



ON CUE



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L-R: Aloysius Yapp, Ian Anderson (President of WPA), Paul Pang

History was made on 18 November 2014 at the Shanghai Huimin Middle School in Shanghai, China, as 18 year-old Aloysius Yapp became the first Singaporean World Champion in the Nine Ball Pool Category of the World Junior Championships (Under 19 Tournament) organised by the World Pool-Billiard Association, the governing body of Pool, by defeating Chinese Taipei Hsu Jui An 11-10 in a nail biting match.

En route to the Finals, Aloysius had to overcome stiff opposition. He beat Nick Evans from the USA 11-3 in the Quarter-Finals, despatched Labutis Pius from Lithuania by the same scoreline in the Semi-Finals.

The Finals was indeed a tense affair. For a start, Aloysius was breaking new ground by being the first ever Singaporean player to compete in the Final stages of a World Pool event.

Playing in the alternate breaks format, Aloysius had his work cut out even before the start of the finals as he lost the all-important lag (the first shot of the match which determines who gets to start) to Hsu. To makes matters worse, he lost the first 4 games to put himself down 0-4 in a race to 11. However, Aloysius called for time out and when the match resumed, he never gave up and capitalized on some unforced errors, along with some amazing pots to claw back to 6-6 at the half way mark.

His coach, Paul Pan, explained this move, "Aloysius could see that luck wasn't on his side the first 4 games and needed to make a change to 'break the jinx'. He called for a time out to go to the restroom and calm himself down and it paid dividends."

Aloysius wasn't able to get in front until the final game, capitalizing on a foul by his Chinese Taipei opponent to have 'ball in hand' and cleared the remaining balls to win the match and the title.

Aloysius, who picked up the game since the age of 9 and has been playing competitively since the age of 14, said, "This tournament actually got me started in the sport so I am really happy that I've achieved my dream of winning it. Despite being down, I was proud that I remained calm and never gave up. This win and the way I won it gives me a lot of confidence and I really hope to do well for SEA Games next year and win in it for Singapore."

One person who did not doubt his abilities was his mother, Mdm Angelina Tay, who explained, "I was really nervous when watching the live streaming over the internet. I did not doubt his abilities but was praying that he could keep calm and focus to take his chances. Now, I am so happy that his hard work paid off."

Mr Christopher Chuah, President of Cuesports Singapore, said proudly, "Aloysius Yapp has done Cuesports and Singapore proud by winning the World Junior Pool Championship (u19) in Shanghai. This is truly a momentous occasion as no Singapore player have made it to the finals, let alone win the title in a World Championship event. He demonstrated tremendous resilience, control and fighting spirit in coming from 4-0 down to clinch the title 11-10 in a nail biting finish. No doubt, this milestone event augurs well for our medal prospects at the upcoming SEA Games. Once again, our heartiest congratulations to Aloysius for his tremendous feat."

This sums up an amazing year for Aloysius as he won for the a tournament for the fourth consecutive month after winning the Asian Junior Pool Champion in August, National U19 10 Ball Open in September, National 10 Ball Open in October, National U19 Nine Ball Champion in November.

For winning the finals, Aloysius wins the title of "World Champion" and a trip the 2015 World Championship event. Indeed, Aloysius has made Cuesports Singapore and the entire nation proud. Well done!



R1, L-R: Mrs. Angie Yapp, Aloysius Yapp & Paul Pang
R2, L-R: Greg Pang, Ivan Lim, Aaron Koh, Christopher Chua, Allan Chua & Rosaline Lew

An interview with Allison Fisher, "the Duchess of Doom" at her visit in October 2014

Gear-up athletes! Be ready for her up-coming coaching
stint scheduled for mid April to June 2015

1. What got you started?

Ans: When I was 7 years old my Dad was watching a Snooker event on TV and I sat down and asked some questions about it. I asked for a small table for Christmas and that was the beginning. I challenged everyone who walked in the front door:) At the age of 11 my Dad bought my Uncle's 6 foot table. The first day I got it I broke the kitchen window as the room was too small :) and then at 12 I first played on a full size Snooker table in a local pub in Peacehaven, England. I instantly loved it. I never used to take my eyes off the table. I played in a league team at 13, won my first National event at 15 and first World title at 17 years old.

I went on to win 7 singles and 4 mixed doubles World titles partnering Steve Davis. In 1995 I decided to try something new and left England to go to America and start playing pool...



