions about tournaments. If the league's plans, already down from eight qualifiers and four Main Events to six qualifiers and three Main Events, has to rollback further, than so be it.

"If it turns out to be only one Main Event, because we were only able to qualify 64 amateurs, then great," said Liddawi. "That's what we had to deal with in terms of the pandemic."

"With over two million people that play pool regularly in this country," he added, "I remain optimistic that we can draw the .5% of that two million to make this (league) happen."

With the National Anthem signaling its start, the NBL got underway

As the table assignments were being handed out at Sandcastle Billiards back on January 10, Neight Mindham and Earl Strickland were introducing themselves for the first time on the live stream. From their booth, they explained the event's format; 10-ball, first round matches were races to five, while all other 'A' side matches were races to 9. All loss-side matches were races to 5.

"Sounds like the movie, Airplane, to me," Strickland quipped. "Too complicated for me."

*Anamarta Silva, NBL Staff*

able through the league's Web site – NBLUSA.com. The NBL Music Album is now available on Spotify.

Liddawi was generous in his appreciation of a vast list of people and entities which contributed to the planning and ultimately, the success of his league's launch. He began with recognition and thanks to his own Sandcastle Billiards' staff – Tom Bedard, Paul Lieb, Joel Kahn, Brian Cosme, Melissa Smith and the "special assistance" from Mike Knips. He thanked hostess, Jennifer Baretta, commentator Earl Strickland and the live stream's special guest, Neight Mindham, as well as his tour directors (Jose Burgos and Elvis Rodriguez) and referees (Chrissy Martinez, Jeff Martinez, Anamarta Silva and Greg Restivo.

He thanked the people who helped create the entertainment of the stage opening of the proceedings and its half-time show – M2P Record LLC, KS & Owner Music Production: Kilroy Records, Steve Kolakowsky, Mick Jerzii Drone and Photography, as well as performers Kellie-Anne, Ciara Brooke and Telli Music Head Stonemen.

He gave a shout out to all of the players who competed and the event's official providers – Outsville Pool and Billiards, Aramith Billiard Balls and Iwan Simonis Billiards.

The 'for sure' schedule of National Billiard League Qualifiers looks like this, at the moment:

Feb. 20-21 (check with venue for which day)

- Sandcastle Billiards in Edison, NJ
- Skinny Bob's Billiards in Round Rock, TX
- Wolf's Den in Roanoke, VA
- Felt Billiards in Englewood, CO

Feb. 28

League Room in Parkersburg, WV

And so it began.

Lampaan faced Jerry Dunne three times in the event; once in the hot seat and twice in the finals, when Dunne forced a second set in the event's true double elimination final.

Lampaan had opened his march to the finish line by winning 14 of his first 16 games, downing Marco Danielle 5-1 and then, Keith Guenzel 9-1. Moving into the winners' side quarterfinal, things tightened up a bit, as Lampaan battled to double hill versus Mark Nanashee before prevailing and advancing to a winners' side semifinal against Paul Spaanstra.

Dunne, in the meantime, opened the same way Lampaan did, with a 5-1 victory, over Rick Massa. He then got by Steven Persaud 9-5 and Ed Woolley 9-3 to draw Jason Crowe in the other winners' side semifinal.

Lampaan sent Spaanstra to the loss side 9-5 and was joined in the hot seat match by Dunne, who'd defeated Crowe 9-7. Lampaan took the first of his three against Dunne 9-4 to claim the hot seat.

On the loss side, Spaanstra picked up Rich Ng, who'd lost his second-round match to Nanashee and had won four on the loss side, including 5-3 wins over Ed Wooley and Jose Estevez. Crowe drew Sean Emmitt, who'd lost

his opening match and was working on a five-match, loss-side streak that took him as far as the quarterfinals. He'd knocked Nanashee out of the tournament in the fourth loss-side round by defeating him in a double hill match. He'd most recently eliminated Joe Palone and shut out Brian Grube, Jr.

Emmitt and Ng handed Crowe and Spaanstra their second straight loss, by the same 5-2 score. Ng then ended Emmitt's loss-side run with yet another 5-2 win. Dunne, though, in the semifinals, put up a stronger fight, and bringing the match to double hill, before prevailing for his second and third shot at Lampaan in the hot seat.

