

HSS Cup Snooker Competition Secretary's 2024 AGM Report

Good evening gents, Andy has as usual reported comprehensively on last year, so I will avoid too much duplication.

As you know, after the departure of both the 147 Society (2022 Champions) and ICS (2022 runners-up), our competition was challenged as I saw it and placed under some serious scrutiny. We were pleasingly however, able to play the 2023 season with the remaining 7 teams backing up. This was played in a slightly altered (first ever I expect) format which saw all 7 participating teams from clubs play each other 3 times with split home/away over 21 Rounds (incl. 3 rounds involving needed byes) from 4th April to 29th August 2023.

The final series were somewhat disrupted as well due to the scheduled major renovation at Hornsby RSL HQs which saw Forestville RSL, City Tatts and CH RSL step up to make up for the inability to play at Hornsby. My thanks go particularly to both David Kool and Mal Winter for accommodating a number of matches at their respective venue.

On the work undertaken at Hornsby RSL, I'm sure that Andy and all members are delighted with the new all but professional Snooker room set-up which will be experienced and enjoyed by many including HSS teams for many years to come.

The 2023 Grand Final was hosted by and enthusiastically contested at Forestville RSL on October 3rd. This saw a very exciting evening by those of us present. The CH RSL Team 1 ended winning a close fought match against City Tatts 2 and taking the HSS Cup Silverware after a number of years' absence. This was also the 2nd meeting in consecutive Finals between these teams with the previous encounter going to CT 2 in the Scottish Cup Grand Final the year before. Well done to David Giles and his team.

The Scottish Cup was a hard-fought event traditionally held at Castle Hill RSL and played between City Tatts 1 who accounted for Hornsby 2. Well done to Mal Winter and his team on that result in what was otherwise a challenging year for them.

Looking ahead to 2024, it would seem likely from what I understand, that we would have the same teams as we did last year, though I am aware that a number of potential player movements are being finalised at the moment. Of course we'll hear more on that from team captains' commitments in teams shortly.

Team entry forms / Scoresheets

I am regrettably having some serious IT software challenges for some months and would ask captains going forward to please use the 2023 formats. In the unlikely event that you have any problems or issues with that, please give me a call.

Team entry fees

As previously, I would ask please that these be paid promptly into the Bendigo Bank competition account and advise David McMahon with cc to me please, as to when this has been done, thank you. I presume you would all be aware of the relevant a/c details (same as last year's). On this point, there was some need to chase a few outstanding payments up last year, and it would be great if this can be avoided this year please, thanks.

Notification of match scores

Please ensure that hosting Captains complete and provide these a.s.a.p. promptly on the completion of each round's play to myself by email (not SMS) as an attachment as that enables me to distribute early results the next morning including to Dave McMahon our hard-working statistician. Here-again, I would greatly appreciate being able to avoid chasing Captains for results on Wednesday mornings, thank you.

Post-match host supper function etc....

Given that the incidence and impact of Covid-19 is to all intents and purposes something we are now far more comfortable in living with, I am hoping that we can encourage hosting club venues to provide some supper though understand that we are still to discuss this shortly.

Thank you in advance for the co-operation of all Captains and Vice-Captains in helping the Committee run and manage the forthcoming competition.

Patrick Gauci

2023 HSS Snooker Competition Secretary

28th February 2024