

2018 Victorian Snooker Championship

TOURNAMENT REPORT

It's pretty safe to say that this State Titles tournament was mainly about Johl Younger and the referees. After a hiatus of 19 years Johl finally got his hands on the very prestigious trophy once again.

This tournament saw the introduction of a new system for the refereeing where a slight increase in the entry fee allowed every match to be professionally refereed with losing players not required. It proved to be difficult in the extreme for the referees but only because of the lack of personnel.



Work commitments and others overseas brought the numbers of those available down to just seven of us after lunch, so a big, big thank you to Colin Winter who came in to help with the first matches of the day at a personal financial sacrifice, to Kim and John Ivett who gave up their morning even with work commitments later in the day and also to Brendon Lang who managed to lose his first match of the day and so be free to officiate for the rest of it.

It was then non-stop for the others and a lot of very appreciated leg work and tired bodies from Mark Bini, Neil Allison, Neil Brown, Jon Moss, Jon Loughron and new referee Anuj Rathee who, in only his 3rd tournament, once again proved what an asset he will become. Semi final referees on Sunday were Jon Loughron and Neil Brown with Neil Allison a very professional, in all senses of the word, Grand Final referee. All players canvassed were in full agreement with the new system and it is hoped that it can become a feature going forward.

There were some stand out performances from the players too with Robbie Chilcott, Emran Ali, Bassam Elbelli, George Spiteri and Grand Finalist Ayaz Khan all very worthy of a mention. It is Johl Younger however, who takes all the accolades with George Spiteri his only test, he went on to dominate the rest of his matches recording a magnificent 134 in the first frame of the final which he went on to win 5 - 1, this to go along with the 105 and 98 in his first round match.

A very worthy and popular winner.

