

HISTORY OF B&S AND QBSA – SECTION 6 – TERRY STEWART’S TERM – 1983

Terry Stewart, a long time cue-ball-addict with a long suffering snooker widow of some 52 years, Moira. She acquired the games with him and since has been a great supporter. **He was elected as President of the Qld Billiards and Snooker Assn in 1983.** His predecessor was **John Poirrier**, and before him **Derek Law**.

Then and now



In writing Derek’s part of QBSA history he found it somewhat difficult to write about his own contribution or write objectively and in the past tense. So, he added this par to make the fit more objective.

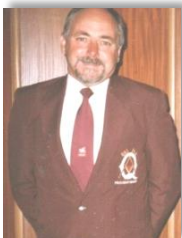
“At this point I find it difficult and uncomfortable to describe my personal activities for the QBSA starting in Derek’s term, but it is considered Integral in several ways. Thus I will dub myself as a liaison officer, QLO, a non-executive Committee position, but that is how the results were achieved in the areas of promotion, publicity club liaison activities. I ask your understanding”.

Also, he ended what has turned out only to be John Poirrier’s first term, with this observation:

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 was **John Poirrier** and the author **Terry Stewart**. It will be laid before you in the next historical Term. Some of the more rabid petitioners were now getting very political, and as history will reveal, very deceptive.*

As it has turned out “**surprise**” and “**disappointment**” were somewhat foreboding for both John and himself, and very political.



John Poirrier

In July 1980 word leaked out that Derek Law, now also President of the ABSC, was leaving for Perth. **Thirty-four (34) petitioners** (see QBSA web site) requested an immediate replacement by Special General Meeting. The petition was disregarded and John was selected by the Committee as President until the 1981 AGM. This aggravated some petitioners. It was taken as an affront and dismissive. As it would turn out, it lasted for some years. It is felt that it diminished John’s acceptance as President by some of the members and that this created pressure on John Poirrier and his Committee. It comprised a somewhat hostile environment which might make it very difficult for a new team.



John Orr

*The Committee had unwittingly “**applied the wrong remedy**” for expediency sake.*

In 1981 and 1982 serious lobbying for a replacement for John Poirrier was evident. Others, including Terry, were approached. Two major opponents of John’s were then Terry’s friends. They complained that Assn funds were being wasted on computerisation; expansion to the country; and consideration of a headquarters.

For the 1983, AGM Terry accepted a nomination by them, the only nomination apart from John Poirrier. Clem took the chair as returning officer. John dashed home to collect something for the meeting. Lord knows why. Clem put the vote. Terry had won by one (1) vote in John’s absence.

What had eventuated was that Terry was surprised and disappointed at winning since he really didn’t want it and was just too busy then. His intention was to give John a warning that John’s position was

not cast in stone. John probably even more unhappy because he was heavily involved both nationally (ABSC Executive Member) and at home. John obviously had many plans for the expansion of the sports. He returned to the AGM to hear the news and looked really shocked, understandably. Some Committee Members of his team declined nominations, except for **Dennis McLean as Secretary and Eileen Dore as Treasurer/Registrar**. Filling the positions was very difficult, the result being so unplanned and contentious.

Terry's Proposer and Seconder were elected to Committee but left before year's end, the first at the very next meeting! It was their personal ambition to be rid of John Poirrier.

John Osterman was chosen to fill the first vacancy. (John became President himself, in 2016 and 2017). Terry made a commitment to serve out his term and did so without distinction. The year passed slowly and unspectacularly for him. As expected it impacted unfavourably on his business and family.

Historical events:



Angelo Siokos

Moore

Angelo Siokos and Marion Westaway won the Snooker Championships once more, but a new face, a Victorian immigrant and veteran player, wins the Billiards. **Ron Moore** is now a Queenslander and competes regularly for years, always accompanied by wife, Maureen. Graham Clarkson (below) was Qld Under 23 Snooker Champion



Ron



Author's Note:

The Under 23 Snooker was soon terminated because it was felt the men involved were sufficiently talented to compete in open company and the Juniors were eventually sorted into 12, 15 and 18 year old groups.

OUTCOMES

The prediction of chaos at the end of Derek Law's term was appropriate. The Assn had moved along throughout 1981 and 1982, discharging its duties responsibly and effectively. The worst outcome was that in 1983, Terry was used to take Presidency from John Poirrier and irrespective of any member's view of John's efforts, Terry believe he not only wanted it but was totally committed.

On the other hand, Terry did not want it. A very political environment was this and not to his liking. The only exception was that his accompanying role of ABSC Executive Member, representing Qld nationally for two years, which was thoroughly enjoyed.

The 1980 shake-up at the end of Derek Law's Term caused chaos in the form of sequential short term occupancy of the Chair and resultant, disjointed management, which, as history does so, repeated itself right into the next century.

Nevertheless, Terry served the full term and retired at the 1984 AGM.