



## 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Saturday 23 October 2021 11.00am – 12.45pm (AEDST)

By Videoconference

### 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 five Life Members – Frank Dewens, Rex Swain, Mike Peachey, Don Stewart and David Jackson (nominee) – was notable, as was the presence of Dave Judd, Secretary of the New Zealand BSA who attended by invitation. Jenny Budd, Belinda Dinga and Simon Fortune were thanked for nominating for Elected Director positions.

### 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
Leigh Condon	ACT	ABSC Board Member ACT & ACT representative
Belinda Dinga	QLD	ABSC Director Elect & QLD representative
Barry Jenner	SA	ABSC Board Member SA & SA representative
Simon Fortune	VIC	Director Elect & Secretary General
Alec Spyrou	VIC	Observer
Robert Higgins	TAS	Observer
Roger Davey	SA	Observer
Jon Moss	VIC	Observer
David Jackson	NSW	Observer
Don Stewart	NSW	Observer
Mike Peachey	WA	Observer

Dave Judd	NZ	Observer
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Simon Fortune confirmed that six Affiliates formally nominated a representative to the meeting and that a quorum was therefore present.

3. Apologies.

Kurt Dunham (Vic)  
Jenny Budd (NSW)  
Alex Render (NSW)

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) Barry Lane (Vic)
- b) John Williams (Tas)
- c) John Marcard (Vic)
- d) Bruce Duck (NSW)

5. Approval of the minutes of the AGM held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2020 (*attached*).

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

Moved – Paul Cosgriff  
Seconded – Rex Swain  
Passed unanimously.

6. President's Report (*as distributed*).

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

Moved – Rex Swain  
Seconded – Belinda Dinga  
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.
- The lack of coaching opportunities for juniors in many states, due to a combination of low coach numbers and the absence of structured coaching arrangements and/or venues.
- Confirmation that this would be Frank's last two-year term 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 2020/21, which show a profit of \$396. There was a very limited amount of financial activity during the year due to the almost complete absence of tournament play, and total revenue was around one quarter of normal levels. Expenses were similarly reduced, with some modest costs incurred due to the cancellation of the 2021 Junior Challenge at late notice.

The financial position of the ABSC remains strong, with net assets of \$73,000 and available cash of \$40,000.

Other issues raised in relation to the financial prospects for the ABSC in 2021/22 were:

- Any Federal support for our sports will be directed to the Australian Confederation of Billiards Sports, not the ABSC.
- Frank has asked Mounties to carry forward the last two years of the Bob Hawke / WWS sponsorship agreement to 2022 and 2023, at \$36,000 p.a.
- The Commercial Club Albury will contribute \$5,000 for the Junior Challenge in January 2022. This may not go ahead due to Covid restrictions.
- The ABSC has been de-registered for GST. We will probably need to re-register if the WSF events come to fruition in 2023.

Motion that the Treasurer's Report be accepted.

Moved – Paul Cosgriff

Seconded – Barry Jenner

Passed unanimously.

## 8. ABSC Financials (*as distributed*).

Accepted as part of the Treasurer's Report.

## 9. Secretary's Report.

Simon Fortune noted that the past year had been a busy one, despite the absence of tournament play, with the major issues being:

- Four Board Meetings in addition to the AGM

- A workable database of Ordinary Members was now available for limited communications purposes and to ensure that the ABSC can comply with its NSO obligations.
- Ongoing work to ensure that the ABSC can meet its other NSO recognition criteria in regard to Anti-doping education and disputes resolution.
- Significant administrative work associated with the rescheduling of tournaments in response to Covid restrictions.
- 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.

- Nomination of David Jackson (NSW)
- Nomination of Mark O'Neill (ACT)

Rex Swain spoke briefly to the nomination of both David and Mark, reflecting on their long years of exemplary service to our sport. The award of Life Membership of the ABSC was approved unanimously by Voting Members.

It was agreed that Frank will present David with his award at the Bob Hawke Australian Open at Mounties in 2022, and Leigh Condon will present Mark with his award at the 2022 ACT Championships.

#### 11. Election of a President.

Pursuant to clause 12.2(f) of the Constitution Frank Dewens is eligible for nomination to the first year of a fourth term (two years) as President.

The Secretary General has received a formal nomination from Frank for a final two-year term as President.

There being no other nominations, Frank was appointed to the position unopposed.

Frank stressed that he would not be willing to take on the role of Past President when his term concludes, but 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) Adam Wyard (WA)
- b) Paul Cosgriff (Vic)
- c) Alex Render (NSW)

Noted

13. Elected Directors

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

- a) Jennifer Budd (Women's Delegate)
- b) Belinda Dinga (Disability Delegate)
- c) Simon Fortune (Players' Delegate)

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

The Board expressed its appreciation to Kurt Dunham for his contribution as Players' Delegate over the past 3 years.

