



Snooker & Billiards New South Wales Inc.



Established 1917

Chairman Report (FY 2022-2023)

Welcome to everyone to the 106th Annual General Meeting of Snooker and Billiards NSW.

I am thrilled to address you as the Chairman of Snooker and Billiards NSW, and I want to express my excitement for the progress and opportunities that lie ahead of us. It is an incredible honor to be a part of this vibrant community in NSW, and I am honored by the trust you have placed in me.

As we move forward, I am fully committed to leading our organisation to new heights, fostering excellence, and ensuring that our members have every opportunity to thrive in Snooker and Billiards. Together, we can achieve more and more so I welcome new faces to step forward and join our team in some shape or form.

I firmly believe that the best is yet to come, and I look forward to working alongside all of you to make our vision a reality. I am also excited about the alignment with the Australian Billiards and Snooker Council (ABSC) and the relationships we continue to build with our clubs and sponsors.

Membership and Participation

Our Snooker and Billiards community has experienced a remarkable growth with a nearly 15% increase in memberships over the past year. This substantial rise is a testament to the enthusiasm and engagement of our members in NSW and underscores our commitment to fostering a vibrant and inclusive environment for cue sports enthusiasts. We look forward to continuing this positive momentum and providing even more opportunities for our members to enjoy and excel in the sport. In the new year we will shift some focus to Club and Affiliate memberships as well as introducing a social membership category.

Clubs and Venues

We are thrilled to see a small resurgence in the dedication to our sport within our region. Clubs across New South Wales are making a conscious effort to reinstate Snooker and Billiards tables, and they're doing it with a strong commitment to providing high-quality conditions. These efforts are paramount in helping our up-and-coming players condition themselves to compete on a world-class level.

The passion and dedication of our clubs and players are truly commendable. By creating top playing environments, we are not only nurturing our local talent but also positioning ourselves to shine on the international stage. Venues like Mounties, Seven Hills RSL and St George Basin have been progressive in moving to Shender (or Shender top) tables. This has been evident with the staging of the WSF World Championships at Mounties earlier in the year.

Tournaments and Events

Snooker and Billiards NSW continues to shine with the staging of many events for our members. Between Snooker, Billiards, Women's and Junior events it is a real challenge to make room in our busy calendars, yet alone try to coordinate dates with other cue sports events i.e. Pool.

This year saw the staging of the WSF World Snooker Championship at Mounties which attracted close to 200 entrants from Australia and the World. Coupled with events like the WWS Australian Open, Bob Hawke AC Australian Open and a range of State Snooker and Billiards Championships, it has been an amazing year.

Government Relations and Funding

Snooker and Billiards NSW is a recognised State Sporting Organisation in NSW Government and is therefore eligible for annual funding. The amount of funding we have received (outside special grants) has been \$5,000 per year. This is barely enough to help keep the lights on. The new NSW Labour Government had made pre-election commitments to increase funding. This will require some additional work for us, and we will need to meet certain outcomes like increasing participation for Women as well as strengthening governance.

Within the guidelines of the new funding in future years, some of the outcomes the NSW Government is requiring are as follows but not limited to:

- 'Plan to increase female representation on the Board of the organisation to meet gender equity targets and to encourage affiliates to achieve the same' and;
- 'Plan to move to equal prizemoney for events where this is controlled by the organisation.'

Development Programs

Over the year we have been committed to coordinating various clinics for coaching and referee development. We will continue to build on the good work already with additional focus in the new year on programs for disability. We will aim to work with the ABSC body to align with various national programs and ensure NSW has representation on various sub-committees.

Our Partnerships

Our partnerships with clubs, sponsors, NSW Government, and other governing bodies in our Sport is critical for our success. The Board has been committed to strengthening these partnerships and will continue to be a key focus area for us. I see great opportunities in stronger alignment and collaboration with the ABSC and other State Associations. The opportunities to share ideas and resources is incredible, we just need people to be open minded and help make this happen.

A special call out to CL&S as the sponsor of record for the ABSC. Without their support Australia and NSW would not have the opportunity to experienced better playing conditions through the supply of equipment such as cloths and balls for our National and key State events. I would also like to thank all the NSW Clubs that have hosted and sponsored our events in the year. Thank you in particular to Mounties, Blacktown Workers, Club Marconi, Commercial Club Albury, Hornsby RSL, Guildford Leagues, Wentworthville Leagues, Central Coast Leagues and Gosford RSL.

Acknowledgements

Thanks must go to the great team we have on the Board and all the non-board members that have contributed through the year. You all know who you are and at the risk of missing names I will leave it at that. A big thank you team.

Once again thank you for being an integral part of Snooker and Billiards NSW, and here's to the remarkable journey that awaits us! I look forward to working with you all in the new year.

Alex Render

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alex Render". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chairman – Snooker and Billiards NSW Inc.

4th December 2023