

SPANISH CHAMPIONSHIPS 2008

Confederación Española de Pool y Dardos

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>EPBF Ban on players</i>	2
<i>Rico Diks</i>	2
<i>Player's Quotes</i>	2
<i>CEP</i>	4
<i>Alcaide wins 8 Ball</i>	4
<i>Photos</i>	4



The Cathedral in Lugo

City of Lugo

International 9 Ball Open

Prize Money

1st.....	10,000 euros
2nd.....	5,000 euros
3rd/4th.....	2,000 euros
5th/8th.....	1,000 euros
9th/16th.....	500 euros
17th/32nd.....	150 euros



"PAQUITO" WARDS OFF FOREIGN INVADERS IN LUGO

Francisco "Paquito" Diaz Pizarro also known as "The Tornado" for his fast style of play, took the title in the International "City of Lugo" Open 9 Ball event.

Despite the EPBF banning their top players from taking part in this event due to the Qatar tournament taking place at the same time, a classy field including the likes of Karl Boyes, semi finalist in the 2007 World Pool Championship, turned up for a tilt at the 10,000 € first prize.

For the second year running the title stayed in Spain but, only just, as Manuel Gama of Portugal was edged out in a thrilling final which finished 11-10 in favour of the Spaniard who is known for his fast play and shares the nickname "Tornado" with Tony Drago of Malta.

Diaz had breezed through the preliminary rounds with victories of 8-6 over Irish visitor Paddy Mcloughlin, 8-4 with Juan Antonio Sanchez, a similar scoreline with Francisco Sanchez to find himself in the final stage of

32 participants.

In this phase of the tournament, Diaz saw off the challenge of Antonio Gomez by 9 racks to 4 followed by a 9-5 victory over Ivan Parra, another 9-5 win over Rafael Guzman and in the semi finals took out one of the favourites, Carlos Cabello by 9 racks to 3.

Manuel Gama, who travelled from neighbouring Portugal for this event had wins of 8-1, and 8-2 before suffering defeat in the preliminaries at the hands of Spain's Carlos Cabello. On the losers side he faced up to Kilt wearing Pat Holtz of Scotland in the qualifying match. Pat, who was not playing his best 9 Ball, let Gama through with an 8-5 victory.

Gama then faced some tough opposition in the last 32, after a first round win over Ignacio Schmidt by 9-5, he then came up against Jonni Fulcher of Scotland who fell by the wayside after an "awesome", (in Jonni's words) performance, seeing off the challenge of the former Eurotour winner by 9 racks to 3. In the quarters, a close run race with the Dutch player Huidji See, saw Gama



take the win by one rack, 9-8. A semi final match between the Portuguese player and the stylish Rico Diks of Holland, who was making a rare appearance in a tournament, had all the ingredients for a great battle. Rico looked to be cruising towards the final with wins of 8-1, 8-2, 8-0, 9-1, 9-2 and 9-6 but suddenly fell apart in the semi final and bowed out of the tournament after a 9-3 loss to Gama.

The International 9 Ball tournament is held each year and is the closing event of the Spanish National Championships where 17 tournaments are disputed involving all levels and both sexes.

SHOCK IN THE SPANISH 9 BALL EVENT

Up and coming player, 16 year old Francisco Sanchez Ruiz of Murcia provided the shock of the week when he bested one of Spain's and Europe's top talents, David Alcaide, in the final of the Spanish 9 Ball Championships

Francisco took out some of Spain's best players on his way to the final. Left in his wake were former champions Dani Gaspar, Raul Hebles and Hector del Amo. Alcaide was a mere spectator in the final as the youngster ran rack after

rack to take the match with a 9-1 victory.

