



The bi-monthly newsletter of the All  
England Bar Billiards Association

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## World Record Bar Billiard Score

It is not easy to trace back the chronology of what the world record bar billiards score for a single leg is. But I have traced back to three very significant games of bar billiards that seem to have been accepted at one stage to be the record.

Believe it or not bar billiards has had entries in the **Guinness Book of Records** in the 1980's and 1990's with reference to single leg records and 24 hour records.

In January 1979, **John Stevens** of the Amptill Hotel, Freemantle, Southampton, created a new world record for a break in bar billiards. Stevens sank a staggering **24,350** points while playing a Southampton League match against Portswood Hotel.

This record was superseded by **Keith 'lightening bolt' Sheard** (pictured right) who scored **28,530** in 19



min 5 sec in a league game at the Crown and Thistle, Headington, Oxford on 9 July 1984.

It is widely accepted now that **Mark Sawyer** holds the record with his incredible **29,000** at the 1999 Oxon Open. However, Tony Willis has reported also on the probboards that Mark after a league match at the White Horse, Wokingham, had a couple of high score attempts. A first attempt yielded 'only' **29,850**, but on the next attempt he scored **31,850!!!!** He was clocked at 8,200 on 5 minutes and 16,000 in 10 minutes. The bar was timed at 18 mins 48 secs

Have any ideas of what you want to see in the Newsletter, or wish to contribute stories or pictures?

Email [nigelsenior05@googlemail.com](mailto:nigelsenior05@googlemail.com) with your suggestions

## AEBBA Newsletter Editorial

The bar billiards year started with the Oxon Open in February. **Keith Sheard**, who doesn't really play much these days played superbly to win the title, proving that the class is always there and top players don't forget how to win big matches. Hopefully this win will tempt Keith to play more events. His win also is his **17th** major individual title, putting him 2nd in the all time list, although a fair few behind Kevin's 70 titles.



A busy March and April are coming up with the AEBBA British Pairs combining with the home international v Guernsey at the Queens Hotel in Bournemouth. The unique 4 pin event will have its 5th running in Sudbury, and in April we have the Surrey Open.

## Oxon Open @ Didcot Con Club, Didcot, 11th February 2017

**Keith Sheard** (pictured right) won the first open of 2017 by winning the Oxfordshire Open. This is Keith's 17th national title and his first since winning the Berkshire Open in 2013. Keith beat **Mark Trafford** in the final. Keith was in fine form all day and set Mark a 17k target in the final on a tricky table, Mark broke down on 5k in reply.



Keith started with comfortable wins over fellow Oxon players **Sid Ponting** & **Phil Griffin**. In the last 16 a lost break cost **Henry Brooks** from Sussex a chance of beating Keith. Keith then sailed by **Ian Lelliott** in the quarter finals. In the semi final he faced his son **Steven Sheard**, but this turned out to be a one sided affair as Keith won out **21,250-1,880**.

Mark's progress to the final was also reasonably untroubled. He beat **Tony Jenner** and followed that with a good win over **Leon Beer**. **Barry Radford** was beaten in the last 16. His toughest game really came against Sussex's **Phil Osborne** as Phil set a **14,850** target but Mark responded with **18,130**. **Martin Smith** was no match in the semi finals, although for Martin this equalled his best performance in an open.

**Tony Cross** beat England number 1 **Curt Driver** in a classic plate final by just **200 points**, **18,830—18,630**. **Mark Trafford** had some consolation as he made the highest break of **18,050** & **Pauline Withey** made the highest ladies break with **6,640**. She along with **Michelle Baden** were the only 2 ladies in the tournament and sadly both went out in round

## Latest British Rankings (@ 28th February 2017)

MEN				LADIES			
Pos	Player	County	PTS	Pos	Player	County	PTS
1	Curt Driver	Kent	312.0	1	Pauline Withey	Oxon	132.2
2	Mark Trafford	Oxon	264.6	2	Jean Brackenridge	Sussex	77.2
3	Kevin Tunstall	Sussex	258.3	3	Michelle Baden	Sussex	65.0
4	Nigel Senior	Sussex	232.2	4	Denise Wills	Surrey	61.5
5(+1)	Mark Brewster	Kent	190.0	5	Ros Appleby	Sussex	51.4
6(-1)	Dave Ingram	Sussex	179.3	6	Bella Stoner	Sussex	49.7
7	Paul Sainsbury	Kent	178.5	7	Jenny Florey	Oxon	45.8
8	Ian Lelliott	Sussex	166.7	8	Lorraine Hall	Sussex	41.0
9	Martin Cole	Sussex	134.9	9(+1)	Mel Standbridge	Oxon	32.8
10(+1)	Matt Jones	Bucks	117.3	10(-1)	Dawn Jordan	Bucks	31.5

