

Billiards Club Newsletter

April 2023

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March is probably the busiest and most exciting time of the season for our club members. The month heralds the Annual Club Luncheon, Club Championships, and finally the Briesath Cup. Hopefully you were able to participate and or watch this exciting array of events that the Club has provided its members this past month.



For those of you that follow the Challenge Board, the only change on the Players Board is that Bruce Rebout has been dethroned and has been replaced by Tim Fitzpatrick. Here are the latest standings.

Masters Board: Steve Crnecki is in the top position.

Players Board: Tim Fitzpatrick is now in the top position.

Ladies Board: Annie Lowe is the top leader.

Novice Board: Randy VanWagner is on the top spot.

Moving on to the 2023 Club Championships. The following provides the top two players in each category.

2023 Masters Tournament

It was a great tournament for this year's Masters players. Eleven players competed in the event and it was very competitive. **After a long day of matches, Randy Salzwedel and Randy Biko earned the right to play for the title on Championship Saturday, March 18th. Randy Salzwedel was undefeated so Randy Biko needed to beat him twice in a race to five.** This was a rematch of last year's championship match. Linda Asleson took third place and Steve Crnecki took fourth.

2023 Players Tournament

The Player participants had great day of pool in our Billiard room. The Players Club Championship had many close matches with the 22 players who competed. **Bruce Rebout and Steve Matthews competed on Championship Saturday to determine the Players Champion. Steve needed to defeat Bruce twice as Bruce was undefeated.** Jerry Haas took third place and Kevin Strong ended up in fourth.

2023 Women's Tournament

This year's event had 10 women competing for a chance to be the Club Champion. Most of the matches were very close in this competitive event. Some really nice shots were made by many of the players making it a fun event to watch. **Annie Lowe and Sandy Miller were in the finals match on Championship Saturday.**

Sandy needed to defeat Annie twice as Annie was undefeated entering the final. Third place went to Jan Franzen and fourth place went to Jan Clark.

Thanks to all the players who competed in this year's Club Championship.

Organizing and administrating the Club Championships requires a great deal of work and patience. We all need to thank Doug Asleson and his assistants for doing such a great job. Thank You Doug!!

The Club's annual Spring Luncheon was held on March 13th. This year's turnout was smaller than last years with only about 90 club members and their guests attending. The Club provided three entrees that were prepared and cooked by Jay Delich and members of the Social Committee. They did a great job and the attendees really enjoyed the food. The Gold Rush band provided music entertainment. There were two raffles, one for a pool cue and 2 pool cases and the other, a 50/50. **Randee Anderson won the pool cue. Lisa Vidak and again Randee Anderson won the cue cases. It was certainly Randee's day as she certainly had some unbelievable luck. Steve Crnecki was the 50/50 winner. Congratulations to all the raffle winners.**

Championship Saturday 2023

And now we move to Championship Saturday that took place on March 18th. Remember, the top two players in each of the Masters, Players, and Women's Club Tournaments qualified to compete on Championship Saturday.

March 18th was a day of "Champions" as we celebrated three club champions and a new Briesath Cup champion for 2023. Playing before a full house in our Billiard Room, there was some great billiards play in all three competitive events. Following are the results of this great day.

Masters - Randy Salzwedel vs Randy Biko

The Masters champion is Randy Biko who defended his title from last year defeating Randy Salzwedel in another very close match. Both players made incredible shots throughout the match making it truly a Masters Event. Randy Biko came through in the end to win his second consecutive title. **Congratulations Randy Biko!!**

Players - Bruce Rebout vs Steve Matthews

In the Players division Steve Matthews defeated Bruce Rebout in another close match as it came down to the last game and Steve pulled it out. Congratulations Steve Matthews!!

Women's - Annie Lowe vs Sandy Miller

2023 champion in the Women's division was Annie Lowe who defeated Sandy Miller with every game being very close. Annie had the distinction of being undefeated in the Women's tournament. **Congratulations Annie Lowe!!**

Kudos to all our Billiard Club Champs!

During and after the Championship play, the club held a Pot Luck Lunch. Club members provided several food items and the club provided sandwiches, wraps and chips. At the luncheon, the club recognized and honored the three club champions that competed earlier that morning.

Briesath Team Qualifier March 4th

This year the 2023 Briesath Cup qualifying tournament had twelve participants. It was a very competitive field. **Congratulations to Linda Asleson and Rob Pulvino on winning the two qualifying spots.** They earned the first two spots on the teams to compete on Championship Saturday in the Briesath Cup tournament.

