

THE RUB NURSE

I reckon that there woz no such thing az a **Rub-Nurse** -- such a nurse karnt exist. A **Rub-Rocker** ken exist. It kumz down to nomenclature -- Daly mentionz **Stationary**-Nursez, & Daly mentionz **Running**-Nursez -- whereaz in English billiardz i think a nurse karnt be stationary. But even if we allow the wordage -- Rub-Nurse -- i reckon that such a running nurse karnt exist for long.

DALY'S BILLIARD BOOK (1913)

.....The "rub-nurse" arose in the development of cushion caroms. It is the finest cushion carom position possible, sometimes resulting in very long runs. It is shown in Plate 138.

In playing it the cue ball moves a small fraction of an inch and the object balls even less.

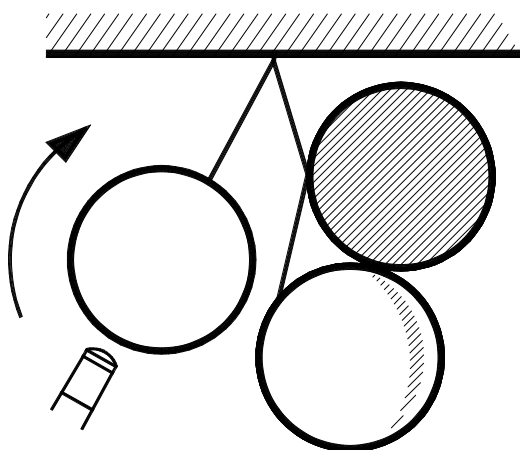
I have seen **Martin Mullen**, an amateur, make more than **100** points at this nurse in cushion caroms, moving the balls only a **few inches**. It is just as useful in straight rail, and in balk-line astride the line at its end.

The cue ball strikes the **cushion first** generally (not always), with a little **reverse English** and "**top**". Then it caroms, but the reverse and top English **deaden** the cue ball so the object balls are scarcely disturbed.

Sometimes the **chuck-nurse** position grows out of spoiling the **rub-nurse** position. But whenever you get the balls close together on the rail, watch the chances to nudge them into one of these positions, or into the **anchor**.

The latter is far more difficult to execute, and in modern competition games it is barred as being too easy, though no players ever made many at it except **Schaefer** and **Ives**.

In ordinary **balk-line** competitions i think by all means it ought to be allowed. It adds greatly to the variety of play and hence the interest of the game.



RUB-NURSE 1

This iz ruffly whot Daly'z Plate 138 looked like, but shown here much enlarged -- Daly sez...

The Rub Nurse

Cue-ball top and reverse english. Cushion first, very softly, just barely getting to 2nd ball, then repeat.

MY COMMENTS

So, Daly definitely meenz a 1-stroke-sequence. It iznt clear whether Maurice meenz Running, or Stationary (ie a rocker), or Semi-Stationary. Perhaps **Semi-Stationary** -- the red & yellow slowly spreading apart a few inchez -- leading to

..... Mullen.... make more than 100 points.... moving the balls only a few inches.

But perhaps Maurice's **moving** meenz Running -- the 3 ballz mooving **along** a few inchez, whilst keeping their basic shape but spreading a little. Hmmmmm.

Why duz Maurice show the red **off** the cushion ???? I reckon that the red will be frozen on the cushion in about 10 out of 10 instancez of such a nurse.

Why duz Maurice show the yellow **touching** the red ???? I reckon that the yellow will be apart from the red in about 10 out of 10 instancez of such a nurse.

Why duz Maurice show **reverse english** (left-hand-side) ???? Right-hand-side will allmost instantly ruin any touch -- u won't be able to land softly on the yellow with any consistency. And left-hand-side iz allmost az bad -- zero side iz the key to any consistency -- certainly with the small English ball.

Why duz Maurice say that **top** deadenz the *q*ball ???? Overspin iz impossible at slow pace.

Why duz Maurice say that.....*The cue ball strikes the cushion first generally (not always) ????* I suppose that u might needta play R-C-Y if the *q*ball got between the red & yellow, in which case u would allmost certainly need som right-hand-side. But perhaps Maurice ment Y-C-R, or Y-R-C, or R-C-Y (this iz most probable). Or if playing away from the cushion, R-Y. If the *q*ball woznt covered (ie if it couldn't see the cushion), then the only use for a red-first cannon would be to get the *q*ball well out -- to allow som sort of yellow-first recovery stroke -- to herd the yellow back closer to the cushion, or to amend the shape of the ballz.

