

# **BILLIARDS & SNOOKER PERSONALITIES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

Francis Kenneth STEVENS

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A brief collection of the Billiards & Snooker life of Frank Stevens

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

## Resume

South Australian State Snooker Champion	1933
South Australian State Snooker Runner up	1931
South Australian State Billiards Runner up	1928 – 1929

South Australian National Football League – West Adelaide 1921 to ca 1930

## 1928 ABASA Amateur Billiards Trials

News Fri 25 May 1928 Page 5

### AMATEUR BILLIARDS

#### Season Opens Next Month

(By "Stepping Stone")

The Amateur Billiard Association is beginning activities for the current year, and a successful and an interesting season is anticipated. His Excellency Brig-Gen. the Hon. Sir Alexander Hore-Ruthven, V.C., has accepted the office of patron.

The season will be opened on June 11, when the championship trials will begin. Nominations close on June 4, and some interesting contests are expected. A number of probable candidates are practising assiduously and breaks of 50, 60, and 70 are common.

Among those who are eligible for this event and showing promise are M. J. Hanley, F. Stevens, E. Baum, J. Taylor, L. R. Sturm, C. Rossiter, and T. Morgan. The contest promises to be keen for the handsome trophies provided. There is likely to be 16 or more entries. Hanley and Stevens are generally expected to fight out the issue unless a surprise packet comes to light.

The State championship will begin on July 9, and with such experts as Buchanan, Hearnden, Wilson, Ackroyd, Hanley, and Stevens competing lovers of billiards will be well entered for. Among the trophies offered are a championship shield presented by Messrs. Netter and Brady, silver shield presented by the Dealers Agency Company (King George Shield), and shield presented by the Adelaide Wine and Spirit Company (The Black and White Shield).

The Palace Billiard Halls have been renovated. Soundproof doors have been erected, and Messrs. Brady and Netter have installed a perfect standard match table. Those who have practised on this table have praised its quality.

## 1928 ABASA Amateur Billiards Trials

The Register Wed 27 Jun 1928 Page 11

### STEVENS DEFEATS GILFILLAN.

F. Stevens best Dr. W. Gilfillan by 500 to 205 at the Palace Billiard Hall on Tuesday night. The winner's best breaks were 44, 44, 35, 35, 30, 45, 65, and 20, and the loser's, 20 and 51. The game to-night will be between M. J. Handley and P. Morgan.

The Register Sat 7 Jul 1928 Page 13

### AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP TRIALS.

The final of the South Australian amateur billiard championship trials was won by F. Stevens, at the Palace Billiard Hall, Rundle street, on Friday night. The scores were:—F. Stevens, 500; M. J. Hanley, 326. The best breaks were:—Stevens, 32, 27, 35, 40; Hanley, 24, 25, 26, 30, 26.

Spectators witnessed a good game, although there were no large breaks. Stevens's success was largely due to the fact that he never missed an opportunity. Both players have been nominated for the amateur championships, which will commence on Monday evening, when Stevens will meet H. Goldsmith.

## AMATEUR BILLIARD CHAMPIONSHIP.



From left to right—F.K. Stevens (Billiards Trials Champion) - M.J. Hanley (Amateur Snooker Champion), and W. H. Buchanan (Amateur Billiards Champion 1927).

**THE AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP.**

The first game of the semi-finals of the amateur championship took place at the Palace Billiard Hall last night. Buchanan met Stephens. The latter was the first to find touch, and soon established a lead of over 100. Buchanan caught his opponent after a display of good billiards, the scores being 234 all. At 357, Stephen was 70 in the lead. Stephens reached 400 with Buchanan at 325. The balls ran in Stephens's favor, and he took every advantage of this and played up to his best form. Buchanan did not display his best form. Stephens reached 600 when his opponent was 456. From this on the result was never in doubt, Stephens running to his points. The final scores were:—Stephens, 650; Buchanan, 400.

This puts Stephens in the final. He will play the winner of the game to-night between Hearnden and Hanley. The principal breaks last night were:—Stephens, 29, 65, 22, 22, 21, 48, 31, 27, 31, 41, 49, and 30; Buchanan, 21, 31, 29, 36, 31, 21 and 21.

