



Australian Government  
Australian Sports Commission



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**92nd Annual General Meeting of the ABSC Ltd**  
**Saturday, 14th October, 2023 commencing 10.00 am AEDST, at Mounties Club, 101 Meadows Road, Mt. Pritchard, NSW**

And via Zoom

**MINUTES OF MEETING**

The Business of the meeting is as follows:

**1. Welcome and Official Opening.**

Frank Dewens opened the meeting at 10.03am, and welcomed all attendees, particularly the seven ABSC Life Members present, two of the three new Elected Directors, the newly-elected VBSA President Alec Spyrou and the four Zoom attendees. Frank noted that this was the largest AGM gathering for some years.

**2. Attendance and quorum.**

Name	State	AGM Role	ABSC / State Role
Frank Dewens	SA	President	ABSC President (Life Member)
Alec Spyrou	VIC	VIC representative	Nominated Director
Adam Wyard	WA	WA representative	Nominated Director
Rex Swain	TAS	TAS representative	Nominated Director (Life Member)
Alex Render	NSW	NSW representative	Nominated Director
Richard Allendorf	QLD	QLD representative	Nominated Director
Leigh Condon	ACT	ACT representative	AGM Delegate
Ian Rayson	ACT	ACT representative	AGM Delegate
Julie Watson	VIC	Elected Director	Women's Delegate
Bill Horner	QLD	Elected Director	Players' Delegate
Simon Fortune	VIC	Elected Director	Disability Delegate, Secretary General, Treasurer

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David Waller	NSW	NSW representative	Nominated Director (elect)
Steve Fitzpatrick	NSW	Observer	Life Member
David Jackson	NSW	Observer	Life Member
Don Stewart	NSW	Observer	Life Member
Mike Peachey	WA	Observer (Zoom)	Life Member
Robert Higgins	TAS	Observer (Zoom)	Life Member
Carlie Tait	NSW	Observer	NSW Board Member
Barry Jenner	SA	Observer (Zoom)	Past Board Member
Gary Knight	NSW	Observer	NSW DoR
Brian Mills	NSW	Observer	
Lee Morcom	TAS	Observer (Zoom)	TAS President

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

### 3. Apologies

Apologies received from Shreyas Kumar (ACT), Alan McCarthy (playing in Bob Hawke Australian Open) and Glenn Domeika.

### 4. Vale

The passing of Geoff Druce, the Billard room supervisor at the RACV Club for almost 50 years, was noted with regret.

### 5. Approval of the draft minutes of the AGM held on 9th October 2022 (posted on the ABSC website).

Minutes as tabled were accepted as an accurate record of the proceedings.

Moved: Adam Wyard

Seconded: Alex Render

Passed on show of hands

### 6. Matters arising out of the minutes of the AGM held on 9th October 2022

No matters arising were raised

### 7. Treasurer's Report



Simon Fortune provided an outline of the ABSC 2022/23 accounts, which disclose a solid net asset position of \$92,761 (which includes a pre-payment of sponsorship for the 2023 Australian Opens), revenue for the year of \$348,347 and a surplus of \$13,940.

The ABSC is able to meet its financial obligations as they arise.

The WSF championships accounted for almost \$200,000 of this revenue, and generated a small surplus of around \$5,000, although the break-even result of the WSF Raffle was disappointing as this was expected to generate a significant profit that the ABSC could use for long-term development activity.

The very generous financial support of Mounties for the WSF Championships and the Bob Hawke AC Memorial Australian Open and Women's Open, is greatly appreciated, and without this it would be difficult to stage events of the high quality the community has come to expect.

The ABSC budget for 2023/24 shows a projected profit of \$9,000.

8. **Reviewed ABSC Financials** (posted on the ABSC website)

The 2022/23 ABSC Accounts were adopted as tabled.

Moved: Frank Dewens

Seconded: Alex Render

Passed on show of hands

The Secretary General was asked to write to Frank Galanos expressing the appreciation of the ABSC for conducting the required professional review of the accounts each year.