At 1:00 PM on Championship Saturday, the 2023 Briesath Cup commenced.

This year featured a new Cup format with two all-star type teams composed of some of the best players in our club. The hope was to be a more competitive event and boy was it! The two teams were headed by captains Randy Salzwedel (Rack ‘em Up) and Randy Biko (Breaking Bad). They both did an excellent job of managing the challenges of the new format to make it competitive and they succeeded big time.

The 2023 two new format Briesath Cup teams were composed as follows:

Rack ‘em up

Wearing the blue shirts!
Randy Salzwedel, Captain
Richard Wear
Linda Asleson
Dave Bowlin
Doug Asleson
Bruce Rebout
Co-captain, Gil Withey

Breaking Bad

Wearing the orange shirts!
Randy Biko, Captain
Steve Crnecki
Rob Pulvino
Tim Ell
Jim Janssens
Jerry Haas
Co-captain, Rick Haskell

Randy Salzwedel’s Rack ‘em up Blue Team is the 2023 Briesath Cup Championship team. The matches were close and that was the intended goal. The final score was 13-9 with most of the games coming down to the final shot. The format was a combination of singles, doubles and triples playing mostly 8 ball and some 9 ball. As you would expect from this caliber of players, there was great play by both teams. Thank you for the great support from all the fans that attended. We all appreciate the respect you showed to all the players.
Congratulations to all the members of team Rack ‘em up!!

Saturday, March 18th, was a great day at “The Grand” Billiard Room.

John Schmidt (Mr. 626) was in our Billiards Room on March 24th at 1:00PM and provided a great display of pool skills and instruction. Since his specialty is Straight Pool, he gave several demonstrations regarding several straight pool break ball situations. He also showed ways to obtain cue ball position in many different situations. Yours truly had the opportunity to attend John’s session. I was especially impressed with his ability to draw a cue ball the full length of the table. I also couldn’t believe how much spin he could put on the ball. The approximately 40 club members that attended greatly appreciated his instruction and demos.



Unfortunately, with the 2022 -2023 Season drawing to a close, there are NO hot topics in May to discuss. In the upcoming May edition of the Newsletter there will be information regarding Summer 2023 League and club activities.

League News

The reason the Club League play exists is the individuals that are League Operators. The League program is in desperate need for new League Operators to volunteer to fill these valued positions. **Please consider submitting your name to become a League Operator or League Operator Assistant. All interested parties please contact Paul Ertman.**

Remember, the Friday 9 Ball League play ended in February. The remaining March final League results are as follows:

Monday Night Masters 8 Ball

The Breakers came out on top over second place In the Money. The Jay's came in third place. Randy Salzwedel was the top individual player with an 78.0% winning percentage. **Congratulations team The Breakers and Randy Salzwedel!!**

Tuesday Night Players 8 Ball

Rack Lovers took the top spot over second place On Cue IV by 4 scoring points. Vipers rounded out third place 5 scoring points out. Jerry Haas was the top individual player with an 71.4% winning percentage. **Congratulations team Rack Lovers and Jerry Haas!!**

Wednesday Afternoon Players 8 Ball Short League

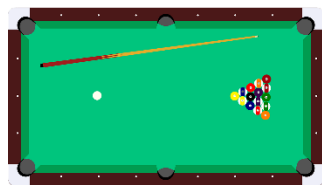
Scorpions ended the Short League season in first place by 5.5 scoring points over second place Balls of Fire. Rack Em took third place 7 scoring points out. There was a three-way tie for top individual player each with a 68.6% winning percentage. The three players were: Ron Lutz, Charlie Fox, and Doug Weis. **Congratulations team Scorpions and top shooters Ron Lutz, Charlie Fox, and Doug Weis.**

