

BILLIARDS PERSONALITIES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

A collection of the Billiards life of W.H. (Bill) MATTHEWS

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South Australian Amateur Billiards Championships

	Winner	Runner up	Highest Break
1933	W H Matthews	H L Goldsmith	95
1934	W H Matthews	H L Goldsmith	181
1935	W H Matthews	A H Hearnden	122
1936	W H Matthews	H L Goldsmith	99
1937	A H Hearnden	W H Matthews	94
1938	W H Matthews	J H Harris	118
1939	W H Matthews	A H Hearnden	246
1940	W H Matthews	A H Hearnden	63



W. Matthews

State Amateur Billiards 1932

News Tue 22 Jun 1932 Page 2

HANLEY DEFEATS MATTHEWS

The second tie of the amateur billiards championship of South Australia resulted in a victory for M. J. Hanley over W. Matthews, the scores being Hanley 759, Matthews 504.

On his third visit to the table Hanley completed a break of 107, but Matthews, fighting back gamely, equalled the scores at 200. Hanley then scored a break of 76, giving him a commanding lead, which he maintained throughout. His two breaks of more than 100 were excellent efforts.

Hanley's red ball play was a feature. His first 500 was scored with a fine average of 22 and had he been consistent enough in obtaining the remainder of his score, he would have broken the record for the highest average (18.5), which is held by H. L. Goldsmith (Australian champion).

Apart from the early stages of the game Matthews failed to show any of the form which gained him victory in the championship trials. His breaks of 60 and 42, which were scored by all red ball play near the end, were good efforts.

Chief breaks by Hanley were 107, 83, 76, 109, 33, 39, 40, and 34, and by Matthews, 31, 55, 68, 37, 60, and 42.

MATTHEWS WINS IN BILLIARDS SERIES

By 750 to 451, W. Matthews defeated F. Bickmore in the fourth match of the State amateur billiards championship, played last night. Best breaks were:— Matthews, 95, 55, 53, 49, 77 (unfinished); Bickmore, 71, 45, 44.

The next game in the championship series will be played on Monday week between W. H. Buchanan, winner of the 1932 open championship, and J. Dawe.

Fred Lindrum will arrive from Melbourne on Monday morning, and in the afternoon will begin a match with Howard Brady, State professional champion. Lindrum will also meet all the leading amateurs here.

Matthews to Play Goldsmith For State Billiards Title.

H. L. Goldsmith, present holder of the State amateur billiards championship title, will meet W. Matthews in the final of the 1933 championship series at the Palace Billiard Hall next Tuesday and Wednesday nights.

Matthews earned the right to contest the final by defeating W. Buchanan, a former amateur titleholder, in the semi-final last night. At one stage Buchanan was 170 in front of his opponent, but Matthews played well to win by 750 to 708. Best breaks were Matthews, 85, 59, 53, 46, 42; Buchanan, 50, 48, 39.

Goldsmith Leads In Billiards Championship

H. L. Goldsmith (holder) was leading W. H. Matthews by 750 to 459 at the close of play last night in the final of the amateur Billiards championship. Best breaks were:—Goldsmith (averaging 20), 135, 100, 69, 61; Matthews, 91, 53, 50, 44, 42. The concluding session of the match of 1,500 up, will be played at the Palace Billiards Hall tonight. At the conclusion of play tonight, the president of the Amateur Billiards Association (Mr. S. J. Jacobs) will present to the winner a trophy valued at £5, which he gives each year. The winner will also hold for 12 months a new shield presented by the Palace Billiard Hall. Three wins are required to win the shield outright. Others who will receive trophies tonight are—C. C. Hooper (open handicap winner) and W. H. Matthews (runner-up); F. K. Stevens (amateur snooker champion); and H. L. Goldsmith (runner-up); H. F. Fleet (winner of the amateur championship trials conducted to test young players); and C. C. Hooper (runner-up).

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BILLIARDS FINAL TO MATTHEWS

State Record Broken

W. H. Matthews won the State amateur billiards championship last night, from H. L. Goldsmith (holder) by 1,500 to 1,419. Goldsmith broke the State record with a break of 151.

