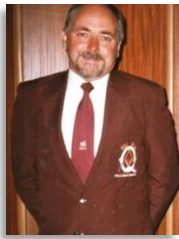


## HISTORY OF B&S AND QBSA – SECTION 5 – JOHN POIRRIER’S TERM #1 - 1981/1982



John and **Pam Poirrier** came to the scene via the Qld University’s Snooker Club which played out of the Qld Irish Assn Rooms in Elizabeth Street in 1973 and later at the university refectory on two tables there. John was appointed President upon the resignation of Derek Law, whose employer had transferred him to Western Australia. Both John and Pam also served on Australian Council, she as Treasurer. They brought with them **Les Watson** and **Dr. Andrew Lian**, all Billiards enthusiasts. **Les was State Billiards Champion in 1983** and also served on several QBSA Committees. Andrew joined the Derek Law Committee in 1973 and later served for a number of years as Secretary and Treasurer. Another player was **John Orr** (Post-Tel) who also subsequently joined Derek’s Committee, but we’ll hear much more of John in many senior capacities for the QBSA later.

**Pam Poirrier**, spouse of John, was elected onto the 1975 **Derek Law** Committee as **Treasurer** and served the QBSA for some years. **Pam also performed as Secretary of the ABSC and Treasurer from '80 when Derek Law and subsequently Clem Jones were Presidents.**

In 1980, **Derek Law**, (now ABSC President), is re-elected as QBSA President and the Committee recruited **John Poirrier** to fill a casual committee vacancy. John had been the Qld Executive Officer on the ABSC Committee of Management.

The Qld Assn proposed to the ABSC that the World Amateur Champs be staged at the Chevron Hotel, Gold Coast, but lost out to Tasmania, where Jimmy White became world amateur champion. The coffers are awash with proceeds of the “Miss Cue” quest and funds are held on fixed deposit.

### **Deservedly Derek Law was honoured with Life Membership**

Then, in August, the unexpected happened. Derek was promoted by his company for transfer to Perth, closing what had been most businesslike and productive period of the QBSA till then. However, and somewhat sadly, the last part of Derek’s term was beset by disputes and even resignations over such as: - “Miss Cue” contributions and funds; the recently introduced players’ rankings; and even amongst the table makers (regarding provision of match tables and workmanship).

This could be a very hard act to follow for any replacement. Worse still perhaps, was that word had leaked out that Derek Law might be leaving. This resulted in a **written petition, comprising thirty-four (34) signatories being delivered to the Committee.** This was framed in accordance with the constitution and sought to have the president’s vacancy filled immediately by calling a Special General Meeting of the Assn. However, the QBSA, for the sake of expediency, then **appointed John Poirrier to be President** until the 1981 AGM.

The petition was disregarded. This aggravated some petitioners and other members; and, as it would turn out, it lasted for some years. It diminished John’s acceptance by the members as President. He **was elected as President at the 1981 AGM** and the Committee lost **Alan Towerton, competent Secretary** as well. It did gain **John Orr as Treasurer** at the start of his long, dedicated service to the QBSA. **Dennis McLean carried on as scribe.** It is felt that this pressure on the committee comprised a somewhat hostile environment which might make it very hard for what was a new team.



John Orr

**Secretary Dennis McLean** started a long involvement as secretary with Derek and then John Poirrier, ending in 1984. A hard worker, he kept good minutes and attended to his responsibilities in a timely and satisfactory manner.

Notwithstanding some gathering clouds, the ship set sail on a well crafted course and John's team had the benefit of Patron Dr Clem Jones AO, who was a font of enthusiasm and advice and could open many doors for them. John's presidency would build upon the progress generated under Derek Law. It became expansionary; upgrading and modernizing in effect. **These two periods mark the highest participation rate of affiliated clubs and members ever for the QBSA** in the Author's opinion.

Computerisation of the Assn was commenced through a bureau, and a re-jigged Constitution developed. This constitution was upgraded later for incorporation purposes. Still largely in use today, it is generally considered to require an update.

**Gradings** The entire family of players was graded into six (6) grades (A-F), an enormous task mainly for the **registrar Eileen Dore**. She and hubby Ted were both on Committee for some time. The grading permitted a player to play down, but not up a grade in an endeavour to stop team members playing under a false name, which practice had begun to creep into the fixtures. These were very competitive in all grades. The table makers were still at war, this time over one claiming that QBSA record breaks would not be recognised on club tables with cushions not cut to the newly released BA&SC undercut templates. This was completely wrong, of course, but the club business was where the profits lay for these businesses. The resolution of these matters was difficult for snooker Qld management and caused yet more angst.

On a good note, the **Metropolitan Open** continued with good entries and a first prize of \$400, not insubstantial for the times. The first referees' seminar was recorded to train players and bolster certificated numbers. **Angelo Siokos**, Perth, Adelaide & Hobart Junior Champions in the Men's Under 23 Snooker of our present age groups were still conducted on a could play, the Australian coming along very nicely Assn's funds were at their best ever.



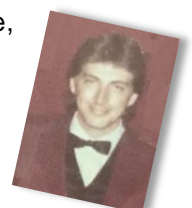
Angelo Siokos

**Marion Westaway and Kevin Balderson** went off to respectively, to represent Qld as Men's, Women's and National events. All represented well, but no first prize! The was still going as well, but was later discontinued in favour of under 12, 15, and 18 years. Australian Championships round-robin basis of six (6) State Champions and only they title to the highest the qualifier. Junior development was under **State Coaching Director Noel Gourley**. The

**A Special General Meeting was held in May to discuss an application to the Brisbane City Council for a land grant on which to build the QBSA Headquarters. This chestnut has been rolled out of the fire very regularly by most Presidents ever since and still without result. Now they had the money but couldn't get the land which was offered by Clem Jones way back. That refusal by the Committee really was a terrible decision.**

Some petitioners refused to go away as well and several people including the author were canvassed unsuccessfully to stand against John at the 1982 AGM. In fact the Committee remained fairly intact except that **Frank Bertha took over from John Orr as Treasurer**. The year started well with 22 Affiliated Clubs and strong fixtures and championships on the slate. By-laws were amended to mitigate a few problems. The committee was strong, exercising constitutional and rule requirements firmly and fairly. A very senior player was suspended for 21 days on behavioural issues; fixtures were declared "null and void" for the sin of submitting late or incorrect results cards; and new ideas were broached. For example, country organisations were romanced to become affiliates.

