

Members Update – November 2019

1/ Ballina Inter-club Visit 13th October 2019

The Club held its inaugural visit to Ballina Snooker Club on Sunday 13th October 2019. The team consisted of Chris Deazevedo, Cooper Thomson, Dave Dern, Bob Morton, Ray Gocke, Des Turner, Brendan Rippingale and Jimmy Thomson. For Brendan it was his first occasion representing the Club.

The team on the day went down 17 frames to 11, as usual there were the few hard luck stories of close matches which got away but the team did enjoy the day and put up a very good effort.

In the singles, best results were Chris Deazevedo and Des Turner with 2 wins each from 3 matches. All other players had a win. In doubles, the solitary success was Jimmy Thomson & Dave Dern.

All in all, another top days snooker and thanks to those members who represented the Club.

2/ What's in a Name.

A few newcomers often have trouble getting to Club Banora snooker tournaments for the first. The club title, Twin Towns Snooker Club sometimes sees them attend the main club in Tweed Heads initially. They are in good company. Australia's leading player Neil Robertson got lost heading to a tournament in the Barnsley Entertainment Centre – ended up in the village of Barnsley instead. First round forfeit.

3/ Fleeting Fame

A couple of social players were having a game on Wed evening 13th November and one of them was John Saull, the former manager of Alex “Hurricane” Higgins. I mentioned this to the gathering around the “table” as the Max 30 comp was underway during the evening. One of our juniors was present and clearly had not heard of one of the game’s legends. He enquired, “this Hurricane Higgins, would he beat Adam Waller?”.

He was assured there was a very strong possibility. John has dropped a few photos in of his days and these are in the cupboard , I will share them around with members attending.

4/ Sponsored Tournament – Sunday 3rd November.

A very good field of 19 starters including 4 juniors attended for the tournament. The consolation event was extended to players not making the main comp semi-finals which gave those players an extra game.

The winner was Ray Wilcher defeating Paul Beggs in the final. Semi-finalists were juniors Cooper Thomson and Nero Hanna,

The Consolation event was won by Brendan Rippingale defeating Rod Gardner. Highest break was recorded by Paul Beggs of 38.

Shot of the day. Kane Woolway was playing Rod “Rocket” Smith. Kane was leading by 15 with the blue, pink and black left. He played a very good safety shot on the blue, sending the blue onto the bottom cushion and about 18 inches from the yellow pocket. The cue ball was just off the top cushion and about 1/3 across the rail from the left hand top pocket. We all thought he was safe.

Eagle eye Rod decided a cut into the yellow pocket was the way to go, he knicked it about as fine as you could without missing and it very gently ran along the cushion and dropped into the pocket. Rod then dropped the pink and black in successive shots to win the frame.

When congratulated on the shot by the onlookers, he very modestly mentioned he did a better one the previous match. It must have been some shot.

Another great day’s snooker.

5/ Breaks

We encourage members to record their breaks in all competition matches. This includes any competition sanctioned by any of the Australian or State bodies, FNCSA and regional tournaments as well as inter-club visits. The level is at their discretion, the A graders may set a higher mark, the C graders happy with a much lower one, it is all up to the player. The following are the breaks recorded to 16th November 2019.

Adam Brown	22 21
Simon Beattie	38
Paul Beggs	38 36 24

Len Caccioppoli	25 (2) 21
Peter Campbell	22
Joe Caridi	18 17
Ryan Cretan	44 41
Chris Deazevedo	22 20 (2) 19 (2) 18 (2) 14
Dave Dern	47 34
Ted Fairman	14
Fullerton Megan	37
Ray Gocke	22
Brian Green	40 38
Nick Hanlin	25 (2) 22 21
George Johnson	32
Mark Johnson	27 (2)
Dave Jones	26
Harry Mahia	22 20
Jack Malone	24 22 (2)
Terry Malone	31 (2) 27 20 (2)
Greg McConochie	22
Bob Morton	35 25
Jon Prendergast	22
Brendan Rippingale	27
Nev Robinson	24
Wayne Russell	13 11
Bryne Smith	39 34 31 30 27
Rod Smith	27 (3) 22
Austin Taylor	44 42 33 31 29 24
John Themelkos	44 28
Paul Thomas	22 (2)
Cooper Thomson	18
Jimmy Thomson	62 41(2) 40 39 (2) 36 35 34 32 31(2) 27 (2)
Des Turner	35 34 (2) 30 27 25 24 21
Chris Wainwright	40

Adam Waller	56 45 37
Ray Wilcher	43 42 35 (2) 32 25
Jess Woods	87 62 56 51 50 (2) 49 47 31 (2)

Leaders –

- A Grade Jess Woods 87
- B Grade John Themelkos 44
- C Grade George Johnson 32

Aim at raising your personal bar and you will get there.