9. **Secretary's Report**

Simon Fortune noted that significant amounts of administrative activity was undertaken during 2022/23, including 8 Board Meetings, numerous steering committee meetings for the WSF Championships and revisions to many of the ABSC policies and governance documents.

In particular, the need for the ABSC (along with all sports) to adopt revised versions of the National Integrity Framework policies has taken large amounts of time, and ensuring that the policies of all Member States are in line with the new NIF will require ongoing work.

10. **President's Report** (posted on the ABSC website)

Frank Dewens expanded on his President's Report for 2022/23, stressing his pride in all that had been achieved during his 10-year tenure as President, acknowledging all those who had assisted along the way and the friendships formed. Although happy to be



leaving the demands of the Presidency, Frank hopes to maintain an active interest – in some capacity - in the development of Junior players in the future. Notwithstanding the many challenges to be overcome to grow the game in our region, he wished the ABSC well for the future, and offered to provide whatever counsel he could to the incoming Board.

**11. Election of a President. Alex Render nomination (posted on the ABSC website).**

There being only one nomination for the role of President, Alex was elected for a three-year initial term by acclamation from the Voting Members.

Alex thanked Frank on behalf of the meeting for his 10 years of exemplary service as ABSC President, and 35 years of service to our sport overall at a State and National and International level. He also expressed appreciation for Frank's personal friendship and advice over the last decade, and looked forward to an ongoing involvement in whatever form Frank chooses.

Alex spoke briefly to his expectations for the role, as outlined in his nomination statement. In particular he stressed collaboration as key to a successful tenure. He will need to rely heavily on other Board members and the billiards and snooker community in general to get things done and move the sport forward. One of his initial objectives will be to formalise a refreshed strategic plan for the ABSC that can drive activity in the many areas required to improve participation, inclusivity, tournament play at all levels, international connection and enhanced relationships with all tiers of government.

Once Alex had been congratulated on his election, Frank broke the 100m world record whilst escaping back to the snooker and Alex assumed the Chairmanship of the meeting.

**12. Nominated Directors**

- a. Victoria – Alec Spyrou
- b. NSW – Alex Render / David Waller
- c. WA – Adam Wyard

Alec, David and Adam were noted as the Nominated Directors for their respective states, with David assuming the position for NSW following Alex Render's election as ABSC President.

Shreyas Kumar is the new Nominated Director for the ACT, but was unable to attend the meeting due to a prior commitment.

**13. Confirmation of Elected Directors**

- a. Julie Watson (Victoria) – Women's Delegate
- b. Alan McCarthy (NSW) – Players' Delegate



- c. Bill Horner (Queensland) – Players’ Delegate
- d. Simon Fortune (Victoria) – Disability Delegate

Alex congratulated the new Directors on their election, and looked forward to working with them and drawing on their ideas and energy.

#### 14. Election of Life Members

Two nominations for ABSC Life Membership were received from the History and Archives Sub-committee of the ABSC:

- a. Robert Higgins (Tasmania)
- b. Noel Gourlay (Queensland)

Rex Swain spoke to the significant contributions that both men have made to the sport over a long period, Robert as a senior referee and TBSA and national administrator (including as ABSC Treasurer), and Noel as the National Director of Coaching in the 1980’s, long service on the QBSA Board and a period as ABSC Delegate.

The ABSC Board has previously endorsed both nominations.

Robert was presented with his award by Rex at Robert’s birthday party in Hobart the previous day, as agreed by the Board, and Rex will present Noel Gourlay with his award in late November at the Queensland Open billiards.

#### 15. 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 2022/23 year:

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

Voting Members agreed to the reimbursements as recommended.

Moved: Rex Swain

Seconded: Richard Allendorf

Passed on show of hands

#### 16. Notices of Motion



No notices of motion were received from Member States or Elected Directors

**17. General Business**

No items of general business were raised.

**18. Close of Meeting**

Alex declared the meeting closed at 10.41am