

# AUSTRALIAN AMATEUR BILLIARDS CHAMPIONSHIPS

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The first recorded "Australian Amateur Billiards Championships" were held  
1906 in Melbourne

From 1940 the championships were suspended account WW2 resuming 1946

**1930 Australian Amateur Billiards Title**  
Home Recreations Ltd, Queen St Brisbane

The Brisbane Courier (Qld) Tue 12 Aug 1930 Page 7

## **A.B.C. ANNUAL MEETING.**

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The annual general meeting of the Australian Billiards Council was held at the Commercial Travellers' Association yesterday. The president of the Queensland Amateur Billiards Association and council (Mr. A. Thurlow) presided. The following office-bearers were elected for the 1930-31 season:—President, Mr. S. Jacobs (South Australia); vice-president, Mr. A. Thurlow (Queensland); honorary secretary and treasurer, Mr. C. M'Cathie (Victoria). The annual report disclosed concerted efforts are needed in raising funds to finance the Empire championship, which will be played in Australia in 1931. The honorary secretary communicated with the various affiliated associations and secured their approval of a tentative scheme, which will have to be ratified by the council.

A general discussion ensued on the question of altering the rule pertaining to consecutive misses, but it was decided to take no action. The new amateur rule as defined by the English Control Council was discussed, but further consideration was deferred till this morning's meeting at 10 o'clock.

## Australian Championship

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The Amateur Billiards Association of Queensland yesterday afternoon and evening continued the Australian championship tourney in the Queen Street show room of Home Recreations Limited.

Mr. N. T. Clyde was referee and Mr. C. Seymour was marker.

In the afternoon the first heat was concluded when the New South Wales representative, G. B. Shaller, defeated the Victorian representative, L. T. McCutcheon, by 2,000 to 1,664.

Shaller added only two to his previous night's unfinished break of 6, and McCutcheon gave promise in the succeeding effort, but he failed to retain possession.

Shaller made best runs of 104, 20, 27, 24, 41, 34, 49, 85, and 53 unfinished for an average of 10 for the heat.

McCutcheon failed to reach his previous day's form, his best breaks being 42, 50, and 24

### SECOND HEAT.

H. Goldsmith (South Australia, defender) and S. Ryan (Queensland) played the first session (667 points) of the second heat.

Ryan opened early with sound cuing and hazard striking, which he maintained throughout, and finished the session in his 74th visit 2 to Goldsmith's 612. The latter player was nervous in the early stages, and fell over 200 points behind at one stage. However, he regained confidence and gave the best amateur display of billiards on record for Brisbane. His natural ease and grace with fast scoring delighted the audience, which enthusiastically applauded the young artist.

Best breaks were Ryan 25, 55, 41, 27, 41, 62, 30, 40, and 27; Goldsmith 47, 21, 45, 20, 49, 22, 22, 54, 34, 54, 59 and 23.

They will play again this afternoon and evening.

Larger article more detail

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/197641505>

## Australian Championship

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The Amateur Billiard Association of Queensland continued the Australian championship tourney at the Queen Street show-room of Home Recreations Ltd., yesterday afternoon and night. Mr. N. T. Clyde was referee, and Mr. G. H. Rose was marker.

S. Ryan (Queensland) and H. Goldsmith (South Australia, defender) concluded the second heat with the second and third sessions.

Ryan was early prominent with sound play, mainly on red losing hazards, and during the afternoon he made best breaks in order of 38, 26, 34, 114, 126, 30, 45, 49, and 75 unfinished. The South Australian failed for the greater part to maintain control, his best breaks in order being 23, 20, 46, 64, 25, 37, 21, 34, 25, 45, and 28.

In the evening Ryan was especially sound in all departments, improving his position whilst Goldsmith was weaker. When he had control of the spheres the South Australian was very attractive.

Ryan won by 2,000 to 1,643, with best breaks in the final session of 43, 30, 49, 21, 28, 20, 67, 24, 32, 22, 47, and 39, with an average of 11.6 for the heat.

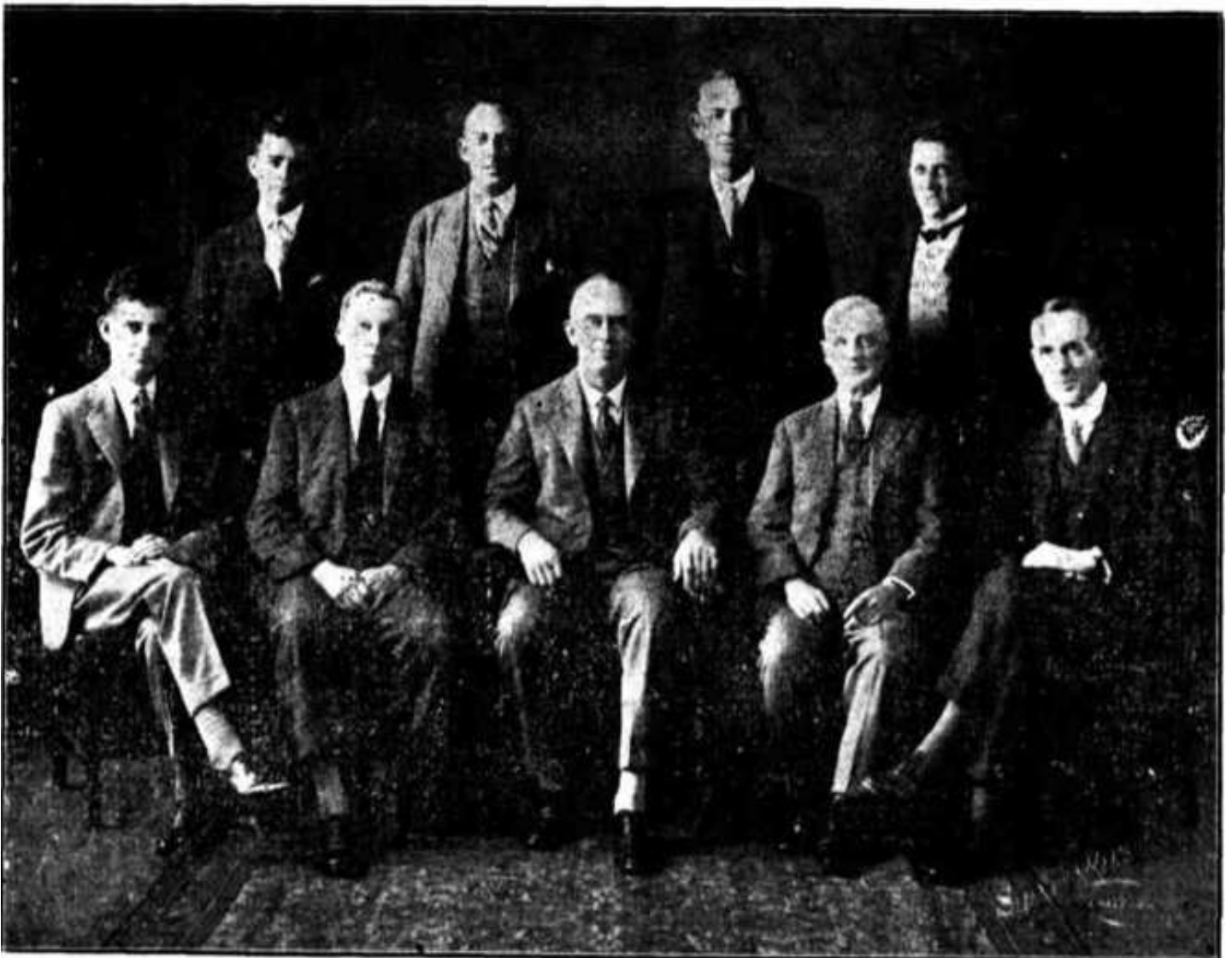
Goldsmith's evening breaks were 21, 24, 38, 36, 80, 21, and 73.

G. B. Shaller (New South Wales) and S. Ryan (Queensland) will play the deciding heat of 2,000 points to-night, Friday, and Saturday.

Article with detail

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/21568567>

## AUSTRALIAN AMATEUR BILLIARDS CARNIVAL BRISBANE, 1930



*Members of the Australian Amateur Billiards Council and competitors in the Australian amateur billiards championship in Brisbane last week:—Standing: H. L. Goldsmith (South Australian champion), G. Washington (hon. secretary S.A.A.B.A.), G. B. Shailer (N.S.W. champion), N. T. Clyde (hon. secretary Q.A.B.A.). Sitting: Sam Ryan (Queensland and Australian billiards champion), C. McCathie (hon. secretary Australian A.B.C.), A. Thurlow, of Queensland (vice-president A.A.B.C.), E. A. Boyle (N.S.W. delegate to A.A.B.C.)*

## Australian Championship

The Amateur Billiard Association of Queensland continued the Australian billiard championship tourney at the Queen Street show room of Home Recreations, Ltd., last night. Mr. N. T. Clyde was referee and Mr. J. McPhie was marker.

The contestants were G. B. Shaller (New South Wales) and S. Ryan (Queensland), who entered on the first session (667 points) of the final of 2,000 points. Both players at the outset exercised the utmost care and took no risks. Shaller was early prominent with a fine red hazard break of 45 to which Ryan replied with a red hazard break of 36, supported by 23 in general billiards. Even scoring prevailed and they were together at 200. Ryan then went ahead and led by 309 to 234. Safety tactics by both followed till Ryan got possession and led by 413 to 328.

Subsequently Shaller improved and gradually regained the lead. He went to points 668 with an unfinished break of 42, Ryan's score being 591.

Breaks in order were: Shaller, 45, 21, 47, 46, 22, 27, 33, 48, 43, 73, 29, 41, and 42 unfinished. Ryan, 30, 23, 31, 20, 29, 47, 61, 62, 29, 33, 36, and 41.

Play will be continued to-night.

## Australian Championship

The Amateur Billiard Association of Queensland continued the Australian championship tourney at the Queen Street showroom of Home Recreations, Ltd., last night. There was a good attendance. Mr. N. T. Clyde was referee.

G. B. Shaller (New South Wales) and S. Ryan (Queensland) played the second session (667 points) of the final. Good billiards was played by both.

Shaller, who on the previous night led by 668 to 591, forged further ahead, and at one stage had an advantage of 280. Ryan then made a good recovery by concentrating on red hazards, which he played most accurately and he took the lead at 1,080 to 1,075.

The game see-sawed, but Ryan again obtained command and went to within six points of the total, when Shaller gained possession and went to 1,321. At 1,333 Ryan gave a double baulk. Shaller missed, thus giving Ryan the session by 1,334 to 1,321.

Best breaks in order were as follows: Ryan, 24, 34, 43, 75, 44, 102, 44, 29, 25, 91, 34, and 36; Shaller, 85, 23, 90, 31, 44, 20, 48, 55, 49, and 76.

They will conclude the game to-night.

# AUSTRALIAN TITLE.

## RYAN WINS.

Unprecedented scenes of excitement prevailed at the Queen-street showrooms of Home Recreations, Ltd., on Saturday night, when one of the largest crowds that ever attended a billiards match in this State witnessed the popular member of the Queensland Irish Association and the Queensland amateur champion, Sam Ryan, win the grand final of the Australian amateur billiards championship by narrowly defeating the New South Wales representative and ex-Australian champion, George B. Shaller, by 2000 points to 1848, after a stubbornly contested battle. When the Queenslander made the winning stroke the crowd rose and cheered to the echo. The winner was then officially declared amateur champion of Australia by the senior vice-president of the Queensland Amateur Billiards Association (Mr. Alf. Sapsford), who also congratulated the winner on his fine achievement, at the same time eulogising Home Recreations, Ltd., for their invaluable assistance in placing their showrooms, in which was installed a splendid standard table, at his association's disposal during the currency of the championship. The hon. secretary of the South Australian Amateur Billiards Association (Mr. George Washington), on behalf of his association, publicly congratulated the winner.

### SHALLER'S BRILLIANT BURST.

With the scores 1818 to 1800 in favour of Ryan, Shaller, after a bad miss by his opponent, secured possession, and compiled one of the finest century breaks ever seen from an amateur in Brisbane. The effort was characterised by some very artistic work at the top of the table, interspersed with a few winning and losing hazards. He eventually failed at a long loser off the red into the top pocket. The fact that he was over 200 points in arrears enhanced the value of the break 100 per cent. The Welshman immediately followed with a neat 45. The Queenslander's supporters were now obviously perturbed at the visitor's fine fighting recovery. However, this burst appeared to take all the sting out of the Welshman, as over the concluding stages Ryan predominated, to eventually go to points (2000), with a 20 break, while Shaller was 154 points in arrears. The winner averaged 8.8 for the session, and 9.7 for the 2000 points.

### FEATURES OF THE PLAY.

The game was by no means spectacular, but, nevertheless, interesting. Mr. R. N. Graves controlled the scores, and Mr. N. T. Clyde officiated as referee. The scores at the commencement of the session were: Ryan, 1334; Shaller, 1317. Safety play predominated in the early stages. Shaller's first nine visits to the table produced 18 points, while Ryan scored 12. The Welshman was the first to assume the offensive, and his tenth visit to the table produced a fine all-round break of 82, which was characterised by some spectacular billiards at the top of the table. He eventually failed at a difficult two-cushion cannon. Ryan, who appeared to be overcoming his pronounced nervous tendency at the commencement of the session, began to play with a little more confidence, and his first effort of note was a neat 40. Shaller, who was failing repeatedly on comparatively easy shots, could not find his form. On the other hand, Ryan, by consistent rather than brilliant billiards, began to forge ahead. With the scores 1563 plays 1494 in favour of the Queenslander, Ryan secured possession, and compiled a magnificent break of 91. The effort was characterised by strokes all over the table, and with the coveted three figures in sight he failed at a simple drop cannon in endeavouring to drive the red ball over the top pocket for subsequent position. Shaller immediately responded with a 23. Ryan's next double-figure effort of note was a 54 off the red ball. The Queenslander was now holding an advantage of 200 points, and consequently would not take a semblance of a risk, with the result that safety play predominated.



SAM RYAN,  
the winner of the Australian  
championship.

## **1931 Australian Amateur Billiards Title**

### **Palace Billiard Hall, Rundle St. Adelaide**

News (Adelaide) Mon 25 May 1931

## **AMATEUR BILLIARDS**

### **Carter Opens Play With 127 Break**

The amateur billiards championship of Australia, conducted by the South Australian Amateur Association, began at Palace Billiards Hall this afternoon, when the first session of the match between H. L. Goldsmith (State champion) and W. H. Carter (Victoria) was played.

