

# JAM CANNONZ

Most of the high scoring **Rocker & Rub** type nursez & pozzyz of the old dayz are not realistic under todayz rulez & on English tablz. They were ok when **touching-ballz** were allowed, & when the **push-shot** woz allowed. But even if the rulez reverted to the old rulez, theze old time nursez would be no good in English billiardz, koz of the **small ballz** & the **light-weight cloths**. **But the Jam-Shot iz the exception.** It's an important part of the modern close-cannon game. How u gettem there, & what u do when u gettem there, & how u gettem out of there, iz what i call **Jam-Cannonz**.

## MANNOCK BILLIARDS EXPOUNDED (1908)

.....*I will take the "jam" first.* ..... *Diagrams \*\* and \*\* show the positions that T Taylor worked the balls into to make his break of 1,467, which was the largest break on record at the spot-barred game.*

..... *in making this break, Taylor manoeuvred around the table at first, and then got the ball into position for the "rail-nurse", about half way on the top left cushion. He played the "nurse", driving then forward more than usually in the system, making 42 cannons in the traject, and with facility worked the two object-balls in the jaws of the top left pocket and locked them there.*

*He then commenced cannoning in the manner he told me, that had been taught him by Gay. This was to play a decided stroke, striking both balls in such a manner that there could be no doubt about their having been struck.*

*The diagrams show the distance as near as possible which Taylor kept the cue-ball from the two object-balls, and though there were at least three reporters hanging over the pocket to see that a cannon had been effected all right, it was unnecessary, as each cannon was made with such distinctness that, as Taylor said, it could be seen that one had been made from the whole length of the Aquarium.*

*This was the system of playing it, to keep the cue-ball well away from the other two, and leave them at the necessary angle as illustrated.*

**Great care had to be taken that one of the object-balls did not, by the concussion in cannoning, get too far inside the other, as if that occurred, the run was short-lived. Therefore, it was necessary for Taylor in this great sequence to look at the position of the two balls almost at every other stroke, and if one was slightly inside the other, he had to work thicker on the latter until he had got them equal distances from the drop of the pocket.**

*All this required great patience, as it took Taylor quite two hours to effect the run. The fact that three reporters were hanging over the side of the pocket all the time was not calculated to improve his temper, as Taylor had to play from one side of the table to the other, using left and right hand, and had to go round them, losing sight of the balls every time he crossed over. Such being the case, the magnitude of the task can easily be conceived. ...*

In response to the big breaks the Jam-Shot woz barred. Later the ban woz lifted, when the **25 direct cannon rule** woz brought in. Nowadayz the only limit iz the **75 cannon rule**. So the Jam Shot iz back on the menu. In Tom Taylorz day i think that u were allowed to play with **Touching-Ballz**. In fact i think u were even allowed to play **Push-Shots**. Thingz are different today, but touching-ballz & push-shots are unlikely to kum up unless u really stuff-up.

# CHARLES DAWSON

PRACTICAL BILLIARDS 1904 Charles givz a different story to Mannoek.....

Dawson sed that Taylor woz on **227** & Hugh McNeil woz on **106**, in a game of **600 up**, when Taylor came to the tabl & made **9**, at which point he had the ballz jammed, & ran to game with **182** cannonz. On being requested to continue hiz break in the evening he made it into **1467, 729** cannonz, beating all spot-barred breaks.

## RISO LEVI STROKES OF THE GAME

.....In **1891 Tom Taylor** made a break of **1467** chiefly by means of what afterwards became known as the jam stroke.

... The smaller the pocket and the bigger the balls the easier it is to keep the position,

... The jam stroke is correctly played only when the cue ball after hitting the object balls travels well from them. It should also come to rest at the finish of each stroke fairly close to a cushion.

With the cue ball a considerable distance from a cushion it has to be played very full onto the object balls. A stroke nearly full on to the balls

may unlock them, and even should it still leave them properly jammed the cue ball will remain very close to and in front of them, and loss of position will in all probability quickly result from this bad location of the cue ball.

.... The jam stroke was rendered obsolete many years ago by a rule which made it compulsory for the player to play from the D with the red ball on the billiard spot and the white ball on the centre spot, in the event of his having set up the position either by accident or design. ....

## WILLIAM COOK, JUNIOR

THE HANDY BOOK ON BILLIARDS (1870??)

..... I believe that, of players in England, **John Roberts, senior**, has scored the largest number (of) consecutive cannons. This was when he played against **Alfred Bowles**, at Oxford, in **1861**, & getting the balls all together in the **jaws** of one of the pockets, went on cannoning until he had made **102** without ceasing. The entire value of the innings was **240**. **Christmas**, the manager of the Cocoa Tree Club, St. James's-street, also on one occasion made over **forty** consecutive cannons. When i played against **Dufton**, at the Crystal Palace, on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December last, at the close of the game i got the balls placed well together, & made **thirteen** cannons running, but had to stop then, as i had completed the full score & had won the game. Against the same player at Aylesbury last month, i also made **fourteen** cannons in succession.....

..... I myself consider that cannons are most **difficult** of execution, & though very pretty & brilliant, **should not be attempted** when an opportunity of scoring by hazards presents itself at the same time. A great number of cannons are most **difficult** to make in succession, & it is **rare** to find any player score many of them at one time. The great score already alluded to which **Roberts** made at Oxford is in no small degree attributable to his having the balls "**jawed up**" in the pocket, so that they could not easily get away, & then his perfect knowledge of the game enabled him to keep them there, & run up an immense number of cannons without **pocketing** the balls.....

..... even the best & most delicate players find it a work of **considerable trouble** to make more than **half a dozen** or so (even under favourable circumstances) before the balls

get a good deal separated..... I should, by all means, recommend **beginners**, after perfecting themselves in **hazard** striking, to practice cannons **privately**, as they will thereby gain considerable knowledge of the strength required to bring a ball back off a cushion after the object ball has been struck..... There can be no doubt that, as a part of the game, the cannon is an important stroke to master, but when that is done, i would advise every player to use it only when **absolutely necessary**, & not at the cost of any other stroke, but, as it were, to retain it as a **coup de grace** only to be used when every other opening for scoring is closed.

ECHOES FROM FORMER DAYS The Billiard Player September 1956

## THE 1927 REECE CANNON IN 1897 (FROM THE BILLIARD PLAYER 1927)

.... the **pendulum-cannon**, recently exploited by Tom Reece, iz not new to Australia. Thirty years ago, in a match against Charlie Memmott, of Sydney, Harry Gray ran up **1380** from the same position, in much the same way as Reece.

The object-balls were **loose**, near but **not jammed**, in the left top pocket, & old Harry just flicked from ball to ball, **hitting the top & side cushion**, until Memmott got annoyed & shouted -- **For the love of Mike, Harry, burst them up.**

There was no referee, & many of us were doubtful if the artful old bird always made contact with the object-ball. Hence, no fuss was made of the break, especially az it was an exhibition match & Memmott pushed Gray's peg another 1000 along during the interval.

**MY COMMENT**....The abov report dny not agree with the following snippet.

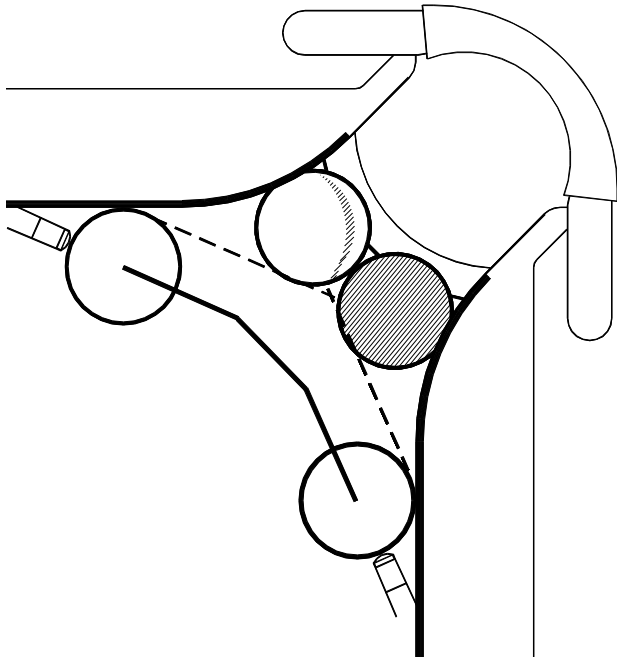
## NEWSPAPER SNIPPET

.....That fine old cueist, Harry Evans, was then the recognised champion, although friends of both Memmott & Weiss were inclined to dispute the fact. But so as to endeavour to keep in the public eye **Harry Gray, Fred Lindrum** (father of **Fred & Walter**), & others ran a competition entitled the "Native Born Championship of Australia", or some such title, which i think Gray won --but am not certain, as the games were not considered of sufficient importance to go on record. Later on Harry Gray tacked the title of "champion of Victoria" to his name -- about the time his brilliant son **George** was born -- came across to **Sydney**, & took the four-tabled room which then adorned Roberts Hotel at what is known as the "CMG" (corner Market & George streets) corner.

