

## **Report for the NZBSA AGM prepared by Wyn Belmont**

### **Junior Development**

Last year we embarked on a junior snooker event for all junior snooker players in this country, this was the first of hopefully an annual event for young players of all ages and all ethnicities. The format was different age groups - U13, U15, U17, U19 and U21. The event attracted 27 players, from around NZ, the majority of players were from HB and Auckland. Dave Holmes from HB was part of the team to put this event together and his input and energy needs to be commended. The accommodation for the event was sponsored by the Hastings RSA, the food at the venue was sponsored by ACBS, a big thank you to those sponsors and different families that gave towards the event. The overall event was enjoyed by all participants. Three of our juniors passed their referees exam papers and this year we will be doing the same exercise with the help of experienced referees.

This years event will be held Hastings during the September school holidays and we will be expecting a similar if not larger field of junior players. A coaching session will also be held for those players wanting to be coached.

Our under 21s reps will be attending the World U21 in Ireland, due to funding restrictions the need to fundraise has been necessary. Funding has been sourced from different organisations and fundraising efforts, thanks to those who supported this. Shannon Swain, Sam Bond and Ryan Knott will be our reps together with Gary Gillard who has funded himself as the team manager. We wish them well in Ireland. For the future it is imperative that some form of fundraising be done on a national basis in order to have money put aside for our junior players to attend world championships so they can get financial assistance in the absence of gaming machine money (applications being declined). We are solely dependent on these applications that if the applications are declined and we have no money in the bank, our reps and their families are put under enormous pressure to find the money. We wish our boys the very best in Ireland, both Shannon and Sam qualified in this years nationals with Shannon making the semi finals – well done.

Wyn Belmont

10/7/10