



Billiards Club Newsletter

March 2024

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Well, the shortest month of the year is over. Wait a minute, this is Leap Year which means February 2024 has 29 days instead of 28. Did any of you do anything unique since there was one extra day?

Most snowbird members have now returned to enjoy the sunny weather of Arizona. The cold weather is behind us. **This is the time of the year that the Club and its members experience the most exciting times of the year.** As you read this month's issue, I think you will agree that the month of March is not one to be missed as a Club Member. **I don't want you sitting on the sidelines being a wall flower this month, get out and enjoy what the Billiards Club has to offer.**



The first Club March event is "The Grand Billiard Club Luncheon". It will take place on March 3rd in the Sage Ballroom located in the Sonoran Plaza. Doors for this event will open at 12:00 and Lunch will be served at 1:00 PM. Babbo's will be catering our luncheon. There will be a Cash Bar for all members to enjoy. As with last year, Club Members are Free. However, there will be a \$20 charge for member guests. This fee can either be paid in advance or at the door the day of the luncheon.

The Club will be conducting two raffles at the Luncheon. They are as follows:

1. A 50/50 split.
2. A high quality Pechauer Cue, a (\$380 value). Each ticket will be \$10 and only 25 will be sold. If we have another 25 people, we will raffle another cue.

Again, please sign up on the sheets located in the Billiard Room. You will have a Great Time.

The next two Club events are the Club Championships and the Briesath Cup that each take place on Championship Saturday, March 23rd. The qualifiers for these events are spread out over several days during the month of March.

The Briesath Cup captains for the two teams have been selected. Randy Biko and Randy Salzwedel will again captain the two teams. The remaining team members selection process will begin on Thursday, March 7th at 10 am with the Briesath Cup qualifying tournament. The sign-up sheet to compete was posted in the Billiard room on Sunday, February 18th. All Billiard Club members are eligible to compete in this event. There is no fee involved. The top two finishers will be on a Briesath Cup team!

Players will also be selected from the top two finishers of the Players Club Championship and the Masters Club Championship. The remaining four players will be "Captains Picks". Each Randy will get two picks. This will total two teams of six players each.

After the Briesath Cup Qualifier, the next significant Club Event are the Club Championship qualifiers. This competition is to select the two players for the finals. The competition dates are as follows:

Masters (double elimination)	Thursday	March 14	9 AM - 5 PM
Players (double elimination)	Friday	March 15	9 AM - 5 PM
Women (round robin)	Saturday	March 16	9 AM - 5 PM

As an incentive to increase women's participation in this year's tournament, the Club has initiated a few minor changes that women members may find appealing. Rather than the "bracket format" that caused a lot of down-time last year, we will instead use a "round robin format" which means each participant plays each other. The number of games played will be determined by how many participants we have that day. Playoff winners for the Women's Championship match will be the two women with the greatest number of wins on 3/16. These two women will then compete on Championship Saturday.

And Finally, the Culmination of the prior qualifier competitions is Championship Saturday which takes place on March 23rd. This is the day that the Club Championships, Championship Saturday Luncheon and the Briesath Cup, our premier Billiard Club event, take place. Event locations and times are as follows:

The Club Championships (Pool Room)	9:00 AM
Championship Saturday Luncheon (Apache Room)	11:30 AM - 1 PM
Briesath Cup Championship (Pool Room)	1 PM

March is the Club's premier month for activities. Please either participate and or attend the for mentioned agenda of events! You won't regret it.



On February 4th, the Club's held its Annual Fun Night/Pot Luck from 4 to 8 PM. This event took place in both the Billiards and the Apache Rooms.

The Fun Night was a chance to show off your club members skills or to see just how lucky they were. The skills competition began at 4PM with an entry fee of \$5/person. The Fun Night had competitive activities on 5 pool tables. 23 Club members participated in this fun event. First place ended up in a tie

between Randy Salzwedel and Linda Asleson. They attained 190 points resulting in a \$25 payout. Congratulations to Randy and Linda!

Immediately after the Skills Competition, the Annual Potluck Dinner was held. This was a time to renew friendships, meet new members and enjoy the company of the many members in the Billiards Club. There was plenty of delicious food to be had. Believe me, nobody left the dinner hungry.

As with last year's dinner, the Club had a 50/50 drawing. This year's 50/50 raffle was won by Jerry Conte. He won \$130. Congratulations Jerry! The evening culminated with a rousing game of Left/Right/Center with 36 people participating.