Other candidates are L. H. Hayes (New South Wales) and L. Sakzewski (Queensland). The games are of 2,000 up, in three sessions. The match between Goldsmith and Carter will be continued tonight and tomorrow afternoon.

All of the players are in form. While at practice Carter made 130 in a top-of-the-table break. The State representative made breaks of 237 and 207 off the red ball, not breaking the sequence. If he wins against the Victorian it will be by red ball play. At this he is better than his opponent, who is superior, however, at the top-of-the-table game.

Hayes is in fine trim. The Empire champion is tipped as the winner. Between the other three, who are all young, there is expected to be even competition.

In a practice contest with W. Abotomey (State professional champion) Sakzewski was defeated by about 100. The professional conceded 100 in a game of 750 up. The Queenslander had stepped off the Melbourne express that morning, however, and could probably do better. Abotomey started off with a break of 108. Sakzewski made one run of 80.

Off the break-up in the opening game this afternoon Carter put up a break of 127, and Goldsmith followed with a 50 break. Shortly before 3 o'clock this afternoon the score was:—Carter, 230; Goldsmith, 204 (in play). Goldsmith had picked up and was playing well.

## **BILLIARD TABLES OF SLATE**

### **Mintaro Enterprise Praised by Visitors**

Visiting billiard players who are in Adelaide for the championship matches of the Australian Amateur Billiards Association, accompanied by local euclats, journeyed to Mintaro to inspect the slate quarries there, which have been worked for many years and are now more than 100 ft. deep. The visitors were impressed by the large stocks of slabs which were in process of weathering.

Particular interest was shown in the ingenious machinery evolved by Mr. M. L. Giles (manager) for working the slate into finished products for commercial use. The preparation of slates for use in billiard tables revealed that great accuracy obtained.

The finely polished surface of a billiard table top made of one slab evoked much praise from the visitors. Other tops in sections were also seen.

It was explained that a large trade was conducted with other States of the Commonwealth in billiard slates, paving slabs, electrical switchboards, lavatory fittings, grave stones, kerbs, and many other types of prepared slate.

The party included L. W. Hayes (Empire amateur champion), W. H. Carter (Victorian amateur champion), A. Sakzewski (Queensland amateur champion), and C. McCallie (secretary of the association). They were the guests of the Mintaro Slate and Flagstone Company, Limited, at dinner, and were met by Messrs. A. J. Melrose (director) and Giles.

## BILLIARDS TITLE

Goldsmith-Carter Game  
Important

### EMPIRE CHAMPIONSHIP

Great importance is attached to the match between H. L. Goldfinch (South Australian champion) and W. H. Carter (Victorian champion) in the first tie of the contests for the Australian amateur billiards title.

The young players are battling for the right to be the second representative of Australia in the Empire championship at Sydney next month.

The Commonwealth will have two candidates for the championship, which is held by L. H. Hayes, of New South Wales. He will be one and the other the winner of the game now in progress at Palace Billiards Halls, Rundle Street Arcade. The Australian representatives will meet S. N. Lee and L. Steeples, British players, and W. Hackett, of New Zealand, advice of whose entry was received last night.

L. Sakzewski (Queensland), even if he defeats Hayes in his tie tomorrow and Thursday, has ceded his right to play in the Empire contests. He will find it difficult to get away from business.

In any event, Hayes appears to have his measure, but defeat would still leave Sakzewski with the liberty of playing the winner this afternoon for the honor to represent Australia.

At the conclusion of the second session last night in the game of 2,000 up, Goldsmith had scored 1,334 points and was in play. Carter was 1,050.

This afternoon the South Australian began by playing the red ball well, and gradually forged ahead of his opponent. He appeared to be certain to win. Shortly before 3 o'clock the board showed:—Goldsmith, 1,383 (in play); Carter, 1,087

## BRILLIANT BILLIARDS

### Goldsmith Wins Tie

H. L. Goldsmith (S.A.) played brilliantly in the first tie of the Australian amateur billiards championship yesterday, and reached the limit of the match (2,000) when his opponent, W. H. Carter (Victoria) was only 1,420.

Goldsmith's average yesterday was 16, and for the match 11½. Throughout he outclassed Carter on the red ball play, his control being excellent. Carter showed to advantage when the game was at the top of the table, and potted accurately, but he had few lengthy visits to the table.

On his form in this match and at practice Goldsmith is given a great chance of bringing the title to South Australia. At practice on Friday he made breaks of 237 and 207 off the red without breaking the sequence—a much better effort than any shown in yesterday's game. His breaks above 20 in the final session were:—98, 67, 35, 34, 33, 32, 30, 28, 27, 24, 23, and 22. Carter's best were—30, 29, 24, and 21.

The title holder (L. W. Hayes, New South Wales) will meet L. Sakzewski (Queensland) in the second tie today.

## BILLIARDS TITLE-HOLDER BEHIND

### Sakzewski 266 Up

Excellent control of the ball while the game was at the top of the table, especially with nursery cannons, and accurate hazard play, were the biggest assets of L. Sakzewski (Queensland) yesterday, when he established a lead of 266 over the title-holder, L. Hayes (New South Wales), in the second tie of the Australian amateur billiards championship. At the end of the day Sakzewski was 1,334 (in play).

In the early part of the game the form of both men was poor, neither equalling the standard of Goldsmith in winning the first tie. They potted well, but unaccountably missed many easy shots. Hayes was more out of touch than his opponent, who scored consistently once he settled down.

Sakzewski had a brilliant period in going from 425 to 566 in the afternoon session. Four successive visits to the table yielded him 22, 30, 22 and 67, the last effort being the result of splendid all round billiards, with screw shots off the red a feature. His other best breaks were 33, 54, 40, 23, 29, 27 and 22. At the end of the session he was 668 (in play), with Hayes 520. The New South Wales man played brilliantly during the last hour, making breaks of 26, 26 and 85.

Hayes again played badly in the opening stages of the evening session, and fell further behind at one stage having a deficit of 321. Sakzewski's ability to keep the balls in position near the top pockets gave him many valuable points, and he rarely left an opening for Hayes, when forced to play into baulk. Hayes regained touch during the last two hours of play, making a specialty of losing hazards. Sakzewski's breaks of more than 20 were:—46, 29, 32, 51, 38, 54, 32, 33, 22, 43, 22, 35, 37 and 36 (unfinished). Hayes's were:—58, 46, 26, 31, 63, 33, 30, 55, 25 and 37.

## BILLIARDS FINAL

### Goldsmith Maintains Lead

When the Australian amateur billiards championship final was resumed at Palace Billiard Halls this afternoon, H. L. Goldsmith (South Australia) had an advantage of 192 over L. Sakzewski (Queensland), who finished the first session with 474.

The Queenslander, if he wins, will probably try to arrange his business to enable him to represent Australia, together with L. W. Hayes (Empire champion), in the Empire championship next month. That honor will fall to Goldsmith, however, if he can defeat Sakzewski.

The game will be concluded tonight, when a capacity house is expected. If Goldsmith wins, the draw for the Empire championship will be announced tomorrow, but if his opponent overhauls and defeats the South Australian, the draw will not be published until after Sakzewski has returned to Brisbane.

Progressive scores shortly before 3 o'clock were:—Goldsmith, 822 (including breaks of 67 and 64); Sakzewski (in play), 553.

## GOLDSMITH WINS BY 593

### Billiards Championship

With an unfinished break of 47, H. L. Goldsmith (South Australia) won the Australian amateur billiards championship last night, defeating L. Sakzewski (Queensland) by 593, the respective scores being:—Goldsmith, 2,000; Sakzewski, 1,407. The winner averaged just over 11 for each visit to the table. Most of Goldsmith's breaks were made by losing hazards off the red, although he showed at times his ability to score by all round play.

When play started yesterday afternoon Goldsmith was 666 (in play), and Sakzewski 474. Both took some time to get going, and when each had had 70 visits to the table Goldsmith was 700, and his opponent 500. The South Australian then made 19, 24, and 62 in succession, bringing his score to 805. Sakzewski also got going better, making 34 on his 73rd visit to the table, which he followed up shortly afterwards by 21. Breaks of 23, 49, 32 and 29, sandwiched between periods of quiet play, made Goldsmith 1,019, Sakzewski being 664. When each man had visited the table 100 times the scores were:—Goldsmith 1,066, Sakzewski 691.

The Queenslander was applauded for a splendidly compiled 59 (57 off the red) on his 103th visit to the table. He followed this up with 23, 42, and 22 in his next three attempts. Breaks of 34 and 23 in his 116th and 117th visit made Sakzewski 917. Goldsmith immediately replied with 100 (66 off the red), making him 1,314. At the close of the session the scores were:—Goldsmith 1,335, Sakzewski 938.

Both players opened quietly at night, but the South Australian got into touch in his 121st visit to the table, and scored a nicely-compiled 63, mainly off the red ball. Breaks of 20, 38, 30, 21, 72, and 31, interspersed between quiet periods made Goldsmith 1,700 after 153 visits, his opponent then being 1,107, his best scores being 37, 22 (twice), and 23. Both players did well at their 166th attempt, Goldsmith making 26 and Sakzewski 43. The South Australian reached 1,802 with a break of 29, Sakzewski then being 1,212. The latter picked up some of his leeway with scores of 29, 25, 51, 25, and 22, but Goldsmith replied with 59 and 66, making him 1,953 to Sakzewski's 1,387, after each had been to the table 179 times. A break of 20 at his next attempt made the Queenslander 1,407, but Goldsmith replied with 47 unfinished, and won the game.

The secretary of the Australian Amateur Billiards' Council (Mr. C. McCathie) congratulated Goldsmith on winning, and presented him with the championship certificate and gold medal. He said that Goldsmith's two victories in these contests, both of over 500, stamped him as a player of merit. He was confident that he would worthily uphold Australia's prestige in the Empire billiards championships in Sydney next month.

The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW) Sat 30 May 1931

#### ADELAIDE, Friday.

The Australian amateur billiards championship concluded to-night, and resulted in a win for H. L. Goldsmith (S.A.), who defeated L. Sakzewski (Queensland), by 593. The scores were:—Goldsmith, 2,000; Sakzewski, 1,407. The winner averaged more than 11 for each visit to the table.

Goldsmith's best breaks were 100, 66, 38, 72, 59, 66, and 47 unfinished. Sakzewski's best breaks were 37, 43, 51, 42, and 23.

The secretary of the Australian Amateur Billiards Council (Mr. C. McCathie) congratulated the winner, and presented him with the championship certificate and gold medal.

## Billiards Champion

### H. L. GOLDSMITH WINS FAME EARLY

By winning the Australian championship H. L. Goldsmith has within two years risen from a comparative nonentity to the pinnacle of amateur billiards fame in the Commonwealth. His name will be broadcast throughout the world as

a representative of Australia in the Empire championship, beginning at Sydney this month.

His father was Mr. H. Goldsmith, who conducted billiard rooms at Port Pirie, Torrensvile, Findon, and now is at Hindmarsh. In his father's saloons young Goldsmith obtained much practice. When 16 years of age he was notified that he would lose his amateur status if he continued to assist his father.



H. L. Goldsmith

He was taken in hand by Mr. P. J. Brady, and played in his team in the Amateur Billiard League. Three years of match play improved him greatly. Last year he won the State championship, and repeated it this year.

His mentor instilled into Goldsmith the necessity for red-ball play in matches, by which he won his contests last week. In red-ball play there is only one ball to control, instead of three. Top of the table play might be successful in practice, but under match conditions position is easily lost.

Before Goldsmith took part in league games, he could not manage a 50 break off the red ball. Now breaks of 100 or more are common occurrences.

## BIG BILLIARD BREAKS

### Composition Balls Help

#### TABLES ARE BETTER

In 1900 a break of 500 was acclaimed as a great achievement. Today a break of 500 is almost beneath notice; even a break of 1,000 receives scant praise—just because familiarity breeds contempt.

William Cook, a former record breaker, in answering that question, expressed the opinion that the vast improvement in break building has been brought about chiefly by the change from ivory balls to composition balls.

Up till 1900, he writes, we played with ivories in championships and other important matches. In my submission the change to composition balls accounts for 70 per cent. of the improvement in break building, and I say that after full consideration.

Ivory balls have always proved themselves treacherous; the African and Indian variety come off at entirely different angles and in every set, though perfect, there is some minute difference. Ivory balls are slaves to atmospheric conditions and ever liable to go out of "truth," whereas a composition ball can be turned true and nothing short of a sledge-hammer can prevent its remaining so. It will thus be realised how invaluable this is to the modern professional who plays to a thousandth part of an inch.

#### THE MODERN TABLE

Again, there are other factors that must not be lost sight of. Billiard tables have undoubtedly been vastly improved, especially the cushions. The majority of our older professionals and amateurs played with cues of approximately 15½ oz., whereas the present-day players have substituted cues of 17½ and 18 oz., or even more, and it has in consequence been clearly demonstrated that they have greater command and mastery over the balls; this in itself is an important discovery and a proved factor in the art of break-building.

## 1932 Australian Amateur Billiards Title Elystan Parlours, Sydney

The Brisbane Courier (Qld) Tue 6 Sep 1932

### AUSTRALIAN AMATEUR TITLE.

SYDNEY, September 5.

L. W. Hayes, the former British Empire title holder, had a comfortable lead over his opponent, H. L. Goldsmith, of South Australia, when play in the Australian Amateur Billiards Championship series, ceased to-night. The matches are of 2000 each, played in three sessions. At the end of the afternoon session, Hayes had a lead of 85, and to-night he increased it to 445, the scores being: Hayes 1334, Goldsmith 889. Hayes' best breaks were: 50, 53, 58, 54, 54, 68, 92, and 68 unfinished. Goldsmith's best breaks were: 77, 45, 32, 39, 27, and 21.

The Sun (Sydney) Thu 8 Sep 1932

### AMATEUR BILLIARDS

With a lead of 367 the Queensland amateur billiards champion, A. Sakzewski, has an excellent chance of defeating C. E. Norman, of Victoria, in the final session of their match, at the Elystan Parlours, to-day.

The winner of this match will meet Hayes, the New South Wales champion, for the Australian title to-night.

Both men were off form to-day. At 3.30 p.m. Sakzewski led by 1542 to 1086.

The progress scores at 4.30 p.m. were: Sakzewski 1811, Norman 1402.

Additional breaks: Sakzewski, 84, 46, 38, and 46; Norman, 60, 27, and 168.