With that old, intangible 'friend,' momentum on his side, Dunne took the double elimination's opening set 9-6. Now, with a single loss each, the race went down to 5. Lampaan re-caught his gear in the second set and gave up only a single rack to claim the NBL's first title 5-1.

"A very sincere 'thank you' goes out to everyone who played a part in the first of many National Billiards League qualifiers to come," said Liddawi. "I've learned a lot of things that still have to be addressed for the next one, locally, as well as nationwide."

Recorded matches from all tables, event brackets and photos are avail-

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Piersa goes undefeated

AT JAYSON SHAW'S US 1 BILLIARDS & BAR IN WEST HAVEN CT

Though he won the Derby City Classic's Bigfoot Challenge and a stop on the Euro Tour (the Dynamic Billiards Treviso Open) early in the year and was a dynamic and vocal member of the European winning 2020 Mosconi Cup team, later in the year, it was, overall, a slow year for Jayson Shaw; his lowest in recorded payout earnings (at AZBilliards) since 2015.

He wasn't alone in that regard, of course; the pandemic doing its work world-wide, but Shaw was busy, too, with a few other things.

In May, he created his own YouTube channel, and during the summer, he was hard at work, preparing US 1 Billiards and Bar in West Haven, CT for an October 9th re-opening, under his new ownership and management. For those who don't follow him or US 1 Billiards and Bar in West Haven on Facebook or elsewhere, the re-opening with (as Jayson put it) "everything brand new, and I mean, brand new" went off smoothly and in a matter of weeks, Shaw had regular tournaments running.

The latest of those tournaments occurred this past weekend, on Sunday, January 24. It was a \$500-added 9-ball tournament, for Fargo-rated players 700 or below, which drew 27 entrants to US 1 Billiards and Bar and saw Robert Piersa go undefeated through the field, defeating separate opponents in the hot seat match and finals.

After Piersa had defeated "young gun" Thomas Rice in a winners' side semi-final and Ryan Lineham sent Jorge Vivanco to the loss side, Piersa and Lineham squared off in the hot seat match. Piersa claimed it and waited on what turned out to be the return of Vivanco.



Robert Piersa

Rice moved over to the loss side and ran right into his second straight loss, delivered to him by another “young gun,” Lukas Fracasso-Verner, who’d been sent over by Lineham in a winners’ side quarterfinal and defeated Mario Argentino (who’d split the top two prizes in the previous week’s tournament with Nicholas Bosquet) and Henry Cha. Vivanco got right to work on his trip to the finals, downing Kerry McAuliffe.

Vivanco then eliminated Fracasso-Verner in the quarterfinal match and Lineham in the semifinals that followed. Piersa ended Vivanco’s three-match, one-loss winning streak with a victory in the finals.

Shaw’s US 1 Billiards and Bar will hold another tournament this weekend, on the last day in January; Sunday, Jan. 31. Shaw has also just announced a \$1500 added pro-am



Jorge Vivanco

event in February 6-7 at US 1. Check the US 1 Billiards and Bar Facebook page or Shaw’s page for further information.



Jayson Shaw with daughter Liana



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WORLDWIDE POOL COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER TO SUPPORT

Jorgen Sandman

The worldwide Pool-Billiard Community is supporting a pioneer for Billiards achieving Olympic recognition following the recent landslide in Norway on 30th December, 2020.

The European Pocket Billiard Federation (EPBF) together with the World Pool-Billiard Association (WPA) took a decision to support Jorgen Sandman and his wife Anna after they were involved in the devastating Norwegian landslide that claimed up to 10 lives. Fortunately, Jorgen and Anna survived the ordeal after being airlifted by helicopter to safety and hospital, but they have lost their house, cars and all personal effects, indeed everything. Among the losses suffered were the volumes of Billiards memorabilia that Jorgen had collected over many years, such things are totally irreplaceable. Some good news is that their pet dog was found and rescued from the mud sometime later.

Jorgen's involvement in Billiards goes way back, he is the former President of the WPA and is also a former President of the World Confederation of Billiards Sports.

Together with Andre Gagnaux, they were the driving force behind Billiards obtaining Olympic recognition which was granted in 1998.



“ JORGEN'S INVOLVEMENT IN BILLIARDS GOES WAY BACK, HE IS THE FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE WPA AND IS ALSO A FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD CONFEDERATION OF BILLIARDS SPORTS. ”

Mindful of how much time Jorgen had devoted to Billiards, the EPBF immediately felt obligated to launch a crowd funding appeal together with the WPA. We will check to see what the immediate priority is for assistance, and both federations will help however in restoring their life back to nor-

mal. The Norwegian government will provide subsidies to all victims of this landslide, to what extent is unknown at this stage.