Now this is not something to aim for but it is a record of some sorts. Big Lennie Caccioppoli, our roving Kiwi ambassador and great Club man, was playing junior Chris Deazevedo in a recent midweek tournament. When the game finished Chris came up and we asked who won. “I did but Lennie gave me **47 points in fouls**”. Up came Len, a loaded question, “how did you go Len?”, “not that well, I gave a few fouls”. “How many?” “47”.

Ever the sportsman. Lennie didn't worry about it and we all had a good laugh together. The comment was made the Kiwis had been having a bad run of late in the Cricket & Rugby World Cups and now this. Admittedly, they have gone a bit better than the Aussies.

Now I have been playing snooker over 40 years and aside from the foul and miss being called ad nauseum, I have never heard of so many foul points by a player in a single frame. How is your memory, if we can't come up with a higher one then Lennie has the record. If you retain the record Lennie, the shouts on me.

6/ Sherwood RSL Inter-club Visit 10th November 2019

Twin Towns hosted the Sherwood RSL team on Sunday 10th November and ran out winners 19 frames to 6.

The team was Jimmy Thomson, Bob Morton, Graham Wilson, Des Turner, Terry Malone, Harry Mahia, Ray Gocke, Cooper Thomson, Chris Deazevedo & Len Caccioppoli.

With such a good win on the day, several players won all their matches. These were Jimmy Thomson, Bob Morton, Graham Wilson, Des Turner & Terry Malone.

Well done to the team. Twin Towns Snooker Club has had a very lengthy association with Sherwood and it is always a very good days snooker and social.

This visit concludes our inter-club matches for 2019, Overall Twin Towns contested 7 visits and won 6, losing only to Ballina. A total of 23 individual players represented the Club in these rubbers.

7/ C Grade Club Championship Final.

This match was played on Sunday 17th November between juniors Cooper Thomson and Chris Deazevedo. The referee was Len Caccioppoli.

Chris prevailed 3-1 in what I am told was a very good match between the lads. Congratulations Chris, this may be the first of many. Well done as well to Cooper who has also had a great year, both lads making strong progress in their snooker. They have put the effort in and it is great to see them reap the reward. Their C Grade days are now behind them.

A thank you to Lennie for making himself available to referee the match.

The remaining Club Championship matches are due to be completed over the next fortnight.

Confirmed matches are –

Sunday 1st December 11.00 am

B Grade Scratch Final

Dave Jones vs Des Turner

Sunday 1st December 2.00 pm

George Hendrickson Club Handicap Championship Final

Cooper Thomson vs Paul Thomas

A Grade Scratch Final – Date TBA

Ray Wilcher vs Jess Woods

Jess Woods and Megan Fullerton played their A Grade Scratch semi-final with Jess winning 3-1. This semi-final match would not have been out of place as the Australian Ladies Championship, both the 2019 Australian & Oceania Ladies Champions in action.

8/ Snooker Table Acquisition

The Club was offered gratuitously a fully operational snooker table by well known billiards player Danik Lucas provided it was collected by the Club. Whilst we have no place to erect it at present the Executive considered that we should not look a gift horse in the mouth and thereby accepted the offer.

Storage was offered by Des Turner OAM and accordingly away we went. On Saturday 16th November Club members dismantled and retrieved the snooker table and relocated it to Des' residence. The retrieval team was Brendan Rippingale

(the truckie, organised and drove the truck), Jon Prendergast, (our rope man), Ted Fairman, (the trolley man and wasn't it a massive help), Des Turner, (the table stripper), Ryan Cretan, (provided the Arnold Schwarznegger), Dave Jones, (table stripper), Jimmy Thomson (organiser thanks to a bung left arm) & Peter Campbell, (not sure).

I extend the appreciation of the Club to Peter Watt who provided his scissor lift jack and Des for offering to store the table until required.

Upon the latter, we don't know if and when this may happen and will have to wait and see once the developments at and around Club Banora take place. But if the opportunity arises, we are ready. If it doesn't eventuate we are the proud owners of a table and can decide what to do at the appropriate time.

9/ Christmas Tournament & Presentation Night

Saturday 7th December 2019 at Club Banora

Preliminary Notice

The Club's Christmas Tournament and Presentation Night is fast approaching. The tournament on the Saturday has already been advertised to members inviting nominations by Secretary Jimmy. The dinner function program will be outlined presently to members, usually starting about 6.0 pm. Members select and pay for their own meal from the menus with the Snooker Club subsidising the meal \$10 per member. As usual there will be complimentary refreshments for members during the course of the evening.

Please retain the date for your participation in our feature day & evening of the year. Full details will be forwarded in the short term by Secretary Jimmy.

That's all for the moment, don't forget Sat 7th December and as always, just enjoy the game.

Peter Campbell
President