**Hearnden in Form.**

The final game, 1,500 up, for the State amateur billiards championship was begun at the Palace Billiards Hall on Wednesday night, between A. H. Hearnden (champion in 1926) and F. K. Stephens. There was a large attendance. Mr. C. T. Fisher was the umpire, and the secretary (Mr. G. F. Steinthal) was in charge of the proceedings. Hearnden was quickly into touch, and he achieved his initial century when Stephens had scored 64. When Hearnden was 158, he held a lead of 70, and with a useful break of 43, he was 161 ahead of his opponent. At 253, he was exactly 100 in advance, and at the completion of his third century he had gained five additional points. The scores later were 384 to 260, and Hearnden then ran to 404 with a break of 31. Stephens failed several times on long losers. Hearnden ran to 494 with a splendidly compiled 61, and passed the fifth century while Stephens stood at 319. Hearnden made breaks of 33, 29, and 26, and advanced to 590, having a lead of 221 at that stage of the proceedings. When Hearnden passed the 800 mark, Stephens was 372, and at 400 he was 280 in arrears. He then improved, however, and the scores stood at 681 to 461. Hearnden went on to 760 with a lead of 214, and he arrived at the half-way mark—750—leading by 245. The winner's average was 8.6, and Stephens averaged a fraction below 6.

The winner of the championship will go to Sydney to represent South Australia in the Australian billiards championship next month. The game will be continued to-night. Hearnden's best breaks were 38, 24, 43, 21, 29, 32, 20, 23, 64, 33, 26, 48, 33, and 31 (unfinished); while Stephens replied with 67, 31, 25, 21, and 20.

## HEARNDEN WINS CHAMPIONSHIP.

A. H. Hearnden had little difficulty in winning the amateur championship of the State last night, after leading on Wednesday night by 245 in the final of 1,500 up, against F. Stevens. The match was played at the Palace Billiard Hall, Rundle-street. With his score at 750, Hearnden went on his best style, although he had a bad patch at 1,200. He showed improvement all round on his form of 1926, when he previously won the State championship, his losing hazard game being particularly good. His breaks last night were 69, 45, 30, 42, 42, and 43, and Stevens scored 39, 42, and 37. The scores were:—Hearnden, 1,500; Stevens, 1,083.

At the end of the game the president of the Amateur Billiard Association handed the cup to the winner, and hoped he would do well in the Australian championships at Sydney next month. He said Stevens had played a fine uphill game, and had done well, considering that he had not previously figured in the finals.

## 1929 ABASA Amateur Billiards Title

The Advertiser Fri 12 Jul 1929 Page 23

### **STATE AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP**

The fourth game of the State amateur championship was played last night at the Palace Billiards Hall, between F. K. Stevens and A. J. Morgan. Stevens won with 650, to Morgan's 460. Morgan had an unlucky run of the balls throughout the game. Breaks:—Stevens—60, 71, 39, 26, 39, and 28, 22, 44, 27 in succession; Morgan—37, 29, 28, and 41. Stevens averaged 7.5. The next game, which will be the first semi final, will be on Monday night, and will be between A. H. Hearnden and M. J. Hanley, 650 up.

The Advertiser Wed 17 Jul 1929 Page 11

### **STATE AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP**

The second semi-final of the State amateur championship was played at the Palace Billiard Hall last night, when the contestants were W. H. Buchanan and F. K. Stevens. Stevens was slow, deliberate, and careful, and Buchanan was quick in his movements. The game went to Stevens, who won by 650 to 423. He played solidly right through the game. Buchanan had bad luck in the run of the balls, and did not play up to his usual form. Breaks—Stevens, 44, 60, 30, 22, 20, 25, 40, 23, 66, 36, and 25 (unfinished); Buchanan, 41, 31, 27, 25, 31, 25, and 22. Stevens's average was 8.1.

The game to-night, which will be the first session of the final, is between A. H. Hearnden and F. K. Stevens. The final of the championship is 1,500 up, played in two sessions of 750 points each.

# AMATEUR BILLIARDS CHAMPIONSHIP

## Hearnden Leads In First Session Of Final

In the first session of the State amateur billiards championship final, 1,500 up, at the Palace Billiards Hall last night, A. H. Hearnden scored 752, in play, against F. K. Stevens's 480.