The best breaks were:—Matthews, 80, 78, 72, 44, 61, 63, 53, 73, 56, 40, 33, 33, and 55. Goldsmith, 151, 81, 62, 60, 61, 40, 29, and 55.

Starting the session almost 300 behind, Matthews overhauled Goldsmith gradually. With 300 to go, Goldsmith was 100 in front. Matthews made a 78 and then a 44. At that stage the balls broke badly for Goldsmith, and Matthews, playing brilliantly, got a lead of 70. Mr. S. J. Jacobs (president of the Amateur Billiards Association) presented the trophies.

Fred Lindrum will play Matthews at the Palace Billiard Hall, on Monday night. Lindrum will concede 500 in 1,000. The proceeds of the match will be used to send a South Australian representative to Melbourne to play in the Australian championship.

1934 ABASA Amateur Billiards Title

News Thu 16 Aug 1934 Page 18

Billiards

MATTHEWS DEFEATS BICKMORE

W. H. Matthews. (850) defeated F. Bickmore. (660) in the last match of the first round of the South Australian amateur billiards championship at the Palace Billiards Hall, Rundle street, last night. The best breaks by Matthews were 97, 57, 55, 54, 51, 47, 46, and 46, and Bickmore's best were 67, 47, 45, 40, and 40.

The semi-finals will begin at 7.30 to-night.

H. L. Goldsmith, three times champion of South Australia, and former champion of Australasia, will meet W. H. Buchanan tonight. Buchanan has held the South Australian title on four occasions.

Matthews will play F. K. Stevens in the other semi-final tomorrow night. Matthews holds the title at present, while Stevens is the South Australian snooker champion, and has been runner-up in the billiards championship three times.

The semi-finals and final should provide some of the best billiards seen in South Australia for a long time.

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In the second semi-final of the South Australian amateur billiards championship, played last night, W. H. Matthews, holder of the title, 850, defeated F. K. Stevens, 240. Best breaks were:—Matthews, 161, 104, 69; Stevens, 33, 33, 31. Matthews's' break of 161 is a record for South Australia in amateur championship games. He finished with an Australian record average of 25.6.

Billiards

MATTHEWS IN FRONT

At the end of the first session of the final of the South Australian amateur billiards championship, W. H. Matthews (holder) was leading H. L. Goldsmith, 833 points to 695.

The first session of the game, which is of 2,500 up, produced the best exhibition of billiards seen in these games.

Goldsmith was quickly into his stride and early led by 200. Matthews, however, is in wonderful form, and he easily made up his leeway and finished the session 138 points ahead of Goldsmith.

Best breaks were:—Matthews—163, 97, 78, 77, 75, 95, 61 unfinished. Goldsmith—90, 75, 77, 47, 81.

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MATTHEWS RETAINS BILLIARDS TITLE

Fine Red Ball Play

W. H. Matthews retained his State amateur billiards title by defeating H. L. Goldsmith by 2,500 to 2,453 in the championship contest, which ended at the Palace Billiard Hall last night. Matthews, giving a fine exhibition of red ball play, gained the upper hand after Goldsmith had produced a great effort in recovering from 200 behind to gain a lead of 150. Best breaks were:—Matthews, 163, 145, 143, 90, 60; Goldsmith, 104, 101, 98, 97.

Mr. S. J. Jacobs presented trophies to Matthews and to the following players for other events:—Goldsmith (winner open handicap billiards tournament), T. Morgan (runner-up), C. C. Hooper (billiards championship trials). Messrs. J. Netter and A. Solomon were thanked for having donated trophies.

1935 ABASA Amateur Billiards Title

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Amateur Billiards Semi-Final

The result of the second semi-final of the amateur billiards championship, last night, between W. Matthews and P. K. Stevens, resulted in a win for Matthews, who scored 750 to his opponent's 567. Breaks—Matthews—75, 50, 49, 48, 60, 79, 97, 31. Stevens—74, 68, 59, 38, 36, 33.

