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2020 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The past year of 2020 has been amazing, and this Report not only refers to 2019-20 (as normal) but also has reference to the last 6 months of 2020.

In August of 2019 JOHL YOUNGER was Runner-Up at the Fred Osbourne, in Albury. On August 8th ANNA LYNCH won the National Women's Billiards, defeating CAROLINE RUSCITTI in the Final.

In September, STEVE MIFSUD won the Victorian State Billiards, defeating ROD NELSON in the Final.

In October, Victoria was privileged to host the World Billiards Championships in Melbourne. The World Open Final was won by David Causier (England), and Peter Gilchrist won his 4th World Billiards Title, receiving the John Roberts Trophy, at the RACV Club. However, the highlight was ANNA LYNCH triumphing in the Sylex Ergonomics World Women's Billiards! Another Victorian WORLD Champion!

As President, I must provide an enormous "Vote of Thanks" to all the Members of the World Billiards Organizing Committee (WBOC), and to all the ABSC, and VBSA Members, who provided such magnificent support, and their time and efforts, for contributing to "the most successful World Championships ever!"

In November, JASON COLEBROOK was Runner-Up in the Queensland Open Billiards.

And so, to the beginning of 2020. In January, Sue Chigwidden needed to "step down" from the position of VBSA Treasurer - thanks are due to Sue for her efforts in setting up the VBSA's current accounting system.

Denise Hu came onto the Board to assist as Treasurer, however, Denise has been unable to continue in this role after the pandemic caused its many repercussions.

Hat Trick 1 was able to be held, but only a few rounds of Pennant Season 1 took place before the VBSA Board was required to Cancel all Events in the first half of the year. As it transpired, there have been no Events in the second half of the year either. It may be that 2021 is suffering extreme ramifications from COVID-19 also.

My gratitude is extended to all the Members of the VBSA Board who were elected in August 2019. My Vice-President, Dr. Shelly Ames, has always been reliable and supportive, while "keeping a close eye" on the manner in which we have proceeded over these last 18 months.

David Chigwidden has been tremendous throughout the most stressful time that any Secretary could possibly endure. There have been many great demands on David's time, and efforts, as he has been continually involved in weekly discussions with the State Government, and providing all the documentation, applications, and invoices, required from the State Sporting Organization (SSO).

Larry Eforan has worked unstintingly over these many months, and his counsel, and support, are greatly appreciated. The VBSA, and ABSC, are quite "blessed" to have all the input that Larry provides, to ensure that Victoria, and Victorian Referees, lead the way in Australian Billiards and Snooker.

Manny Stefanou has gladly taken on the responsibility for the Pennant Sub-Committee, and his efforts, and support, are greatly appreciated. The future for our Pennant looks problematic, at the moment, however, Manny, and his Sub-Committee, will provide the best possible future direction for our sports.

Kim Ivett has been limited in her participation, throughout 2020, because Kim has been one of our "front-line-workers" during this pandemic. All Victorians, and especially the VBSA Members, wish to show how appreciative we are of all Health Care Workers who have labored so diligently throughout 2020, and continuing into 2021. A heartfelt "Thank You, Kim!"

The Victorian State Government have been incredibly supportive over the last 18 months. They were trying, through late 2019, to assist us in "growing" our sports, and during 2020 they have provided "Survival Funding" to ensure that the VBSA would not cease to exist. Our Score Registrar, Mark Dunn, should be congratulated for having enabled the VBSA to achieve SSO accreditation.

Being the SSO for Billiards and Snooker also requires an enormous amount of work, and total compliance with all of the State Government's requirements. As a Board, we have had to apply ourselves to their requirements, and they have reciprocated, in assisting us to host World Championships, and enhancing all considerations for the future of our sports.

Thank you to all Members of the VBSA for their support, tolerance and understanding throughout these last 18 months. It has been a privilege for me to be your President during these incredible times, and, while we all recognize the uncertainty that comes with this Coronavirus, I am excited by the possibilities of the future we shall eventually encounter.

Stay safe. Keep well.

Warm Regards,
Paul Cosgriff
VBSA President