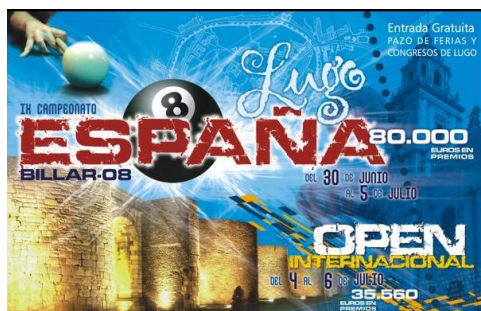
Francisco next goes to Germany in August to represent his country in the European Junior Championships

EPBF BANS PLAYERS FROM ATTENDING LUGO EVENT

This tournament created some controversy when the European Pocket Billiards Federation (EPBF) banned its top players from taking part.

This decision was made by the President of the EPBF, Gre Leenders who informed the organizers of the Lugo event that another tournament in Qatar had been previously sanctioned by the WPA and would therefore take priority.

The application by the Confederación Española de Pool, (CEP) to sanction the Lugo event was turned down in March of 2008



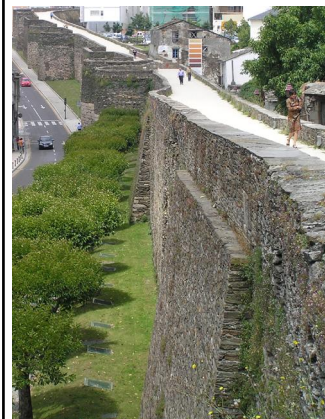
On the 20th May a list of banned players was sent to the CEP

By then a number of top European players including the current World Champion, Daryl Peach had already shown interest in attending the Spanish tournament.

A letter from Kazuo Fujima, Assistant Sports Director of

the WPA was sent to Peter Aprile, International Representative of the CEP on the 1st April 2008, asking that the Lugo dates be changed.

At this late stage and with the many commitments to the hotels in the area and to the venue, Pazos de Feiras e Congresos of Lugo, it was impossible to comply with the request.



The walls of the City of Lugo which were built 1700 years ago.

RETURN OF RICO DIKS

Spanish pool fans were delighted to see Dutch player Rico Diks who made a welcome return to tournament play at the Spanish event.

Rico, former European 9 Ball Champion is one of the most stylish players around and it is always a pleasure to watch him play.

During the last three years he has rarely been seen in tournaments as he has been dedicating his time to music and the development of his band, "The Pressure Room".

The Spanish fans will be looking forward to his return to the Iberian Peninsular.

In the preliminary rounds of the International 9 Ball event Rico flew through the three matches necessary to advance to the final phase with victories over Spaniards Alejandro Castro 8 – 1, Miguel Angel Lopez 8–2 and Francisco Javier Lopez 8–0.

In the final phase of 32 participants, Diks carried on as before with a 9–0 win over the newly crowned Spanish 9 Ball Champion, 16 year old Francisco Sanchez. He then brushed aside the leader of the Spanish Rankings, David Alcoverro by 9 racks to 2. In the quarter finals he came up against top Spanish Player, Samir Kaduur who put up a hard fight but eventually succumbed with a 9-6 score line in favour of the Dutchman.

In the semi-final it all began to go wrong, struggling to find his form against Manuel Gama of Portugal, Rico finally bowed out of the tournament after losing by 9 to 5 in a match where he was making little off the break and where he made more mistakes than the Portuguese player.

Finishing 4th, Diks took home \$3000 in prize money

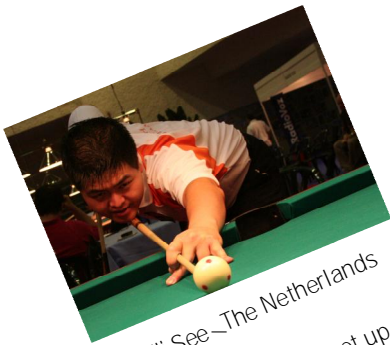


Galicia is famous for its national dish Pulpo a la Gallega. (Octopus)



