



Billiards Club Newsletter

April 2024

Created by “Oh Gene” Krajeck



The month of March is probably the largest Club activity time of the 2023 – 2024 season. A number of Club Sponsored activities took place this past that provided several options for Club members to participate in and enjoy.

Before we get into the great March events that took place, I asked a question in last month’s Newsletter if any of you did anything special on February 29th? Remember, there is only one February 29th that takes place every four years. Well, low and behold, one of our Club members responded to me with a rather unique and interesting story concerning his Leap Year experience. In his own words, I share his story.

My younger sister Donna is a “Leapling” which means she was born on February 29th. She looks forward to this special day in her life every fourth year. As a result, myself, my other sister, our spouses, a few cousins, children, etc. try to create a special celebration for Donna and in recent years it has been in the form of travel. This year 8 of us spent five nights at a beach resort in the Dominican Republic. Chances are pretty good on that specific day I was sitting under a palm tree with my butt in the sand and my toes in the ocean while holding an umbrella drink and watching humpback whales breach the waters in the distant horizon. Probably not commiserating why I just scratched after pocketing the eight ball against one of my Billiard buddies. Four years ago, 13 of us spent a week in Kona, Hawaii. Thoughts are already circulating I am sure about some kind of event or excursion in 2028.

It is from my family’s pool of relatives that we gather/travel every four years on Leap Day to celebrate my little sister’s birthday. She just turned 15 Leap Years Old. As you can tell, I am blessed to be a part of a loving family.

You are probably wondering who this club member is that responded to my Leap Year question. Well, it is our very own Jerry Haas. Great story Jerry and I am pleased to share it with everyone. I hope all of you enjoyed it as well.



The Billiards Club has provided a number of events throughout the month of March that provide great enjoyment to our Club members. Unfortunately, there are not many club sanctioned events planned in the upcoming month of May. The Club is looking at having a Scotch Double event in April. This event concept is being reviewed with more details to follow. Look for sign-up sheets that will be posted on the Club Bulletin Board. These sheets will be used to determine if there is interest in this type of event.



Before we cover the great events that happened this past month, a wonderful achievement outside our club took place by one of our Club members. **Our own Linda Asleson took first place at the 19th Annual American Cue Sports, ACS, Arizona 8 Ball State Championships tournament.** ACS is a pool league organization that manages thousands of pool leagues throughout the USA and Canada. This event was held at Bull Shooters pool facility located in Phoenix. **Linda is now a state champ in Arizona to complement her over 10 State titles in Montana. Congratulations Linda.**

At this same tournament, several members of the Billiards Club took 3rd place in the Open Team Event. Club members that participated were Rob Pulvino, Jim Janssens, Linda Asleson, Randy Salzwedel and Doug Asleson. Again, congratulations to all on this winning team.

The first Club March event was “The Grand Billiards Club Luncheon”. It took place on March 3rd in the Sage Ballroom in the Sonoran Plaza. Babbo’s catered the luncheon. All the attendees really enjoyed the food. In addition, there was a Cash Bar for all members and their guests to enjoy.

After everyone had finished eating, Paul Ertman announced the winners of the two raffles. They are as follows:

Roxie Collins won the cue raffle. It was a high quality Pechauer Cue, a (\$380 value).

Ken Vidak won the 50/50 raffle. He won \$255

Congratulations to both Roxie and Ken.

Briesath Cup Qualifier took place on March 7th. The two players with the most wins earn a spot on a Briesath Cup team. Out of a field of 14, the two top players were Steve Crnecki with 21 wins and Jim Janssens with 20 wins. Close behind were Jerry Haas and Tim Ell with 19 wins. Steve and Jim each were then selected to be on a Briesath Cup Team.

The next significant Club Event was the Club Championships. These competitions determine the top two players that compete in the three divisions of the Club Championship finals. The competition results are as follows:

Masters Division March14

This year 14 Master players competed in the Masters Club Championship qualifying round. Randy Salzwedel went through the tournament winning his last match against Richard Wear 5-4. Richard beat Randy Biko to win the loser side of the bracket. Randy Salzwedel then played Richard on Championship Saturday. Richard had to win two matches as Randy had not lost any matches. Rich Wear qualified to be selected on a Briesath Cup team.

Players Division March 15

18 players competed this year in the Players Club Championship qualifiers. Bill Parker went through the tournament winning his last match against Kevin Strong. Kevin defeated Doug Norquist to win the loser side of the bracket. Kevin then played Bill on Championship Saturday. Kevin needed to win two matches as Bill had not lost any matches. Bill and Keven both qualified to be selected on a Briesath Cup team.

