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Notice of the 90th Annual General Meeting of the Australian Billiards & Snooker Council

Notice is hereby given pursuant to clauses 10.1 and 10.3 of the ABSC Constitution that the Annual General Meeting of the Australian Billiards & Snooker Council Ltd will be held on **Saturday, 23rd October, 2021** commencing 11.00 am AEDST.

Due to COVID19 restrictions in force in many parts of the country this meeting will be held virtually, in accordance with clause 16 of the Constitution. Ordinary Members are encouraged to attend the meeting, and those wishing to do so should contact the Secretary General, Simon Fortune at secretary@absc.com.au or on 0412 379 516. Registration of intent should be made by **Wednesday 20th October 2021**. Your name will be registered, and you will be sent a link to join the meeting using the Zoom platform, together with (straightforward) instructions on the use of Zoom.

Please ensure you are in attendance on-line by 10.50 am AEDST to enable us to start on time.

Voting Members, being the Member States as defined in clauses 1.1, 5.1 and 5.3 of the Constitution shall provide to the ABSC Secretary by email by no later than **Tuesday 19th October 2021** an instrument appointing a Representative, Proxy or Attorney to attend and vote at the General Meeting on behalf of the appointing Member under clause 10 of the Constitution.

The Board requests that as many Ordinary Members as possible attend this General Meeting.

BUSINESS

1. Welcome and Official Opening.
2. Attendance and quorum.
3. Apologies.
4. Vale.
 - 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 28th November 2021 (*attached*).

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6. President's Report *(to be posted on the ABSC website)*.
7. Treasurer's Report.
8. ABSC Financials *(to be posted on the ABSC website)*.
9. Secretary's Report.
10. Election of Life Members.

Nomination of David Jackson (NSW) *(attached)*

Nomination of Mark O'Neill (ACT) *(attached)*

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.

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)

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

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

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.

17. General Business.

18. Close of Meeting

This Notice is given for and on behalf of the ABSC Board and is dated 23rd September 2021.

Simon Fortune
Secretary General
Australian Billiards & Snooker Council Ltd



**Minutes of the 89th Annual General Meeting of the Australian
Billiards & Snooker Council held on Saturday 28th November, 2020
via Zoom**

1. Welcome and Official Opening

The President welcomed the **Board Members, Representatives, Life Members and Ordinary Members** to the AGM. In particular, Richard Allendorf was welcomed to his first meeting, Rob Higgins, David Chigwidden and Chris Wignall were welcomed as State representatives, and Jenny Budd, Kurt Dunham and Simon Fortune were thanked for nominating again 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
Richard Allendorf	QLD	ABSC Board Member QLD & QLD representative
Barry Jenner	SA	ABSC Board Member SA & SA representative
Jenny Budd	NSW	Director Elect
Kurt Dunham	VIC	Director Elect
Simon Fortune	VIC	Director Elect
Robert Higgins	TAS	
Chris Wignall	SA	
David Chigwidden	VIC	

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

3. Apologies

Apologies were received from John Ivett and Kim Ivett.

Mark O'Neill (ACT) was unable to attend.



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:

- Terry Collins (Tasmania)
- Margot Taylor (Victoria)
- Denis Coghlan (Victoria)
- Peter Worth (NSW)
- Bill Leggett (Tasmania)
- Geoff Williams (NSW)

5. Approval of the minutes of the AGM held on 26 October 2019.

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

Moved – Barry Jenner

Seconded – Alex Render

Passed unanimously.

6. President's Report *(attached to Notice of Meeting)*

Motion that the President's Report as tabled be taken as read and accepted:

Moved – Rex Swain

Seconded – Alex Render

Passed unanimously.

7. Treasurer's Report.

No formal treasurer's report was presented. Adam Wyard noted that the ABSC remained in a sound financial position, and that all debtors identified in the 2019/20 Balance Sheet have now been addressed.

8. ABSC Financials *(attached to Notice of Meeting)*

The ABSC Financials were tabled and taken as read.

Motion that the Treasurer's Report and ABSC Financials be accepted:

Moved – Paul Cosgriff



Seconded – Alex Render

Passed unanimously.