The EPBF will take the lead in coordinating this action. All support from private entities, players, clubs, national federations, industry or whoever would like to contribute, the support will be highly appreciated. The account number for donations is

Account holder: European Pocket Billiard Federation
Reason for Payment: Crowdfunding Sandman
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Account Nr.: 0664794386



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All donations received will be forwarded to the Sandman family. The EPBF will update the amount forwarded to the Sandmans on a regular basis.

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Jayson Shaw

Named IWGA Player Of The Month

The WPA congratulates Jayson Shaw who has been awarded the prestigious title of Athlete of the Month (December 2020) by the International World Games Association (IWGA). [Please see the attached article.](#)

This is great news for billiard sports in general, it is the first time that a

billiards athlete has been recognised by such an award. Jayson is a most consistent performer and his high-finish results from tournaments always ensures his ranking maintains itself among the world's top 10 players. Just recently at the Mosconi Cup he was unbeaten in his five matches and besides being a member of the victo-

rious team (Europe), he also won the tournament's Most Valuable Player award.

The next World Games will be held next year in Birmingham, USA, July 7 – 17, and once again Billiards will be part of the Games' program represented by Pool, Snooker and Carom.



Jayson Shaw

“There is no substitute for hard work.”

-Thomas Edison

That's right Tom, but with better tools you can do more of it.

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Matchroom Announces Biggest Ever Year Of Pool With Six Major Events

Matchroom Multi Sport is delighted to announce its biggest ever year of pool, with SIX events including the all-new Championship League Pool and the return of the World Pool Championship to the Matchroom stable.

After the global shutdown in 2020, Matchroom brought live pool back to the global TV stage with the Mosconi Cup in December and now launches a calendar of six major pool tournaments for 2021.

The 9-ball year will break off with the brand-new Championship League Pool, which will take place behind-closed-doors at Marshall Arena, Milton Keynes from March 22-29. Featuring 19 players and a prize fund of \$85,950, Championship League Pool will be played across two tables with every match streamed live around the world. Full details of the new event will be announced later this week.

The World Pool Masters will return in Gibraltar from April 6-9, before the World Pool Championship relaunches under the Matchroom banner from April 12-16 with global TV coverage and increased prize money. The World Pool Championship will take place in the UK, with full details to be confirmed in due course.

The World Cup of Pool will be the feature of the summer pool calendar, before

the 44th US Open Pool Championship this autumn.

Then the year will close out with Europe as defending champions at the Mosconi Cup, set to take place from December 6-9.

Matchroom Pool's World Rankings will resume with the World Pool Masters, while the US Open and World Championship will both be Tier 1 Ranking events. At the Mosconi Cup, Team USA

and Team Europe will both feature the top players from the World Rankings, with entry to other events also awarded to the best players on the Rankings.

Emily Frazer, Managing Director of Matchroom Multi Sport, said: "Despite such challenging times faced for all over the past year and still experiencing now, we are more determined than ever to launch a calendar of events for pool, ensuring players have a schedule to follow, look forward to and practice for.

"With six events now in the Matchroom Pool stable and the launch of Championship League Pool we are poised to get the ball rolling come March 22nd.

"Ranking points are an integral part of our prestigious Mosconi Cup and we will be focusing on our Matchroom World Rankings, ensuring our six pool events unite and align, giving players the opportunity to be rewarded and earn their spots; an ongoing and work-in-progress.

"The climate is constantly changing but we are eager and passionate to deliver these events safely to players and hopefully spectators (when possible). With this proposed schedule of events we can reignite optimism and hope for all in the sport."

To receive the latest news and ticket alerts for all Matchroom Pool events, sign up to the Matchroom Pool Club for free at <http://www.matchroompool.com/pool-club/>.

Follow Matchroom Pool on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram. For all the latest event news please visit www.mosconicup.com.

