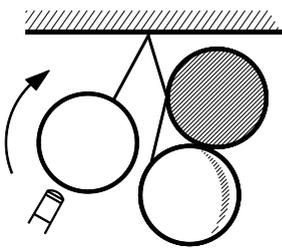


RUB NURSES

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 **deadens** 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 1 This iz ruffly what Daly's Plate 138 looked like. 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 means a 1-stroke-sequence. It iznt clear whether Maurice means Running, or Stationary (ie a rocker), or Semi-Stationary. Praps **SEMI-STATIONARY**, the red & yellow slowly spreading apart a few inches, leading to *Mullen..... make more than 100 points.....moving the balls only a few inches.*

But praps Maurice's **MOVING** means Running -- the 3 balls moving **ALONG** a few inches, whilst keeping their basic shape but spreading a little.

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

Why duz Maurice show **REVERSE ENGLISH** (left-side)? Right-side will allmost instantly ruin any touch, u won't be able to land softly on the yellow with any consistency. And left-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** deadens the qball? Overspin iz impossible at slow pace.

Why duz Maurice say that.....*The cue ball strikes the cushion first generally (**NOT ALWAYS**)?* I suppoze that u might need to play RCY if the qball got between the red & yellow, in which case u would allmost certainly need some right-side. But perhaps Maurice ment YCR, or YRC, or RCY (this iz most probable). Or if playing away from the cushion, RY. If the qball woznt covered (ie if it couldn't see the cushion), then the only use for a red-first cannon would be to get the qball well out, to allow some sort of yellow-first recovery stroke, to herd the yellow back closer to the cushion, or to amend the shape of the balls.

Why duz Maurice say that a Chuck Nurse (ie what the Bible calls The Rocker) might **GROW** out of a Rub Nurse? Surely it iznt possible for the yellow to leak east of the red without playing some 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 shows a drawing of anything like a ThinAlong, anywhere in hiz book, he only shows it az being played az a single bridging stroke leeding to **THE NORMAL RAIL POSITION RECOVERED**.

RISO LEVI

BILLIARDS, THE STROKES OF THE GAME (1910)

Riso duznt mention the Rub-Nurse.

Diagram 740 shows 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.

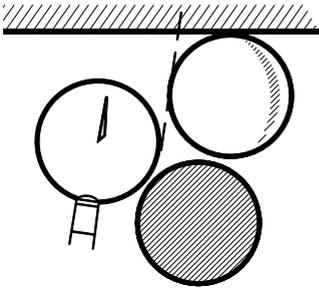
MIKE SHAMOS

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-ROCKER 2



The Rub-Nurse didn't hav a major place in old English billiards, but the Rub-Rocker did.

TOUCHING The yellow & red are hit thinly & softly & don't roll out of their footprints. But u get touching-balls sooner than u think. If u hit harder to avoid touching-balls the red will leak away.

PIT If the red finds a pit (a massé bruise), then this might help a rocker. If the yellow also finds a pit then then u might set a new record. In my opinion the American professors praktised massés on the championship table to help their rockers.

MARGIN Although Rub-Rocker 2 looks promising, i reckon that the standard English rocker iz better (see Rocker 1 in ch41 Rockers).

RUNNING SIDE U play the Rub-Rocker either cushion-first (CYR), or yellow-first (YCR). One problem with the YCR iz that it iz often not possible to hit the yellow very thinly (due to simple geometry), if u aim very thin on yellow u might hit the cushion first. Hence a bit of lhs would keep the yellow quieter in a YCR cannon (koz u will be direktly hitting yellow thicker than very thin).

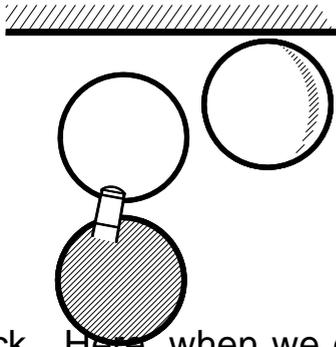
MISS A CYR cannon haz problems. U kan rebound off the cush & then hit the yellow very thinly az intended, but sometimes u might miss the yellow altogether (due to a simple geometry problem here).

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 *qtip* hitting the *qball* well abov center. I reckon that this leeds to better control of pace compared to hitting on or below center (equator). It haz nothing to do with Daly's (silly) overspin.

RIGHT-SIDE I reckon that some right-side might help u to play a CYR 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 played a few Rub-Nurses or Rub-Rockers, & the balls hav spread & we might now be thinking of playing a slip-throo to regain close cannons of some kind.

One of the troubles with Rub-Nurses az the balls spread iz that u havta play over the red az shown. And praps u are near the middle of the cushion, ie u havta reech-out-&-

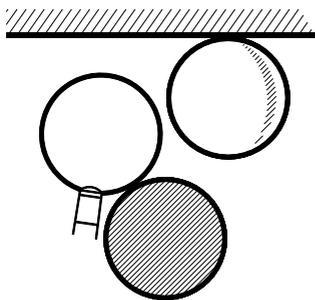
back. Here, when we do slip-throo, we will find ourselves on the wrong hand (unless left-handed). There are dozens of ways of regaining close cannons here (if u are on the top cush).

RISO LEVI

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

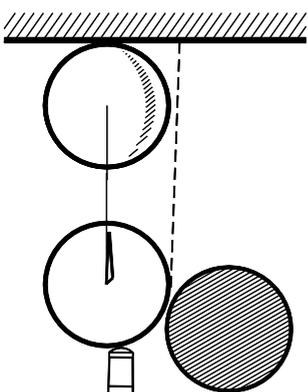
Riso sez that in 1910 the **TOUCHING-BALLS RULE** woz in force (ie the same az today's rule), and that this rule came into force in March 1898.

.....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 TOUCHING ROCKER 4

This iz my drawing not Riso's. It shows a Rub Nurse kind of **INSIDE-ROCKER** (Riso uses the term rocking cannon), which iz praps the shape they were most fond of in thozе lawless days (ie CRR or YCR). Alltho Riso shows only the common rocker in hiz drawings (ie Rocker 5). This inside rub nurse rocker would hav benefited from the 1907 touching balls rule.



CLASSIC TOUCHING INSIDE ROCKER 5

This shape might be the classic English Inside Rocker (ie moreso than the Rub 4 shape), the qball duznt touch the cush (ie YR or YRR). This would hav benefited from the 1907 touching balls rule.