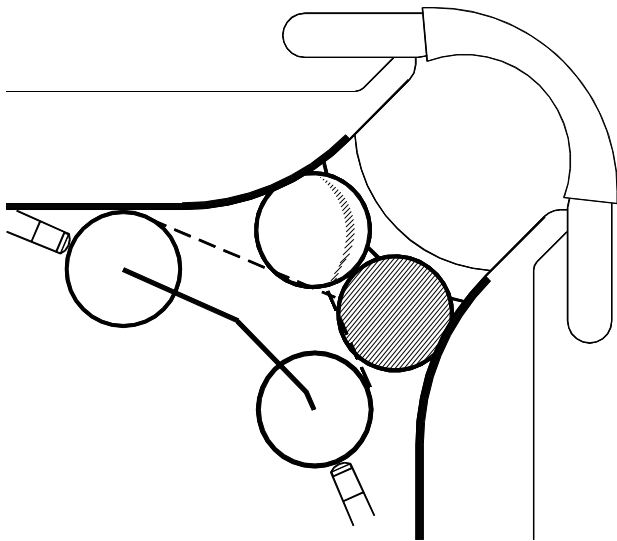
There he played a number of matches against **Hislop**, champion of South Africa, & an exhibition game with **Charley Memmott**, in which Gray was credited with making a break of **over 1100 by aid of a corner jamb.**

I saw the run, & it was certainly the most remarkable break that it has been my lot to witness. Shortly afterwards Gray drifted north, & settled down in **Brisbane**, where George's skill on the losing hazard was developed in a Queen-street room.....

# JAM CANNONZ



**JAM 1** With the ballz jammed evenly, u can play thinnish or thickish cannonz from anywhere on the tabl, it iz almost impossibl to miss. Here u play thin on the nearest ball, to land thinnish on the second ball, az shown. Shots in both directionz are identical. U will need to walk around for each cannon. U ken play more softly to leev the *q*ball shorter. And u ken play harder -- hence the *q*ball will bounce off the cushion -- but this would leev a thin-thick or a thick-thin or a thick-thick long-distance cannon kumming back, not good. The softer & thinner the stroke the less jostling done by the yellow & red, koz the jostling endz up mooving one of the ballz in further than the other, & then u are on the brink of loozing one of them. U might then rezort to unjamming the ballz to allow u to re-jam them, az shown in Jam 4 & 5. The old-timerz sed that u could play slightly thicker & harder on one or the other to jostle the ballz to get them back to even, but this method haz never worked for me. I havta giv them a big bang, az shown in Jam 4 & 5. Anyhow, each little jam-cannon haz to pozitiv. Just koz it's eezy duznt mean u ken relax. Fix your eyez on the *q*ball or *q*tip during the shot. If u moov your gaze or start to get sloppy u will be sorry.



**JAM 2** This iz the most common pozzzy. This iz better. Play thin-thin, but more softly than in Jam 1. Az i sed, it's amazing how thickly u ken hit the first ball & still get the cannon, but don't rely on it. Doing it this way, a right-hander duznt havta walk around for each cannon. She simply leenz & stretchez around & back for the little return cannon. It's a little softer & more accurate & quicker than the Jam 1 method.

**JAM 3** But i reckon that the best method iz to get in real close, az shown here, if u ken. For each stroke, u play very thin on the nearest ball, to land thickish on the second ball, & stop close, az shown. Shots in both directionz are identical. When u are this close the return cannon iz very eezy to get to without over-stretching or walking around. The main concern will be to avoid touching the *q*ball (foul), or leeving touching-ballz (spot-up).

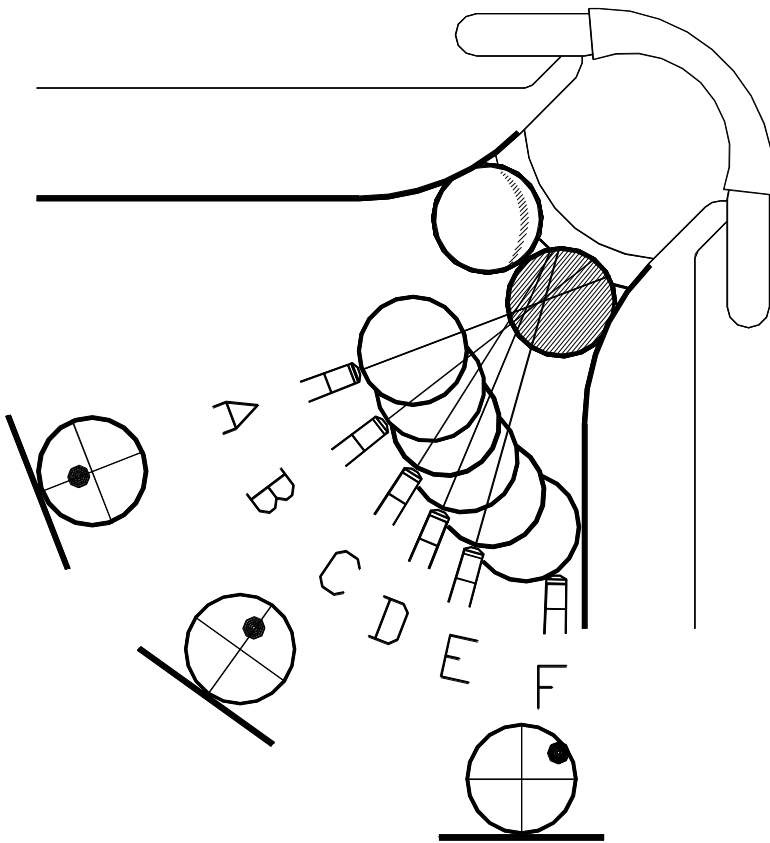
*Don't uze running-side to keep the ballz quieter koz sooner or later u will miscue.*

# SAVING YELLOW

## JAM 4

When u start to looz the yellow (or red), a hard-hit red-first-cannon will loosen the ballz, giving a leev similar to Leev 5, where uken jam'em again with a thinnish cannon, hopefully more evenly than they were before.

Just how u hit the red-first-cannon to loosen the ballz will depend on the pozzzy of the qball.



**A**.....play almost full on red, with stun, hardish. Don't hit the yellow first.

**B**.....play az for 4A.

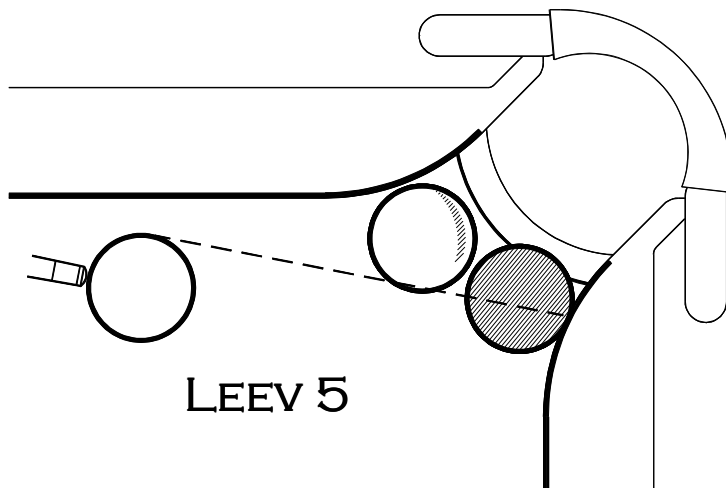
**C**.....play  $\frac{3}{4}$  ball on red, with top, hard.

**D**.....play az for 4C.

**E**.....play  $\frac{7}{8}$ <sup>th</sup> ball on red, with top, very hard.

**F**.....play az thick az u ken on red, with top & check-side, hit very hard.

Sometimez if the jawz are not cooperating u might loosen & re-jam the ballz more than once. I reckon that the tighter the pocket the better. The Jam iz probably more difficult when the pockets are like buckets, & when the fall iz too generous.



LEEV 5

## TOUCHING BALLZ

*I nearly forgot, if the yellow iz too far gone, why not try to get touching-ballz, to get the re-spot (not shown). Uken get touching-ballz more surely by using a masse' (not shown).*

*Once, when jammed, Eric asked referee Harold Silver to clean the ballz. Harold told Eric where to go.*

# GETTING JAMMED

To get the Jam-Cannon pozzzy, u would usually play nurseryz along the top-cushion, then, when u get near the pocket, u havta make a decision.

## *To turn or not to turn ?? That iz the question.*

If u know that the pocket iz amiabl to Jam-Cannonz, or if u hav stuffed-up your approach for the turn, or if u suspect that some low-life haz placed the ballz in the jam pozzzy & haz given them a bang on the head so that they won't budge, then the Jam-Cannon will be irrezistibl. Getting them to the pocket iz eezzy enuff, & sometimez jamming them evenly iz almost automatic, but there are some wayz of improving your chancez.

