

## HISTORY OF B&S AND QBSA – SECTION 7 - KEN FLEMING’S TERM – 1984/1985

**Terry Stewart resigned the position of President at the 1984 AGM. John Poirrier and Ken Fleming contested it. Ken Fleming was the new President.**

An accountant, Ken was a solid B Grade snooker player and played for Woollongabba Snooker Club, at the Pink Ball Billiard Room. He served for several years on the QBSA Committee prior to his elevation to President. Ken has been retired now for many years but still enjoys the game and plays regularly in local tournaments as one of the “senior” players.

Ken Fleming



As usual there was difficulty filling positions. Secretary **Dennis McLean** resigned, after a three-year period of worthy service; followed by **Eileen Dore (Registrar) and husband Ted** (from Gaythorne RSL), having provided 9 years service each. Eileen’s detail work as Registrar was exceptional. **John Osterman** (current President in 2017) **became Registrar and Terry Stewart Secretary**, in the absence of any candidates. The **Treasurer was Shirley Schultz**. Terry resigned this position in the second half of the year which was then discharged by John Osterman (Registrar) until the AGM.



It seems that **Life Member** and evergreen administrator **John Balderson** (Woolloongabba Snooker Club) chose this meeting as **Referees Organiser**, to begin his very long, dedicated service to the QBSA. When the “Gabba” closed, John moved closer to home and continued his heavy contribution at the Redlands RSL Snooker Club, Cleveland. He has stayed active all these years, is still contributing and if there was some higher award than life membership available, then John would be the first candidate.

*(Author’s Note: - As a matter of interest. Fees adopted were \$6.00 Affiliation; \$6.00 Membership; Teams \$2.50; and nightly playing fees, \$1.50. N.B. Juniors and Pensioners half price!)*

1984 dawned with the sad news that “**Ozzie**” **Pitman** had died. He was a former cab driver from Ipswich and Queensland’s greatest billiard player then. Ozzie had retired to the Gold Coast and died there. Attempts to reach his family (wife and daughter) have been unsuccessful to this time. His first Qld Amateur Billiards title was in 1954 on his third attempt. Ozzie dominated Billiards in Qld from 1954 to 1972 amassing 12 Qld State Titles and was runner-up on four occasions in a strong field containing great players of the time such as Rahilly, Lyons, Young and Thompson. (No photo unfortunately)

### Coaching

In an Australian Movements paper were conducted at local players. Later and attended his



first for cue sports, **Noel Gourley** produced a Coaching/Human under the Sports Science Research Programme. The tests the University of Queensland Human Movements faculty, using in the year Noel was appointed as Qld Director of Coaching first National Coaching Accreditation Scheme meeting on QBSA behalf at Melbourne.



**The State Snooker** Championships, sponsored once more by Winfield cigarettes, drew fifty-six (56) entries in a straight elimination, seeded contest. This was **won by Gordon Robinson, on a black ball in the 15th Frame over Jim Wicks. Gordon**, an Irishman living on the Gold Coast, **turned**

**professional soon after** and returned to his homeland. The women’s champion was **Marion Westaway** again and **Angelo Siokos** won the initial Gaythorne RSL Handicap Snooker Tournament.



Jim Wicks

### Zone Arrangements (non-Metropolitan Affiliates)

Started back two years ago in the John Poirrier term, this concept began bearing fruit although still contentious with some members. **Blackwater RSL, Gympie RSL, Kingaroy RSL** and (in its first year) **Bribie Island RSL** were granted Affiliate status. One bone of contention was that, when fully introduced, zone champions would enter the State Championships at the “final 16” stage and some metropolitan players considered that zone qualification was generally of a lower standard than in SEQ, depriving some locals of opportunities.

### Refereeing

Of the 22 referees in the table below, four (4) were now examiners.

Snooker Metro Comps	Derek Law 1975	John Poirrier 1982	Ken Fleming 1984	Today 2017
Clubs	18	22	20	7
Teams	60	72	61	23
Players	300	360	305	150
Grades	6	7	7	3
Committee	13	13	13	4
Referees	3	15 est.	22	24
Qual Coaches	nil	nil	nil	12

### Major Event

In September, 1984, Qld hosted the **National Billiards Championships**. Because of the downturn in popularity there was never a rush by the states to take this one on since it was so easily run at a loss. This one, however, did quite well. This was because of billeting of officials, mainly the referees, and transport provided privately. The billiard players are a contented lot comparatively, and just want to get together for a game. Later, Bribie Island RSL will come into its own as a popular host for this. Frank Humphreys of WA was the Champion.

### Other Tournaments



A committee was formed for a **Super League** tournament to commence. Four teams of ranked players (top 16 or so) would compete but not under club colours. Sometimes the matches took place in non-affiliated clubs as a QBSA promotion. A **Club Championship** was commenced with a trophy for the best performed Affiliate in all grades. The brain child of **John Osterman**, this recognition survives to the present time. The inaugural comp was won by John's own club, South Brisbane. In this year Qld Cricketers, Valley Snooker (Rex Arcade) returned; and new club National Aust Bank Social Club started.