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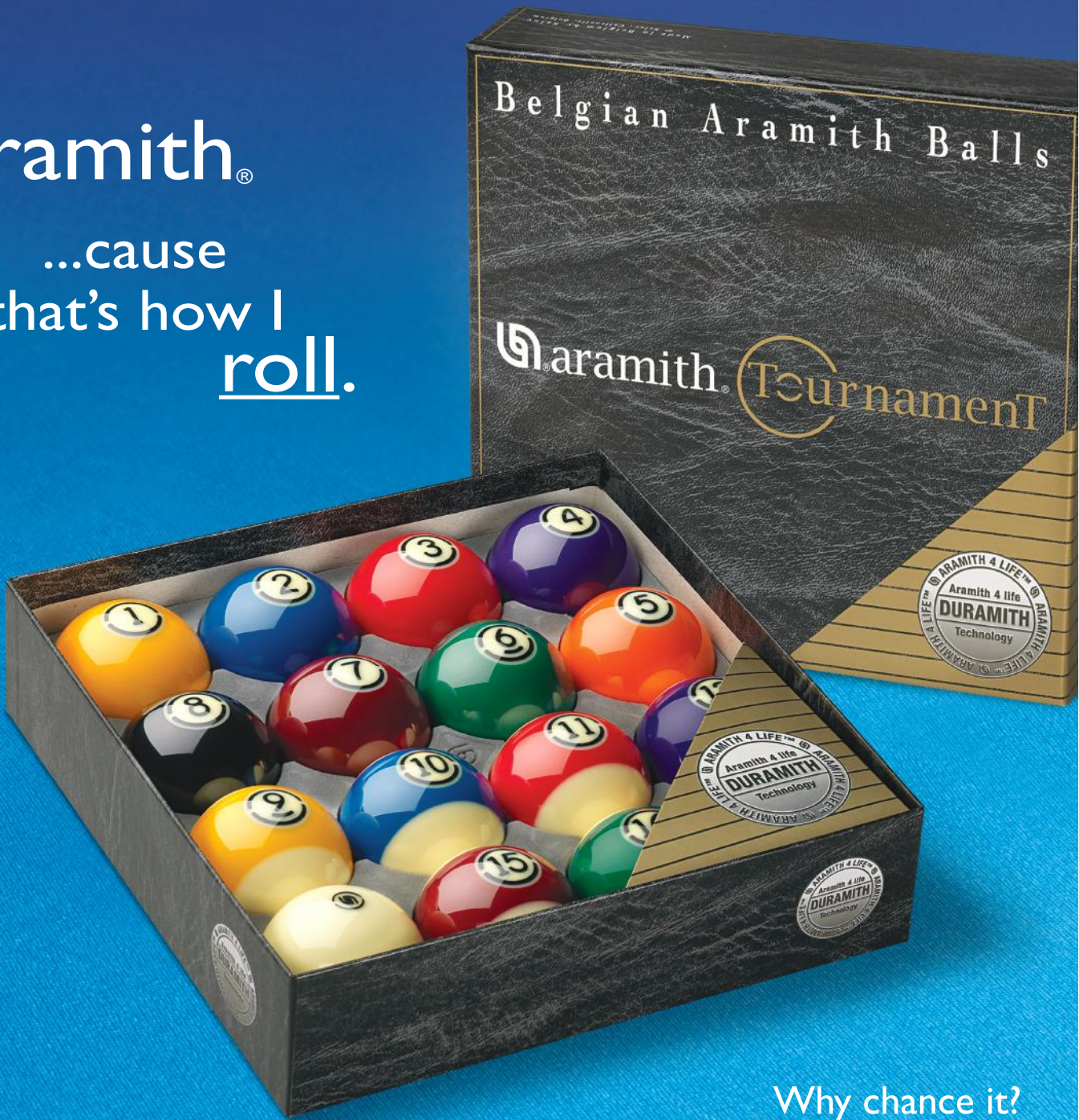
matchroom.
THE CALENDAR 2021

CLP CHAMPIONSHIP LEAGUE POOL	MARCH 22-29
WORLD POOL MASTERS	APRIL 6-9
WORLD POOL CHAMPIONSHIP	APRIL 12-16
WORLD CUP OF POOL	SUMMER
US OPEN: POOL CHAMPIONSHIP	AUTUMN
MOSCONI CUP	DECEMBER 6-9

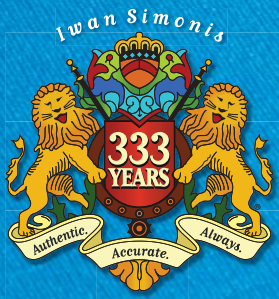
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WST, MATCHROOM AND ITV

Agree New Two-Year Deal For Broadcast Of Four Events

ITV will televise four events on the World Snooker Tour for at least the next two years following a momentous new agreement.

