

## Elm Park Snooker Report 2025

The 2024/25 season was one of the most active in the club in years, and the snooker section continues to go from strength to strength. We are very fortunate to have such a great facility with three full-size snooker tables. This year, we were also delighted to improve the room and the tables, and we would be delighted to welcome all new members to come and play.

All year, we ran the Flyers social snooker, with Bernard Barron now in charge. Each week a competitive frame was played by the two finalists. The league was won by Peter Cosgrove, while the Flyers Cup was won by Bernard Barron as he took on the Flyers organisation this year. Bernard was ably helped by Andreas Saul-Rotne and Rory Butler.

There was huge interest in the internal competitions. The big prize, the Club Championship Singles, was won by Mark Poland, who beat Aidan Claffey in front of a knowledgeable snooker gallery who ooh-ed and aah-ed at all the right moments. For those not aware, the club also runs a snooker handicap for all members (and any new member can come down and will start with a very favourable handicap). This meant that the doubles and the handicap singles were very competitive. The doubles, named the Sean Cox Doubles, was won by Michael Byers and Aidan Claffey, while the Michael O'Sullivan Trophy (handicap singles) was won by Michael Byers.

The snooker club also plays against other golf clubs in an inter-club competition on the dark nights of autumn and winter. Grange, Castle, Stackstown, and Newlands are among some of our opponents. This year, we introduced a C team, ably managed by Gerry Casey. The A team was knocked out in the semi-finals, the B team suffered a fluked black in the deciding match to miss the playoffs, but our newly formed C team won the pennant and celebrated in style. Well done to all of the panel — the first pennant of the centenary year for the club! We also had a very successful social evening where we congratulated all the winners in the Rose Garden in April.

Generally, the snooker season ends around March/April, but a very enthusiastic Aidan Maher ran both a Summer League and a league ladder throughout the year to keep competition for places at a good level. In the ladder final, Owen McDermott beat Gareth Ryan and Owen also won the big one and carried off the once-in-a-century Centenary Cup with a win over Jason Redford.

Facilities were much improved, with all three tables re-clothed, and the committee successfully lobbied for the €1 lighting charge to be abolished — to the excitement of members who had been struggling more and more to find those coins.

2025 also saw the ladies' group playing, with some lessons and practice given to a select group of interested players.

Communications were much improved with better use of WhatsApp, a page on the Elm Park website, and a new snooker booking system, which was very quickly adopted by members.

The AGM was held on October 6<sup>th</sup> 2025 and thanked Gerry and Brian MacMahon for their great service, and the new committee is: Chair: Peter Cosgrove; Treasurer: Bernard Barron; Handicaps & Competitions: Aidan Maher; Facilities: Andreas Saul-Rotne.

2025 was the Elm Park centenary, and the snooker room has never been busier. It is an excellent resource for the club, with members coming together for competition, camaraderie, and the odd drink or two.

We'd love to see as many members as possible getting involved, whether you're a regular or haven't set foot in the snooker room before. Drop by for a frame and some good company — you'll find a warm welcome. The standard is going from strength to strength, and I hope to witness a century break in the next year!