Examiner (Launceston) Fri 9 Sep 1932

SYDNEY, Thursday.

A. Sakzewski (Queensland) had a comfortable win from C. E. Norman (Vic.) in the second match of the Australian amateur billiards championship played to-day. Sakzewski reached 2000 when Norman was 427 points behind. Norman made a break of 168, which is the largest of the series, but Sakzewski was remarkably consistent, his best breaks being 84 and 79 unfinished.

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney) 7 Sep 1932

### GREAT EFFORT FAILS

### Leeway Too Much For Goldsmith

### TITLE BILLIARDS

WITH an unfinished break of 33, N.S.W. champion, L. W. Hayes, beat title-holder H. L. Goldsmith by 264 points, in the first round of the Australian Amateur Billiards Championship last night.

The concluding session was for the most part tedious. At times it was appallingly so, though there were periods of brilliant play, mainly on the part of the loser. He played a great losing battle.

When play had concluded the previous night he was 445 points behind, while Hayes had an unfinished break of 68. Last night Hayes added another 81 to that break, bringing it to 129.

With a great run of an shortly afterwards, Hayes increased his lead to 518. The scores then were: Hayes 1804, Goldsmith 884.

#### GREAT RALLY

It was then that Goldsmith, galling for his weakness of the night before, set in with a vengeance. Stick after stick he reduced that tremendous leeway with breaks of 40 (twice), 54, 68, 65 (twice), and culminating with a magnificent 76 off the red alone.

He managed to reduce the lead to 164. In that time he had added 640 to his score, while Hayes, who had been playing some deplorable billiards, had added only 108.

But Hayes again pulled ahead to win. For the match, the winner's average was 12.6, his average last night was 10.5. Goldsmith's average for the match was 11, and for last night 13.7.

Best breaks were:—

Hayes: 129 (only), 28, 60, 75, 34 (unfinished). Goldsmith: 40, 54, 68, 65, 56, 34, 21, 16.

The final scores were:—

Hayes, 2000 (in play).  
Goldsmith 1736.

# Billiards Title Final

## HAYES BEHIND

AT the conclusion of play last night in the final of the Amateur Billiards Championship of Australia, the young Queenslander, Sakzewski, was leading by 151 from the veteran N.S. Welshman, L. W. Hayes.

The scores were: Sakzewski (in play), 668; Hayes, 517. Before Sakzewski had scored last night Hayes had made breaks of 30 and 20.

**But in a few minutes his 50 lead had vanished, and Sakzewski was a few points ahead.**

A break of 79 by Sakzewski gave him a lead of 104, which mounted to 146. Hayes broke it down with a break of 67, and slowly but surely reduced the margin until they were within a point of one another, when the Queenslander's score was 328.

But Sakzewski again got his nose in front, and with the help of breaks of 83 and 70 gained a lead of 139. At 600 he was 162 points ahead. Play concluded for the session with an unfinished break of 27.

Sakzewski's average was 9.2 for the evening, while that of Hayes was 7.3.

Best breaks:—Sakzewski, 41, 79, 31, 37, 79, 27 (unfinished); Hayes, 30, 67, 56, 35.

The match will be continued this afternoon, and concluded this evening.

# Grand Break Of 206

## HAYES LOSES

*Amassing an amazing break of 206 at the most critical stage of the match, Bert Sakzewski (Brisbane) won the Australian amateur billiards title from L. W. Hayes last night by 2000 to 1902.*

At the afternoon session Hayes made up his opponent's lead, and when the final session commenced last night the scores stood at 1333 to 1211 in his favor.

Sakzewski opened with a nice run off the red for 39, Hayes responding with a 72, all off the red. Scores then stood at 1334-1449 in Hayes's favor.

### BRILLIANT 86

Sakzewski added two small breaks, then Hayes brought his 1500 up during another break off the red of 71.

With a run of 64, Sakzewski closed up, but Hayes came again with a brilliant 86—and looked to be in a strong position with his score at 1645 to 1486.

Following breaks of 45 and 66 by the Queenslander, Hayes struck a lean period.

Then Hayes drew away with another 54, until, when his tally stood at 1829, he had a lead of 117. Then came the biggest break of the tournament.

Playing with confidence, and scoring rapidly, Sakzewski amassed 206, and left the table leading by 1924 to 1829. A magnificent effort, it was the turning point in the game.

Later he strengthened his position with a neat 34 break. Hayes played steady billiards, and brought his figures within striking distance—1902—but the balls were running badly for him.

At night Hayes averaged 9.6, and the winner 10.1.

**1933 Australian Amateur Billiards Title**  
**YMCA Hall, Melbourne**

The Herald (Melbourne) Mon 4 Sep 1933

## **CARTER'S BRILLIANT START**

### **Break of 165 Early In Billiards Heat**

The first heat of the Australian Amateur Billiards Championship commenced this afternoon at the Y.M.C.A. between W. Matthews (S.A.) and W. H. Carter (Vic.)

Matthews is making his first attempt at the Australian title. Carter competed unsuccessfully in 1931.

The heat is of 2000 un played in three sessions of 666 each. Play will be continued at a session beginning at 8 tonight, and will conclude tomorrow at the final session, commencing at 3 p.m.

Carter opened sensationally with three breaks over 20, and immediately followed with a perfect effort of 165. He was playing better than at any stage during the State championship which he won.

The big break consisted mainly of open play with short spells of hazards and occasional runs at the spot end. Several times he recovered from bad positions and was going well when a long loser beat him. Carter had scored 250 to Matthews's 27. Matthews became worried by Carter's heavy scoring. Carter ran up another break of 62.

Carter passed 300 with Matthews still at 27. His points had been made in 40 minutes.

Progress scores:—

Carter (in play), 321; Matthews, 65.  
Breaks: Carter, 165, 62, 26, 25, 23; Matthews, 38.

The Herald (Melbourne) Tue 5 Sep 1933

## **Carter's Winning Lead In Billiards Heat**

The Australian Amateur Billiards Championship was continued at the Y.M.C.A. this afternoon when W. H. Carter (Vic.) and W. Matthews (S.A.) began the final session of their 2000 up heat at 3 p.m. At the beginning of play today Carter led by 1332-790.

Progress scores:—

Carter (in play), 1474; Matthews, 906.  
Breaks: Carter, 29; Matthews, 63.

The Herald (Melbourne) Wed 6 Sep 1933

## **Billiards Title Heat**

The second heat of the Australian Billiards Championship, which opened yesterday between L. Hayes (N.S.W.) and S. Ryan (Queensland), was continued this afternoon at the Y.M.C.A.

Hayes, who played a good opening session yesterday, began today with a 270 lead and was in play with an unfinished break of 72.

Although Hayes only increased his unfinished break of 72 to 76, he made amends next visit with 81, and immediately followed with another of 50. Ryan was still getting a bad run. At last he received a hazard opening and reached the limit.

Ryan successfully broke the sequence and ran on to 91, where a close cannon beat him. In reply, Hayes came with another perfect display in a break of 132, to practically clinch the game.

Progress scores:—

Hayes (in play), 1002; Ryan, 590.

Breaks.—Hayes, 132, 81, 76, 50; Ryan, 91.

# Australian Championship In Progress

THE Australian Amateur Billiards Championship, which is played in each State once every four years, is in full swing at the Y.M.C.A., Melbourne. New South Wales, South Australia, Queensland and Victoria have each a representative in the big event.

**LES HAYES** (N.S.W.) has easily the longest and best record of the four. On seven occasions he has won the N.S.W. title—1926-27-28-29-31-32 and 33. The Australian championship came his way three times—in 1924-27 and 28. The title he is most proud of is the Empire amateur championship, which he won in 1929 while representing Australia in South Africa, where the event was contested. A break of 262 made by Hayes in the 1929 N.S.W. championship is the highest ever made by an Australian amateur. Hayes is also very proficient at snooker and has held the N.S.W. snooker title on three occasions—1923-24 and 28.

**W. Matthews**, the South Australian champion, is having his first season in amateur competitions. To defeat Goldsmith, the previous title-holder, in this year's S.A. championship, stamps him as being well above the ordinary as a cueist. Fred Lindrum says that Matthews is the best amateur hazard striker he has seen. The little we saw of him during Monday's play undoubtedly bears that out.

**Carter**, the Victorian representative, has won the State championship twice—1931-33. He has been a well-known performer since being transferred from a country bank to the city a few years ago. In addition to winning the State billiards title twice, he has won the State snooker twice, and has held both South Suburban and Melbourne Clubs' Association single-handed championships.

**S. Ryan** (Queensland) is a former Victorian, but did not play competitive billiards here, nor did he profess to be even a moderate billiardist. However, he was a fine snooker player, and the true cueing necessary for potting has helped him to develop a high standard of billiards. In six years Ryan has won four State championships and one Australian championship. At snooker he has been practically unbeatable in Queensland.

**W. H. Carter** is the new Victorian amateur billiards champion. He was probably the most fancied of the 14 aspirants, but it would not have been surprising to see any one of 14 win it. Carter did not have it all his own way, and, in fact, was lucky to win against Sinclair in the final, for when wanting only three for "game," Sinclair missed a long red loser from hand which would have given him the title.

The gruelling semi-final between Carter and Hancock the previous evening undoubtedly affected Carter's play to a great extent. He was practically "done" in the final session, and only the lead of 100, with which he began it, saved him. However, he gave a great display in each heat,

and registered breaks of 115, 104, 80, 78, 74, 71, 70 during the event.

Sinclair gave a brilliant series of games, and was unlucky in the end not to have won the event. However, this was his first year, and he is quite satisfied to have got so close. Early in the event he displeased with his slow scoring methods, but later he brightened up, and incidentally played much better and attractively. During the championship Sinclair compiled breaks of 114, 106, 98, 95, 86, 79, 72, 71.

He is perhaps the most brilliant and consistent winning hazard striker we have seen. Some of his "pots" would have frightened W. Lindrum. I would pick Hancock out as the most improved cueist in Victoria, and would not be surprised if Hancock was perfect, and his knowledge of the finer points of the game was perhaps better than that of any other player.

A first-year aspirant in T. Cleary, who lost to Carter in the quarter finals, is another who will soon be starring. I would not be surprised to see Cleary, not only Victorian champion, but the most outstanding cueist in Australia three years hence.

The winding-up of the State championship with a "sprint" championship was very popular, and gave enthusiasts a chance to see all the quarter finalists in action on the same evening. Sinclair won the 100 up event, and therefore received some consolation for just missing the big one. Incidentally he received a handsome silver cup.

## BRILLIANT PLAY

The opening heat in the Australian championship between W. H. Carter (Vic.) and W. Matthews (S.A.) began with the finest display of high-class billiards seen for many years. In eight visits Carter scored 129 points to his opponent's 27. He made successive breaks of 27, 28, 23, 165, 62 and 26. Matthews did not receive a real opening during this burst, but he showed out well when he did get one. However, it looks very much as though Matthews relies only on red hazards. Time after time, when in good position for open play, he broke it up in endeavoring to force a read. When set on the hazard, he proved to be one of the best strikers we have seen, but it takes more than "red ball only" to win an Australian championship.

The early 300 lead by Carter was held until the end of the first session, and in the second he increased it to 542. His main breaks were—165, 134, 72, 62, 61, 34. Matthews made 97, 53, 50.

L. Hayes (N.S.W.) and S. Ryan (Q.) will play the two final sessions of their heat at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. today (Wednesday).

## AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNEY.

### HEATS IN PROGRESS.

MELBOURNE, September 5.

W. Carter (Victoria) defeated W. Matthews (South Australia) comfortably this afternoon in the first heat of the Australian amateur billiards championship. Final scores:—Carter, 2,000; Matthews, 1,292.

L. Hayes, of New South Wales, and S. Ryan, of Queensland, in the evening began the second heat. At the close of the session the scores were:—Hayes, 666; Ryan, 396.



W. Matthews

W.H. (Bill) Matthews

## AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP.

MELBOURNE, Wednesday.

L. Hayes, of New South Wales, defeated S. Ryan (Queensland) in the second heat of the Australian amateur billiard championship to-night. Each man played well in patches, Hayes having a particularly fine sequence of scoring visits in the afternoon. Ryan did best in the evening. Although Ryan was beaten comfortably, there was not much difference in the relative skill of the players.

At the end of the afternoon session the scores were: Hayes, 1333; Ryan, 955. In the evening Hayes was unable to get going for some time, and Ryan, with a string of breaks, rapidly improved his position. With the scores 1477-1311 Hayes was still unable to get a start. Ryan appeared likely to make a game of it, but he made a fatal mistake, which proved the turning point of the game. In playing a safety shot, he hit the ball too lightly, and left it over the middle pocket. Hayes made a 67 break, followed by 38, 65, and 44. With his confidence restored, Hayes continued to play consistently, and the final scores were: Hayes, 2000; Ryan, 1583. Best breaks: Hayes, 32, 28, 30, 55, 44, 59, 50, 41, 40, 27, 32, 76, 81, 50, 32, 42, 29, 40, 33, 67, 38, 65, 44, 44, 29, 42, 86; Ryan, 25, 34, 39, 55, 33, 91, 33, 51, 73, 51, 35, 32, 30, 62, 54, 74, 29, 35, 27, 36, 26, 29. The winner's average was 13.2.

The final will commence to-morrow night, when W. Carter (Vic.) will meet Hayes.

**BILLIARDS.****AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP.****GRAND FINAL CONTEST.****CARTER (Vic.) LEADS HAYES (N.S.W.).**

The grand final match for the Australian amateur billiards championship was commenced at the Y.M.C.A. hall last night between Les Hayes, of N.S.W., a former Empire title holder, and W. H. Carter, winner of the recent Victorian championship. The game is of 2000 up, divided into three sections, and the Victorian is in the lead by the small margin of 89.

The contest proved to be extremely interesting, and delighted the large audience. Hayes was the first to dash away with a clinking all-round visit of 110, and then both players in turn did something at almost every visit. When the N.S.W. player passed 204, his opponent was 126, and useful breaks gave him a further advantage, and the scores were called 317-198 in his favor. Carter then ran into his very best form, and rose to the occasion like a champion. He made a fine 87, and at his next essay strung together a sensational break of 148, the highest of the tournament, and took the lead with the scores called—Carter, 565; Hayes, 407. The N.S.W. player came again with a handy 80, and was then only 43 behind. The Victorian, playing with rare confidence, reached his sessional points with 46 unfinished, and was accorded an ovation. He had made the highest average of the championship series against an experienced world billiardist, and was always able to reply to any special effort made against him. Scores at close of play:—W. H. Carter (Victoria), 667; L. Hayes (N.S.W.), 578.

