

Championship Qualifier • Maryland 14.1 Straight Pool Open Championship

The Maryland 14.1 Open & Qualifier for the Dragon Promotions World Championship was held at **Bill & Billie's CuesPort, Arnold, MD** June 9-10. This is a beautiful room located near Annapolis and has 28 Brunswick Gold Crowns all with Simonis 860, great playing conditions, although Mika Immonen, the eventual winner would like to see the pockets shimmed just a tad! Leave it to the pros! This year's tournament was in a non-smoking environment which was also very well received by everyone, even by great Maryland player Eddie "The Engineer" Deska!



Mika Immonen with Tournament promoter Peter Burrows.

This was a premiere Straight Pool event with a dozen of the world's top 14.1 players participating, and it was nice to include four top women players among the field of 40. The dazzling **Jeanette Lee** went 4-0 on Sat. and confirmed what we already knew, that Jeanette stands at the top of the heap when it comes to women and 14.1. Former pro and Maryland's top female Straight Pool player, **Linda Haywood Shea** had a 50 ball run and went 3-1 on Saturday. to advance to the Sunday round... to the chagrin of top NJ player, **Don Polo!** Also in the field were two top NY lady pros, **Gina Kim-Lipsky** and the stalwart, **Liz Ford.**

Friday night's tournament cocktail party and draw was hosted by **Director, Peter Burrows** and play began Saturday morning with 8 balanced flights of five players each in a round robin format with players seeded ABCDE. In the 2006 Maryland Open only two of the lower seeded CDE players were able to make it to the Sunday round. This year three CDE players advanced. In Saturday's opening round everyone played 4 matches to 100 pts. vs. all others in their flight, with the top two players in each of the 8 Saturday flights advancing to Sunday's single elimination round of 16. So all 40 players play four 100 pt. matches on the first day regardless of win or lose. This seems to be an ideal Straight Pool format and was well accepted by all the players. Generally speaking you needed to win all matches or at least be 3-1 on Sat. to move to Sunday. In the event of ties at 3-1 or 2-2 then head to head between the two players would determine advancement to Sunday, although this year ties occurred in the Saturday round robin.

The top 16 players from the Saturday round robin advanced to Sunday with seeding 1-16 based on the Sat. matches W-L record and ball count differential. A player who would win all 4 matches 100-0 on Saturday would be the #1 seed. Not unexpectedly **Thorsten Hohmann** went 4-0 on Saturday and was the top seed for Sunday, with top NJ player **Ed Hodan** #2 with 4-0, followed by great NY Straight pool guru **Steve Lipsky** 4-0 at #3 and eventual tournament winner, **Mika "The Iceman" Immonen** 4-0 taking the No. 4 seed. Lifelong 14.1 player and Tournament Director Peter Burrows squeaked by at 3-1 with mostly close matches and was the No. 16 seed!

Sunday's opening round of 8 matches to 125 pts. pitted mostly higher seeds vs. lower with no unexpected upsets. Burrows drew reigning World Champion, **Thorsten Hohmann** who showed he tournament director no mercy! Half a dozen careful safeties and spectators thought Burrows was the resident pro. But Thorsten picked a combination out of the tight stack and ran 45. Burrows followed with a run of 20 before an unfortunate scratch, and Thorsten, relieved that Burrows had not run out on him...quickly ended the match two innings later at 125-19, as he wiped his brown with a towel! Not really. But the two top first round matches saw the beautiful ebb and flow of 14.1 in the two intense matches between Davis and Lee and Immonen and Maryland's terrific young **Shaun Wilkie.**

Mike Davis really had his hands full with **Jeanette Lee**, and she just never ever caves in as Davis quickly realized. Mike is rapidly becoming a world class 14.1 player

MARYLAND OPEN 14.1 STRAIGHT POOL TOURNAMENT

Presented by
Bill & Billie's CuesPort
Arnold, Maryland.
Nov. 17-18, 2007

\$1,500 Added
Total Prize fund \$7,500
with 40 players

\$150 Entry fee, after Nov. 1, late fee \$200

Tournament Dress Code
Round Robin Format 1st day
Guaranteed 4 Matches, 100 pts.

Top Finishers on Saturday
Advance to Elimination Tournament
on Sunday

Cocktail Party & Bracket Drawing
on Friday night
players meeting 9:30 Saturday

For Accommodations
call Ken at 202-253-5801
Entry fee payable & mailed to
tournament director:

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