John Osterman

Finals of the **Norfolk Islands Handicap Snooker Tournament** were held in September. Sponsored by that company, the tournament was the brainchild of Don Keogh, Pot Black Billiards (table maker). It is recalled that this was won by Life Member John Balderson, the first prize being a fully paid holiday to the Island.

**Governance:** During the year it became necessary to amend the **Constitution** to accommodate State Government requirements for holding an art union in connection with the above tournament. The Rules **and by-laws** were upgraded simultaneously.

### Interstate “Test” Match – Qld Vs NSW

A novel idea between the two state Assns was an interstate match between ten (10) players registered in each State. The first took place in Brisbane, in Ken Fleming's term as President. This was later named **the Interstate Challenge** and extended to include Victoria and ACT. Clem Jones donated a shield for the purposes of.

### Australian Under 18 Junior Snooker Championships

Played at the Wests Old Boys and Juniors Club rooms, during the 1984 school holidays, Queensland was ably represented by Wayne Turpin a wonderful young cueist. Wayne dominated this age group in Queensland from 1983 to 1985, whilst simultaneously holding the Under 15 age group title.



Trophy winners for the Q.B.S.A. 1984 Billiards season.

	WINNERS	RUNNERS UP
A GRADE	QLD. MASONIC WHITE A. Lian V. Kuskopf G. Clarkson G. Marks	MYABBIM RSL J. Poirrier S. Eyles R. Moore G. Robinson R. Kinlin
B GRADE	GAYTHORNE RSL E. Dore F. Creese G. Goid R. Jones J. Rooney M. Stegman	WOOLLOONGABBA D. Robinson G. McCubbin G. Morgan J. Zilic P. Gilby
C GRADE	ETH BRISBANE J. Osterman W. Matthews E. Brightmore K. Aldridge L. Hargraves	WOOLLOONGABBA R. Day R. Gammage A. Barboutus D. Paton W. Turpin

Inter-Club Fixtures continued at a level relative to the level of interest in the game concerned. At left is the table of winners of the Inter-club Billiards Competition for the year with only three grades.

An innovative format was the **Graded Snooker Competition** for (A+B); and (C grade and lower) graded players to win an individual trophy. The higher grade was won by A Barboutis and the lower by J Osterman.

The **Metropolitan Open** represented the QBSA in the went runner-up in a very severely injured in a traffic for some time. Phil accounted for made many century snooker breaks. He still plays occasionally at Bribie Island Snooker Club.



**Snooker Championship winner, Phil Perkins** \$2,500 Dapto Open Snooker Tournament and strong field of players. Shortly thereafter Phil was accident in Ipswich interrupting his snooker career himself favourably at any level in Australia and

#### Sponsors

Major sponsors for the year were: - Rothmans of Pall Mall (Winfield); Coca-Cola ottlers; Norfolk Island Airlines; the Pink Ball Billiard Room; and Pot Black Snooker. (Owner **Don Keogh** was the active Chair of the Promotions Sub-Committee again).

With the Management Committee chaos of the past few years, it will certainly be interesting to see what 1985 holds – more change or even stability perhaps. That would be a pleasant result for certain.

### 1985

At the AGM Ken and John Poirrier once more stood for the Presidency with Ken again Victorious. With John Osterman as Secretary, Shirley Shultz (Treasurer) and Andy McLean as Registrar the quadrella of key positions was filled.

### Computerisation

To date much of the Assn's records were computerised via a computer bureau and were managed by **John Osterman** who had also written the programs. At the 1985 AGM it was proposed that it purchase a desktop model of its own to mitigate the increasing work load of Secretary, Registrar and Treasurer. However, John Osterman's advice that he was off to Sydney for two years on business matters, put a fly into the ointment. Worse than that, the computer bureau housing Assn records closed later in 1985, leaving Registrar Andy McLean with more than a few problems.

A computer was purchased with absentee John Osterman to handle the conversion from Sydney.

### Super League Snooker

The Committee proposed to take the Super League to the country as a promotion and to engender Country Associations in an expansion programme. On the hit list, in no particular order were, **Roma, Warwick, Ipswich, Toowoomba, Gympie, Maryborough, Southport, and Bribie Island**. Approximately \$2,000 was budgeted for expenses, with only the far country towns requiring accommodation if selected. A hire bus would fill the logistics requirements else wise. Clem Jones would have been delighted with this move, which he had long desired for a truly state wide QBSA.

**Junior Development** continued under the watchful eye of State and National Coach **Noel Gourley** and the 16, 18 and 23 year categories were decided once more at Noel's Pink Ball venue in the September school holiday period.

