

# PABSA Newsletter

## Summer 2022

### 2022 Pan American Snooker Championships



### Aaron Raghoonanan Wins Trinidad and Tobago Snooker Championships

### Cliff Thorburn Retires from Snooker and Takes Up New Role with WPBSA



### 2022 World Games Birmingham United States



### Ox Billiards Hosts USA National Championships & WWS US Women's Snooker Open

### Elsayad Makes History at the Crucible Theatre



### Aruba Joins PABSA



### Vito Puopolo Wins 2022 Canadian Snooker Open

Partners of The Pan American Billiards and Snooker Association



# 2022 Pan American Snooker Championships

The Pan American Billiards and Snooker Association is pleased to announce the 2022 Pan American Snooker Championships. The event will feature the main Open Championships, in which the winner will claim a place on the WST with a two-year tour card, and the Snooker Seniors, with the winner qualifying for the World Snooker Seniors held at the Crucible Theatre in 2023. The tournaments will last from the 22nd of October until the 30th of October. The Seniors event will kick off the championships from October 22nd through 25th, with the Open event starting the 25th and finishing on the 30th. The schedule will be dependent on entries and could be subject to change.

The tournament will once again be held at The Corner Bank in Toronto, Canada, after the success of the 2021 Championships. Last year's championships saw Ahmed Aly Elsayad win the Snooker Seniors and Victor Sarkis claimed his place on the WST of the next two seasons beating Renat Denkha 5-3 in the final.

PABSA President Ajeya Prabhakar says, "We are thrilled to be able to announce the 2022 Championships will be held once again at The Corner Bank after the success of last year's event. I would like to thank John White and Jim Wyche of The Corner Bank in welcoming us back for the 2022 Championships and I look forward to seeing who will represent PABSA on the WST next season."

If you would like to enter the championships, details can be found using the link below. The closing date for entries is October 1, 2022, and all players are advised to read the championships entry document also available at the link below. The document contains terms and conditions of entry into the championships.

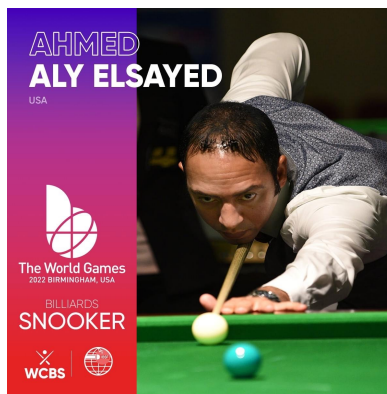
Seniors - <https://www.pabsa.org/pan-american-seniors-2022/>

Open - <https://www.pabsa.org/pan-american-snooker-championship-2022/>



# 2022 World Games Birmingham, United States

The 2022 World Games took place in Birmingham, Alabama, United States, in July. The Pan American Billiards and Snooker Association was represented by three players from our region: the 2022 Pan American Snooker Champion from Brazil, Victor Sarkis; defending 2022 Snooker Senior Champion Ahmed Aly Elsayad of the United States; and 2022 Pan American runner-up Renat Denkha from the United States.



All players started in the round of 16 with some tough competition from around the world, including Darren Morgan, former professional player from Wales. Victor Sarkis was up against Abdelrahman Shanin of Egypt where he lost 3-0 after some tough play. The two players for the host nation of the United States were up next, and PABSA Seniors Champion Ahmed Aly Elsayad was up against Ahsan Ramzan of Pakistan. Even though Aly gave a great effort taking a frame, he fell to a 3-1 defeat. Renat Denkha fell to a 3-0 defeat by Florian Nuessle of Austria. PABSA Head Referee Kevin Patrick was also in attendance to help officiate the games.

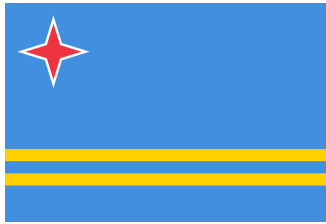
The eventual gold medalist and winner of the event was Ka Wai Cheung of Hong Kong, defeating Abdelrahman Shanin of Egypt 3-1 who received the silver medal. Bronze medal winner Darren Morgan of Great Britain beat Ali Alobaidli in the third-place playoff match 3-2. The other cue sport events in the games included carom and pool with many players from around the world competing for the medal places. Even though the three players from the PABSA region lost in the early rounds of the event, it was fantastic to have three of the best players from the pan-America region representing PABSA and helping grow snooker in the pan-American region for future games and future players. The next World Games are due to be held in Chengdu, China, in 2025.



# Aruba Joins PABSA

Aruba is the latest country to officially join The Pan American Billiards and Snooker Association, in August 2022.

PABSA President Ajeya Prabhakar states, "We at PABSA are excited to include this beautiful island in the Caribbean Sea into our family! We hope to grow the sport and help bring events into this region. Welcome! I would like to thank Gunnar Leonardo, President of the FEBIAR, and Junior Umana Alvarado for making this happen."