So, All in All, a great time was had by everyone that attended this February 4th event.

The Billiards Club was well represented at the recent BCA National Championships that was held at the Rio All Suite Hotel and Casino located in Las Vegas, NV. Since this was a national event, several thousand participants from all over the country entered this event. The tournament consisted of several categories for all skill levels of men's, women's and mixed pool events.

Club members that participated in the tournament were Paul Ertman, Geoff Iverson, Linda Asleson, Rob Pulvino, Randy Salzwedel, Steve Crnecki and Jim Janssens.

Our own Randy Salzwedel WON the Senior Platinum Division of this tournament. Randy won first place in the very competitive Seniors Platinum division. This division was comprised of 59 of the top senior players in the country. He was undefeated until the final match where he lost the first match and then won the final match to win this very prestigious event. **Great job Randy! We are all very proud of you. What an achievement!!**

In addition, Rob Pulvino competed in the Senior Gold Division and was able to get deep enough into the competition to qualify to be in the money. Also, several club members traveled to Las Vegas to watch and support club tournament participants.

League News

Before getting into the regular Club League results, I thought I would mention some League activity that I was unaware of. Harriet Ham recently shared with me some insight into the Instructional League which you may or may not be aware of. The Instructional League meets every Thursday afternoon from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. The session starts with 15-30 minutes of drills, followed by 8-Ball and "Ball in Hand" games for the next 90 minutes. Participants include absolute beginners as well as occasional Players League level members. This activity is led by our celebrated Jerry Briesath and also by Clyde Krebs. We have several other great volunteers as well.

Note: There will be no Instructional League play on 3/7 and 3/14 due to qualifier competitions.

As of February 29th, following are the end of the month League standings:

Monday Night – Jim Janssens, League Operator

Rack em Up is leading the pack over second place 8 Ballers by 19 games. Give Us A Break is in third place 20 games out. Randy Salzwedel was the top individual players with an 83.3% winning percentage.

Note: Monday Night League statistics are only good through 2/19/2024. There was a bye on the 26th because too many League members participated in the BCA tournament in Las Vegas.

Tuesday Night – Bruce Lowe, League Operator

Straight Shooters are tied for first place with Just Poolin Around. Predators is in third place 2.5 scoring points out. Phil Kastens is the top individual player with an 80% winning percentage.

Wednesday Afternoon - Charlie Fox, League Operator

Breaking Balls is in first place over second place Balls of Fire by 1 scoring points. The Straight Shooters rounds out third place 2 scoring points out. Charlie Fox is the top individual player with an 85% winning percentage.

Friday Morning - Mike Garret & Paul Ertman, League Operators

Awe and Chalk is in first place by 1 scoring points over second place Breaking Balls. Rack and Roll rounds out third 4 scoring points out. Linda Asleson is the top individual player with an 72.5% winning percentage.

A quick note. On March 15th, we will not have 9 Ball League due to a Club Championship that will be scheduled that day. The following week, March 22nd, will be the final day and that will be “Position Day”.

And remember, all the leagues are always looking for subs. You can sign up to become a sub at any time.

Travel League - Doug Asleson, Captain

The Grand travel team has rebounded from a tough loss in January. Since then we have won the last four matches and regained first place. We defeated the previous first place team, Sun City 30-20. We also beat teams from Sun City West, Sunflower and Sun Village. Upcoming, we have three good teams to play to finish out the season. The team is hoping we continue our current win streak. Our last match was played with four subs as most of our team was in Las Vegas at the BCA World Championships. They played great!! Thank you to super subs John Fenwick, Steve Crnecki, Dave Bowlin and Lew Oliphant.



Shooting at an Object Ball Frozen to the Cushion

In looking back through some past Newsletters, I saw this rule that I thought might be of interest. When coming upon a frozen object ball to the cushion situation, there are some rules that the shooter should be aware of to avoid a foul. Review the following so you know how to address this situation.

When shooting at an Object Ball that is frozen, that is touching a cushion, the following must occur to avoid a foul. It is the opponent's responsibility to notify the shooter that there is an object ball that is frozen to the cushion. The players then need to agree that the object ball is actually touching the cushion. After the two players agree, the player that is up shoots the Cue Ball and it strikes the Object Ball.

The following must then happen:

- 1. The object Ball must either strike another cushion or be pocketed**
- 2. The Cue ball must hit a cushion**

If either of the two above options doesn't occur, the shooter incurs a foul. Then, Ball in Hand goes to your opponent.