**Best Breaks.**—Carter: 148, 87, 47, 41, 47, 34, 36, 39, 39, 46 (unfinished). Hayes: 110, 89, 60, 48, 57, 63, 31, 27. Carter averaged 19 per visit, and Hayes 17. The game will be continued at 2.45 p.m. to-day.

**BILLIARDS.****AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP.****L. HAYES (N.S.W.) D. W. H. CARTER (V.) AND WINS TITLE.**

By defeating the Victorian champion, W. H. Carter, in the grand final of the Australian amateur billiards championship last night, Leslie Hayes, of N.S.W., captured the most coveted trophy in Australian amateur billiards for the fourth time.

Carter, the Victorian, commenced the afternoon session with a lead of 80, but broke down early and added only a few points to his unfinished break when the N.S.W. player, coming into his best form, scored 44, followed by 116 (a fine all-round break) and 33, and ran into a handy lead. Carter found the balls running unkindly, but afterwards strung together a fine 94, and was then only eight behind his opponent. Hayes, in four consecutive visits, added 50, 63, 10 and 68, and in the closing stages of the session he made further breaks of 65, 55 and 41. Scores at the end of the session were:—Hayes, 1332; Carter, 1120.

At the evening session, Hayes played with confidence, and gradually increased his lead. His position play was superb and an object lesson to younger players. At 1452 he had a lead of 217. Both players were freely applauded for difficult shots. When the scores were called Hayes 1713 and Carter 1452, the game was assured for the former. A speedy 94 later in the night gave him a greater lead of 429, when his score was 1800. The Victorian had a visit of 89, and was unlucky to break down at an easy shot. Final scores:—

L. HAYES (N.S.W.) . . . . . 2000  
W. H. CARTER (Victoria) . . . . . 1594

**Best Breaks.**—Hayes: 116, 81, 50, 68, 65, 55, 54, 43, 102. Carter: 94, 49, 59, 50, 44, 30, 42.

Hayes averaged 18.3 per visit for the whole, and 21 for the evening session. At the conclusion of the game Captain Tracey presented the gold medal and certificate to the winner.

# IN CLASS BY HIMSELF

By JACK OKE

**L. HAYES (New South Wales) won the Australian Amateur Billiards Championship at Melbourne Y.M.C.A. last week after giving one of the best amateur displays seen since Hooper (N.S.W.) was in the game. Hayes is in a class by himself.**

**HAYES** outclassed his opponents in every department of the game. Every representative played the red hazards admirably, but even in this Hayes was just a little better than the rest. At spot-end and in open play Hayes stood alone. His knowledge was superior, and his accurate cueing, control, and strength-judging were easily superior to those of any of his three opponents.

## BEST OF CAREER

Carter (Victoria), although having his usual lean periods, played the best billiards of his career. He was never troubled by Matthews (S.A.), and his form in that game and in the final was proof that he was next best to Hayes.

Carter is a fine open and spot-end cueist. Hazards are the basis of his game, however, and unless he is confident of still further improving his spot-end game so that he can rely less on them, he will have to play them differently. He gets the centre and top pockets cleanly enough, but fails to keep the red central.

After a few centres he invariably drives the red towards a side cushion instead of spotting to keep the red in the middle of the table. When this happens, his only shot is a short or long jenny or a difficult angle pot to the centre pocket.

The short jenny is too difficult to be certain of every time. The long jenny usually leaves the red in bad position from which to continue a hazard break. The centre pot does not allow any margin for error, and unless struck accurately fails to find its goal.

Carter is aware of the trouble this latter stroke got him into, and it is up to him to concentrate on keeping the red central. If he succeeds in this, he will go far; unless he does, he will never reach a higher standard than his present one—which, admittedly, is as high as any other Victorian amateur.

Ryan (Q.) is much the better equipped cueist of the two first heat losers. He has practically everything a cueist requires except experience. His shots are

all good, particularly the centre hazards. Individual strokes are scored from, but he fails to get them in such a way as to leave good following position. As his knowledge of position play improves so will his standard of billiards.

Ryan also can try being less generous to opponents, whom he presents with great openings at the end of practically every visit. He has been playing serious billiards for only six years, so has yet time to reach to top, and a little more concentration on position play may bring him there.

Matthews (S.A.) was disappointing. As a long losing hazard player he was brilliant. However, he stopped there and was not a good enough billiardist to obtain position often enough.

## STRENGTH ERRORS

Even when he did get going on the red a slight error in strength would often leave a centre of top pocket pot. This would invariably beat him for he was very weak on the winning hazard. There will never be an Australian championship for him unless he can improve sufficiently to play the open game reasonably well.

If there is a further limit on red ball play—and I understand that the majority of States are in favor of reducing the present limit of 25 to 15—Matthews cannot even hope to win another South Australian championship.

The Victorian Association are to be congratulated on the way in which this championship was conducted. The conditions were ideal in regard to table, refereeing, etc. However, a little help from Y.M.C.A. officials, from whom the hall is rented, to prevent the noise made by boys and youths presumably dismissed after finishing lessons would make the spectators and players more able to enjoy the contests.

The Courier-Mail (Brisbane) Tue 4 Sep 1934 Page 8

# Australian Amateur Title

## MATCH WITH NORMAN

True to amateur standards, the billiards shown in the first session yesterday of the first heat for the Australian championship between A. Sakzewski (Queensland) and C. E. Norman (Victoria), at Heiron and Smith's rooms, was of the sporting character. The weakest times in the game were the earliest, when the players laboured towards the first hundred, which Norman reached while Sakzewski was 74. The only stroke away from the purely orthodox was a follow through along three-parts of the top cushion by Sakzewski. Norman ran into his 200 with a 36 break, including an all-round-the-table cannon, the Queenslander at the time being 161. Then the mantle went from the one to the other, Sakzewski finding touch splendidly and having a sequence of 50-neat, sure and at times pretty billiards. He played every shot in his repertoire, but the irony of the position, to Norman at least, was that while Sakzewski was exploiting his shots the Queenslander had the Victorian exploring for his. Time after time Norman went to the table for a dead-end and with balk play his only way out or in.

With that break of 50, Sakzewski took the lead—225—212—and later improved on it. One run of 31 was made mostly off the red, with the white down. He did not give Norman a hope with many of the balls he left on the table. It was Sakzewski a master in offence and defence, although in several instances the suspicion came that it was through luck more than design. After the 300 was reached by Sakzewski, Norman being 244, the truest and surest billiards came into the play. Norman, not now so much dogged by bad luck, became the hazardist and cannon player, and he strung together a number of runs. He is a player of the steady, exacting type, without a disclosed specialty shot, but sound in a lot of them. The scores at the close of the afternoon's session were: Sakzewski (in play), 670; Norman, 477. Best breaks:—Sakzewski, 50, 31, 67, 37, 36, 33, 43; Norman, 48, 36, 30, 30, 39. Afternoon's average, Sakzewski, 9.4; Norman, 6.6.

Sakzewski maintained a lead of from 200 to 250 through the first two hours' play in the second session last night. He played the more attractive billiards, but many of his runs were comparatively small. He followed up his defensive strategy of the afternoon, but it was not so pronounced. Norman often tied his own play up; still he was in better touch than in the opening sessions.

Before reaching his 700 Sakzewski broke down in two runs from losing hazards, yet he sparkled in them later. A stun cannon around the bottom pocket was from him splendidly executed, but a brand of "chaser," which came soon after, can be credited to luck. Norman missed badly in some short losers around the pockets, and in a number of his strokes there was the suggestion that his sighting was bad. However, he made three break in succession of over 25 and appeared to come right into his play in an all-round 24 scored later.

Miscueing at 59, Sakzewski compiled the best break in numbers and execution till then. He showed wizardry in playing the balls to position, bringing in the long and short loser, cannons, and the long jenny. The balls later were in balk, the red being over the pocket and the white a foot away. Playing out of balk the length of the table he shot in the red, and the object ball cannoned with the white. The stroke was applauded. He kiss-cannoned on two occasions to get out of awkward situations.

Norman went along in his quiet way, missing, and then scoring well to swell his total with two excellent breaks of 62 and 72. It was in these hands that he showed the Victorian form which gave him an average of 20 in the last session for the championship of his State. At the end, however, he was 220 behind, but his average was comparatively good for the evening's play. Scores:—

Sakzewski (in play) .. .. .	1335
Norman .. .. .	1115
Best breaks: Sakzewski, 26, 59, 27, 23, 42, 34, 35; Norman, 39, 29, 26, 29, 33, 62, 67.	
Averages for session: Sakzewski 9.8; Norman, 9.3.	

## AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP.

### FIRST HEAT TO SAKZEWSKI.

BRISBANE, Sept. 4.—A. Sakzewski (Queensland) won the first heat of the Australian amateur billiards championship to-day, when he defeated C. Norman (Victoria) by 61.

The Queenslander commenced to-day's session with a lead of 220, and looked to be an easy winner; but Norman played some of the best billiards of the match, and almost managed to overtake his opponent.

Norman's best breaks for the session were 71 and 57, while the Queenslander's best was in the 30's.

Norman's average for the session was 11 and that of Sakzewski 8.9.

The final scores were: Sakzewski, 2000; Norman, 1939.

#### The Second Heat.

The second heat between Leslie W. Hayes, the title holder of N. S. Wales, and W. Matthews (South Australia) was commenced to night.

Hayes was in splendid form and outplayed his opponent. Hayes reached his first 500 in 75 minutes. At the close the scores were:

Hayes (in play) . . . . . 667

Matthews . . . . . 377

Hayes's average, 17.5, is the best for any championship in Brisbane this season. Matthews's average was 9.8. The best breaks were: Hayes, 89, 77, and 58 (unfinished); Matthews, 70.

BRISBANE, Wednesday.

**L.** HAYES, the New South Wales title-holder, gave an excellent display to-day in the second heat of the Australian amateur billiards championship against W. Matthews (South Australia).

Hayes was always his opponent's master and won with nearly 1000 to spare. He will now meet A. Sakzewski (Queensland) in the final to-morrow.

When the session commenced this afternoon, Hayes took his overnight unfinished break of 52 to 192 and later made a faultless break of 120. He eclipsed this at the night session, when he recorded 127. Matthews was consistent, but he was outplayed.

The scores were: Hayes, 2002; Matthews, 1045. The best breaks were 127, 130, 107, and 102 by Hayes, and 72, 64, and 63 by Matthews. The averages of the afternoon session were: Hayes 22.9; Matthews, 12.7; night session, Hayes, 24.6; Matthews, 10.3.



C. E. NORMAN (Victoria)

# Sakzewski's Fine Effort AUSTRALIAN TITLE FINAL

In the closing hour last night of the game for the Australian amateur billiards title between L. W. Hayes (New South Wales) and A. Sakzewski (Queensland) a keen fight for the lead developed. The Queenslander got it, and reached the thousand mark first with an advantage of 35. Then Hayes, through sheer doggedness, regained control, and at the end was 61 points ahead.

Sustained periods of brilliant billiards, with lapses on easy shots occasionally, marked the opening session. Both found it difficult early to get going. Sakzewski's first nine visits yielded only 10, in two hands, and the first five turns from Hayes brought only 30, from a single run. Then the players found true touch, and from steady billiards the game rose to a standard seldom seen on local tables.

## HAYES IN FORM

Hayes was 100 to 12, having had a run of 54, but with the opening century passed, the billiards became breezy and spectacular, and breaks came regularly from each player. Sakzewski had a run of 64, breaking down at a long cannon, and Hayes's best to the 200 mark was 89, the finish coming with the red missing the bottom pocket from a winning hazard. This class of hazard was rare, and nurseries rarer. The long table game was made a specialty, but runs-through were also excellent. Hayes was a general in top of the table play, and the hazards came easy to Sakzewski. This player won applause through effecting a long screw-in to the middle pocket—it could have been classed as a trick shot. Hayes emulated him in panning out strokes splendidly.

A break of 40 placed the Queenslander ahead, but with Sakzewski 407 to 374, the players fell to mediocre form. The easiest of cannons and pots went abegging, but form returned to each, and Hayes strung together a masterful 127, coursing the balls around the table at times to get position, and making hard shots look remarkably easy. The Queensland player came with smaller breaks, but the sessional points and the average favoured Hayes, 617 to 451.

Best breaks: Hayes: 30, 54, 44, 89, 34, 127, 36. Sakzewski: 64, 25, 27, 71, 40, 40, 32.

Averages: Hayes, 15.5; Sakzewski, 10.

## SAKZEWSKI TAKES LEAD

In the evening's session the duel was delightful to watch, the players double-baulking, and, at times, brilliantly breaking clear to score. Hayes was 769 when Sakzewski was 637. Then came hazards galore to yield 77 to Sakzewski and 75 to Hayes in following hands. In the Queensland champion's break there were 18 hazards, and Hayes ran to his limit of 75, making his complete break. Sakzewski chose the long and short hazard, but, singularly, all but nine of Hayes's came from the long shot. The New South Wales player tried to bang the red back for a cannon, but did not get it up far enough. Hayes was then 967, and Sakzewski 856.

Playing the better billiards the Queenslander worked up to 935, with Hayes 970, and in the following visit made 78, showing a complete mastery of hazards, top play, long cannons, and runs-through. He reached the thousand first—1013-978. It was a splendid pull up.

Sakzewski was 95 ahead a few hands later, but Hayes, dogged and persistent, began to make up the leeway. It was an interesting final half-hour.

The sessional scores were:—

<b>HAYES (in play)</b>	.. .. .	<b>1334</b>
<b>SAKZEWSKI</b>	.. .. .	<b>1273</b>

Best breaks: Hayes, 29, 36, 26, 32, 75, 35, 36, 32, 68, 35; Sakzewski, 41, 32, 77, 34, 74, 78, 49, 30.

Averages: Hayes, 76; Sakzewski, 75.



L. W. Hayes (N.S.W.) who is playing against A. Sakzewski (Queensland) for the Australian Amateur Billiards Championship.

# HAYES RETAINS TITLE

## Sakzewski Beaten by 268

### SPLENDID HAZARD PLAY

Leslie W. Hayes (New South Wales) retained the Australian amateur billiards championship title by defeating the Queensland representative, A. Sakzewski, last night, by 268 points. This is the fourth time these players have met in Australian championships and each has beaten the other twice.