**In '82 Angelo Siokos and Marion Westaway** were the Snooker champions once more supported by **Jim Wicks** (U/23) and **Glen Hillier** (at 14 years) the Under 16 State Champion. All toured.



Jim Wicks

**Noteworthy Achievement**  
**Aside from what one would call operational funds, the QBSA held, on term deposit in a Westpac Bonus Deposit Account, the sum of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) at the end of 1982.**



Noel, Clem Jones and juniors

Apart from its strong financial structure then, the signs were good in other ways. John Poirrier and his team had experienced growth in other ways. Clubs, players and tournaments were expanding, particular in the junior events. Here, it was showing real increase. **Noel Gourley** and his charges produced great young players and earned him personally the subsequent appointment to the Australian Billiards and Snooker Council **as National Coaching Director**. This exposed Noel to mutual benefit with the very best in Australia of players of all vintages.

**However, it seems the Miss Cue Qld Quest, (see Derek Law Term) as provider of funds, had finished.**

Some examples of the stability still possessed by the Assn were the numbers of organisations and players participating.  
For example:

Snooker Metro Comps	Derek Law 1975	John Poirrier 1982	Today 2017
Clubs	18	22	7
Teams	60	72	23
Players	300	360	150
Grades	6	7	3
Committee	13	6	4
Referees	3	15 est.	24
Qual Coaches	nil	nil	12

**The Further development of Refereeing**

**Referee Formal Attire and Dialogue** Black, formal dinner suits and white, dress gloves were the obligatory dress for referees of the day. **Harold Silver** could be distracting for the players and started contrast down. This worked; it; looked different gloves". For whatever reason the grey gloves powers to be and referees still use white gloves



Black, formal dinner suits and white, dress gloves were the obligatory dress for referees of the day. Harold Silver felt the clash of white against black wearing grey gloves to soften the though; so he got the nick-name "grey were never officially adopted by the to this day.



Harold's intense interest in all things refereeing stimulated his design and development of a special referees "triangle", for correctly setting up the red snooker balls. This is still widely in use today and highly prized. Harold has donated dozens.

**From the early 1980's until now, the maroon referees' jacket was adopted as national dress.**

Early on referees were **required to address players formally only by surname**, with the prefix "Mister". Thus: **"Mr Wilson, 48; Mr Thompson, 13"**. Over the years this requirement has diluted until today (2017), when the referees may use a combination of first and family names, or simply first names in many cases. Other refereeing formalities are being lost to the games to the chagrin of some of its older followers.



Some 15 top Australian cueists turned professional around then to play in Great Britain, with not too much success in a tough field, except for **Qld lad John Campbell**. A very tall man, he turned up in Brisbane snooker circles in the 1970's in his late teens and won the State Title in 1974. John moved to Sydney and won the Australian Snooker Championship in 1979. He was also twice runner-up.

He turned professional in 1982 and survived as a professional until 1992. His best efforts were as the World Snooker quarter finalist in 1986 and a ranking of 18 in that season.

**Participating Clubs (Affiliates) Comparison**  
**Snooker Teams** (Usually 5 players to a team)

PRESIDENT	Affiliate	1973 Teams	1975 Teams	1981 Teams
<b>D Law '73</b>	Coorparoo RSL	B C		
	Gaythorne RSL	A B C D	B C D E	A C E F
	Kedron Wavell Services	B C D	2B C D	A C D E
	Post-Tel Institute	B	B	C D E 2F
	Q. Bookmakers Club	A	A	
	Q. Cricketers Club	A	A C D E F	
	Q. Irish Assn	A	A B	
	Q. Masonic Club	A B D	A B E F	A B C
	<b>J Poirrier '75 '8-</b>	Redcliffe RSL	A C D	A B D F
RQYS		B	B E	
Sherwood Services		B C D	A C D E F	
Sth Brisbane Club		A C	A B C E	A B E F
Tattersalls Club		A	A	
Toowong RSL		A B C D	A B C D F	B C E F
Toowong Bus Depot		C D	C E	2E F
University Qld		B		
Valley Club Rex Arcade		A	2A B C	2A B C 2D E F
Waterside Workers		B C		
Gabba Pink Ball		A B C D	2A 2B C D	2A 2B C D
West's OB & Juniors				B C E F
West's Seniors				B C D E
Ritz Snooker Ipswich				B D F
Wynnum RSL				B C 2E f
Redlands Services				C D E F
Light Street Bus Depot				D E F
Brothers Rugby League				2F
<b>Number</b>		<b>40</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>66</b>

**Author's Note:**

*Having read the foregoing; with things apparently going pretty well, it would be hard to imagine that surprise and disappointment were just over the horizon for the QBSA and in particular for two of its personalities. The pair were **John Poirrier** and the author **Terry Stewart**. It will be laid before you in the next historical Term.*

*Some of the petitioners were now very political, and as history will reveal, very deceptive.*

**“Politics is the art of looking for trouble, finding it everywhere, diagnosing it incorrectly and applying the wrong remedies.”** Groucho Marx