



The Illinois Billiard Club

"The Country Club of Pool and Billiards"

8446 Archer Avenue . Willow Springs . IL . 60480 . 708.839.1331 . www.IllinoisBilliardClub.com

Lessons . Leagues . Tournaments . Memberships . Private Functions

1975 - 27th Anniversary - 2002

Results from the "Gale Johnson Open"

August 25, 2002 - Throughout the immeasurable pages of history, you will upon occasion find men and women that have through their knowledge, compassion and integrity, soared beyond even the highest limits and stature of their own topics. One profoundly exceptional 87 year young resident of Elgin Illinois, Mr. Gale Johnson, is such a man. On Sunday August 25, 2002, in honor of this gentle, yet giant behemoth of the welfare and preservation of three-cushion billiards in America, the IBC hosted a national three-cushion tournament in conjunction with their clubs father and son amateur team pool tournament. ...A celebration of both billiards past and future.

After some 40 years of promoting and maintaining three-cushion billiards to benefit yet another generation, most appropriately it was the next generation that presented Mr. Johnson with both the Illinois Billiard Club's "Lifetime Achievement Award" and the Billiard Congress of America's "Appreciation Award." The awards were presented by 9-year old Chicagoan Tony Dippolito and 6-year old Nolan Parker, Oak Lawn IL. Symbolic of billiards next generation, the boy's heartfelt presentation to Mr. Johnson was made during a Sunday brunch served at Bonnie's Dining & Banquet facility in Willow Springs IL. Both a three-cushion billiard tournament along with a father and son team pool tournament began immediately after the awards ceremony.

First place in the father and son team tournament went to Mr. Wendell Weir and his handsome son Ricky Weir, Palatine, IL. With "Family unity through intellectual and stylish billiards" as the private clubs social centerpiece and motto, the IBC's father and son monthly tournament along with a special tribute to Mr. Johnson

became just that much nicer with the attendance of the winning teams favorite lady ...Wendell's wife and Ricky's mom, Mrs. Mary Beth Weir.

The winner of the three-cushion division of the "The Gale Johnson Open," was Mr. Louis D. Bean, Morton, IL.

The IBC's "Lifetime Achievement Award" itself was designed to reflect the inspiring uniqueness of the man for which it was intended. In the 1970's, the rules and record books provided by the BCA, our nations governing body of billiards since 1948, listed three-cushion billiards highest consecutive run as 25 points. A record established by Mr. William (Willie) Frederick Hoppe in 1918. The second highest run in the history of American billiards was established at the IBC in 1976 by Mr. Ampilio Gonzales, Guadalajara Mexico. After a run of 22 consecutive points, both the clubs billiard cue and set of carom balls used by Mr. Gonzalez have been for the past 27 years showcased among other club collectables and antiques.

To highlight the validation of Mr. Johnson's unparalleled contributions to the welfare of three-cushion billiards in America, the balls used during the Gonzalez / IBC high run, were transformed into Mr. Johnson's award itself. Each of the three balls used by Gonzales were removed from their display case and carefully machined into two halves. Along with a brass plate and its inscription, one-half of each of the three balls were then affixed to a solid American walnut plaque and presented to Mr. Johnson by 6 year old Nolan Parker, grandson of the IBC's founder, Jim Parker. The other half of the balls will be used for a plaque to be awarded to another icon of American three-cushion billiards, Mr. Joe Diaz, Chicago IL.



Left to right: George Theobald – West Chicago, IL / Rich Malias – Rockford, IL Gale Johnson – Elgin, IL / Ralph Kick – Crete, IL / Louis D. Bean – Morton, IL



Foreground left to right: Tony Dippolito presenting the BCA's "Appreciation Award," Mr. Gale Johnson excepting and Nolan Parker presenting the IBC's "Lifetime Achievement Award." Background: Anthony Dippolito, Steve and Mike Justice, Mr. Wendell Weir, Mike Parker and Ricky Weir.