

N.Z. Billiards & Snooker Referees' Assn (Inc).
(Affiliated to the New Zealand Billiards & Snooker Association, Inc.)

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We hope you enjoyed a very happy Christmas break and wish you all a prosperous new year and look forward to an interesting and successful 2017 in the world of Billiards and Snooker.

We would like to take the opportunity to thank Malcolm Barton, Neil Gyde and council member Cliff Hazelton for their hard work in getting things back on track after the challenges the Association experienced last year. We are excited that Agnes Kimura has become involved with the Association and will bring a new perspective to what we do. We encourage others to get involved as new blood brings an enthusiasm and a different dynamic that is vital for the ongoing development of the Association. Broadening your contribution to your sport is rewarding and worth the effort.

If you are receiving this newsletter by post, please consider changing to receiving an electronic copy by email. This not only helps the environment, it reduces the administration costs for the Association, which means more funds available to support our members. Please email your contact details to nzbsrefsass@gmail.com

Recent results

Snooker

George Robertson Memorial <small>George Robertson was a well-known and respected competitor in both Billiards and Snooker who competed in most South Island events. George also refereed at the World Under 21 Championships in Taupo which was won by Neil Robertson (no relation) from Australia</small>	S Bond 3 - M Canovan 1
New Zealand Open (Wellington)	M Canovan 4 – B Jackson 1
Outer Limits Open (Auckland)	G Dong 3 – C McBreen 0
Jim Couper Open (Wellington)	H Haenga 4 – M Hannah 2
Ideal Open (Taranaki)	D Bala 4 – L Chand 2
Waikato Open (Hamilton)	H Haenga 3 – M Scarborough 0

Billiards

Dick Futey Open (Hamilton)	G Hayward 440 – A Shekatkar 235
Jim Couper Open (Wellington)	D Gibb 296 – R Robinson 231

Report from Cliff Hazelton on the 2016 World Snooker Championships

The 2016 IBSF World Snooker Championships (Mens, Ladies and Masters) was held at the Al-Sadd Club, Sheikh Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium in Doha Qatar.

Qatar is a small oil rich country with most people living in the city of Doha. There is a lot of major construction going on in preparation for the upcoming Football World Cup including hotels, stadium and the associated infrastructure to support an event of this magnitude.

236 players entered with 42 referees from 25 countries. There were 20 Shender tables covered with Strachen 6811 competition cloth. There was seating for 500 spectators on the mezzanine floor, but no more than 50 people seemed to be watching at any one time. No advertising for the championship was evident other than in the lobby of the hotel. Shuttle buses ran between the hotel and the venue, which was about a 15 minute drive depending on traffic.

Andrew Weatherley, Dan O’Sullivan, and I were the New Zealand referee representatives. My major role for the first week was to assess the quality of all the referees and list them in order of merit ably assisted by Steve Starkie (England) and Andrew Weatherley. We also examined and upgraded an Austrian referee (Erich Pliessnig) to Class 1 on a request from his country. All the referees received an IBSF tie for participating and those achieving 75% or greater in the assessments received an IBSF pocket badge as well. Andrew and Dan were deservedly chosen to referee to key games (the Masters final and the Ladies semi-final respectively).

Mens Final	Final: Vahedi def. Paget 8 – 1
Men’s Semi Finals	Soheil Vahedi (Iran) def. Declan Brennan (Nth Ireland) 7 – 6 Andrew Paget (Wales) def. Pankaj Advani (India) 7 – 2
High Break	Issara Kachaiwong (Thailand) 147 Ryan Thomerson (Australia) 140
Women’s Final	Jans def. Kamani 8 – 2
Women’s Semi Finals	Wendy Jans (Belgium) def. Nutcharat Wongharuthai (Thailand) 4 -1 Amee Kamani (India) def. Waratthunun Sukritthanes (Thailand) 4 – 2
High Break	Waratthunun Sukritthanes (Thailand) 128
Masters Final	Lilly def. Evans 6 – 2
Master’s Semi-Finals	Dharminder Lilly (India) def. Phisit Chadsri (Thailand) 5 – 3 Alfed Evans (Wales) def. Aidan Owens (England) 5 – 0
High Break	Darren Morgan (Wales) 133

New Zealand player’s results

Name	Played	Won	Qualified
Jason Todd	2	1	2nd
Sam Bond	4	0	
Matthew Scarborough	4	0	
Agnes Kimura	4	0	
Paul Temple	5	2	4th
Peter Lesslie	4	2	2nd
David Judd	4	1	4th

Jason, Paul and David lost in their first knock out round and Peter was defeated in his 2nd knockout round. Our New Zealand players found the table conditions challenging, as they hadn’t experienced them before.

It was a privilege to once again meet up with my referee colleagues from around the world. Thank you for the opportunity. Cliff Hazelton

Did you know?

Situation The striker in the opening stroke of the frame, while addressing the cue ball, inadvertently touches the green. What is the referee's decision?

As the frame has not been started until the cue ball has been placed on the table and contacted by the tip of the cue no foul will be called. The referee will replace the green and the frame will start in the usual way.

