

THE ENGLISH ASSOCIATION OF SNOOKER AND BILLIARDS

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2010

The last twelve months have continued to be busy times for the Board, and our numbers were strengthened by the appointment of Mark Hird (Director for Coaching), Paul Newbold (Director for Merchandising) and Mark Jones (Director for IT & Communications). Hilary Smith also joined our team as joint Company Secretary, but has subsequently resigned. Each of the directors is responsible for building their own team to help fulfil their responsibilities, and we are slowly increasing the numbers involved in volunteering their time for the Association and this will continue to show in further improvements to the efficiency with which we operate.

The Director for Competitions has now appointed Tour Managers for most of the individual tour events – Pro Ticket Tour, Premier Junior Tour, each zone of the Regional Junior Tour and Ladies Tour, and these managers will deal with most of the day to day administration for their events. Already prize schedules are being fed back to the Director of Finance more timeously and in many cases prizes have been paid within 48 hours of an event concluding. However, despite having tried and tested systems in place, there will occasionally be instances where events don't quite run according to plan, and we thank our players, their supporters, and our officials in their patience and understanding when such things happen.

The Board is disappointed that it is not yet in a position to announce the launch of the new coaching scheme, but I can assure you that considerable progress has been made over the last year, and we are edging ever closer to finalising and launching the scheme.

Considerable Board time continues to be expended on trying to achieve Sport England recognition for our sport, but our progress continues to be thwarted by other parties. Most recently our proposal to the IBSF that our membership of that organisation be shared with the English Amateur Billiards Association was not even put to a vote despite being properly proposed and being on the AGM Agenda. Constitutional changes proposed by the IBSF could mean that England be excluded from membership of the IBSF until such time as it gains Sport England recognition, so it is imperative that we resolve the issue, and the Board continues to seek ways to achieve a successful outcome.

For the current season, I pleased to report that player numbers and competition entries have generally held up compared to last season, and it has been encouraging to see that the



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splitting of the first stage of the Pro Ticket Tour has been rewarded with a significant increase in the overall numbers. It's also pleasing to note the increased support for the Seniors and Club Players Championships, a trend which we hope will continue.



Clive A Brown
28 February 2010



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