

## **2017 Newcastle District Billiards & Snooker Association Committee Meeting**

**Date & Time:** Thursday 14 Dec 2017 - 1830

**Venue:** Kahibah Sports Club – Function Room 1

**Attendees** Bill Shoemsmith, Grant Schubert, Chris Mungoven, Neil Pratt, Brian Bourke, Annette Clifford, Ian Callaghan,

**Apologies:** Neil Fatania (dialed in), Peter Little

### **Agenda**

1. Smoking Breaks
2. Late withdrawal of Toronto
3. Communication complaint for summer comp – Nelson Bay
4. Over 50's prize money
5. Confirmation of Web Hosting
6. General Business
7. Confirmation of next meeting
8. Other items:
  - a. AGM

### **Minutes**

Item 1 The topic of smoking breaks was raised following some adverse comments and situations where certain teams lost points because of matches remaining unfinished at closing time. It is poor etiquette and unreasonable to have players waiting after individual frames, while their opponent goes for a cigarette break. This kind of behavior is not accepted in the professional game, where an interval is after a minimum of 4 frames, similarly if at the movies it would be say 2 hours during the duration of the film, before a break. There has been no clarity in the past with many resistant to change because this topic was never noted in minutes, but following a number of incidents it was agreed that it would be discussed at a Committee meeting.  
The general view was that it would be reasonable for a player to not have a "smoke" during at least 3 frames of snooker, and this was put to a vote.

**DECISION** No smoking breaks during a minimum of 3 continuous frames- unanimously voted in.

Item 2 Grant Just before the commencement of the "6 red Summer Comp" in fact only 3 days prior, we were told that Toronto were withdrawing from the competition, and the reason provided by Peter Hough was "how can we win with a start during 15 reds, never mind with 6 reds."  
It should be noted that Toronto also refused to play a team @ Cessnock during the Tony Tamplin competition because mathematically they could not have made the Finals.  
At our last AGM a comment was made that teams / players will be reprimanded for such behavior. What kind of punishment is warranted? What is more disappointing is that Peter Hough is a life member and should certainly act more responsibly.

Bill Spoke to Steve Strong who wasn't aware of or notified of this decision that Peter Hough had made on behalf of Toronto.

**ACTION** Neil F to draft a letter then run past the Committee before sending.

Item 3 Bill A complaint was received from Nelson Bay that they had not been sufficiently informed of the summer 6 red competition. It transpires that they were in fact given at least 2 weeks' notice in addition to a text message sent to John Howard (captain) and a response was received. This was possibly not communicated to the rest of the team. It was agreed that we would all look into better communication channels ongoing.

Item 4  
Annette

Following the closure of Cessnock Workers Club, the relocation to East Cessnock Bowling Club (ECBC) was underway. However the original designated location which has a rather expensive floor covering (\$50K) for our table was changed, and another area provided, but this has a ceiling which is fairly low. The 2 other tables from the club have not been sold, but are now owned by the new proprietor. The new "religious" group have also taken ownership of the other 2 snooker tables, and a variety of equipment such as downlights, trophies and even photos etc which Cessnock were not able to gain access too easily.

Grant Garry Johnson approached the Committee (by letter/email) about relocating tables etc as the administrator was not being helpful. We responded and said we would help as much as possible.

Item 5 Grant Over 50's prizemoney to be confirmed, as we never agreed the breakdown, only the fact that it would be \$500 for the competition.

**DECISION** The break up would be as follows:

Winner \$250  
Loser \$150  
3<sup>rd</sup> \$50  
4<sup>th</sup> \$50  
Total \$500

Item 6 Grant It was confirmed that the Web Hosting will continue to be conducted by Grant's father for the next 2 years and for transparency and honesty if any other options were available they could / should be investigated.

**DECISION** We will maintain this arrangement @ \$360 for the 2 year period.

Item 7 Referee qualification to commence in January conducted by Gary Knight over 6 nights on a weekly basis (3 hours per night). In addition \$20 per week for Gary to cover travel costs. So far 8 people are interested. Once this preliminary training is completed each individual will need to sit a course in Sydney to be accredited and qualified.

Grant If any committee members have refereed at any of our competitions this year (Premier League, Newcastle Open etc) then please send an email to Brain & Grant informing them of the dates etc for reimbursement.

Bill The Tennis Club have received an Electricity bill which they will find difficult to cover along with monthly rent unless the income situation is sorted, having recently paid \$800 for public liability insurance. A meeting was to be held on Monday 18 Dec to confirm steps forward. There are approximately 17-20 members, who if they were willing to pay a weekly amount, would be the only solution to cover ongoing expenditure.

Neil P There had to be a fallback position in the event that outgoings were not being covered.

- Grant Happy for the Committee to step in as a one off and support if a situation arose where a team was struggling to meet its outgoings.
- Bill The \$50 annual membership to be paid by the beginning of the Tony Tamplin competition (end of Feb) and to be included as an agenda item at the next AGM.  
Also to look at Team Fees and whether self-funded clubs, like Nelson Bay, Tennis Club or clubs whose future is not certain (Mayfield, Cessnock) etc may possibly forego these?
- Neil P We could reduce but forgoing is not a viable proposition.
- Grant Understand the pain some clubs are facing but should not abolish. Another option might be to increase the annual membership to \$60 to offset the wiping of such fees. We should put on the agenda for the AGM for discussion.
- All For greater accountability, all prize money to be paid directly to the winning clubs with constituted snooker club bank accounts (without the need for a receipt) where possible. All presidents will be informed of this change.

**DECISION**      **Next Committee Meeting to be held:**      **Tuesday 20 February**  
**AGM to be held on:**      **Wednesday 28 February**  
**Notifications to all parties to follow.**

Meeting adjourned @ 2041