The deal will see the Champion of Champions, World Grand Prix, Players Championship and Tour Championship broadcast by ITV until at least 2022.

Snooker fans throughout the UK will be able to watch the sport's best players battling for huge titles on free-to-air television. ITV has televised snooker events regularly since 2013, and this new agreement strengthens the relationship and reflects the popularity of the sport on the channel.

The Champion of Champions has been running since 2013 and is promoted by Matchroom Multi Sport. The event brings together winners of tournaments over the previous 12 months to compete for one of the sport's most

prestigious invitation titles. Mark Allen lifted the trophy this season after beating Neil Robertson in the final.

The World Grand Prix features only the top 32 players on the one-year ranking list and was won by Judd Trump last month. Only the top 16 go through to the Players Championship in February and then only the elite top eight qualify for the Tour Championship in March.

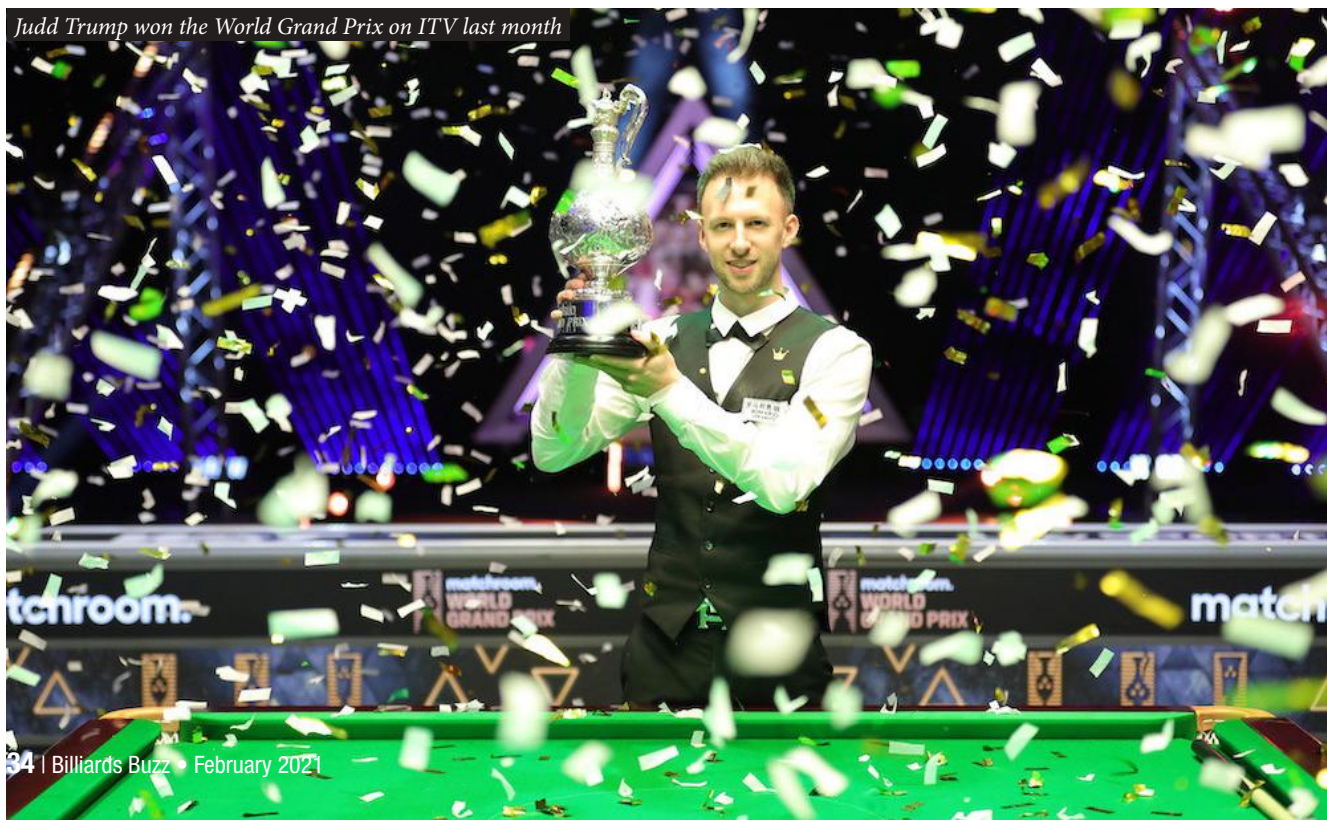
WST Chairman Barry Hearn OBE said: "We are thrilled to extend our agreement with ITV for another two years. They have been fantastic supporters of snooker in recent times and they are a great team to work with. The quality of their coverage is superb and that is reflected in the outstanding

viewing figures we consistently see for all four of the top-class events they broadcast each season.