The Advertiser Wed 28 Aug 1935 Page 6

Hearnden Leads Matthews in Billiards Contest

A. H. Hearnden (667) was leading W. H. Matthews (594), holder of the title for two years, at the close of play in the first session of the amateur billiards championship of South Australia last night.

Best breaks were:—Hearnden, 62, 62, 38, 76, 52, 42, and 34. Matthews 30, 52, 93, 122 and 36.

The match, which is of 2,000 up, is being held at the Palace Billiard Hall. The second session will begin at 7.45 p.m. today, and the final session at the same time tomorrow.

Amateur Billiards Championship

In the second section of the South Australian amateur billiard championship, played at the Palace Billiard Hall last night, A. H. Hearnden defeated W. W. Matthews by 1,333 to 1,202. Breaks—Hearnden, 36, 46, 36, 35, 43, 74, 47, 37; Matthews, 88, 74, 25, 74, 83, 43. The game will be concluded tonight.

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Billiards

W. H. MATTHEWS WINS AMATEUR TITLE

By winning the State amateur billiards championship last night from A. H. Hearnden, W. H. Matthews annexed the Brady-Netter Shield. It was the third time Matthews had won the championship, and his victory gave him possession of the trophy.



W. H. Matthews

The championship game was of 2,000 up, played in three sessions. Hearnden, playing good billiards, led Matthews in the first two sessions, but last night Matthews struck his top form. Catching Hearnden about the 1,500 mark, the champion always seemed a winner from that point. The final scores were

Matthews 2,000, Hearnden 1,892.

Towards the end of the game Matthews showed excellent form. His principal breaks were 33, 88, 56, 72, 43, 83. Hearnden's best breaks were 40, 53, 50, 77, 80.

1936 ABASA Amateur Billiards Title

The Advertiser Fri 11 Sep 1936 Page 8

Matthews Beats Herring At Billiards

W. H. Matthews (State champion) defeated **F. H. Herring** by 1,200 to 777 in the first round of the State amateur billiards championship yesterday.

Neither player showed his best form. Matthews got several breaks of about 60. At times, Herring appeared likely to compile a big break off hazard, but broke down on comparatively simple shots.

In sessions at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. today, **A. H. Hearnden** (former State and Australian champion) will meet **F. K. Stevens**. The games are played at the Amateur Billiards Association rooms, City Motors Building, corner of Gawler place and Grenfell street, city.

There will be no games tomorrow. Semi-finals will be on Monday and Tuesday, and the final on the two following days.

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Matthews Wins Second Billiards Semi-Final

W. H. Matthews (holder) defeated **A. H. Hearnden** (former State and Australian champion) by 47 points last night, in the second semi-final of the State amateur billiards championship. With the lead see-sawing in turn from one to another, the match of 1,200 up was long and close, not finishing until 11.5 p.m. At one stage during the afternoon Hearnden was 150 behind, but he compiled breaks of 99 and 61, and was 50 in the lead at the close of this session. Both players were out of touch for some time in the evening, when there were again many fluctuations.

Matthews will now meet **H. L. Goldsmith** in the final of 2,000 up, beginning at 8 p.m. today, at the Amateur Billiards Association rooms, City Motors Building, corner of Gawler place and Grenfell street, city. The final will be continued tomorrow, in sessions beginning at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Matthews Retains Billiards Title

W. H. Matthews retained the State amateur billiards championship title last night by defeating H. L. Goldsmith (former State and Australian champion) by 2,000 to 1,890.

There was a record attendance for these matches last night at the Amateur Billiards Association rooms, City Motors Building, corner of Grenfell street and Gawler place.

Matthews will now represent South Australia in the Australian championship, beginning at 8 p.m. on Monday, at Goldsbrough, Merri's old premises, King William street.

Matthews played consistently throughout, employing the red ball to the full, while Goldsmith relied on the more difficult form—top of table for his points. Some excellent breaks were compiled, Goldsmith's 125 being the highest. Breaks of 70 and 100 were frequent.

The average for the full game was 12 a visit.

