



## HSS SNOOKER COMPETITION

### *Minutes from AGM Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020*

The 2020 HSS Snooker Competition Annual General Meeting was held at 7.00pm at the Hornsby RSL Club on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

#### **Attendance:**

The following representatives from participating Clubs were present:-

Andy De Haan – President

Harry Anderson – Treasurer

Patrick Gauci – Secretary

David McMahon – Assistant Treasurer / Committee member

Jeff Farrugia – Committee member

Dennis Tritt – City Tatts

David Kool – Norths Leagues

Ben Gordon – Hornsby RSL

Kepu Olivetti – Hornsby RSL

**Apologies:** Billy Shum – Chatswood - ICS, David Walsh – City Tatts 1, David Chan – City Tatts 2, Jeff Middleton – Castle Hill RSL 1.

The meeting was formally opened at 7.10 pm by the Secretary.

#### **1. Minutes of the last year's AGM**

The Secretary confirmed that copies of the previous year's AGM had been provided to all attendees to last year's meeting in March 2019 and were available at the meeting if required. No corrections had been requested or recommended. Harry Anderson proposed and David McMahon seconded that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record.

#### **2. Business arising from last year's AGM**

There was no business arising from the minutes for last year's AGM.

#### **3. President's Report**

Andy de Haan read out the President's report which will be made available on the HSS website.

#### **4. Treasurer's Report**

Harry Anderson presented the Treasurer's report. This was proposed for acceptance by Jeff Farrugia and seconded by Dennis Tritt, and accepted. The balance sheet for the 2019 competition was also presented in hard copy to all attendees, and is to be equally posted on the HSS website together with the report.

#### **5. Secretary's Report**

Patrick Gauci delivered his report which will be posted on the HSS website. Importantly, in his capacity of Castle Hill RSL team 2 captain and representing team 1, the Secretary advised that the CH Snooker club had lost their previous RSL Board significant sponsorship to supply HSS home match suppers. An application to the Board is however pending to seek to recover that funding but at the time of meeting, a decision was not available.

Hard copies of the 2020 Team entry forms and 2020 match score-sheets were distributed to those present and will be equally available on the HSS website as well as emailed to team Captains.

#### **6. Election of Office Bearers 2020**

The President, Treasurer and Secretary vacated their position and Patrick Gauci informally briefly took over proceedings for the election.

Andy De Haan was appropriately proposed, seconded and re-elected unopposed as President and took over proceedings for the election of other office bearers. Harry Anderson was proposed, seconded and re-elected as Treasurer. As was Patrick Gauci proposed, seconded then re-elected as Secretary for 2020.

There were 2 welcome additional Committee nominations proposed this year. They are David McMahon as Assistant Treasurer Committee member, and Jeff Farrugia as Committee member. They were both proposed, seconded and elected and are most welcomed to the HSS Committee.

#### **7. Team nominations for 2020 competition**

The following teams were formally nominated, considered and accepted:-

- **Castle Hill RSL #1 is confirmed (team listing is to be provided to the Secretary by March 13<sup>th</sup> please)**
- **Castle Hill RSL #2 is confirmed (team listing will be formulated by March 13<sup>th</sup>)**

- **Chatswood ICS is confirmed (team listing is to be provided to the Secretary by March 13<sup>th</sup> please)**

- **City Tatts #1 confirmed (team listing is to be provided to the Secretary by March 13<sup>th</sup> please)**
- **City Tatts #2 confirmed (team listing is to be provided to the Secretary by March 13<sup>th</sup> please)**

- **Hornsby RSL #1 confirmed (team listing is to be provided to the Secretary by March 13<sup>th</sup> please)**
- **Hornsby RSL #2 confirmed (team listing is to be provided to the Secretary by March 13<sup>th</sup> please)**

- **Norths is confirmed (team listing is to be provided to the Secretary by March 13<sup>th</sup> please)**

- **147 Society, being a new club entry is confirmed (team listing is to be provided to the Secretary by March 13<sup>th</sup> please)**

\* It is noted that whilst 147 Society's club facilities at the Mandarin Centre in Chatswood are being refurbished and made ready for competition play, during the interim period and until team captains are notified, all their designated home games will be played at the Alleyne street premises of Chatswood ICS.

- **Forestville RSL pending application to participate.** A "conditional" proposal was received from the Snooker Club President. After a brief introduction by the HSS President, the Secretary read the incoming email to the meeting. Due to its "unusual" characteristics (refer below), this generated significant broad discussion and is currently under negotiation with a prompt overnight response provided to Forestville RSL. A response has been requested from them **by March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020.**

Essentially, the request made to the HSS was on the basis that Forestville RSL would not provide **after-match suppers** and that **visiting team players should contribute the total sum of \$24 per night towards table lighting** for each home match.

Much discussion ensued!! Firstly, whilst the provision of suppers is not in the HSS Constitution, though this has for a long time been a highly desirable characteristic feature of our competition, it was acknowledged that our approach to this did require immediate general review and reconsideration, not only on account of Forestville's application, but also in relation to any other clubs, such as Castle Hill potentially. Accordingly, a vote of those present was taken, and whereas not unanimous, a majority agreed to allow any club to participate without necessarily having to provide suppers. Forestville RSL is to be informed accordingly. Evidently, if any club can notwithstanding provide suppers as they did in the past, this is most welcome and appreciated.

In relation to visiting teams contributing to the cost of lighting, this was also discussed at length. As the HSS community is aware, there has never been a question of individual participants paying other than the annual team fee, usually funded by respective Snooker clubs. The proposal was therefore perhaps challenging and did give rise to much debate and considerations around "free sport", the funding of Snooker clubs, acute loss of many snooker clubs tables in NSW in recent times etc.....

