

2017 Newcastle District Billiards & Snooker Association **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Date & Time: Wednesday 28 February 2018 @ 1830

Venue: Kahibah Sports Club

Present **Committee** – Bill Shoesmith, Grant Schubert, Brian Bourke, Chris Mungoven, Neil Fatania, Annette Clifford, Ian Callaghan, Neil Pratt

Members – Gary Leonard, Gordon Wilson, Michael Hill, Charlie Elliot, Ben Cooper, Gary Johnson, Peter Agland, Andrew McLawrence, Nicola McLawrence, Dave Watkins, Andrew Clarke, Dave Mackie, Jay Firth, Bob Minter, Keith Heatherill, Eric Bauer, Ernie Johnson, Tony Bauer, Andrew Rufo, Brett Dennett, David Foscry, Malcolm McLean

Apologies: Peter Little, Ellis Craft

Minutes

No nominations for the current committee roles were received, therefore the existing committee continues in its current form until 2019.

President's Report

Bill Shoesmith opened the meeting, and provided a brief summary of the years events.

Secretary's Report

Neil Fatania provided the secretary's report, which covered off some of the challenges faced during this Committee's first year, but the focus was on 2018 and how the committee is committed to ensuring tournaments and competitions are run smoothly throughout the year, with additional communications in the form of a quarterly newsletter, a calendar of events as well as the training of 6 referees in the Newcastle district.

Treasurer's Report

Brian Bourke delivered the annual report and circulated an itemised statement of income and expenditure. As at the end of Feb (28/02/2018) our bank balance was \$8,192.55.

General Business

Funding A suggestion was made by Andrew Clarke, that if the committee wanted to improve the game and increase income to then reinvest into clubs and the broader sport of snooker across Newcastle, maybe members / players might contribute a token amount (say \$3 or \$5) per time that they play, which is then sent to the association.

A few comments from the floor centered around the admin issues of such an arrangement, with collection of funds a number of times a week depending on the number of competitions that players might be involved in, as well as the banking of these funds etc.

Rationality of current fees

Members advised that the weighting of the fees that are currently paid was a little skewed or not weighted fairly. For example: Over 50's pay \$15, however for a member playing Billiards, it is \$50. The committee advised that an equitable outcome was challenging but it would look into and advise.

Newcastle Open

A few members raised the possibility of having the Newcastle Open as a "seeded" competition, especially if we are to attract players from interstate, who often at their own expense travel long distances to then possibly only 1 or 2 matches. Committee will take this on board when organizing this year's tournament.

Over 50's

One member posed a question that he has been playing in the over 50's, and that maybe there should be a discount applied for say over 60's, 70's and then 80's, majority of whom would be on limited funds / pension.

Premier League & Elwin Jones (Billiards)

Both of these comps are on hold, with a view to commencing once the Committee has canvassed the level of interest, with a view to possibly starting once the Tony Tamplin has begun.

6 Red competition

Some members asked if there was the opportunity of running a pool comp between seasons, instead of the 6 red competition that was run last year as a "filler comp" which might encourage more interest from younger generation ?

The general consensus was that our snooker tables are precious and many clubs didn't want to risk damage to tables, for example "jabbing" or "ripped felt" and would not be keen to host pool competitions on their tables.

The committee recommended that to encourage younger members, it would be happy to waive membership fees for any younger players interested in playing, and would be happy to put a message on our website to that effect.

Anzac Day & State of Origin

Members asked if we should continue to play competitions on the same evening as these events? Committee agreed that we could accommodate a "night off" on these evenings to allow members to partake in either events.

Scoring changes

Some members were keen to see a more fairer scoring approach, similar to what was in place before the Win / Loss format currently used. This might discourage players throwing frames when they were not in a position to win the match. Possibly awarding a point per frame was suggested.

The committee welcomed this idea and advised that it would consider applying to this year's Tony Tamplin competition.

Meeting adjourned following refreshments @ 1954