

HISTORY OF B&S AND QBSA – SECTION 9 – JOHN ORR’S TERM 1992-1993

Overview

In July, 1992, the Australian Open Snooker was held at the Gold Coast, Queensland. Sydneysider, Peter Wporth, opened “Snooker World” at Mermaid Beach. The club operates today. The Australian Snooker Championship was granted to the venue as part of the official launch of the room, it is recalled. A sponsorship of \$20K was exchanged in return. A motor car was on offer for the maximum break of 147.

From acceptance it was clear to the organisers this would be a “loser” as they generally were. This was on account of the lack of fundraising opportunities. For the record here, it represented a loss of \$8K with entry fees \$3.7K and Bar Proceeds \$2.9K, the only returns. Major costs were accommodation of officials (\$5K); Hospitality (\$1.2K) and the ABSC Facility Fee (\$2K). Costs associated with the venue were also high at \$5K.

At ABSC AGM held during the Australian Snooker Championships, it was reported that the “QBSA was in dire financial straits”. Who will fix this one up? More importantly how will it be done?

John Orr



In October 1992 an AGM was held. **John Orr was elected as President with Paul Bennett Secretary and Ken Woodward was Treasurer.** In the Australian vernacular this team was “gutsy”, for taking this on. **Registrar, Mal Mollenhauer,** commenced his sixth consecutive term. John Orr had compiled eight years on Committee, including as Secretary and Treasurer; and Paul Bennett some three years. However, when Paul was posted to New Guinea; Ken Woodward, Registrar, took on both duties. For openers it was business as usual and commitments to the ABSC were honoured.

In September, the **Australian Women’s Snooker was held at Westfield Toombul** with much assistance from Sherwood Services Club. Most preliminaries were held at Sherwood on three tables, and some prelims and the finals at Toombul on a specially erected table at Toombul. **Megan Fullerton,** (who was runner-up to Kathy Parashis, NSW), now plays regularly at Club Banora. Megan would go on to win further Australian and Queensland Titles, as the readers will find as those years histories are discovered.

Megan pictured



By October, 1992, the financial situation had worsened. In Oct ‘92 the Assn was broke and the bank account overdrawn as a result of running the National Championships and sponsors reportedly forfeiting on promises. **Clem Jones made a \$10K loan to help the QBSA out.**



By now, the **Gold Coast Snooker Assn** had incorporated but was not affiliated with the QBSA just yet. Twin Towns, Southport RSL, Snooker World and the Huntington Club were involved. Some great players represented the Coast, including **Gordon Robinson** (Qld Snooker Champion 2xR) **Jim Bonner** (twice national snooker champion 3xR) and **Ron Moore** (Qld Billiards Champion 4xR) .The fourth player above is **Robbie Ganson**).

An innovation designed to gain better support, was to hold the August **presentation function** aboard the MV “Miramar” as a smorgasbord luncheon and river cruise. This, although novel and popular amongst the attendees, experienced the continuing decline in support for such functions.

While this was happening, **Clem Jones** was still National President with his executive team of **John Poirrier,** (Secretary) and **Pam Poirrier** (Treasurer). There was no real Queensland advantage because it was largely the prerogative of the President to have his key players nearby in the days of pre-electronic communications. With **John Orr** as Qld Executive Secretary, Queensland was certainly dominant on the ABSC team.



Membership

Numbers of Associate Members provided to ABSC in Sept 1992.

	Clubs	Players
Greater Bris	20	980
Gold Coast	6	200
Wide Bay	14	820
CQ Zone	5	260
NQ Zone	7	400
SW Zone	4	<u>280</u>
		<u>2940</u>

Members of affiliates were automatically associate members of the QBSA. Persons not so could join independently by payment of a fee. Therefore the num-

bers of financial members is relatively low. Wide Bay, CQ and NQ had also achieved Zone Status.

Interclub:

Brisbane	15 clubs	360
Gold Coast	6	50
Wide Bay	8	50
NQ	4	30

About 200 players were considered maximum aspirants for state titles (snooker)

Governance

Computerised results, providing averages, player grading and operational material were now plentiful and up to date, making player management and inter-club supervision a lot easier for the registrar and management than the former once a week gatherings.