It was splendid orthodox billiards, with brilliant touches by each player. In the



L. W. Hayes

the Queenslander was when, with the two balls in baulk, he tried to get the red in the pocket, missed, and Hayes had the run of the table to score 110 in one hand about mid-session.

first 52 visits in the aggregate there were only 13 scoreless turns, and up till that period of play only two misses at long hazards. Hayes won because he had a better run of the balls and through his finer position play. He was a master tactician, but Sakzewski, nevertheless, was equally as good in some of his defensive designs. Just where luck turned decisively against

#### PLAY STARTS WELL.

Hayes carried his over-night break of eight to 52, and Sakzewski followed with 34, but the artistry of Hayes was revealed in the following sequence of 114, which was without a fault. He broke down at a long loser. It was a splendid start to a game, the interest in which did not wane until Hayes established his good lead later. The possibilities of Sakzewski around the 200 are known, and something like that break was needed to give him a chance.

Hayes was 1507 when the Queenslander was 1346, and was keeping his opponent out with his fine strategy. However, Sakzewski commenced to make his own opportunities, and it was apparent that he was right in touch when he strung 70 together, and followed with a run of 55. His middle-pocket play was fine. The feast of billiards, however, did not finish there, for Hayes got 55 from splendid all-round play, and reached 1701 when Sakzewski was 1594. Some time later the 110 came to Hayes, and he appeared then to have the game in hand—1813 to 1594. Sakzewski fought on, but on the night's play the better man won. The final scores were:—

Hayes .. .. .	2000
Sakzewski .. .. .	1732

Best breaks:—Hayes: 52, 114, 21, 55, 40, 51, 110, 44, 39, 32, 35. Sakzewski: 34, 70, 55, 27, 65, 26, 47, 40.

Sessional average:—Hayes, 21; Sakzewski, 17.5. The revised sessional average for Thursday night's play is:—Sakzewski, 9.1; Hayes, 7.1.

Having received the trophies, Hayes said that he thought he had had enough of championship billiards, and unless his enthusiasm prevailed, he would not keep on. He regarded the table as the best-paced on which he had ever played.

**1935 Australian Amateur Billiards Title**  
**Rose of Lebanon Club, 181 Elizabeth St. Sydney**

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney) Mon 9 Sep

The Age (Melbourne) Mon 9 Sep 1935

**BILLIARDS**

**NATIONAL TITLE**

The inability of A. Sakzewski to make the trip has caused a last-minute change in the list of entries for the Australian amateur billiards championship. Queensland will now be represented by H. T. Titcombe.

If history repeats itself Titcombe should take back the honors, for when the 1932 series were held in Sydney, Sakzewski won for Queensland.

In the draw he has to meet Les Hayes, defender of the title, and a formidable opponent for anyone.

W. H. Matthews, of South Australia, and Tom Cleary, the Victorian representative, will open proceedings this afternoon at the Rose of Lebanon Club, 181 Elizabeth Street, Sydney. Each game is 2000 up, to be played in two sessions of 666 and one of 668.

The draw is:—

To-day, at 2.30 and 8 p.m., Tuesday, 2.30 p.m.: W. H. Matthews (S.A.) v. Tom Cleary (Victoria). Tuesday, at 8 p.m., Wednesday, 2.30 and 8 p.m.: Les Hayes (N.S.W.) v. H. T. Titcombe (Q'land). Thursday, at 8 p.m., Friday, 2.30 and 8 p.m.: Finals.

**BILLIARDS.**

**AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP.**

**Matches Commence To-day.**

The Australian amateur billiards championship will commence in Sydney to-day. The champions of all States, with the exception of West Australia, will compete against each other in games of 2000. The draw was to take place this morning before all of the assembled champions, and the first match will begin this afternoon and be played in three sessions. T. Cleary, the Victorian champion, has been practising daily at Sydney since Wednesday, and in several exhibitions has impressed the Sydney critics with the speed of his break-making. Unlike the ordinary amateur, he does not waste time studying his shots. He knows exactly what stroke to attempt, and then gets down to business.

Amateurs here are amused at the new rule announced by the Billiards Control Council of England, in which the player must now cross the balk line once in every 400 points scored. "It sounds very humorous," said one leading player on Saturday, "as the Victorian record break is 237, and it is improbable that any of our players will be seen among the four centuries for some time."

## Australian Title

After a slow beginning in the first match of the Australian billiards championship this afternoon, T. Cleary (Victoria) and W. H. Matthews (South Australia) played soundly to record some good breaks.

In compiling a break of 71, Matthews played a beautiful run through, losing hazard off the red. All his points in this break, with the exception of the last two, were losing hazards off the red.

Cleary soon afterwards unwound a brilliant break of 103. Both players then had a lean period until Cleary, with 43, brought his score to 478, with Matthews trailing 159 behind with 319.

Cleary was playing consistently, and was 622 against Matthews's 478.

Scores at the end of the session were:—

Cleary 666 (best breaks 103, 54, 43, 43, 42, 35, 34).

Matthews 478 (71, 69, 58, 57, 34).

## Victorian Plays Well

When play was resumed at 181 Elizabeth-street, Sydney, this afternoon between T. Cleary (Victoria) and W. H. Matthews (South Australia) in their match of 2000-up in the Australian amateur billiards championship, the Victorian had a commanding lead of 1333 to 982.

Cleary added five to his unfinished break of 38, but Matthews gave him another chance at the table by missing a losing hazard off the white. The Victorian played some superb cannons off the cushions in compiling a break of 36, after which both had a couple of lean periods. Then Cleary again gave a good exhibition of top-of-the-table play to score 89.

Matthews was completely out of touch. He was breaking down on hazards, at which he was so proficient yesterday. Cleary was playing steadily and mixing his play well. On successive visits to the table he scored 36, 46 and 56.

Later, Matthews scored successive breaks of 84 (24 hazards) and 52 (10 hazards).

At 4.15, the scores were:—

Cleary 1948.

Matthews 1401.

# RIVAL FOR LES HAYES

## VICTORIAN AFTER AUST. BILLIARDS TITLE

Tom Cleary, 26-year-old Victorian champion, gave a great exhibition in the first heat of the Australian Amateur Billiards Championship, which is being decided this week at 181 Elizabeth Street. At the end of last night's session he led W. H. Matthews, of South Australia, with 1333 (in play) to 982.

**T**HE game will be concluded this afternoon, and the victor is to meet the winner of the match between L. W. Hayes (N.S.W.), holder, and H. T. Titcombe (Q.) for the title. That match, also of 2000 up, is to commence to-night.

Cleary is a versatile stroke-maker, who can keep command when at the top of the table. He averaged a shade over 15 in the afternoon session to lead by 667 (in play) to 478.

His best breaks were 103, 54, 43 twice and 42. Matthews, who is a solid red ball player, strung together 71, 69, 58 and 57. The 69 effort came exclusively from losing hazards when his opponent's ball was in hand.

Cleary increased his lead in the evening session as the result of another varied display.

With best breaks of 75, 72, 58, 47, 46 and 38 unfinished, and an average of 15.5, he had a lead of 351 over his rival, whose best efforts were 73, 69, 57 and 56.

The Victorian is likely to make a bold bid for the title.

# HAYES IN FINE FORM

## 340 Scored in 35 Minutes

SYDNEY, Tuesday.

When the Australian amateur billiards championship was continued to-day T. Cleary (Victoria) was again in fine form to beat W. H. Matthews (South Australia) by 2000 to 1498. L. W. Hayes (N.S.W.), holder of the title, completely outclassed H. T. Titcombe (Queensland), scoring 667 to his opponent's 179. Cleary, favouring position at the top of the table, compiled several attractive sequences, his best breaks being 89, 56, 50, 46, and 42, while Matthews made 84 and 52. Hayes maintained the excellent form which enabled him to win the State championship recently, and in the first 35 minutes of the opening session against H. T. Titcombe scored 340. He dominated the table and took full advantage of the favourable position often left as a result of his opponent's mistakes. An exceptionally fine sequence of 133 was included in his total comprised mainly of red losing hazards and drop cannons. Other good breaks were: 95, 68, 40, and 44 (unfinished). Titcombe's best effort was 39.

Large article with photo

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/135522364>

## Amateur Billiards

When the titleholder, L. W. Hayes (N.S.W.), continued his match with H. T. Titcombe (Queensland) in the second round of the Australian amateur billiards championship at 181 Elizabeth-street to-day, he was 488 in front of his opponent, the scores being 667 to 179.

Titcombe's best break in the early visit to the table was 16, but Hayes was in good touch and showing great versatility recorded a break of 51. After this Titcombe continued his run of "outs" by missing an easy losing hazard off the white and leaving the position easy for Hayes. At this point Hayes led by 824 to 197.

### AFTERNOON PLAY

Another half-century break was scored by Hayes, whose top of the table play was faultless. He broke down at 57 in attempting to go in off the white. The Queenslander again failed to get going, enabling Hayes to score 86 before missing a difficult cannon off the cushion.

Titcombe improved a little, scoring 29, 38 and 41, and leaving the position difficult for Hayes, who had two scoreless sessions. Then, with the red and white in baulk, Hayes played a superb three-cushioned cannon with running side—easily the most spectacular shot seen this week—but he broke down soon afterwards at 13.

Hayes resorted to nursery cannons, and scored 29 of them in a break of 82 soon afterwards.

Hayes ran to his points soon afterwards with a break of 72 (unfinished). He had averaged 18½ points per visit to the table this afternoon.

Scores at the close of the session were: Hayes, 1332 (best breaks, 86, 82, 72 unfinished, 61, 57, 51, 46).

Titcombe, 502 (best breaks, 41, 38, 31, 29).

## Amateur Championship.

SYDNEY, Wednesday.—Les Hayes (N.S.W.), holder of the title, to-night defeated H. T. Titcombe (Q.), in the second round of the Australian Amateur billiards championship, by 2000 to 1108. As a result of to-night's victory Hayes will meet T. Cleary (V.) winner of the first round in the final match of the series, which will commence to-morrow night.

Final scores to-night were:—Hayes, 2000 (best breaks, 155, 86, 82, 71, 53); Titcombe, 1108 (84, 83, 55, 43).

The Newcastle Sun (NSW) Fri 13 Sep

## Champion's Win



*L. W. Hayes, holder of the title, watches the Queensland contender, H. T. Titcombe, play a practice shot before their match in the Australian Amateur Billiards Championship. The title match is being played in Sydney.*

## HAYES IN LEAD

### GOOD BREAKS IN AUSTRALIAN TITLE FINAL

When play ended last night in the first session of the Australian amateur billiards championship final, the holder, L. Hayes (N.S.W.) was leading by 262 from the Victorian, T. Cleary.

The visitor experienced bad luck in the early stages of the match, the balls running against him, and it was only towards the latter part of the session that he revealed his true form.

Sessional figures: L. Hayes (in play), 669 (best breaks 81, 77, 63 twice, 57, 41 twice; average 19½); T. Cleary 377 (64 and 50).

The final sessions will be held to-day at 181 Elizabeth Street, City, at 2.30 and 8 p.m.

## AMATEUR BILLIARDS

**L**ES HAYES has never been in grander form than in winning the Australian Amateur Billiards Championship for the seventh time. In the final, concluded at the Rose of Lebanon Club last night, he beat Tom Cleary, of Victoria, by 2000 to 1055.

The former Empire champion, who began yesterday with a lead of 292, increased that margin by 142 in the afternoon.

At one stage he looked like averaging 34 for the session, which would have been a record for the event.

Hayes was deadly accurate in hazard play and in close and round the table canons. He left his young rival nothing.

In the circumstances, Cleary did well to average 17 in the afternoon, and will benefit from his first experience against such a tough opponent, who averaged 27.9 in the afternoon and 23.7 in the evening.

Best breaks yesterday were: Hayes, 144, 112, 89, 88, 78, 77, 75, 73, 52, and 51 unfinished; Cleary, 120, 97 and 50.

After the championship the cups won in the national as well as the recent State series were presented by Mr. Alan Henry, president of the Victorian Association.

**T**HE final of the Australian amateur billiards championship tournament was won by L. W. Hayes, of New South Wales, who defeated Tom Cleary, of Victoria, by 2000 to 1055. Hayes was altogether too clever for Cleary in safety play, and in the final session the Victorian representative could make no impression on his more experienced opponent. In order to stimulate interest and improve the standard of play it has been decided to invite a prominent English amateur player to Australia at the end of next year. It is also hoped to hold an Empire championship in Australia at an early date. The Australian Amateur Billiards Council last week granted Victoria permission to organise, finance and control the English player's tour. If possible the reigning English champion will be invited, and he will arrive in time for the Victorian championship. Following this, he is to be free to visit Adelaide for the Australian title contest next year. There was much discussion on a suggestion that the Australian championship conditions should be amended to limit the number of hazards to 15, and the imposition of a time limit on all games. It was contended that as billiards was a three-ball game the alteration would materially improve the scoring rate of all-round play. Eventually it was decided to refer the matter to affiliated State Associations for a final vote.

Many having seen Cleary in opposition to Matthews expected him to beat Hayes, but the champion, getting in early with an 81, soon established a long lead which became more and more commanding as the game progressed, notwithstanding that Cleary made many fine efforts and showed himself to be a real stylist who impressed everyone with his free cueing.

This was especially evident during the second session when, in addition to a fine break of 120 (after losing the white at 66), he also got a 97. During this term the Victorian averaged no less than 17½, but nevertheless found his deficiency increased by 237, Hayes making fine breaks of 144 and 112, and generally giving an almost faultless display.

The first century break was a fine all-round effort, while in the second with the white in baulk he played 25 consecutive losers. Cleary's 97 was fine with some superb top-of-the-table play till at 90 he was unfortunate to have the balls touching at a moment when a big break seemed in prospect.

The final session was all Hayes, who, though not again running past the century, was very consistent and was considered unlucky on one occasion when what seemed a cannon was disallowed when but twelve short of three figures, in an excellent position. Final figures were 2000—1055. Best breaks by Hayes were 81, 63, 77, 63, 57, 89, 144, 112, 78, 77, 88, 73, 73, 52 and 51 (unf.) and he recorded the remarkable sessional averages of 19½, 27½ and 24 2-3, with an average for the full game of 23½.

Cleary made breaks of 64, 50, 120, 97 and 50, averaging 12¼ for the game. Though beaten the loser impressed with his possibilities and there is little doubt held that he will go a long way in the game.

When being presented with his trophies at the conclusion Hayes said that Cleary was the best Victorian champion he had played against.

