

MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 8 May 2017
Embargo: None
Pages: 2
Publication: All Media

Gawler Club – History and the Move!

The Gawler Civic Centre redevelopment is well underway requiring the Gawler Club Inc. to (temporarily) move from the Gawler Institute/Town Hall for the first time in its 143 year history. The Club's major historic asset, the Billiard table, has been given the best of care during this historic move.

Founded on 22 February 1873 by Mr Geo Palmer, Manager of the Gawler Branch of the National Bank, the Gawler Club opened with 34 members. Originally established for adult male business owners and professionals, the Club's membership has expanded to accept anyone – male, female and youth.

The Club's full size (12 foot by 6 foot) Squatters Favourite billiard table was manufactured in Melbourne by Alcock & Co. Alcock's South Australian agent at the time the Club purchased the table was Fred Lindrum, the great Walter Lindrum's grandfather. Fred Lindrum was one of our greatest winemaking pioneers and in 1873 was awarded Australia's first international gold medal for wine at the London International Exhibition of Fine Arts, which happened to be the same year the Gawler Club was founded. Fred Lindrum became Australia's first professional billiards champion.

"The Gawler Club's Alcock table is made out of Blackwood and has very rare cushion rails where the timber is fiddleback, which means the timber is cut across the grain and not along the grain. The table number is 788 which is one of the lowest on record at Alcock's." said Gawler Club President Mr Geoff Short

The Gawler Club has temporarily relocated to the Elderly Centre in Gawler South while construction of the Gawler Civic Centre occurs. During this time, the Club will be restoring its billiard tables to their former glory, ready to return them to their home in the Town Hall in late 2018.

On 22 December 1926, the greatest billiard player ever, Walter Lindrum, entertained Gawler Club Members with an exhibition game on the Squatters Favourite. To make the exhibition more interesting Mr. F.E. Barkla consented to be Lindrum's opponent and within an hour Lindrum

scored 1125 against Barkla's 98. Geoff Short commented on an article from the Gawler Bunyip of 24 December 1921 where it was written "According to reports from the era, Members were amazed at Lindrum's control of the 'ivories' and were astounded by the ease with which he played that almost reduced the game to an absurdity."

The Gawler Club has many historic artifacts including a Walter Lindrum cue with which he scored a break of 4137, the Alcock cue used by Barkla in the match against Lindrum, original billiard table accessories purchased with the Squatters Favourite and Bentwood Chairs that date back to the 1800s.

"The Gawler Club has played a significant role in the cultural development of Gawler but also is part of the cultural significance of the buildings themselves," said Mayor Redman. "Operating for over 140 years is an impressive achievement and I'm sure there are many more stories to be told of the 'goings on' in this historic club. We look forward to welcoming the Gawler Club back in late 2018."

Club President Geoff Short commented that the Club was very pleased with the professional way that the Club's move had been handled by Council. The Club looks forward to moving back to the Town Hall in its refurbished home.

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