

# Dancing Angels For Carom Players

From September 14 - 17, 2023, Tom "Dr. Cue" Rossman and his fellow Brother in Christ Rick "The Barber" Hawkinson traveled to Madison, WI for the Bob Keller 3-Cushion Open Tournament and another outreach experience. This special billiard event is named in honor of Bob, who is 95 and still plays 3-cushion with the "heart of a champion" and dances "like an angel" around the 5 x 10 table.

32 players were randomly drawn into four round robin brackets with 8 players each. The top 2 players in each bracket would advance to a "final 8". As each player prepared to take the no-pocket challenge, Tom and Rick looked for open doors to share the joy of the Lord at every turn, both "on and off" the table. Many players shared their stories about the game, but several shared personal issues, for which a fellow carom player seldom finds a "listening ear"! Playing 3-Cushion has a way of "taking one's mind" off of concerning things in life, but only temporarily, until one's steps get derailed into an emotional frenzy.

Game after game and match after match, Rick and Tom moved through their respective brackets until Dr. Cue ended up 2<sup>nd</sup> in his bracket to remain "on the table" and Rick found his home on the sidelines to work as a tag team partner, so to speak, "off the table" as Tom continued his "victory journey"! Rick encouraged Tom to exhibit the joy of the game, regardless of missed shots (makes in disguise) and lost matches (wins in disguise), while Tom encouraged Rick to continue his private "therapy" discussions, as the Holy Spirit nudged players and spectators his way. There was no shortage of heartfelt "talking sessions" on the sidelines throughout several days of competition.

Standard and / or routine 3-cushion shots, along with a few spectacular ones, took place "as planned" in almost every match. Dr. Cue won his first six games (in his heart), even though the final scores showed a different result (on paper). In two of these games, it was easy to see God was up to something, as Tom made some shots in what 3-Cushion players call a "scratch" -- a literal point made in some manner other than what was planned...by an unexplainable or strange roll of the cue ball and / or one of the other two balls on the table. It was obvious God was preparing those watching for something on a much higher and mysterious (almost foolish) level.

Note: One of Tom's favorite verses in the Bible is: (KJV) 1 Corinthians 1:27 - But God Hath Chosen The Foolish Things Of The World To Confound The Wise: And God Hath Chosen the Weak Things Of The World To Confound The Things Which Are Mighty

And then, it happened: Game 7 (number meaning completion) for Dr. Cue against a much higher average player (mighty) began slowly, but quickly picked up steam. Just when it looked like Dr. Cue was losing (on paper), a "scratch" occurred, then another, then another, and finally, one more took place -- 4 "foolish" (very mysterious) oddities of the game -- those watching (wise players and fans) were stunned, while Dr. Cue showered a "jumping for joy" spirit, that became contagious in the overall venue environment. Rick yelled out: "the angels are starting to dance" and Dr. Cue promptly agreed. It looked like Dr. Cue was headed for a paper win, but got stuck on 23 points. Players and fans alike were in store for more to ponder! Dr. Cue's opponent tied the score at 23, after making 3 "scratch" shots himself. Tom made another shot, his opponent missed, and then it happened, for an unheard of 8 times in a short game to 25 points...one more; yes, you guessed it -- ONE MORE SCRATCH!! Another "victory" in the heart and now, a special blessing with a "paper victory" as well!!

Summation: Years ago, Brother Steve Lillis and Dr. Cue experienced similar oddities on the GTS portable table at a youth show in New York. Unexplainable, foolish, and mysterious to say the least! A pastor in Canada later told us that: God sent "dancing angels" to the table that night to "have it His way" by having His messengers "kick the balls around" to "not go in", so those in attendance would hear the message and not focus on the shots! In this final game of 3-Cushion it was once again obvious that God sent His "dancing angels" to "kick the balls around" in order to get the attention of those "wise" players and fans watching and ask the right questions on "how could that happen" -- 8 "scratches" -- unbelievable, but fully understandable in the "spiritual realm"! Rick and I had much to talk about with others, with the witness and testimony of God's supernatural provision and power.

God is reaching every corner of cue sport activity worldwide via GTS / RACK Vision Outreaches using regular pool games, Blackball, Artistic Pool, Artistic Blackball, and now 3-Cushion Billiards. Thank you, Heavenly Father, for the gifts, talents, and skills You have equipped us with, as witness tools to reach hurting and searching hearts. Any thank you, Rick for joining this amazing journey and for sharing God's love, joy, peace, and hope via the "Message of the Cross"...to those crossing our paths.