## If a bar billiards player was a Premier League football club.....

So I have run out of dopplegangers, although I did have of course **Sid Ponting/ Heston Blumenthal** and I got a picture of **Colin Southouse** that does look like **Michael Winner**. Anyway, one of those facebook things came up on my phone and it was if a Game of Thrones character was a Premier League team, who would they be? I got to thinking what GOT character would be what bar billiards player—I won't tell you who I had down for Tyrion the dwarf, Ramsay Bolton, Grey-Worm and Hodor -and anyway for those of you that don't watch GOT you won't know what the hell I am on about! But you all know your Premiership Clubs, so here goes, remember no offence intended and if I have given you Chelsea it is not because you are hated by everyone...honestly.....



**[Kevin Tunstall]** - formidable and swashbuckling, has a rich history of winning many, many trophies and on current form will be winning more in the future



**[Curt Driver]** - stylish, elegant and visually appealing (so I am told by the female fans...). And recently has been within touching distance of winning the big one.



**[Nigel Senior]** - (upto start of 2017) A rich history of winning trophies but not won (an open) for a long, long time. Maybe that will change in 2017???



**[Mark Trafford]** - relentless and ruthless and has won the big title twice in recent years. Not hated by everyone.....



**[Matt Jones]** - the new kid on the block, very attacking, indeed if you score lots against them they will probably score more against you (I am not bitter!!)



**[Jim Millward]** - very successful in the past (their glory years were in the 1960's) but looking particularly good lately—wouldn't rule another big title but it may only happen in a year ending in '1'



**[Simon Coleman]** - no fancy titles to boast about (yet) A gruff, gritty battler, that will survive at the top for a long time to come on current form.



**[Keith Sheard]** - comes in and out a bit, in fact vanishing for a season at a time. But when around ruffles the feathers of the top operators often getting the better of them.



**[Dave Ingram]** - won the big one a couple of years ago. Not to be underestimated and should be taken seriously. A crafty old fox.



**[Martin Cole]** - there is widespread warmth here for someone who waited a long time to rise to the top. Now the question is can they stay in the top ranks—I think so!



**[Matt Knight]** - at first glance you might think not a significant player in the game. Appearances are deceptive...a savvy player, plus they basically serve Liverpool.....



**[Mark Brewster]** - ah always the bridesmaid, so close to winning many titles. Always exciting to watch but perhaps a little reckless at times to their cost???



**[Ian Lelliott]** - a rich heritage of winning trophies but looked a little grumpy lately (maybe because they are always playing second fiddle to Liverpool???)



**[Colin Southouse]** - who would have thought that their destiny was the top flight? And now they're ready to mix it up with anyone once in battle. May be around for a while to come....



**[Phil Osborne]** - when first came on the scene perhaps no ones idea of an elite level operator. Perhaps not the most dazzling play but cleverer and cannier than they appear.



**[Gerry Fitzjohn]** - been around at the top for what feels like years...and years. Fans are wondering when they will move up to the next level and take a trophy?



**[Geoff Jukes]** - the arch survivor, nobody pays him much attention but goes about his business competently. Also bald (like Tony Pulis—written before he was sacked ahem..)



**[Paul Sainsbury]** - had to be Paul for West Ham...but if West Ham had some of Paul's passion they might be doing a little better this year.....



**[Mark James]** - humble, neatly organised and in recent years despite being outmatched by more muscular opponents more than holds their own thanks to great nerve and discipline.



**[Chris Saville]** - now not Chris because he is hated by Brighton fans...no it is because he is the comeback king, when you think he is out for the count, back he comes like Lazarus from the flames!

### Latest Grand Prix Standings @ 28th February 2017 (after 1 event of 10)

Pos	Player	Pts
1	Keith Sheard	15
2	Mark Trafford	10
3	Martin Smith	6
=	Steven Sheard	6
5	Phil Osborne	3
=	Colin Southouse	3
=	Simon Coleman	3
8	Ian Lelliott	3
9	Dave Ingram	1
=	Gerry Fitzjohn	1
=	Barry Radford	1
=	Mark Brewster	1
=	Dennis Atkins	1
14	Henry Brooks	1
=	Lee Radford	1
=	Adam Ingram	1

## Upcoming Events in March & April

**4th Mar - England v Guernsey (Bournemouth)** - The 13th meeting between the two sides will now take place on the Bournemouth weekend. Last year, **England** won **39-27** on Guernsey soil, to record their 12th straight win although before the last series Guernsey were only 6 points adrift at 27-21.

