



Billiards & Snooker Association of New South Wales (Inc)

Established 1917

MEDIA RELEASE -

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MARVELLOUS MASTERS

The 2015 Australian Masters Snooker Championship was successfully staged at Mingara Recreation Club from 30th April – 3rd May. In fact, this was the 8th consecutive year the event has been staged at the popular Central Coast venue and, to quote the immortal Richie Benaud, it was an “absolutely marvellous” experience for all who attended. Full results can be accessed on the Australian Billiards & Snooker Council website at www.absc.com.au (tournament results).

Victorian Paul Thomerson is always a consistent performer at our sport’s higher levels of competition, but he excelled at this year’s Masters and ultimately defeated two-time Australian Masters Champion Joe Minici 4-3 in an absorbing Final tussle. This was in fact Thomerson’s first major title victory and, with the monkey now well and truly off his back, don’t be surprised to see him quickly add to his tally. Thomerson now becomes eligible to represent Australia at the IBSF World Masters Snooker Championship in Capetown, South Africa later this year and we wish him well in his endeavours.

The Masters victory was also very special to Thomerson from a family perspective, as it enabled him to complete a unique father-son double in Australian titles during 2015. It was only a few months ago that Thomerson’s talented son, Ryan, took out the Australian U/21 Snooker Championship and Paul’s breakthrough Masters victory has enabled them to secure an unusual spot in Australian snooker archives. Congratulations to both players.

A record field of 53 players took part in this year’s Masters which included good representation from WA, VIC and NSW, as well as Tasmania. ABSC officials have previously referred to Mingara as “*the home of the Masters*” and the consistent level of entries received year after year is a great show of support by the players for both the event and the venue. ABSC President, Frank Dewans, this year declared the event “*the most enjoyable Australian Championship on our calendar*” and all associated at Mingara (management, staff, & members) are indeed worthy of this highest of praise. Thank you one and all.

Highlights included :- the following players going through the 12 group round robin stage undefeated - Glen Wilkinson, Timothy Ng, Joe Minici, Paul Thomerson, Daniel Gimenez, Stuart Duncan, Vince Lawson, Robin Beggs, David Waller, Michael Hough, Leigh Senko and Gary Mares; the “classic” 4-3 quarter-final match between Wollongong players Hough & Duncan; the equally mesmerising 4 hour quarter-final between Wilkinson & Thomerson; Minici’s 42 break early in the deciding frame proving the difference in a 4-3 semi-final win over a gallant Hough; Timothy Ng’s effort to make his 3rd Masters semi-final appearance; and the “marvellous” pink ball pot down the rail by Thomerson to clinch the Final 4-3. The Championship’s highest break of 87 was recorded by 2009 runner-up Stuart Duncan.

Many thanks to the referees who officiated throughout the 4 days of the Championship, to Ross Wyard for acting as Tournament Director and to all involved in the presentation of the tables and other amenities in such fantastic condition. Congratulations to all involved in making this event a success and Mingara looks forward to being able to host its 9th Australian Masters Snooker Championship in 2016.

Gary Knight, Tournament Organiser