

Country Boy Comes To Town

By Leo Waikari

As I ushered my guest into the snooker room I pointed towards the Honours Board that hung on the wall. There was my name in dark print "Joe Blow 1961 Runner-Up Snooker Singles Championship," cosmopolitan club level that is.

It took me five years from the day I received my membership certificate by playing regularly, after work, six days a week.

Funny though, I had never played snooker before. From the time I was old enough to enter the billiard room at Tiki Tiki, East Coast, I had always played billiards or star pool.

Coming from the country to the city on a re-location settlement scheme, I soon found my way into a billiard parlour.

After getting to know several of the players I was introduced into the local R.S.A. Club, but as I was not a member of the services I did not qualify for membership.

However, a friend nominated me into the local cosmopolitan club and

after the usual waiting period I became a fully fledged member.

Then my six days a week attendance started including club nights once a week.

The club spirit and standard of play was always of a very high standard and of the players themselves, whenever they visited the table, went there to play to win, something you have to build up inside yourself to become a good efficient player. After all, no two games are alike.

One day you play well, the next not so well. The year I made the finals are perhaps my best.

Like any other club, friendly rivalry prevailed throughout, even on trips away to other districts, or when playing other local sporting organisations.

To qualify for the finals a Round Robin Tournament is played which takes almost a day to complete. When the finalists have been determined, the final is played on a club

night, which attracts a somewhat larger crowd of spectators than is normal for club nights.

It is history now as to the outcome. My opponent was a one-time "B"-grade amateur competitor. His qualifications did not deter me one little bit. My club build up over the five years was my only inspiration to do well, but alas, lack of experience and knowledge of the game at competitive level was my undoing. Although I lost the match, my name remains forever on that board.

Course In Community, Youth, And Social Work

A new two-year Diploma Course will commence at Secondary Teachers College, Auckland, in February 1982 to prepare people for Community, Youth, and Social Work.

Applicants should not be less than 20 years of age at 1 February 1982 and should have some recognised post secondary education and/or experience in a relevant work situation. Entry at an earlier age will be considered in special circumstances.

Admission to the Course will be decided by a selection process to determine suitability, and the ability to acquire and develop relevant knowledge and skills.

Preference will be given to applicants living in the Auckland area. Further details of the Course, and application form may be obtained from:

The Secretary
Auckland Teachers Colleges Council
47 Epsom Avenue
Epsom
AUCKLAND 3

with whom applications close on 31 October 1981.

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The Secretary,
Te Aute Trust Board (Inc),
P.O. Box 453,
NAPIER.

Applications should reach the secretary by 31st October, 1981."