The best breaks were:—Hearnden, 25, 29, 35, 39, 85, 88, 29, 27, 26, 20, 28, 64; Stevens, 35, 28, 20, 27, 31, 40, 34, 47, 21. Hearnden's average was 12.

The final session will take place tonight.

The winner will represent South Australia in the Australian championship meeting, beginning in Melbourne on August 5. Hearnden, who looks sure to win, holds three State records, for which he will be presented a certificate by the association. His records are:—Highest break 131, two breaks of over 100 in the one game, and an average of 17.1.

Nominations for the State amateur snooker championship will close on Monday night.

## Hearnden Wins Championship

The final of the State amateur championship was played last night. Scores:—

Hearnden .. . . . . .	1,500
Stevens .. . . . . .	1,202

Breaks:—Hearnden—24, 34, 41, 20, 29, 27, 28, 27, 23, 44, 32. Stevens—26, 27, 35, 24, 29, 34, 42, 22, 34, 23, and 26. Hearnden averaged 10.5 for the full game.



## F. K. Stevens, of Glenelg

Popularly known in sporting circles is F. K. Stevens, who was defeated last night by A. H. Hearnden in the final game for the championship of the South Australian Amateur Billiard Association.

In 1921 Stevens played league football for the West Adelaide Club. He is a keen turf supporter, and a little time ago raced Dartmoor. He is a regular attendant at coursing meetings, and speedy greyhounds have raced in his name.

Last year Stevens won the amateur championship trials and open tournament, and was runner-up in the State championship.



**F. K. STEVENS**

runner-up in South Australian Amateur Billiard Association championship.

## 1931 ABASA Amateur Billiards Title

Advertiser and Register Fri 8 May 1931 Page 7

### **BILLIARDS CHAMPIONSHIP**

Good breaks were scored in another preliminary round of the State amateur billiards championship at the Palace Billiard Hall, city, last night, when F. K. Stevens (750) beat R. Gibson (629). Best breaks were:—Stevens, 37, 26, 46, 75, 68, 33, 56, 35; Gibson, 21, 27, 45, 29, 30, 25, 25.

The match between H. L. Goldsmith (amateur champion) and T. Morgan which was to have taken place tonight has been forfeited by Morgan.

The first semi-final will be played on Monday night, when Buchanan will meet Hanley.

Advertiser and Register Wed 13 May 1931 Page 10

Arranged by the South Australian Amateur Billiards Association, the second semi-final match of the amateur championship was played at the Palace Billiard Hall last night between H. L. Goldsmith and F. K. Stevens. Goldsmith beat Stevens by 72 points. Principal breaks:—Goldsmith—28, 25, 100, 33, 27, 35, 43, 24—Stevens—33, 38, 37, 57, 40, 32, 33.

The final between Goldsmith and Hanley will be 1,500 up, and will be played tonight and tomorrow night in sessions of 750 each.

**Billiards**

**AMATEUR TOURNAMENT  
FINAL TONIGHT**

Tonight, the final of the open handicap tournament conducted by the South Australian Amateur Billiards Association will be played between F. K. Stevens and W. Ellis.



Stevens is recognised as one of the best amateurs in the State. He won the amateur championship trials two years ago, and has been runner-up in the championship on two occasions.

Playing in an exhibition game this morning, Stevens showed fine form, and made breaks of 104, 63, 58, 54, and 50. His handicap is 100 behind the scratch mark, whereas Ellis receives 90.

Although he has a big leeway to make up, Stevens, on his performance this morning, should make the result interesting.

**F. K. Stevens**

**Amateur Billiards  
Championship**

The first game in connection with the South Australian Amateur Billiards Championship, played at the Palace Billiard Hall last night, resulted:—

F. Bichmore, 75 (average 11.2), d. F. K. Stevens, 648 (9.8). Princial breaks—Winner, 36, 67, 45, 34, 31, 45, 30, 46, 107; loser, 42, 33, 22, 42, 27, 37, 28, 27 49.

