

REPORT ON 2014 BERRI RESORT HOTEL OPEN 8-BALL SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD ON SATURDAY JULY 19TH & SUNDAY JULY 20TH



Ricky Emery (Adelaide) defeated 16 year old Ballarat player Matt Curwood by 4 frames to 2 to be the 27th Winner of this prestigious event. An appreciative audience of over 160 spectators witnessed the final.

Players were competing for \$16,000 in prize-money.

Ricky, who also won this event in 2012, now joins Phil Reilly (3 times) and Jake McCartney, Russell Youlten, Mick Delahunty & Alec Evreniadis (2 times) as multiple times winner of this event.

For Matt, it has been a very busy month having just returned from the World Junior Titles held in England where he played extremely well. Matt also won the Friday Night Restricted Knock-out and the Saturday Night Under 18's Knock-out.

Ricky received \$4,500 in prize-money, together with a trophy for being crowned "Champion", while Matt received prize-money of \$1,700 plus a trophy for finishing Runner-up.

The Grand Final saw Matt break the first frame and pot out to lead 1-0 in the best of 7 frame final. Ricky broke the second game, which resulted in a re-rack after potting the black. This time Ricky's break came up dry. After a tactical game, Matt potted out to take a 2-0 frame lead. Matt made a dry break in the third frame. After Matt committed a foul, Ricky, cleared all his balls. Having 2 shots on the black, Ricky played a classical kick-off shot to get on the black, which he potted to trail 1-2. Ricky with clean potting and great positioning of the cue ball, potted out in the fourth frame to level the scores at 2-2. Matt broke the fifth frame and went in-off. This resulted in Ricky taking control of the frame and eventually won to lead 3-2. The pivotal moment in the sixth frame came as a result of Matt committing a foul. This resulted in some excellent potting and positioning of the cue ball by Ricky to calmly pot out to take the Championship by 4 frames to 2.

Semi Final results were:

Ricky Emery	defeated	Jake McCartney	4/3
Matt Curwood	defeated	Glen Ferris	4/3

Quarter Final results were:

Ricky Emery	(Adelaide)	defeated	Grant Weekly	(Adelaide)	4/0
Matt Curwood	(Ballarat)	defeated	John Barton	(Adelaide)	4/2
Jake McCartney	(Ballarat)	defeated	Keenan Cigler	(Perth)	4/3
Glen Ferris	(Melbourne)	defeated	Michael Cacciola	(Adelaide)	4/2

Three hundred and thirty six players nominated in this year's tournament, compared to 332 players that entered the 2013 event. The event consisted of players being divided up into 34 sections, with the sectional play being held at various Clubs and Hotels in the Riverland. At the conclusion of play on Saturday, 136 players had qualified for the finals on the Sunday.

The Friday night restricted knock-out competitions resulted in Darren Shaw (Adelaide) defeating Peter Brooks (Mildura) and Matt Curwood (Ballarat) defeating Brett Niemann (Adelaide). The Friday night Invitational knock-out competitions resulted in Mark Walker (Mount Gambier) defeating Barry Wakefield (Melbourne) and Paul Hancock (Adelaide) defeating James Delahunty (Adelaide).

The Under 18 knock-out resulted in Matt Curwood (Ballarat) defeating Jayden Domeika (Adelaide).

The Saturday night Ladies knock-out resulted in Elise Mabbott (Adelaide) defeating Marie Cripps (Adelaide).

The “Non Qualifiers” knockout on Sunday was won by Nelson Chater (Melbourne) defeating Steve Moore (Broken Hill).

The “Could have been Champions” knock-out on Sunday for Round 1 & 2 losers only resulted in Russell Youlten (Adelaide) defeating Andy Ripley (Whyalla).

I wish to mention the work done by the Riverland 8-Ball Association. New President Mick Radak and his committee spent many hours over the week-end to make sure that everything ran smoothly. I would also like to show my appreciation to the members of the Riverland Women’s 8-Ball Association who assisted with the selling of raffle tickets over the weekend, all proceeds of which are distributed as prize-money to the Saturday night Ladies and Under 18’s knock-outs. Special thanks also goes to Deb Trenwith and Deb Albanese for their assistance in organizing the Ladies Knock-out.

All 18 tables used at the Berri Resort Hotel are supplied and serviced by Aaron Court from Court’s Amusements and I would like to acknowledge his efforts to supply tables of the highest quality.

At the Official Presentation, Berri Resort Hotel’s Assistant Manager Darren Baker assisted in the handing out of the major prizes and thanked all staff members for their efforts to cater for the players during the running of this event.

As the Tournament Director, it was particularly pleasing that many players made the effort to speak to me over the course of the weekend to congratulate the efforts of all parties involved in the organizing of the Berri Resort Hotel Open 8-Ball Singles Championships.

Neil Lemmey
Tournament Director