



RILEY[®]
ENGLAND
A Division of BCE (Distributors) Ltd



SNOOKER & BILLIARD TABLES
OF DISTINCTION
SINCE 1897



Celebrating 125 years since RILEY was founded in 1897.

Legend has it that Sir Neville Chamberlin, an Army officer stationed in India, came up with the concept of Snooker during his time in Jubbulpore or Jabalpur as it is now known back in 1875.

It's believed Chamberlain was experimenting on a table being used to play Black Pool, which featured 15 red balls and a black ball.

After adding further coloured balls to the table and devising a point scoring system for when balls were potted, Chamberlain was on his way to creating what would become the most widely played cue sport of its time. Snooker was officially born.

The name itself is believed to have come from the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich where rookie cadets were known as "Snookers".

When Chamberlain was establishing the rules for his new game in India, the main spectators and no doubt participants of his new creation were these rookie cadets called Snookers.

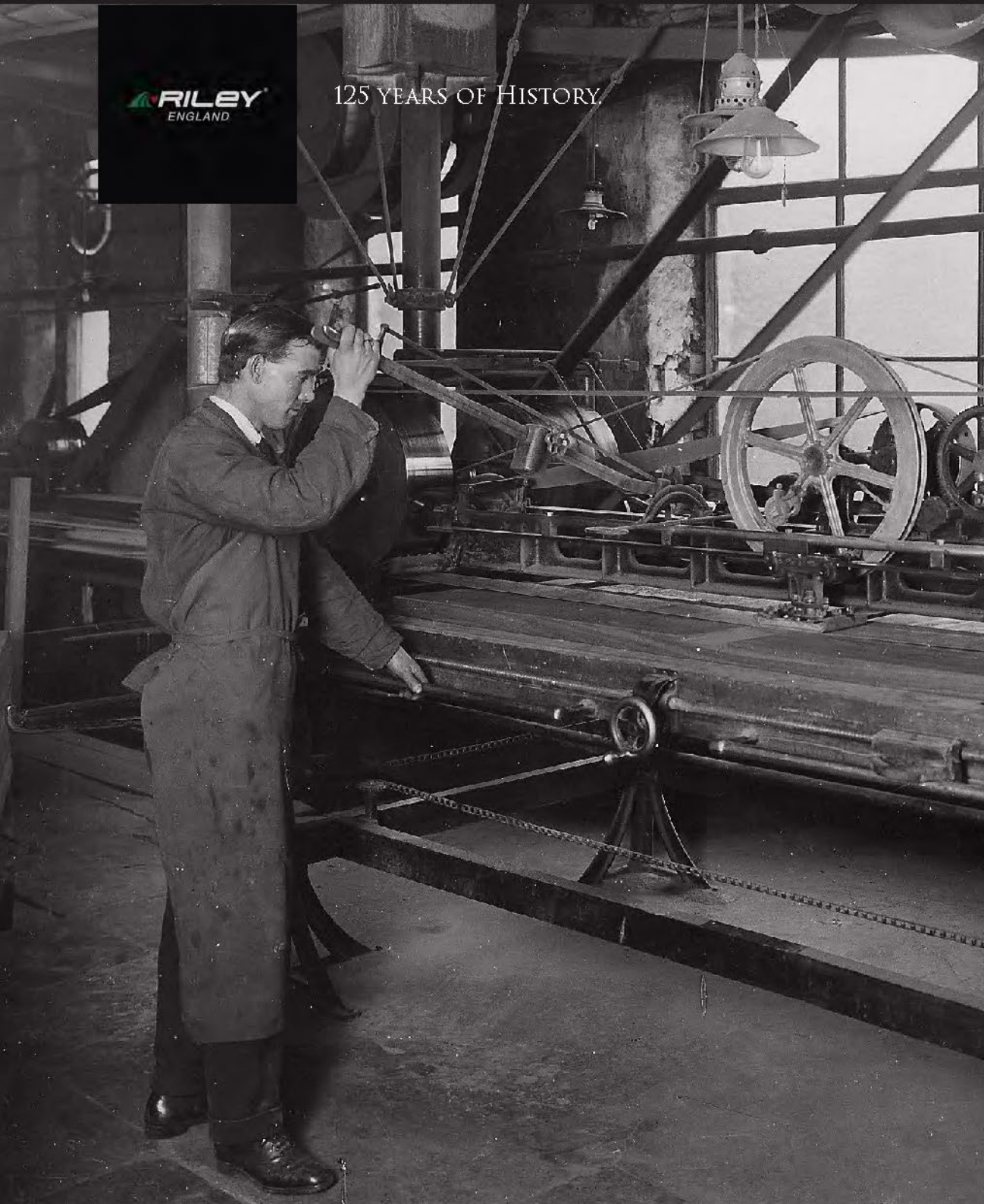
Word soon spread and Chamberlain was later posted to the Tamil Nadu Hill station of Ootacamud and he brought Snooker with him.