"Our many millions of fans in the UK will be delighted by this news because they are guaranteed snooker of the highest quality featuring all of the top stars, with extensive live action on a free-to-air channel. Snooker and ITV are the perfect partners and we look forward to the next two years and beyond."

Niall Sloane, ITV Director of Sport, said: "We're delighted to maintain our partnership with Matchroom with this deal, which means viewers will continue to enjoy live, comprehensive free to air coverage of some of the biggest events in snooker for the coming years."

Judd Trump won the World Grand Prix on ITV last month



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RALPH GREENLEAF

Ralph Greenleaf was the greatest pool player the world had ever seen. He won world championships, gave sold-out exhibitions, and earned as much money as Babe Ruth.

But in a few short years, he lost everything. His money, house, wife, and championship titles were all gone. Then, in December 1936, he disappeared. After nine months of not being seen by anyone, his ex-wife went to the police for help. The police soon found Ralph shooting pool in Collins, Iowa. All seemed normal at first. Then the truth came out.

Ralph, and two unidentified friends, were arrested in Eufaula, Oklahoma for public drunkenness a few weeks before Ralph's appearance in Iowa. Ralph gained his freedom only by proving his identity to the town mayor at the billiard table. One legend has Ralph running 84 balls of straight pool to prove his identity to the suspicious mayor and earn his freedom. Ralph had been on a nationwide alcohol and drug-fueled debauchery tour, giving impromptu pool exhibitions while traveling from small town to small town. Eufaula, located around 80 miles south of Tulsa, was a town of

a few hundred people at the time. The Indian Journal of Eufaula reported the full details of Ralph's predicament in its August 26, 1936 edition:

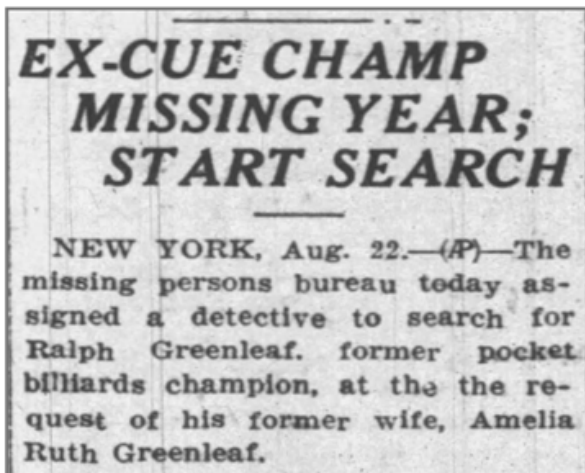
"I'd seen Greenleaf several times in the past and this fellow gave one of the most marvelous exhibitions of billiard skill that I've ever seen," the Mayor declared. "It was the same man, all right, except that he was dirty, tired, haggard, and apparently under the influence of liquor.... I didn't believe him when he first said he was Greenleaf because he was all shot to pieces. After he went to the billiard table, there was no question about his identity."

Ralph was a national embarrassment. The papers mocked his disappearance and arrest for vagrancy. But Ralph did not quit life or dive deeper into addiction. Nor would he allow these dark times to define his life. Somehow, Ralph quickly recovered and, within weeks of his arrest in Oklahoma, was

back in New York City playing in—and winning!—sold-out exhibitions at the city's top pool rooms. The secret turned out to be Ralph's (ex) wife, Amelia. Ralph headed east to rejoin Amelia and make amends. "Concentrate on your game, let me take care of the rest," was Amelia's sage advice to Ralph.