2. What is your biggest accomplishment in your sports?

Ans: My biggest accomplishments are different for many reasons. My first World title was memorable because it was a hurdle to get over and to realize you CAN win.

My World Games Gold medal in Taiwan was special because it only happens every 4 years and is like an Olympic medal. I remember the mental struggle too.

My first National title in 1995 in the US was special because my Dad came over and watched it. It was my first major pool title and was very prestigious.

3. What one or two things do you currently do you your training that are keys to your success?

Ans: I think the keys to my success has been sticking to basics. I constantly work on my mechanics and technique. Snooker has been a fantastic back ground for me in the pool World.

4. How do you set your goals? What would be your ultimate achievement?

Ans: I didn't really set goals in the past but I do believe that it's a good thing to do and in life in general. I wish I had set more :) For the future I still enjoy competing and I also embrace teaching. I feel fortunate to be able to pass on what I know and to help inspire. I'd like to help mentor champions!



5. What 1-2 things do you believe differentiates you from your contemporaries who have tailed off in their athletic participation and abilities?

Ans: I think the things that have differentiated me from other players are: Desire, Focus, luck and table discipline.

6. Where do you draw your inspiration from?

Ans: I draw inspiration from friends, associates and students. You can never stop being inspired if you are searching.

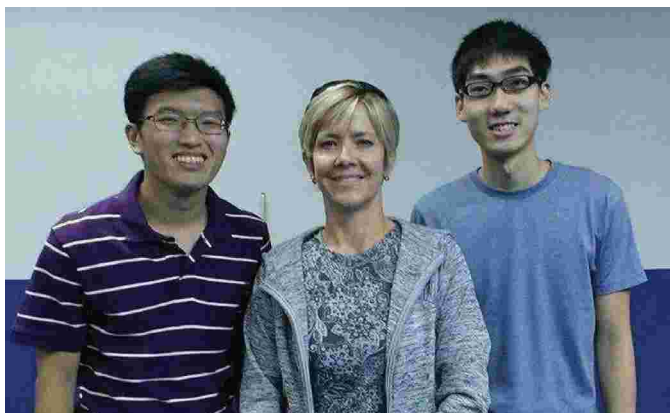
7. "Character building is important for sports excellence." Any advice for the young who aspire to excel as an athlete?



Ans: When I was a youngster I didn't mess around. I treated the game with respect and played it with a dedication. I enjoyed the challenge of trying to be really consistent. I loved giving it my best. My parents were fantastic in the way they talked to me. They supported what I was doing but made me treat it seriously. It's important to have a connection with a student so that there is a mutual trust. Certain teachers at school resonated with me and I think part of a teacher's job is to work with the individual's needs and temperament. Losing hurts but its the way we bounce back and try harder. That is what character is about.

8. Do you have any recommended resources to share (books, seminars, websites, coaches)?

Ans: Resources: There are so many books and DVD's with knowledge out there. The PAT system is good and my friend and coach Mark Wilson just wrote a great book. Then there are books that have bits and pieces that are good.



9. Any suggestions for physical & mental fitness?

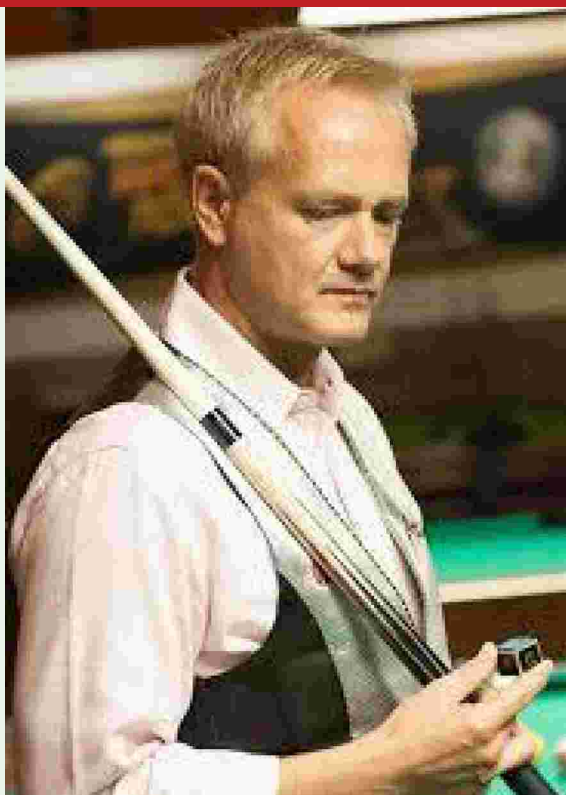
Ans: These days it's important to be mentally and physically fit. It's not easy crossing continents and dealing with food and time differences. It's very important to be able to adapt and feel calm, focused and rested. Many players work out, swim or cycle. I think yoga is as good as anything. It can be done on the road and it strengthens and tones your body while leaving you calm and happy. Pool is such a mentally strategic game that resting is perfect too. You've got to be able to switch off and let the mind be quiet.

