



The Illinois Billiard Club

"The Country Club of Pool and Carom Billiards"

8446 Archer Avenue - Willow Springs, IL 60480 - 708-839-1331 - www.IllinoisBilliardClub.com
 Lessons - Leagues - Tournaments - Memberships - Private Functions
 1975 - 29th Anniversary - 2004

**"You can give a man a fish and feed him for a day.
 Or you can teach a man how to fish and feed him for a lifetime."**

by Jim Parker

So goes the time honored philosophy expressing the value of education that's been promoted and practiced by the Illinois Billiard Club (IBC) since its founding as a private billiard facility some thirty years ago.

The following is a true story written to teach and remind others that we of humankind are all born with resolution and the gift of turning dreams into time proven realities. It explains how just two people, today husband and wife 43 years, some thirty years ago lifted the then unpopular game of billiards (all cue games) to social heights never before experienced in America.

While only a fragment of the couple's three decades of achievements the story explains proven examples of creative marketing that first led the socially blemished game of billiards from the back alleyways of society to new and inspiring meaning and facilities of social splendor. This article is written as an earnest attempt to motivate others into creating and putting into motion their own new and innovative ideas that could ulti-

Since the 1800's billiards in America has been divided into two distinctively different divisions of social interest and benefit. Divisions referred to as simply public and private. The public side of billiards had by the close of the nineteenth century risen to social prominence, yet by the mid-twentieth century fallen to become more of a cultural embarrassment as opposed to an enhancement. To an overwhelming extent billiards had been kicked about, exploited and given little dignity. Even today the game survives publicly primarily on the shirttail of alcohol and tobacco sales and is seen as little more than a tavern sideshow as opposed to a main-event, popular professional sport. While billiards more promising and ever affluently growing existence has been the result of the private side of our society and having evolved within most every detail in complete contrast to the public side of billiards.

There are a lot of things wrong with the public side of billiards. Since 1863 it has shamefully under-served our nations greatest wealth, the American family. Today, billiards is no more a popular professional sport to Americans than ice fishing is to Egyptians living near the parched sands of the Arabian Desert. For decades the game's media continually publishes tens of thousands of often-redundant articles explaining methods of pocketing a billiard ball. Rather than giving even a quarter of their time and ink into helping the game and its investors with new and proven ideas and updated methods for billiards to pocket new and needed recruits. There have been all too few inspiring public facilities where our nation's youth might find even half as much integrity in their clientele as they would in their parents and within their own homes. And for over a century, billiards self-proclaimed leaders and governing bodies have all but ignored historically proven solutions to such obvious problems. Solutions having long since been practiced by other games that unlike billiards have risen to

mately benefit society and the growth of billiards. While at the same time and after proven successful, these new ideas well might act as encouraging reminders to others, that through nature and the miracle of life, everyone, to various degrees is born with the ability to further man's future. And to successfully explore new frontiers; pave new and promising roadways; tear down social barriers and, even give new life to a sometimes faltering and the often publicly abused game of billiards.

The story's inner message expresses one of man's greatest principles of celebration. That is, learning to move toward our goals one step at a time, often just one baby step at a time, and learning to love the doing, learning to use the accumulation of time. When we multiply tiny pieces of time by small increments of daily effort, we find we can all accomplish magnificent things. We, each and every one of us, for betterment, can change the world.

become popular professional American sports.

To build the games popularity and upgrade its social status, in 1975 and in addition to operating our electrical contracting company, my wife Bonnie and I, as a labor of love founded the private Illinois Billiard Club. Not long after the clubs founding, by example we began convincing society there was far more to billiards (all cue games) than simply smoke filled pool halls, old billiard balls and a corner taverns selection of alcohol's. In 1976 and after organ-

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Billiards and the Movie's

Thanks to the motion picture industry the game of billiards has been given a new lease on life. A game that occasionally is of more benefit to society than the places it's found.

Top right: Courtesy of Avco Embassy Pictures.

James Coburn, Omar Sharif, Ronee Blakley and Bruce Boxleitner make up the star cast of the 1980 comedy-adventure romp, "The Baltimore Bullet."