The Constitution

Proposals were underway to amend the Constitution. The main sticking point appeared to be the reduction of the numbers of persons on Committee. The time worn difficulty in filling positions was taking its toll, but some members felt that the Executive Officers would have too much control.

The De-facto Brisbane and District Billiards and Snooker Assn

Feelings ran so high regarding proposed constitutional changes; expenditure on the non-metropolitan expansion; and the general financial malaise of the QBSA, that some serious attempts were made amongst city affiliates to form their own Association. It's fair to say that this had some support and from some larger and respected Affiliates as well.

But would they win the day?

1993



At the AGM, January 1993, **John Orr** was re-elected as President and **John Balderson** confirmed as Secretary. John Balderson, (who with Ken Woodward), had taken over from Paul Bennett, had been elected in August of the previous year. **Ken Woodward's** election started his third term as Treasurer. In January the opening bank balance for the Assn was \$6900. (At the end of the financial year, the bank balance stood at \$5000).

John Balderson (pictured) would go on to provide much valued service to the sports' community in all sorts of capacities for many years at both local and state level

and is a Life Member of the Association.

It was proposed to purchase 368DX Desk top Computer using part of a Qld Government Sports grant. The Dept of Tourism Sport and Racing in 1993 had radically diminished grants to small sporting bodies which were considered not to meet state-wide coverage criteria. The QBSA was one of these. However, in 1993 \$7K was committed, and a further \$8K committed for 1994. The Dept had also introduced the need for all grant recipients to create a 3-year Development Plan, which required annual updating. This requirement was underway by June, for the QBSA.

Yet more administrative burdens for voluntary officers!

*How the marriages and sanity prevailed is sometimes amazing.
Some barely did – some did not – but let's not go there*

The author has noted that, in April '93 an account was held for payment of \$8000 for a personal loan from Clem Jones. Few people would know or understand how much he personally loved these sports.

Time for some good news.
junction of Huessler Terrace and
Masters Club was opened by Andrew



Chee

They had come from agencies for quality agencies for quality. In 1993 QBSA Affiliation was granted and both Q-Masters, and the founders, until now, continue to provide invaluable assistance to the QBSA. Andrew is a Life Member. Chee has moved on to other activities, but more of that later. In March of 1993, Q-Masters held it's first Q-Masters "\$500 Classic" Snooker Championship.



Andrew

In 1993, on the
Castlemaine St, Milton, the **Q-Theodorou and Chee Yap.**

Melbourne and brought along table manufacture and accessories.



In the late 90's the snooker gods were angry and decided to redevelop Lang Park, across the road (now Suncorp Stadium). It opened in time for the match between the Brisbane Broncos and Newcastle Knights 1 June 2003; Brisbane's first game at Suncorp Stadium since 1996. Somehow Q-Masters and Members survived this disruption and went on from strength to strength, although football nights are still a pain.

Junior Development – Growth of Age Categories

- 1986 U/18 &U/23 only junior events on ABSC Calendar
- 1987 U/23 replaced by U/21
- 1988 U/15 introduced plus Junior Teams Challenge
- 1989 U/18 Billiards
- 1991 U/12 Snooker

Great young player, **Steve Balderson**, was fast reaching open standards and beat Stan Gorki in Australian Open Championship, thus **eliminating the defending champion**. No newcomer was Steve, who was the very **first Australian Under 15 Snooker Champion in 1988**, Qld U/15 Snooker Champion in '86 and '87; and in '88 the Qld U/18 Billiards Champion.



Another junior, **Rhys Cochrane** made his debut in the Australian National Billiards in 1993 playing with **Danik Lucas**. Both played well, each making 100 plus breaks; and Rhys losing to eventual winner, George Ganim Jr. Rhys was 15 years old.



Refereeing

In 1993, **John Orr was elevated to Examiner** (in Billiards and Snooker) to help with the growing workload,

Snooker Metro Comps	Derek Law 1975	John Poirrier (JP) 1982	Ken Fleming 1984	J.P. 1985	J.P. 1986	J.P. 1988	John Orr 1993	Today 2017
Clubs	18	22	20	18	15	*15	16	7
Teams	60	72	61	55	50	50	48	23
Players	300	360	305	275	250	250	240	150
Grades	6	7	7	6	6	5	5	3
Committee	13	13	13	13	13	6	6	4
Referees	3	15 est.	22	23	26	28	*33	24
Coaches	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	5	12

particularly in non-metropolitan centres where there was considerable interest.