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ENGLAND

125 YEARS OF HISTORY



The sport as we know it prospered from there with this colonial style Officers club becoming the focal point for Snooker. It's said that the club still features an original Snooker table today decorated with tiger, leopard, elephant, and deer hunting relics and trophies.

As Chamberlain's rookie cadets were posted throughout India and across the British Colonies around the world, Snooker was firmly established and made its name as the Sport for Officers and Gentlemen.

Back in England, a man called E.J. Riley had started out life focusing on another fast developing sport called Cricket.

But after finding little success, EJ decided to diversify into other up and coming sports and in 1897 he decided Snooker was to be his new company's focus. With his trusted advisor, Mr. C.G. Kenyon, E.J. Riley Ltd took the world of snooker by storm.

In just a short period of time, the company became the biggest producer of Snooker tables in the world.



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By 1912, E.J Riley were making around 800 full size tables, 800 convertible tables and around 4000 portable tables every year.

By the 1920's, E.J.Riley Ltd had established more than 40 billiard halls up and down the country.

The company continued to trade after EJ's death in 1926.

A turning point came following World War II. The company had contributed resources to the war effort while trying to maintain their table repair business – and money was tight.

Recovering Snooker tables wasn't at the top of people's list of priorities in the 1940's and it was soon apparent that Snooker had lost its appeal.

The old principal operation of manufacturing and selling tables was no longer viable.

Riley decided to concentrate on table repairs, using outside sources for the manufacture of parts which were assembled and completed in smaller workshops.

