

Mark Johnson – Snooker Club President

Good Evening to you all, first I would like to welcome our guests from the Twin Towns Board of directors, as always, they have readily assisted whenever requested and this is very much appreciated.

Thank you to the management and staff of Club Banora, they have also been supportive of our Club and must be commended.

Also a big welcome to past presidents Peter Campbell, Des Turner OAM, Terry Malone & Bryne Smith.

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Many thanks to our snooker club secretary Jimmy Thomson on his outstanding organising skills in dealing with what has been a pretty full on year but the club completed all of its commitments and more.

We have had two Eamonn Duff tournaments this year, in early March for the delayed 2021 title and in October. Thank you to Peter Campbell our ambassador who puts a lot of work in organising the sponsorship donations and many thanks to our sponsors.

How good is our club? Bryne Smith will provide more details on this as we go through the presentations but headlines for me are:

- We have been fortunate to have one of the best ever Australian women's snooker player to be an active member and committee member of our club, Jessica Woods.
- We have had unprecedented success on the National Championships stage
- We have a junior development program that many other clubs and associations are looking at with admiration and envy. This program has improved immensely, and many thanks to Peter Campbell who has this year spent a lot of time coaching and has had many juniors who have vastly improved their skills. We have had 3 Junior tournaments played this year and the competition has been strong. Thanks also to all the other club members who found time to assist Peter as well.
- Club Banora will be represented by a record number of juniors in January that will play in the Junior Nationals in Albury. And the NSW

team is predominantly made up of Club Banora juniors. A big thank you to every person who has supported our juniors and our junior coaching program. It's only the start.

- And we have an active social media facebook page and website that Jimmy manages which attracts interest from not only our members, but from players and associations near and far.

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The snooker club has had a great year with the Tuesday and Thursday comps, which have maintained an average of 14 players per night. Many thanks to Nev Robinson, Len Caccioppoli for being the main tournament directors. Along with other members who have given assistance during the year. Many players have improved and have been getting their handicaps reduced, well done to all players.

The Sponsored Sundays have been a big hit and we have run 8 this year which is incredible when you consider the number of organised events that take place. Many thanks to Jimmy, Cooper & Jess for being the tournament directors. Whilst our club sponsors these events and special thank you to Bruce Sinclair, Bryne Smith, Joe Caridi and Rod Marquardt for their extra sponsorship towards 4 of the 8 Sundays. In terms of results, our most successful 'Sunday' player was Cooper Thomson with 2 Wins and a Runner Up as well as 1 win in a Consolation Comp. No wonder his handicap has dropped from 35 down to 18 in the last 12 months!

Thank you to John 'The Glove' Hudson who addressed our club for free in September and gave a brilliant presentation entitled 'Discover your inner champion'. And to his wife Lynne for producing a wonderful book that supports the many learning points that John covered. Many of our members gained a lot from this. We want to also thank John for his continued ongoing support, especially to our annual doubles championship in your name and to the juniors.

Our club has played in various team events throughout the year and many thanks to players willing to represent the club and promote the game of snooker. Our regular interclub challenges took place against Westside (twice), Casino, Gold Coast (twice). Other planned matches were cancelled (Ballina – flooding and Redcliffe). We also played in the Far North Coast Snooker

Association Teams championship and we came out as winners. Congratulations to the eight players.

In 2023 we are looking at connecting with a few more clubs outside of our normal area and have a few roadtrips. Nev is currently looking into that and we hope to have at least one or two.

The snooker club along with Twin Towns purchased and had fitted new lighting for the tables which I believe has improved playing conditions for everyone. We also have purchased a new ball cleaning machine and aptly named 'The Cruzer' after Jim Cruz.

We are also looking at providing easier access to club balls for members and we will let you know when we have news on this.

Our membership in January was 61 full members and 2 juniors this has increased to 81 full members and 11 juniors. Thank you to all of you who have welcomed the new members, it goes to show how friendly our club is. Also many thanks to Davey Jones who keeps on top of membership renewals.

The snooker club just doesn't run on its own. My many thanks go to our committee and also to Terry Malone / Jess Woods who keep our tables in tip top condition, and thanks to Brian Green who is always available to assist in many ways. Des Turner and Bryne Smith who again are never too far away from assisting and refereeing the finals.

At the end of the day, it is you, the members of our snooker club who keep turning up and enjoying yourselves that keep Snooker and Billiards alive and well. And the strength and future of the club is only as good as the players who actively play in our championships and help out.

Merry Xmas and a happy New Year to you all.