

Campus Corner

Betsy Sundholm

Calling all college-bound pool players!

Part 2 of a 3-part series

This month's column was originally planned as the second in a 2-part series, but the response has been greater than expected! In part 1, college-bound pool players were offered a list of schools that traditionally participate in intercollegiate tournaments, specifically the Association of College Unions International (ACUI). This month's column offers further information on some of the country's most organized college billiards clubs, their structure, number of members, how they got started, and their level of support from their schools.

Arizona State University

We have a billiards club with about 50 members, 20 of whom are "regulars." We receive discounted rates at our school's pool room, ACUI tournament registration fees are covered, and some travel expenses to and from the tourney are reimbursed. *- Contributed by Rob Henrichs*

Bentley University

The Billiards Club has about 30 active members. The school provides funding for tournaments and events. Events are typically trick shot exhibitions (Matt "No Fail" MacPhail). Pool tables are free for all students so there is no fee for practice time/tournaments.- *Contributed by Kevin Vaughn*

University of California, Irvine (UCI)

The Anteater Billiards Club has about 20 members. These members are active on our ladder rankings, which eventually determine the players who go to the ACUI regional tournament. My school provides support for covering cost of some of our tournaments. They also cover the cost of ACUI registration fees, hotel, and gas. The club is responsible for organizing tournaments and ranking systems. – *Contributed by Jonathan Dy Albay, club president*

Carnegie Mellon

Our pool club is new; we currently have about 10-20 active members. Also, we have received funding from our school to help with start-up costs. Our adviser is Professor Michael Shamos, who also serves as the Curator of the Billiards Archive, and is the author of a number of books such as *The Illustrated Encyclopedia of Billiards*, among others. You can find out more about us at www.betterbreak.net/blog and also on our Facebook group "CMU POOL CLUB." – *Contributed by Caleb Tan, CMU Pool Club President*

Cornell College

Our club has 3 or 4 committed members and another half a dozen stop-ins. For the upcoming year, the college has given us enough support to replace the cloth on one of our 3 tables, buy house cues, and prizes for roughly four tournaments a year (top three places)." – *Contributed by William Czerwionka, Club Vice President*

University of Delaware

I go to University of Delaware and we do have a club. The school provides the standard allocation of \$800 a year, like it does for each club. It does not pay for any trips or events, except for an excursion to a regional ACUI tournament. We have to reimburse ourselves for everything else. Our website is <http://copland.udel.edu/stu-org/sasf/>. – *Contributed by Samantha Adler, Club Secretary*

Emory University

Our Billiards Club has about 15 active members. We are chartered by College Council, which helps subsidize our tournament fees, our trip to ACUI Regionals and Nationals, etc. Our main supporter is probably the Dobbs University Center (DUC). The building's Director is Jeffrey Martin and is our faculty advisor. The DUC also helps us with ACUI registration and travel fees. As for actual organization and coordination of intra-club tournaments and ACUI participation, that is all handled by our members (our Executive Board, in particular). – *Contributed by Joaquin Del Cueto, club president*

Mansfield University

Our club has about 12 active members. The school provides funding for sending teams to tournaments such as the University of Michigan Team Pool Championships (UMTPC). – *Contributed by Clifford Torpy, Club President*

University of Michigan

The Michigan Billiards Club has 30 registered members, about half of whom actively participate in weekly club events. Club members earn 2 free hours of pool each week during scheduled club meetings plus a 33% discount any other time they visit. Those whose club attendance is highest are nominated as officers (they can choose not to take office, of course). Michigan provides a venue, an administrative advisor, support with publicity and recruiting, and access to intercollegiate competition opportunities. – *Contributed by club officers*

New Mexico Tech

About 6-10 people on average participate in our club. Our school supports our ACUI tournaments, as well as other activities. We host open billiards tournaments throughout the year, with prize support from the school, as well as "Best Player" tournaments with limited entries which are usually of the format 7-8-9 or Billiard-Snooker-Straight. My school is paying my hotel, flight, entry fee, and all other expenses for my trip to nationals. All in all they support our billiards club pretty well. – *Contributed by William Aitken*

