

WORLD'S BILLIARD TOURNEY OPENS

Ex-Champion Amateur Conklin Defeats Mial in Opening Game at the Liederkrantz Club.

The opening game in the billiard tournament for the amateur championship of the world, played last night in the concert room of the German Liederkrantz Club, brought together Charles F. Conklin of Chicago and Dr. L. L. Mial, Morris-town, with the former the victor by 400 to 158. Conklin averaged 14 22-27, while Mial's was 6 2-26. The winner made high runs of 61, 60, and 45. Mial's best innings getting him 32, 22, and 18.

Conklin has twice been the National champion, while Mial was the winner of the Class B' tournament held some years ago.

The conditions of the tourney call for 400 points each game, 18.2 balk line. The other contestants in the series will be Albert Poensgen, Munich, Germany; E. W. Gardner, Upper Montclair; Joseph Mayer, Philadelphia, and J. Ferdinand Poggenburg of New York.

The series is the second for international honors, the first having been won in 1908 by Calvin Demarest.

There was a goodly sprinkling of devotees present, among whom were many of the fair sex.

Conklin was the first to find his stroke, and this in combination with capital position play soon sent him into a commanding lead. He was always playing for the next shot, with the result that his drives for position were the features of the match.

Mial on the other hand was compelled to play hard billiards throughout, the spheres refusing to become cajoled in any sort of position at almost every turn he look at the table.

Conklin played in snappy fashion, wasting no time studying angles, and was most businesslike throughout. As the match progressed he naturally played with a confidence born of the success which as a general thing attended his efforts, with the result that no shot seemed too difficult for him to attempt.

As a general thing, spread billiards was the order of things by both players, real balkline showing only in spots.

In the bank for the lead Conklin won, and after choosing the black ball, counted one, slipping up on a somewhat easy single cushion, for which he had to reach some. Mial's first tally was made in his second inning, off the white on the top rail, down the side cushion for a count on the red, which lay on the bottom rail.

Conklin broke into double figures in his third inning with an even dozen as the result of careful play, which was put an end to by his missing a single cushion. Mial found the spheres left in such a way that a three-cushion shot was necessary, which he scored. In an attempt to duplicate the performance he missed by an eyelash, leaving the balls in good position for the Chicagoan. The latter soon had the spheres rolling to his liking, and banged out 14, stopping on an overdraw of a single-cushion shot.

Dr. Mial essayed a somewhat hard centre table draw after tallying four in his fourth time at the table. A massé proved the undoing of the Morristown expert after he had run 6 in his next inning.

Conklin followed his miss in the fifth inning with a bevy of 61, gained by some clever open table play, in which his position play was noticeable. He had a narrow escape with his twenty-sixth point, a force follow which all but got by without scoring. His thirty-second was a fine drive for position, and left the balls in nice shape in the top corner. His forty-first caused a bit of study, and he finally made a bank of it. A massé of a difficult kind gave him his forty-seventh, a somewhat similar shot getting him to the half-hundred mark. After tallying 61 he was kissed off what looked like a sure count on an around-the-table shot.

Four points for Mial in his next essay, a draw off the side rail back to the top cushion proving his undoing. After thirteen points in his seventh inning Conklin finding the spheres lined up in the centre of the table, was compelled to balk, but missed. Hard billiards continued to be Dr. Mial's portion, as after counting an easy carrom, he was compelled to resort to a three cushion, which, while it counted, left the balls in such position as to warrant another shot of the same kind, with which he was not so fortunate. In attempting to get beyond a total of 23 in his eighth inning through the medium of a massé, Mial failed dismally.

During the execution of his next run, which amounted to 18 points with a total of 122, Conklin brought off a splendidly played follow for his eighth point, but eventually slipped up on an around the table try.

The Westerner kept tallying with very little let up to his speed to the tenth inning where his average was just inside 13. After three blanks in as many consecutive innings Mial, by a well executed single cushion managed to score, supplementing the tally by another point after which he was unfortunately kissed off what looked like a sure count.

