

## History of B&S and QBSA – SECTION 11 – LARRY GRABISH’S TERM – 1995 to 1999

### Preview

#### September 1995 SGM - President Resigns

In September it was necessary for Tony Waller to resign through business and family pressures. This was a shock and regretted by the B&S community, because, in a short space of time he was seen to be popular and approachable by all. QBSA debt was radically reduced into credit during the term.

At a Special General Meeting, at Kedron Services Club, **Larry Grabish was elected as President. Ian Anderson continued on as Secretary and Ken Woodward returned for another term as Treasurer. John Balderson was Vice President.** The incoming Committee had \$24,316 in funds. Ian Anderson retired during his term in 1995 and was replaced by Peter Warwick. Ken Woodward advised the gathering *“that the organisation had no debts; money in the bank; and was going from strength to strength”*. Tony Waller had resigned then, but he, John Balderson and Ken had collectively done a marvellous job with financial matters.

1996

Larry Grabish was a Canadian import. He and his sons, Conrad and Adam, were regular and competent players. Adam, in particular, worked his way through the junior ranks with distinction, until studies, and a professional career took precedence.

**At the AGM**, held a few months later in March 1996, **Larry Grabish** was confirmed in his role and **Peter Warwick** elected as **Secretary. Ken Woodward continued as Treasurer. Clem Jones** attended the AGM as was his habit. **John Osterman**, back from a Sydney posting, **was Registrar.** John had had much to do with computerisation of the QBSA, both via bureau and with its own equipment.



John Osterman  
Warwick



Peter

Also, the Position of **Referees’ Co-ordinator** was created making official the organisational efforts which **Phil Vincent** had been performing for some time. Phil, a hard worker in non-executive positions, worked on the Committee for some ten years and, sadly, passed in 2017,

There is a feeling of deja-vu for the historian having time-travelled for so long with the history of the QBSA. It seems that, irrespective of the conscientiousness and talents of and new Committees, (and they all have had plenty of these qualities), the first year’s production seems to be restricted to “business as usual” while they undergo a familiarisation period with each other and the requirements of their respective portfolios, similar to the “honeymoon period” of the politicians.

#### The Brisbane Inter Club Affiliates competing in 1996

Gaythorne Services Club, Mitchelton  
Green Baize Snooker Club, Daisy Hill  
Kedron-Wavell Services Club, Chermside  
Q-Masters, Milton  
Qld Cricketers Club, East Brisbane  
\*Qld Masonic Club, Adelaide Street , City  
Qld Post-Tel Institute, Eagle Street City  
Pine Rivers RSL, Kallangur

Redlands RSL, Cleveland  
Sherwood Services Club, Corinda  
Shooters, Mitchelton  
Valley Billiard Room, Valley  
Waterside Workers Club, Adelaide Street City  
Woolloongabba Club, Stanley Street ‘Gabbas,  
Wynnum Services Club, Wynnum

\* Temporary premises for Masonic Club while home site at Eagle Street was demolished and re-built.

1997

**the 1997 Committee remained largely intact**, with Larry and Peter Warwick in key positions. However, **Werner Lovli** was elected as **Treasurer for his first term**. In the second half year it was necessary for Peter Warwick to retire from the Committee as his father was dreadfully ill. **Roy Elmer**, who had been performing the **Development Officer's role**, stepped up and took on the function of **Secretary** as well.

### QBSA Development Manager

During Larry's Term as President, **Roy Elmer was recruited in the role of Development Manager**. He had gathered a lot of experience



through his earlier activities in both Rugby League and Rugby Union Management responsibilities. Roy produced a Development Plan for the Assn in 1997. This not only proposed state-wide expansion, but also proposed placing ALL cue sports in Qld under the one umbrella, **The Qld Confederation of Cue Sports**. (Meeting of Saturday 17 January, 1998)



Late in January Roy made a visit to all potential cue ball prospects from Brisbane to Cairns for a **Progress Report**.

The two documents, above described, are scanned and available, on the QBSA History Section, as **"QBSA History Roy Elmer Docs"**, containing both the Development Plan and the Progress Report.

### The QBSA Headquarters/Club

Larry Grabish was another QBSA President who was able to get on very well with Clem Jones through QBSA contact and rubbing shoulders with Clem as Qld's representative on the ABSC, when Clem was President. At about this time, though, when Clem's term as President (3 years) expired, he became the president of the IBSF. Clem was also a Life Member of the ABSC. In any event, a possible QBSA Headquarters probably came closest in Larry's term when such as Woollongabba sites and a Marsden site were closely examined.

The 'Gabba site was at a **commercial centre where the Pink Ball had operated from 1969 to 1997**. Noel Gourley was closing the room, and Clem, a multi millionaire, was prepared to consider purchase of the centre, with a lease-back option for the part occupied by the billiard room. This would provide a "home" for the QBSA. It has also been reported that another building, near the 'Gabba Cricket Ground was investigated, with less interest, without progressing.

A second option was the **Durack Sports Centre, situated at Rosemary Street, Durack, Qld**, This complex, owned by the Bowman family, was considered strongly. It catered for many indoor sports such as gym and fitness, indoor netball and tennis courts as well. The author recalls at least one full sized table on the upper level. The proposal was to purchase, lease back to QBSA and employ the owners as centre managers. It is not known why it did not progress, however, it relied entirely on Clem's involvement and the QBSA certainly did not have the funds for such an endeavour. Today it is a Sikh Temple.

### 1997 Australia/Singapore International Cue Sports Challenge

Held at the **Durack Sports Centre, Durack, Qld**, This, the first of its kind international invitational event, was sponsored by the Qld Dept of Tourism, Sport and Recreation Billiards and P&M Billiards (Peter Williams Kedron). The **Tournament Director was Roy Elmer, with Robert Day organising the referees**. The format included matches in Billiards and Snooker plus 9 Ball and 15 Ball Pool. The teams comprised three players in each discipline.

Queensland was ably represented by Rhys Cochrane and Brian Helm at billiards; Graham Clarkson, Steve Balderson and Wayne Turpin at Snooker; and Craig Duffy playing 9 Ball. Qld was not represented at the 15 ball pool game, but Peter Watt (Club Banora) is considered to be a Queenslander by geographic approximation, and capably represented us. (Outcome Not Known)

## Televised Snooker

Televised Snooker in Qld was on the increase during the term of Larry Grabish, a major venue being Kedron Wavell Services Club. A Government grant was achieved to purchase three Billiard Tables from Heiron and Smith for the purposes. This alleviated the need to regularly borrow and re-assemble members' tables and would provide the basis of facilities when a QBSA headquarters centre was achieved. This management term was also financially sound and able to repay Clem Jones for an earlier loan.

The writer regrets to close Larry's Term as Tony Waller's Term (the previous President), was finished. Thus:

It is stated more from disappointment than by criticism to record that information for this term is virtually nonexistent. It is imagined that settling in for a new team with a New Constitution, would be the cause, however regrettable and disappointing for the writer. Hopefully it can be revisited later.

The same was the case in the Larry Grabish era. Why the relatively later terms are the hardest for which to find history material is a complete mystery to the author, but it is so. If any of the readers can assist, it will be most welcome.

There is an old philosophy, (just invented now), that every author has the right to indulge himself occasionally throughout his prose for self amusement and gratification. The following is the writer's choice.



## Roy Elmer

The writer found him again recently; he has been most helpful, at 86yo, nursing manifold injuries and as laconic and dry-witted as ever. His poem following is topical; illustrates this; and amused me; as it will you no doubt.

