

VBSA AGM Minutes

Meeting held at Yarraville Club, 135 Stephen St, Yarraville
Friday 2nd December 2022

Welcome and meeting open

Meeting opened at 19:28

President welcomed everyone and did acknowledgment of country.

In Attendance

Neil Allison, Adam Beitner, Henry Chetcuti, Lenard Ciantar, Ron Cole, Paul Cosgriff, Mark Dunn, Larry Eforgan, Tony Fridman, George Hoy, Neville Ingels, Peter Kelly, Jon Loughron, Aaron Mahoney, James Mifsud, Jon Moss, Abraham Newman, Brett Porter, Anuj Rathee, Alec Spyrou (mobile), Len Winestone.

Apologies

Mike DeSilva, Alex Kaye, Graeme Rough, Errol Aristodemou, David Cosgriff, Julie Watson

Vale

The following players were remembered by The President.

Bob McLass, Harry Andrews, Anthony Psaila, Boris Godina, Trevor Lowther, Marlene Mifsud, John Miranda

Acceptance of Minutes from previous AGM

There are no minutes available from the previous AGM due to a technical malfunction with Microsoft OneDrive. It was suggested that for future reference files will be stored in a shared drive to avoid a repeat.

President's Report

The President read The President's Report

Moved: George Hoy, Second: Henry Chetcuti

Secretary's Report

The President read The Secretary's Report on behalf of the Secretary (away with Covid)

Moved: Brett Porter, Second: Mark Dunn

Treasurer's Report

AGM held late as the audit did not come back until November. Needing to give 21 days' notice of the meeting after the audit report we have had to hold the meeting late. The Treasurer's Report has been on the website along with the Auditor's report.

AGM was not held within 5 months of EOFY and an extension was sought and given by CAV. Adam Beitner commented that books are run Fin Year but tournaments are being run calendar year. Also, as the auditor is taking too long why not change auditor.

Paul explained that due to gov grants being fin year, we as a state body need to run in line with them for budgeting reasons.

Adam questioned the payment of honorarium and why the amount of \$14,000.00 is being paid out. There is a discussion around whether voluntary roles should receive any payment beyond expenses

Moved: Henry Chetcuti, Second: Brett Porter

Director of Referee's Report

Larry read the Director of Referee's report.

Moved: Neville Ingells, Second: Abe Newman

Score Registrar's Report

Mark Dunn provided a Score Registrar's Report

Aaron asked if there is a plan to have teams be able to provide results themselves. Mark explained the challenges and Peter Kelly and Abe Newman discussed DDPL automated system.

Moved: Larry Eforan, Second: George Hoy

Election of Office Bearers

President:

Paul Cosgriff nominated by Henry, seconded by Larry

No other nominations, Paul elected unopposed.

Vice President:

Neil Allison nominated, Jon Moss seconded

No other nominations, Neil elected unopposed.

Secretary:

Alec Spyrou nominated by Paul Cosgriff and seconded by Larry Eforan

No other nominations, Alec elected unopposed.

Treasurer:

George Hoy nominated by Paul Cosgriff and seconded by Larry Eforan

No other nominations, George elected unopposed.

General Board Members:

Paul explained that we require 40% women on the board.

Heather Zappia, Heidi Fridman, Kim Ivett, Jaqualine Baldwin were re-elected to maintain the 40% female representation.

Brett Porter nominated, John Loughron second

Larry Eforan nominated, Anuj Rathee second

Brett withdrew to allow Larry the position

Larry was elected to the Board

Setting of fees and honoraria

Pennant fees are unchanged

As per the rules there are no other fee changes.

Affiliates fee is being charged in 2022 and has not changed.

