



Elm Park Snooker Report 2024

The 2023/24 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; 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 Joe Meehan in charge, and each week a competitive frame was played by the two finalists. The league was won by Flyer's stalwart Mark McArdle and the Flyers Cup (played out by the top 16 in the Flyers League) was won by Peter Cosgrove, pipping Joe Meehan in the final. Best of luck to Bernard Barron as he takes up the Flyers organisation this year.

There was huge interest in the internal competitions. The big prize, the Club championship singles was won by Malcolm Carrigy (not for the first time!) who beat Aidan Claffey in front of a knowledgeable snooker gallery who ooh-ed and aah-ed at all the right places.

If you are not aware, the club has also 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 brothers, Mark and Cian Poland who beat Frank Harte and Peter Cosgrove in the final. The Michael O'Sullivan trophy (handicap singles): was won by Peter Cosgrove who beat Michael Byers. Michael notably knocked in a 43 break in the first frame.

The snooker club also play against other golf clubs in an inter club competition on the dark nights of Autumn and Winter. Grange, Castle, Stackstown, Newlands are among some of our opponents and last year we had two teams who both battled well throughout the year. The teams were ably managed by Aidan Maher and Brian MacMahon. The 'A League' winners were Stackstown, the 'B League' Winners were Newlands and the Paddy O'Brien Winners (a five man doubles knockout inter-club) was also won by Stackstown.

A very enjoyable As vs Bs match was also played in December with the B team gaining bragging rights on the night. We will also now be entering a C team in 2024/25 given the popularity and competitiveness of the play, this will be managed by Gerry Casey, and we are always looking for new players on the teams.

Generally, the snooker season ends around March/April, but a very enthusiastic and exuberant committee member Aidan Maher decided to trial a Summer league with a few raised eyebrows. Those brows were quickly lowered as the ladder proved incredibly popular with close to 200 matches played over the Summer and Gerry Casey winning a club voucher for 380 euro as first prize. Aidan Maher's spreadsheet on the results and a full breakdown of scores, has more data than the Hadron Collider at CERN and apparently has its own data centre.

Gerry MacMahon has put in huge work in improving the facilities and an unknown donor also brought in electronic scoreboards which are great for league nights. The tables are immaculate and with all the improvements to the room we are becoming a little less tolerant of people leaving food and drink and uncovered tables after use and are ensuring this improves this year.

2024 also saw the first ladies group who played during the Summer. 20 ladies decided to give snooker a try. With a few amateur instructors some great snooker was played, and we hope to see even more in 2025.

The AGM thanked Joe Meehan and Conor Barrett for their great service and the new committee is: Chair: Peter Cosgrove; Treasurer: Bernard Barron; Facilities: Gerry MacMahon; Handicaps & Competitions: Aidan Maher; Secretary: Brian MacMahon.

We also want to thank those stalwarts who support the snooker club, too many to mention but two key members: Gareth Ryan and John McGlade who are always great and supportive with ideas for the club.

2025 is the Elm Park centenary and there will be an extra snooker competition in 2025, fittingly named the Centenary Cup. We would like as many to play and if you have rarely or never visited the snooker room please pop up and say hello, it hosts a very friendly crowd. You are likely to see a mix of great Terry Griffiths safety, break building like Willie Thorne, moments of genius like Ronnie O'Sullivan and possibly the odd expletive like Hurricane Higgins.