

CUESPORT ARTICLES WITH A TWIST

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South Australian Register Sat 22 Jul 1843 Page 3

Mr Thurston, billiard-table-maker to the Queen, has just finished a magnificent billiard-table for the Marquis of Lansdowne, built entirely from the timbers of the *Royal George*, sunk at Spithead.

Adelaide Observer Sat 19 Oct 1844 Page 5

GERMANY.

A letter from Dresden (Saxony), of the 20th May, says:—"A deplorable duel was lately fought at Tharandt, between the Count de Seckendorf and the Baron de Wender, both pupils of the Royal Forest School of that town, and neither scarcely 17 years of age. The weapons were pistols. Baron de Wender had the first fire. The ball entered the temple of his adversary, who instantly fell dead at his place. The young baron fled, but has since been arrested at Freyberg, and will be brought to trial. The original cause of the meeting was a dispute at billiards."

It cured him.—A young wife in Adelaide walked into a billiard hall in which her husband was playing the other night, laid a neatly done up bundle among the pool balls and walked out without a word. The inmates of the room fled, fearing dynamite, but instead of exploding the bundle began to kick and cry. The husband didn't stop to explain to the boys, but gathered up his child and went home. He is thoroughly reformed now, and says he begs to be excused from having anything more to do with billiard bawls.

Referee (Sydney), Wed 9 Jul 1924 Page 14

WEIGHT OF BALLS.

Clubs and rooms putting on Winter tournaments should exercise a little care in the selection, measuring and weighing of the playing material. In one of our most important events last year some of the competitors complained that the balls used were of different size and weight. Such a defect would make good billiards impossible. To overcome the trouble I would recommend the leading clubs to install a pair of sensitive scales made for weighing balls, and test each ball with the other. A standard ball should weigh about 5½ ounces, and as there are 480 grains to an ounce, a ball weighs considerably more than 2500 grains. Each ball should be measured with a pair of calipers and checked against its mates.

10-Second Poser

Playing billiards the other night, my first break was half my second, plus one; my second half my third, plus one; my third half my fourth, plus one; my fourth half my first, plus one. What were my four breaks?

Answer on last page

The Advertiser Sat 11 Oct 1952 Page 21



ROYAL SNOOKER

Dubbo Mechanics Institute NSW, Monthly Meeting

The Dubbo Liberal and Macquarie Advocate Fri 11 Jul 1919 Page 3

In the absence of Mr. A. E. Orbell, who had given notice of motion at the previous meeting of the Committee, Mr. Jelf moved that the game of Royal snooker (old rules) be permitted from 11 a.m. to 6.30 p.m., and from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Mr. Snelling seconded the motion. He said they should cater for the players. The game had become popular, and should be allowed.

Mr. G. W. Bell thought the motion should be held over till next meeting to allow of Mr. Orbell being present.

Mr. Hawke held that the matter should be dealt with at once.

Mr. Jelf said he had watched the games, and he thought the Committee should agree to the motion, or something similar.

Mr. R. Dickson moved as an amendment that the hours be 4.30 till 9, instead of 6.30 till 9 p.m.

This was included in the motion, and it was carried.

Mr. Wheeler said he didn't think the modified game of Royal snooker had been given a fair trial. He said if the old game of Royal snooker, which is to be allowed again, took up so much time, and was worth 1s 6d at night, it was also worth 1s 6d during the day. He moved that all games of the old Royal snooker be charged at 1s 6d.

Seconded by Mr. Bell.

Mr. Snelling was against the extra charge. He said 1s was a fair thing during the day, when the tables were unoccupied.

Mr. Hawke thought that if the game took up the time it was worth the 1s 6d, and it should be paid.

After several other members of the Committee had spoken on the matter, the motion was put and carried, with only one dissentient.

The Dubbo Liberal and Macquarie Advocate Tue 16 Sep 1919 Page 3

"Dubbo" Snooker.

Some months ago the game known as Royal snooker became very popular at the Dubbo Mechanics' Institute.

For the information of those who may be interested we append the rules governing the game:—A player, before being allowed to play at a colored ball, must have first potted a red ball; if he then pockets a colored ball he may pocket any number of colored balls under the usual penalty, and this rule applies to all players until all the red balls have been pocketed. After the red balls have all been pocketed a player must first have pocketed the colored ball of lowest value before playing a ball out of its proper order; after pocketing the ball of lowest value he may then play at any number of balls not in order of their value, but under penalty.