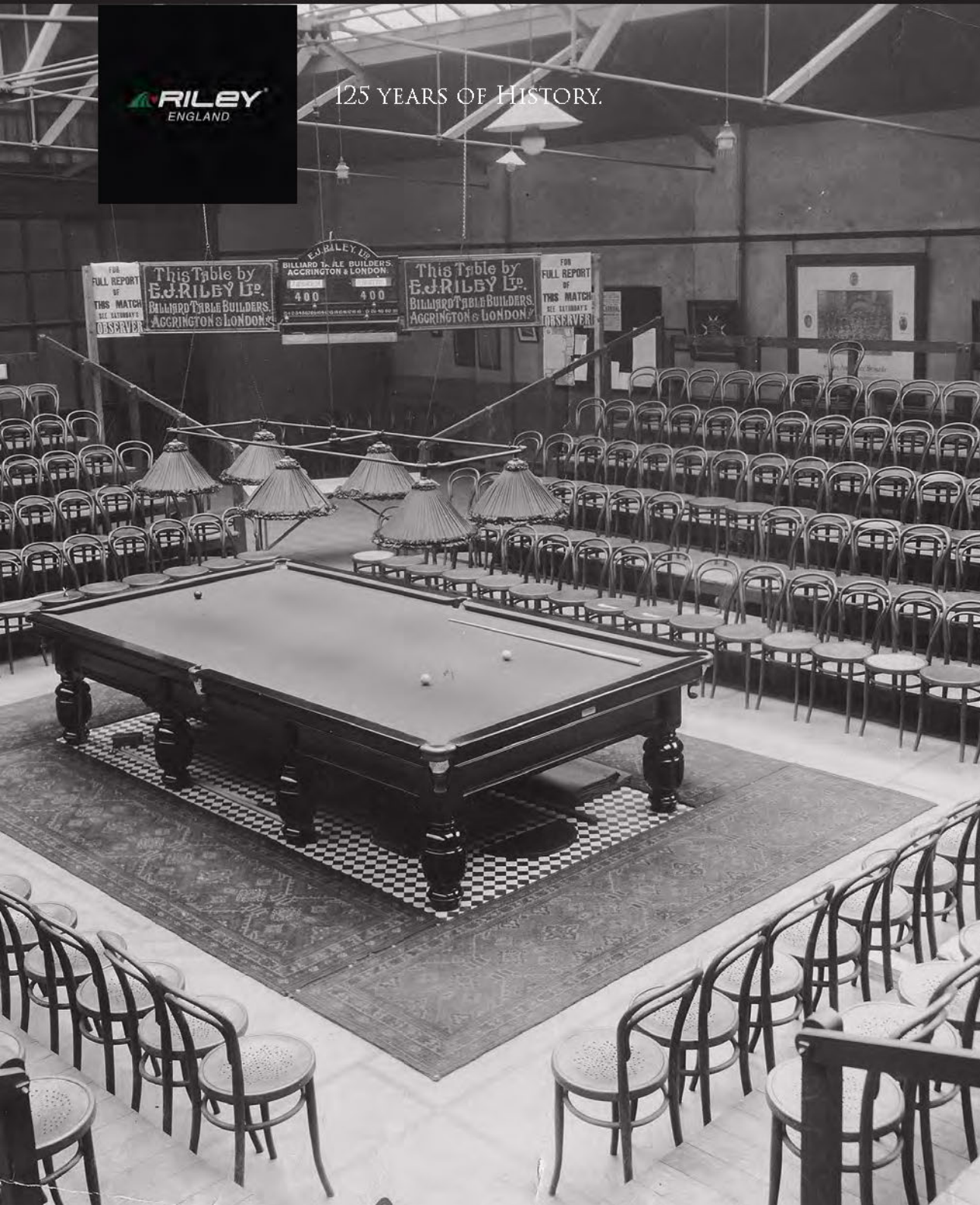


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The acquisition of C. D. Pierce & Son Ltd. as a wholly owned subsidiary was the company's first diversification outside billiards and sports. A further, but allied diversification, was the acquisition of Stevens and Mercer Ltd., chair frame manufacturers. The rapid expansion created by these two companies made it necessary for E. J. Riley Ltd. to consolidate their operations under one roof.

In 1967 E. J. Riley Ltd. bought the billiard repair side of Burroughes and Watts, and Riley Burwat Ltd. was created.

E.J. Riley Ltd was back in the world of business, albeit more diversified than ever before.

In 1968 a joint company, Modern Recreations Ltd., was formed by E. J. Riley Ltd. and the Hurst Park Syndicate to bring together and operate Billiard halls or Snooker clubs as they then became, formerly owned by Riley and Burroughes and Watts.

