

Portland Trip Summary May 2023

I was lucky enough to attend with the weekend being just after a work conference in Ballarat.

And so it began, on Friday May 26th most made our way down to Portland, grey skies, colder temperatures and in the case of evening arrivals the dark of night or a GPS route better suited to the Leyland Brothers didn't diminish enthusiasm! Friday and Friday evening presented the opportunity to play snooker, billiards and Portland Club invented cue sport games Blue Ball and Golf. Portland Secretary Robert Hope also explained to me the rules of other Portland Invented games, Football and a game called German Sausage where 12 reds are placed on the table in the shape of a German Sausage, two reds have to be potted into each pocket.

A late night for some on Friday evening including a slow walk after 1.00am to Portland's 24-hour Maccas. An opportune taxi made the walk easier, drive through and back to the hotel. In hindsight some German Sausage and Sauerkraut might have been more edible than Maccas.

Saturday morning provided some much-needed fresh Portland breakfast in an esplanade street side café where most of us gathered to fuel recovery. The afternoon was a good session of social games between those present from both clubs, fun social banter was constant with background music, air guitar from some and varied refreshments fueling the relaxed mode.

Saturday evening a group dinner including Darren Sager's father Graeme was enjoyed with much conversation at a local Chinese Restaurant. Two members preferred one of the local pubs for a country steak for dinner. On Saturday evening I ran a doubles snooker competition with one member from each club in 6 doubles teams and 2 of our members in one team. One round of Blue Ball, one of billiards, one of snooker with snooker finals. Portland generously provided supper with much enjoyed homemade sauces, Mark E White kept us all further entertained through the evening with an array of jokes and riddles!

Saturday was a late night, actually another early morning. The cold of early morning ensured a brisk walk back to our hotels. Most of us made our way home on the Sunday, a great time was had by all. Thank you to our friends at Portland, particularly Lincoln Robert and Robert Hope for leading the hospitality. Also thank you to Jim Ryan for his work helping to arrange the weekend.

We encourage all members to consider coming along to Portland for one of our future trips. Look forward to seeing more first-time attendees on future trips to see our good friends at Portland Club.

The below pages include images from the weekend. Thank you and keep well.