## Aaron Raghoonanan wins Trinidad and Tobago National Championships

The second Trinidad and Tobago National Championships took place at the end of 2021 and was hosted by national association Billiards Sport Organization of Trinidad and Tobago (BSOTT). The event was held at the association's headquarters in St Ann's, and the inaugural event in 2020 was won by Sham Jagerssar. There was much excitement ahead of the 2021 event.

With a field of 48 players, the initial rounds were played on a round robin basis and then was proceeded by the knockout stages where the best players came through to compete in the final stages of the tournament. The format of the event had been altered this year to provide players with some table time after the Covid-19 pandemic.

The 2021 Championships was won by Aaron Raghoonanan, who beat Lyndon Ramkissoo 4-1 in the best-of-seven final. With his first of possibly many national championships to come, he beat Adrian Mora in the semi finals 3-0 to reach his first National Championships final and go in and take the title. Raghoonanan also claimed the highest break of the championships with a contribution of 56 in the final frame of his semifinal match.

The event featured fantastic commentary throughout for fans and players to watch, and at the end of the event there was a prize-giving ceremony. There were some big names attending the prize-giving ceremony including vice president of the T&T Olympic Committee (TTOC) Diane Henderson and Physical Education and Sport Officer I. Delisa Blizzard, from the Ministry of Sport and Community Development.



# Ahmed Aly Elsayad Makes History at The Crucible Theatre

Ahmed Aly Elsayad, the current Pan American Seniors Champion, made history in May 2022 by becoming the first American to play at The Crucible Theatre in Sheffield. The iconic venue is the home to the WST World Snooker Championships won this year by Ronnie O’Sullivan. Aly, by winning the 2021 Pan American Seniors Championships last year in Toronto, Canada, qualified for the 2022 World Snooker Seniors at The Crucible and would follow in the footsteps of previous pan-American players Cliff Thorburn and Igor Figueiredo by playing in the event.

The event featured some of the all-time greats of the snooker world, such as Stephen Hendry, Jimmy White and Ken Dorothy. Aly was drawn against England’s Wayne Cooper in the first round where he was unfortunate to lose 2-0 in a very close and competitive match. Aly now holds a place in the history books as the first American to walk down the famous Crucible stairs into the prestigious arena.

Ahmed Aly Elsayad said, “Really, dream come true, but a little short. It was an honor to represent the USA and the New York City Athletics Club (NYAC) in the best snooker venue and Seniors competition in the world. Just to meet and see all of my idols, Steven Hendry, Jimmy White, Ken Doherty and much more, to have on my side Cliff Thorburn as my coach. It was an amazing experience but also my wife and my newly-born son on my side all at once was mind-blowing, and I really wanted to proceed more but I’m really delighted to be there as the first American ever to play at The Crucible Theatre. I am also determined to go back and show the whole world my real game and what I am capable of by winning at the highest competition.”

Entry to the 2022 Pan American Seniors held in Toronto, Canada, is now open, and once again the winner will represent pan-America at the 2023 World Snooker Seniors at The Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, United Kingdom, amongst the legends of the game.



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# Cliff Thorburn Retires from Snooker and Takes Up New Role with WPBSA

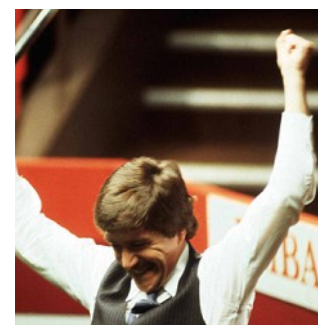
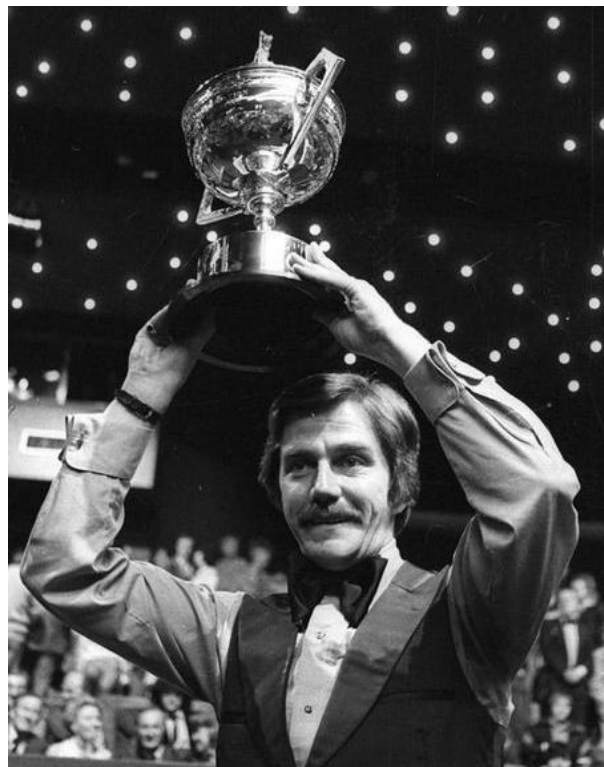
After a wonderful and record-breaking career, Cliff Thorburn, The Grinder, has decided to call time and retire from snooker. In January, at the 2022 UK Seniors Championships in Hull, Thorburn announced this would be his final event, and his final match was in the last 16 where he lost to Kuldesh Johal 3-0.