10. Describe Singapore in 3 words.

Ans: Clean, vibrant and friendly.



CUESPORTS Welcome **Ralph Eckert** to Singapore



Ralph Eckert will be taking up an appointment as our National Pool Coach from January to March 2015 to coach our National pool team and developmental team.

Ralph needs no introduction. He started as a professional pool player since 1997 and in 2000, was ranked as the No 1 European 9 ball player. He is also the author of several well known books on pool including the classic "Modern Pool". Ralph's influence and coaching has been testified to by many top pool players including Thorsten Hohmann.

Ralph has previously coached other national teams to much success including Denmark, Thailand and Hong Kong. We have no doubt that our players have much to learn and benefit from Ralph's coaching and experience.

TOURNAMENTS ROUND UP

Cuesports Singapore Invitation SNOOKER TOURNAMENT (9 to 11 SEPTEMBER 2014)

The Cuesports Singapore Invitation Snooker Tournament was successfully staged over three days at the Lagoon Billiard Room. We saw a massive turn out of local snooker fans eager to catch high quality snooker in action. They were not disappointed by the quality performances put up by the players. After the first round, 4 players namely KK Chan, Jamie Clarke, Kritsanut Lersattayathorn and Rory Thor qualified for the semi-finals. The semi-finals was an exciting affair. The match between Kritsanut and Rory deserves special mention. Rory Thor knocked

in a break of 117 but still went down to the up and coming Thai player 4-2. KK Chan, our local hero, overcame stiff resistance from Welsh Amateur Champion Jamie Clarke to prevail 4-2. The Final between KK Chan and Kritsanut was a cautious affair with both players playing great safety and taking their chances carefully. However, it was KK who was able to capitalise on his opponent's mistakes and ultimately, prevailed 4-2 in a tightly contested match. Congratulations to KK Chan for being the winner of our inaugural Snooker Invitation Tournament.



L-R: Chan Keng Kwang (Champion), Chan Chee Keong, Jamie Clarke, Kritsanut Lersattayathorn, Christopher Chuah.

NATIONAL SNOOKER CHAMPIONSHIP

(15 SEPTEMBER TO 12 OCTOBER 2014)



L-R: Peter Gilchrist, Stefan Mazrocis (National Snooker Coach), Chan Keng Kwang (Champion), Christopher Chuah, Kan Pak Leong.

The National Snooker Championship was held in the wake of the Cuesports Singapore Invitation Snooker Tournament. It drew participation of 106 entrants and was staged over a three week period at Lagoon Billiard Room.

The quarter –finals witnessed keen contests between regular stalwarts Marvin Lim and Aaron Koh, Peter Gilchrist and Andy Yang, Lee Yong Wei and Aloysius Yapp and KK Chan and Ivan Chua. The competition eventually drilled down to Marvin Lim, Peter Gilchrist, KK Chan and Aloysius Yapp in the semi-finals. Both semi-finals saw keenly contested matches between the four players with Peter Gilchrist and KK Chan eventually prevailing by 4-2 scoreline each.

KK Chan, hot on the heels of his recent victory in the inaugural Cuesports Snooker Invitation Event, carried on with his fine

form by securing a fine 4-2 victory over Peter Gilchrist in the Finals. Our heartiest congratulations to KK Chan on his second victory in two months .

NATIONAL SNOOKER LEAGUE

The National Snooker League is now underway. This year sees participation from 44 teams with 5 teams competing in the Premier Division, 8 teams competing in the 1st to 3rd Divisions and 5th Division and 7 teams in the 4th Division. This year, we will be bringing back the Champion of Champions Cup. The top two teams from each Division will play off in a separate knock out tournament with the top 4 teams vying for the Champions Cup in April/May next year. More details will be announced shortly in due course.



