

President's Column

In this inaugural issue of Cuesports' newsletter "On Cue", I am delighted to announce various new initiatives by Cuesports Singapore.

As most of you are aware, Singapore will play host to the 28th SEA Games next June 2015. Cuesports is one of the games featured at the SEA Games. As part of our national efforts to achieve better performance at the SEA Games, we have completed the selection trials for our players competing in billiards, snooker and pool events and will be embarking on the training of our players in preparation for the Games.

To this end, to help raise and bolster the standards of our snooker players, we have brought on board Stefan Mazrocis as our new National Snooker Coach. Stefan is a former snooker professional and hails from Leicester, England. He will be responsible for the training and preparation of our national players for the upcoming SEA Games in June 2015 as well as our junior snooker talent development programme. An interview with Stefan is featured in this newsletter.

In addition, Cuesports will also be bringing in internationally acclaimed pool coaches Ralph Eckert and Allison Fisher in the course of the year ahead to train our players. More details will follow in the next issue of our newsletter.

One key initiative of Cuesports launched this year is the junior snooker talent development programme. This is targeted at junior players aged 21 and below. Selected junior players will form part of our junior academy overseen by our New National Snooker Coach Stefan Mazrocis. They will undergo systematic training and instruction under the watchful eye of our new coach. We hope to groom and mentor these players who will eventually form the core group of future players to represent Singapore in national and regional snooker events. This programme is important to the future of our sport as it ensures renewal and continuity in our ranks of players. Cuesports will also be implementing similar programmes for pool and billiards in due course.

Another major development this year will be the relocation of Cuesports to its new clubhouse premises at unit 03-12, West Coast Recreation Centre. Apart from housing Cuesports office



Christopher Chuah
President, Cuesports Singapore

and the jackpot machines, our new clubhouse will serve as a training academy with our own snooker and pool tables which can be used for training, exhibitions and workshops. This would also be ideal for training of junior players who may otherwise face restrictions encountered in commercial billiard saloons. Finally, we have taken the liberty of enclosing our tournament calendar for the year in this issue. This will hopefully give our players and members advance notice of the various events so that they can plan their schedules ahead. Any changes in dates or venues will be announced ahead of time by email or our facebook.

We have just completed the West Coast National Snooker Ranking event which was held at the West Coast Billiard Saloon in July. From 9 to 11 September, Cuesports will be staging a Snooker Invitation Tournament at Lagoon Billiards, SAFRA, Toa Payoh which will feature prominent foreign players and our top local players in an 8 man draw. This is the first time in many years that such an event is held and we hope that our members and players will support this event. This will be followed by our annual National Snooker Championship shortly thereafter.

Meanwhile, for our avid pool players, you will note that the inter club pool league is underway. This year, we will also be reviving the National Pool Ranking series which will take place from January next year. There is certainly a lot of cueing action to look forward in the months ahead and on behalf of Cuesports, I wish all of you happy cueing.

Alison Fisher, the four-time World Nine Ball Champion (women's division) is scheduled to be here 19-23 October 2014.

Many consider her to be one of the most consistent and finest female player in pool.

During her visit, Allison will conduct a workshop for our women's pool team.

To further elevate the women's standards for the up-coming 28th SEA Games, Cuesports Singapore is making arrangements with Alison to coach our women's team for the second quarter next year .

Workshops/exhibitions may be made available to separate interested groups or parties. For more details, please login to our Cuesports Singapore Facebook.



Tournament Calendar

| Events | Schedule | Events | Schedule |
|--|-----------------|---|----------------|
| National Snooker Ranking | 21 Jun - 13 Jul | National 9 Ball Championship | 3 Nov - 22 Dec |
| Inter Club Pool League | Aug - Nov | National U21 Snooker Championship | 1 - 22 Dec |
| National U19 9/10 Ball Championship | 6 - 14 Sep | National Billiards Open | 19 - 23 Jan |
| Cuesports Snooker Invitation Tournament 2014 | 9 - 11 Sep | National Snooker Classic | 9 Feb - 18 Mar |
| National Snooker Championship | 15 Sep - 12 Oct | National School Pool & Snooker Championship | 22 Mar |
| National 10 Ball Championship | 29 Sep - 24 Oct | | |

West Coast Snooker Ranking Tournament 2014 - 21 June to 13 July

The event took place in West Coast Billiards Centre and there were a total of 89 participants. The event saw high quality snooker with various breaks in excess of 70 notched up by various players including the highest break of 101 by Chan Chee Keong.



Marvin Lim qualified for the final by beating Chee Keong in the semi-finals with a scoreline of 4-0 sealing the final frame and match with a 95 break . Keng Kwang also qualified for the final by beating Tommy Ang by a similar scoreline of 4-0.

The final was a keenly contested affair between Marvin and Keng Kwang and Keng Kwang eventually prevailed as the winner by 4 frames to one. For Keng Kwang, this was a notable achievement as it was his first National Snooker ranking title .

“Having been knocked-out in the semi-finals for many years, winning this event is definitely a highlight of my snooker career.” Keng Kwang said with a laugh.

Keng Kwang will be participating in the Snooker Invitation Tournament organised by Cuesports from 9 to 11 September and we are sure that we will be seeing more snooker titles from him in the future.