Errol Aristodemou

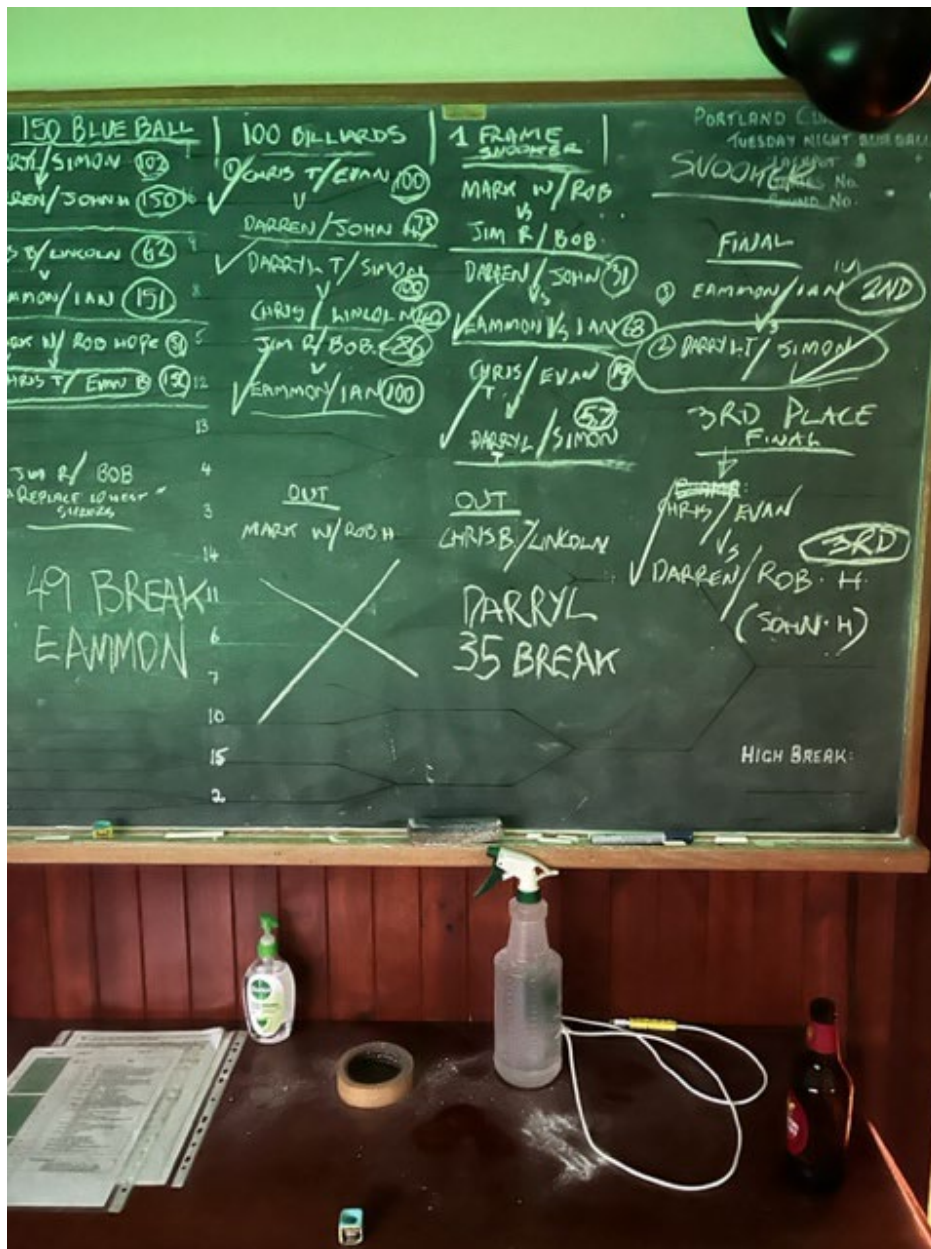
North Brighton Committee Member



Chris Toutoglu (L) potting while Mark E White (R) poses hoping for a Bronze Statue!



Portland President Lincoln Roberts (L) explaining the rules of cue ball golf to North Brighton Vice President Chris Borrell (R) before they played golf with cues!



Mixed Doubles Snooker Competition results and high breaks.

Everyone who attended the weekend was a winner.



Bob Cocciardi contemplating his good form.



Darryl Tippett (guest) steering the last red into the black pocket in the mixed club snooker doubles competition. Darryl and his Portland doubles partner Simon defeated Eamonn Corbett North Brighton and his doubles partner Ian from Portland in a close final.



Portland's John H (L) with his snooker doubles partner North Brighton's Darren Sager (Ctr),
Portland's Simon (R).



Chris Toutoglu (L) smiling at his “luck” with Portland Secretary Robert “Bob” Hope (R) enjoying the match.



The 3 Amigo's, Lincoln Roberts (L) Portland, Jim Ryan (Ctr) and Chris Borrell North Brighton (R).

Two with a cue, Jim with one of many reds that over the weekend went down other than in the pockets!



Top picture of Percy Street Portland in the 1870s with the Portland Club building to the left of the Church.

Middle picture outside the Portland Club in 1903 of teacher and children during a period when the building was a school.

The Portland Club building has also been active as a courthouse and a storage facility for corn amongst other purposes.



Portland Everyday Hero President Lincoln Roberts (L) with one of his home made cues, Errol Aristodemou (Ctr), Jim Ryan (R).



Jim Ryan, quickly up on that billiards shot!



Darren Sager blushing at his own brilliance (or was it a fluke?). Bob taking it all in with a beer!



Mark E White, a picture of concentration, or posing for another statue?
Or perhaps Mark was frozen from lack of sleep!



The boys in action as the weekend gained traction! Jim Ryan and Eamonn Corbett taking each other on in a game of snooker.



North Brighton's Mark E White (L), Wazza Portland (Ctr) and Chris Toutoglu (R) North Brighton.

Comradery was excellent across the weekend, Snooker, Billiards, Blue Ball and Friendship ongoing.

We look forward to the next trip to Portland to continue the games, the festivities and the friendship.