At the resumption of play yesterday afternoon, Matthews was 667 and Goldsmith 555. The lead see-sawed throughout the remainder of the game. After passing 1,800, Goldsmith increased his lead to more than 100, and seemed in a winning position. However, Matthews quickly took advantage of an opportunity, and, compiling several breaks of between 50 and 60, reversed the position. With the pressure on both missed a few easy shots. The end came with a missed red "winner" by Goldsmith, from which Matthews scored his final 17 points.

1937 ABASA Amateur Billiards Title

The Advertiser Sat 21 Aug 1937 Page 17

Matthews Defeats Haddy

In the first heat of the amateur billiards championship of South Australia, title-holder, W. H. Matthews, defeated Bruce Haddy, running out at 1,200 when Haddy was 600.

Conditions were difficult for both players because of new cloth and balls, which are invariably tricky in the first session, and the damp atmosphere. Haddy was first away and with useful runs looked like reaching the first 100 before the champion, but when he was 98, Matthews produced a well played 55 and took the lead. From this stage Matthews forged ahead and reached 500 when Haddy was 343. Towards the finish of the afternoon session the balls broke badly for both players and the last 100 took a long time to score. The afternoon session scores were, Matthews 600 (in play), Haddy 381. Breaks over 30 were—Matthews 65, 55, 43, 41, 38, 37, 31; Haddy, 48, 42, 38, 34.

At the night session Haddy could not get going and Matthews with several small runs increased his lead. Haddy replied with several runs of 20 and 30 and for a while scored evenly with the champion, but then Matthews steadily gained, confidently putting on runs of 34, 53, 35, closely followed by 25 and 65. A break of 94 took him past the 1,000 mark, and following this with 41, he required only 17 points which he scored at the next visit.

Haddy was overwhelmed by his opponent's consistent scoring but he acquitted himself well and should be a force to be reckoned with next season. Matthew's average for the night session was a shade below 14, while his day's average was 12. Breaks during the night session over 30 were—Matthews, 30, 34, 53, 35, 65, 34, 94, and 41; Haddy, 36, 32, 30, and 30.

Amateur Billiards Semi-Final

In the first semi-final match of the State amateur billiards championship played at the Amateur Billiards Association rooms last night W. H. Matthews defeated F. H. Fleet by 1,200 to 1,062. Matthews's average for the game was 14. The second semi-final will be played at the Amateur Billiards Association's rooms this afternoon and tonight between A. H. Hearnden and F. Bickmore.

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AMATEUR BILLIARDS CHAMPIONSHIP

Hearnden's Fine Win Against Matthews

The second semi-final of the State amateur billiards championship was won by A. H. Hearnden, by 332 points. This was an excellent match, and although at times the winner looked as though he might win by a large margin, F. Bickmore, at such times, was always capable of a spurt to again leave the decision in doubt. The game opened with Hearnden doing most of the scoring, mainly because of Bickmore's nervousness, which caused him to miss many shots. After being about 150 in arrears, Bickmore played a series of well-made breaks, which brought him alongside. Hearnden, however, went away again with good play, until he again held a lead of over 150 points. Even scoring followed, and then Hearnden produced an excellent break of 194. This is a South Australian record for championship matches, beating one made by Matthews of 181. This was one of Hearnden's best efforts being without flaw. Immediately following this break, Bickmore set about the task of bridging the gap, and with beautiful billiards returned runs of 85, 76, 68 and 49 almost in succession, and actually got to within 60 of the leader. However, Hearnden went away again, and at points had a lead of 201. The night session provided further good displays by both men. Bickmore found his touch almost immediately, and in a 70 break showed how well he could strike the red ball, and later demonstrated that top-of-the-table intricacies are not beyond him. However, a break of 85 and another of 76 kept Hearnden well in front, and finally he won by 332.

Matthews met Hearnden in the final, and Hearnden was the first to gain touch. This he quickly did with a break of 76 to leave the champion trailing. Matthews was having some trouble with his favorite shot, the "long loser," and this robbed him of some of his usual confidence. However, a few nice runs of from 50 to 70 brought his score along, only to see Hearnden go away again with a 70 and an 80. At this stage Hearnden looked like going to points with a big lead, but, calling on all of his reserve, the champion began to play very convincingly, and with break after break, reduced the deficit until he got within 49 when Hearnden went to his sessional points. At night Hearnden played a safety shot from the bad position left, and Matthews likewise replied, but from Hearnden's attempted cannon Matthews strung together a well-played 85, and the next shot another 73. This put him about 100 in the lead, but almost immediately Hearnden, with consistent play and several breaks of 40 and 50, gained the lead, and, keeping the balls safe, not only held on, but increased his lead, until at points he was 299 in front.

