

Interview with Max Williams at the Paradise Hotel on 1 October 2018.

BSASA: How old were you when you first started playing? Where was the billiard room?

Max: About 13 at the College Park rooms run by Fred Jones – in those days you had to be aged 16 to enter Billiards rooms but Fred allowed us in when the room was quiet.

BSASA: Who was your first coach?

Max: Never had a coach until one day Jack Harris saw me at College Park and he gave me a few lessons.

BSASA note: Jack Harris won 10 State Snooker titles and 14 Billiards from 1942 through to 1957

BSASA: How long before you made your first 100 break at billiards and significant Snooker break? Do you still remember that day?

Max: Cannot remember when but my first practice Snooker break was 111 and my first match Snooker break was against Bill Barrie – 118. No recollections of first Billiards break.

BSASA: Who is your sporting hero (outside of cue sports)? Why?

Max: Tiger Woods – after I retired from Snooker & Billiards my son talked me into playing golf. Best advice he ever gave me because it kept me fit for the next 20 or so years.

BSASA: How many different cues did you use in competition?

Max: A few

BSASA: A cue that you mainly used - how much does it weigh, what size tip.

Max: Alcock Special weighed 16 & half ounces – tip type & size - my memory thinks about 10mm – mainly I made my own tips out of cow hide. I also would pick up tips that suited me from players who had discarded them. Always kept 2 or 3 in my pocket.

BSASA: What were the strengths and weaknesses of your game?

Max: Straight out potting a strength and weakness, potting balls when the cue ball was hard against a cushion. Bill Barrie knew that and used it to his advantage.

BSASA: Your first year in State titles Snooker & Billiards and how far did you get?

Max: Snooker 1958 lost in first round – cannot remember Billiards

BSASA: Your first State Snooker title was 1959 who did you beat?

Max: Bruce Wilson

BSASA note: Bruce Wilson won 2 State Snooker 1958-60 and was runner up to Max & Bill Barrie 1959-64-69. He was the son of Spencer Wilson who won 4 State Billiards 1914-15-16-25

BSASA: Your toughest opponent at Snooker & Billiards at State & National level?

Max: Bill Barrie

BSASA: Your most memorable match?

Max: 1961 Australian National Snooker Championships in the final against Len Rahilly (Qld). A long straight Black to win, took a few moments, lined up the shot and hit it hard.

BSASA: We are aware of the circumstances in your match in the 1968 World Amateur Snooker against David Taylor – anything to add?

Max: Had the lead by one frame mostly and in the 15th & final frame the hairs on my wrist touched another ball as I potted a colour. To this day I have never regretted calling the foul on myself.

BSASA: What was your highest practice & competition break Snooker & Billiards?

Max: Snooker practice 145 (in my early days I did not know what a 147 was). In a match 118 against Bill Barrie

Billiards practice 300 plus all open play and Bill Barrie joined the 200 club against me with a 247.

BSASA: What is the 200 Club

Max: Ray Adams always used to say another player for the 200 Club – players who I scored a 200 plus break against in a match

BSASA note: Ray was a long-time supporter and table fitter of the Association.

BSASA: Date of Birth & where

Max: 11 December 1935 in Broken Hill

BSASA: Schools

Max: Gilles Street Primary school and Norwood Tech High

BSASA: What is your proudest achievement in Snooker & Billiards?

Max: Apart from the State & National titles, in the South Australian Grades matches winning 15 grand finals with College Park plus one with the Norwood Club.

BSASA: Any superstitions when you played?

Max: Always wore red socks under my black ones but only in finals.

BSASA: Max many thanks for your time. Much appreciated.