Travel League

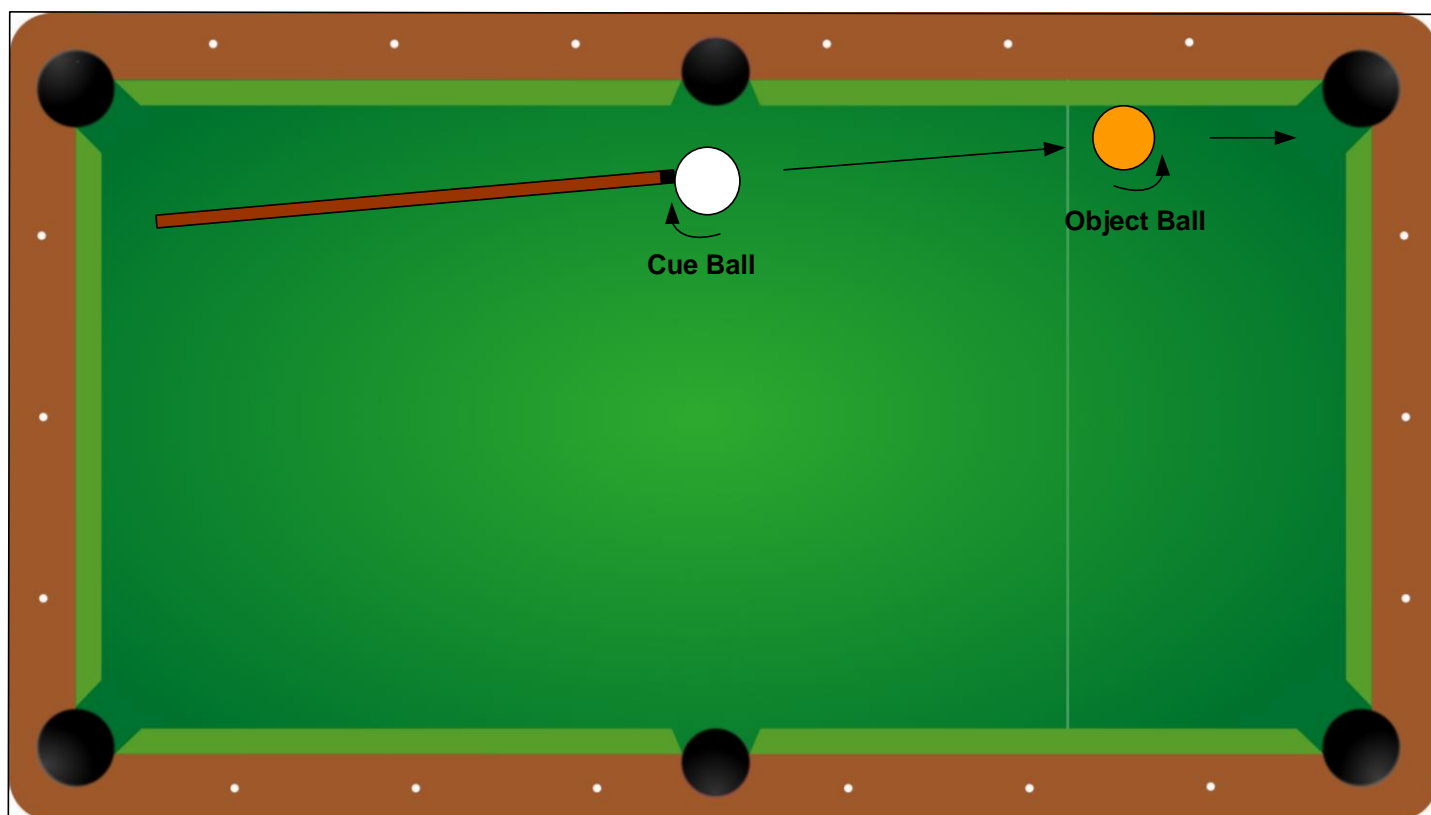
Your Sun City Grand Travel team has completed a three peat! It was anything but a runaway this year as our fellow communities brought their "A" game to challenge us. Since our last newsletter we defeated Sun Village decisively and then had a real challenge with ties against Happy Trails and Sunflower. We had to win the very last game each week just to get a tie! Our final match was against Sun City who we defeated soundly to win our third consecutive title. Our final record was 8 wins, 0 losses and 2 ties. This was a real team effort as all the players had their shining moments. **Congratulations to the North Forty 2023 champions! Our team members, Doug Asleson, Randy Biko, Randy Salzwedel, Linda Asleson, Tim Ell, Richard Wear and Jim Janssens also should be congratulated. In addition, thanks to Steve Crnecki who subbed for us.**

Next year we are going for four in a row!

Shot of the Month



The Rail Shot



You will experience this situation occasionally during a match when the object ball is positioned against the rail. How do you address this situation to easily pocket the object ball?

In the above diagram, strike the cue ball slightly off left center towards the cushion. This puts left hand English on the cue ball. When the cue ball strikes the object ball, the cue ball puts right hand English or spin onto the object ball causing the object ball to hug the cushion as it travels toward the corner pocket.

If the object ball is located on the opposite rail or in the bottom of the diagram, you would do the reverse and strike the cue ball slightly to the right of center.