Affiliation fee to ABSC has been changed from \$2500 to \$1250. The consequence is that the ABSC is no longer assisting players to travel overseas. Aaron asked that the \$5 fee on tournament entries be removed

Honoraria are listed on the Agenda

Moved: Brett Porter, Seconded: Henry Chetcuti

Election of Life Members

Paul Cosgriff submitted Henry Chetcuti, seconded by Larry Eforgan

Henry might not meet the criteria for life membership, so Paul has requested that the criteria be reassessed in the next 12 months. It was explained that the criteria cannot be waived.

Henry declined the nomination

General Business

Paul Cosgriff

Amendment to membership notice of motion cannot be considered tonight as the membership was not given 21 days' notice. Paul did explain the changes as proposed.

Peter Kelly suggested putting the membership section into the ByLaws instead of the rules. Mark Dunn discussed that the definition of member should reside in the constitution instead of the ByLaws

Lenard Ciantar

Leonard, questioned the rule of who can play in what grade, etc. Has players in B grade and wants to move to A grade on a needs basis. It was suggested that this is in place to stop cheating and he is welcome to make an individual submission.

Paul Cosgriff suggested that Lenard needs to make a submission to Mark Dunn if he has a need.

Aaron Mahoney

Feels the state rankings aren't as meaningful as they used to be. Australian rankings aren't as relevant as people aren't travelling. Could we have some more tournaments to contribute to state rankings to help make the state rankings more relevant.

Paul Cosgriff explained that there is currently an anomaly in the system that needs to be addressed. He suggested that Aaron should speak to Alec Spyrou with his submission.

Aaron questioned the need for juniors to have a dress code. It was discussed that this is done to prepare them for the Nationals.

Aaron questioned the referee classes. Money for referees could come from Gov't money. Aaron questioned the \$15k bill overall for the referees.

Aaron discussed the pennant finals being played on the weekend. It was discussed that there was already a survey and 53% of the 81 respondents said yes to playing on the weekend however the board rejected the idea. The Board would be willing to run a test with one grade or competition.

Abe Newman

Abe raised in connection to Juniors a thank you to all that were involved and asked about more being done for the juniors. Abe suggested that all cuesports should be working together to pick up the kids. Abe has put his hand up to work with Tony Fridman to help bring the juniors from all cuesports together. Mark raised an issue with the cuesports combination and if Pool Vic is a SSO

George Hoy

George asked why A grade finishes later than other grades and says that players want the matches to be timed like other divisions. It was suggested that George should put a written proposal to the Board.

Suppers, some clubs do not put on suppers while others do. Feels it should be mandatory at the end of the game. Paul suggested that the Board will consider re-introducing the requirement.

Close of Meeting 22:00



Patron: The Honourable Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria

VBSA AGM

Friday 2nd December 2022, 7pm (sign in), start 7:30pm,
Bar135, Yarraville Club, 135 Stephen Street, Yarraville.

Agenda

1. Welcome and Apologies

2. Vale

We are all saddened at the passing of these wonderful people but thrilled to have had their presence in our Sports and our lives. RIP

Bob McLass

Harry Andrews

Anthony Psaila

3. Adoption of minutes of previous AGM – No minutes available due to technical issues

4. President's Report

5. Treasurer's Report

6. Secretary's Report

7. Director of Referees' report

8. Score Registrar's Report

9. Webmaster's Report

10. Tournament Convenors Report

11. Election of Office Bearers

President

Vice-President

Secretary

Treasurer

Board Members

12. Setting of Fees and Honoraria

Membership Fee

Affiliation Fee

Pennant Fees

Honoraria

13. Election of Life Members

14.General Business/Notices of Motion

Notice of Motion	Raised by	Approved (Y/N)
Amendment to membership definition	Mark Dunn	

15. Close of meeting

Paul Cosgriff
President
Victorian Billiards and Snooker Association

Director of Referees Report 2022

Tournaments

For the first time since the start of the Covid pandemic there has been a full calendar of events this year commencing with the first of 3 Hat Trick tournaments. Newly accredited referee Maurice Chilton proved a life saver at this event when Covid struck and sent me home. The Australian Under 21s was the next item and with the help of Tony and Marc Fridman undertaking some of the refereeing duties, this was also completed successfully.