POOL TOURNAMENTS ROUND UP

NATIONAL POOL CHAMPIONSHIPS 2014, 29 SEP to 14 DEC

There's an evolution in Singapore's pool sports scene; the vibrant, stylish, and confident appeal in pool sports has captivated the youths! In early June 2014, Tertiary and University students began rigorous training in their schools and pool centres for the most anticipated event, the National Pool Championship 2014.

Two championships: 9 Ball and 10 Ball were staged at the Klassic Club. 9 Ball, still the favourite choice of game drew 127 entries, among which, 70 participants were 21 years old or under.

In National 10 Ball U19 event, Darrell Wong Chong En struggled in the quarter final match with his opponent Ong Siew May and got off the hook with a tight score of 6-5. After which he cruised to the final after defeating Yeeshvaran of Arena Billiards in the semi-final. The final match took place on 14 Sep where Aloysius Yapp won Darrell Wong 7-2 and bagged his first National Championship title for the season.

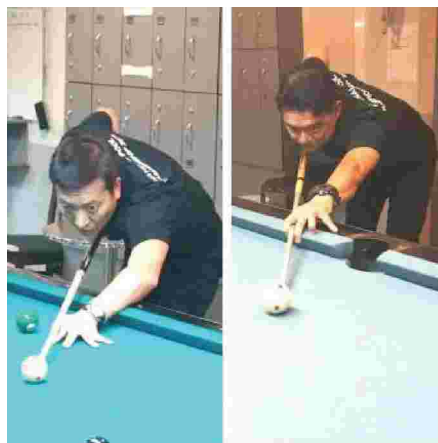
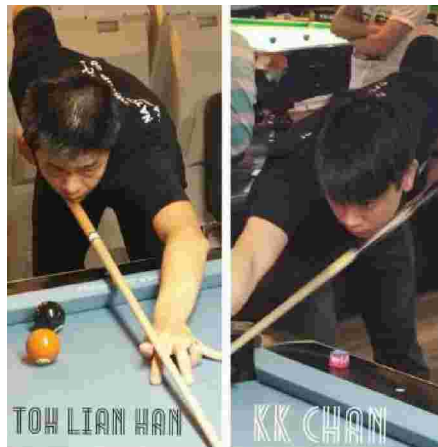


Brandon Ng Chuan Wei, who is a member of CueSports Junior Snooker academy made it through to the finals for the first time after defeating Nicolas Tan 7-2 and Darrell Wong 7-5. The rising junior snooker talent had hard luck in the finals losing 8-1 against Aloysius in final event held 13 Nov.



26 Oct – 10 Ball / Men's & Ladies Events

This season, the experienced William Ang made a remarkable comeback, beating two prominent players Desmond Goh and Toh Lian Han in the National 10-Ball Men's Championship. He then lost to the almost unplayable Aloysius Yapp 9-4 in the final.



Charlene Chai, our No. 1 female pool athlete, proved her dominant reign in the ladies category taking down her opponent Kelly Leow 7-1 in the 10 Ball final.



NATIONAL POOL LEAGUE 2014 (2 SEP to 6 DEC 2014)

The National Pool League 2014 kicked off on 2 September, with two matches played weekly. Team, CBC Sharks, CSC Gem 9, Klassic A & Pyramid Elites emerged top in their respective groups after the 8th week. CBC Sharks and Pyramid Elites were eliminated in the semi-finals where the teams exhibited exhilarating team spirit and match plays.

The Finals was played between Klassic A and CSC Gem 9 on 6 December at Pool Fusion. Klassic A took a very commanding 5-0 lead at the early stage and CSC Gem9 couldn't get it going. With the fast & furious one player one rack system even World Junior Pool Champion Aloysius Yapp found it tough losing 2 of his 3 outings. At the end it was Andy Tan the Captain of Klassic A who received the National Pool League Champions Trophy from Christopher Chuah President of CueSports Singapore.

This season National Pool League has attracted 10 teams and we are working towards bringing the number up to 20 teams for next season. The new season will also see a 8 or 10 Ball league. So if you have a team of between 5-8 players please contact us. We welcome you.

NATIONAL 9 BALL CHAMPIONSHIP (MEN & LADIES)

The National 9 ball ladies event saw for the first time two finalists vying for their maiden title.



Earlier in the semi-finals, Agnes Sem created an upset when she outplayed Charlene Chai, the defending champion 7-5 whilst Jessica Tan, our upcoming ladies star defeating Jef Tan by a 7-2 scoreline.

