

Michelle Cunningham, 35, currently plays on 2 teams in Philadelphia and a team in Bucks County. Michelle is married, and her husband is also a fellow APA Philly member! We had a chance to ask Mrs. Cunningham a few questions, here's what she had to say:

APA Philly: How did you get involved with the APA?

Michelle: My husband and his friend began shooting on a team in 2003. They both enjoyed it so much they decided to start their own team in 2004 and they asked me to be on it. I was lukewarm on the idea of playing in a league because I was not a good player but I wasn't doing anything Wednesday nights anyway so I figured I'd give it a try. Here I am 12 years later, still shooting in the APA.

APA Philly: Are there any fellow APA members that you admire or have helped you?

Michelle: There are two people in particular that I admire in the APA, and that have helped me become the shooter I am today – Joe Giorla and Cheryl Murray.

Since I started playing on a team with Joe, he has become one of my best friends and sort of a mentor to me. Without his kindness and willingness to teach, I would probably still be a SL3. He happily takes the time to show you how to do make a shot and also explains why you are doing it. Unlike some other higher rated players, he doesn't get frustrated with you and never talks down to you or expects you to do something that is outside of your skill set. I have such a greater understanding of the game because of him.

One of the first teams I remember playing against was Cheryl Murray's team out of Tacony Billiards. I was new and had never seen a female player with such a strong game that wasn't on TV. Seeing another female shooter play so well and be respected by the male players was inspirational. I immediately wanted to strive to be like her and become a better player. All of these years later, she has become a good friend and when I have the occasion to play against her I'm reminded of how far I've grown as a player and I'm complimented to be considered on the same level as her.



APA Philly: What do you keep in your cue case?

Michelle: I have a preference for shooting with a Predator cue, and I also have an Action jump/break cue. In my bag, I keep Silver Cup chalk, hand talc, a tip tool, and various pocket markers.

I would tell new players not to get frustrated and to be patient. Your game will improve with time and practice. When I first started, I dropped to a SL1... and now, I'm currently a SL5.

- MICHELLE CUNNINGHAM

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