## HAYES AGAIN AUSTRALIAN CHAMPION

LES HAYES had little difficulty in retaining his Australian billiards title, defeating T. Cleary (Vic.) in the final. It was the sixth win for Hayes in the event. He showed all his old excellence in controlling the red ball, and also played with fine confidence at the top of the table, and was altogether too consistent for the opposition.

**WELL** in touch from the start, Hayes practically won his game with Titcombe (Q.) in the first session and eventually finished with the long margin 2000—1108. In this contest he played a real gem of a break of 83 which included 29 consecutive nurseries, executed faultlessly.

The Queenslander had an unhappy experience for the first two sessions and then in the final term astonished everyone by running up a really fine 83 at his first visit. Still Titcombe on that last night impressed considerably with his hazard striking. Hayes made breaks of 68, 133, 95, 53, 51, 57, 86, 61, 82, 93, 155, 74, 53 and 71, and returned the fine sessional averages of 23, 18½ and 17½ with an average for the game of 19½.

Many having seen Cleary in opposition to Mathews expected him to beat Hayes, but the champion, getting in early with an 81, soon established a long lead which became more and more commanding as the game progressed, notwithstanding that Cleary made many fine efforts and showed himself to be a real stylist who impressed everyone with his free cueing.

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# ENGLISH AMATEUR CHAMPION TO COMPETE IN AUSTRALIA

(By "BAULK LINE")

**WHEN** the Australian amateur championship concluded in Sydney on Friday, September 13, Mr. M. Starfield, president of the Australian Billiard Council, announced that at the meeting held during the week many progressive steps had been decided upon, but left to Mr. A. Henry, of Victoria, the task of announcing these.

The most important, perhaps, was the statement that Victoria had made successful application to invite, finance, and make all arrangements for a visit from the reigning English amateur champion, who shall compete in the 1936 Victorian championship, and later in the Australian title event, which will be decided in Adelaide.

**PRESENT** English champion is Horace Coles, who regained the title on March 23 of this year, by defeating M. A. Boggan, 3707-3273 in the final. Coles is a very accomplished cueist, but it must not be forgotten that our own Les. Hayes met and defeated him in the Empire championships of 1929, which were played in South Africa. Of course, Coles may have improved greatly since then, and, if the information received by me is correct, he undoubtedly has.

Anyway, the next series of English championships will have a deep interest this end of the world.

In face of what has been written above, the published opinion of an expert engaged by the well-known firm of Burroughs and Watts Ltd. should prove of interest. This was sent me by the firm:

"Horace Coles is the most polished billiards player of our time, 38 years of age. Securities clerk with Midland Bank Ltd., Newport. 'Broke off' at 14 years old on his father's table. At 16 left home for his business career. Good-bye to billiards, he thought. At 19, served 20 months in the artillery in the slime and mud of France. 'Broke off' on the green woollen cloth again in 1920. In four years won the Welsh amateur championship four times, taking the Challenge Cup 'for keeps.' Played nine times in amateur billiards championship. Won twice, beating Sidney Lee and Maurice Boggan. Twice second to Laurie Steeples. In 1933 made championship record with a break of 363 against Frank Edward, and had sessional average of 83 in semi-final. Average 24.5 for final, when beating Sidney Lee. He also made two breaks of over 200, and one of 500 in one session. Scored 3000 points in three consecutive sessions. Played for Wales, then England, and now England again in the Empire championship. In short, a great player. Never 'ad a lesson in his life. Has seen only six professional games of billiards. An absolute amateur. In the course of a year does not play more than 50 hours at billiards. Had he willed he would have been one of the greatest players the world has ever known."

Coles must be good, but, just whether or not the pen ran somewhat wild

Cont.

when the writer penned the foregoing, remains to be proved.

In 1929 the contestants for the Empire championship were: H. Coles (England), Allen Prior (South Africa), P. W. Rutledge (South Africa), and L. Hayes (Australia). The games won by each player were: Hayes 3, Prior 2, Coles 1, and Rutledge nil. Best breaks were: Hayes 136, Prior 226, Coles 170, and Rutledge 164.

It was Laurie Steeples, aided by Sidney Lee, who put English amateur billiards back on the map. Beyond question, Steeples was the most gifted amateur who ever held a cue, and his record break made in Australia in 1931, of 461 unfinished, still stands. During the same series, Lee compiled a 433. It would be unwise to lavish words on any player, and we can rest assured that whoever may be imported for the championships, to be held in Victoria next year, will be kept hard at it to keep in front, and, the hurdle will be greater still when the major title is subsequently being decided in Adelaide. On figures, the odds favor England, but, in actual play, results lean decidedly toward Australia.



L. STEEPLES

**1936 Australian Amateur Billiards Title**  
**King William St. Adelaide**

The Advertiser (Adelaide) Fri 5 Jun 1936 Page 14

# **Australian Billiards Championships Here In September**

By BAULK-LINE

The State and Australian championship billiards matches will be played in Adelaide in September. Players are reminded that in all State, Australian and Empire amateur championships, winning or losing hazards have been limited to 15 consecutive, instead of 25, as hitherto. This is not a billiard rule, but a condition adopted by the Australian Amateur Billiards Council, following the action of the British association and control council.

The movement to establish association clubrooms by the issuing of £1 debentures at 5 per cent. has met with a good response.

News (Adelaide) Mon 21 Sep 1936 Page 7

## **REFUSAL OF PLAYER'S NOMINATION**

### **Billiards Council Decision**

The Australian Amateur Billiards Council today decided to refuse the nomination of R. J. P. Marshall (W.A.) in the Australian billiards championship, which will begin to-night. His nomination will be refused for six months to give the controlling amateur body further opportunity to make investigations.

Marshall was to have played A. Bull, the New South Wales representative, in the first heat tonight, but now a new draw will take place.

Much interest attaches to the title match, because the winner will represent Australia at the Empire Games to be held in Johannesburg, early in November.

W. Matthews, South Australian amateur champion, F. Hancock, representing Victoria, and R. Ziegler, amateur champion of Queensland.

The Sun (Sydney) Tue 22 Sep 1936 Page 14

## **BAN LIFTED**

### **Official Had Gone**

ADELAIDE, Tuesday.

After Mr. F. H. Herring, as a protest against what he alleged to be the unsportsmanlike attitude of delegates who voted to debar R. Marshall, Western Australian representative, from the Australian amateur billiards championship, had resigned the post of secretary to the Australian Amateur Billiards Council, it was announced that the ban had been lifted.

Marshall will now play for the title.

The council decided against Marshall yesterday.

"There was not a scintilla of evidence to warrant the vote of Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria against Marshall after the questions asked him about his amateur status," Mr. Herring said to-day.

## Victorian Beats S.A. Player

F. Hancock (Victorian champion) defeated W. H. Matthews (South Australian champion) by 476 in the first round of the Australian amateur billiards championship last night. Final scores:—Hancock, 2,000; Matthews, 1,524. Hancock averaged 16 a visit to the table at one stage last evening, and he compiled a brilliant 101 in remarkably quick time. Hancock's breaks yesterday included 96 and 90, his average for the full game being 14. Matthews got a 76, a 72, and several in the fifties and forties.

When play was resumed yesterday afternoon, Hancock was leading by 658 to 412. Hancock did not add many to an unfinished break, but on his second visit compiled a magnificent 96, mainly by spot end play. Play was dull for a time until Hancock compiled another 90, quickly followed by 47. Hancock's pace was too strong for Matthews, who fell rapidly behind. However, Matthews made breaks of 33, 49, 50 and 76. Hancock was 1,335 and Matthews 820 at the close of the afternoon session.

## Bull Leading Ziegler.

ADELAIDE, Sept. 23.—A. Bull, the N.S.W. champion, was leading Ziegler, the Queensland champion, by 200 points tonight in a round of the Australian amateur billiards championship. Scores: Bull, 1,334; Ziegler, 1,134.

Sparkling billiards was seen and in the afternoon session both averaged 16. Scores at the end of the afternoon session were: Bull, 666; Ziegler, 663. Bull scored 75 and 59 in succession and three 60's during the afternoon. In the last half of the afternoon session Ziegler made up a leeway of 200 odd by scoring 66, 68, 63 and 53. Ziegler was hampered by the cold atmosphere in the evening, his best breaks being 66, 68, 52, 59 and 42. Bull averaged 15 for the evening session, some of his breaks being 58, 53, 52, 39, 36 and 32.

R. Marshall (Western Australia) will play tomorrow.

The Mail (Adelaide) Sat 26 Sep 1936 Page 9



W. H. MATTHEWS, the South Australian billiards champion, in play during the amateur championship this week.

## Record Break in Semi-Final.

ADELAIDE, Sept. 25.—An Australian amateur record break of 269 was made by R. Marshall, of Western Australia, in the Australian amateur billiards championship tonight, when he won the second semi-final against the Victorian champion, R. Hancock. Marshall won by 968 points, the final scores being 2,000 to 1,032.

In the afternoon Marshall made a break of 254 but broke down on a fairly easy cannon. Marshall beat the Aus-



R. MARSHALL.

tralian record break of 262 made by L. W. Hayes and exploited every phase of the game. Hancock, although outclassed, played good billiards and might have won against any other amateur in Australia. Marshall averaged approximately 30.

## Marshall Increases His Lead in Billiards

Successive breaks of 67 and 68, followed by one of 89 a little later, rapidly increased the lead of R. Marshall (W.A.) soon after the final of the amateur billiards championship of Australia had been resumed in Adelaide this afternoon. At the beginning of the session Marshall (1,251) had an advantage of 659 points over A. Bull (N.S.W.) in a match of 2,500 up.

The New South Welshman made a break of 48 after several smaller ones, but at this stage was 820 behind his opponent. The final will be concluded tonight.

Progressive scores:—R. Marshall (W.A.), 1,509; A. Bull (N.S.W.), 689.

It was not until he went to Victoria five months ago, and played against the leading Victorian amateurs that his ability was recognised. He returned to Perth, and decided to play in his first big match—the Australian championship.

It was a big step to take, and in spite of the strain of this big contest, he set a new Australian championship record with a break of 269 unfinished. His highest break on any table is 605, but in an official match it is 406.

Thirteen years of billiards—he started pottering round his father's billiard room at Bayswater when he was 13—have given Marshall a fine style. He is an expert top-of-the-table player, but he considers the second ball contact—playing the white ball into position as well as the red after a shot—most important.

# BILLIARDS.

## AUSTRALIAN AMATEUR FINAL

### Easy Victory for Marshall.

ADELAIDE, Sept. 29.—The final of the Australian amateur billiards championship was won tonight by R. Marshall, the 26-year-old West Australian, who defeated A. Bull (N.S.W.) with a score of 2,502 against 1,166.

The winner gave a brilliant display of all-round billiards, particularly at the afternoon session when he compiled his points in 50 minutes which is believed to be an Australian record for amateurs. He made his afternoon score in nine visits to the table with breaks of 42, 36, 67, 68, 89, 28, 69, 86 and 184 unfinished. Bull was not at the table any great length of time. His best contributions were runs between 25 and 50. At the conclusion of the afternoon session the scores were:— Marshall, 1,867; Bull, 711.

At the night session Marshall did not display the same brilliance. He carried his unfinished break to 187 and subsequently made breaks of 132, 69, 71, 55 and 89. Bull's best breaks at the evening session were 76, 44, 36 and 46.

At the conclusion of the tournament the Governor (Sir Winston Dugan) presented the prize to Marshall.

At the annual meeting of the Australian Amateur Billiards Council, which was held in Adelaide recently, Captain A. M. Treacy, of Melbourne, was elected president. Messrs. C. H. Oswald-Sealy and W. Longworth (Sydney) were appointed joint trustees for the Empire championship funds. It was decided that the affiliated associations should contribute in the following manner towards the expenses of R. Marshall, the Australian champion, who will leave shortly for South Africa: New South Wales and Victoria, £60 each; Queensland and South Australia, £40 each; Western Australia, £30. Western Australia has already sent its cheque to Mr. Oswald-Sealy. New South Wales has so far raised more than £50.

# MARSHALL DEMORALISES BILLIARDS TITLE FIELD

From JACK OKE

*In the Australian billiards championship at Adelaide Bob. Marshall (W.A.), playing in his first event, completely demoralised his opponents, none of whom could even hope to make the game interesting.*

**M**ARSHALL is so far above other amateurs that it is safe to say the competitive interest in the Australian championship will cease until he retires. As he is only 26, the belt should be in his keeping for many years to come.

Some idea of Marshall's ability can be gauged from his display in his first heat. Against the Victorian champion, Fred. Hancock, Marshall quickly got going with early breaks of 58 and 51, followed up with a capital run of 136, and then added 81 and 145. A 50 then preceded a huge effort of 254, and then came a series of solid runs until he eventually reached home with a record-breaking effort of 269 (unf.).

## CAN DO BETTER

Wonderful as this display was I have no doubt that it was nothing compared to what he will do if ever the occasion arises. The class of billiards which Marshall exploits makes 1000 breaks more than a possibility.

There is not one department of the game in which he can be faulted. He is brilliant everywhere, and the only difference between his present game and that of our leading professionals is the absence of nurseries. These he leaves severely alone, but I understand that it is only because he has an idea that the public does not appreciate their excessive use. He can play them as well as most of our leading pros., and has the ability to set up the position.

Up to within a few hours of the beginning of his heat it was not certain that Marshall's nomination would be accepted by the billiards council. Three of the five States questioned his amateur status. At the general meeting, N.S.W., Queensland and Victoria voted against his inclusion. However, during that night the N.S.W. delegate, Wal. Bull, was instructed by his association to vote for Marshall's inclusion. Although holding his original view, Bull had no option but to join forces with South Australia and Western Australia, and at the extraordinary meeting called the next morning Marshall was accepted.

This meeting was held in camera, and, although the press was given to understand that the decision was unanimous, both Ron Ziegler and W. H. Carter, the Queensland and Victorian delegates, state that they voted against Marshall being admitted as an amateur.

In fact, Ziegler officially informed the Council, before the start of the championship, that Queensland were competing under protest.

Bull felt his position keenly. Not only was he forced to vote against his own conviction, but he also had to accept what was nothing less than a vote of no-confidence from his own association.

## HANCOCK'S FORM GOOD

The draw was unfortunate. Matthews (S.A.) and Hancock (Vic.), both of whom were definitely superior to Bull and Ziegler, were drawn in the first heat. Hancock gave a display of high class billiards to win 2000-1524. He exceeded the century on three occasions, 103, 101 and 101, also getting breaks of 96, 97, 81, 90, and several exceeding 50. An 80 and 76 were the best of Matthews's eight exceeding the half-century.