### Sponsorships

Out of the blue and desperately needed for Billiards, was the **Wren Souvenir Qld Billiards Championship**. Owner **Vic Kusskopf** (from the Sunshine Coast and member of the Buderim Billiards and Snooker Club) was a keen Billiards man and was putting up the sponsorship cash. Better still, Vic had a young, very promising player in his group named **Grant Marks** whom Vic also coached and sponsored. This would expose Grant to some tough opposition not available at the Sunshine Coast. . Buderim affiliated with the QBSA in 1985, one of the earliest of non-metropolitan affiliates.

*The Qld Billiards Championships Vic's effort realised a field of 10 groups of 4 players in a round-robin preliminary at the Pink Ball Billiard Room, with the finals matches to be played at Wynnum RSL Club. The Pink Ball had about 14 full sized tables in what had been a WW2 dance hall. To stand in the mezzanine gallery and see so many tables occupied at the same time in a Billiards competition was a sight for sore (Billiards) eyes and a spectacle not repeated in billiards or Snooker, in Queensland, before or since. The round-robin format was also both innovative and very enjoyable for the players. It represented great value for money and a wealth of playing opportunities and experience.*

**State Billiards: Angelo Siokos** hanger at Wynnum RSL. Trailing Angelo clawed his way back to point, in the second. He repres-



Angelo

**qualified to beat Ron Moore** in a cliff- by a wide margin in the first session, pot the red on the bell and win by one ented the QBSA in Hobart.



Ron

### The Interstate Challenge (Clem Jones Shield)

In 1985 The Clem Jones Shield was played for at Gosford in an interstate challenge between the three all Eastern seaboard mainland states and the ACT. There were usually eight players per team including snooker, one billiard and two junior snooker players.

Things definitely seemed to be on the up-and-up once more.

**Surely nothing else could possibly go wrong to support the earlier chaos?**

**In the first half of 1985 Ken Fleming was forced to undergo invasive surgery for grave health issues.**

**In June of 1985 the Australian Council Annual Meeting was held at Coomealla.** This is near Mildura on the Victorian New South Wales border. It was held as usual, during the **Australian Men's Snooker Championships (69 entrants)**. It was conducted on an "open" basis. Ken Fleming, (recovering from serious surgery), insisted on going to what was his last meeting as Qld Executive Member. He travelled by car with the author, a tournament referee. John Poirrier attended too as a delegate and referee.

Dareton was then a very small town on the Murray River, and gave a great welcome to all. What a courageous effort for three small communities to take on an Australian Championship. However the tournament logistics were awkward with 50% matches at the Memorial club in Dareton and the rest at Wentworthville on one table at the golf club. After hours the only thing open was a great pizza restaurant in Mildura which would have had a record month's turnover. This was one of the most enjoyable but unusual such events the writer has attended. Ken's health issue did not intervene.

**It is recalled, but not substantiated, that Ken resigned later this year as President, to be replaced by John Poirrier having been the losing contender at the earlier AGM.**

*Author's Note:*

*While writing Ken's term and looking back at the comments and photos used to date, it became obvious just how many wonderful administrators, players and mates are no longer with us. A lot of those who are left are in their sixties or later, some in their seventies and eighties. Having looked for a place for the following old poem for some time, it was felt this would be an appropriate location.*

of the junior members I would like to publish my theme song which  
by that prodigious author 'Anonymous'.

I'M FINE THANK YOU

There is nothing the matter with me,  
I'm as healthy as I can be.  
I have arthritis in both my knees  
And when I talk, I talk with a wheeze.  
My pulse is weak, and my blood is thin,  
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in.

Arch supports I have for my feet,  
Or I wouldn't be able to walk on the street,  
Sleep is denied me night after night,  
But every morning I find I'm all right.  
My memory is fading, my head's in a spin  
But I'm awfully well for the shape I am in.

The moral is this as my tale I unfold -  
That for you and me who are growing old,  
It's better to say 'I'm fine' with a grin,  
Than to let the folks know of the shape we are in.

How do I know that my youth is all spent?  
Well, my 'Get up and go' has got up and went.  
But I really don't mind when I think with a grin,  
Of all the grand places my 'Get up' has been.

Old age is golden I've heard it said  
But, sometimes I wonder as I get into bed,  
With my 'ears' in the drawer, my teeth in a cup,  
My eyes on the table until I wake up.  
Ere sleep overtakes me, I say to myself,  
'Is there anything else I could lay on the shelf?'

When I was young and my blood was red,  
I could kick my heels right over my head.  
When I was older and my blood was blue,  
I still could dance the whole night through.  
Now I am old and my outlook is black,  
I walk to the pub and puff my way back.

I get up each morning and dust off my wits  
And pick up the paper and read the 'Obits',  
If my name is not mentioned I know I'm not dead,  
So I have a good breakfast and go back to bed.

.../8