



## 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Sunday 9 October 2022 10.30am – 11.45am (AEDST)

**Mounties Club, 101 Meadows Road, Mt. Pritchard, NSW**

### 1. Welcome and Official Opening.

The President welcomed the **Board Members, Representatives, Life Members and Ordinary Members** to the AGM. In particular, the presence of four Life Members – Frank Dewens, Rex Swain, Don Stewart and David Jackson – was noted.

### 2. Attendance and quorum.

Frank Dewens	SA	ABSC President
Paul Cosgriff	VIC	ABSC Board Member VIC & VIC representative
Adam Wyard	WA	ABSC Board Member WA & WA representative
Rex Swain	TAS	ABSC Board Member TAS & TAS representative
Alex Render	NSW	ABSC Board Member NSW & NSW representative
Richard Allendorf	QLD	ABSC Board Member QLD & QLD representative
Simon Fortune	VIC	Director Elect & Secretary General
Roger Davey	SA	SA Representative
Alec Spyrou	VIC	Observer
David Jackson	NSW	Life Member
Don Stewart	NSW	Life Member

Simon Fortune confirmed that representatives from six Affiliates were in attendance and that a quorum was therefore present.

### 3. Apologies.

Kurt Dunham (Vic)

4. Vale.

The meeting noted with regret, and marked with a minute's silence, the passing of a number of members of the Billiards and Snooker community who made substantial contributions to the sport over many years:

- a. Harold Silver (Qld)
- b. Mark O'Neill (ACT)
- c. Harry Andrews (Vic)
- d. Bob McLass (Vic)
- e. Roydyn Bishop (Tas)
- f. Timothy Leary (Tas)
- g. Howard Hazelhurst (WA)

5. Approval of the minutes of the AGM held on 23<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Motion that the minutes of the last meeting be accepted as tabled.

Moved – Paul Cosgriff

Seconded – Rex Swain

Passed unanimously.

6. President's Report

Motion that the President's Report be accepted as tabled.

Moved – Rex Swain

Seconded – Paul Cosgriff

Passed unanimously.

Frank Dewens spoke briefly to the issues that face the sport in the near term, including:

- The lack of new blood in the ranks of referees, and in particular the need for a substantial increase in the number of experienced snooker referees in time for the WSF Open and Juniors in 2023.
- Confirmation that this would be Frank's last year as President. He encouraged the meeting to identify suitable individuals to take on the role, ideally in 2022 so that Frank could mentor them during his final year in office.
- A desire to continue working actively on junior development after his term as President concludes.

7. Treasurer's Report.

Adam Wyard spoke briefly to the financial results for 2021/22, which show a profit of \$11,484. Activity was back to more normal levels during the year, although there

was a lower number of international trips sponsored than previously, and this accounted for a substantial amount of the surplus.

The financial position of the ABSC remains strong, with net assets of \$84,000 and available cash of \$48,000.

Other issues raised in relation to the financial prospects for the ABSC in 2022/23 were:

- Member State affiliation fees have been reduced to \$1,250 per annum (\$625 for the ACT), and the ABSC will seek other avenues to raise revenue.
- The ABSC will need to re-register for GST soon as revenue increases due to the WSF events in 2023.

Motion that the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

Moved – Adam Wyard

Seconded – Frank Dewens

Passed unanimously.

#### 8. ABSC Financials.

Accepted as part of the Treasurer's Report.

#### 9. Secretary's Report.

Simon Fortune noted that the past year had involved significant activity, with the major issues being:

- Four Board Meetings in addition to the AGM
- Ongoing work to ensure that the ABSC can meet its NSO recognition criteria in regard to a database of Ordinary Members, anti-doping education and disputes resolution policies, a strategic plan, and a number of other regulatory requirements. Noted that the ABSC is recognised as an NSO until 30 June 2023.
- Implementation of the National Integrity Framework for the ABSC and Member States, and adjustments to the Member Protection Policy.
- The likelihood that administrative requirements on the ABSC will increase over the coming couple of years following the formation of Sports Integrity Australia.

Motion that the Secretary's Report be accepted.

Moved – Paul Cosgriff

Seconded – Frank Dewens

Passed unanimously.

#### 10. Election of Life Members.

- a) Nomination of Neil Robertson (Vic)
- b) Nomination of Steve Fitzpatrick (NSW)

Rex Swain spoke briefly to the nomination of Steve, reflecting on his unwavering support for the game in senior roles at Mounties for over forty years. Steve has been instrumental in securing Mounties sponsorship for the Australian Open over the past twenty-five years, as well as numerous other events.

