



## Reventon's Chris Christofi talks with the V.B.S.A

July 2017



**Introduction** - Chris is a major contributor to the sport of Snooker and Billiards in Australia as a player, administrator and substantial Sponsor through his company Reventon Group. Today Chris has agreed to share this interview with the Victorian Billiards and Snooker Association.

VBSA. Hi Chris, thank you for participating in this interview with us today.

VBSA. Your surname suggests your roots are other than in Australia is that correct?

Chris. I am born in Australian but both my parents are born in Cyprus, I am very proud to call myself an Aussie/Cypriot.

VBSA. When did you have your first experience with cue-sports and where this was?

Chris. I started playing snooker in Cyprus around the age of 14-15. I lived in Cyprus from the ages of 9-16.

VBSA. Did you have ambitions to become a top player in Snooker and how deep was your passion?

Chris. I wanted to become a top professional snooker player. I realised around my early 20's my goal was unrealistic and redirected my focus to my professional career.

VBSA. Were there others in your family who played cue-sports?

Chris. No.

VBSA. How easy was it for you to always find the time to practice and play at the level you reached?

Chris. As a youngster for the first few years all I did was practice, it was my passion. At 16 I moved back to Australia and had a snooker table at home, which I practiced on daily.

VBSA. You have competed at a high level for a long time, were there role models or others that influenced your career and offered encouragement with your development?

Chris. I always admired Stephen Hendry as he was such a prolific winner and an amazing break builder and naturally Ronnie O'Sullivan was also one of my favourite players. My coach and close friend Steve Ebejer has played a big part in my development, along with many other people who have also had a positive influence on me.

VBSA. What do you feel have been the highlights during your playing career to date?

Chris. 1- Representing Victoria on several occasions in the Australian U/18 & U/21 titles along side my good friends Neil Robertson and James Mifsud.

2- I won a few smaller snooker events like the Vic minors, which I played well in. I made the quarters finals on a few occasions in open snooker events.

3- Making my first century was special moment for me, a break of 106 clearance on the number 1 table at the Yarraville club.

4- Being promoted to A grade for Brunswick, after playing a great match in B grade the week prior (where I made breaks of 94, 50 and 2 more breaks over 40 in 3 frames)

VBSA. During your years around the table, what players have impressed you the most and remain firmly in your memory?

Chris. Neil Robertson as he always believed he will make it as a leading professional, I shared his view on that. I grew up playing with Neil and James Mifsud (another top Australian snooker player) as a junior for many years. Also, Steve Mifsud not only for his winning ways but the fact he is also a true gentleman of our sport.

VBSA. How has the sport changed in Australia over the years you have been involved and what has been good and not so good? We lost many tables with the introduction of Pokie machines and further back the loss of Tobacco sponsorship was very damaging.

Chris. It hurts me to say the sport has not changed or progressed much and I feel we need to really work together and find new sponsors and build our great sport up. I plan to take our sport to new heights and already have massive plans for 2017, 2018 and 2019, which I am currently working on.

VBSA. Do you feel that players in Australia are disadvantaged with their development opportunities compared to other countries in the IBSF?

Chris. Yes, they are 100% in my opinion, that's one of the reasons it was very important to me to get a Star table placed in our new room (Reventon Snooker Academy at the Yarraville club) to try to even the playing field and maximise our player's chances of success on the international/professional circuit.

VBSA. What other sports or activities do you follow outside of cue-sports?

Chris. I love combat sports such as kickboxing, boxing and MMA, which I was involved and competed in for many years. I still remain passionate about combat sports.

VBSA. In recent times you have become a major Sponsor of Snooker and Billiards in Australia through your company Reventon Group. The contribution you are making is extremely generous and is seen in many quarters as saving the sport. It is a real stand out. What was your motivation for this and are you enjoying the results?

Chris. It is humbling to hear those statements and words and it is my absolute pleasure to help in any way that I can, snooker is a great sport and has been a big part of my life. My results have been very satisfying personally, as I see the impact I am having on the sport and community that I love. My motivation is simply to see our sport thrive and produce many more great players like Neil Robertson (I am very proud of Neil's accomplishments). There is currently a snooker boom around the world predominantly in China and I want to also see the sport boom in Australia again. Everyone is familiar with the Walter Lindrum or Eddie Charlton era and how popular the game was in Australia back then; my goal is to see the sport surpass those heights and create the Reventon / Neil Robertson era. This is something that will take time and will require the collaborative efforts of many people. I will continue to support the sport and help in any way that I can to make it grow.

VBSA. Australia has not produced many world class champions in recent times. What do you think the sport needs now to remain viable and to develop to another level?

Chris. Sponsors, more action and less talking!!! Only if we work cohesively this will be achieved. "*Together we achieve more*"

VBSA. Would you like to see more Sponsors in the sport like yourself and how do you think this could be achieved.

Chris. I think it is imperative to the growth and longevity of our sport. We need a team of people with a specific mandate of getting more sponsors involved and prompting our sport.

VBSA. Finally, what is the lifetime ambition for Chris Christofi and is this on track to be achieved?

Chris. How long have I got to answer lol I prefer to make it happen than just talk about it? What I will say is, this is something that I review and visualise every day in all aspects of my life. I am on track to achieve my goals and objectives as I am relentless in my pursuit and dedication to making them all happen.

VBSA. Chris, thank you greatly for your time with this interview today. The Snooker world readers will find your comments interesting and informative.

Chris. You are welcome, it was my pleasure.

Reventon website <http://www.reventon.com.au>

VBSA website <http://www.vbsa.org.au/>

(Interview compiled by VBSA Media Officer ~ Kim Igett, July 2017)