High-Break Winner: Chan Chee Keong, Champion: Chan Keng Kwang, Runner-up: Marvin Lim

Up Close With Stefan Mazrocis



Q: Stefan, can you tell us a bit about yourself and how you got involved in snooker?

A: I first started playing snooker at the age of 12, but not on a real table...such was my early interest for the game. I used the family dining table, created cushions with old toy cars, leaving 6 pockets, using marbles for balls and our old iron fire-poker as a cue! I remember watching Steve Davis playing on the tv and then spend hours trying to copy his style and technique.

At 15 I got my first introduction to full size tables when I joined the now famous “Willie Thorne Snooker Club” in Leicester. I remember Willie himself watching me and then inviting me to play full time under his guidance at his club with no table charges.

From then on I fell totally in love with the game and I would often spend up to 11 hours a day practicing. It was always my deep ambition to turn professional.

I made my first century at 15, and my first maximum 147 at 17. Those were the early signs that I had the potential to turn professional soon and so make a living at the game. Unfortunately, back in those days the programme was not as open as it is now, with the board only allowing 8 players a year onto the tour I often missed out by just one qualifying match or two. Once I even failed by just one black ball! But being very determined never to quit on my goals, I finally got my Professional status when I was 25. By this time I had become one of the top amateur's in the UK with numerous pro/am tournament victories to my name.

All that experience proved very valuable as in 1995 I reached my first final as a pro and although not a TV ranking event it was still a major break through for me. My best results there after were The Thailand Open, last 8, (1996) The World Championships last 32(2005), and probably my most notable result beating world number 3, Peter Ebdon 10-3 to reach the last 16 in the world championship in 1997!

Q: Can you share with us about your coaching experience?

A: In 2008 I became Assistant National Coach for The Netherlands and was the head junior coach there till 2010.

In late 2010 I was appointed head coach at the newly opened German Snooker Academy, where I trained many of their top junior players.

In 2012, I was appointed head coach at The Winchester Snooker Club, where I ran my very successful Junior Snooker Academy, before coming to Singapore.

Q: What are you currently working on with Cuesports Singapore?

A: I'm currently busy getting to know all the Singapore players in the SEA Games squad. Training of these players have started.

With the launch of the junior snooker talent development programme, I am currently assessing all junior players with potential and who will go on to form part of the “Singapore Junior Snooker Academy” which will be run from the 26th July. I will be personally overseeing the training of these junior players with a view to developing the future generation of players good enough to represent Singapore in future events. I hope to improve and take every player I coach to a higher level. I am looking forward very much to the SEA Games next year and it would be an honor and pleasure to see our players play well in tournaments.

Q: What are your impressions of Singapore so far?

A: I first came over here for a tournament in 1991 with my good friend David Harold who still plays on the professional tour. David beat me in a greatly fought final held then in Singapore Billiards and Snooker Council clubhouse in the old National Stadium. Recently, I had a chance to visit the new National Stadium and am truly amazed by the change.

Indeed, the Singapore that I knew in 1991 has changed very much. It is truly an amazing place, so cosmopolitan and vibrant. I love the place, the people and the food as well!

Launch of the Junior Snooker Development Programme



In line with Sports Singapore's Vision 2030 and to promote the development of snooker in Singapore, Cuesports Singapore launched its Junior Snooker Development Programme in July.

The programme has attracted favourable response from aspiring junior players. Coaching and tables are provided at no cost to the participants. On 26 July, the Junior Snooker Academy was

officially launched at the Jockey Club attended by Cuesports President Christopher Chuah and Stefan Mazrocis, our National Snooker Coach. There were 19 junior players who participated. Stefan was on hand to give tips and instructions to aspiring players. The players also competed against each other in round robin matches.

The Junior Snooker Development Programme is targeted at junior players aged between 7 to 21 and is aimed at identifying and grooming aspiring junior players to form part of our National Squad. This will in turn ensure continuity and renewal amongst our players and form a resource pool from which we can draw on to send players to represent Singapore in future tournaments. The programme is overseen and administered by our National Snooker Coach Stefan Mazrocis.

Aspiring junior players between the age of 7 to 21 who wish to groom their snooker skills and want to know more about the programme can contact Cuesports at Rosaline@cuesports.org.sg or Stefan.Mazrocis@cuesports.org.sg

Singapore, Chan Keng Kwang

Singapore, Bernard Tey

Singapore, Marvin Lim

Singapore, Tommy Ang

Thailand, Kritsanut Lertsattayathorn

Wales, Jamie Rhys Clarke

Singapore, Chan Chee Keong

Malaysia, Rory Thor

FREE ADMISSION
on first come first served basis

CUESPORTS SINGAPORE INVITATION SNOOKER TOURNAMENT

09 - 11 SEP 14, 7.30PM @ LAGOON BILLIARD ROOM, TOA PAYOH SAFRA

Prizes

Winner \$2,500
Semi-Finalist \$1,000
Quarter \$500
Runner Up \$1,500

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Note: Cuesports Singapore is moving soon to its new premises located at

**12 West Coast Walk #03-12A
West Coast Recreation Centre
Singapore 127157**

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27 West Coast Highway #02-09 Westway Centre
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