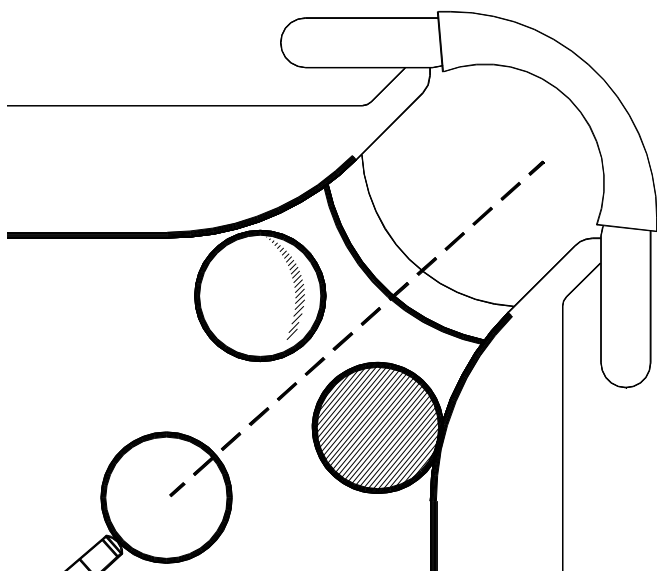
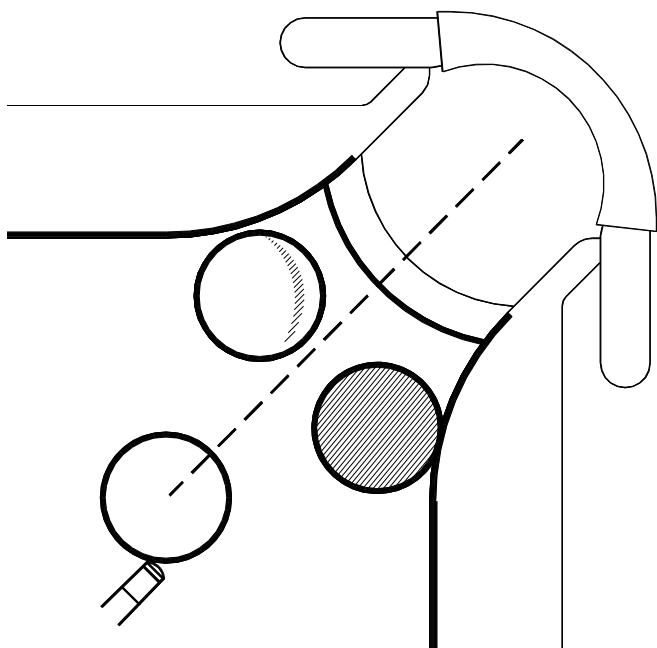
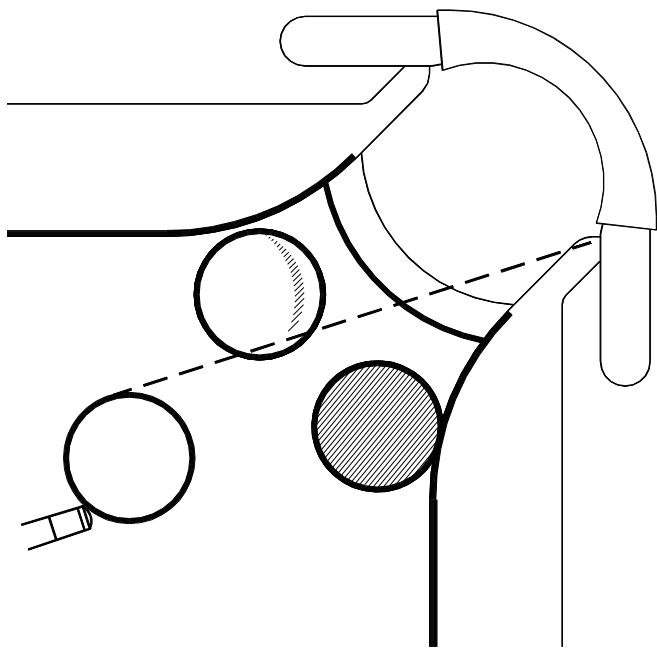
**JAM 6** Here the best strategy (to get an even jam pozzzy) iz to hit the nearest ball thinnish, with some running-side. Not too much running-side, koz it will take the red in too far. This iz a good rule to follow when the ballz are going along evenly, when herding the ballz into the jawz.

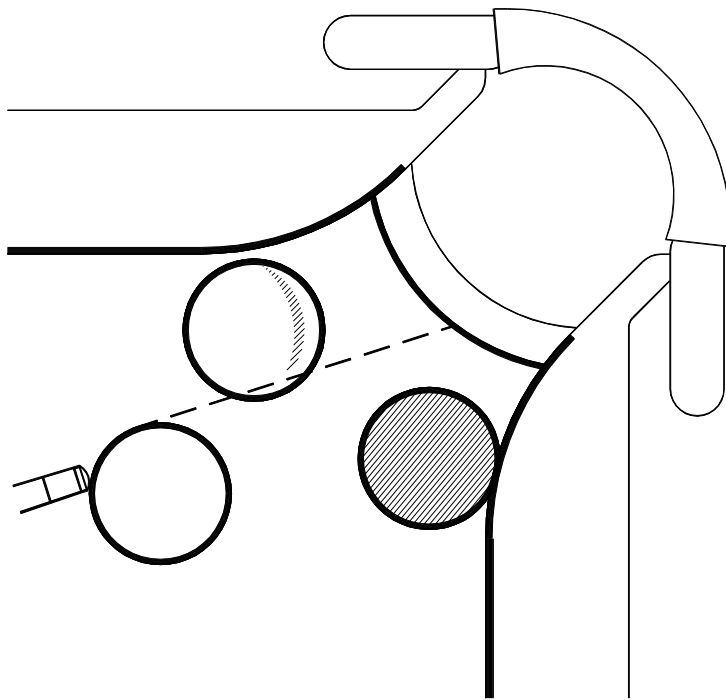
*Hit the nearer ball thinnish  
with some running-side.*

**JAM 7** Same pozzzy az 6, except that the qball iz equi-distant from the yellow & red. Here we contact one ball (or the other) first, say half-ball, with some running-side (not too much). And not too soft. The uzual stuff-up iz to be too tentative & soft.

U might be tempted to contact the first ball thinnish. If u do, u might get a surprize. Koz if u aim to the right of the mid-point between the ballz, u will contact the wrong ball first, & then u will hav the wrong side also, so the pozzzy u get after that will be anything but friendly. Silly, but eezzy done.

**JAM 8** Same pozzzy az 7. Here we show the alternativ, which iz to play mid-way between the ballz. Not too softly, or u might get touching-ballz. But 7 iz better.



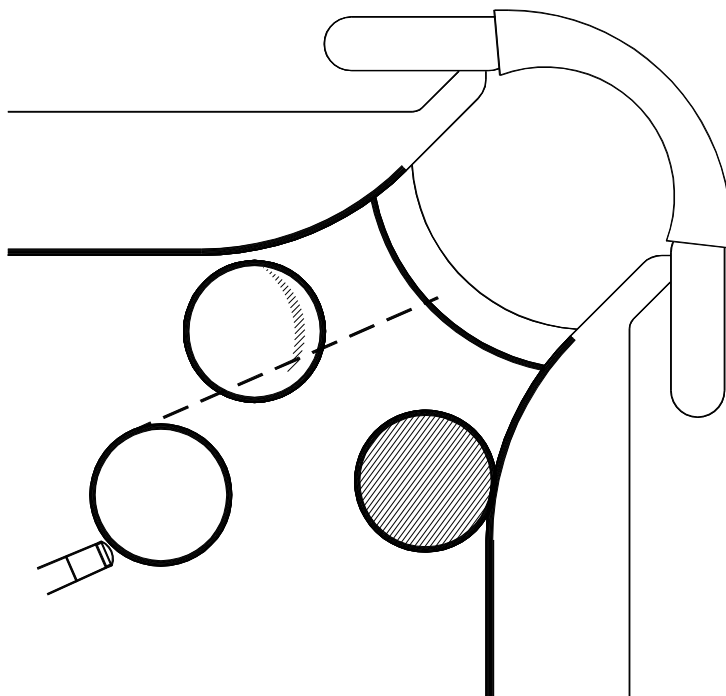


### JAM 9

Here the red is ahead, so we use left-hand-side to keep it from double-kissing ahead.

The left-hand-side will also throw the yellow ahead despite the thin contact, & the thin contact & resultant narrowish Deflexion Angle off the yellow also help to keep the red from double-kissing ahead.

And should the yellow get an additional kiss on the qball, the left-hand-side on the qball will double-kiss the yellow ahead rather than back out again.