Bull 2000 defeated Ziegler 1682 in a match which was interesting throughout, but neither quite reached top form. Bull had a long string of breaks, the highest being 75, and Ziegler had one good one of 80, but only six others beyond 50.

Had Marshall been absent Hancock would surely have gained Victoria's first Australian championship since Eccles won in 1924. Marshall will represent Australia in the Empire championship in South Africa in November.

That there was nothing personal in the discussion on Marshall's amateur standing was evidenced by all competitors, each of whom is genuinely pleased that Australia will be represented by her best cueist, and a fine sportsman.

**1937 Australian Amateur Billiards Title**  
**YMCA, Melbourne**

The Daily News (Perth) Tue 7 Sep 1937

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney) 8 Sep 1937

# Marshall 1748; Toms 607

**MELBOURNE, Tuesday.**

As a result of Marshall's half-hearted display in the first round of the Australian billiards championship against Toms (Q.), only a few spectators saw today's sessions.

**Scores:—**

Marshall (in play), 1748 (102, 79, 46);  
Toms, 607.

## MARSHALL'S FINE BILLIARDS FORM

MELBOURNE, Tuesday.—R. Marshall, title holder, was not extended to win the first heat of the Australian amateur billiards championship from M. Toms (Queensland).

The final session was played this afternoon, and from the beginning Toms did not have a chance. Marshall increased his lead every session to win by 1245.

Final scores:—Marshall 2000 (79, 77, 67, 102, 52, 46, 37, 31); Toms 755 (33, 31, 30).

T. Cleary (Victoria) was leading A. H. Hearnden (South Australia) at the end of their first session of the semi-final tonight.

Scores:—Cleary (in play) 666 (84, 81, 62, 52, 41, 34, 34, 33); Hearnden, 464 (64, 39, 33, 26, 24, 24).

The Age (Melbourne) Tue 7 Sep 1937 Page 15



## CLEARY RESUMES WITH 109 BREAK

**T.** CLEARY (Vic.) opened play against A. H. Hearnden (S.A.) in the semi-final of the Australian amateur billiards championship today with a break of 109.

It was a continuation of an unfinished break of 28 from last night.

After the opening run of 109, Hearnden collected 20 and was unlucky to break down as he let Cleary in for another useful 54.

At 832, Hearnden was 327 in arrears. He reduced it considerably with a 71 break.

Both were putting in good work at spot end play, but it did not approach the standard of that set by Marshall in this department.

**Progress Score.**—Cleary (in play), 1157, including breaks of 109, 54, 49, 64; Hearnden, 785 (breaks 71, 41, 29, 20).

## CLEARY GOES TO FINAL

MELBOURNE, Wednesday.

Playing confidently and with certainty, T. Cleary, the State amateur champion, decisively defeated the South Australian titleholder, A. H. Hearnden, by 582 in a game of 2000 up in the first semi-final of the Australian billiards championship to-night. The final scores were: T. Cleary (V.), 2000, A. H. Hearnden (S.A.), 1418. Cleary averaged 14.1 a visit. Cleary will next oppose the winner of the second semi-final, between the Empire and Australian champion, R. Marshall, and W. Longworth (N.S.W.), to commence tomorrow.

The West Australian (Perth) Fri 10 Sep

## R. MARSHALL IN FORM.

### Scores 1,333 in Four Hours.

MELBOURNE, Sept. 9.—R. Marshall (W.A.) again demonstrated his superiority over other entrants for the Australian billiards championship today. In four hours' play he scored more than 1,300 while his opponent, W. Longworth (N.S.W.), gained 604.

Marshall was in splendid form early in the match and after an opening break compiled 114 at a fast rate. He reached 200 before Longworth had passed 50. Longworth made several brilliant shots, but his best effort was a break of 38. In his next three visits Marshall made 64, 94 and 124. At the end of the afternoon's session Marshall had a lead of 461. He had averaged 33 at each visit to the table.

In carrying on an unfinished break of 98, Marshall failed at an easy shot when 107, but when Longworth missed he returned to the table and scored 92 in faultless style. Then he had a lapse and failed to score on seven successive occasions. Longworth, in the meantime, showed improvement and scored well with breaks of 40, 45, 37, 55 and 52. Marshall came back to his best form and scored 468 in less than an hour in five breaks. When play finished Marshall had a lead of 729.

**Scores:—**

Marshall, 1,333. Breaks: 30, 114, 64, 94, 124, 107, 92, 137, 69, 150, 30, 82.

Longworth, 604. Breaks: 35, 38, 35, 40, 45, 37, 30, 55, 52.

Completing his semi-final against W. Longworth (N.S.W.) in the afternoon, Marshall was not in sparkling form. Nevertheless, he scored at a fast rate, and fine breaks of 98, 86 and 65 early in the session allowed him to increase his lead. Longworth's best effort was 51. Marshall increased his lead of 696 to 867 before the match ended. Scores:—

Marshall, 2,000 (98, 86, 65, 50, 49, 36);  
Longworth, 1,133 (51, 45, 45, 39, 38, 32).

The Daily News (Perth) Sat 11 Sep 1937

MELBOURNE, Saturday.

R. Marshall, Empire and Australian champion, began with a break of 192 this afternoon when he resumed play in the final of the Australian Amateur Billiards Championship against Cleary (Victoria).

The match began last night, when Marshall scored 667 to Cleary's 328. Included in Marshall's total was a break of 250, which was only 19 short of the Australian record.

The majority of Marshall's points in his first break today were collected at the spot end, where he exploited postman's knock position extensively.

Cleary, although in a hopeless position, began in top form.

He followed Marshall with a brilliant run of 88, which ended with a "safety" and immediately collected another 85. Both were gems.

Progress scores: Marshall (in play) 828 (breaks 192, 23); Cleary 507 (breaks 88, 85).

# Marshall Tried To Make It Easy For Them

MELBOURNE, Monday.

R. Marshall, Empire, Western Australia, and Australian amateur billiards champion, successfully defended his Australian title against T. Cleary (Vic.) in final of series for championship on Saturday. His winning margin was 986.

Marshall played almost faultless billiards throughout, and twice, with breaks of 254 and 250, just failed to break his own Australian record of 269. It was noticeable that Cleary was the only opponent against whom Marshall had bothered to play safely. Indeed, in his other matches he on numerous occasions deliberately set up easy positions for his opponents.

Cleary was given a special cheer when his score reached 1000. With Marshall playing flat out it was a wonderful performance at that stage. However, he was 707 in arrears, and was eventually defeated by 986. Final scores and best breaks were: Marshall, 2000 (254, 250, 192, 156, 166, 95, 75, 125 unfinished); Cleary, 1014 (95, 38, 93, 88, 85, 68, 60, 77, 53).

The Telegraph (Brisbane) Fri 16 Sep 1938 Page 16

# Australian Amateur Billiards Championship Begins Here Monday



A Sakzewski,  
State Champion  
This Year

By the week-end the representatives who will compete in the Australian amateur billiards championship will have arrived in Brisbane, and the title event will be under way with the opening session at 8 o'clock on Monday night September 19, in the Teachers' Conference Hall in Elizabeth Street. The draw will not be made until a special meeting of the players has been held.

This year Mr. A. Sakzewski is president of the Australian body, with Mr. R. N. Graves as secretary. The procedure is that each State champion will represent his State body on the Australian Association, which makes it obvious that no draw could be attempted until each player arrived.

While Sakzewski's form in the Queensland title event, when he secured the championship, was creditable, it did not measure up to the standard which will be set by H. Marshall, the Australian champion, and T. Cleary, the Victorian champion who, in the recent Empire championships, set a Victorian amateur record with a brilliant break of 323.

Marshall and Cleary are likely to dominate the event. The margin reports which

have come to hand on the ability of the two other competitors, J. S. Collins (New South Wales) and J. Harris (South Australia) lead to the belief that they are not of a higher standard than Sakzewski.

That should mean that the play between these three—depending, of course, on if they meet—should be quite as interesting as that between Marshall and Cleary, who, on actual performances, appear certain to contest the final.

# Break of 285 in National Title Play

SO quickly did R. Marshall, the Western Australian British Empire champion, score in the first session of the Australian billiards championships at the Teachers' Building last night that he reached 667 in 68 minutes. In that time his opponent, J. Harris, of South Australia, scored only 109.

It took Marshall some time to settle down to his best form, but when he did he made a very fine break of 285, in which his control of the ball and constructive work were almost perfect. Only once or twice in that break did he find it necessary to interrupt his characteristic fast play to think of a way out of difficult positions.

Marshall's average for the session exceeded 31.

Harris did not show the form which made him the best amateur player in his State. It is his first big match, and that may have affected him, although he did not show it.

The first shots for the right to break them up resulted in a dead heat, and the second favoured Harris, who got the red into baulk. Marshall failed to score, and Harris, after scoring three, missed an in off the red. Marshall followed with a break of 15.

After Harris had made six Marshall got 48, all but three by top of the table play. Two shots later the red went into baulk, and he broke down at 20.

His next visit to the table carried his score to three figures.

## Harris Out of Luck

Harris was playing without luck. He missed a cannon by a margin which could not have been narrower, and

then saw the red balance on the edge of a pocket.

Harris got his first double-figure break, 13, on his tenth visit to the table. His next, 29, took him to 72, and was given encouraging applause.

The first half-century break, exactly 50, made Marshall 273, when his opponent was only 82. After less than 40 minutes' play the Empire champion had passed 300. Harris was then three short of his first hundred.

Before the break terminated at 285 Marshall was 564. Harris made three to reach 100. A three and then a 76 took Marshall to 640.

After nine by Harris Marshall completed the session with 8 unfinished, which made the scores:—

MARSHALL (in play)	667
HARRIS	109

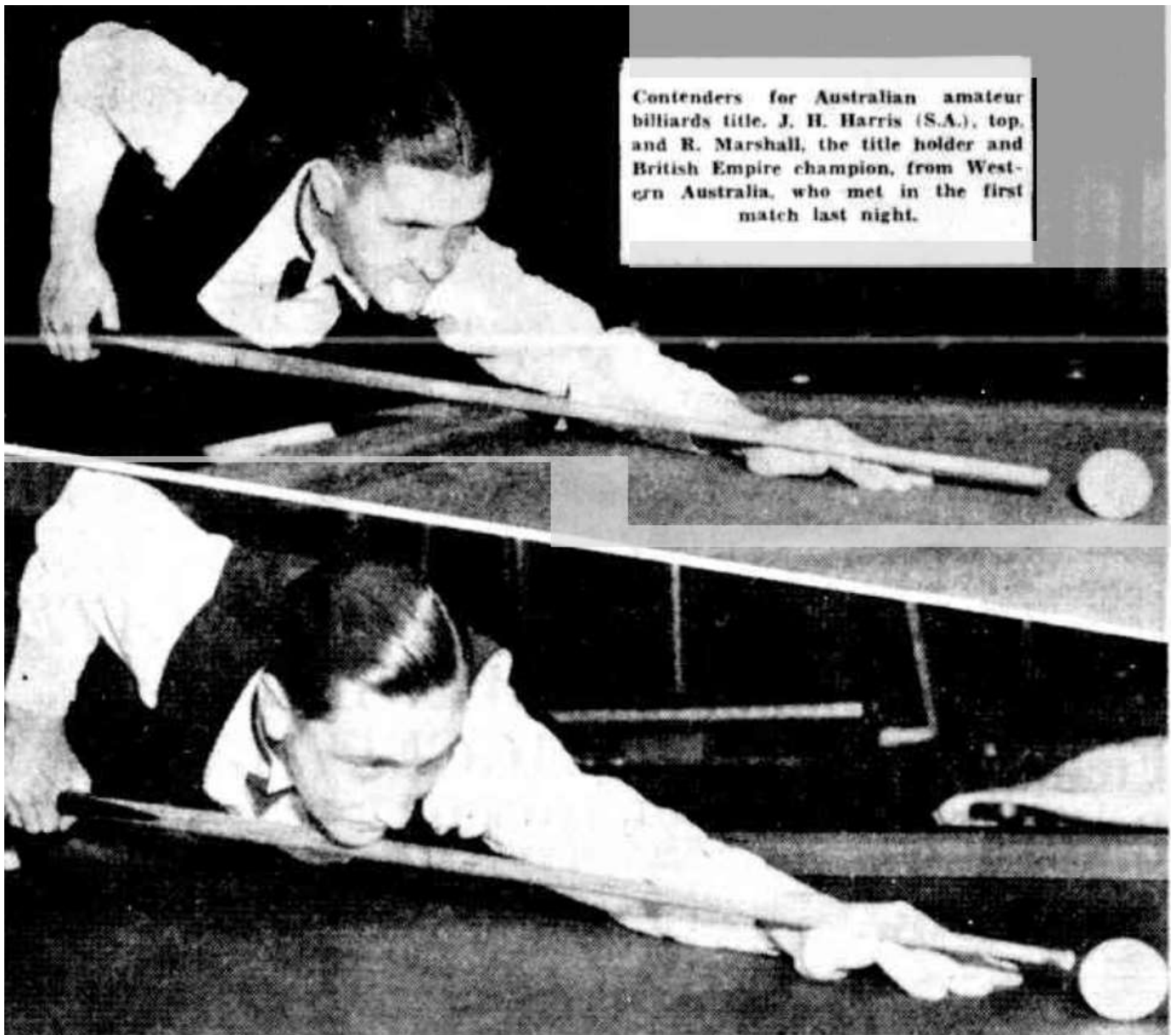
The highest breaks were:—

Marshall: 285, 76, 50, 48, 38, 36.

Harris: 29, 17.

The match will be concluded to-day, when there will be afternoon and night sessions.

**BRISBANE. Tuesday:—R. Marshall, British and Empire amateur billiards champion, won the first heat of the Australian championship, defeating G. A. Harris, the South Australian title holder, by 2,000 to 792. Marshall plays J. S. Collins (N.S.W. champion) in the second round to-morrow.**



## Marshall in Strong Position.

BRISBANE, Sept. 21.—Making breaks of 236, 188, 132 and 102, R. Marshall (W.A.), the Empire champion, led J. Collins (N.S.W.) by 1,336 points to 546 at the end of the second session of the first semi-final of the Australian amateur billiards championship tonight. The balls ran very wide for Collins and he found it difficult to get moving in his best style. He made breaks of over 50 only twice. The afternoon session ended with Marshall leading by 667 to 315. Collins took some time to get his touch and at one stage was down 320 to 43. His best break was 83. Scores:—Marshall (in play), 1,336; Collins, 546. Best breaks:—Marshall, 236, 188, 132, 102, 91, 64, 55, 51 (twice); Collins, 83, 52, 31, 30. The match will be concluded tomorrow afternoon. Tomorrow night T. Cleary (Vic.) and A. Sakzewski (Q'd) will commence the second semi-final.