Why duz Maurice say that a Chuck Nurse (ie what the Bible callz The Rocker) might **grow** out of a Rub Nurse ???? Surely it iznt possible for the yellow to leak east of the red without playing som sort of yellow-first cannon.

The mention of a Chuck Nurse growing from the spoiling of a Rub Nurse suggests that the Rub Nurse iz often partly a **ThinAlong** -- ie either a 90° verzion or even a 70° verzion. But the only time that Maurice showz a drawing of anything like a ThinAlong, anywhere in hiz book, he only showz it az being played az a single bridging stroke, leeding to..... **the normal rail position recovered**. Hmmmmmmm.

RISO LEVI

BILLIARDS, THE STROKES OF THE GAME (1910)

Riso duznt mention the Rub-Nurse. Diagram 740 showz an ordinary thin cushion-first-cannon.

.....*If the object balls are taken very thinly a gentle stroke will move them very little, and when they are only grazed their position after the stroke will be little different from what it was previous to the stroke having been played.....*

MANNOCK BILLIARDS EXPOUNDED (1910)

Duznt mention the Rub-Nurse, or anything similar -- just the uzual thin cushion-first-cannon.

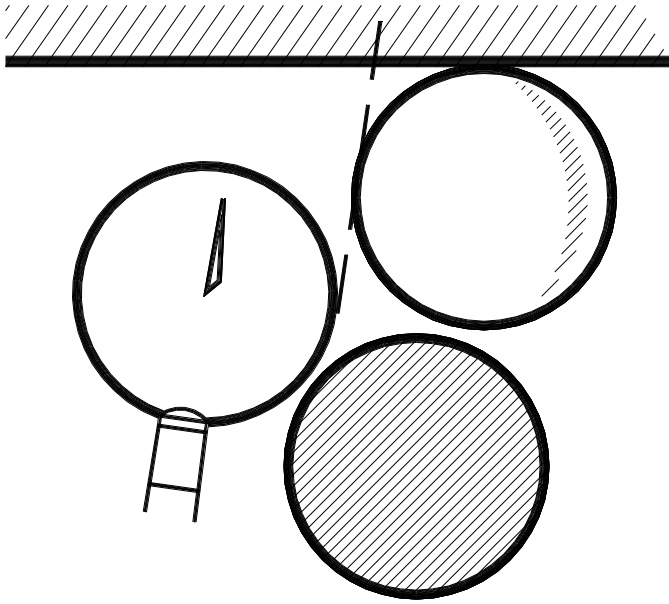
TOM REECE DAINTY BILLIARDS (1925) Tom sez zilch.

MIKE SHAMOS

ILLUSTRATED ENCYCLOPEDIA OF BILLIARDS (1993)

.....*Hints of its beginnings appear in 1881 NYT (Nov 15)...*
..... *but its invention is later credited to Eugene Carter.....*

THE RUB-ROCKER



RUB-NURSE 2

The rub-nurse duznt hav a major place in English billiardz, neither in the old timez nor in the modern game. But here we show a possible Rub-Rocker.

TOUCHING The yellow & red are hit so thinnly (or so softly) that they don't roll out of their own footprints. But this iz an almost impossible quest -- u will get touching-ballz sooner than u think. If u hit harder to avoid touching-ballz, the red will leak away. Its not worth it -- best u get outside & herd the red ahead -- a ThinAlong (or anything else) would be better.

HOLE If the red findz a hole (an old bruize), then u might be tempted to see if u ken get a Rub-Rocker going. If the yellow & the red both find a hole then a Rub-Rocker would be more viable -- u could giv both a healthy nudge without getting touching-ballz or mooving them.

MARGIN Although the sort of pozzy shown abov looks promising, there iz actually less margin-for-error compared to The Rocker (see Chapter 26). For one thing, an error in the thin contact on yellow iz much less forgiving than an error in the thick full-ball contact that we uze in The Rocker -- here i am torking about the affekt on the *q*ball'z line of travel.

RUNNING SIDE We play the Rub-Rocker either cushion-first (C-Y-R), or yellow-first (Y-C-R). One little problem with the Y-C-R iz that it iz uzually not possible to hit the yellow very thinnly -- if u aim very thin on yellow u will hit the cushion first. Hence i ken imagin that a bit of left-hand-side would help u to keep the yellow quieter in a Y-C-R cannon. Iz this the source of the *reverse english* mentioned by Daly ????