Jeff Farrugia was promoting the re-invigoration of the sport of Billiards and Snooker and essentially felt that our sport needs a serious awakening in order to grow and flourish, if not merely survive in NSW. Whilst there was broad understanding and much common agreement on that, it was not the meeting's common view that such could be "achieved" overnight only a few weeks prior to commencement of the 2020 competition round 1 play, but rather require future on going consideration and action.

The decision was therefore taken to respond to Forestville RSL's Snooker President's proposal to the effect that we would not agree to that and that we both welcome and look forward to their joining the HSS with an alternative solution to the matter of table lights' funding.

A response is now awaited.

**Therefore, the 2020 HSS Trophy competition will have a confirmed total of 9 teams from 6 clubs, with a possible 10<sup>th</sup> team from a 7<sup>th</sup> club** as per the above note.

When numbers are confirmed by approximately **March 2<sup>nd</sup>**, Harry Anderson will compile an appropriate home and away draw which will be circulated by the Secretary.

#### **8. Dates for Round 1 of HSS 2020**

It was decided that Round 1 of the 2020 competition will be on **Tuesday April 21<sup>st</sup>**. The Secretary will provide details of the finalized competition draw to all team Captains as soon as is practicable, including details of scheduled dates in respect of Finals play and proposed venues. The usual Round 1 Notice will be provided by the Secretary in due course.

#### **9. 2020 team entry subscriptions**

The Secretary proposed that the team entry fee remain @ \$100 each as has been the case for some years and worked well. This was unanimously agreed and will apply. Team captains are requested to effect prompt early payment no later than by the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> round. EFT payment is preferred. The HSS bank account details are available from either the Treasurer or Secretary on request.

#### **10. Finals and Semi-Finals venues**

At this stage, it is intended that venues will be similar to last year, however as "home advantage" is preferably avoided as far as practicable, any early details submitted will be subject to confirmation at a later time.

The HSS Grand Final will be played at Hornsby RSL on a date t.b.a.

The Scottish Cup Grand Final will be played at Castle Hill RSL on a date t.b.a.

The HSS Final & Scottish Cup Final will be held at a venue to be designated depending on teams qualifying on dates t.b.a.

The HSS Semi-Finals will be played at Hornsby RSL Club on a date t.b.a.

The Scottish Cup Semi-Finals will be played at venue(s) to be decided later when participating teams and Clubs have been decided.

## **11. Scottish Cup Finals**

Given the confirmed number of teams in this year's competition, it is planned that the format will remain unchanged from last year involving teams ranked 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> after the last HSS regular round participating and playing 1<sup>st</sup> V/s 2<sup>nd</sup>, winner to GF, and loser to play winner of 3 V/s 4<sup>th</sup>, with the winner of that match, playing for a spot in the GF, and the loser out of finals contention.

## **12. Any other business**

### **12.1 – Order of Play (clarification) / Forfeit rule**

Dennis Tritt (City Tatts) raised this question relating to the designated order of play as **intended** and proposed by the home team. "Blind" completion of each teams' score-sheet player order will, whilst desirable of course, invariably contribute to this matter arising as a potential issue.

After considerable discussion, it was agreed that taking into consideration the provision that a home team with 3 tables is required that a minimum of 3 players be present (and preferably 6 including 3 markers), and with 2 tables, that a minimum of 2 players be present (and preferably 4 including markers), the home teams are under obligation to play the opposition players that are available at the designated start time, this is irrespective of which order the home team considers or requires that their available players should play.

Expressed in its simplest form, if the host team does not have the minimum required number of players available to play the present visiting team players at the designated match commencement time, then, in accordance with the HSS Constitution Rule 13 provisions\*\* (please see below footnote).

### **12.2 – WPBSA Rule changes 2019 / Impact on HSS 2020**

The Secretary raised the matter of the global governing Snooker rule changes effective during the course of last year's HSS competition, but were not actually considered or implemented due to the mid-competition timing.

Having reviewed the "**Explanatory Notes to the 2019 Rewrite of the Rulebook**" which are available to all on the WPBSA website, it was noted and agreed that Captains and players should become familiarized with such changes given that the HSS Competition is played under the WPBSA rules.

Having said that, particular attention is drawn, whilst in no way limiting the importance of other changes, to the following:-

Section 2 Rule 17 – Snookered rule, and to

Section 3 Rule 14 – Foul and Miss rule.

### **12.3 – Application by Hornsby RSL to field a junior player in the competition.**

David McMahon requested clarification as to whether a junior player (aged 15years) would be entitled to participate in the HSS Cup competition given the liquor licensing regulation limitations usually impacting most participating clubs. It was agreed that whilst that was not necessarily an automatic impediment, the HSS Secretary be required to write to all participating clubs team captains requesting that they appropriately inquire and confirm

whether the inclusion of a junior player was allowable to their club management given that venues will be required to host the Hornsby teams on 2 occasions during the regular rounds. Once responses are received, a ruling will be made by the Committee and Hornsby RSL team captain will be advised accordingly.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at approx. 9.10 pm.

Patrick G. Gauci  
Secretary  
2020 HSS Snooker Competition.

\*\* NB. Rule 13 “Player Forfeit” states that “if at the start of any match, if a nominated player is not ready to play after 15 minutes the player will loose 2 points for the Singles frame and 1 point for the Doubles as no substitute player can stand in for them”. Rule 13.04 however provides that “by agreement between the 2 Captains, this rule can be varied.