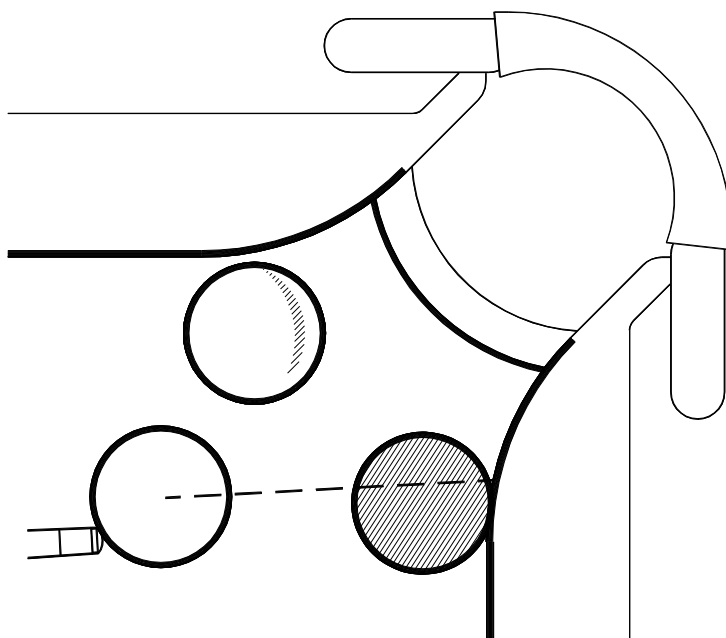


### JAM 10

Here the red is behind, so we use right-hand-side to double-kiss it ahead.

Even if it were level with the yellow, the approach-angle of the qball would double-kiss the red behindish if it were not for the right-hand-side.

The contact on yellow is a quarter-ball, coz this gives us the widest Deflexion Angle, & thus gives us the best chance of promoting the red.



### JAM 11

Here the red is further behind. Our best chance is to play directly on red (3/4 ball) with maximum right-hand-side, to double-kiss it left, whilst getting the cannon on yellow.

Here the last bit of the jaw will help us a lot. Hit at 4 o'clock to maximize the side.

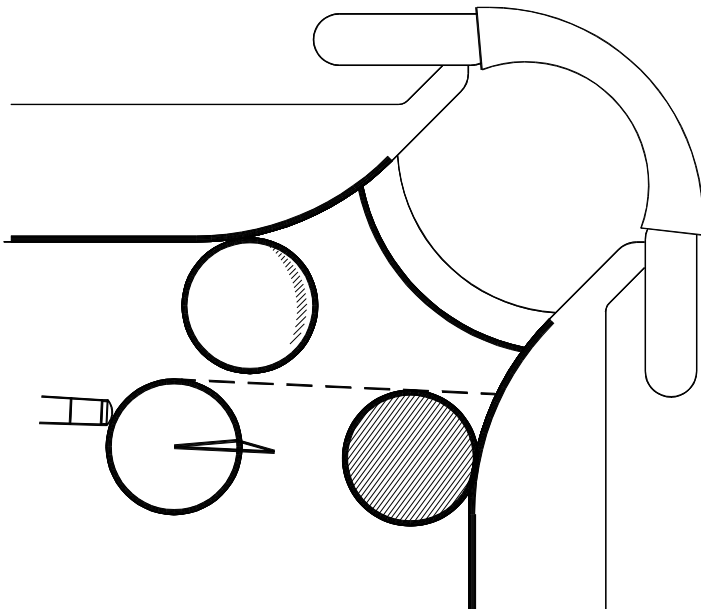
*When jamming, if ever u are worried, err to hav the red in too far, coz u don't want to looz yellow.*

# CRADLE

## JAM 12

In Jam 10, we had the chance to play full on red, with left-hand-side, to double-kiss back to graze the yellow, to leave Jam 12. This is the famous **Cradl-Cannon** with which **Tom Reece** made his **499,135** break.

This is another one of those old-time freak pozzys that have a place in the modern game. The beauty of this pozzy is that you don't have to worry about losing the yellow. And it's a one-shot sequence, so you don't have to keep changing sides. You have to stand up & stretch your back & arms frequently.

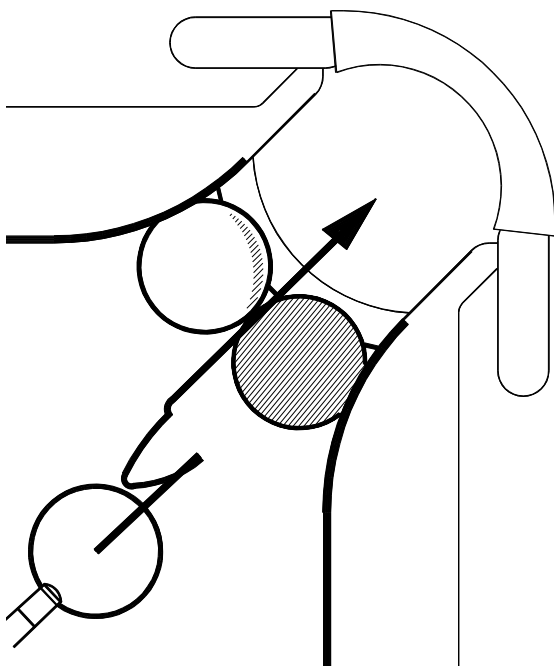


Here we aim full-ball on red (usually), with left-hand-side (usually). The jaw stops the red from going right (too well usually), so you often have to use some left-hand-side to stop the red going left. And the left side can be helpful to get the correct kiss-back angle to graze the yellow. The yellow is frozen just inside the jaw. After a dozen cannons the red starts to sink in a bit, which helps. The usual stuff-up is to lose the red to the left or right. If to the left we still get our Jam-Cannon pozzy, don't we, so don't panic. See the chapter on Cradl Cannons for details.

# 10 SHOT

**JAM 13** Here's a way of getting a 10 shot, if you need 10 for game or frame. Hit the cue ball with lots of top, very hard. The red goes straight in, the yellow bobbles, then the cue ball knocks the yellow in, then follow it in. But I don't know how you could have gotten the cue ball into this friendly pozzy. The only way is to play a pique-cannon in the previous shot. You can try the 10 shot from a pozzy closer to the cushion, but it is not then so certain.

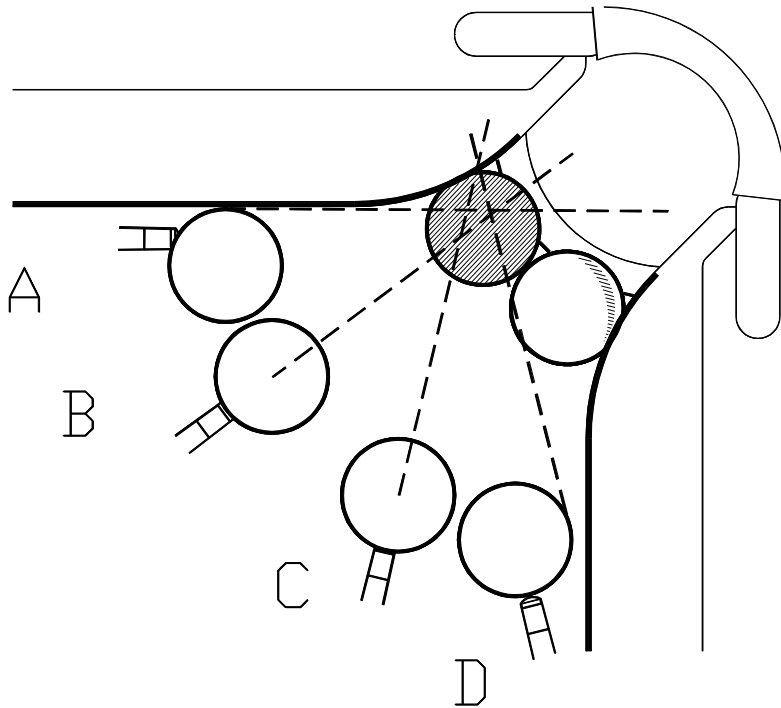
Think about getting the Jam in a frame of 150 up, the standard frame for some Billiards Championships nowadays. If you can set Jam 13 pozzy up when you are on 148 or 149, you can make a break of 158 or 159. 159 would be the maximum, & would be a world's record for all time. And perhaps you might drive away in a new car. The only other easy way of getting a 10 shot & a 159 would be to be in-hand, with the red on the brink of a middle-pocket, & the yellow in the jaws of the adjoining top pocket. Hmmmm. Regarding the Jam, if you are in-play with only a piddling break, at least a 10 stroke might win you the prize for highest frame. Hmmmmmm.





# 75 LIMIT

When u hav had your 70 cannonz warning, u had better start thinking about breaking away from the Jam-Cannon pozzz. There are many wayz of loosening the ballz to allow a pot red, eg Jam 4. But here we look at simply potting red without previously loosening it, with a hard stun or screw shot. These strokes might kum in handy if the red iz az good az lost, & u want to pot it forthwith. Or perhaps the yellow looks unsaveable, & yor best chance iz to try to pot the red with force.