The Victorian Masters, quickly followed by the Victorian Women's events were next and with enough referees, as both only required roving referees for the early rounds and the two newest recruits to the ranks, Balraj Dhaliwal and Maurice Chilton, acting as match referees on finals day. These two proved to be the most reliable and willing workers of the year for most events in the case of Maurice and every single one in the case of Balraj.

The June festival of Billiards and Snooker took an enormous toll on the very thin ranks of accredited and available referees and if it were not for some very accommodating and I have to say, accomplished players acting as referees we would not have survived the trials. Special mention must go to James Mifsud, not the last time that he came to our aid, Don De La Motte and Kevin Stone in the State Titles Snooker event and to Chris Coyne, Alex Kay, George Skutas and Alec Spyrou for the Billiards.

The turn-around in the numbers of referees available for the National Championships relieved the burden experienced earlier in the year. Newly accredited referees Serina Zhong and Ropeti Amituanai were joined by Gareth King and Alice Wu from NSW and QLD respectively as well as eight Victorians, leaving the Director free to direct and the Tournament Director, Paul free to oversee the tournament as well as the customary MC duties taken on by him.

I claim this tournament in particular as one of the successes of the season and as I told all the referees afterwards, no reputations were damaged but many were enhanced.

Recruitment

The very enthusiastic Serina Zhong has been added to our refereeing family and has been blooded in both disciplines of roving and match officiating with accomplished performances. Ropeti Amituanai is another who has completed the refereeing seminars for accreditation and has also proved to be enthusiastic and more importantly, available.

After the accreditation of Serina and Rob I made the following observation.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR FY2021-2022

This President's Report is slightly unusual. This has been a 12-18 month period in which I have felt overwhelmed at times. The VBSA is a voluntary organization, and all the stalwarts that have carried us through all these years seem to be approaching that time when we require the "next generation" to come to the fore.

The highlight for me, recently, was having our Victorian Director of Referees, Larry Eforgan, appealing directly to the Membership for new Referee Candidates, and having 15 replies! Very well done to all those who responded to Larry!

Even more impressive was the number of newly-Certificated Referees who volunteered to Referee at Pennant Finals, and the Victorian 2023 Juniors, as soon as they were able. My sincere thanks to all of those Referees, to Larry, and also Jon Moss and Neil Allison, who have assisted in the Referee Clinics and Examinations.

I would like to congratulate all the Winners, and thank all the participants, in our Pennant Competitions. Covid forced 2021 Season 1 Pennant to conclude in December of 2021! (Our archivist is making a submission to the Guinness Book of Records.) The completion of that Season, and the Finals, would not have been possible without all the amazing efforts of our Score Registrar, Mark Dunn, our DoR, photographers, Carlos Barrocas, and the indefatigable Henry Chetcuti.

Henry has been an absolute "rock" for the VBSA, and his efforts in so many areas have made the VBSA, and our Affiliates, the envy of the other State Associations. I am extremely saddened to hear that Henry is stepping back from the areas in which the VBSA has been so fortunate to have Henry's involvement, and support.

In late 2021, we were able to hold the State Snooker and Billiards (just). James Mifsud defended his State Snooker Title, and Rod Nelson defeated James in the Billiards Final. When 2022 commenced, James won the State Masters Snooker Title, and then proceeded to defeat his brother, Steve, in the Final of the Australian Masters. Very well done, James!

In June this year, immediately after Steve Mifsud had won the Australian National Billiards, James defeated his brother in the State Snooker Championship Final – thereby creating a "3-peat"!! Steve advised me then that James was the pre-eminent Snooker Player in Australia. (After June, Steve then went on to win the Australian National Snooker, and the Australian Open Snooker!)

