

New Zealand Billiards and Snooker Referees' Association (Inc).
(Affiliated to the New Zealand Billiards and Snooker Association Inc.)

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The Referees Assn. Newsletter No. 4 November 2016

Chris Anderson, Editor

Good luck to Cliff, Andrew & Dan, our three refs travelling to Doha, and to all NZ players and of course the coach Neil Whalley, who features later in the newsletter. Referees that are interested in the following international events contact Cliff Hazelton - Phone 07 8887838 hazeltonc.j@xtra.co.nz

World Billiards in Bangalore in India – 5th to 12th December 2016

Oceania championships in Albury Australia – 8th to 18th March 2017

Please check the NZBSA website for upcoming events in 2017. The calendar for next year has not yet been published but it won't be far away.

Gordon Fitzgerald sent in an interesting item

"The miss rule has caused a huge amount of grief and stress to players and referees; particularly player/refs. The referees seem to say it is not a major problem, and players vary from a reasonable understanding to giving up the (referring) game as they hate refereeing that rule. The referees will say it is clear cut and does not need to be changed...player's opinions vary from scrap it, to make a maximum number of attempts so it is manageable. I am writing this to get feedback. My belief is that there is still contention after so many years of the rule being talked about with various explanations, plus it was only bought in to prevent a very few top players from cheating, then it cannot be a good rule. When games can be won and lost from an individual snooker, there is something wrong. Potting more balls should be the measure. Players turn down fairly easy pots as they think they can gain more points out of the Foul and Miss rule. This is not in the interests of our sport and is helping to kill it....Over to you folk to have your say".

My Comments

Thank you for your views Gordon. I am sure your views will be shared by many. The higher the standard of the player, the easier it becomes to apply the rule. As probably 90% of players will never reach that high standard, then for the average club player the rule can be a problem. If the striker can see a ball "on" or part of a ball "on" then that part of the rule is good. The problem arises when a player is faced with a full snooker. Now the referee's opinion comes in to play; (1) how good an attempt was made, (2) how difficult was the snooker, (3) what is the player's ability. Opinions will vary from ref to ref, and therein lays the problem. So long as decisions rely on opinions there will always be good and bad decisions.

Mike Pero Sponsored International Billiards

What a great success. Five different events held in Christchurch and Auckland attracted some top players from overseas including Englishman Rob Hall and Singaporean Englishman Peter Gilchrist. Both Christchurch events were won by Peter de Groot with Paul Wereta Runner-up. The Auckland events were dominated by Gilchrist who won all three events. Both he and Rob Hall had 400 plus breaks.

Introduced for the first time, Speed Billiards created a lot of interest. The 15 minute time frame gave every player a chance of success. Fifteen consecutive hazards or a ten shot automatically won the game. Double baulks were frowned upon and will probably be banned for future events. The brain child of Alan Parris, it will be interesting to see if it catches on.

National Pool Championships

This event held at the Woolston W.M. Club attracted the top 64 players in the country. No wonder, with total prize money of \$25,000 and a top prize of \$10,000 to the winner. The brain child of Brad Campbell and partner Mary-Ann this has become the premier pool event of the year. Now in its 5th year, Bayden Jackson (Hawke's Bay) took the title with a 9-7 win over Simon Singleton (Otago). Losing Semi's were Steve Denton (Cant) and Neil Whalley (Otago). All four semi finalists are Englishmen now living in N.Z. Played under international WETF rules with a smaller cue ball, Brad has tournaments now running throughout the country.

Pairs Snooker - N.Z. Chartered clubs National Pairs.

64 team entries played at the Hornby W.M.Club. Won by Oamaru (N. Whalley and J. Todd) 3. Hornby (D. Witehira and A. Robertson). 0.

Once again problems were caused by players playing out of turn. This can be confusing to sort out. The tournament rules stated that the offenders partner will lose a turn, whether or not the offender is asked to play again. This does not mean the non-offenders get two consecutive visits. If the order is A1. B1. A2. B2. then if B1 has played out of turn instead of B2 and the foul is called, A1 is the next player followed by B1 again. This now brings the order back into the correct sequence

Establishing the order of play at the beginning each frame. In singles snooker it is normal to choose to play the opening stroke. In pairs snooker it is often better to allow your opponents to break the first frame. This allows you to decide the order of play which can be a great advantage in each alternate frame giving you the advantage in 2 frames of a 3 frame match and 3 frames of a 5 frame match.

Who is Neil Whalley?

If you have been following tournament results over recent times, you will have seen his name appear regularly among the top placings. The 51-year-old Englishman spent 3 or 4 years making NZ his holiday destination. He fell in love with the country and even though he was far from home and family, in 2007 he decided to make it his permanent home. His Dad, Brian who was a very capable Billiards player encouraged Neil to pursue cue sports as his major sport and instilled in his son a desire to do the best he could. Brian's motto was to become dedicated and proficient, you must practice hard, practice hard and when you have done that practice hard again. Brian had followed closely the career of several times World Champion Billiards player Norman Dagley. I had the pleasure of refereeing Dagley when he won the world title in Auckland in 1985. In one match against Michael Ferriera he made 3 consecutive breaks over 200. With this background Neil could not help but become an enthusiast for the game however he preferred snooker to his dad's love of billiards. Adding to his skills while in the UK, he became a qualified EASB Coach.

At age 80 in December last year his dad Brian unfortunately died. Neil found himself 12,000 miles away but somehow managed to get back to the UK to make his final farewell.

Arriving in NZ in 2007, it was not until 2014 when encouraged by Danny Ryan and other SI players to enter the Whitestone Ranking event where he surprised himself and many of the locals by reaching the Quarter-finals. He went on in that year to win the South Island Championship and was runner up to Aemon Hill in the New Zealand Open Snooker. In the last 2 years he has won the Invercargill Classic, been runner-up again in the NZ Open (this time to Stave Robertson), won the Whitestone Classic and basically reached the

semis or finals in every event he enters. Neil is currently the Number 1 ranked player in the country. Add his skills at pool and he has become a force to be reckoned with.

With the World IBSF Championships being played in Qatar this year he has been asked by the NZBSA to attend as the NZ Team Manager for the Kiwi Team consisting of Jason Todd and Mathew Scarborough in the Main event with Paul Temple, David Judd and David Leslie in the senior event and Agnes Kimura in the Ladies Championship. Also travelling as referees will be Cliff Hazelton, Dan O'Sullivan and Andrew Weatherley.

Neil is an unassuming and humble person. Popular with everyone, I am sure he will serve his adopted country with pride and distinction. We all welcome him to our fraternity and wish him a happy life and continued success.

Snooker – Problem Corner (answers below)

Situation 1

Green is the ball on, striker is on a free ball and nominates blue. He plays and first contact is made on the green. Is this a fair shot?

Situation 2

Green is the ball on, striker is on a free ball and nominates blue. He plays and first contact is made simultaneously with green and blue. Is this a fair shot?

3 Classic Billiards Books for sale

Billiards, The strokes of the game Parts 1. 2. and 3. By Riso Levi.

The full set of three, very rare, classic and collectable. (Author) Riso Levi, the World's greatest Billiards writer, so said Walter Lindrum, the Worlds greatest Billiards player.

Contact Ray Habgood. 09-4794987.

Answers

Situation 1 - *The referee calls foul, penalty 4 as the cue ball failed to first contact the nominated blue*

Situation 2 - *The referee would make no comment as the striker has played a fair shot. See rule Section 3. 6*

Regards

Chris Anderson