Situation The striker in the opening stroke of the frame, while addressing the cue ball, just feathers the cue ball, which barely moves. What is the referee's decision?

Call foul as the frame is now deemed to have started and the next player plays from the position left or ask his opponent to play again from the position left.

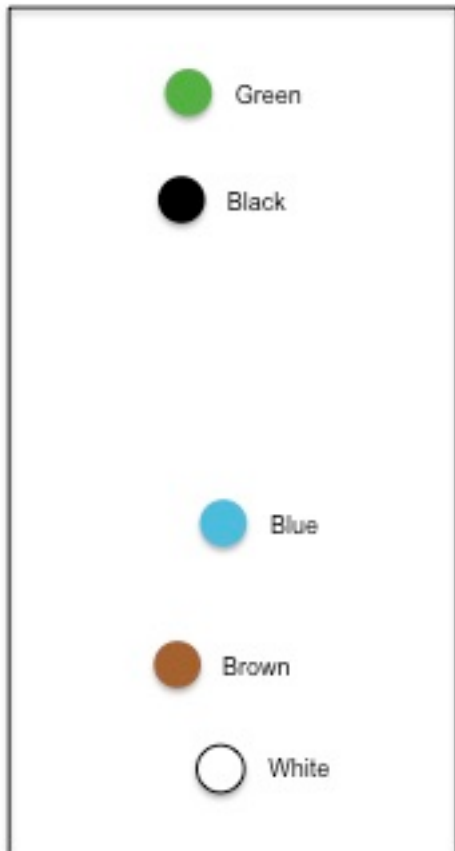
Situation The incoming player now asks for a free ball, as he cannot hit the extreme edge of any one object red. What is the referee's decision?

As the pack of reds has not been disturbed and the cue ball has barely moved, the extreme red on each end of the back row of reds will not be obstructed by a ball not on. It is only obstructed by another red, therefore no free ball can be awarded, as you can't be snookered by a ball on.

Situation A player is unable to distinguish between the brown and a red because of colour blindness. Can the player ask the referee which ball is the brown?

The answer is no. I know that most who read this will say I'm wrong. However in this case the player asked the wrong question. If the question asked was "Is that ball brown?" and pointed to a particular ball, the referee can reply yes or no. (Section 5(a)(v) tell a player the colour of a ball if requested.)

Situation The ball on is the green. In the previous shot, player A found themselves snookered after a foul. They nominated blue as a free ball. After the shot the balls can rest as in the diagram.



The referee called a foul as player B was now snookered behind the nominated blue ball. There was some discussion as to which was the snookering ball with two options considered:

Option 1 – the brown is the snookering ball as it's the closest to the white. Therefore this wasn't a foul

Option 2 – If the blue was removed, player B could hit the edge of the green (perhaps $\frac{1}{4}$ ball) so the blue contributed to the snooker and therefore the blue should be considered the snookering ball. This would be a foul

Option 1 was the final judgement because the brown was the closest ball and the definition of a snooker is 'being prevented by a ball not on, from hitting a fine edge on both sides of the ball.' It's irrelevant that removing the blue would enable part of the green to be struck because the brown was preventing both sides of the green to be struck and was therefore deemed to be the snookering ball.

As head referee at the time I ruled as the BROWN was the 'Snookered Ball' no foul had occurred – This ruling was confirmed by our own Chris Anderson and two members of the World IBSF Rules Committee, of which I am a member, Cliff Hazelton.

Speed Billiards

The basic rules have now been set and have proved popular in our regular Monday afternoon games:

1. Matches are 15 minutes long
2. 15 consecutive hazards will automatically win the match
3. A ten shot wins the match
4. A player may not leave his opponent in a double baulk. The incoming striker, if in hand, can play into baulk
5. After the break the next player may play at a ball in baulk
6. The striker, having gone in off, may not play at a ball in baulk

Other news

Ian Wagstaff writing to Snooker Scene suggests, "When the scores are tied at the end of a frame and a tiebreak black is required to settle it, virtually all players who win the toss pass the first shot away. Wouldn't a fairer system be to lag for the choice like they do in billiards and pool? It's hardly delaying the game and would bring an element of skill to a crucial juncture, with the winner of the lag having the choice to play or most likely pass the first shot to his opponent."

Clive Everton responded, "I don't believe there is an overwhelming argument to this proposal but I would like to see the term 'tiebreak' more widely adopted. I use it in commentary sometimes because it is more descriptive than re-spotted black, which can puzzle a layman who might imagine that this means more than one attempt to re spot the black correctly."

Past President Lloyd Lawrence, now 83, is still active in Waipukurau raising money for charity and regularly driving for the local community watch. Both Lloyd and his wife are doing well despite some recent health challenges.

Reg Gould, who controlled many tournaments at Snooker World as well as refereeing at the world IBSF Snooker Championships in Egypt, is now 87 years young. He is enjoying retirement and his four great grandchildren with another expected late 2016.

Any interesting items or results can be sent to Chris Anderson at 10 Glastonbury Drive, Christchurch 8083

Regards Chris Anderson