The last session was begun with the balls in nice position for Hearnden, and his unfinished break was taken to 49 before breaking down on a screw cannon. Play was very even for the first hour, neither man being in their usual touch. However, both brightened, and some very entertaining billiards was played. One run of Matthews of 72 was a fine effort, while Hearnden indulged in some fine work at the top. Break for break took the score along until Hearnden got in a few convincing runs to get his point, and become the 1937 State amateur champion. Final scores were:—Hearnden, 2,000; Matthews, 1,689.

At the conclusion, Mr. C. T. Fisher, in the absence of Mr. Eric Millhouse, presented the cup presented by Messrs. Alcock, Thomson and Taylor Pty. Ltd. to Hearnden. Mr. Fisher spoke of the excellent marking of Mr. Harry Pfeil, who had officiated in practically all the games.

1938 ABASA Amateur Billiards Title

The Advertiser Sat 13 Aug 1938 Page 8

W. H. Matthews, holder of the title four times, defeated J. B. Haddy, a promising young player, yesterday afternoon and last night in the fifth heat of the Amateur Billiards championship. The final scores were:—Matthews, 1,200; Haddy, 671.

Neither player was as confident as he could have wished, and as a result many breaks terminated through lack of the necessary touch. Matthews, always a slow beginner, took some time to get the strength of the balls and table and had quite a number of visits before he compiled a 20 break. Haddy meanwhile was trailing, but close handy. Matthews, gaining confidence, warmed up and produced two nice runs of 43 and 70, the latter being a mixed break of top-table play and red ball, but when apparently set for the century, he failed on a fine loser. Haddy was battling along against odds and at times showed encouraging form and a delightfully free style, but was not quite a match for his opponent. In the afternoon Matthews went to his points with a nicely played 53 unfinished. Scores:—Matthews 600, Haddy, 334.

At the night session, Matthews carried on his break to 66. Breaks of 20 and 30 followed in quick succession, and it was apparent that he was in better touch. Haddy was a little unfortunate in the development of the ball after scoring from difficult strokes. Breaks of 52 and 34, both well played efforts by Matthews, pushed his score along well, while Haddy was rather quiet. Matthews

600, Haddy, 334.

At the night session, Matthews carried on his break to 66. Breaks of 20 and 30 followed in quick succession, and it was apparent that he was in better touch. Haddy was a little unfortunate in the development of the ball after scoring from difficult strokes. Breaks of 52 and 34, both well played efforts by Matthews, pushed his score along well, while Haddy was rather quiet. Matthews had almost doubled Haddy's score at 857--445. Haddy, with a 26 and 18, was striking well, but unaccountably was missing the shots which he badly required for breaks.

One of the highlights of the night's play was a beautiful pot red, by Matthews. Matthews also brought off three marvellous three-cushion double bank cannons when Haddy might have reasonably expected a good start off for his next shot. A well struck red ball break, one hazard short of the limit, was Matthews's next contribution, which took him to 1,101 to Haddy's 647. With a few medium size runs Matthews went to his points. Final scores:—

Matthews 1,200; breaks—33, 70, 31, 39, 39, 24, 31, 20, 30, 36, 61, 33, 25, 30, 32, 52, 34, 39, 21, 41, 26, 35 (unfinished).
Haddy, 671; breaks—34, 25, 32, 23, 36, 29, 29, 41, 32, 26.

Matthews average for the game was 12.

Harris Leads Matthews For Billiards Title

J. Harris (1,251) is leading W. H. Matthews (1,136) in the final of the State amateur billiards championship. The match will be continued at 3 p.m. and concluded in the 8 p.m. session today at the Amateur Billiards Association rooms, Gawler place, city, opposite the Y.M.C.A.