Cliff Thorburn's career is one full of success, with his having competed on the professional tour from 1973 until 1996 and being one of the most successful overseas players of all time. Winning the 1980 World Championships and being a three-times Masters Champion, Thorburn also became the first player to make a 147 at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield, in the 1983 World Championships, against Terry Griffiths. He also held the number one ranking for the 1981/82 season and won the Seniors Masters in 2018.

Thorburn gave a great example during his career that non-United Kingdom-based players can achieve success as professional snooker players. He was among a great class of Canadian players during his peak, including Bill Werbeniuk and Kirk Stevens. Now, Canada has strong and growing snooker following with many players taking inspiration from Cliff's success.

Thorburn is the PABSA Director of Coaching and was present at the recent 2021 Pan American Snooker Championships in Toronto, Canada, where he oversaw the next generation of snooker players from Canada and the pan-America region. He also was part of the prize-giving ceremony after the final, which was won by Brazil's Victor Sarkis. Thorburn wants to promote and help grow the game of billiards and snooker in the pan-American region to produce the next generation of professional players.

Announced shortly after his final match, Thorburn along with his PABSA Director of Coaching role will be taking up a new role with the WPBSA having joined the International Expert Coaching Advisory Panel. Using officially qualified coaches from all around the world, the panel is designed to support the growth of the game around the world to help bring through the next generation of snooker players.



# Ox Billiards to Host USA National Championships and Inaugural WWS US Women's Snooker Open

OX Billiards in Seattle, United States, is a billiards club that provides high-end pool, snooker, and Chinese 8-ball tables to the public and to private members with 24 hour access. OX's ownership consists of Phuc Dang, Christian Youngers, Jaime Miller, and principal owner/operator Mike Dominguez. The mission of OX Billiards is to raise the standard of cue sports in the Pacific Northwest by promoting education and hosting tournaments, league play, and professional exhibitions on high-end equipment in a safe, affordable, and welcoming environment. In the short time since OX opened on August 28th, 2021, they have successfully kept to their mission.

One of the main goals for OX was to host the United States National Championship, and they won this bid to become the home of The Nationals from 2nd to the 5th September. OX has four Xing Pai STAR Tournament Tables with Strachan No.10 baize, pro-cut pockets, and heated slate. OX is located in the busy neighborhood of Capitol Hill, which is walking distance to downtown shopping and the tourist spots of Pike Place Market and Post Alley. Several restaurants with international cuisine surround OX Billiards, as well as art galleries and parks.



Recently, OX hosted the Seattle Snooker Open 2022. The event was a great success and a capstone to the first season of The Washington State Snooker League. Twenty-four players from Washington, Maryland, Oregon, Canada, and the U.K. competed at the Seattle Open. The event was live-streamed with commentary provided by David Burney, a skilled snooker commentator. OX is ready to live-stream The United States National Championships and will have Burney commentating. Other special guests are in the works for the Nationals, so stay tuned to enjoy the live-streaming.

Another event that falls in line with OX's mission is hosting the World Women's Snooker (WWS) US Women's Snooker Open tournament in Seattle. This will be the first time a WWS tournament will be held in America. The tournament's dates are now finalized for August 26th-28th, 2022. The WWS tournament could be the second tournament where players from overseas fly to Seattle for a snooker competition. However, the emphasis for this tournament is to highlight the growth of snooker in Seattle and the rest of the United States. As the tournament is being hosted in the late summer, it will be a poetic occasion being OX's one-year anniversary and another reason to celebrate.

Besides the Seattle Open, The Nationals, and WWS, OX has attracted snooker great Judd Trump and snooker and pool legend Allison Fisher. OX is working to become the prime destination for pro players so that local payers will be inspired by them.

If you want to get involved with their mission either by working, volunteering, or sponsorship, contact Mike - [mike@oxbilliards.com](mailto:mike@oxbilliards.com)

Written by Mike Dominguez of OX Billiards



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## Support PABSA



PABSA needs your help to continue to grow snooker and billiards in the Pan American region. To support our association and donate please follow the link below.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Donate here!**

# Vito Puopolo Wins 2022 Canadian Snooker Open

The 2022 Canadian Snooker Open took place at The Corner Bank in Toronto between 8th-12th June. The field was full of quality, and there was no doubt there were going to be some excellent matches throughout the competition.

The crowd was treated to some great snooker in the final, with Alan Whitfield looking for his second Canadian title while Vito Puopolo looked to get his name on the George Chenier Cup for the first time. The match was tied at 3-3 before Vito would secure the next two frames to win his first Canadian Championship! Congratulations to Vito and to Alan for a stellar performance who also had the high break of 116 in the finals.

Plans are already under way for the 2023 Canadian Snooker Championships as the CBSA looks to celebrate its 50th year! Thanks to everyone for your support and we look forward to promoting snooker in Canada and in this continent alongside PABSA.