Women Division March 16

This year 7 players competed in the Women's Club Championship qualifiers. They competed with a new round robin format this year. Jan Clark was one of the Championship competitors. The other was determined in a playoff between Sandy Miller and Roxie Collins. The winner of the playoff match, Sandy Miller played Jan on Championship Saturday.

The finalists of the three Championship competitions then competed on Championship Saturday which took place on March 23rd. This was the day that the Club Championships, Championship Saturday Luncheon and the Briesath Cup took place.

The first Championship Saturday Event was the Club Championships. A number of Club members came into the Pool Room to watch this exciting event. The Billiard Club Championships results are as follows:

Masters – The playing format was a race to 5 games per match. Randy Salzwedel and Richard Wear competed in this event.

Richard Wear won the first match. Since Rich came from the Losers Bracket, Rich needed to win two games. **Randy Salzwedel came back and defeated Richard 5 – 2 to become Champion of the Masters.**

Players – The playing format was a race to 3 games per match. Bill Parker and Kevin Strong competed in this event.

Kevin Strong won the first match. Since Kevin came from the Losers Bracket, Kevin needed to win two games. **Bill Parker came back and defeated Kevin 2 – 0 to become Champion of the Players.**

Women's – The playing format was a race to 3 games. Jan Clark and Sandy Miller competed in this event.

During the first 4 games, the two women each won two games. The final game was won by Jan Clark to defeat Sandy Miller. **Thus, Jan Clark became the Women's Champion. In case you didn't know, Jan's has won the Women's Title multiple times.**

Congratulations to all the Billiard Club Championships winners.

After the Club Championship play had concluded, lunch was served in the Apache Room that is located across the hall from the Pool Room. The Club provided salad, several varieties of sandwiches, chips, hot dogs, cookies and soft drinks. **At this point, a huge kudo needs to be given to Jay**

Delich. Jay organized the luncheon and made it the success it was. A special “Thank You” also goes to him for securing those wonderful Sam’s Club Hot Dogs. There was initially a debate as to whether to have those hot dogs or not. But with Jay’s persistence and determination, those wonderful hot dogs were on the Club Luncheon’s menu. Thank you, Jay!!

Before we get into the results of the Briesath Cup, I would like to respond to a relatively new Club members question concerning how did the Briesath Cup originate. Probably, there are other newish Club members that might have the same question. Well, I did some research and following are the results.

The Club Board, during the 2016 and ’17 time period, recognized the success of the Las Vegas Mosconi Cup and its being named after one of pool’s greats, Willie Mosconi. The Mosconi Cup challenge is between a team from the United States vs team Europe. The Cup has conducted a tournament in Las Vegas one year and in London the next. There were a number of individuals from our Club who went up to Vegas to see the Mosconi Cup. They were impressed and wondered if our Club could conduct a great tournament of our own.

That Las Vegas visit in combination with the obvious recognition due to our friend and giant in the world of pocket billiards, Jerry Briesath, led to the inception of the Briesath Cup. In case you don’t know, Jerry is ranked amongst the top Billiard Instructors in the WORLD. He was recently inducted into the Billiard Congress of America Hall of Fame (2022). So, what better way to honor Jerry and entertain our members, than to create a Club Tournament titled the “Briesath Cup Challenge”.

There was a lot of discussion, planning, and work that went into the creation and implementation of the initial Briesath Cup. Many individuals made contributions to create the Briesath Cup event. Making this event happen were Rob Pulvino, Paul Ertman, John Fenwick, Bobby Brown, Jim Janssens, and Richard Wear among others that made significant contributions.

The concept of team Canada vs team USA seemed natural at the time because of the quality of the Canadian players in our Club. This concept established a national rivalry between the two countries that added a competitive nature to the event. In addition, incorporating the Club Championship finals of the individual Club Member tournaments further enhanced the festive atmosphere and the creation of a Championship Day. The first annual Briesath Cup Championship that consisted of **Club USA versus Club Canada** was held on a Saturday afternoon in March 2017. Due to the Cup’s success, it has been held in March ever since. More than a fun event, this became the top event on our Billiards Club calendar. Club members filled the room with players and spectators, all dressed in their supportive colors and waving flags to celebrate their nation.

