



# NORTH BRIGHTON CLUB

*"Snooker, Billiards, Friendship"*

ABN 44 870 849 458

14 WARLEIGH GROVE, NORTH BRIGHTON, 3186

northbrightonclub.secretary@gmail.com

## Portland Club / North Brighton Club challenge

On the weekend of May 21<sup>st</sup> 2021 to May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2021, a delegation of North Brighton Club members visited the Portland Club (35 Percy Street, Portland, VIC, 3305) which was established in 1877.

That delegation consisted of: -

- Neil Allison (North Brighton Club President)
- Errol Aristodemou (North Brighton Club Vice-President)
- Trevor Lowther (North Brighton Club Treasurer)
- Billy Morgan (North Brighton Club committee member)
- Jim Ryan
- Eamonn Corbett
- Simon Scerri
- Marc Fridman
- Tony Fridman
- Ralf Abdul

Having friends already living in Portland, it was the brainchild of Jim Ryan to organise the visit. Club member Bob Cocciardi was also supposed to have been there but couldn't make it due to illness.

The weekend officially commenced on the Friday evening with an informal 'meet and greet' with Portland members followed by a quick tour of their facilities.

It's fair to say that we all thought the North Brighton Club had character and history..... well when you see inside the Portland Club, it makes you re-evaluate those thoughts.

They have: -

- 3 full-sized Alcocks tables with plenty of room around them all
- Lots of cue sport memorabilia dating back over 100 years
- Plenty of seating around the tables
- Several rooms off the Snooker room containing photographs and other interesting objects
- The absolute best "snug" containing comfy chairs and an open fire.
- A signing in book going back to the 1800s with a signature from 1971 of some guy by the name of "Horace Lindrum" !!!

After the meet and greet, a few members from both clubs got their cues out and played some Snooker, Billiards and a game previously unknown to us called "Blue ball".

Portland members liken Blue ball to "a poor mans Billiards". It's a game whose rules definitely mess with your head until you get used to them but it is a fantastic social game.

On the Saturday morning, everybody pretty much did their own thing before meeting back at the club at 1300hrs.



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Tony Fridman held a coaching session in Snooker with Marc Fridman demonstrating the shots/techniques being described.

Simon Scerri then held a coaching session in Billiards with some very valuable knowledge being passed on to Portland members and North Brighton Club members alike.

After the coaching sessions, Errol Aristodemou organised a doubles competition which was run in the same way as the MSBA presentation night competition – 3 reds equally spaced between the side cushions in a line half-way between the pink and black balls with a time limit on each frame and no snookers allowed.

Each team consisted of a Portland player and a North Brighton player and as if it had been scripted, the two club presidents (Lincoln Roberts and Neil Allison) were drawn to play on the same team. Unfortunately, the Presidents didn't win a single frame and got to put their cues away very early in the day.

The doubles competition was eventually won by Shane (Portland) and Marc Fridman (North Brighton) defeating Robert Hope (Portland) and Simon Scerri (North Brighton) in the final.

After departing for dinner, everybody arrived back at the club around 1900hrs for a club vs club competition, again organised by Errol Aristodemou.

There were several round robin frames of both Snooker (6 reds) and Billiards with the eventual result being in favour of North Brighton (22 – 8). Snooker 14- 3, Billiards 8 – 5.

Neil Allison and Errol Aristodemou were undefeated in the Snooker with Jim Ryan and Eamonn Corbett being undefeated in Billiards.

After the competition, Tony Fridman made a few presentations to players and a brief speech was made by both club presidents.

Some players stayed on to continue the social activity whilst some members "hit the wall" and went back to their accommodation.

Throughout the weekend Contemporary, Rock, Blues and Country Music was pounding away in the background, BYO drinks also contributed to a fun and relaxed environment. During the evening Inter Club competition when not playing, Portland team members Peter Woz and Marty who had been members of a renowned local band gathered in the bar room and were joined by Tony Fridman on guitar, ripping out some great covers of Blues, Rock and Country Classic songs. This is a common activity at Portland with guitars having a home in the bar.