9. Secretary's Report.

No formal Secretary General's report was presented, but Simon Fortune talked to activity over the past year. This has included:

- 4 Board Meetings and the AGM
- Provision of advice on COVID19 issues
- Changes to the ABSC Anti-doping policy
- Negotiation of insurance arrangements
- Changes to the obligations placed on National Sporting Organisations.
- The World Anti-doping Agency has recently introduced the International Standard of Education. Under this, Sport Integrity Australia is required to ensure that certain cohorts of players and officials from NSO's such as the ABSC undertake a formal education program. This will cover anti-doping, match-fixing and illicit drug use, via a combination of on-line and face-to-face learning. The program is well developed, but will require significant commitment from both the ABSC and nominated players and officials. There is likely to be a meaningful administrative and reporting overhead.

10. Election of Life Members.

- a. Criteria for award of Life Membership (to be provided)

Formal criteria for the award of Life Membership have been developed by the History and Archives Sub-committee and will be ratified by the Board at the upcoming meeting.

- b. Pursuant to clause 5.4 of the Constitution, Mike Peachey and Ron Stecum were nominated for Life Membership, with details of their extensive contributions to the game set out in the circulated biographies.

There was general consensus that the contributions of both men were worthy of Life Membership and a motion was put that the awards should be made.

Moved – Rex Swain

Seconded – Barry Jenner

Passed unanimously.

Mike's award will be presented at an upcoming event – most likely the APSBF Championships in late February 2021. Simon Fortune will make some minor changes to the



biography as requested by Mike and re-post to the ABSC website. Ron's award will be presented by Paul Cosgriff at the VBSA AGM in January 2021.

11. Election of a President.

Pursuant to clause 12.2e of the Constitution Frank Dewens is serving the second year of his fourth term as President and does not require re-nomination. Frank confirmed that he will be happy to serve out his term until the 2021 ABSC AGM, but would like suitably qualified members to consider putting themselves forward to take on the role, allowing Frank to mentor them into the position over the next 12 months.

The roles of President of the APSBF (Oceania) and President of the ABSC have been occupied by the same individual for many years. Consideration could be given to separating these to reduce the workload, particularly given the amount of overseas travel required in the APSBF role.

12. Nominated Directors

Pursuant to clause 12.3 of the Constitution, it was noted that the following directors have been nominated by their respective States for a two-year term:

- a. Mark O'Neill (ACT)
- b. Barry Jenner (SA)
- c. Richard Allendorf (QLD)
- d. Rex Swain (TAS)

13. Elected Directors.

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

- a. Jennifer Budd (Women's Delegate)
- b. Kurt Dunham (Players' Delegate)
- c. Simon Fortune (Players' Delegate)

As the number of nominations is equal to the number of positions to be filled, the nominees were elected unopposed. All three Elected Directors are serving second one-year terms on the ABSC Board.

14. Honoraria.

Pursuant to clause 13.7 of the Constitution, Members were asked to approve the payment of the following \$800 honoraria for services rendered during the 2019/20 year:

- a. President



- b. Treasurer
- c. Secretary General

There was considerable discussion about the additional workload placed on office-bearers in the current environment, and the out-of-pocket costs associated with carrying out these roles. The consensus was that \$800 is insufficient to compensate office-bearers for these costs, and that \$1,200 per annum was a more suitable amount.

Motion put that the ABSC not pay the nominated office-bearers honoraria of \$800 for the 2019/20 year, but rather reimburse them \$1,200 each for out-of-pocket costs.

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 26th October 2019.

Frank Dewens talked to the status of the Mounties sponsorship. Their commitment remains strong, and but playing conditions do need to be improved and made uniform to encourage greater overseas participation in headline tournaments such as the Australian Open and World Women's Snooker. Frank is proposing to Mounties that they gradually pay for and fit Chinese steel-backed cushions to all tables (at around \$1,000 USD a set). It should be technically possible to fit these replacement cushions to the existing beds. A similar opportunity exists at the Commercial Club Albury, and Frank will follow them up.

17. General Business.

Election of a Patron – Ian Chappell.

Agreed that Ian Chappell be approached to continue as Patron of the ABSC in 2021, and permanently thereafter by mutual agreement.

Moved – Frank Dewens

Seconded – Paul Cosgriff

Passed unanimously



White to Black & Cue-Zone programs

Richard Allendorf mentioned that Queensland was to roll out the program to a couple of schools in the new year. These have been sourced via direct contact from QBSA members rather than the education department. A video of Lily Meldrum and Jayden Dinga completing the White to Black drills is 90% complete, and will be finished over the coming school holidays. This will be made available to other State Affiliates to help them demonstrate to prospective schools the prowess that can be achieved by juniors.