In his thirteenth inning Conklin gave a splendid interpretation of balk-line play, netting 26, with the balls in the upper right hand corner almost throughout the tallying session, and only stopping after a miss on a centre table draw from the side rail.

The adherents of Dr. Mial found themselves rooting for every shot the Morristown player scored in his thirteenth inning, as he was certainly compelled to play hard billiards shot after shot. He got into double figures on a difficult straight across draw to the side rail after the balls had straightened out on him as the result of his ninth count. His time at the table, however, was short-lived, as he fell down on a reverse to the side rail, stopping at 14, with a total of 39.

The Chicago player responded to Mial's rally by getting right down to business in his next inning in which he knocked out 37. His twenty-second count was a splendid three-cushion draw half way round the table. With the spheres

frozen as the result of his twenty-ninth shot he elected to spot them, counting. Two chances on his thirty-second favored a count, the cue ball rolling by the object sphere out into the corner and out for a tally. He slipped up on a single cushion, by a narrow margin on his thirty-eighth shot.

Mial began some balk line himself in his half of the fourteenth inning, and showed every evidence of not being cast down by his opponent's big lead. As a matter of fact, it was the best balk line of the game thus far, his position play warranting the balls lying in the lower end of the table throughout the siege, which was lifted on his thirty-ninth try through his inability to correctly play a follow along the lower rail. Inability to handle a masse with both balls glued to the middle side rail prevented Mial from getting over the century mark in his next inning, as he stopped at 99, with a run of 22.

Mial was plainly disgruntled at being kissed out on his seventeenth and eighteenth innings for zero marks in each instance. From his fifteenth to twentieth innings, inclusive, Conklin rolled but 24 points, and had apparently come to the end of his scoring tether. His twenty-first inning, however, showed that the previous cessation of double-figure scoring had been but temporary, as he came through with 60, just getting him over the 300-mark for a total of 302, with a variety of billiards, chiefly open-table play. His average continued high, and at this stage was a bit over 14.

Breaks of 15 and 18 helped to keep Mial interested in the proceedings. Quite the best shot after the 300-mark had been reached was played by Conklin, being the seventh tally of his twenty-sixth inning, wherein he ran 45. The particular tally, which called forth all sorts of enthusiastic comment, was a fine round-the-table try for four cushions, which had to be perfectly played in order to have no slip up. In this run, from the eleventh shot to the time he missed, he gave a very nice demonstration of billiards.

In what proved to be his last inning Conklin ran out with 25, and was accorded on all sides the distinction of having played the best billiards of his career.

The summary:

C. F. Conklin—1 0 12 14 0 61 13 3 18 6 19 8 26 37 8 3 5 4 1 3 80 0 17 3 8 45 25. Total—400.
L. L. Mial—0 1 1 4 6 4 2 5 0 0 2 14 38 22 6 0 1 0 15 1 18 11 5 2. Total—158.

High runs.—Conklin—61, 60, 45. Mial—38, 22, 18. Averages.—Conklin, 14 22-27; Mial, 6 2-26. Referee—Albert Cutler, Boston.

This afternoon's game will show Gardner vs. Poggenburg, and to-night's Poensgen vs. Mayer.

BLAIR WINS WITH CUE.

New Yorker Superior to Gremmels of Kansas City in Billiard Match.

In the second block of the three-cushion billiard match at McGraw's Billiard Rooms, James Blair of New York again defeated F. W. Gremmels of Kansas City last night by the score of 50 to 43. On the first night the New Yorker was victorious by a score of 50 to 44. The score at the close of the second night's play was 100 to 87. Last night's game was very slow, dragging along without either contestant scoring for long periods, requiring sixty-seven innings before Blair finally ran out the necessary 50 points.

The final block will be played at the same rooms to-night, the terms of the match calling for three nights' play at 50 points each.

Billiards and Pool.

George Moore and "Broadway" Alec Smith defeated John Daly and Mike Donlin in the first night's play of their "foursome match" at John Doyle's Forty-second Street Billiard Academy last night by the score of 40 to 22 in fifty-seven innings.