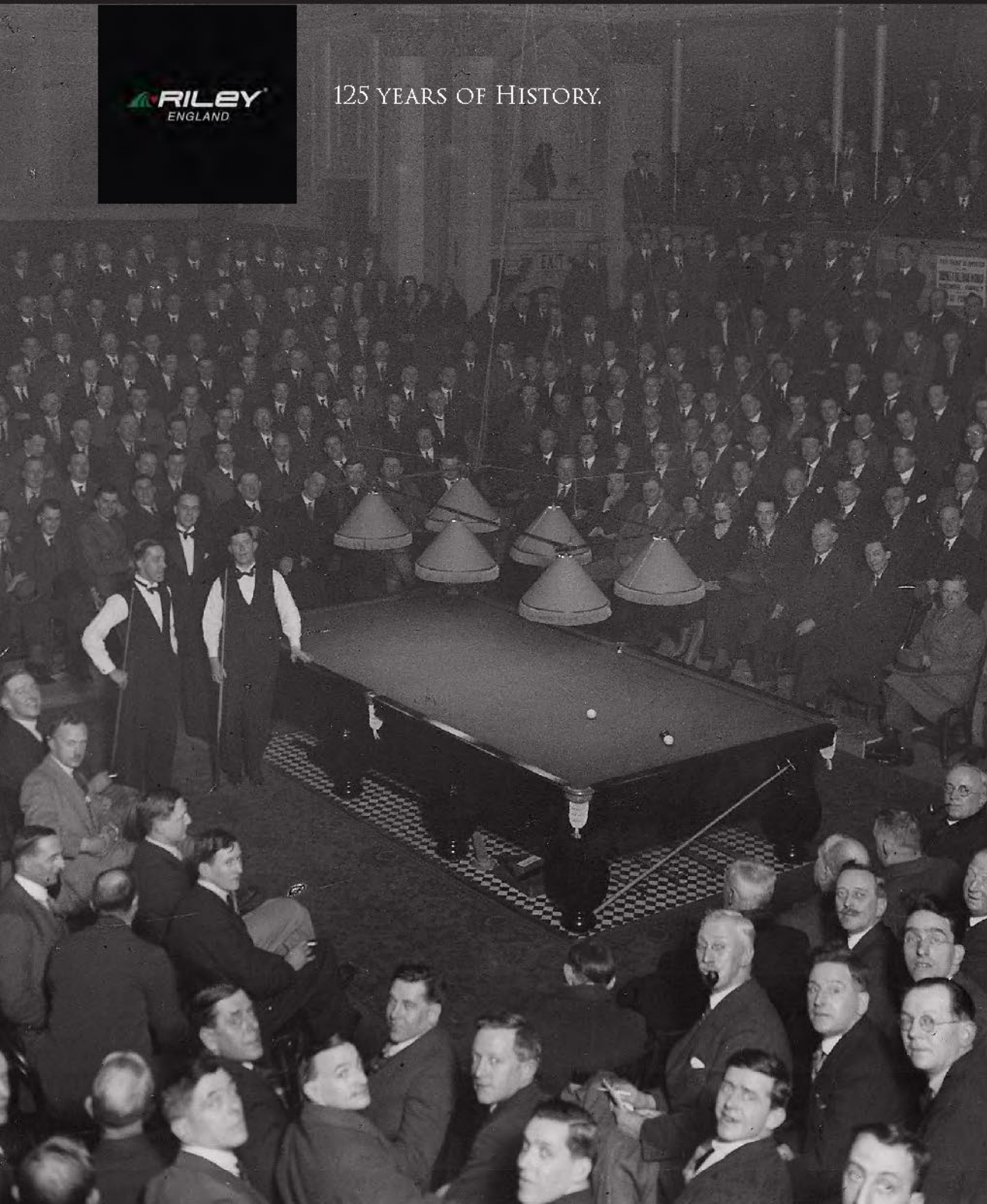


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In 1971, E.J. RILEY bought out their partner and the name of the company was changed to Riley Snooker Clubs Ltd.

In 1977, a merger was agreed between the company and Headcrest Ltd., and E. J. Riley became a public company with a quotation on the Stock Exchange.

By 1982 profits had risen to almost one million pounds or around two million US dollars. The snooker boom at this time resulted in the company turning out 1,800 new tables during the course of that year.

The Riley business expanded rapidly in the 1980's when snooker found new audiences in Hong Kong and Northern European Countries such as Belgium and Holland.

And so, in 1984, Riley moved its headquarters from Accrington to a new factory just a few miles away in Padiham.

Continuing to trade under the Riley name, a major deal was agreed with the WPBSA in 1992 when the Riley Aristocrat Table became the official and exclusive table used for all World Snooker Ranking Tournaments. This arrangement remained in place until the 2009/10 season.



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CHAMPIONS



1992 STEPHEN HENDRY	1998 JOHN HIGGINS	2004 RONNIE O'SULLIVAN
1993 STEPHEN HENDRY	1999 STEPHEN HENDRY	2005 SHAUN MURPHY
1994 STEPHEN HENDRY	2000 MARK WILLIAMS	2006 GRAEME DOTT
1995 STEPHEN HENDRY	2001 RONNIE O'SULLIVAN	2007 JOHN HIGGINS
1996 STEPHEN HENDRY	2002 PETER EBDON	2008 RONNIE O'SULLIVAN
1997 KEN DOHERTY	2003 MARK WILLIAMS	2009 JOHN HIGGINS



Aristocrat
TOURNAMENT CHAMPION



Between 1992 and 2009, the Riley Aristocrat produced no fewer than 8 individual World Champions who are among the finest to have ever played the game.

Kyren Wilson, 2024 World Champion, and 2026 Masters Champion is a sponsored player of Riley. He now spearheads the brand and leads the way as one of Snooker's top professionals.

Today, Riley are the only quality U.K. made Snooker table manufacturer left.

Using the same enterprising & entrepreneurial spirit that founder E.J. Riley possessed back in the day some 125 years ago, the focus remains on delivering the highest quality tables.



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Today the company is owned and managed by Stuart J. Lacey who acquired the Riley brand in 2002 and merged it with BCE, another leading Snooker brand created in the 1970's.

The two brands remain separate and distinctive, standing alone in different markets around the world.

Riley stands for what it's become synonymous for; quality, British craftsmanship with a history & heritage going back to the reign of Queen Victoria.

The Riley brand has been in existence for 125 years and to celebrate this mile stone, the team at Riley have created a Limited-Edition table to commemorate everything that Riley stands for today, and what Riley has stood for in the past.

“Trusted by time, trusted be generations”

What was true then is true now.

The team at Riley aspire to honour the Riley name and follow the path set out by the original founders over a century ago; to strive for the best.

The Riley brand lives on, and we've got more history to create.



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