*Dissection: Examiners 3; A Grade 2; B Grade 5; C Grade 26.

Clem Jones Shield

The Clem Jones Shield was not contested in 1993. The reasons are not known.

Non Metropolitan Expansion (Zones)

Expansion into non-metropolitan areas proceeded slowly. This was a reflection of lack of QBSA (voluntary) manpower, and the need for potential Affiliates to incorporate beforehand. However, the recently incorporated **Northern Rivers (NSW) Billiards and Snooker Assn Inc** made application then.



Sports House Milton, 150 Castlemaine Street, is the administrative home of many state, regional and national sporting groups. It is a Qld Govt enterprise, catering for sporting organisations by providing economical leasing of office spaces, conference rooms and amenities. **In 1993, the QBSA successfully applied for office space which is still in use in 2018.**

Non Metropolitan Expansion

Progress continued towards making the QBSA a state wide body and the following was reported:

1993	Tot	Men	Women
Wide Bay B/S Assn	32	31	1
Maroochy RSL	40	40	-
Gympie RSL	25	25	-
Maroochy Snooker Room 69	66	3	-
Buderim S & B Club	23	23	-
Bribie Is RSL	42	37	5

The Brisbane Inter-Club Affiliates 1993

Affiliates competing in 1993, contained two new Clubs listed first:

Twin Towns Services Club	Gold Coast
Green Baize Snooker Club	Daisy Hill
Gaythorne Services Club	Mitchelton
Kedron-Wavell Services Club	Chermside
Logan Snooker Room	Woodridge
Q-Masters	Milton
Qld Cricketers Club	East Brisbane
*Qld Masonic Club	Adelaide Street , City
Qld Post-Tel Institute	Eagle Street City
Redlands RSL	Cleveland
Ritz Billiard Room	Ipswich
Waterside Workers Club	Adelaide Street City
Sherwood Services Club	Corinda
South Brisbane Club	Dutton Park
Toowong Bus Recreation	Toowong
Valley Billiard Room	Valley
Woolloongabba Club	Stanley Street 'Gabba
Wynnum Services Club	Wynnum

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

Governance

The Constitution

On Sunday, 1st. August an AGM was held. There was \$3880 in the bank. This meeting was for the purpose of adopting changes to the Constitution. Discussions had been underway for at least a year developing proposed amendments. These were proving controversial with some Affiliates. The Amendments were not adopted; however, it confirmed the Committee positions.

(See SGM later in this Presidential Term)

Qld Women's Snooker Since the sports inception, women's snooker players have always been very much in the minority. It's not the quality of the players, but the numbers, and the Qld Women's Snooker Championship has always been a challenge for organisers. However, in 1994, **Kym Howell** won her first title in quite a large field.



1994

A Special General Meeting (SGM) was held on 17 March 1994, immediately prior to an AGM, so that the outgoing Committee Members and attendees could see and discuss the final draft of the amendments to the Constitution, prior to it being tabled at the AGM. It proposed alterations to the structure of the Committee and was very contentious with some Affiliates. They felt it would bring about less Club involvement on the day to day management decisions because of the reduction of numbers on the Committee from 13 to 7. It brought on concerns that the sport's management was moving from a Westminster system, to a Presidential system, or, for some of the more radical dissidents, a dictatorship!

The amendments proposed having an executive group plus 3 committee people to run the QBSA, with input as required from 2 delegates of each Affiliate. The Executive Committee would comprise the President (3 year term); the Secretary; the Treasurer and the Vice President, (all a 2 year term). The remaining 3 Committee members would serve one year each. It represented a large decrease of volunteer numbers on the Committee. The possibility of the formation of a competing metropolitan association (The Brisbane Billiards and Snooker Assn Inc) was still being canvassed. However, most Affiliates seemed to be in support of the QBSA and the amendments were carried. The meeting was fully attended by virtually all metropolitan Affiliates resulting in a standing order that each speaker had 2 minutes to speak. An amendment, contrary to the spirit of the proposed amendments was put by the objectors, but withdrawn after discussion.

The AGM.

This seemed to downgrade the major consideration of the AGM, but **John Balderson** and Ken **Woodward** were returned to their positions. President **John Orr** announced that he was **not standing** on account of family (second child expected) and business commitments. **Tony Waller**, **Vice President**, after several years on Committee, and assisting Noel Gourley with coaching, was **elected President**.