Pierre Maupone, the champion billiard player of Mexico and representative of St. Louis in the National Intercity Billiard League, defeated Dave Lauderbach, who represents Brooklyn, in a game of three-cushion carrom billiards at Keeney's Knickerbocker Billiard Academy of Brooklyn last night by the score of 50 to 29. The Mexican champion ran out his string of 50 points, with a high run of 4, in sixty-eight innings. Lauderbach's best efforts netted him a high run of 22.

In last night's game of the Harlem Class B amateur 18.2 balk line billiard tournament at the Morningside Billiard Academy, 125th Street and Lenox Avenue, Charles Cerf defeated Dr. Tugele in a one-sided game by the score of 150 to 121. The winner made an average of 4 and a high run of 27. Tugele's best efforts netted him a high run of 4 with an average of 3. This evening P. Segall and S. Newman will cross cues.

Owing to the large number of entries that have been received at the Riverside Billiard Academy at 125th Street and Seventh Avenue for the Harlem amateur championship pool tournament, the manager has decided to hold contests in the afternoon and evening. Three games were decided yesterday, two in the afternoon and one in the evening.

In the first game of the afternoon Douglas Cross playing at scratch (100 points,) defeated Richard Hoffman (70,) by the score 100 to 15. The winner made high runs of 28, 38 and 42. In the second game Jack Fitzwater defeated Richard Hoffman by the score of 70 to 44. Both contestants were playing at a handicap of 70 points. In the evening contest Douglas Cross, playing at scratch, defeated Jack Fitzwater (70,) by the score of 100 to 47. This evening Mike Hand (100,) will play Jack Nelson (70).

RACES FOR ARMY OFFICERS.

United Hunts Arrange for Two Events at Belmont Terminal Meeting.

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the United Hunts Racing Association was held yesterday at the Windsor Arcade, Perry Belmont presiding, and the following were elected members of the association: Joseph E. Davis, David Dows, M. L. Schwartz, A. C. Schwartz, Hamilton Hadden, H. A. Buck, H. F. Godfrey, C. L. Appleton, Sidney W. Fish, Lawrence Rumsey, and Dilwin Starr.

It was decided to hold a Spring meeting at Belmont Terminal Thursday, June 8, and Saturday, June 10. The programme will provide events for bona fide and qualified hunters, for hacks, and galloways, as well as for the regular racers in open events.

Provision has also been made for two races for the officers of the United States Army, one on the flat and the other over the jumps, and the co-operation of the officials of the War Department, acting in conjunction with Perry Belmont, has been assured for the arrangement of the conditions of these events. These military races have become important features at most of the amateur meetings, and this year will be more generously supported than ever before.

PLAINFIELD C. C. OUT OF DEBT

New Jersey Organization Plans New Attractions and Activities.

The annual meeting of the Plainfield Country Club, held yesterday in Plainfield, N. J., was well attended. The following officers were re-elected:

President, Leighton Calkins; Vice President, J. M. Shellabarger; Secretary, J. P. Murray; Treasurer, S. Durell Lounsbery.

The reports of the officers and Chairmen of the standing committees showed the club to be in a sound financial condition. Mr. Calkins reported that the club had paid off the last dollar of its floating debt, and that for the first time in its history it was without floating debt of any kind. The Treasurer's report showed an income for the year amounting to \$24,446, and expenditures amounting to \$24,154, leaving a balance of \$292 in the Treasury. The Secretary's report showed a total membership of 766, consisting of 366 active members, 100 junior athletic members, and 300 house members.

The club owns approximately 110 acres of land, and a clubhouse which has cost over \$20,000, together with a farmhouse, stables, lighting plant, sheds, and other buildings, and the real estate is constantly increasing in value.

The club plans for many new attractions and additional activities next year, and among other things has applied to the Metropolitan Golf Association for the junior tournament for boys. It is felt that the club is well qualified to hold this tournament, and that considering its character as a family club, could provide the right kind of entertainment for young boys perhaps better than most of the clubs in the metropolitan district.