Harris is making his first appearance in the State championship, but won the S.J. Jacobs championship trials last year. Matthews has been champion four times. Best breaks yesterday were:—Harris (in play)—23, 57, 34, 21, 42, 47, 35, 24, 28, 23, 36, 34, 102, 36, 20, 56, 26, 21, 24, 56, 43, 50. Matthews—38, 21, 43, 63, 26, 21, 20, 45, 36, 24, 34, 41, 21, 46, 65, 32, 46, 40, 30, 25, 45.

Matthews Wins Amateur Billiards Championship

W. H. Matthews won the South Australian Amateur Billiards Championship last night when he defeated J. Harris. The final scores were:—Matthews, 2,500; Harris, 2,282.

Breaks (for the last two sessions):—Matthews—22, 81, 24, 56, 73, 21, 92, 50, 40, 28, 33, 31, 57, 49, 64, 32, 34, 21, 58, 43, 34, 25. Harris—34, 44, 20, 38, 81, 20, 21, 24, 31, 43, 27, 25, 20, 29, 32, 27, 20, 30, 20, 41, 26.

At the conclusion of the game, Mr. C. T. Fisher proclaimed Matthews champion, and in doing so commented upon the splendid achievement of the winner, to whom he presented the Alcock, Thomson and Taylor Cup, and a trophy. The runner-up also received a trophy. Mr. Harry Pfeil, the referee and marker, was presented with a silver tray

1939 ABASA Amateur Billiards Title

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S.A. Amateur Billiards Championship

The State amateur billiards championship was advanced a further stage last night when F. Bickmore was beaten by the titleholder, W. Matthews, after the most interesting game of the series. Matthews led at the end of the afternoon session by 600 to 246, his average being 20. In the evening the game was in favor of Bickmore, who, although beaten, deserves as much praise as the winner. At one period the scores were Matthews 1,087, Bickmore 962. A 73 by Bickmore and other breaks gave him the lead at 1,143 to 1,140. However, two brilliant screw shots by Matthews gave him the necessary opening to get his points.

Final scores:—Matthews, 1,200; Bickmore, 1,153. Breaks:—Matthews, 25, 55, 54, 84, 28, 70, 25, 36, 62, 34, 21, 31, 30, 86, 42, 27, 28. Bickmore, 24, 29, 22, 48, 29, 24, 59, 25, 58, 24, 44, 21, 32, 48, 65, 34, 73, 34, 28, 20.

The winner averaged 11½. Today's game will be between A. H. Hearnden and T. O'Loughlin.

Matthews's Record Billiards Break Of 246

Billiards of a high order was seen in the afternoon session of the first semi-final of the State amateur championship, between W H. Matthews, the title holder and H P Fleet, yesterday. Fleet held the champion until half-way. Matthews at this stage forged ahead with several red-ball breaks. While Fleet scored 59 Matthews collected 100. The sessional scores were — Matthews, 600 (in play; with breaks of 22, 51, 66, 60, 47, 57, 35, 74, 30, 40 unfinished; Fleet 359 (54, 40, 47, 22, 57, 41).

After the resumption Fleet, with several medium runs and a fine 84, got to within 110 of his opponent. However, Matthews then got in and obtained a South Australian record with a break of 246. This was a magnificent effort and embraced every type of stroke. This break beat the previous record of 195, held by A H Hearnden. Fleet showed his capabilities with two fine breaks of 73 and 60, to make the scores 1,016—813 against him. Even scoring marked the rest of the match. Scores — Matthews, 1,200 (84, 246, 41, 24, 43, 21); Fleet, 891 (25, 22, 35, 27, 84, 27, 21, 73, 60, 22, 22).

Today and tonight J Harris will play A H Hearnden in the second semi-final and the winner and Matthews will contest the final, 2,500 up in four sessions tomorrow and on Friday.



W. H. ("BILL") MATTHEWS, who compiled 256—a record break for a South Australian—in his semi-final game for the State championship last night. (Story on this page.)

