

BILLIARDS PERSONALITIES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Sir Eric William John MILLHOUSE KC

Table of contents

A collection of the life of Sir Eric Millhouse

Brief resume	Page 2
Amateur Billiards Association of South Australia	
News (Adelaide, SA) Fri 1 May 1936	Page 3
News (Adelaide, SA) Sat 23 May 1936	
News (Adelaide, SA) Tue 28 Jul 1936	Page 4
The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA) Sat 16 Apr 1938	
The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA) Sat 6 May 1939	Page 5
The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA) Sat 27 Apr 1940	
Death	
News (Adelaide SA) Sat 25 Feb 1950	Page 6
News (Adelaide SA) Mon 27 Feb 1950	Page 7-8

Newspaper articles from Trove reproduced courtesy of the National Library of Australia.

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/search?adv=y>



President Amateur Billiards Association S.A. 1935-1938

Chairman S.A. National Football League 1940 - 1946

State President of the RSL 1942 - 1944
Federal President of the RSL. 1946 - 1950

LLB, University of Adelaide March 1915
Appointed KC September 1945

KB (Knight Bachelor) January 1950

Born 26 December 1891 Mt Gambier S.A.
Died 24 February 1950 North Adelaide S.A.

Amateur Billiards Association of S.A.

At the annual general meeting of members of the Amateur Billiards Association of South Australia last night Mr. Eric Millhouse was elected president. Under his guidance officials are looking forward to a very successful season.



Mr. E. Millhouse

In conjunction with the centenary celebrations, the Australasian amateur title will be contested in Adelaide this year, probably the first week in October, following the games for the South Australian title.

These matches will be played in a public hall specially engaged for the purpose, in which a standard match table will be installed.

AMATEUR BILLIARDS MAY GO AHEAD

Followers of amateur billiards will be pleased to learn that membership for the current year will be a record for the Amateur Billiards Association of S.A.

There is every likelihood that in the near future the newly formed S.A. Teams' Amateur Billiards League will merge with the Amateur Billiards Association, and if such a move is decided upon the committee of the latter body will have a busy time. The objects of the Teams' League is to promote and control weekly competitive teams' matches of four players a side, representing northern, southern, eastern, and western districts.

Preliminary arrangements have been made to provide clubrooms for the association, wherein three match tables, each in perfect order, will be installed for the playing of all the association games. Debentures will be issued to make this possible.

The following officers of the association have been elected:—President, Mr. Eric Millhouse; vice-presidents, Messrs. R. M. Cudmore, C. T. Fisher, F. K. Stevens, P. J. Flanagan; committee, Messrs. F. H. Keen, R. J. A. Bruce, S. Reeve, A. H. Hearnden, W. H. Matthews, C. W. Mallen, J. J. Dunn, and L. T. Gun; minute secretary, Mr. E. Warner; auditor, Mr. W. Buchanan; secretary and treasurer, Mr. F. H. Herring.

Room for Amateur Billiardists

INTEREST in billiards should be stimulated by the opening of clubrooms last night by the Amateur Billiard Association.

The rooms are above City Motors, at the corner of Gawler Place and Grenfell street. Three tables are available.

With Mr. Eric Millhouse as president and Mr. F. Heming as secretary, the association will not lack energetic direction. Mr. S. J. Jacobs declared the premises open, and exhibition games followed.

The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA) Sat 16 Apr 1938 Page 14

AMATEUR BILLIARDS ASSOCIATION

New Season Begins

The Amateur Billiards Association of S.A. held its twenty-fifth annual general meeting at the club rooms, Gawler place, on Tuesday night. The president (Mr. Eric Millhouse) occupied the chair. There was a large attendance of members.

The report stated during the year the association conducted four championships, two teams' competitions, one handicap billiards, and two snooker tournaments for members, and, in addition, entertained a team of amateur billiards players from Victoria, who visited Adelaide to contest the interstate teams' championship. Several social functions were held when novelty tournaments were played.

The balance sheet, compiled by the treasurer (Mr. W. H. Buchanan) disclosed that a very satisfactory profit had been made, and that the club's liabilities had been considerably reduced. The membership totalled 100, but a drive was now in progress from which it was expected that the number would be considerably increased.

Mr. C. C. Hooper and Mr. A. I. Eldridge, in proposing and seconding the adoption of the report and balance sheet commented upon the excellent work of the committee.

Officers elected:—Patron His Excellency the Governor; president, Mr. Eric Millhouse; vice-presidents, Messrs. C. T. Fisher, C. A. Edmunds, D. C. Turner, R. E. Jacobs, A. E. H. Evans, R. J. A. Bruce, C. C. Teagle, Lincoln, O. Tait, P. K. Stevens; committee, Messrs. A. E. Ekins, R. Farquharson, S. N. Bannear, J. Capps, E. Warner, H. F. Fleet, and A. H. Hearnden; secretary, Mr. E. V. Iles; treasurer, Mr. W. H. Buchanan; auditor, Mr. H. J. Thomas.

A.B.A. Annual General Meeting

On Monday night last the Amateur Billiards Association of S.A. held its annual general meeting at the clubrooms, Gawler place. Mr. Eric Millhouse presided, and there was a splendid attendance of members.

After the confirmation of the previous minutes, the secretary and treasurer submitted their reports, which were unanimously adopted. The secretary's report dealt in detail with the activities for the year, which was the most successful in the history of the association, while the balance-sheet and financial statement disclosed a most satisfactory position.