In the early part of 2022, we were forced to postpone the holding of the 2022 Andrews/Atkins Shield. In 2020, and 2021, the Andrews/Atkins had managed to squeeze through – avoiding Covid lockdowns, and, consequently the 2022 Event was to be the 50th holding of this Event. We managed to hold the 50th A/A in August, and it was a true highlight. My sincere thanks to Brendan Taylor, and family, as well as Ron Cole, and the inestimable Robert Higgins, for working so hard to create such a memorable Event.

My sincere thanks to all the Board Members, and Assistants to the Board, of the VBSA. Alec Spyrou has worked tirelessly as our Secretary, and is attempting to provide a streamlining of our services. To this end, the 2023 Calendar is already available on the website, so that Players, Referees and Tournament Officials might lay out their calendar year, in advance, especially if they need to obtain a "Leave Pass" from "The Boss"?!

The VBSA desperately needs more of you to make yourselves available to assist in any way possible. In the manner of our DoR, I am appealing to all of you to consider any way in which you might assist. Our business model does not want the Board Members to always be doing the work. We want our Members to be available to help in any area they are able.

When Tony Fridman was doing such terrific work with the Juniors at Brunswick, last weekend, Phil Vassallo came along to assist with looking after the Juniors, even though he is not a Certificated Referee. That sort of assistance is exactly what's needed in so many areas.

To paraphrase JFK – "Ask not what the VBSA can do for you – but what you can do for the VBSA." Your 1st priority is always the physical and mental health of you and your family. Your 2nd priority is your Employment situation. Don't imperil your relationship with your workplace for the sake of the VBSA. However, if both of these considerations are under control, then please consider how you might assist and support the VBSA?

George Hoy has been a friend and colleague for over 40 years. When George had to deal with a cancer 3 years ago, it highlighted the pressure that we place on many of our incredible people, and that the VBSA needs to have more people as part of the Succession Plan. George's heart attack earlier this year certainly reinforced that.

I have approached a highly respected financial person to work alongside George Hoy, early next year, so that they might be able to assume the position of Treasurer, in the future. His name is Peter Missen, and he has played on the City Clubs Circuit, as a Member of the Athenaeum Club.

Anybody who has skills in administration should be enquiring how they might assist. "Many hands make light work."

This year, I have had a 7-year-old great-niece being killed in a freak accident, and a 17-year-old great-nephew committing suicide, as a result of cyber-bullying. In January, I was very saddened to hear of the passing of Bob McLass while I was in America, and then I was fortunate enough to return home just in time for the funeral of Marlene Mifsud (Mother of Steve and James and a lovely friend). Harry Andrews passed away at the end of August only days after the 50th Andrews/Atkins. I was shocked to hear of the passing of Trevor Lowther, because I had been speaking with him at MSBA only the week before! Boris Godina and Anthony Psaila have been constants in my involvements with Snooker and Billiards, for more than 30 years.

We are a Community, and we need to be aware of all the people in our Community, and how we may help and support each other. Bob McLass and Harry Andrews have been icons of our Sports, and an inspiration to the older generation. We have our current icons, and we

should be appreciative of everyone in our Community, and how we may support our State Sporting Organization – the Victorian Billiards & Snooker Association Incorporated.

Thank you for the support that so many of you have provided for me, as President – especially in some difficult times.

Kind Regards to you all.

Paul Cosgriff

VBSA President.

Score Registrar's Report to 2022 VBSA Annual General Meeting

The 2021/22 year has seen the completion of the 2021 COVID affected Season 1 and the return to normalcy with the completion of Season 1 of 2022.

The VBSA system has been overhauled thanks to the very gifted Alec Spyrou, Sam Malcolm & Brendan Taylor. Whilst it's far from ideal, it works. There is a mountain of work still required to make it ideal. It should be a priority of the Board to procure funds.

