



**EWA**

By Ewa Laurance

# A Trick Shot For A Tough Situation

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**T**here's an old saying that goes something like this: You learn more from your mistakes than from your successes.

Like a lot of old sayings it's sometimes true – and sometimes not true. You may try something and fail, and only learn that the way you tried it was wrong, leaving a few hundred other ways that could also be wrong. But if you try something and succeed you've learned a right way to do it, something of a lot more value.

When you're learning to play pool you'll make mistakes, and some of them, once you understand them, can be turned into very useful shots. Not, perhaps, the kind of shot you'll use every day, but the kind of shot that will successfully get you out of a tight situation.

I rarely use diagrams in this column but for this shot it may help.

Here's the situation:

You have a ball stuck on a cushion, not that far from a corner pocket.

The cue ball is up table, roughly the same distance from the side cushion on the same side of the table.

When you were faced with this dur-

ing your early playing days you may have hit the object ball straight on and discovered that it went into the cushion, came back at the cue ball and hit it back up table, producing a weak safety. The key is that you have to hit the object ball dead on and with perfect speed, and that's not always easy.

If the kick to the object ball is blocked that's sometimes not a bad solution to a difficult problem because the alternative – clipping the ball – will often leave both the cue ball and the object ball far enough away from cushions to be cut or banked.

Here's a better solution that you might just discover by trying to hit the cue ball dead on but being a little off target. If the object ball is hit just a little to the right of dead on the cue ball goes to the right, the object ball goes into the cushion and back out, and they'll collide, which will rocket the object ball into the corner pocket. Hitting the cue ball high up the chances of success.

It doesn't take much practice until you've turned this into a high percentage shot.