Note.—The "usual penalty" referred to is that the player playing on a colored ball and failing to pocket it, loses its value from his score.

Too Young to Play in Championships

When Margaret Quinn, the English 13-year-old holder of the women's snooker championship, plays in defence of her title early in March she will be fighting for the right to enter the future contests!

If she loses this vital match the Women's Billiards Association will not allow her to enter future contests until she is a few years older. If she wins they will relax their ban and allow her to defend her title until she is defeated.

EMBARRASSES OLDER PLAYERS

"If she loses we cannot allow Margaret to play in subsequent championships owing to her youth," an official of the Women's Billiards Association said. "We think it embarrasses the older women players to be beaten by a youngster, and have decided that in fairness to Margaret we should allow her to defend her title.

"Even if she loses the senior contests, she will still be eligible for the junior contests."

Few players of Margaret Quinn's age have developed such skill with the cue as she has acquired.

She has been acclaimed as a possible rival to Willie Swinhoe, the boy billiards player, whose skill amazed the billiards world.

Margaret was taught to play by her father, who is himself a good player. Now she frequently beats him.

UNLICENSED BILLIARD TABLE

Club Proprietor Fined

Evangelos Anastasas, a young Greek, pleaded guilty through an interpreter, when he was charged before Mr. E. M. Sabine, P.M. in the Adelaide Police Court today, with having kept an unlicensed billiard table for hire at 123 Hindley street, Adelaide, on July 23. He was fined £2 with 15/ costs.

Det.-Sgt. Allchurch (police prosecutor) said that defendant kept a restaurant known as the Greek Club. He had a billiard table and admitted to Plain-clothes Constables Sleep and Thorsen that he charged sixpence for a game of 50 up and a shilling for 100 up.

OLD-TIME BILLIARDISTS

Beginners should thoroughly understand that the whole secret of hitting the cue ball truly, whether imparting "side" to it, striking high up or low down or direct in the centre, lies in the proper, easy, and graceful pose of the body. This becomes even more accentuated when contact with the object ball is about to be made. A well-made and properly-balanced cue of about 15½oz. in weight, is a most important factor in the gentle art of billiards.

More than a quarter of a century back the late Eugene Carter, the American expert, was well in the game as an excellent showman, whose dry little touches of humor never failed to please the crowd. The chief feature of his entertainment appeared to be his hand-stroke displays with a number of ivory balls, which he termed "Carter's Little Liver Pills." He executed some amazing feats with them, his powers and control of them being simply extraordinary.

During an interview with the late John Roberts some years ago, he was asked, seeing that he was then playing solely with bonzoline balls, "Are bonzoline balls better than ivory?" and the great expert replied, "In some respects, yes. They are a cheaper, and safe ball and are not affected by climatic or atmospheric conditions to the same extent as the ivory. They are most popular in London, and, from my experience, so far as this visit is concerned, they appear to be popular in Australia." Yes, they have always been most popular throughout Australia, as, being a well-made, honest, and most reliable running ball.

Who Invented Billiards?

Billiards was first invented, says a facetious old authority, by a pawnbroker. This was stated many years back in the long-since-defunct "World of Billiards." About the middle of the 16th century there was one William Kew, a pawnbroker, who, during wet weather, was in the habit of taking down the three balls swinging over the doorway, and, with a yard measure, pushing them, billiards fashion, from the counter into the

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stalls. In time the idea of a board with side pockets suggested itself. A "Black Letter" MS. says: "Master William Kew did make the boards whereby a game was played with three balls, and all the young men were greatly recreated thereat, chiefly the young Clergymen from St. Paul's, hence one of the strokes was named a 'cannon,' having been by one ye said Clergymen, invented. This game is now known by ye name of Billiard, or Bill. Kew did first playe with his yard measure. The stick is now called a 'Kew' or 'Kue.'" It is easy to comprehend how "Billiard" has been modernised into billiards, and the transformation of "kew" or "kue" into "cue" is equally apparent.

Long Ago General Pool.