## Goldsmith Beats Stevens in Billiards Match

Finishing with a break of 128, H. L. Goldsmith, State amateur billiards champion, defeated F. K. Stevens by 750 to 450 in the second round of the State billiards championship last night.

Goldsmith made other big breaks of 79, 59, and 57, while Stevens' highest breaks were 66, 63, and 47.

The championship will be continued tonight with the match between S. H. Wilson, a former State champion, who has returned to the game, and H. Fleet, winner of the championship trials.

### 1934 ABASA Amateur Billiards Title

The Advertiser Sat 18 Aug 1934 Page 21

**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 181 is a record for South Australia in amateur championship games. He finished with an Australian record average of 25.6.**

## Is He Lucky?

**T**HEY call Mr. F. K. Stevens "Lucky Frank" around at Tattersalls Club. When the draw is made for bookmakers' stands in the grandstand enclosure at a racecourse he often finds himself with No. 1 position, which is an advantage if it is nearest the concourse of punters.

In the amateur billiards championship he has often had the good fortune to draw a bye. He has drawn a bye in the contest beginning on Monday. But Mr. Stevens is not so sure that he is lucky, not at any rate with the cue, for in eleven championship contests he has been runner-up six times at billiards, four at snooker, and he has won the snooker title once.

If I were a bookmaker I would not admit that I was lucky; out of fear that I would drive customers away. Both parties to a bet cannot win. Just by way of finishing off this paragraph, is there such a thing as luck, good or bad?

### 1935 ABASA Amateur Billiards Title

The Advertiser Tue 27 Aug 1935 Page 15

## **Amateur Billiards Semi-Final**

The result of the second semi-final of the amateur billiards championship, last night, between W. Matthews and F. 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—24, 68, 59, 38, 36, 33.

## 1939 ABASA Amateur Billiards Title

The Advertiser Wed 16 Aug 1939 Page 19

### **S.A. Amateur Billiards Championship**

The State amateur billiards championship was continued yesterday, when W. H. Buchanan and F. K. Stevens met at the Amateur Billiards Association Club rooms, Gawler place. Once the players found touch an excellent display of all-round billiards was given. Neither player produced sensational breaks, consistency being the keynote. Scores:—Buchanan, 1,200 (breaks 23, 38, 20, 36, 29, 51, 42, 39, 42, 44, 26, 20, 82, 43); Stevens, 1,011 (33, 42, 28, 34, 26, 58, 20, 40, 40, 57, 56, 50, 36).

The game today will be between H. F. Fleet and R. Farquharson. Play will begin at 2.30 p.m. and 7.45 p.m.

## 1931 ABASA Amateur Snooker Title

Advertiser and Register Wed 10 Jun 1931 Page 11

### **Snooker Championship**

Two matches in the amateur snooker championship series were played at the Palace Billiards Hall, Rundle-street, last night. Each was of three games. The first match was well contested, Pfell's best break being 55, and Mallon's 25. In the second, Gibson was out of touch. The best break by Stevens was 31. Scores:—

H. Pfell, 175, d. C. Mallon, 135. F. K. Stevens, 230, d. R. M. Gibson, 95.

Semi-final games will be played tonight between M. J. Hanley and H. L. Goldsmith, and H. Pfell and F. K. Stevens.

## **Snooker Championship to M. Hanley**

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M. Hanley retained the State amateur snooker championship, at the Palace Billiards Hall last night, by scoring 300 in the final match of five games to 219 by F. J. Stevens.

Stevens showed excellent all-round form in the early part of the play, scoring the best break of the night—27. Hanley missed many easy shots, but had some brilliant periods. He led by 28 at the end of the second game, and was 14 in front at the finish of the third. He increased his lead by six in the next and in the fifth scored 83 while Stevens added 19.

### **State Snooker Championship 1933**

The Advertiser Tue 30 May 1933 Page 13

## **Amateur Snooker Championship**

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The amateur snooker championship of South Australia was continued at the Palace Billiard Hall last night. Results:—H. Fleet, 173, d. A. Johnson, 133; F. K. Stevens, 182, d. C. C. Hooper, 152. The draw for tonight is:—K. Bickmore v. W. Matthews, H. C. Goldsmith v. C. Rossiter.

