

ROBERT (BOBBY/BOB) MCLASS PASSING

It is with much sadness we share news that 5-time Victorian Snooker Champion of the 1960s and 70s era, Robert McLass, affectionately known as Bobby McLass to his friends, has passed away.

After a battle with cancer this last year Bobby passed away at the age of 92 on Saturday, 20 November 2021, leaving his beautiful wife of 68 years, Marea and daughter, Michelle. Bobby was a devoted husband and father and lived for his family. We offer our heartfelt condolences to the McLass family for their loss.

In the 1960s and 70s Bobby McLass was a formidable player who won his first Victorian Snooker Championship in 1962 defeating Arthur Cuffe. Bobby had some titanic battles with other greats of the time, Harry Andrews, Lance Pannell, George Ganim Jnr, Ron Atkins, Johnny McKay and other greats of the game.

He won his last Victorian title in 1978 defeating George Ganim Jnr. On that occasion, Bobby was down 7-1 after the first evenings play and on the second evening won every game to win his fifth Victorian Snooker Championship.

Bobby was twice runner-up in the Australian National Snooker Championship, on both occasions losing to Max Williams in '72 and '73.

For those in the snooker fraternity who knew Bobby, I'm sure you'd agree he was one of the most lovable people you could ever meet. Bobby was a true gentleman, a great player who simply loved the game of snooker. He regularly attended the Australia National Championships up until 2 years ago. In the last 10 years Bobby's dulcet tones could be heard in the hallways and the throngs of spectators at the RACV City Club talking to his friends.

Bobby McLass was a master builder and craftsman, a true artisan, who opened his home generously to VBSA members and players, his wife Marea treating everyone who visited to tea and biscuits while Bobby would share boundless stories about snooker and showing off his great craftsmanship of his work. It was common to drop in for a 5-minute chat with Bobby and walk out 3 hours later enriched by the wonderful stories Bobby shared. Bobby's extraordinary building skills and workmanship were on full display in his beautifully and meticulously crafted homes in Northcote and then later in Geelong.

He was a master craftsman of billiard tables and had worked for Harry Evans and Sons for many years. In fact, right up until his passing Bobby was still working on his latest project, the restoration of a rare Alcocks Exhibition Prize billiard table at his home in Geelong. It is an outstanding piece of artwork that exemplified Bobby's marvellous talents and table craftsmanship. It is something to behold.

Bobby McLass was a marvellous, effervescent person and will be remembered as a great snooker player who will be sadly missed by his friends.

Vale Bobby McLass



Bobby with Bruce McPhee