

# Let's Talk Billiards

by Don "Preacher" Feeney



## Aiming Angle

"The 'AA' is the angle your cue makes (to accomplish hits such as 1/2 ball or 3/4 ball) with a line connecting the Cue Ball and Object Ball centers, known as the Reference Line."

- Let's Talk Billiards  
P & B Mag., Oct., '86

One of the difficulties in teaching billiard skills is that the instructor himself may not consciously use or apply the principles and advice that he so carefully presents to his students. In fact the instructor may think about very little when he plays, probably nothing at all!

But the student should realize that you cannot run before you learn to walk. A good instructor knows the steps to acquiring skill and knows how to present them in a useful and beneficial sequence. Be patient and take the course.

Although I do not consciously use the information I gave you last month, I remember it as a key step in the development of my game. It led me away from the futility of trying to hit a certain spot on an object ball and instead made me far more aware of the exact direction (Aiming Angle) I was pointing the cue in relationship to a line drawn between the cue ball and object ball (Reference Line).

I believe this to be the best approach to the problem of aiming. In general, it is far easier to develop and remember an aiming angle that will drive an object ball in a certain direction than it is to try to hit a spot on a ball, especially on the 9, 10, and 12 foot tables.

And it doesn't require the eyes of an eagle. I have known expert players who swore they couldn't read the big E on an eye chart!

The information I gave you last month, simply stated, says that to drive an object ball in a certain direction, the aiming angle becomes less and less as the distance between the cue ball and object ball becomes greater and greater.

This is useful information. Continue to experiment and practice this concept. Put it to work! It will improve your consistency on all types of hits. ■