Second two photos: Courtesy of Touchstone Pictures. Left to right in second photo: Paul Newman and Tom Cruise star in "The Color of Money," a contemporary drama from award winning film director Martin Scorsese, shown in third photo during the films production. "Copyright MCMLXXXVI Touchstone Pictures. All rights reserved." Photo credits to Ron Phillips.

Second photo from bottom: During training at The Illinois Billiard Club director Martin Scorsese receives thanks for his dedication to cinema excellence and best wishes for the success of his upcoming film, "The Color of Money." Jim Parker (right) president of the Illinois Billiard Club presents the award winning director the first of the IBC's movie/billiard promoting color of its money, the IBC's "\$10 Billiard Buck." A gift certificate (lower picture) for a complimentary lesson in billiards to all moviegoers attending the 1986 release of "The Color of Money."



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izing co-educational billiard programs that included on-premise billiard classes within Chicagoland schools, the Illinois Billiard Club literally took billiards out of back-alley pool rooms and brought it into high school and college classrooms.

By the end of the IBC's second year it availed to the public for the first time since the early 1950s an opportunity to witness stylishly presented, live championship tournaments composed of some of America's finest surviving three-cushion billiard champions. Through the clubs persistence and prominent format, by 1978 the game of three-cushion billiards was reborn in the Chicagoland area. When after two decades of poor industrial exposure the IBC moved the dying game of carom billiards from the obituaries to the sports and entertainment pages of Chicagoland newspapers.

With three-cushion billiards now up and running the IBC focused on teaching society what remained of the art of professional championship pocket billiards when merging its marketing efforts with Hollywood's Avco Embassy Pictures. On May 21, 1980, Hollywood launched a billiards related comedy-adventure film, "The Baltimore Bullet." Simultaneously, when prearranged by the IBC and Avco Embassy's marketing associates, John Iltis Associates, Chicagoland moviegoers were given gift certificates for complimentary lessons in billiards (all cue games) along with another billiards first. An opportunity to spectate a live multi-thousand dollar national pocket billiards tournament titled, "The Baltimore Bullet Open." A premier national event hosted at the IBC's headquarters in Chicago. An event itself that launched the then largest, most enduring inner-club, multi-thousand dollar series of professional pocket billiard championships in the United States.

In 1986 and with its "rebirth of championship billiards" status, Hollywood again came knocking on the IBC's door. Accompanied by an entourage of talented colleague's, award winning film director Mr. Martin Scorsese sought out the private club as headquarters to learn the secrets of championship billiards, host auditions, study, and map out his upcoming film, "The Color of Money." A motion picture later filmed within

Chicagoland locations ranging from dusty pool halls and bars, to the grandeur of Chicago's historical Navy Pier.

When entering selected theaters during the film's premier on November 26, 1986, moviegoers were again given an opportunity to learn the game of billiards when receiving gift certificates for complimentary lessons at the IBC. The same certificates were later awarded when renting or purchasing the "The Color of Money" video at all supporting Chicagoland video rental stores. By the close of the following year the Martin Scorsese film not only gained billiards a new beginning, but also actor Paul Newman his first Oscar.

Educational programs and billiards with style became synonymous with The Illinois Billiard Club ever since the private clubs founding. Even today these traditions are carried on as they were during the clubs infancy some thirty years ago. Traditions the IBC would whole heartily recommend for everyone to practice and pass along to others. Simply because it's everyone that should be given an opportunity to learn first hand from those with sensitivity to the well being of both people and the timeless wonders of such a social, mental and physical enhancing activity as the game of billiards.



The Billiard Club

901-362-8686 • 2686 Kirby Whitten Road • Bartlett, Tennessee

Come in and see Rick!

Open 7 Days A Week - 12 Noon - Close
11 Big Hourly Tables • 4 Bar Tables • 4 Dart Boards
Happy Hour - Noon - 6 p.m.

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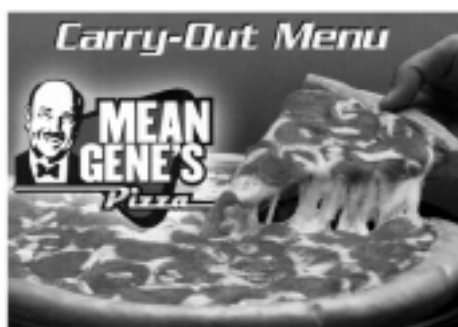
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