Within weeks of returning to Amelia's care, Ralph was quickly on the path towards a brilliant comeback. By March 1937, Ralph had already returned to his top form and was the favorite for the 1937 World Championship. The 1937 championship tournament was the high-water mark of professional straight pool. It featured the top players of the "old" generation—with Ralph now as the game's elder statesmen—and the "new" generation that would reign over the sport in the future, including Jimmy Caras, Willie Mosconi, and Irving Crane. Ralph dominated the field, defeated Ponzi in the tournament final, and claimed his 14th world championship. It took Ralph two and a half years to fall from his December 1933 championship meltdown to a jail cell in Oklahoma. But it only took Ralph six months to climb out of his jail cell and back into his spot as world champion and face of the sport. Ralph's decline into a drunken vagrant was incredible. But his quick return to the top was even more astounding.

Contrary to popular belief, Ralph did not fall back into vagrancy and debauchery after his last championship victory in 1938. Throughout the 1940s, he traveled the country and played in popular exhibitions almost on a daily basis. During WW2, he helped the war effort by volunteering for factory work in Detroit. In 1945, Ralph and Mosconi competed for another world championship in what would be Ralph's last great tournament performance. After three days, Ralph held the lead with play that Mosconi called a "master-





piece of strategy and daring.” Ralph ultimately lost the match, but he proved to the public that he could still compete with the best.

In March 1950, Ralph and Mosconi were scheduled for another high-profile exhibition. But Ralph suffered an

internal hemorrhage, certainly caused by decades of alcoholism, and died on March 15th. Mosconi provided a fitting eulogy for Ralph in his last autobiography:

“Greenleaf was largely responsible for putting the game in a national spotlight. He was more than just a great player or a personality; he was, all by himself, an institution. He attracted the attention of crowds in the same way that Babe Ruth did, simply by the force of his nature. He was colorful, he was spectacular, he was theatrical in the way that all great actors are; he basked in the light cast by an appreciative audience.” – *Willie’s Game* (1993).

Once Ralph stepped out of the spotlight, pool began a quick decline into obscurity. Mosconi, at least equal to Ralph when it came to winning straight pool tournaments, could not sustain the popular imagination the way Ralph had decades earlier. In 1956, Brunswick stopped holding its annual world championship tournament and Mosconi retired the following year. Thankfully for the readers of this magazine, a new crop of players would soon arrive and resuscitate the sport in the 1960s.

Sam Korte

Sam's book, Greenleaf: Pool's Greatest Champion, is now available through Amazon.



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Tourney Results

Jan 02 - Jan 03

**Sunshine State Pro Am Tour 2020
Invitational Event**

Park Avenue Billiards

Orange Park, FL

- 1 Joselito Martinez \$2,000
- 2 David Grossman \$1,300
- 3 Tommy Kennedy \$830
- 4 Anthony Meglino \$535
- 5 Donny Mills \$355
- 5 Michael Delawder \$355

Jan 03 - Jan 03

Sunshine State Pro Am Tour 2021

Park Avenue Billiards

Orange Park, FL

- 1 Nick Osborne \$700
- 2 Dominick Dunn \$430
- 3 Jimmy Antonietta \$300
- 4 Wayne Kelly \$180
- 5 Brandon Hoffman \$95
- 5 Brian Luke \$95
- 7 Matt Cain \$60
- 7 Tommy Pawly \$60

Jan 09 - Jan 09

**NBL Stage 1 Amateur Only
Regional Qualifier California**

The Rack Billiards

Fresno, California

- 1 Spencer Ladin \$0

- 2 Alfonso Moreno \$560
- 3 Daniel Campos \$320
- 4 Curtis Partch \$150
- 5 Rodney Wynn \$85
- 5 Todd Speakman \$85

Jan 09 - Jan 09

**NBL Stage 1 Amateur Only Re-
gional Qualifier Texas**

Big Tyme Billiards

Spring, Texas

- 1 Ernesto Bayaua \$430
- 2 Blaine Barcus \$300
- 3 Tommy Tokoph \$220
- 4 Carl Honey \$150



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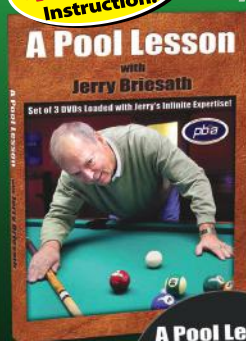
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Jan 09 - Jan 09

NBL Stage 1 Amateur Only Regional Qualifier New Jersey

Sandcastle Billiards

Edison, NJ

- 1 Levie A. Lampaan \$800
- 2 Jerry Dunne \$600
- 3 Richard Ng \$400
- 4 Sean Emmitt \$300
- 5 Jason Crowe \$200
- 5 Paul Spaanstra \$200
- 7 Brian Grube Jr. \$150
- 7 Jose Estevez \$150