Alex Render mentioned that NSW in discussions with the PCYC (60 clubs) about rolling out the program. Alex will pass details to Rex Swain.

Frank explained the idea is that schools will purchase tables (\$1,200) and accredited coaches will provide training to teachers, who will then be able to run the program at their schools independently.

Chris Wignall thought that SA may have difficulty getting sufficient volunteers to resource a rollout.

Frank Dewens confirmed that 50 6' x 3' tables were in transit from China and would be warehoused by CL&S.

State of Play around the country

Tasmania

Rob Higgins said that Tasmania has 150 – 170 active members, but that there has been no play this year (and the TBSA has received no affiliation fees from its constituent members), and there have been warning signs for the future of the game for some years. Facilities are closing and/or tables are being removed as they do not provide an economic return for the space they occupy. The Launceston Worker's Club appears to be in financial trouble, and the Ron Atkins Snooker will not be held in 2021. In Rob's view the game in Tasmania needs a permanent home to host State and National events, and will talk with the Tasmanian Government about the opportunities. Rob will write to Frank Dewens about the level of affiliation fees paid by the TBSA.

South Australia

Chris Wignall reported that The Venue has seen a boom in patronage post COVID19 restrictions, to the extent that the facility is full four nights a week. SA have taken a strategic decision to provide a high-quality venue with top class and uniform playing conditions. This has enabled them to charge significantly higher rates than the norm, and players are happy to pay for a better facility, enhancing The Venue's financial viability. An overall increase in interest saw 3,000 viewers tune in to the live-stream of the SA Women's Snooker final.



Queensland

The QBSA has approached the Brisbane City Council about access to a facility which can act as a permanent home for the sport. A response is expected in December.

Clubs continue to close or rationalize, however interest is strong with the recent Women's Resident tournament boasting the strongest field ever, largely due to the online forums and women's social groups set up by Alice Wu.

Victoria

Paul Cosgriff thanked the Victorian Government for the payments made to subsidize expenses incurred during lockdown whilst no revenue was available to the VBSA.

NSW

Alex Render reported that NSWBSA had received \$37,500 from the NSW Government to be spent on development and to defray lost revenue. Needs to be spent over two years. Clubs are also eligible for a \$1,500 grant provided that they are a separate legal entity (e.g. not part of an RSL).

The recent opening of the high-class facilities at the 147 Society in Chatswood has encouraged players to visit the venue. A few clubs, particularly in the regions, have installed additional tables in response to community pressure for more facilities, together with under-utilised space in some venues.

18. Close of Meeting

The Annual General Meeting closed at 10.50am



History and Archive Sub-committee

Nominations for Life Membership at the 2021 ABSC AGM.

David Jackson (NSW)

- Criteria No. 2 David has been involved in Billiards & Snooker as an Administrator in NSW, for more than 40 years. David has served on Council as a NSW delegate, Executive Member NSW, and as Assistant to the Secretary 1992 to 2001
- Criteria No. 2 David has been involved in Junior development in NSW since 1980 and on the committee of ABSC Junior development from 1987 to 2001
- Criteria No. 2 David has been a Referee for a very long time, although not active as a referee in recent years David refereed junior tournaments in shopping centres in the 1980's until his body would not let him referee any more.
- Criteria No. 1 David, now aged 73 has been a member of the NSW affiliate for more than 50 years, holding many positions including President and Secretary, he currently holds the position of joint Patron.

David was involved in the approaches made to Clubs in the 1980, like Mounties and Blacktown to hold NSW and National events, Men, Women and Juniors.

Mark O'Neil (ACT)

- Criteria No. 4 Mark has represented ACT affiliate on council for more than 40 years, and served as a Board Member for at least 20 years.
- Criteria No. 3 & 2 Mark has been President of Act Affiliate and has been the Public Officer of Council. Mark was a member of Councils Governance sub-committee and also the chairman of the Disciplinary committee.

Mark recently retired from the Board of Council.

I am told that ACT Association records were destroyed by fire so that the information stated above cannot be verified by ACTB&S Assn.

The ACTB&S Assn joined Council in the early 1980's on a deal that saw them pay 50% of the fees.