## Snooker Championship

# Final Game Tonight



H. L. Goldsmith



F. K. Stevens

H. L. Goldsmith and F. K. Stevens will meet in the final game of the South Australian amateur snooker championship to be played tonight. The match will be of five sets.

Play in the State amateur billiards championship will begin next week.

## STEVENS NEW AMATEUR SNOOKER CHAMPION

For five years in succession F. K. Stevens was runner-up in the State amateur snooker championship to M. J. Hanley. This year Hanley turned professional, and did not compete in the amateur championship, which Stevens won last night for the first time.

Stevens had to play H. C. Goldsmith in the final of five sets up. Stevens played better than his opponent in practically every phase of the game to win by 287 points to 247. It was an interesting game, and Stevens gained a popular victory.

Goldsmith and Stevens have also had some hard matches in amateur billiards. Stevens having been runner-up to Goldsmith for the State title.



## *Achieves Life Ambition*

**I**N winning the Snooker Amateur Championship of South Australia, Frank Stevens achieved an ambition for which he has striven for many years. Five times in succession he has been runner-up in these contests, but in the recent championship he played better than ever in beating the State's amateur billiard champion, H. L. Goldsmith. As Frank has been runner-up in the Amateur Billiards final for three years, he has been a consistent seeker after titles. In other phases of sport he has done well, having played football for West Adelaide for many years, and he is also a fair cricketer. He has been a keen supporter of coursing and racing, and is one of the few that has made these expensive hobbies pay for themselves.

One of the best horses he raised was Dartmoor, and in connection with this particular performer, Frank Stevens went for the biggest betting coup in his State. In connection with a race at Gawler, £1,000 was invested on Dartmoor, the money being placed all over the State, and not a penny of it got back to the course, with the result that had Dartmoor won, a dividend of over £40 would have been returned. However, Dartmoor was not equal to the job, and so the bookmakers were saved, of a severe headache. Frank won some good races with Mobah and St. Just, but once they had shown him a profit, he let them go into other hands.

Three men well known in the racing world will fill executive positions in the South Australian Amateur Billiards Association during the coming season. Billiards in Adelaide has no keener supporter than Mr. S. J. Jacobs, who has again been elected president of the association. Mr. Joe Netter and Mr. Frank Stevens, who has won the State snooker title, have been appointed vice-presidents. For the second year in succession Mr. Laurie Brady will act as secretary.



Mr. S. J. Jacobs

Francis Kenneth STEVENS commenced playing League Football  
West Adelaide - Saturday, 7 May 1921  
[Debut Dates - West Adelaide Football Club \(westadelaidefc.com.au\)](http://westadelaidefc.com.au)

<b>West Adelaide</b> .. .. .	<b>18</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Glenelg</b> .. .. .	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>

The goalkickers were:—West Adelaide.—N. Macklin (5), G. Cooper (4), F. Stevens (3), F. Bailey and R. Manning (2), and V. Peters and J. O'Keefe (1); Glenelg—D. W. Murdock, E. H. Searle (2), H. Farrelly, and L. Hawkes (1). Best players:—Winners—Peters, Brown, Cooper, Cossey, Gabriel, Huxtable, Dreyer, Macklin, and Scanlan; losers—Hanley, Farrelly, Gates, Hillier, James, Murdock, Oliver, Perry, and Searle.

[07 May 1921 - TO-DAY'S FOOTBALL - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](http://nla.gov.au)

For historians this was the first match played by Glenelg in the SANFL

**STEVENS.**—On February 26, at a private hospital, North Adelaide, Francis Kenneth (Bookie), beloved husband of Vera Stevens, of 101 Augusta street, Helmsdale, and loving father of Kenneth, Robert, and Gavin. Aged 46 years. A patient sufferer at rest.

### **FUNERAL NOTICES**

**S**TEVENS.—The Friends of the late Mr. FRANCIS KENNETH (Bookie) STEVENS are respectfully informed that his Funeral will Leave his late Residence, 101 Augusta street, Helmsdale, on WEDNESDAY at 2 p.m. for the West Terrace Cemetery.

[26 Feb 1946 - Family Notices - Trove \(nla.gov.au\)](http://nla.gov.au)