

## **The first World Championship of amateurs in Balkline 45/2**

### **22.3.-3.4.1903 in Paris**

The first world championship for amateurs was organised by the French "Fédération de Billard", an association of French players, together with officials and the billiard factory Brunswick in Paris - certainly inspired by the championship for professionals which had taken place shortly before. The driving force were Frantz Reichel, Theodore Vienne and Comte Raymond de Drée. The tournament was open to any amateur worldwide, although only in France and Belgium as well as the USA had there been a loose organisation with corresponding infrastructures for amateur billiards players. In addition, match billiards were still absolutely scarce in other countries.

This world championship was intended by the initiators as a basis for further title fights as well as for the foundation of an association, because national billiards organisations did not exist - at least in Europe. Shortly after the tournament, the "Fédération des Sociétés Françaises des Amateurs de Billard" (FSFAB) was founded. However, things were not to continue as harmoniously as at the beginning of the World Championship. Only three days after the constituent meeting of the FSFAB, differences arose between the founders on questions of rules and definitions of the term "amateur". Frantz Reichel and Theodore Vienne resigned and founded the "Fédération Française de Billard" (FFB) on 24.4.1903 and claimed the sole organisation of world championships. Until 1913, there were thus two federations operating in parallel, each with its own world championships.

With the foundation of further national billiards federations in Belgium, Switzerland, Germany and the Netherlands as well as the merger of the two French organisations, the way was finally prepared for the foundation of a world federation in 1913. However, the First World War made this impossible for another decade. It was not until 1923 that the World Billiards Federation (FIAB / UIFAB) was brought into being.

For many years, despite an intensive search, it was not possible to create a complete and reliable final result or even tournament tableau. Only a time-consuming and laborious research in more than ten French daily newspapers of the year 1903 led to success. The errors and gaps in the results contained in the later reports of the international billiards publications could be eliminated.

One has to know that at that time less importance was attached to averages and maximum series in the reporting. These were only mentioned in outstanding matches. And since the game was not played with equal shots, the average of the loser of a match often remained in the dark.

The final tableau of the first World Championship, which is now available, can be regarded as secure. The few missing maximum series in some games are negligible.

## 1. World Championship - Cadre 45/2 from 22.3.-7.4.1903 in Paris

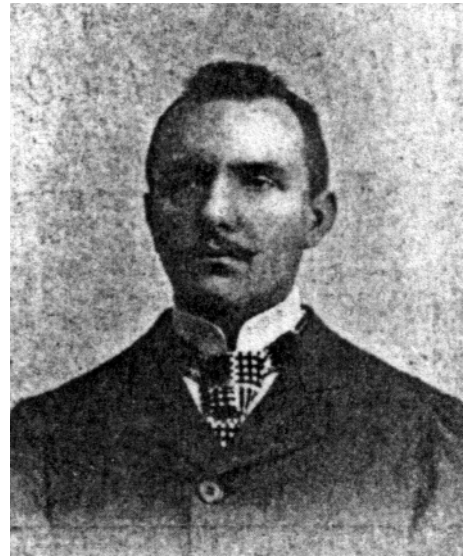
	Rérolle	Rasquinet	Fouquet	Maure	Léjeune	Naves	De Drée	Nelys	MP	Pts.	Inn.	Av	Best Game	Highrun	Pl.
<b>Rérolle</b>		400 27	400 27	400 26	400 12	400 23	400 27	400 34							
Lucien		2	2	2	2	2	2	2	14	2800	176	15,90	33,33	109	1
France		14,81 61	14,81 55	15,38 73	33,33 103	17,39 87	14,81 109	11,76 73							
<b>Rasquinet</b>	391 27		400 47	400 48	400 40	400 38	400 42	400 42							
Hector	0		2	2	2	2	2	2	12	2791	284	9,82	10,52	91	2
Belgium	14,48 91		8,51 41	8,33 30	10,00 63	10,52 67	9,52 27	9,52 42							
<b>Fouquet</b>	278 27	399 47		400 38	278 54	400 50	400 41	400 46							
Léon	0	0		2	0	2	2	2	8	2555	303	8,43	10,52	67	3
France	10,29 53	8,48 67		10,52 63	5,14 ?	8,00 58	9,75 53	8,69 61							
<b>Maure</b>	166 25	391 48	243 38		400 41	400 33	400 41	400 70							
Barthélémy	0	0	0		2	2	2	2	8	2400	296	8,10	12,12	82	4
France	6,64 ?	8,14 58	6,39 ?		9,75 82	12,12 52	9,75 57	5,71 41							
<b>Léjeune</b>	64 11	268 39	400 55	235 41		308 65	400 60	400 80							
Paul	0	0	2	0		0	2	2	6	2075	351	5,91	7,27	47	5
France	5,81 ?	6,87 47	7,27 36	5,73 ?		4,73 32	6,66 47	5,00 ?							
<b>Naves</b>	77 22	258 38	333 50	226 32	400 66		400 80	400 81							
Louis	0	0	0	0	2		2	2	6	2094	369	5,67	6,06	62	6
France	3,50 ?	6,78 32	6,66 53	7,06 32	6,06 62		5,00 ?	4,93 45							
<b>De Drée</b>	354 27	328 41	238 40	220 40	318 59	347 79		400 53							
Raymond	0	0	0	0	0	0		2	2	2205	339	6,50	7,54	49	7
France	13,11 47	8,00 49	5,95 41	5,50 ?	5,38 ?	4,39 ?		7,54 43							
<b>Nelys</b>	155 33	275 42	211 45	288 70	323 79	308 80	284 52								
?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	1844	401	4,59	0,00	48	8
France	4,69 ?	6,54 48	4,68 ?	4,11 ?	4,08 40	3,85 43	5,46 ?								

Tournament Average

18.764 : 2.519 7,44



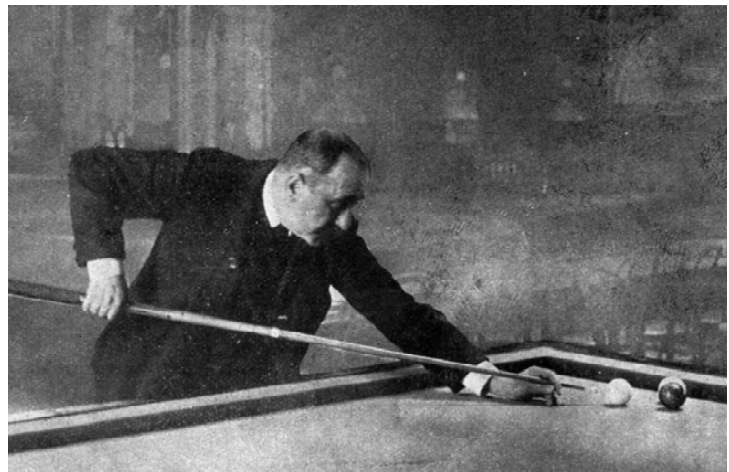
**Lucien Rérolle**



**Hector Rasquinet**



**Leon Fouquet**



**Barthélémy Maure**



**Paul Léjeune**



**Louis Naves**



**Raymon de Drée**

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