On the Pennant side of things, we continue to struggle to attract teams and with the loss of the Bentleigh Club, downsizing of Dandenong RSL and other venue pressures it is hard to know how to reverse this trend. Traditional Pool Rooms e.g. Dunya Entertainment, need to be approached to rejoin the VBSA ranks. North Brighton have upgraded their facility and Hit Billiards teams have relocated to Rack-Em-Up in Lilydale. We must keep the pressure on venue owners/managers to make sure our presence is not overlooked.

It is worth mentioning the "retirement" of Henry Chetcuti after many years of supplying plaques and framed photographs. Finding someone to replace him will be impossible; it will likely be 2 or 3 "someones" and we can expect to spend a considerable amount more to provide these items. The Board has taken advantage of this changing of the guard to look at different Grand Final team mementos; I hope the players will appreciate the change.

Thanks to the Board for their support and faith in me. Thanks again to all the Captains, players and venue managers for their co-operation and good humour. And particular thanks to Paul Cosgriff, Larry Efforgan and Jon Moss for their sage advice and also Alec Spyrou for his technical expertise and enthusiasm.

Crescit Eundo



Mark Dunn
Scores Registrar



Patron: The Honorable Linda Dessau AC, Governor of Victoria

Secretary's report 2022

I would like to formally thank and recognise Jon Moss for the great work he has provided during his tenure. Jon has been the VBSA secretary during the most climactic times in living memory, namely COVID and the follow-on effects. Without Jon's skills and help we would have not managed to achieve as much as we have - including completing the 2021 Pennant Season 1.

VBSA strategy and vision

The creation of a VBSA strategy and vision is progressing through internal workshops and with input from its membership. The goal is to make the sport stronger, provide better services to its members and to work more effectively with all of the snooker & billiards community including clubs, affiliates and sponsors etc. We will look to our members more frequently for their input and always encourage them to reach out to us whenever they have something they wish to raise. Please email info@vbsa.org.au or call one of us.

For our game to grow we need to focus on development and inclusivity. We need to provide pathways and incentives for women, juniors and alternately-abled players to become involved with our sports. Snooker and Billiards have a great deal to offer to all sectors of society. The VBSA Members and Board should be encouraging more participation, and, showing those who may not have considered Snooker or Billiards that there is a place for anyone at our Tables.

Achievements & Goals

- Added more females to our board.
- New webmaster (Sam Malcolm).
- New Treasurer and Tournament convenor (George Hoy). Unfortunately, George has suffered a heart-attack, but we are very pleased he is on the road to recovery. Others have stepped in to cover the Treasurer and Tournament duties – thanks to Mark Dunn and others
- New VP (Neil Allison).
- Successfully submitted requests for Government funding.
- Development Manager (Jemma Wines) is growing the Junior aspects of our game with the assistance of Tony Fridman.
- Jemma has already implemented a new cue sports program at McKinnon Secondary College.
- Jemma also represented the VBSA with two snooker tables & demonstrations with experts at Melbourne's largest Disability Expo in the Melbourne Exhibition Centre. Sincere thanks to Jemma, and the members who came down to help with presentations through the weekend including, Chris Toutoglou, Robby Foldvari, Mark Dunn & Anuj Rathee and others.
- Setup in-house video streaming at the National Snooker. Streaming will be expanded to cover many more events – thanks to the great efforts of Jon Moss.
- Modified the pennant dress code to relax certain rules to improve accessibility to the sport for all, while retaining the Finals Dress Code.
- Upgraded the website code – many thanks to Brendan Taylor who was assisted by myself and Mark Dunn. This ensured our hosting company can continue to host the site without security concerns which would have forced them to shut it down. This was a major problem.
- Looking at options to modernise the system to make it more relevant and less of a chore to use.
- Looking at possibilities to make the membership and events system a multi-State or even National system.

- More competitions for players outside the top level for FY23.
- Singles pennant trial underway.
- Despite pennant fees remaining the same for over 12 years, due to rising “costs of living”, the Pennant Fees are remaining unchanged. There should be a reassessment in the future.
- More new competitions to be considered during FYE23.
- McKinnon Secondary College have committed ongoing support for the VBSA.
- Working with relevant bodies regarding entry into the Commonwealth Games, and Olympic Games.
- Promoting and growing our game and ensuring we have systems in place to support and maintain that growth will be some of the areas of focus in 2023 and beyond.

