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Date: 4 January 2022 at 11:37:27 am AEDT

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Subject: 50th Anniversary Andrews / Atkins Shield 2022

Hi all,

Following consultations between Paul Cosgriff, Rob Higgins, Ron Cole and myself a decision has been made to postpone the 50th Andrews/Atkins Shield event to a later date in 2022.

The primary concern at this stage is obviously the surging case numbers as a result of the Omicron variant. While there haven't been any government announcements of changes to restrictions such as travel, venue capacities or indoor sport the possibility that restrictions may be imposed creates a higher risk of the event being negatively affected.

Ideally the 50th anniversary of the Andrews / Atkins will be a major event for all those involved, both past & present players/officials and guests. Organising such an event under a cloud of uncertainty is extremely difficult and any last minute disruption due to changes in restrictions could result in the event needing to be canceled altogether in 2022. While nobody is under the illusion that the situation is guaranteed to be any different later in the year we may have a better idea about the strategies being followed by the Vic, Tas and Federal governments which may allow plans to be made with more confidence.

In addition to the Covid issues the Asia Pacific Snooker and Billiards Federation has announced that its annual championships (previously known as the Oceania Championships) will commence on the weekend that the Andrews / Atkins is normally played. Several Vic/Tas players often compete in these championships.

At this stage no revised date for the Andrews/Atkins has been proposed although the general consensus so far appears to be that it should be towards the end of 2022, possibly October or November after the national snooker/billiards calendar of events has concluded. While no investigation has been done at this stage in regards to availability of a venue (ie RACV Club) or accommodation the weekend prior to the Melbourne Cup may be a possibility. That weekend may present visiting players/officials/guests the opportunity of enjoying the Spring Racing Carnival festivities going on in Melbourne at that time. Of course, those same festivities may also make a venue and accommodation difficult. Feedback/suggestions from anyone would be appreciated.

A further review of the situation will be undertaken towards the end of January.

Please feel free to pass this correspondence on to any other interested parties.

Regards,

Brendan Taylor