

Billiards Club News Letter

April 2020

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My mother used to say that the older you get; the faster time goes by. By the time you read this edition of the News Letter, most of the 2019 – 2020 season will have gone by. The Club Championships, Club Luncheon, and the Briesath Cup will have passed. Well, that was supposed to be the start of the April edition of the News Letter. **Then came the Sun City Grand Board announcement of March 13th stating that all the community's buildings would be closed until May 1st due to the Coronavirus epidemic.** After that sad announcement, the Pool Room operation came to a screeching halt. Unfortunately, the club then had the unpleasant task of cancelling our club creme de la creme Briesath Club Challenge event. Our members really look forward to watching this premier annual club occasion. Such a shame. **We shouldn't be crying over spilt milk, so let's review the wonderful things that did happen during the past month.**



First, let's discuss the Club Championships. After several hard-fought contests, the following club members won the championships in the various competitive categories. They are our Club 2020 Champions. Congratulations go to all four category championship winners.

The **Ladies Championship had already concluded in February with Sandy Ptacek winning this competition.** Laurie Richmond took second place. **Congratulations Ladies 2020 Champion Sandy Ptacek!**

The top two players in the Novice, Players, and Masters Divisions played for their respective championships on Championship Saturday, March 7th at 1 PM. The results of the March 7th Championship Saturday competitions are as follows:

Novice Championship Match

In the finals match, Laurie Richmond, who needed 2 wins from the loser bracket, won the first match. But then undefeated Walt Wojcik won the second match. Since Walt only needed to win one match to take the championship, Walt took the title. **Congratulations Walt for being the 2020 Novice Champion!**

Players Championship Match

The players division had some of the best intermediate players in our Billiards Club compete in a double elimination tournament. Each match was a race to three wins. We completed all the matches in a timely manner and the two advancing to the finals were Bill Parker (undefeated) and Paul Ertman (one loss). In the final, Bill and Paul took turns winning games and Paul won the first match 3-2. The second match was the same and went to one deciding game which Paul won. It was a very close and exciting match played before a packed billiard room. **Congratulations go to Paul Ertman, 2020 Players Champion!** Welcome to the Masters Paul.

Masters Championship Match

We had 10 of the best billiard players in the Pool Club compete in a double elimination tournament. Each match was a race to 5 wins. At the end of the day, the two players left were Rich Wear (undefeated) and Randy Biko (one Loss). Randy had to defeat Rich twice. Before a standing room only crowd, Rich defeated Randy in a close match in the first set. **Congratulations Rich Wear, 2020 Masters Champion!**

Congratulations to all the Club Championship winners. These winners were to be recognized and honored at the Pot Luck lunch preceding the Briesath Cup Challenge. Well, so much for that. However, 2020 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 annual premier Club event.

On Monday March 9th, the annual Club Luncheon was held in the Agua Fria Room in the Cimarron Building. 117 club members and guests attended. Babbo's Italian Eatery catered and they provided a great meal. Vince Erickson's wife Patty created one of her wonderful custom crafted cakes which were enjoyed by all the luncheon attendees. For the first time, the Club decided to shake up the raffle process by raffling off three \$100 bills. **The lucky winners were, Geoff Iverson, Gayle Anderson, and Ted Kuhn.** In addition, several \$10 bills and many pool supply items were raffled off. A great time was held by all.

This portion of the News Letter was to be devoted to the tribute to Jerry Briesath and the Canadians vs. the Americans Briesath Cup Challenge. What did happen on March 1st, was the first tournament of its type held to provide an opportunity for club members to qualify to be members of the Briesath teams. At the end of a very competitive tournament, the winners were: **USA - Rob Pulvino Canada - Brian Pin**

At that point, final team member selections had been finalized. The Briesath team rosters were then composed of:

Canada: Rich Wear - Captain, Randy Biko, Brian Pin, Tim Ell, and Don Gilbert

USA: John Fenwick – Captain, Randy Salzwedel, Rob Pulvino, Linda Asleson, and Vince Erickson

Unfortunately, that's as far as the team preparations went. Then the Coronavirus calamity set in. This medical issue caused a cancellation that nobody wanted. Let's hope that this virus gets conquered quickly so that next year will bring a better outcome. You are probably wondering why I provided this much detail regarding the Briesath Cup rosters. Detailing the new team roster selection process to me was very important to share. **Since some club members were NOT pleased with the old team roster selection process, the club decided a new more club member involved system needed to be established and that story needed to be told.**



A **HOT ITEM** from my selfish perspective concerns the Pool Room and if it remains closed until May 1st. If that is the case, then there will be nothing news worthy to write about at the end of April. **Assuming that is the case, this April edition of the News Letter will be the last one of the 2019 - 2020 season.** If by some miracle the Pool Room does become available earlier than May 1st, I will delve back into my creative juices and generate a May edition. League Directors have requested a last edition before summer to announce summer billiards leagues and tournaments. Sooo, keep our fingers crossed.

November '19 – April '20 League News

All the Leagues have unfortunately been negatively affected by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) SCG building and activity cancellations. **This resulted in all SCG community buildings as of Friday, March 13th through May 1st being closed. Thus, final league team positions, with the exception of the Travel League, were determined as of March 13th.** Those final standings are as follows:

Travel

The director of the Travel League has decided the current season is NOT over. He feels that league play can resume either this summer or later this year. So far this season, our Travel League team has competed in 8 matches over 8 weeks and has won every one of them. **An 8 win and 0 loss record. What an accomplishment!** Even if our team losses all the remaining matches, the team will still be the season champs. All of the Travel Team members had over a 50% winning percentage. Thus, our Travel Team is one that our Billiards Club can be truly proud of. **Congratulations to the Travel Team for your exceptional play!**

Masters

Optimistic continued their dominance of this league right to the end by clinching the first place title by 4 games over second place We the North. Randy Biko, by his commanding play, remained the top individual player with a 66.1% winning percentage.

Players – Tuesday

The Pool Q's were dethroned by the Crazy 8's to win the title by one match. However, the Pool Q's came in second. Bud Anderson ended the season by still being the top individual player with a 76.3% winning percentage.

Players - Wednesday

Long Shots overcame the congested pack to achieve first place by one match. At the end of week 7, Packet Stars and Fire Sticks tied for second place. Bill Martin continued his shooting prowess by remaining the top individual player with a 76.0% winning percentage.

Novice

Sharp Shooters after week 6 claimed the first place title by 3 matches. Cue tips came in second. Steve Fransen was the top individual player with a 72.0% winning percentage.

9 Ball

After week 6, the Niners took first place honors by one match. Making 9's came in second place. Rich Dibenedetto dominated 9 Ball play by being the top individual player with an 80.0% winning percentage.



Since the club is unable to engage in any activities for the foreseeable future, there are no pool playing rules to elaborate about.

I would like to say that I care for each and every one of you. **With the Coronavirus getting worse by the day, one rule I would like you to consider, please follow the CDC virus guidelines.** I want to be able to see and play with all of you next season.

Assuming the SCG buildings stay closed for the foreseeable future, have a good, productive, and especially safe summer!