(Author's Note: The full Minutes of the 1993 AGM are available on the QBSA Web page in the History Section.)

Secretary's Report for 1993

Somewhat in support of the need for amendments, were statistics in outgoing Secretary John Balderson's report, illustrating poor meeting attendances by some of the committee, and stating that, although 8 meetings had been held, 3 had to be cancelled because a quorum had not gathered.

The Qld Post-Tel Institute

Each year an Affiliate is selected as **Qld Club of the Year**. This club in 1993 was the Qld Post-Tel Institute. Sadly, in 1994, it was unable to field any teams. This great old club had been playing and providing tables and a venue for QBSA meetings, since the 1930's. State Championships had been decided upon its tables and it had been a most accomplished and loyal administration. After providing some of the best players over many years, Interest in the games had dwindled to a few die-hards, and it was closing billiards snooker activities through lack of interest. John Orr, outgoing President had been a life-long member and would have felt a twinge of regret.

The information provided in these pages is compiled for the QBSA Inc.. It is general information only to restore much of the QBSA's missing history. All reasonable attempts have been made for accuracy. No harm is meant to any individual or organization intentionally or otherwise. In such an event please contact the QBSA for a correction or deletion



NOTEWORTHY ACHIEVEMENT

Junior Development A young billiard player, Rhys Cochrane, was really making waves for such a youth in modern times, winning the Under 18 Billiards from 1990-1994 (5 years); also the under 15 Snooker Champs 1990-1991. Rhys qualified for the quarter finals of the National Open Billiards Championships whilst a junior player, and was the youngest ever player to make the quarter finals of an open national event. It's quite incredible that in 1992, Rhys made a 191 break in the U/18 Billiards; and a 245 in the Qld Open Billiards Champs; both unfinished; and both Qld and national records for a junior player. Some other QLD efforts were: A Grade Inter-club Billiards 105; and, in the Under 18 U/18 Snooker, an 84 break. Sadly Rhys has been lost from the games.

Some Statistics

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

John Orr's Term

PRESIDENT	Affiliate	1973 Teams	1975 Teams	1981 Teams	1985 Teams	1993 Teams	
D Law '73	Coorparoo RSL	B C			B C E		
	Gaythorne RSL	A B C D	B C D E	A C E F	2A C E	AC	
	Kedron Wavell Services	B C D	2B C D	A C D E	A C D E	2A2C2C1D	
	Post-Tel Institute	B	B	C D E 2F	2D E	CD	
	Q. Bookmakers Club	A	A				
	Q. Cricketers Club	A	A C D E F		B D E	ABCE	
	Q. Irish Assn	A	A B				
	Q. Masonic Club	A B D	A B E F	A B C	B C E	BC	
	Wynnum RSL	AC		B C 2EF	2C E	ABCD2E	
	Buffalo Memorial	BC					
J Poirrier '75-	Redcliffe Services	A C D	A B D F			CD	
	RQYS	B	B E				
	Sherwood Services	B C D	A C D E F		B	A2B2C2DE	
	Sth Brisbane Club	A C	A B C E	A B E F	2A B C D		
	Tattersalls Club	A	A				
	Toowong RSL	A B C D	A B C D F	B C E F	B C D		
	Toowong Bus Depot	C D	C E	2E F	B E	CE	
	University Qld	B					
	Valley Club Rex Arcade	A	2A B C	2A B C 2D E F		A	
	Waterside Workers	B C					
	Gabba Pink Ball	A B C D	2A 2B C D	2A 2B C D	3A B C E	2AB2C	
	Wests OB & Juniors			B C E F	B C D		
	Wests Seniors			B C D E			
	Ritz Snooker Ipswich			B D F		CD	
	Redlands Services			C D E F	2E	CDE	
	Light Street Bus Depot			D E F			
	Brothers Rugby League			2F	B C D E		
		Logan City Snooker					B
		Milton Billiards					C
	Team Number		44	54	65	50	48
Players Approx		220	270	325	250	240	

Kindly Note: Whilst it was the author's aim to not have these history documents become one of those statistical mazes, it was felt that a few examples might show growth or decline, improvement and so on. Teams nominated but later withdrawn may not be included.