

Billiards Club News Letter

April 2019



March again was a very exiting month for the Billiards Club. A number of Club Sponsored activities took place that provided several options for Club members to participate in and enjoy.

On March 11th, the Club hosted the Annual Club luncheon at the SCG Pavilion. Even though the day was a bit gloomy, the Club action inside the Pavilion was far from it. Under the expert direction of John Campbell, Jay Delich, and Paul Ertman and with the assistance of approximately 14 others, the luncheon came off beautifully. The luncheon attracted a record 113 Club members and guests. 121 members signed up. Several raffles were conducted and many club members won prizes including yours truly. The ultimate raffle, the J Pechauer 19-ounce Pool Cue Raffle, was won by Ken Vidak. Congratulations Ken. We are all now asking the question, will Ken's game improve with his new cue? All in all, a great time was had by all that attended.

The month of March was the culminating month for the 2019 Club Championships. The Club decided to name this competition "**CHAMPIONSHIP FRIDAY**" as this is one of the Premier Club events of the year. Championship Friday included the Masters, Players, and Novice Finals. At this year's finals event, a standing room crowd attended to watch the championship play.

The **Ladies Championship** had already concluded in February with Jan Clark winning this competition. She defeated Sandy Ptacek for the Title. Being in the loser bracket, Sandy needed to win two matches. Sandy won the first match 2-1. But Jan won the second match 2-0 to clinch the title. Congratulations to Jan Clark for being this year's Ladies Champion.

The results of the remaining March 15th competitions are as follows:

Grand Masters Championship Match:

The initial Grand Masters Championship competition took place on March 1st. There were 11 members that participated this year versus 8 that were in last years event. Vince Ericson led the winner's bracket with 15 wins and only 3 losses. John Fenwick defeated Randy Biko in the Losers bracket. Randy Biko came in third. Thus, Vince Erickson played John Fenwick for the title. With John winning the loser bracket, he had to win two matches. However, Vince was victorious beating John in the first match 5 to 4.

Players Championship Match:

Undefeated Dale Halder competed against Doug Weis. Being in the loser bracket, Doug needed to win two matches in order to win. Doug won the first match 3 to 1. Dale won the second match 3 to 0 to clinch the title.

Novice Champion Match:

Undefeated Duane Hoven played against Scott Kovac. Again, being in the loser bracket. Scott needed to win two matches to win. Scott won the first match 3 to 0. Then Scott went on to win the second match 3 to 1 to secure the title. Great job Scott!

Congratulations to all the Club Championship winners. On the following Friday, at the Pot Luck lunch, the Club recognized and honored the Club Championship winners. 2019 was a great year for our Billiard Club Championships because we have great members who support our club.

Special thanks to Doug Asleson for planning, hosting, and overseeing this premier Club event.

And the top **March Club Premier Events** continue on. On March 22nd, the annual **Briesath Cup** took place. This is our other Club Premier event where Club teams from Canada vs USA takes place. The Club also sponsored a Pot Luck before the Cup event during which the Club Championship winners were introduced.

The competing teams consisted of the following Club Member players:

Canada		Randy Biko, Richard Wear, Lloyd Newlands, Brian Pin, and Tim Ell
USA		John Fenwick, Bobby Brown, Rob Pulvino, Linda Asleson, and Jim Janssens

The USA team started out with an early lead. After seven matches, Team USA lead Team Canada by 6 to 1. But then the Canadian Team began inching back and after 22 matches, the teams were tied 11 to 11. What a great comeback. However, then John Fenwick of Team USA won the 8 Ball singles 23rd game. That left the 24th 8 Ball Doubles match between Randy/Richard and Rob/Linda. Rob finally prevailed by sinking the 8 ball and securing Team USA the Briesath Cup Title. Congratulations Team USA.

March 22nd was a great day at our Seasons finale. The Club's Board wants to thank all of you for your help and support that made this day a great success.

Person of Interest Story

I wanted to write a story concerning one of the Clubs most talented and interesting members, John Fenwick. Our native Alaskan wonder, John provides a unique perspective to the game of pool and is thus a true asset to our club. I had John send me information about himself and he responded with the following:

STICK TOGETHER (a story from a bus stop in Anchorage 1965)

I was introduced to her 54 years ago and we have been together ever since. It was a warm summer day, the Vogues (five o'clock world) was playing on the jukebox. A wizened elderly black man, Leroy, was patiently waiting beside his shoeshine chair for a customer. Outside was the sound and smell of the city buses as they came and went every 30 minutes. It was then I looked across the room and there she was! By the end of that day I knew she would be with me for the rest of my life! Over these many years she has brought me great pleasure and absolute agony, but I can't imagine ever giving her up. After more than half a century she is still a mystery and a joy to watch and listen to! In fact, my friend and I are playing with her right now. "It's your break Richard", "RACK-EM". As related by John Fenwick 2019.

I responded by stating what a great story. But as with any great puzzle, there are some missing pieces. Like: What were the two of you (assuming she was his wife) doing at the bus stop in the first place?

John then replied:

The story is about my introduction to pool 54 years ago at a bus stop with two 7-foot valley bar box tables. The "she" in the story is the game of pool. It is a story about my love of the game and how it has been with me my entire adult life. Hope this clarifies the story. John

I always knew John was very clever regarding pool, but I didn't realize John was also a verbal master and very clever with words. Thanks, John for sharing that wonderful story with us.

League News

March is an exciting month for Billiard Club League activity because all of the Leagues with the exception of 9 Ball play their final games during the month of March.

Novice

The Novice League concluded on March 21st. After the final matches had ended, only 3 scoring points separated the top 4 teams. The Pick Pockets finished the season in First Place with 45.5 scoring points. Second Place was claimed by the Fireballs with 44 scoring points. At 43 scoring points, Third Place was attained by the Scratchers. Fourth Place was held by Felson's Four with 42.5 scoring points. Tom Paiser was the top individual player with a 70.9% winning percentage.

Players – Tuesday

March 26th ended the Tuesday Players League. The top four teams were only separated by 3.5 scoring points. Even though the Pool Cues outshot the Bank Shots 4 to 2 and the Side Pockets topped the Magicians 5 to 1, both the Pool Cues and Side Pockets shared First Place with 64 scoring points. To break the tie, First Place was determined by the total wins during the season, 192 for the Pool Cues vs 189 for the Side Pockets. Third Place went to the Bank Shots which were 0.5 scoring points out from first place. The Vipers took Fourth Place with 3 scoring points behind the third-place Bank Shots. Brian Pin was the top individual player with a 70.2% winning percentage.

Players – Wednesday Part 2

The Players Part 2 ended their season on March 27th. Even though Cue Ball Magic topped Royal Flush 3 to 2 with 1 tie, Royal Flush came in first over Cue Ball Magic by 0.5 scoring points. What a competitive finish that was. Team Bankers came in third, 5 scoring points behind the second-place team. Top individual player was Chuck Ramsey with a 70.0% winning percentage.

Grand Masters

The Grand Masters ended their season on March 18th. On that night, Pocket Aces edged Blue Jays 25 to 23 to clinch the top spot. Pool Bankers came in third. The Pocket Aces achieved this winning goal with a 54.7 % team winning percentage. Randy Biko remained the top individual player with a 73.3% winning percentage. Randy also had an unprecedented 10 Table Runs during the season. Congratulations Randy.

9 Ball – Part 2

The 9 Ball Part 2 season continues to run and will culminate in April . 9 Ball Magicians are leading the pack over 9'ers by a razor thin 1.5% winning percentage. Bill Parker is the top individual player with a 79.2% winning percentage.