W. H. Matthews Wins Billiards Title

W. H. Matthews won the State amateur billiards championship last night, defeating A. H. Hearnden by 530 points. A feature was Matthews's control of the red ball. Scores:—
Matthews, 2,500; Hearnden, 1,970.

Breaks—Matthews, 40, 47, 90, 66, 45, 74,
 43, 115. Hearnden 41, 40, 47, 66, 50, 47,
 40, 40.

HIGH STANDARD OF BILLARDS

Amateur Championship Play Reviewed

Since the inception of the Amateur Billiards Association of South Australia in 1913 the interest in the championship has never been so keen and the standard of play so high as this year.

A summary of the breaks compiled for the championship shows that there were 31 of between 50 and 60, 19 of 60—70, nine of 70—80, seven of 80—90, two of 90—100, and 10 of over 100, including the State record of 246 by W. H. Matthews, who won the title.

The highest average for any game was returned by A. H. Hearnden, who registered 21 a visit for the 1,200 up in his semi-final against J. Harris. Other good averages were made by Matthews in a single session against Bickmore, 20; J. Harris against W. Buchanan, 15 for the whole match; Fleet, averaged 12½ against Matthews in a semi-final, only to be defeated by nearly 300. A few years ago such an average as Fleet's would have been good enough to have won the championship.

Of the players who did not reach the semi-finals, F. Bickmore and T. McLoughlin did best. Bickmore did well against Matthews. McLoughlin's efforts indicated a temperament ideally suited to the game. W. H. Buchanan and F. K. Stevens played entertaining billiards.

J. Harris, after his good effort last year and his form in practice, was a little disappointing, but he is likely to improve, and may be next year's winner. H. P. Fleet has never played better.

In the final between Matthews and Hearnden, the first session was in favor of Hearnden, but after that he did not play as well as was expected. Matthews has never struck a ball so well. His red ball play was beautifully executed and well controlled. Potting, which has been his weakness in the past, proved in this match one of his strong points.

Matthews has won the championship in six of the past seven years.

The next event to be staged by the association is the State snooker championship. Nominations will close on Wednesday, and a big entry is expected. Nomination forms may be obtained from the club steward.

1940 ABASA Amateur Billiards Title

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Matthews Wins Semi-Final

The first semi-final in the Amateur Billiards Association's championship matches was played last night between W. H. Matthews and R. Mulronev, and resulted in a win for the former by 750 points to 406. Matthews gave an excellent display and was never troubled by his opponent. Mulronev gave a solid performance but could not pace the champion. Breaks:—Matthews—30, 37, 37, 42, 55, 38, 46, 32, 42, 31, 61, 30, 43 (unfinished); Mulronev—30, 56, 42, 38, 34.

The second semi-final will be played on Monday night between A. H. Hearnden and T. McLoughlin.

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State Amateur Billiards Championship

The final of the State Amateur Billiards Championship was begun last night at the Amateur Billiard Association Clubrooms, Gawler place, between Matthews and Hearnden.

Hearnden went away early with many good breaks, including a 96, and led the champion by a wide margin. Matthews then with consistent play got to within 50 of the leader. After a slow period, Hearnden again got going and ran to his points with breaks of 32 and 72.

Scores:—Hearnden, 751. (Breaks over 30: 52, 35, 96, 50, 41, 35, 31, 72); Matthews, 574. (Breaks over 30: 45, 30, 63, 43, 59).

The concluding session will be played tonight at 7.30.

BILLIARDS CHAMPION



W. H. Matthews

W. H. ("Bill") Matthews defeated A. H. Hearnden—1,500 to 1,439 — in the final of the South Australian amateur billiards championship last night. This was the seventh time Matthews had won the title.

Years ago, "Bill," as he is familiarly known to a big circle of friends, successfully raced horses and greyhounds. He still retains great interest in these sports, and oftentimes relates interesting and thrilling reminiscences at Tattersalls Club, where he is most popular.