The final on Sunday 14 December was a thrilling affair with both players barely a rack apart. Scores were all tied at 6-6 before Jessica maintained her cool and composure to knock in the 9 ball in the decider. Congratulations to Jessica and no doubt, we will be seeing more of her in the months and years to come.

History was created in the National 9 Ball

Championship this year. Aloysius Yapp made CueSports Singapore history yet again when he won the National 9 Ball Championship after defeating KK Chan 9-7. By doing so, he becomes the only Singaporean to have won 4 National Pool events in a season having won the National 10 Ball Championship, the National U19 10 Ball Championship and the National U19 9 Ball Championship earlier this year. In addition, he has also won the Asian

Junior Pool Championship and the World Junior Pool Championship both in China.

En route to the Final, Aloysius Yapp dispatched Bala Subramaniam whilst KK Chan earned his berth by defeating Toh Lian Han, another veteran.

The Finals was indeed a thrilling and nail biting encounter with both players demonstrating their skill and nerves of steel to clean up after their opponent made a mistake.



MEET THE PEOPLE BEHIND CUESPORTS



Rosaline Lew

is our Sports Development Manager. Rosaline is a well known figure in the pool fraternity. She is a keen pool player and is a member of our SEA Games Squad for ladies pool.

Prior to joining Cuesports, Rosaline was the Operations Manager at Klassic and the Jockey Club. Her knowledge of cuesports and experience in running of Billiards centres will come in handy in her new role. She currently oversees the developmental aspects of the sport and coordinates liaises with Sports SG, sponsors and other organisations on matters concerning our athletes and tournaments.

Apart from pool, Rosaline also enjoys swimming, scuba diving and reading.



Allan Chua,

our Tournament and Promotions Executive is no stranger to the cuesports fraternity in Singapore. An avid snooker and pool player who competed regularly in snooker tournaments in the 1990s, Allan had also regularly organised numerous pool tournaments in Thailand where he was based since 2002 before returning to Singapore earlier this year.

He had served as Tournament Director for many tournaments including the Brunswick (Thailand) Open, Pattaya 9 Ball Invitational, International 9 Ball Challenge and Kamui Pool Challenge matches from 2011 to 2014.

Allan's duties include the organising and running of tournaments for Cuesports and no doubt, his years of experience in organising of tournaments will serve him well. Allan can be seen most evenings covering our various ongoing tournaments and regularly updating the Cuesports webpage on Facebook.



Low Xiu Woon

joined us on 1 December this year as our Finance and Admin Executive. Xiu Woon has a degree in International Business. Prior to joining Cuesports, she was responsible for accounts matters in her previous company. She currently oversees the finance and administrative functions of Cuesports Singapore. Xiu Woon enjoys travelling in her spare time.

CUESPORTS New Premises at West Coast Recreation Centre

Since the publication of our inaugural Newsletter, Cuesports Singapore has relocated to its new premises at **12 West Coast Walk, #03-12A, West Coast Recreation Centre Singapore 127157**. Following completion of renovations, we now have a snooker and pool table which are currently used for clinics, workshops, coaching and training by our developmental and national players. In addition, we also have our own board room and jackpot room which have since been relocated from Klassic.

Our operational hours are:

Jackpot Room:

11:00am to 10:00pm Daily including Public Holiday

Cuesports Academy:

9:00am to 6:00pm Monday to Friday

(Closed on Public Holidays)

For enquiries, please contact the following personnel at the numbers below:

Finance & Administration:

Xiuwoon Low at [63453651]

Sports Development:

Rosaline Lew at [90010256]

Tournaments:

Allan Chua at [92262319]

Calling all

Potential Referees

With the increase in number of tournaments and future regional/international cuesports events being staged in Singapore, the Referees Committee of Cuesports Singapore is seeking to enlarge its pool of qualified referees.

Members who are keen on becoming qualified referees should complete the Referee Application Form which can be downloaded from Cuesports Singapore website under “**Referees**” or Cuesports Singapore’s face book page and email the copy to Mr Richard Ong, Head of Referees Committee at alpharopk@singnet.com.sg or Mr Allan Chua at allan.chua@cuesports.org.sg by **31 February 2015**. Classes and tests will be conducted once we have sufficient interest. To encourage members to apply, the cost of training and testing for referees for successful applicants will be borne by Cuesports Singapore. Cuesports Singapore reserves the right to conduct the classes/tests in batches should the number of interested eligible participants exceed 15.