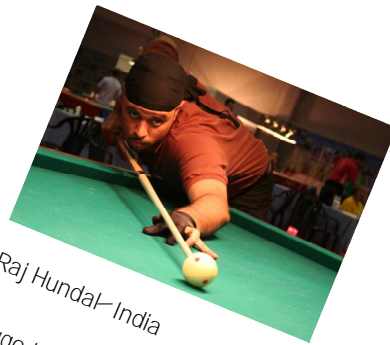
Trophies for the Spanish Championships

QUOTES FROM THE PLAYERS



Huidji See—The Netherlands

"What an incredible set up, its nice to see so many players having fun, it doesn't happen anywhere else"



Raj Hundal—India

"Lugo is a great city with good food and nice people"
"magnificent organisation"
"it is the best European tournament I have ever played in."



Rico Diks, Raj Hundal
Mohammed Ahasan,
Karl Boyes and Paddy
McLoughlin at the Annual
Gala



Karl Boyes—England



Rico Diks—The Netherlands

Great organisation, this tournament is unrivalled anywhere in Europe.

Nice to see the players being taken so much care of.....



David Pascasi—Italy

"I always enjoy coming to Spain."

"The organisation is excellent, there is nothing like it in Italy"



Jonni Fulcher—Scotland

"Great organisation..."

"The venue itself is stunning. The people are great too, everyone greets you with huge



Giorgio Margola - Italy

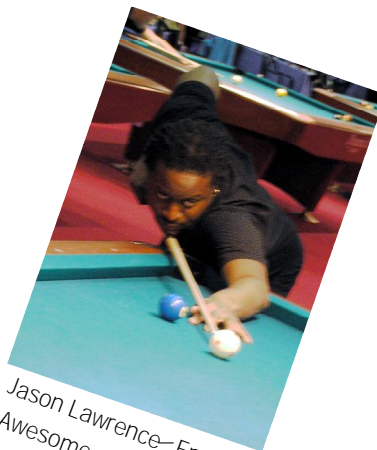


Pat Holtz—Scotland



Mohammed Ahasan—England

"I wish that all tournaments were like this one"



Jason Lawrence—England
"Awesome event"



Paddy McLoughlin—Ireland

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Francisco Sanchez Ruiz
9 Ball Champion



David Alcaide 8 Ball
Champion

The Confederación Española de Pool (CEP) under the auspices of the Real Federación Española de Billar (RFEB) is the major entity responsible for the organization of leagues, both local and national, and tournaments in Spain.

The CEP was founded in the year 2000 for the purpose of promoting and developing the sport of pool. Later in the same year an agreement was reached with the RFEB, responsible to the Higher Council for Sport, for all cue sports, ceding to the CEP the exclusive responsibility for the official organization of National Championships in Spain.

The RFEB and the CEP are proud to host each year a tour stop of the Eurotour, an event which takes place seven times each year in different countries of Europe and attracts up to 256 of the continent's top players.

The Spanish Championships, held in July of each year provide sporting opportunities for all categories of players, Juniors, Seniors, Women and Men in four different divisions in both individual and team competition.

An integral part of the Spanish Championships is the International Open 9 Ball Tournament which allows the Spanish public an opportunity to witness the skills of Europe's and the World's top players

ALCAIDE TAKES 8 BALL TITLE

David Alcaide, showed that he is one of the best 8 Ball Players in Europe after retaining the title for the second consecutive year of Spanish 8 Ball Champion.

Alcaide was one of the European players banned by the EPBF from taking part in the International Open but was allowed to participate in the National championships which are reserved for Spanish players only.

In the preliminary rounds, Alcaide showed no mercy to his opponents dropping only 8 games out of the 38 in which he played.

The latter stages went just as easily for the Málaga born player and his 8–3 victory over Raul Hebles in the final, gave David some compensation for his defeat in the 9 Ball final.



A view of the venue, Pazo de Feiras e Congresos de Lugo

25 Dynamic
9' Tables

48 Valley
7' Tables



The Television Arena