In the days when the old Royal was the leading hotel in our city, in 1886, and when general pool was as popular as the game of snooker is to-day, it was a very warm school of players who daily breasted the table in the northern end of the billiards saloon to receive a ball from the basket at a tariff of three shillings a pool and one shilling per "life"—"Dad" Fulford, who played Roberts at Maitland, Tommy Saines, Jimmy Sawyer, "Bagman" Anderson (Malone), Ted Landers, H.

Madsen, Billy Gollop, "Long Tom," Mick Howard, Joe Hanford, and myself. No one was barred in that school, as the late Fred Weiss and Jack Belfield were told when they wanted to play. But they soon turned to us. You could back yourself straight out or take the odds just as at Raudwick, the "books" being lined up on a lounge overlooking the side entrance to the hotel. Alas! the major portion of that school has now gone aloft. Play was interrupted with much mirth at times, and, when a player got going potting balls one after another, it was a picture to watch the various players and how their countenance changed as their ball disappeared into a pocket. Some took it very badly, and I was always on the look-out for trouble when I "stuffed" one of these; on many occasions I would pick up one, two, or three shillings for "lives" taken, and leave another to be called for later. "There's another shilling down below for you," someone would call out, but I'd wait until the former owner was called on to play, when I would at once go round and pick up the coin, knowing that had I previously done so, I should have come in for much abuse from the player whose ball was pocketed. We used to have trouble with the marker, a foreigner, who was too lazy to hold himself up, and had worn the paper off the wall at the marking board

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by continually leaning against it. No time to go out for an evening meal, and so a "round robin" did the trick and a caterer near by would fix us up in that connection. Then we would "box on" until midnight, the laws not then being so stringent as now. I remember one player who was losing badly. His luck was dead out, and, with his arms folded around his cue, he was watching Tommy Staines at work clearing the board of "last lives," this player being one of them. To pay, he unfolded his arms, only to find that his cue had vanished, was clean gone as if by act of the Davenport Brothers. Of course, everyone laughed except the player, who, seeing that no one was near him, exclaimed, "Well, that's the limit. I am losing my money, but I see it going, now I lose my cue; but I don't see it going." However, after many suggestions as to "spooks" getting it, etc., I discovered, just where he stood, a nice round hole in the floor through which the cue had possibly slipped. The "buttons" was sent down to the cellar and returned with the mystery cue and many cobwebs, after which play was resumed in quietude for some time. Yes, those were the days, and the pity is that such a highly interesting and skilful game as general pool has been allowed to practically die out.

NEW, ODD, INTERESTING

It is a mistake to suppose that the tip of the tongue is the most sensitive part of the body. Those engaged in polishing billiard balls, or other substances that require a very high degree of smoothness, invariably use the cheek bone as a means of detecting any roughness.

Saturday Journal Sat 14 May 1927 Page 6

IVORY BILLIARD BALLS.

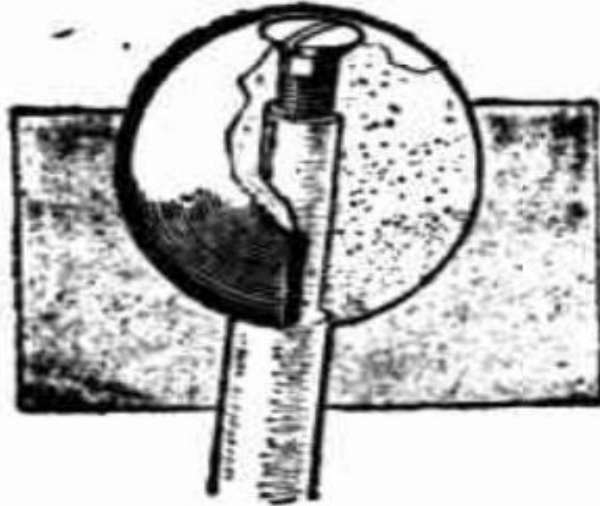
Do you know the average number of billiard balls obtained from an elephant's tusk? The tusk is hollow for a considerable length and, as billiard balls must be solid and flawless, only about five can be obtained from each one.

The suitable part of the tusk is cut up into blocks and these are hung up in nets for about 18 months so that the moisture they contain may escape.

When the blocks have been dried they are trimmed and turned by machinery in cups, and when completed are spherical to within an infinitesimal part of an inch. Vegetable dyes are used to colour them. Not many people are engaged in the industry.