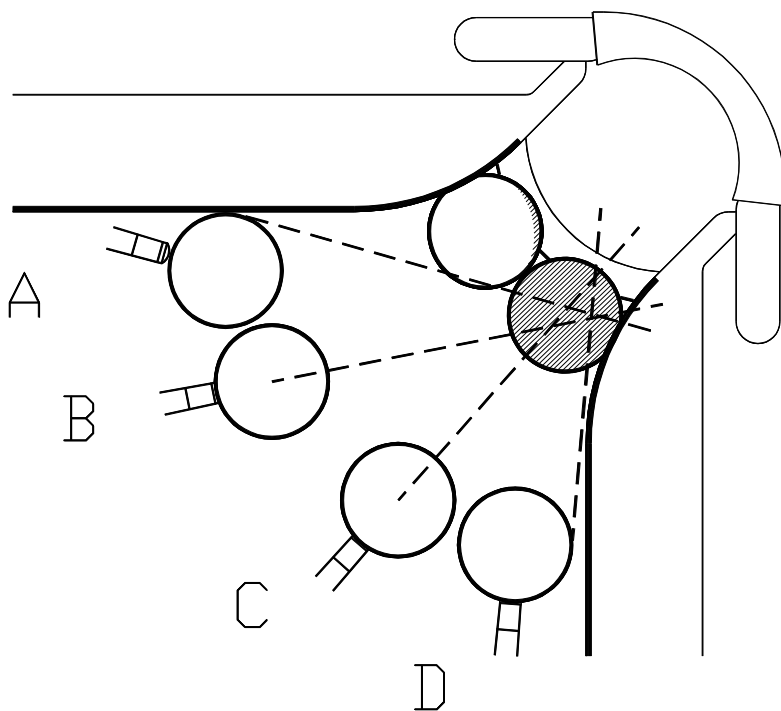
## JAM 14A

**A** Play a screw pot with check-side, hitting red az thickly az u ken, to finish on the pot-red line. The yellow kumz out perhaps 200mm but iz unlikely to leev an in-off. If u wish, u ken elect to play a thin cannon to finish near C or D & play az per C.

**B** Play a screw pot to leev a cross-loozr near A. The yellow kumz out 100mm or more, but it iz unlikely to leev an in-off.

**C** Play az for B.

**D** Play a thin cannon to finish near B.



## JAM 14B

Having the red on the side cushion makes thingz trickyr. Also, az uzual, u havta hit the red hard, to make sure u get the pot (the red sometimez refuzez to fall if the shot iz softish).

**A** Play a thin cannon to finish near C or D.

**B** Play a screw pot to finish on the pot red line.

**C** Play a screw pot to leev a cross-loozr near A. The yellow kumz out 100mm or more, but iz unlikely to leev an in-off.

**D** Play a stun pot to leev a cross-loozr near A.

In every case where the red iz potted, the yellow will kum out into the tabl perhaps 100mm to 400mm, but the yellow iz unlikely to be of much direct help for your next stroke -- so make sure of your pozzz for the red cross-loozr or for the pot red.

# A 303 BREAK

## JAM 15A

Here'z how u ken make a 303 break. U are kumming up to 70 cannonz, so u then play az followz. Play very thin off red onto yellow, hard enuff to doubl off the side-cushion, az shown, leeving Jam 15B. It's best to stun the qball, or hit at 12 o'clock, otherwise it might pass the pyramid spot, which might make the next shot less friendly.

## JAM- 15B

If u played Jam 15A hard'nuff, the red&yellow should hav kum out to here. But the actual leev will be dicey. It will depend a lot on how symmetrically the ballz were jammed, & how thinly u hit the red. Here in Jam 15B, the pozy iz perfect. We play a simpl soft cannon, az shown, leeving Jam 15C. Allow for the drift. On snooker cloths the qball might drift left, but on billiardz cloths it might drift right.

## JAM 15C

Here we play an in-off the red, bringing the red out to good pozy for the next stroke (shown). But we might hav to play in-off the yellow -- or, mightbe a few bridging cannonz first.

## JAM 15D (NOT SHOWN)

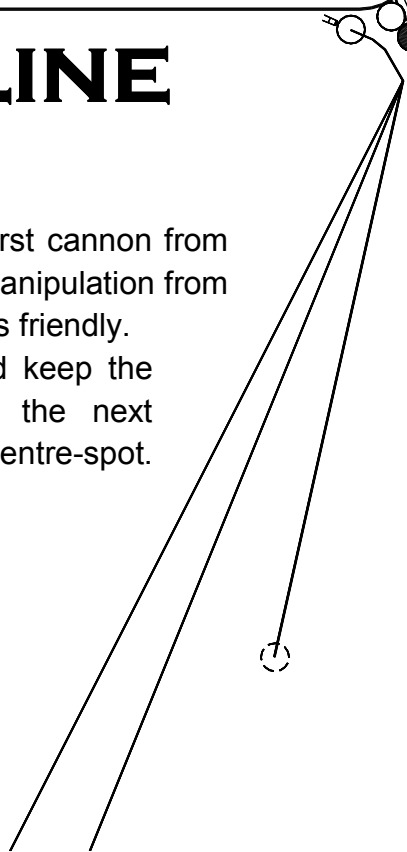
The next shot iz a very long-range gathering-cannon from in-hand, played at dead pace (see Dee-Gatherz). There u will certainly hav to know your tabl very well, koz, at slow pace, the drift ken be a half-ball or more.

With good management, u will keep the red&yellow between the qball & the pocket. Hence, no one ken stop u from regaining the Jam, which iz the eezyst, or getting the Cradl, the best. And away u go again. Another 70 cannonz, & then the same manipulation again, etc etc. So, u get up to 153 points per cycl. But u would break away before 70 cannonz, koz sometimez it ken take 5 more to set up the in-off. I hav done the 303 in practice. It's probably the eezyst way some of us are ever going to make a 300 break. For a professional, the Baulk Line Rule would be a hurdl, so we look at that nextly.

# BAULK-LINE XING

**JAM 16A** If u play a thin yellow-first cannon from the left side, uken then play the 303 manipulation from the right-hand-side, but this side iz less friendly. Hitting the qball at 12 o'clock should keep the qball closer, az shown, otherwize the next cannon will be from beyond the centre-spot. Better still, a stun shot keeps it closer.

Or, if u hit at 3 o'clock, very hard, the qball goze into baulk & back out to near the top-cushion (not shown). But this might bring the red&yellow out say 150mm, which iz actually not a bad idea. If u wanted to do this shot, u would firstly try to set up a thin-thin cannon, to minimize the distance that the red&yellow kum out.

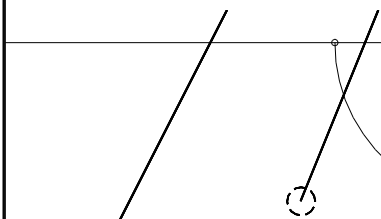


## JAM 16B

Hitting harder, uken cross the baulk line near the green spot, az shown. Hit the qball at 3 o'clock. The right-hand-side will minimize the disturbance of the red&yellow, & it will also giv the qball more pace off the cushion. With luck the red&yellow will be unmooved, or they will only kum out 1mm or 2mm. So, u should be abl to play a cannon from in-baulk, at dead pace. U will hav to allow for drift, perhaps the qball will drift a half-ball left, but it might go a littl to the right on some tablz.

## JAM 16C

If u want to hav a go at a free shot, u might be abl to get the in-off into the left baulk-pocket, az shown, killing 2 rulez with one shot. Then u would hav another 75 cannonz ahead of u. Set up thin. Play thick on yellow thin on red, hitting at 4:30 o'clock.



# MORE IN-OFFS

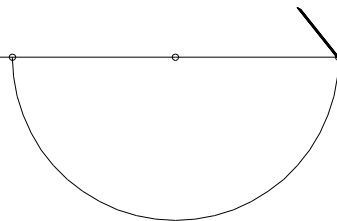
If u want to break your neck to get an in-off, here'z a few more wayz to gettum. Theze red-first cannonz are good, koz u are unlikely to looz the yellow. It's the red that sometimez fallz in.

## JAM 16D

The in-off into the right middl-pocket i got on my 3<sup>rd</sup> attempt (shown). The red&yellow would uzually kum out 1mm or 2mm. Thin on red, thick on yellow, hitting at 9 o'clock.

## JAM 16E

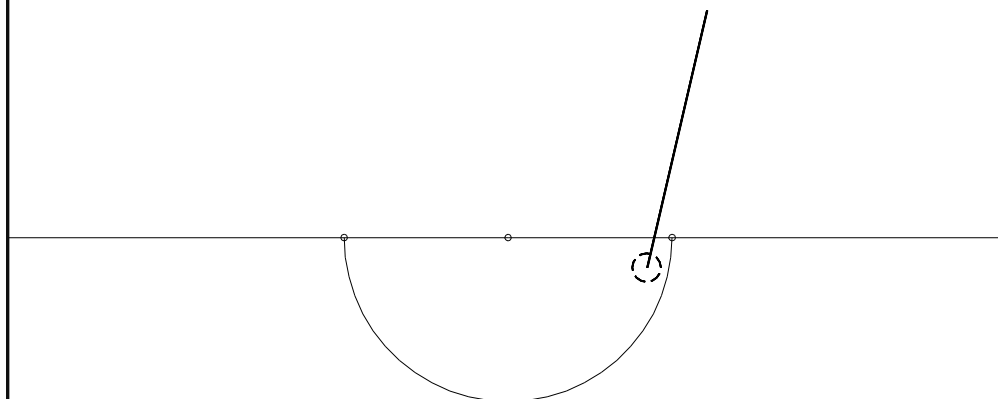
The in-off into the right baulk-pocket iz the eezyst (shown). I got it 5<sup>th</sup> attempt. This iz a good one, koz u would get a baulk line xing at the same time, & kill 2 rulez with one shot. And u sometimez get the in-off into the left middl-pocket by accident (shown). The red&yellow are likely to kum out 20mm to 150mm. Hit qball at 9 o'clock, thick on red, thin on yellow. I woznt going to show any of theze in the Bibl. But, in for a penny, in for a pound. Anyhow, it showz u what a cushion-crawler gets upta when no one iz looking. Who knowz, u might get a chance of having a go at one of theze in a match.