**4/5th Mar - British Pairs (Bournemouth)** - The 35th British Pairs will take place at the Queens Hotel, Bournemouth. **Nigel Senior & Marc Chipman** were the 2016 champs—they won the title for the first time together last year.

**25th Mar - 4th East Anglian 4-pin Open** - The 5th East Anglian 4-pin Open will take place at the Masonic Hall, Sudbury. There will be a contingent of 3 pin players and many local 4 pin players. Scoring should be much lower than we see in the 3 pin format of the game with pegs in front of the two 50 pockets, 100 pocket and 200 pocket. **Chris Saville** won the title last year.

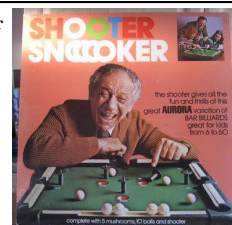
**9th Apr - Surrey Open** - The 9th Surrey Open will take place at Salfords Club. **Steven Sheard** won the title last year beating **Mark Brewster** in the final.

### Dates for your diary 2017 —see <http://www.aebba.org/> for entry forms

11th Feb - Oxon Open (@ Didcot Conservative Club) - **winner Keith Sheard**  
 4th Mar - England v Guernsey (@ Queens Hotel, Bournemouth)  
 4th/5th Mar - British Pairs (@ Queens Hotel, Bournemouth)  
 25th Mar— East Anglian 4-pin Open (@ Masonic Hall, Sudbury)  
 9th Apr—Surrey Open (@ St Nicholas School, Merstham)  
 29th/30th Apr - Guernsey Pairs/Guernsey Open (@ Les Rocquettes, Guernsey)  
 7th May - AEBBA Mixed Pairs (@ Totteridge Club)  
 21st May - Northants Open (@ Cock Inn, Northampton)  
 11th June—Sussex Open (@ Roffey Club, Horsham)  
 2nd July - Kent Classic (@ SixinOne Club, Tonbridge)  
 23rd July - British Ladies (@ Hurst Club, Hurstpierpoint)  
 6th Aug - Bucks Open (@ Cressex Con Centre, High Wycombe)  
 3rd Sept - Berks Open (@ Arborfield Club, Reading)  
 17th Sept - County Div 1 (@ Didcot Con Club, Didcot)  
 24th Sept - County Div 2 (@ Didcot Con Club, Didcot)  
 8th Oct - Alternative Rules (@ Totteridge Club)  
 15th Oct - Team Champs/ Special Ladies (@ Didcot Con Club, Didcot)  
 22nd Oct - National Off the Spot Open (@ Emsworth SS Club, West Sussex)  
 5th Nov— AE Open Singles/AE Ladies Singles/Over 50's (@ Totteridge Club)  
 10th/11th/12th Nov - World Champ Pairs/ World Champs Singles/ Jersey v England (Jersey)  
 26th Nov - Grand Prix/ Ladies Grand Prix/Over 60's/Under 30's (@ Didcot Con Club, Oxford)  
 3rd Dec - AEBBA AGM (@ Didcot Con Club, Didcot)

## Carry on Bar Billiards

There have been a few celebrities with a link to bar billiards. **Sid James** (pictured right) from the Carry on films featured in a strange table top bar billiards/ snooker style game called Shooter Snooker. There were mushrooms, bar billiard holes and pockets as per a snooker table. Apparently can be still found on ebay!



**Sean Connery** was pictured left playing (it must be the 4 pin version of the game). This was taken back in 1962.

Now some of the older readers may remember the guy on the right—he is the late **Reginald Bosanquet** the ITN news broadcaster. The story goes — in order to de-stress from the pressures of slurring the New at Ten from the side of his mouth during the 1970s, he purchased himself a bar billiards table and installed it in the family home. "It is my contention that the saving grace of men is their ability to get engrossed in some trivial pastime or diversion which protects them from the basically feminine failing of becoming neurotic," he reasoned. His wife Felicity having taken understandable umbrage to a pub game becoming the centrepiece of their flat, divorce was not long in coming. After Felicity cleared out her things, Bosanquet was forced to clamber up a drainpipe in order to gain access to his now-empty abode. Subsequently fingered for breaking and entering, he lost his gigs as Patron of the All-England Bar Billiards Association and member of the judging panel for the prestigious Dustman of the Year awards, and was carpeted by ITN bosses for his trouble to boot.

