



Billiards Club News Letter

December 2018 Issue



Per Jim Janssens suggestion, I have inserted the Club Logo into the News Letter. I hope everyone thinks this is a “Cool” addition.

During the last month of November, the Club initiated several sanctioned events for members to participate in. New events include Wednesday PM Players League and Friday AM 9 Ball League. These additional Leagues provide more opportunities for our increasing club membership to become involved in various club activities.

On November 13th, the Club held its annual Membership meeting. Our Club President, Rob Pulvino, presided over the meeting. He reviewed subjects that had been covered at the last Club Board Meeting. There are still two empty picture frame spaces that are empty in the Club Room. He talked about these areas that need to have professional art work to fill them.

Paul Roy, of the election committee, requested that any club members who wanted to be either a club officer or director should submit their name. Remember, elections for these positions will be held at the Pool Room Entrance on Tuesday, December 11th during the hours of 9:00 to 11:00 AM. Remember, as a Billiards Club Member, it is your obligation to vote. So, please do so.

Rob also stressed the importance of our lady club members and how important their participation in the club is. Going along with that, **Jerry Briesath will have a Ladies only clinic on Saturday, December 8th at 9-12pm.** In addition, to help achieve Rob’s goal, I had Helen Dunlap submit the following:

Ladies, do you know there is a **Women’s Travel League**? It has been in existence for about 20 years. We play WITH the Sun City West ladies. We play all year long on Wednesday mornings alternating between the two venues. We ask that you be there by 8:50 so that the tables can be set up. We play 8 games that last until around noon.

This is a handicap league and is open to players of **ALL** abilities. Even beginners can enjoy the fun and comradery of the league. The ladies will gladly share pointers, if you ask them for help. It is a **NO COMMITMENT** league. Although we would like you to play with us every week, we know that life sometimes gets in the way. You do not need to get a sub, we play with those who show up. Participants pay \$1.00 a week to play. The pot is divided up between both the scratch (with no handicap) winners and the handicap winners so **ALL** players have a chance of winning.

If you would like to join us, we will be playing at West on Dec. 5th, Grand on Dec. 12th, West on Dec. 19th, and Grand on Dec. 26th. If you would like more information, please contact **Helen Dunlap- 623-399-3924.**

And, don’t forget, it is **Women only on Saturday Mornings.** It is just fun play and/or instructional help. Whatever you would like!!

Hot Items

Jerry Briesath will hold three Clinics to be held sometime in December. There will be two intermediate player and one novice player clinic. Each clinic will be limited to 16 people each. Unfortunately, there will be **NO advanced class** this year. People that sign-up will **only** be allowed to attend 1 class. If more than 16 sign up for the novice class, the lowest ranking 16 will be chosen.

Please keep reviewing the Bulletin Board for the date and time the clinics will be held. Sign-up sheets are now posted. You will need to sign the sign-up sheet in order to attend this clinic.

There will be a **Welcome to New members and Welcome Back for Snow Birds Pot Luck** that will be held on January 6th at 6-10 PM. Keep an eye out for details regarding this upcoming event.

League News

A quick note, all the Leagues are in **Short Supply of Subs**. If you have any spare time, please consider being a substitute for one of the Leagues. The League Directors will appreciate it.

Novice

After the third week of play, the Sharks are the top team with a 80.7% winning percentage. The Top Player spot is shared by three players, Sandy Ptacek, David Hoven and David Huelster with each having a 83.3% winning percentage.

Players

This is the first year that the Players League has had both Tuesday Night and Wednesday PM sessions. There will be a second season of the Wednesday session this winter season. Sign-up sheets will be posted in December.

On Tuesday Night, the Pool Q's currently hold First Place. Brian Pin is the Top Player with a 75% winning percentage.

For the Wednesday Afternoon session, the Lazy 8's is in first place. Gil Whitney and Rich Dibenedetto share the Top Shooting spot with a 71.9% winning percentage.

Grand Masters (Advanced)

As the season progresses, the league is closer to parity. Over half of the teams are only 5 games behind after three league nights and 144 games played.

Stick it to em is in First Place with a 56% winning percentage. Jim Janssens and Jerry Bullins shared First Place for individual players with a 75% winning percentage.

9 Ball

This is the inaugural season for this league. A new handicap system provided by Rob Pulvino is working great. All players are winning games and some players who are new to billiards are doing quite well. There will be a second season this winter. Sign-up sheets will go up in December.

Rule of the Month

For several past issues of the News Letter, I presented a **Shot of the Month**. For a few of the upcoming issues, I thought we could have a **Rule of the Month**. So here goes the First Rule topic.

Scratching

There are several different ways of scratching. But always remember, when one scratches, the opponent always gets **Ball in Hand**. What does **Ball in Hand** mean? It means that your opponent can place the cue ball anywhere on the table before he or she shoots.

The most obvious scratch is when your cue ball goes into a pocket. That is the most common form of a scratch. There are however, several other situations that will result in a scratch. Let's review them as they pertain to the game of 8 Ball.

- Not striking your own ball first
- Striking the 8 Ball out of order
- When in shooting position, accidentally touching the cue ball with the end of the cue tip before shooting
- Double hitting the object ball
- Hitting the Cue Ball off the table when breaking
- No ball hitting the rail after the object ball is struck

After reviewing all the situations relating to scratching, always consider carefully the shot you are about to take. If as the shooter, when in doubt, always ask. You always want to minimize the chance that you will scratch and give your opponent Ball in Hand.

It is also good etiquette to point out that you have scratched even if your opponent didn't see it. **Good Sportsmanship** always results in a great game of pool.