# A LAZY 303 BREAK

JAM 17

About the only way of keeping a solid jam while getting an in-off iz to play into the left middl-pocket az shown. The bad newz iz that u havta go in-off the red, without making the cannon. So, if u miss the in-off, the opponent will almost certainly hav touching-ballz, & will get a free spot-up. That's the risk you take. The pay-off iz that u retain a solid jam. So, after the in-off, u will hav a virtually unmissabl cushion-first cannon from in-hand, az shown. Cushion 100mm to 200mm before the red. This cushion-first-cannon u might recognize az the one uzed in the Jam Pendulum. Az i say, it's virtually fool-proof, even at long range. Much eezyr than the eezyish gatherz mentioned earlyr. I got the in-off 3 timez in say 10 attempts. U havta set it up with the qball wider out than in all of the similar shots needed in the earlyr sequencez. Otherwize the middl-pocket iz hard to get at. If u played one of the other sequencez, requiring a long-range or short-range gather etc, u might regain the jam or the cradl say 3 timez in 10 attempts also, but with the option of other thingz if u slip-up. Anyhow, it's up to u, but u havta get the first jam first. HmMMM. Two jamz -- or even more -- sput sput sput.



# ROBERTS VERSUS IVES

## CHARLES DAWSON

PRACTICAL BILLIARDS (1904)

ROBERTS V IVE

.....Roberts, who for some time had been trying to arrange an international match with Frank C Ives, of Chicago, the American Champion, sent T Taylor to America with power to make a match & arrange conditions that would put the two players as near on equal terms as possible.

A match of 6000 points up, for 1000 pounds, was ultimately played at the Humphrey's Hall, Knightsbridge, London, on May 29<sup>th</sup>, to June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1893, on an English table erected by Messrs. Burroughes and Watts, with the pockets made much smaller, being 3¼" only instead of 3<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub>", while the balls were 2¼" in diameter, instead of 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>16</sub>", 1000 points to be scored each evening.

At the finish of the first night's play the scores stood :- Roberts, 1000 : Ives, 689 : & on the second : Roberts, 2001, Ives, 1670 : the latter making a break of 88.

On the Wednesday evening Roberts scored at a fair pace, compiling breaks of 90, 70, 49, 36 twice, 30 twice, 53, 33, 106, & 106 unfinished.

Ives played fairly well with 175 (83 cannons), 63 (25 cannons), 34, 90, & 30, the scores standing Roberts, 3000 : Ives, 2243.

On resuming on Thursday evening Roberts made his unfinished break into 140, & then added 67, 49, & 139.

Ives, whose highest break had been 45, now got the balls together, worked them to the top corner pocket, & jammed the balls in the mouth of the pocket.

Scoring at a tremendous rate he reached his points with an unfinished break of 1540 (770 cannons), leaving the scores : Ives, 4000 : Roberts, 3,484.

This came as a great surprise to Roberts, who, seeing that Ives had an excellent position to finish the game right off, offered to give the game to Ives & play a match of 2000 up, "jammed" stroke barred, for 1000 pounds, but Ives declined.

On Friday evening Roberts did not have a stroke, as Ives continued and ran the break to 2539 (1267 cannons).

Ives, when within 5 points of his required number, in the evening, broke the balls up, but no doubt he could have continued nearly as long as he liked, but the company present became impatient & frequently shouted "Smash them up", which he ultimately did, leaving the scores : Ives, 5000 ; Roberts, 3484.

In the last evenings play Roberts' principal breaks were 30 & 193. Ives made 80 & 49, & once more got the balls "jammed", making 848 (402 cannons), when he again broke the balls up with a four-stroke, bringing the full break to 852, & then played for safety.

Ives won by 2179 points, the final scores reading : Ives, 6000 ; Roberts, 3821.

# RETURN MATCH

..... A return match was played for 400 pounds at the Central Music Hall, Chicago, America, on September 18<sup>th</sup> to September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1893, under the same conditions, with the exception that a baulk line, seven inches in length, was drawn across each of the corner pockets, inside of which only two strokes could be made without driving one of the two object-balls out of the baulk.

Ives on the Saturday evening made the 1000 which he required to win, while Roberts only succeeded in adding 478, the final scores standing : Ives, 6000 ; Roberts, 5243. The largest breaks during the game were 432 by Ives & 166 by Roberts.

After this second defeat by Ives, a third match of 10,000 points up for 400 pounds was arranged & plays at the Lenox Lyceum, New York, America, on October 2<sup>nd</sup> to October 7<sup>th</sup>, 1893, under the same conditions with the exception that the pocket openings were 3 5/8 in instead of 3 1/4 in.

This put the two Champions on more equal terms, the conditions in the previous matches being in favour of Ives, who relied on long runs of nursery cannons along the cushions.

The hazard game of Roberts was cramped by the size of the pockets, & the "push stroke" also being barred in these matches made a great difference to his play, for he could not play the masse' stroke anything like the American Champion, who was an adept at this particular stroke.

On Monday evening Roberts, with breaks of 106 & 191, to Ives' best of 109, scored 1001 to 542. On Tuesday afternoon, Ives, with runs of 244, 236, & 329, to breaks of 93 & 132 by

Roberts, scored 997 points to 801, the scores reading : Roberts, 1802 ; Ives, 1539.

In the evening Roberts, with 91 & 128, to Ives' best break of 116, scored 1002 to Ives 703 ; score : Roberts, 2804 ; Ives, 2242.

On Wednesday afternoon Roberts, with breaks of 176 an 91, had all the best of the play & scored 797 to 414, Ives' best break being 98 ; score : Roberts, 3601 ; Ives, 2656.

In the evening Ives treated the company present to the finest exhibition of nursery cannon play ever seen on an English table.

Playing with marvellous accuracy of stroke he nursed the balls past four pockets along the cushions & reached the fifth pocket (which was a side pocket), & had made 640 by cannon play, but by playing too hard he lost position, & after adding 11 more by hazard play finally failed at a follow-on stroke, the full break being 651.

Roberts answered to this with 105, 101, & 119, but Ives again got the nursery cannons, & passing the side pocket made 516.

Roberts followed with 162, when Ives for the third time got the nursery cannons & scored 395, which gave him the lead for the first time.

Ives during the evening scored 1946 points to Roberts 886. Score : Ives, 4602 ; Roberts, 4487. On Thursday afternoon Roberts, with breaks of 95 & 110, scored 913 to Ives' 436, leaving the score : Roberts, 5400 ; Ives, 5038.

In the evening, with breaks of 143, 117, & 105, Roberts scored 1001 to 748, Ives' best breaks being 94 and 202, the scores reading : Roberts, 6401 ; Ives, 5,786.

On Friday afternoon Roberts, with his best break of 103, scored 799 points to Ives' 878, the latter making a break of 586 by cannon play, taking the balls three-quarters of the way around the table. Score : Roberts, 7200 ; Ives, 6664.

In the evening Roberts, with breaks of 125, 157, & 123, to Ives' best of 146, scored 1000 to Ives 513. Score : Roberts, 8200, Ives, 7177.

On the Saturday afternoon Ives made breaks of 263 & 205, & scored 927 points to Roberts' 801, leaving the scores : Roberts, 9001 ; Ives, 8104.

In the final stage of the game Ives scored 634 points, with a best break of 366, while Roberts with 130 & 127 scored the desired 999, & ran out a winner by 1262 points, the full scores at the finish being : Roberts, 10,000 ; Ives, 8,738.

.....Roberts on his return resumed his duties at the Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly, London, where he played H Coles, & on November 10<sup>th</sup> made a break of 571, "spot barred", mostly compiled by short runs of nursery cannons, which showed he had benefited by his visit to America, for shortly afterwards he began to play an extraordinary game, beating the "record" time after time.