MISS A C-Y-R cannon haz its own problemz. Here u ken hit the yellow az thinnly az u want -- but if u aim too thinnly u might miss the yellow altogether.

OR-OR Hence it might be best to aim in between -- i meen to aim for an **Or-Or** type of contact -- where u don't care whether u hit the yellow first or the cushion first.

HIT HIGH I show the *q*tip hitting the *q*ball well abov center. I reckon that this leedz to better control of pace compared to hitting on or below the equator. It haz nothing to do with Daly'z overspin.

RIGHT-HAND-SIDE I reckon that som right-hand-side might help u to play a C-Y-R cannon when the needed attack iz not far off 90°. But uzing side, especially running-side, iz suicide for control of pace.

SLIP-THROO

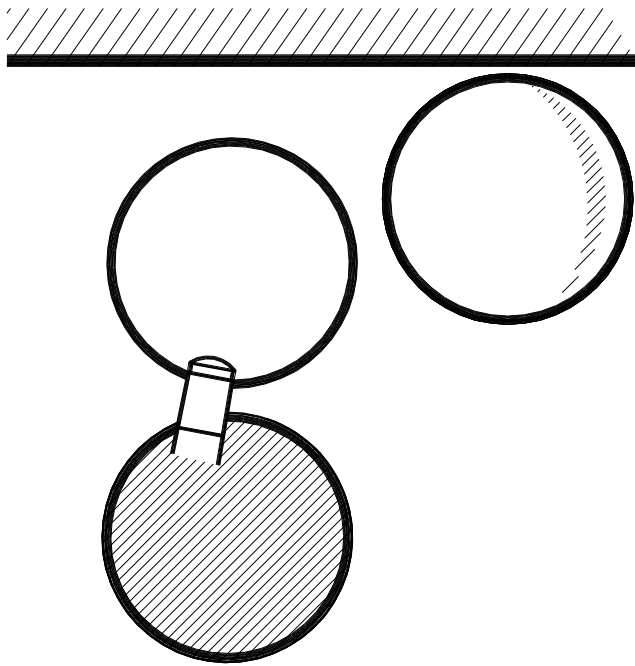
RUB-NURSE 3

Here we hav already played a few Rub-Nursez or Rub-Rockerz, and the ballz are now allmost ready for some sort of slip-throo.

One of the troublez, az the ballz spread, iz that u havta play over the red az shown. And uzually near the middle of a cushion, ie u havta reech'out'n'back.

Here, when we do slip-throo, we will find ourselvez on the wrong hand (unless left-handed).

But perhaps we should never hav gotten ourselvz into this jam in the first place.

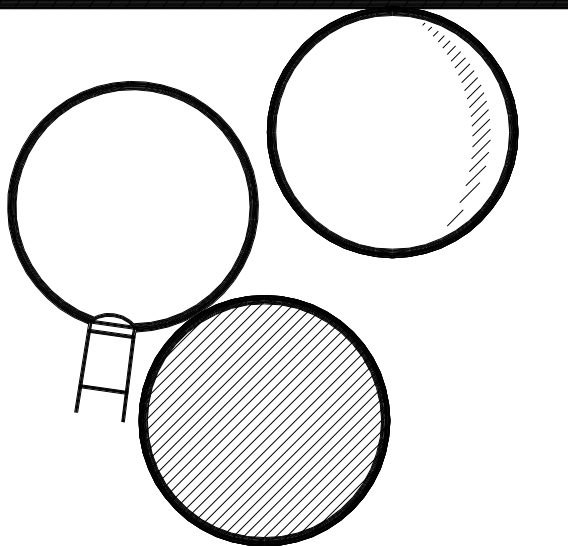


RISO LEVI

BILLIARDS, THE STROKES OF THE GAME, PART 3 (1910)

Riso sez that in 1910 the touching-ballz rule woz in force (ie the same az today'z rule), and that this rule came into force in March 1898.

.....but in October, 1907, it was temporarily superseded by a rule which compelled the striker to play from the position of the cue ball on the table, and in order to be able to score he had -- when the cue ball was only in contact with one ball -- either to play at the ball with which the cue ball was not in contact, or else he had to hit a cushion before a ball..... The new rule had only a short life, but its existence made very big breaks possible by means of rocking cannons, and in 1908 Cook made a break of 1,000 unfinished which contained over 400 of these cannons.....



RUB-NURSE 4 This iz my drawing not Riso'z. It showz an Inside-Rocker -- which iz perhaps what they were fond of in thozе lawless dayz. Altho Riso showz only the common rocker in hiz drawingz.