Radford University

We do have a Billiards Club, with 10 members right now, three of which have qualified for the ACUI National tournament. Our school allows us to practice for free on Wednesday nights and we do have an advisor for the Club. We are also recognized as a sports club through the Sports Club Council. Our web site address is www.radford.edu/~rubc. – *Contributed by Jon Hirst, Club President*

Rochester Institute of Technology

The RIT Pool Club has been a student-government-sponsored club for about 8 years now, and we usually have around 25-30 members. We have two 2-hour "meetings" a week with free play and small tournaments. Being a club, we file a budget and charge dues to cover about 2/3 of our costs (renting the pool room/food for meetings) and they cover the other 1/3. We haven't had any ACUI events, but the school did pay our (about 12 members) entry fees to our regional 9ball tournament, and has agreed to help one student with travel to national if he decides to go. – *Contributed by Eric Evans*

Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

We really don't have a club. We have a group of students that play together, but nothing organized. We did have a league but they keep dropping players on a weekly basis, so we stopped them. We now have what is called "Tournament Tuesdays" in which we hold some type of bowling, table tennis, or pool tournament every week. As for (3-time ACUI national champion) Lars, he has been very busy with his schooling and did take one player, David Fitzgerald, under his wing and has helped him out a lot. David has earned an invitation to nationals this year too. – *Contributed by Steve Siegel, Game Room Manager*

Texas A&M International University

We have a Billiards club for our campus at Texas A&M International University. The Recreational Sports department gives the club free practice on specific days of the week (beginning of each semester will determine those days). As for ACUI, the club must generate their own fees to go to the tournament or any other local billiards tournaments. However, the Rec. Sports department will pay the entry fee for the top 2 individuals who qualify for the ACUI tourney via the campus 9-ball tournament in the Fall. - *Contributed by Steve Sayward, Asst. Director, Intramurals*

University of Utah

Our club, "Joining Every Student Through Billiards" Club (JEST) has about 20 members. The student union recreation manager is our advisor. We get a discount on the table rentals for pool club and we often get the tables free when we host intercollegiate tournaments. We also get funding from our student government to help cover costs of table rentals, conferences, and food. As for our involvement with ACUI, we have hosted the region 13 recreation tournaments, and we usually participate in the 9-ball tournament every year. Our Facebook group is called "JEST Billiards" which you can find at:

<http://www.facebook.com/inbox/?ref=mb#/group.php?gid=2201405371&ref=ts>

- *Contributed by Sylvia Flater, club member and 2009 ACUI Championship contestant*

University of Washington

We have never really had a club, just a group of players who loved the game and were welcoming to everyone who wanted to play and learn. They have all graduated and the few competitive players we have currently are so busy with classes, jobs, etc. that they are hardly ever around. This quarter we initiated a drop-in-when-you-can "Pool Players' Society" that would meet one night a week but we never ended up with more than one person (different ones each week). Our Trick Shot of the Week (master a posted shot and win free table time) has been popular in the past. Historically I would run a tournament and send players to the ACUI regional tournament based on the number in the tournament and budget. The Games Room would cover the entry fee, transportation and lodging. If someone won the regional tournament we would contribute what we could to transportation and lodging for the National Tournament. -*Contributed by Kitty Willis, Game Room*

Manager

West Virginia University

We have a young billiards club that was started this past fall semester. Currently we have approximately 20-25 members. We currently have great support from our university. Although we do not receive free or discounted practice time for members, which I hope to negotiate for next semester, we do receive plenty of advising and cooperation. Our club hosted the ACUI tournament qualifier with support from our Student Union this past semester sending two players to the ACUI Region 4 Qualifier where one player qualified for Nationals. We have a Facebook group called "WVU Billiards Club," or <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=24885134028>. -

Contributed by Ben Litvak, Club President

Schools that offer scholarships for pool (such as an athlete would receive for varsity football or basketball) are exceptionally scarce. The University of Akron is one of these rare gems, and their club will be featured in the next edition of this "Pool in School" series. We'll also take a look at Purdue, Sam Houston State, University of Florida, University of Tennessee – Knoxville, and University of Western Ontario.