Jan 09 - Jan 10

Q City 9-Ball Tour 2020 Tour Championships

Break and Run Billiards

Chesnee, South Carolina

- 1 Derek Formby \$1,500
- 2 Benny Walters \$1,000

- 3 Dustin Coe \$700
- 4 Greg Dix \$450
- 5 BJ Ussery \$275
- 5 Hunter White \$275
- 7 Gary South \$200
- 7 Johnny Walker \$200
- 9 Jimmy Bird \$125
- 9 Jonathan Ailstock \$125
- 9 Kevin Ping \$125
- 9 Kirk Hixon \$125
- 13 BJ Hucks \$50
- 13 Calvin Todd \$50
- 13 Keith Yates \$50
- 13 Mackie Lowery \$50

Jan 13 - Jan 15

Justin Hall vs Corey Deuel Race to 24

Livingston's Billiards

Bradenton, FL

- 1 Justin Hall \$0

Jan 15 - Jan 17

Fedor Gorst vs Jeffrey De Luna 10-Ball Challenge

Snookered Billiards

Frisco, TX

- 1 Fedor Gorst \$40,000

Jan 17 - Jan 17

Shane Winters vs Shannon Murphy Challenge

Racktime Billiards

Toledo, OH

- 1 Shane Winters \$12,000

Jan 23 - Jan 24

2021 DFW 9-Ball Tour Stop 1

Rusty's Billiards

Arlington, TX

- 1 Jalal Al Saresi \$1,030

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- 2 Jesus Atencio \$650
- 3 James Davee \$490
- 4 Eric Smith \$410
- 5 Donnie Gregory \$290
- 5 TJ Davis \$290
- 7 Chris Gaither \$175
- 7 Valon Gashi \$175
- 9 Curtis Cardwell \$100
- 9 Greg Sandifer \$100
- 9 Jay Ryda \$100
- 9 Justin Espinosa \$100
- 13 Fahad Alrawi \$80
- 13 Jesse Hernandez \$80
- 13 Jim Ryan \$80
- 13 Robbie Cleland \$80
- 17 Arthur Salazar \$70
- 17 Blake Kamiab \$70
- 17 Dennis Hall \$70
- 17 Doug Winnett \$70
- 17 Jesus Sorto \$70

- 17 Jordan Gartenberg \$70
- 17 Robin Barbour \$70
- 17 Tony Top \$70

Jan 24 - Jan 24

US 1 Billiards 700 & Under Amateur Event

US 1 Billiards & Bar

West Haven, CT

- 1 Rob Piersa \$1,300
- 2 Jorge Vivanco \$700
- 3 Ryan Lineham \$450
- 4 Lukas Fracasso-Verner \$300
- 5 Kerry McAuliffe \$125
- 5 Thomas Rice \$125
- 7 Eric Tang \$100
- 7 Henry Cha \$100

Jan 27 - Jan 31

Michael Montgomery Memorial One Pocket Division

Snookered Billiards

Frisco, TX

- 1 Dennis Orcollo \$7,380
- 2 Corey Deuel \$4,920
- 3 Tony Chohan \$2,460
- 4 Billy Thorpe \$1,640

Jan 27 - Jan 31

Michael Montgomery Memorial 10-Ball Mini

Snookered Billiards

Frisco, TX

- 1 Dennis Orcollo \$7,040
- 2 Shane Van Boening \$5,280
- 3 Jeffrey De Luna \$3,520
- 4 Jalal Al Saresi \$1,780

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Feb 20-21, 2021



Oscar Dominguez

vs.

Johnny Archer



10 ball

Wood rack - Winner breaks - Race 25 - Best 2 out of 3 sets - set 3 if needed on the 21st
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★ ★ FEBRUARY 19-21ST, 2021 ★ ★

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\$4000 ADDED

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\$200 ENTRY-WINNER BREAKS
9 ON THE SPOT 3 POINT RULE
9FT GOLD CROWN TABLES
32 PLAYER LIMIT

OPEN 9 BALL

\$500 ADDED

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SPLIT QUARTERS
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DOUBLE ELIMINATION
\$25 ENTRY-ROTATE BREAKS
7FT DIAMOND TABLES
48 PLAYER LIMIT



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