Officers elected were:—Patron, Mr. Eric Millhouse; president, Mr. C. T. Fisher; social chairman, Mr. C. Teagle; vice-presidents, power was given to the committee to elect 10 vice-presidents at the first meeting; committee, Messrs. J. B. Haddy, T. Lock, A. I. Eldridge, J. Normington, H. F. Fleet, A. H. Hearnden, R. Farquharson and C. J. Capps; secretary, Mr. W. Perkins; treasurer, Mr. W. H. Buchanan; auditor, Mr. Bruce I. Thomas.

During the week the annual meeting of the Amateur Billiards Association was held in the clubrooms when a record attendance of members assembled. Mr. C. T. Fisher, the president, was in the chair. The report submitted was most comprehensive, dealing with the activities of the club throughout the season, and the points stressed were the enormously increased enthusiasm for the game in this State, the improvement in the standard of play, and the general facilities for conducting billiards under the best possible conditions. Officers elected—Patron, Mr. E. Millhouse; president, Mr. C. T. Fisher; committee, Messrs. H. Fleet, E. Warner, R. Beatty, A. Ekins, J. Normington, J. B. Haddy, R. D. Farquharson, A. H. Hearnden; hon. treasurer, Mr. W. H. Buchanan; hon. secretary, Mr. W. Perkins.

SIR ERIC MILLHOUSE DEAD

Sir Eric Millhouse, KC, died in Calvary hospital at 11.30 last night.

He had been ill since December.

Lady Millhouse, who was with him at the end, said this morning that her husband, who had died of cancer, had set her a wonderful example of courage.

When he had first been admitted to hospital it had been thought he was suffering from an ulcerated stomach.

During the weeks of her husband's illness when she had been nursing him at home, his

cheerfulness had been an inspiration to her.

She had been her husband's schoolgirl sweetheart, and her life was full of memories of a man whom she had never seen ruffled. He had been a great home-lover.

The funeral will take place at 3 p.m. Monday.

Sir Eric Millhouse, who was knighted in January, was 58 on December 26. He had entered his fourth year as RSL Federal president. Pre-

viously he was State RSL president for four years.

He was appointed KC in September 1945.

Football was another of his big interests. He had been chairman of the SA National Football League since 1940.

During World War I, he served with the 8th Battery AIF.

From 1923-8 he was Crown Prosecutor, after which he developed his own legal practice. (Tribute on Page 2.)

He never lost the common touch

By **HOWARD TROTTER**, first editor of the RSL magazine "Back."

RSL members throughout Australia this afternoon are bowing their heads at the time of the funeral of the late Sir Eric Millhouse, KC, not only as a final tribute to their Federal president, but to one of the most lovable, most brilliant, yet most cosmopolitan men the RSL has known.

Ex-servicemen in thousands from Cairns round to Broome knew him personally as a down-to-earth mate, as much at home with a panel of university professors as with a team of laborers eating crabs from a sheet of newspaper spread on a front-bar counter.

For a man of such high standing he did strange things and took himself into strange places. He met—and liked—social outcasts. He would go straight from an exclusive club frequented only by the wealthy to a game of threepenny poker.

It was all part of his simple philosophy on life. "No one is really bad," he used to say. "It's just that some have strange kinks. And if you don't know every type in life, well, boy, you just don't know life."

He loved poetry, and could quote long passages from the world's greatest poets and the most obscure. He loved the best in literature—and thrillers.

After a recent trip abroad, he told a gathering of RSL men how he dined at one of London's most expensive hotels. Thereafter he said he dined at the "Cafe de Pavement."

But with all his excursions from the high to the low and back to the high again, he never lost dignity or charm or the respect of those he mixed with on any plane.



SIR ERIC MILLHOUSE . . .
as seen by Lionel Coventry.

Cont.

Talk with King

His admiration for the King and Queen as people was one of the main themes of his many recent talks to sub-branches throughout Australia.

He told of an audience with the King. "The King, apparently to put me at ease and open the conversation asked me what I thought of a certain well-known man. I shuffled uneasily. The King straightway said, 'Don't be frightened to tell me. I think he's a fool.'"

Sir Eric Millhouse told RSL men he believed the King had a better grip of home and international affairs than any living statesman.

The son of a Port Pirie dentist, he came to the city to make his mark in law, and struggled in back rooms in law offices and back rooms in boarding-houses.

His natural ability and capacity for work took him ahead, and in 1923 he became Crown Prosecutor.

It was then that the name Eric Millhouse really began to become a household word in law. His eloquence, sincerity, and simple method of approach won juries in case after case.

The guilty had everything to fear. Relentlessly, but without malice, he wove the net of evidence about them, closing up loopholes which more experienced defending counsel thought could never be closed.

Jurors began to look forward to his addresses—never over their heads, never dramatised, but forceful, thoughtful, and damning for the guilty.

But his growing reputation as a prosecutor never made him a prosecuting machine.

The experience gained as prosecutor helped him later in private practice to become one of South Australia's most brilliant criminal lawyers.

Hard fighter

In later life, as he passed the smaller cases to subordinates, he made more time to devote himself to the RSL.

He tackled its problems with the same outlook as he tackled problems in law. He wanted to know all the facts, and having learnt them and convinced himself that his course was right, he fought as persuasively yet as relentlessly as he did over the Bar table.

He regarded his appointment as Federal president in succession to Sir Gilbert Dyett as the greatest honor of his life.

Existing pensions for ex-servicemen and war widows he regarded as the greatest injustice of all listed by ex-servicemen's organisations.

His knighthood last month was hailed as a fitting reward for a brilliant legal career and so many years of unstinting service to ex-servicemen.