BRISBANE, Thursday.—R. Marshall, the British Empire champion, defeated J. Collins (N.S.W.) by 2000 to 947 in the first semi-final heat of the Australian billiards championship, which concluded to-day. It was Marshall's second victory by more than 1000 in the series.

In the final session Collins desperately tried to reduce his leeway. He reached 900 when Marshall was 1927. With 68 points piled up quickly, Marshall seemed certain to reach 2000 without a miss, but he missed a short cannon by inches. Eventually he won with a break of 20, unfinished.

Although T. Cleary (Victoria) led A. Sakzewski (Q.) by 360, at one stage, Sakzewski was only 263 points in arrears when the first session of the second semi-final was played to-night.

Scores at present are:—Cleary, 667; Sakzewski 404. Marshall will meet winner of Cleary-Sakzewski match in final, which will begin on Monday.

The Courier-Mail (Brisbane) Fri 23 Sep 1938

## CLEARY IN FORM

Cleary started well. After breaking down at 37 he compiled 102 on his fourth visit. This break came mostly from top of table play. Only when play became wide did Cleary fail. When Cleary was 173 which included the break of 102, Sakzewski was 24.

The high rate of scoring by Cleary was maintained, and mainly by top of table play he led by 338 to 88. At 469 Cleary had a lead of 361, and at 565 he led by 322.

At this stage Sakzewski improved, and he scored 151 while Cleary amassed only 19 points in 12 visits. When Cleary was 570, Sakzewski had reached 288, and he passed 300 with a fine cannon.

At 586 Cleary regained his form, and with top of table play ran out with 81 unfinished and a lead of 263. The final scores were:—

<b>CLEARY</b>	.. .. .	<b>667</b>
<b>SAKZEWSKI</b>	.. .. .	<b>404</b>

The best breaks were:

Cleary: 37, 102, 28, 43, 78, 117, 35, 23, 33, 81 (unfinished).

Sakzewski: 24, 20, 20, 50, 34, 32, 22, 39, 26.

# CLEARY IN FINAL

## Poor Game For Billiards Title

T. Cleary (Vic.) will meet R. Marshall (W.A.), Empire champion, in the final of the Australian amateur billiards championship, to commence at the Teachers' Building on Monday night.

Cleary qualified by defeating A. Sakzewski, of Queensland, a former Australian champion, by 2002 to 1659, yesterday.

The night session was characterised by defensive billiards. At times, the standard of play was unworthy of the importance of the game, and probably the worst in the history of the series.

Except for 103 soon after play was resumed, and three successive breaks of 77, 92, and 85, towards the end, Cleary's play was not impressive. On one occasion he failed to hit a ball less than two feet away.

Cleary began yesterday afternoon's session with an advantage of 263 points, and had increased it to 334 when it ended. His best break in that session was 94.

He went to the table last night with 68 unfinished, but did not add to it.

Playing neat billiards, Sakzewski made 78. He lost the white at 75, and after an in off, he double baulked, and Cleary fired into the middle pocket.

Cleary went to 1437 with a well-made 103, which gave him an advantage of 361.

Sakzewski was unlucky in losing the white for the third time. He then left himself in a difficult position, with the three balls, almost "hard up, at intervals from one end of a side cushion to the other.

There was a barren period in which both players made several visits to the table without reaching double figures. Then Cleary found touch and got 61. That was followed by more inactivity, with both men playing poorly.

Sakzewski made some progress with a 50 and a 49 in successive shots, and reduced his deficit to 190. Cleary was playing so badly that the Queenslanders could have won if in his best form.

After a long run of failure and small breaks, Cleary put himself in a winning position with 77, 92, and 85 in a row.

After being on 1999 for three shots, Cleary potted the red, and made the final scores:

Cleary .. .. .	2002
Sakzewski .. .. .	1659

The best breaks were:—

Cleary: 103, 92, 85, 77, 61.

Sakzewski: 78, 50, 49, 46, 41.

**Marshall v. Cleary.**

BRISBANE, Sept. 26.—With a break of 196 which took only 12 minutes to make, R. Marshall, the British Empire champion, led by 668 to 594 against T. Cleary (Vic.) in the first session of the final of the Australian amateur billiards championship tonight. Up to this stage, except for a break of 59, he had played with an uncertainty that was absent from his polished play in the qualifying matches. The scores at the end of the session were:—Marshall (in play), 668; Cleary, 594. Best breaks.—Marshall: 196, 59, 46, 40, 37, 36. Cleary: 120, 46 (twice), 42, 35. The match will be concluded tomorrow.

**Marshall's Close Call.**

BRISBANE, Sept. 27.—After one of the hardest games in his career, R. Marshall (W.A.), the British Empire champion, successfully defended his national title in the final of the Australian amateur billiards championship against the Victorian, T. Cleary tonight, the final scores being:—Marshall, 2,000; Cleary, 1,889.

**AMATEUR BILLIARDS FINAL BOARD**

21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40																			
R. MARSHALL										T. CLEARY									
PLA 2000										SPOT 1889									
103	42	54	212	60	68	48	44	32	36	26	91	44	40	97	70				

The scoreboard last night at the conclusion of the final of the Australian amateur billiards championship. Marshall won by 2,000 to 1,889

Larger article with details

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/38719446>

# Australian Amateur Title.

## SAKZEWSKI LEADS MANGLESDORF.

With a lead of 318 points with two hours to play, A. Sakzewski (Queensland) is in a strong position against L. Manglesdorf (New South Wales) in the first round of the Australian amateur billiards championship at the Rose of Lebanon Club, 181 Elizabeth Street. The concluding session of two hours will be played this afternoon.

The winner will meet the defending champion, R. Marshall (Western Australia) to-night and to-morrow afternoon and night. Three sessions, each of two hours, are being played, with four sessions in the final. Every State except Victoria is represented.

Play was most even and interesting in the afternoon. Sakzewski secured an early lead, and, at one stage, led by 137 to 75. Both played all-round billiards. Manglesdorf improved as the session advanced, but only once took the lead, and then by a few points. Near the end of the session, Sakzewski, playing confidently, made 54 unfinished. This gave him a score of 315 to 439 in the two hours of play. His best breaks were: 54 (unfinished), 35, 33, and 31. Manglesdorf's highest were 51, 42, 39, and 32. His average was 8.23 to Sakzewski's 9.47.

The Queenslander was in much better touch at night, scoring 573 to 331. He made breaks of 77, 74, 61, 44, scoring by all-round methods, and showing enterprise. Manglesdorf could not get control for some time, and in 16 visits aggregated 35. Later, he improved, but was never happy. He averaged 7.16 to Sakzewski's 12.21.

Play will be resumed at 3 p.m.; and at 8 p.m. R. Marshall will meet the winner.

A. Sakzewski (Q.) won his match in the New South Wales championship against the New South Wales champion, L. Manglesdorf, by 502 points. Sakzewski was clearly superior in the final session to-day. He played very soundly and consistently, and averaged 13.4 to Manglesdorf's 8.43. His best breaks were 65, 58, and 39. Manglesdorf's best were 55, 48, 44, and 29.

Sakzewski met the holder of the title (R. Marshall) to-night, and was in front at the end of the first of three sessions. His margin was only 23, but against such a formidable player as Marshall it was a fine performance. Scores:—Sakzewski, 510 (best breaks, 49, 51, 45, 76, 71, 41); Marshall, 487 (61, 58, 46, 32, 32, 30).

# Marshall's Narrow Billiards Victory

R. Marshall, holder, had a narrow escape from defeat in the Australian billiards championship last night.

With six minutes to go, A. Sakzewski led him 1463 to 1459.

Marshall, however, finished well to win 1543 to 1477.

His last break was 47 unfinished.

It was the most exciting billiards match seen in Sydney.

## Fast Hundred

A break of 102, compiled in six minutes, had given Marshall the lead 1363-1253. Then he led 1413-1306.

Sakzewski made a break of 77 to be down only 1415-1384, and a 56 at his next visit to the table gave him a one point lead, 1440-1439.

Marshall regained the lead, but Sakzewski again went to the front, 1463-1459, with only six minutes to play.

Marshall went to the table for his last turn leading 1496-1477.

Sakzewski had broken down when he narrowly missed a long cannon after appearing well set.

Marshall was tense and set while compiling his final break, and dropped the cue on the table as the bell rang, giving him victory by 66.

He seemed greatly relieved as he congratulated Sakzewski.

## Loser Happy

"It was the closest game I have ever played," said Marshall.

"Bert is a great fighter. I was jittery every time he got to the table."

Sakzewski was as happy as though he had won the match.

"Fancy being so close to defeating the world's champion," he said.

"I don't think I'll ever buy another clock. That official timekeeper just wouldn't play for me."

Both men compiled breaks of more than 100. In the afternoon, Marshall scored 144, Sakzewski 134, and at night Marshall scored 102.

The averages were:—Afternoon: Marshall 22.31, Sakzewski 20.50. Night: Marshall 15.25, Sakzewski 14.50. All sessions: Marshall 16.20, Sakzewski 16.05.

In today's semi-final, W. Matthews (South Aust.) will play J. Pickett (Tas.) at the Rose of Lebanon Club, Elizabeth Street.

Sessions will be 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., 3 to 5 p.m., and 8 to 10 p.m.

The winner will meet Marshall in the final tomorrow and Saturday.

Play in the Australian amateur billiards championship tourney was held up for 20 minutes to-day while one of the contestants slept peacefully in his room.

The player was W. Matthews (South Australia), who met J. Pickett (Tasmania) in a semi-final.

After the morning session, Matthews retired to his room for a rest and fell asleep. A telephone call from the Rose of Lebanon Club aroused him.

In the meantime, Pickett carried on with an unfinished break of 112, but broke down at 121. He sat down and waited for 10 minutes before Matthews arrived.

Matthews immediately went to the table and scored 25.

The winner will meet the Australian and Empire title holder, Bob Marshall, in the final to-morrow and Saturday.

Progress scores:—

E. A. Pickett (Tas.) 687.

W. H. Matthews (South Aust.) 540.

Best breaks: Pickett 121, 65, 45; Matthews 40, 30.

# MATTHEWS TO PLAY MARSHALL

W. Matthews (South Australia) will meet R. Marshall (Western Australia) in the final of the Australian Amateur billiards championship, starting today.

Matthews defeated J. Pickett (Tasmania) in the semi-final at the Rose of Lebanon Club yesterday by 1335 to 1219.

With only 15 minutes left for play, and with a lead of only two points, Matthews settled Pickett's chances with a brilliant 109 break, leaving only two minutes left for play.

Pickett carried an unfinished break at the start of the evening session to 65, to lead by 30.

The South Australian responded with 114, to lead by 81.

## Costly Error

Pickett steadily forged ahead, and with a solid 59 break took the lead by 1174 to 1147, with 25 minutes to play.

He then had a lean patch, but not going again, and pulled up to within two points of Matthews.

He then broke down on an easy in off the red, leaving the scores Matthews 1221, Pickett 1219.

"It was a shocking shot," said Pickett. "I had it won there."

# BILLIARDS TITLE FINAL

The final of the Australian amateur billiards championship commenced to-day at the Rose of Lebanon Club, when R. Marshall defended his title against W. Matthews, of South Australia.

After 15 minutes' play the title-holder led by 80 to 21. Matthews then got going, but broke down in attempting a long shot when 36. Marshall failed at his next visit, and Matthews went on to score 67 with brilliant round-the-table play.

Marshall made full use of his next opportunity and, mixing his shots, created a break of 289, which he followed with 52.

Progress scores:—

R. Marshall 481.

W. Matthews (in play) 161.

SYDNEY, Sept. 22.—R. Marshall (W.A.), Australian and Empire Games billiards champion, has an unassailable lead over W. Matthews (S.A.) in the final of the Australian amateur billiards championship which was begun today. When play ceased for the night the scores were:—Marshall, 1,505; Matthews, 743.

Marshall was in fine form in both afternoon and evening sessions. In the afternoon he made a break of 289 in 18 min. 30sec. and also one of 94. His best breaks tonight were 162 and 93; Matthews's best break in the afternoon was 67 and tonight he compiled a break of 80. The match will be continued tomorrow.

The Daily News (Perth) Sat 23 Sep 1939

West Australian Bob Marshall maintained his big lead in the early stages of the third session of the final of the Australian amateur billiards championship today.

Marshall, holder of the title is playing South Australian W. Matthews.

Progress scores: Marshall 2034, Matthews (in play), 1183.

After a quiet start Marshall made a fine break of 110 which took six minutes to complete. Matthews had bad luck in breaking down on an easy cannon when he was 97.

Marshall was giving a fine exhibition of all round play but Matthews was content to rely mostly on hazards.

Matthews scored 43 but Marshall followed with 62 and 82 at his next two visits to the table.

Marshall continued to dominate play and showing a splendid variety of strokes he compiled 124 in 7½ minutes.

## MARSHALL RETAINED BILLIARDS TITLE

SYDNEY, Sunday.

By defeating W. Matthews, of South Australia, in the final. R. Marshall, of Western Australia, won the Australian amateur billiards championship for the fourth time in succession. The final scores were: Marshall 3072, Matthews 1709. Marshall scored seven breaks of over 100.

The Telegraph (Brisbane) Sat 30 Sep 1939

## Non-Representation Means Loss of Venue Of Aust. Title Event

By "Q."

The annual meeting of the Australian Amateur Billiards Council agreed that any State not represented in the title event as from the Perth venue next year may forfeit its right to conduct, in rotative turn, the Australian event in its State. This is not the same motion that appeared on the agenda paper, as that sought to make the period commence from 1939 championship.

The original motion was by Western Australia, but that State's delegates agreed to the alteration to allow the period to start from Perth next year. That seems to have been a good gesture on the part of a State which has no real reasons for being friendly towards Victoria, and it is certain that the gesture will not pass unappreciated by Victoria. As a matter of fact the Victorian delegates declared at the meeting that so far as they knew Victoria would be represented in Perth next year. If that comes to pass—it will mean that Victoria will have to rescind a State motion about not participating when it holds certain views—it should mean that an unfortunate and prolonged incident has been closed.