In closing I would like to personally thank the Assistants to the Board, Paul Cosgriff (President), Neil Allison (VP), Sam Malcolm (Webmaster), Mark Dunn (Score registrar), George Hoy (Tournament Convenor), Eddy Etyngold (Affiliates) and Jemma Wines (Development), Jon Moss and all my fellow Board Members. Without the hard work and dedication of these people the VBSA would not be able to function as it does Their assistance and support for the Secretary's Role is greatly appreciated.

Treasurer report 1st July 2021 to 30th June 2022

When the previous AGM was completed, Heather Zappia was “Treasurer”, and I acted as “Assistant Treasurer”. I was asked by the VBSA to take over the position of Treasurer on the 1st Jan 2022, so, to the best of my knowledge, all entries that were put into Xero prior to this date were in their proper categories.

In calendar year 2021, as a result of many lockdowns, and constant interruptions in mask-wearing mandates, the Pennant Season 1 was not completed until November/December.

With this in mind the financial year 20-21 is greatly different to 21-22 because we were able to have our main tournaments back to normal as per the VBSA calendar, during 2022.

The FYE22 income was greater

FYE2021 had income of \$11,205 (Note 2) as against FYE2022 which has \$38,718. This is due to membership and tournament fees being received in FYE22, and almost no tournaments were played in 20-21 and pennant was restricted, so no invoices were issued.

Tournament Expenses

FYE2022 has Tournament Expenses of \$37,398, compared to FYE2021 of \$6,309. Please remember that these are all the monies that the VBSA pays out during Tournaments. So in FYE2021, some amounts were refunds after Tournaments had to be cancelled. And in FYE2022, this large amount is using Entry Fees, as well as Sponsors funds, to pay out.

Honorariums paid

FYE2021 has an Honorarium total of \$14,205 as against FYE2022 which has \$11,975. This is due to some 4th QTR honorarium payments not being paid till July 2022; they will appear in FYE2023.

Repairs & Maintenance

FYE2021 paid for “Repairs & maintenance” to \$530 as against FYE2022 which used \$7,741. This amount is almost totally for recovering the 8 Tables at Yarraville.

The VBSA received a VIC GOV Grant that was to be used for getting our sport back up and running again after covid 19. This money could only be used for Administration / Referees / Repairs; it is forbidden to be used for Prize Money.

For the Lance Pannell Snooker / Pacific International Billiards / Australian National Billiards and the Victorian State Snooker Championships to be run (in June) at the Yarraville Club, the VBSA chose to recover the Yarraville Club tables with part of the grant supplied by the VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT. These repairs were supplied by Alcock’s - this is the reason why we have such a large increase in repair costs.

Insurance

FYE2021 paid out \$630 as against FYE2022 being \$1,775. This is due to the insurance company agreeing to reduce the cost of our policy in 2020-2021 due to no tournaments being played, and pennant being restricted. FYE2022 has Public Liability Insurance returning to standard.

Referees costs

FYE2021 had Referees costs as \$5,140, as against FYE2022 costing \$15,310. This is due to all 2022 tournaments being played, and pennant returning on Mondays & Wednesdays.

Referees are required at all tournaments; this is part of the over all cost included in running tournaments. Referees are also provided for Pennant Finals. The Victorian Government money was used for all these costs.

The Treasurer Report reflects the costs that have increased over the period of financial years VBSA 2020-2021 to VBSA 2021 – 2022.

These two years have been a difficult time with Covid 19 and our chief supporters – Yarraville Club, RACV City Club and Brunswick Club – have also had an incredibly difficult time with “no income” and struggling to survive. I would like to thank Heather Zappia for all the work she did as Treasurer over this time.