Paul Cosgriff outlined Neil's stellar career as Australia's most successful professional player, together with his long standing and practical support of players making their way on the professional circuit and the game in Australia more generally.

The award of Life Membership of the ABSC to both Steve and Neil was approved unanimously by Voting Members.

It was agreed that Frank will announce Steve's award at the final of the 2022 Australian Open, and that Neil's award will be presented in conjunction with the 2023 WSF Championships, for which he is event ambassador.

Rex noted that the register of Life Members on the ABSC needed to be updated.

#### 11. Election of a President.

Frank Dewens will serve the last year of his fourth term (two years) as President, commencing from the end of this AGM.

Frank noted that he would like to mentor his successor into the role of President during his final year in office.

#### 12. Nominated Directors

Pursuant to clause 12.3 of the Constitution, it is noted that the following directors have been nominated by their respective States:

- a) Rex Swain (Tas)
- b) Richard Allendorf (Qld)
- c) Eneas Sokolowski (ACT)
- d) The SA nomination is to be advised in due course.

Noted

#### 13. Elected Directors

It is noted that the following nominations were received pursuant to clause 12.4 of the Constitution:

a) Simon Fortune (Players' Delegate)

As the number of nominations is less than the number of positions to be filled, the nominee is elected unopposed.

Although not formally nominating for a position, Kurt Dunham expressed his desire to act as Players' delegate for a further term. The ABSC Board will consider whether to appoint Kurt to fill a casual vacancy at the next meeting.

Frank Dewens will talk with both Theresa Whitten and Carli Tait about their interest in taking on the Women's and Inclusion Delegate roles.

Noted

14. Expense Reimbursement

Pursuant to clause 13.7 of the Constitution, Members are asked to approve the payment of the following \$1,200 reimbursements for out-of-pocket expenses incurred during the 2021/22 year:

- a) President
- b) Treasurer
- c) Secretary General

Motion that reimbursements for out-of-pocket expenses be made as recommended.

Moved – Paul Cosgriff  
Seconded – Rex Swain  
Passed unanimously.

15. Notices of Motion

No Notices of Motion were received from Voting Members or Elected Directors.

16. Matters arising out of the minutes of the AGM held on 28th November 2020.

Nil

17. General Business.

Rex Swain – Referee Issues

Rex stressed that the lack of referees coming through the ranks, and the low numbers prepared to referee at long events, were significant issues that need to be addressed, as well as the lack of a uniform understanding of the "Foul & Miss" rule and referees' discomfort with its application.

Adam Wyard noted that the referees sub-committee have been discussing the use of

video to educate referees about this rule and promote a uniform understanding. This committee is to pursue the notion. He also noted that Gary Knight has produced an excellent document outlining the requirements for a national approach to refereeing which seeks to harness the talents of referees from across the country as a “National Team”

Certifying juniors as “junior referees” – able to referee junior matches - is in place in Queensland, and has been used in NZ for some time. There was a general feeling in the meeting that this was a worthwhile initiative that all states should adopt.

The notion of certifying “provisional” or “associate” referees was also discussed, and Rex pointed out that there were around 20 in Tasmania, many of whom were likely to attain Grade 3 status in the future. Also noted that this notion had been tried previously, and met with some resistance from established referees.

Paul Cosgriff pointed to the recent call for interest in Victoria which has generated 15 aspiring referees, some of whom will go on to become certified. It was generally agreed that this was something that all states should do regularly.

Rex Swain – Vice President

Rex asked for confirmation that the ABSC Board will call for nominations for the position of Vice President at the next meeting. Simon Fortune confirmed that this was the process.

Adam Wyard – WSF Raffle

Adam asked all states to take a bundle of flyers for the raffle and distribute amongst their local clubs

Simon asked all states to ensure that they promoted the raffle actively on their websites and social media and that they send an email with the raffle attachments to all their individual members.

As an incentive to actively promote the raffle Frank offered each state a 20% commission on all tickets sold bearing that state’s postcodes. This will be administered by the Treasurer. He further noted that if the raffle was a success the ABSC might run a similar promotion in future years as a way of revenue raising for both the ABSC and Member States.

## 18. Close of Meeting

There being no further business Frank Dewens thanked the attendees for their active participation in the meeting and declared proceedings closed at 11.45 am AEDT.