Over the years as the Cup evolved, there became fewer Canadian players that could compete evenly against a US Team as the competition was originally designed. At the suggestion of Randy Biko, a Canadian, a committee was formed to determine how to select players based on skill level as opposed to country of origin. As a result, in 2023 the Cup team members composition was changed. Also, in 2024, newly designed shirts were provided to the team players. With this new format, a new larger plaque, trophy and team picture were placed on the Champions Wall in the Billiard Room. With these changes, a better Briesath Cup format was created.

Over the years, the Briesath Cup has evolved into the Billiards Club’s premier event of the year.

After this review of the Briesath Cups history, you may be wondering which Club member asked the question. Well, that Club member was Mike Garret. Thank you, Mike for coming up with this idea.

And now, on to the Briesath Cup. This year The Briesath Cup selected captains were Randy Biko and Randy Salzwedel. The remaining team members selection process begin on Thursday, March 7th at 10 am with the Briesath Cup qualifying tournament.

The remaining Cup Players were selected from the top two finishers of the Players Club Championship and the Masters Club Championship. The remaining four players were “Captains Picks”. Each Randy got two picks from the previous qualifying events. That totaled two teams of six players each. The team rosters and their team names were as follows:

Rack Em Up

Randy Salzwedel, Captain
Steve Crnecki
Linda Asleson – Paul Ertman
Jim Janssens
Dave Bowlin
Kevin Strong

Breaking Bad

Randy Biko, Captain
Richard Wear
Rob Pulvino
Tim Ell
John Sanders
Bill Parker

Unfortunately, the Asleson family had a family emergency which caused Doug and Linda to travel back to their home state of Montana. Paul Ertman then agreed to replace Linda on the Rack Em Up team.

Team colors: Rack Em Up Navy Blue and Orange
 Breaking Bad Gray and Crimson

Many Club members crowded into the Pool Room to Witness this premier Club event. The two teams played several pool games that included 8 Ball Scotch Triples, 8 Ball Scotch Doubles, 8 Ball Singles, and 9 Ball Singles. The Cup format was a race to 13 points. Each team game won resulted in a point for that team. That meant that the first team to win 13 points won the competition.

After playing 12 rounds of play, the team of Breaking Bad captained by Randy Biko defeated the Team of Rack Em Up 13 to 7. Congratulations to team Breaking Bad.

League News

With the end of March, I always feel a bit sad as the 2023 – 2024 League season draws to a close. I have had great fun participating in league play this season. I hope the club members that chose to participate in league play enjoyed their experience as well. Win or lose, participating provides Club members memorable good times in addition to the competitive play that the leagues provide.

And now, following are the end of the Season League standings. Please note that the winners of the Wednesday and Friday Leagues had the same team name. What are the odds!! Anyway, congratulations to all the league winners.

Monday Night – Jim Janssens, League Operator

Rack Em Up won first place over second place Give Us A Break by 13 games. Caster Raiders came in third 28 games out. Randy Salzwedel was the top individual players with an 78.3% winning percentage.

Tuesday Night – Bruce Lowe, League Operator

Just Poolin Around took first place over second place Straight Shooters by 7 scoring points. Rack Pack and Predators tied for third place 9.5 scouring points out. To break the tie, Rack Pack won with a total ball count of 6 balls over the Predators. Phil Kastens was the top individual player with an 76.4% winning percentage.

Wednesday Afternoon - Charlie Fox, League Operator

Breaking Balls won first place over second place Balls of Fire by 3 scoring points. The Straight Shooters rounds out third place 4.5 scoring points out. Charlie Fox was the top individual player with an 82% winning percentage.

Friday Morning - Mike Garret & Paul Ertman, League Operators

Breaking Balls took first place by 1 scoring point over second place Awe & Chalk. Rack and Roll rounds out third 6.5 scouring points out. Linda Asleson was the top individual player with an 72.9% winning percentage.

Travel League - Doug Asleson, Captain

The Grand Travel team has defended its title to the North 40 Travel League. We ended up with a decisive advantage over the second-place team from Sun City. Our team ended the month of March with victories over the teams from Sun Village, Sunflower and Sun City. The Grand Travel League overall record was 9 victories and one defeat. Thus, the North 40 Travel League Championship plaque remains in our Billiard Room at The Grand.

Team members were Jim Janssens, Randy Biko, Richard Wear, Tim Ell, Randy Salzwedel, Linda Asleson (the only female in the league) and captain Doug Asleson. **Congratulations to the Billiard Club Travel Team on this great achievement.**



Due to the amount of news that is in this issue of the Newsletter, I decided to forgo the Rule or Shot of the Month. There will be one in the May issue.