Novel Gear-lever Knob

In the event of an ordinary gear box knob becoming lost or broken a handsome



replacement can be made from an old billiards or snooker ball. Old composition balls can be obtained quite cheaply in secondhand furniture shops, and they are not difficult to drill provided that a lathe or good drilling machine is available.

In any case, a garage having a machine shop would drill the necessary hole for a shilling or so.

Referee (Sydney) Wed 28 Mar 1900 Page 10

The "Billiard Review" describes a patent that has been taken out for fixing tips to billiard cues. The new idea is that instead of glueing, a mechanical method is employed. The tip is secured by hooked branches of a screw and nut, which have a mushroom head embedded in the tip with an eye, which, entering the base of the tip, is screwed directly upon the cue.

NOTHING LIKE IT.

Two youths went to see a billiards match in which two celebrated professionals were playing.

Silently they watched one of the two pile up a tremendous score in his masterly fashion, and then one of the youths turned to his companion.

"Is this billiards, Joe?" he asked.

The other nodded assent, and his friend lapsed into silence. Presently he whispered once again.

"Here, Joe," he said, "then what's that game we play at our club?"

Chronicle Thu 31 May 1934 Page 66

Billiards Stories

I SPENT a very pleasant hour at the Commercial Travellers' Club the other day when Mr. Alec Berry (acting president) invited me down to lunch with Fred Lindrum, who has been Australian professional billiards champion for 26 years, and will play here and in the country. Fred is no stranger to Adelaide. His grandfather, also Fred Lindrum, had a billiards saloon at the back of White's rooms (now the Majestic Theatre) between 60 and 70 years ago. Before telling several good stories, Fred said that Walter Lindrum had practically arranged with McCannachie to play for the championship of the world at Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide—for the first time in the history of the game. Here is a good one Fred handed out:—"One day," he said, "I strolled into a billiards saloon in Sydney, and casually glanced at a chap playing a game. He seemed to be scoring remarkably well for 10 minutes, and I became quite interested in his play. I said, 'By the way, old chap, how many have you made so

far?' 'Don't ask me,' he replied, 'I only know that I am on my second cake of chalk!'" Here is another related by Fred Lindrum:—"English billiards was not played much in America. Walter Lindrum and Newman visited New York, and staged a match at Madison Square Garden. Just before the match was about to begin, Walter said to the American marker, 'Of course, our game will probably be a bit strange to you. I suppose you know all about the rules, and how to score?'

"'Sure,' said the marker.

"'Of course, you know all about restrictions on different strokes, as well as cannons?'

"'Sure!'"

"'Soon after play began,'" Fred continued, "Walter got a position for a nursery cannon, and started playing them. He took the balls round the corner to the middle pocket, and made at least 400 to 500 cannons. 'How many cannons have I made?' Walter asked. 'Why ask me?' answered the marker meekly; 'I have not the faintest idea.'"

Amateurs In The Game

MR. Pat Brady, who was piloting Fred Lindrum round the city, told me how the S.A. Amateur Billiards Association was formed in 1913 by Messrs. S. J. Jacobs, the late George Steinthal (who died last week, and was the first secretary), Clarence Moody, Cliff Graves, and himself. Later, Mr. Jacobs founded the Australian Billiards Council, which is affiliated with the controlling body in England. "George Steinthal was offered so many trophies by various firms that he had to refuse them," Mr. Brady said. "At our meetings it looked like a jeweller's shop." Pat Brady recalled a match between "Ginger" Stretch and the late George Steinthal. "'Ginger,' he said, "was a great Australian player, who, carrying his swag, wandered from town to town. He got up to all sorts of tricks. Once he hit Wilmington, and arranged a match with George, who was the best player then. Needless to say, 'Ginger' cleaned him up properly. I suppose he would have been the only man in the State that had played 'Ginger' like that." Mr. Brady also spoke about a match between two overseas visitors, Cooke and Kilkenny 58 years ago, when the water was emptied out of the City Baths, and the game conducted there to a crowded house. Walking along North terrace, we had the good fortune to meet Mr. Charles Bastard, and we asked him about this game. "That's correct!" he said. "Governor Muegrave and all the elite of Adelaide were there and play lasted until midnight."

10-SECOND POSER—2, 2, 2, 2.