BILLIARDS CHAMPION SEVEN TIMES

Splendid Performance Of W. H. Matthews

W. H. Matthews, in again winning the State amateur billiards championship has proved himself the most consistent performer who ever competed for the title in this State. He has now won the distinction seven times. The champion received a walk-over in the first game, and therefore entered the semi-finals without opposition. He then met R. Mulroney, and although playing very solidly, not at any time did he produce the form he is capable of. In the first session of the final against Hearnden he averaged just over 10, but at the end of the session was 177 points in arrears. In this session, Hearnden played very well. The second session was all Matthews's, who, with consistent rather than brilliant billiards, gradually overtook his opponent, and established a lead towards the end of the game. At this period, Hearnden showed up for the first time for the session, and almost got on even terms to make an exciting finish. Neither man played his customary free game, but finally Matthews annexed the title by 61 points, averaging nearly 13 per visit, while the loser was a mere fraction below.

The absence of H. P. Fleet and J. Harris robbed the event of much of its interest, as both of these players in form must have been given a chance of winning, but for personal reasons were unable to enter. McLoughlin gave the best performance of the younger competitors, and this player is destined to become the State champion of the future. J. B. Haddy, who has probably the neatest style of all the competitors, was unfortunate in finding Hearnden in top form when they met.

R. D. Farquharson, this year's championship trials winner, did particularly well to dispose of such a seasoned exponent as F. K. Stevens, and at times gave a good account of himself. Buchanan and F. K. Stevens were only shadows of their former selves and did not do themselves justice. R. Mulroney played his usual carefree billiards and during his game against Bickmore and Matthews played some delightful shots, but he was not quite solid enough to test the champion.

H. Pfeil, who has given the Billiards Association great assistance for some years as hon. referee and marker, has joined the Air Force, and therefore was not available this year. The refereeing and marking was carried out by members of the association, all of whom did well.

Next Wednesday night the association will hold a social at the club rooms in aid of the Comforts Fund. Donations of cues and other articles have been made by various members for competition throughout the night. The prize winners in the "trials" and championship have given the value of their respective trophies to the fund, and other methods of swelling the total have been considered. It is expected that a substantial amount will be raised for the purpose in view.

1933 Australian Amateur Billiards Championships

The Mercury (Hobart) Wed 6 Sep 1933 Page 8

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.

1934 Australian Amateur Billiards Championships

News (Adelaide) Thu 6 Sep 1934 Page 9

MATTHEWS BEATEN IN BILLIARDS TITLE

BRISBANE, Thursday.—Leslie Hayes, New South Wales champion and holder of the title, easily defeated W. H. Matthews, South Australia, in their heat in the Australian billiards championship last night. Scores were:—Hayes, 2,000; Matthews, 1,045.

Last night Hayes made breaks of 127, 107, and 60 (twice), and Matthews 72, 64.

1935 Australian Amateur Billiards Championships

The Age (Melbourne) Wed 11 Sep 1935 Page 9

AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP.

SYDNEY, Tuesday.—The first of the three rounds in the Australian amateur billiards championship was completed this afternoon. T. Cleary (V.) defeated W. H. Matthews (S.A.) by 2000 to 1498. The best breaks were:—Cleary, 89, 58 and 51; Matthews, 84 and 52.

1936 Australian Amateur Billiards Championships

The Advertiser (Adelaide) Wed 23 Sep 1936 Page 31

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.

1939 Australian Amateur Billiards Championships Final

R. Marshall (Western Australia), 3072 points W. Matthews (South Australia) 1709

The West Australian (Perth) Fri 22 Sep 1939 Page 4

SYDNEY, Sept. 21.—W. Matthews (South Australia) defeated E. A. Pickett (Tasmania) in today's stage of the Australian billiards championship. The scores at the close of play tonight were:—Matthews 1,334; Pickett, 1,219. With a quarter of an hour to go Matthews was only two points ahead, but he clinched the match by registering a break of 109. Best breaks were:—Matthews, 114, 109, 101; Pickett, 121, 75, 68, 65.

The Daily Telegraph (Sydney) Mon 25 Sep 1939 Page 12

Australian Amateur Championship.—Final: R. Marshall (W.A.) 3073 d. W. Matthews (S.A.) 1709. Best breaks: Marshall, 154, 133, 112, 93, 55, 47; Matthews, 78, 55. Averages: Marshall, 41.5; Matthews, 21.6.