

The World Championships 3-Cushion - National Teams

From the late 1970s, there were efforts in international billiards to establish an international team competition in three cushion alongside the team competitions in pentathlon, the European Championships in Amersfort (NL).

At the congress of the Union Mondial de Billiard on May 31, 1980 in Madrid, a motion was made to introduce a world championship for national teams in the three cushion discipline. Without much discussion, the delegates approved the proposal and decided to schedule the first tournament of this kind for 1981 in Mexico.

Although the invitation to tender allowed the participation of 10 or more teams, it was quickly agreed that six teams would take part, making a qualifying tournament for the European nations necessary.

After the start in Mexico, it would take four years until the second World Team Championships in three cushion was held in Bordeaux in 1985. This was followed two years later in Madrid in 1987, and another three years passed before the fourth World Championship was held in Viersen, Germany, in 1990.

Now the tournament really took off, as it was possible to organize this World Team Championship every year from 1990 onwards, all of them in Viersen. This continuity, coupled with top sporting performances, soon earned the event in the small town the title “Wimbledon of billiards”.

A total of more than 35 nations have competed in the championships held to date. Japan has been there from the start, Sweden was only absent in Mexico and the teams from Egypt, Belgium, Germany, Denmark, Portugal, Spain and the Netherlands were also regular participants. Other successful teams were Turkey, Korea and Vietnam.

In 1998, Marco Zanetti (IT) set a record for the first time in one inning, a record that was equaled by Torbjörn Blomdahl (SE) in 2008 and Carlos Campino (CO) in 2010. Dick Jaspers (NL) set a series record in 2013 with 22 points.

The best team average over the entire tournament was achieved by the team from Belgium in 2014 with 2.195 and a best match with 3.636.

The record holder for the general average of individual players is Frédéric Caudron (BE) with 2.506 in 2015, and the best game was achieved by Eddy Merckx in 2014 with 4.444.