

Nomination Statement - Simon Fortune – Disability Delegate

I have enjoyed my time as ABSC Players' Delegate over the past four years, and the assistance I have been able to provide as Secretary General of the Council, and I am keen to continue devoting time and energy to developing the sport that I have enjoyed for nearly 50 years.

There is no existing Australian framework for those with a disability to participate in Snooker & Billiards, together with other cuesports, in an organised and regular fashion. This is despite the fact that cuesports are ideally suited to people with a wide range of disabilities.

Rectifying this is a major opportunity for our sport, and together with the further development of participation by juniors and women, will be a necessary part of improving the credibility of our sport with government and international sports bodies over coming years.

The success of World Disability Billiards & Snooker in the UK provides a great example of what is possible – more than 200 players, 36 disability classifications, 7 major tournaments (largely allied with WST events) and more than a dozen major sponsors and partners. A new event in China is to be held shortly. WDBS management have often indicated that they are happy to help the ABSC with advice, materials and processes that will help get a local framework off the ground. We should take them up on this.

I believe that as Disability Delegate I can contribute effectively to the development of an Australian Disability Cuesports framework. In particular I bring to the role:

- The capacity and inclination to devote a meaningful amount of time.
- Experience harnessing the skills and enthusiasm of individuals to achieve a common objective. There are a number of people in the cuesports community with experience in the disability sector whose input will be sought.
- A background managing complex projects.
- A substantial amount of experience interacting with Government agencies and the philanthropic sector, largely in relation to social justice issues.
- An ability to engage effectively with all parties and represent their views to the Board in an articulate, balanced and non-judgemental way.

Now retired from full-time work, I had a broad-ranging career in the corporate sector in senior finance and general management roles, with a strong involvement in contemporary corporate governance practice. With sports administration (including any new Disability framework) becoming increasingly more regulated and complex, I believe I have some skills that may help the ABSC navigate the changing environment as both a director, Disability Delegate and if I am asked, as Secretary General.

Snooker & Billiards background

- Started playing in 1974 at University of Melbourne.
- Regular player in billiards & snooker VBSA pennant teams ranging from D Grade to A Grade since that time.
- Now predominantly a billiards player with Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club, and regular participant in state and national billiards ranking tournaments.

- Part-owner / manager Red Triangle Snooker Room, Fitzroy between 1977 – 1980
- VBSA Score Registrar 1977 – 1980
- 2019 World Billiards Championship Organising Committee
- 2023 WSF Championships Organising Committee
- ABSC Elected Board Member and Secretary General - 2019 - 2022
- Well acquainted with most regular billiards players Australia-wide and Victorian snooker players.
- High Break: 105 Billiards, 87 Snooker (3 times)

Board and Governance experience

- Chief Finance Executive, AAMI Ltd – 2003 – 2007
- Group Executive, McMillan Shakespeare Ltd – 2009 – 2017 (ASX Top 200 Company)
- Board Member, substantial Charitable Fund - 2010 – present
- Past Chairman and Director of numerous small private companies, and Insurance Council of Australia committees.
- Member, Australian Institute of Company Directors