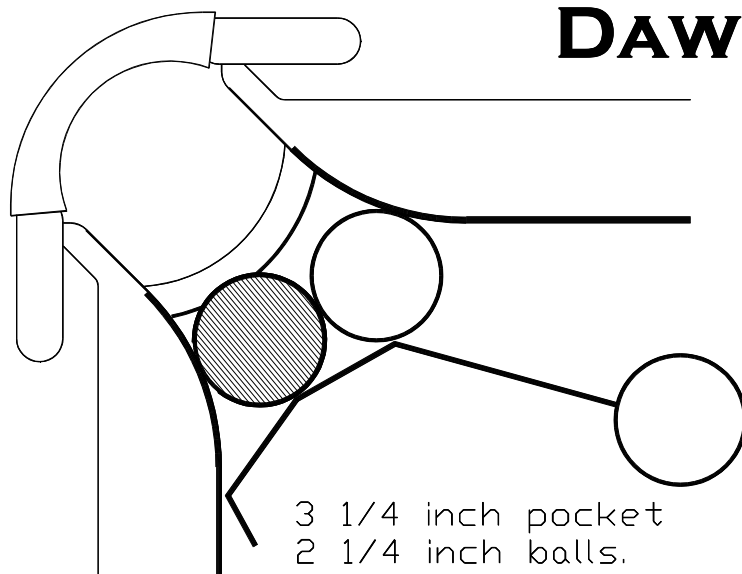
.....**F C Ives & J Schaefer**, the American Champions, visited England & gave an exhibition of American billiards at the Egyptian Hall, Picadilly, on March 9<sup>th</sup>, 1894 .....

..... On Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, **Eugene Carter** (the American player) opened at the Argyll Hall, Argyll Street, London, playing **J P Mannock** & other professionals at American billiards, which, no doubt, helped to increase the agitation against the "**push stroke**".

In one of his games with **C Memmott** (the Australian Champion), **Carter** made a break of **563** on December 5<sup>th</sup> (counting **one** for each cannon).

At each entertainment **Carter** played fancy strokes, & gave a novel display with little ivory balls. He had a long successful season in London, & he afterwards visited the provinces.

..... **Hugo Kerkan**, the German Champion, on March 29<sup>th</sup> gave exhibitions of French billiards at Messrs Burroughes and Watts Show Rooms, Dean Street, London, with **J P Mannock**, but he did not have a very long run, for after the first week the attendance was only moderate.



## DAWSON'Z DRAWING

This iz ruffnuff Dawson'z drawing of the Ives' jam-cannon pozzzy. Dawson showz that the ballz were definitely jammed, though not symmetrically. And he showz the red overhanging the drop - - i suspect that this would hav been a foul or a spot-up under the Articlez for the match -- Hmmmmmm.

U would not get a long run of jam cannonz with standard ballz in a standard pocket if u had this sort of angle. Either Ives' ballz stayed put somehow, or he woz abl to jostl them about at will.

Also, Dawson showz that Ives played from near the cushion from one side, & from well out on the other. Whether this woz the main sequence, or whether it varyd, we don't know.

But Dawson saw the match with hiz own eyez -- & he woz one of billiardz prime students, behind Mannock possibly -- so he would know what he woz drawing. Almost every other writer & authority on billiardz sez that Ives did not hav the ballz jammed, & say or insinuate that Ives had a verzion of the cradl cannon -- so, there woz disagreement.



# I RECKON THAT THERE ARE 4 TYPES OF JAM

1. With the ballz wedged solid, so that u would need a hammer to shift'em.
2. With the ballz jammed tightly, so that a clumsy shot could doom one.
3. With the ballz slightly seperated more often than not.
4. With the ballz well seperated all the time, but anchored to each jaw.

**Numberz 1 & 3 do not exizt**  
**Number 4 iz the cradl cannon**

## MISUNDERSTANDING

I reckon that the misunderstanding & disagreement stem from one thing. Reece & otherz always maintained that in the jam-cannon the ballz are never jammed. They maintain that the ballz are actually free to moove & jostl, & that a clumsy stroke ken ruin the pozzy. And that in fact even with perfect strokes, it iz only a matter of time before the symmetry iz bent & u then havta unbend it. This jostling woz possibly even more evident in Ives' jam, koz of the large ballz & the small pockets. So, if enuff peopl say enuff timez that the ballz were not jammed, then someone who woznt there will try to draw drawingz showing the ballz slightly apart, & then they are followed by Holt & otherz who write adamant articlz saying so. HmMMMMMMMM.

## JOHN ROBERTS THE BILLIARD PLAYER AUGUST 1950 PEEPS INTO THE PAST

*For the benefit of those omniscient pressmen who are just now fostering the erroneous impression that Ives has beaten me at English billiards, I give particulars of the game they refer to.*

*The table had the usual 6 pockets, but they were only 3½" wide at the fall of the slate, & **the middle pockets were square**. The balls were 2¼" in diameter. That iz to say, the pockets were 1/8" narrower, & the balls 3/16" larger, than in the ordinary game, which made a difference of 5/16" in hazard play & **the squareness of the pockets further discounted middle-pocket hazards**.*

*Notwithstanding this, i kept the lead for the first 3 days & was about 1000 ahead when Ives got the balls into position for the **Anchor Nurse**, & made 1267 cannons. The final score was Ives 6000 (2539 break), Roberts 3821 (best breaks 239, 141, 140, 139, 193).*

**COMMENTS**.....*Roberts' use of the term Anchor Nurse suggests the Cradle Cannon. HmMMMMMMMM.*

# TOM REECE

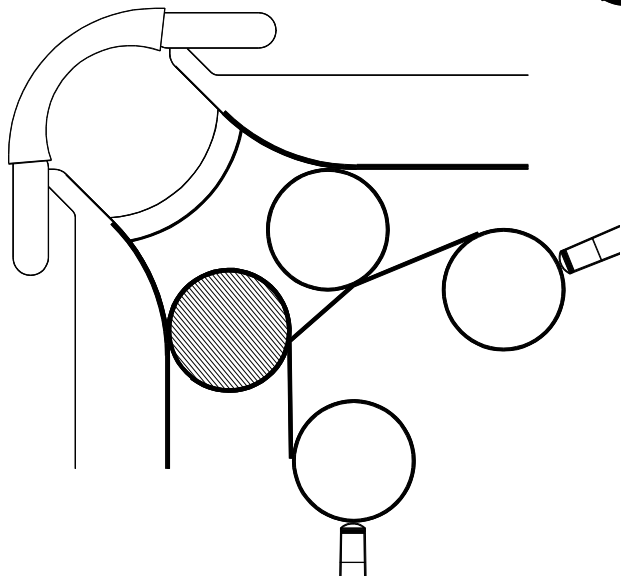
DAINTY BILLIARDS (1925)

ROBERTS V IVES

.....Until the rule restricting the series of ball-to-ball shots to five-and-twenty came into force, i feel sure that i was going to roll up some new records. Unfortunately, i showed my hand too soon. The long string of **249,552** consecutive cannons in a break of **499,135** points, between July 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 1907, which occupied 85 hours 49 minutes to tick off, ended my chances of ever again making full use of my close-cannon skill..... Try as i would, and certainly did, to overcome this restriction i found it too heavy a handicap..... When i made my record ... i had the balls placed just outside the right top pocket, the red ball on the end cushion, the object-white on the side-cushion (both just clear of the "bumps") and the cue-ball in between. .... Within my own memory there have been curious happenings concerned with close-cannon strokes when the balls have been at the jaws of a pocket.

The late **John Roberts**....contested a compromise match with the then American champion, **Frank C Ives**, the "Napoleon" of the cue, as his admirers styled him, at Humphrey's Hall, Knights-bridge, London. .... There were 6 pockets to the table, each 3¼ inches (much smaller than the usual openings) at the "fall of the slate", and the balls were 2¼ inches (much larger than the regulation size) in diameter. .... It was an interesting contest until Ives managed to work the balls to the mouth of the right top pocket, and, once having done this, ticked off cannons to his heart's content. A big set of balls and a small pocket enabled him to keep the balls **moving** about the "bumps", and to all intents and purposes prevented any of them going in. The American champion finally, and after he had made his position on the marking-board secure, purposely broke up the position--or he might have kept them there to the end of the one-sided match. ....

## SAINT TOM'Z DRAWING



This iz ruff'nuff Tom'z drawing of Ives' pozzzy. It showz the object-ballz almost touching, just outside the bumps, equidistant from the centreline of the pocket. And it showz the qball grazing across both ballz, from side to side, just az for a jam-cannon, except that the qball never goze near a cushion but keeps quite close to both ballz. The drawing showz that the cannon grazez the white each shot, but haz some kiss-off effect off the red each shot. This could be poor drafting, or perhaps there woz some kiss-effect. I hav tryd to emulate Ives on my home tabl. My pockets are 3½", & i ized my set of 2<sup>7</sup>/<sub>16</sub>" ballz. I ken tell u that Ives did not make

hiz cannonz az drawn by Reece, or az stated by many of the other descriptionz that i hav kum across over the yearz. I guess that there iz another possibility. **Perhaps Ives invented the cradl-cannon, in 1893**, & hence ized a cradl cannon kiss-back sort of shot for each of these here cannonz. In fact he could hav ized a cradl-cannon kiss-back for **each second shot**. And he could hav thrown in a few back'the'front cradlz, ie playing the kiss-back by firstly grazing one ball **before** kissing-back off the second ball (instead of **after**). This sort of back'the'front cradl-cannon iz sometimez the best shot to play in a present-day cradl (ie with 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>16</sub>" ballz). Regarding Tom Reece'z drawing, theoretically it iz possibl to graze across the two object-ballz az shown by Tom, & to repeat this ad-infinity. But it iz also theoretically possibl to score 75 consecutive cannonz by belting all 3 ballz around the tabl each shot, & almost az probabl.