Sunday morning was reserved for a few leisurely social frames, Ralf Abdul and Trevor Lowther got the social games underway where Eamonn Corbett made a respectable break of 50 in Billiards and Simon Scerri crafted a very handy 103. Other members dropped in before the road trip back to Melbourne.



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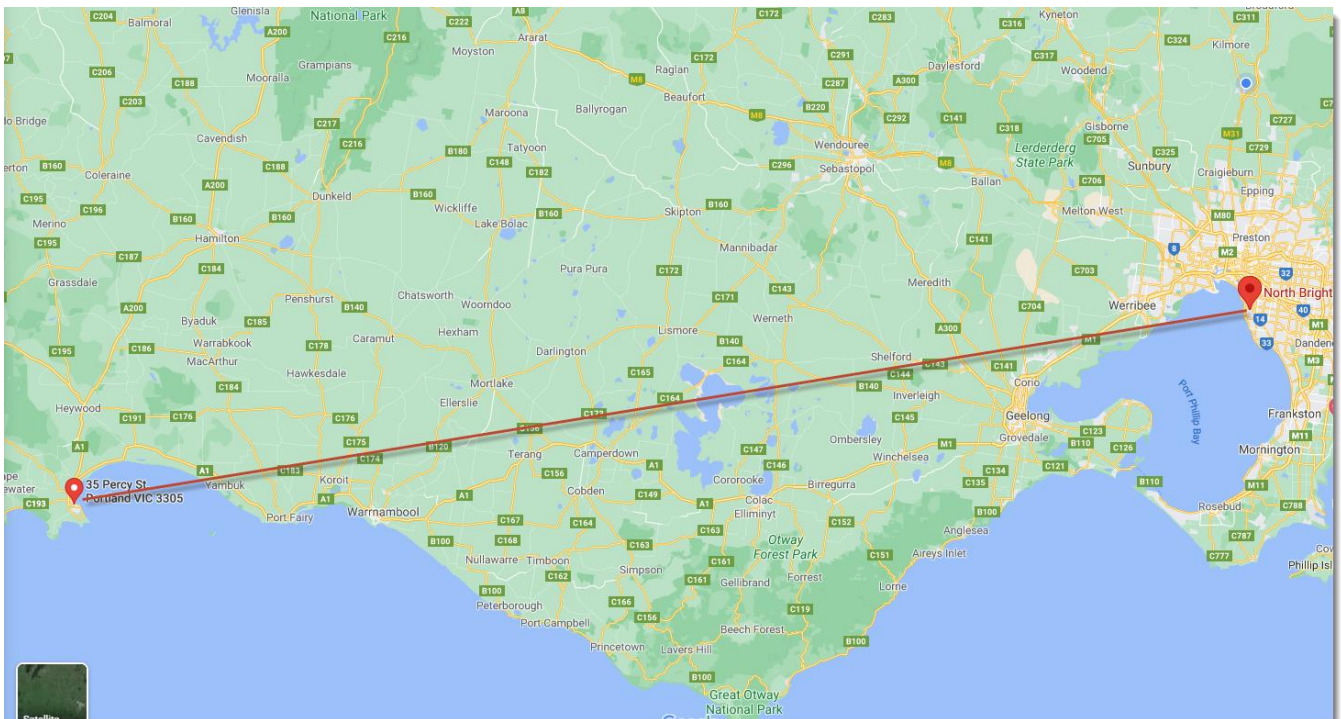
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Each and every member of North Brighton who was there can be very proud of the way the North Brighton Club was represented.

On behalf of the North Brighton Club, sincere thanks go to: -

- Jim Ryan for coming up with the idea and making all the arrangements
- Tony/Marc Fridman for running the Snooker coaching session
- Simon Scerri for running the Billiards coaching session
- Errol Aristodemou for organising the competitive events
- All delegates for attending and helping to make the weekend the success that it was
- The Portland Club President (Lincoln Roberts) for making this happen from their end
- Everybody at the Portland Club for making us feel so welcome. The hospitality they extended to us was absolutely the best.

Words cannot accurately describe the atmosphere at the Portland Club. You really have to be there to experience it and soak it up.



Here are a few photos from the weekend....





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Signing in book entries dating back to 1877 when the club was first established.





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