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 2020/21 year:

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

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

Moved – Barry Jenner

Seconded – Belinda Dinga

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.

**International Developments**

Barry Jenner and Mike Peachey (in his role as WSF Director) provided an overview of recent developments in relation to the international governance of the sport.

- The ABSC moved a motion of no-confidence in the IBSF Elected Executive at the IBSF General Meeting in Doha on 18 September 2021. This action was poorly supported by member countries despite indicated enthusiasm. Nominated delegates to the meeting from Australia, New Zealand and South Africa were not permitted to attend the meeting. The motion failed and the Elected Executive were re-appointed for a further four years.
- The letter regarding the no-confidence motion sent by the ABSC to all IBSF member countries is attached to these minutes for information only.
- The WSF is likely to take a greater role in the governance of the amateur game in the future, but its emphasis will be on the elite amateur game and pathways to professional ranks, and not grass-roots or junior development. These need to be supported at a local level.
- The WSF is likely to run regional championships as well as world titles in the coming years, but will not run regional junior titles.
- The IBSF:
  - Is essentially controlled by the Asian Confederation of Billiards Sports.
  - Now has very few financial members (23). Nominally, these are the members who can vote on IBSF matters.
  - Is unable to offer WPBSA Main Tour spots.
  - Has changed its constitution enabling it to ban (on behalf of the WCBS) and country affiliated with the WSF.
  - No longer recognises the Asia Pacific (Oceania) or African Regions. The Americas is likely to leave after the 2022 World Games (run by the WCBS).
  - Europe is leaving membership of the IBSF up to its member countries.
  - WPBSA players will not participate in the World Games.,
  - Dave Judd confirmed that New Zealand will make a formal decision on its position at a forthcoming meeting but is expected to support the APSBF and join forces with the WSF.

### **Australian Confederation of Billiards Sports**

Barry Jenner provided the meeting with some background on the ACBS and the current state of membership and activity.

- Membership is now the ABSC, APPA and AEB
- Black Ball became a member in 2018 but have now resigned. The ABIF have passed a resolution that members of the ABIF Board are not permitted to serve on the Board of another cuesports organisation.

- The major objectives of the ACBS are:
  - in the immediate term, to foster junior development across all codes, and
  - in the longer term, work actively towards inclusion of cue sports in the 2032 Queensland Olympics.
- There is a proposal on foot to change the name of the ACBS to Cuesports Australia. This is regarded as a more contemporary and descriptive title, and will avoid confusion with numerous other organisations (notably the Asian Confederation of Billiards Sports).
- There was some discussion on a proposal that ordinary members of each ACBS code automatically be granted affiliate membership of other codes. Several practical difficulties were identified and the notion was shelved for the present.

### **Juniors, Referees and Coaching**

- Rex stressed that these three aspects of our sport need to receive additional emphasis if there is to be any future growth in participation. In this regard it is important to get the ACBS active as pool is a vital ‘feeder’ sport to Billiards & Snooker. The fold-away tables should be used for all codes.
- Mike Peachey offered the assistance of the WSF to promote all three areas.
- John Moss stressed that the quality of referees was as important as pure numbers, and that a structured program of ongoing training was needed. (This will be particularly important in the lead-up to the WSF events in 2023).
- Robert Higgins agreed that the certification of more referees was of vital concern. He also mentioned that a further two tables were being lost at the Yachties Club in Tasmania, continuing the decline in venues that has been underway for some years.
- Leigh Condon mentioned that the ACT has recently completed its Strategic Plan, concentrating on improved governance of the association and the ongoing development of officials. A “starter” course for 6 referees will get underway in early 2022.
- Adam Wyard said that the ABSC Referees sub-committee will be re-activating soon, and will be pushing for (in part) a technical solution for referee training and examination.

He also raised the point that membership of the IBSF looks to be a condition of the ABSC retaining NSO status, as the IBSF is a member of the WCBS which in turn is a member of GAISF (access to the International Olympic Committee). Barry pointed out that the ABSC’s NSO status is secure for another two years, that the GAISF association may no longer be formally required, and that the WSF will be an eligible association (with a five-year history) in 2022. There appear to be plenty of options to retain NSO status even in the absence of IBSF membership.

- Paul Cosgriff pointed out that the IBSF run U/12 and U/15 championships. Mike Peachey confirmed that this was not the role assumed by the WSF and that such events would need to be organised through other means if countries are not members of the IBSF.

Paul also sought clarification on whether Member States had complete responsibility for the administration of coaching in their jurisdiction, including logos on coaching accreditation cards. Frank confirmed that this is the case.

- Belinda noted that the QBSA is undergoing a period of reorganisation and rebuilding. Progress is difficult, but will involve adopting a new Constitution, a new suite of policies and developing a refreshed coaching framework.

#### 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 12.41 pm AEDT.