# JOHN ROBERTS

MODERN BILLIARDS 1901-1919

..... On the Thursday, however, Ives got the balls in one of the corners.

**They were not jammed under the English rule, as to fall within that rule part of the balls had to overhang the pocket, & this was an impossible position with balls & pockets of the size used in this match.**

The position was more what is known in America as the "anchor", & was perfectly allowable under the articles.....

## MY COMMENT

*Dawson's drawing sez that one ball might have been overhanging.*

By the way, **Modern Billiards**, 1<sup>st</sup> edition 1901, my book iz 1919, iz somewhat unique. John haz one chapter on close-cannonz, with very littl content, just 12 bread&butter shots. He showz 6 basic nursery positionz, & the rezults of playing the correct way & the incorrect wayz, ie with left-hand-side with right-hand-side & with nil side. But the novel bit iz that he also showz 6 basic shots **drawn full-scale**. He asks that the player uze some tracing linen & chalk to transfer the pozzyz to a tabl, to practise the shots according to the instructionz. Very good thinking.

## THE BADMINTON LIBRARY

MAJOR W BROADFOOT 1885 & 1896

My 1896 copy woz once owned by that old time English & then Australian professional, **Harry Evans**, & it haz hiz signature inside the front cover. This iz another of thoz cheap old books that iz a must for any player. It haz a nice section on Nurseryz. And it haz a nice bit on Ives.

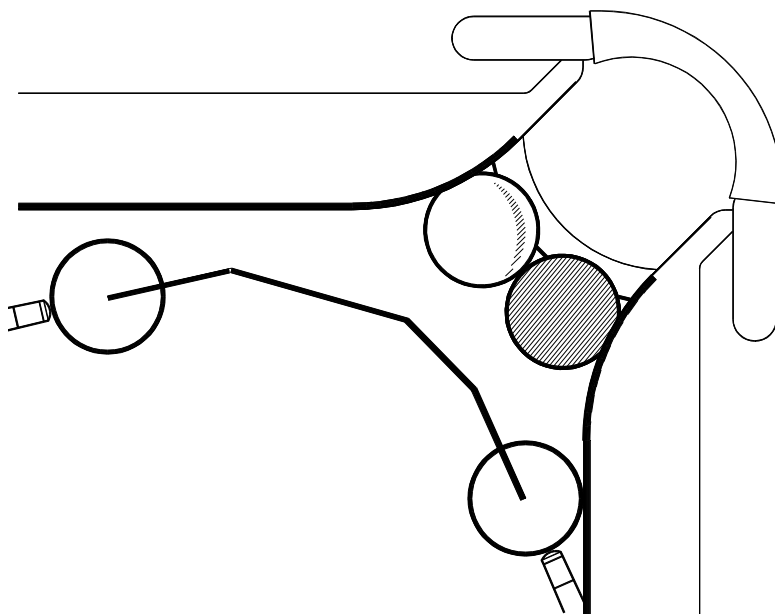
.....*These notes on nurseries may be appropriately closed by the following remarks kindly furnished by **Mr Rimington-Wilson**, who, it is permissible to observe, can play such cannons with a speed & certainty as greatly to be envied as they are difficult of attainment, & in a style professional rather than amateur..... Nursery cannon play in England is still in its infancy, & the writer cannot help expressing a wish that it may never see full maturity. The possibilities of this style of game were well illustrated by the visit of the American champion **Ives** to this country, when he played a match with Roberts under unusual conditions..... It is true that Ives made his gigantic break in a way that would be impossible with the ordinary sized balls & pockets -- viz. **by jamming the balls**, which were an intermediate size between the American & English, in the angle of a table with very tight pockets. While maintaining the position in which he made his break, the balls were not jammed in the jaws of the pocket as they may be in the English game, but rather in the angle of the corner where, owing to the large balls & small pockets, there was very little danger of losing a ball. In fact, the break was played very much as it would be on an American table with no pockets..... Independently of this break Ives' cannon play was very superior to anything of the kind in this country, & the writer has seen him in practice make a break between **600 & 700** without ever getting the balls **angled**, & this with the **push stroke barred**. Of course the **masse" stroke** came into play, but not very frequently. .... From the spectators point of view long series nursery cannons soon become wearisome, perhaps even more so than the spot stroke. In many instances also a large proportion of those present are unable to see the play at all, as the body of the striker blocks the view.....*

# JAM PENDULUM

## RICHARD HOLT

THE BILLIARD PLAYER (NOV 53)

.....The **1927 "pendulum" cannon** was the old "jam" stroke, with a difference (Taylor made **1,467 -- 729** cannons, no limit -- in **1891**, but with the position arising by chance). Reece maintained that the balls were not jammed as the slightest inaccuracy would have dislodged them ..... and in this jam stroke we believe there was sometimes a slight space between the balls. Reece manoeuvred the balls into the jam or "pendulum" position after three strokes, on this occasion (v. Inman, 1927 Championship, at Thurston's).



The stroke differed from Taylor's in that Reece had to make a cushion-first cannon after each sequence -- he did this when each **20** was called -- and it was this stroke which needed special delicacy of touch. He compiled **1,151 (568 cannons)** in this break, and later made other big breaks with it, including one over **3,000**. The Billiards Association, however, felt compelled to restrict the "pendulum" cannon, as big breaks by it threatened to upset the game (**Joe Davis** made **2,501** with it, against **Newman**, in the **1927** Championship), and by defining specifically the "**indirect**" cannon, and imposing a **35-limit**, put paid to the stroke. As a matter of fact, you can often get the cannon by hitting cushion-first (not shown). When they brought in the **25 direct-cannon-rule**, the pro's soon learnt to get around it (for the Jam-Shot) by leaving the qball very wide (when needed) so that they could then play a cushion-first cannon (when needed). This form of Jam-Cannon was called the Pendulum (no relationship to the real pendulum). These pendulums are easiest off the top-cushion, because the nap helps the shot. Tom Reece made a **1,151** break in the 1927 Championship, then Joe Davis made a **2,501** break in the final (BP Feb 51), both almost entirely using the Pendulum. Henceforth, an indirect cannon was to be **ball-cushion--ball**, which obviously excluded the "pendulum" **cushion--ball--ball** formula, whereby Reece, after each sequence, cleverly played on to the cushion without disturbing the balls in making the cannon, after which he would, as stated, resume the direct cannons.

# RICHARD HOLT

## THE BILLIARD PLAYER (FEB 51)

....." No \*\* is the so-called "pendulum" cannon, which Reece introduced into the 1927 Championship, making a bk. Of **1,151** ; Joe Davis (Final) made **2,501** with it. It resembles the old "jam" stroke, with which Tom Taylor made **729** cannons in 1891, but Reece skilfully worked for the position, and also played a cushion-first cannon when the limit (**25**) was reached ; Taylor's bk. was from an accidental obtaining of the position. Ives' big bk. Against John Roberts (**2,534, in 1893**) was made with the "jam" stroke (balls not quite touching) but with smaller pockets and bigger balls. The balls need not actually touch in the "jam", nor in the Reece 1927), position. ... ..

### COMMENTS

Strange!! Richard thort that Taylor got pozy by accident. He must hav been thinking of some other player and some other break. And Richard thought that the ballz need not quite touch in the jam nor in the pendulum-jam. Hmmmmmmm.....Strange stuff!!

### DOLLY

Haz a copy of a popular ozzie magazine (195?), where Wally sez that hiz biggest-ever break woz over 11,000, & that this woz using the pendulum. But i guess he did it in practice or in a friendly game, koz there'z no official record i think. He probably practised it so that he could uze it in self-defence if ever it raized its ugly head in Australia or the UK.

# ANDREW RICKETTS

## WALTER LINDRUM, BILLIARDS PHENOMENON 1982

..... In May of 1927 the Control Council's attention was drawn to a break of 3964 made by Tom Reece against Arthur Peall. .... in the same match Reece made ... 6417.

..... When news reached Walter Lindrum of Reece's new stroke he had a simple answer. In an exhibition at the Footscray Men's Club in Paisley Street, Footscray, he made a pendulum cannon break of 8000 unfinished before walking away from the table through boredom.

# TOM REECE

## CANNONS & BIG GUNS 1928

.....Some misconception appears to have arisen about the **pendulum-cannon** which i should like to clear up here & now. I do not in any sense claim to be the discoverer of this stroke.....

.....The fact is that, a few weeks before my match with Inman, i was introduced by Mr Harry Young to Mr J C Pepperell, of Ramsgate, & it was this gentleman who demonstrated to me the possibilities of the position. So far as i am concerned, therefore, the credit of the discovery belongs to Mr Pepperell, just as Mr Lovejoy deserves full credit for the Anchor Stroke which i also exploited professionally.

Eric iz amazed that the jam & the cradle are so eezy on such a high table.

