

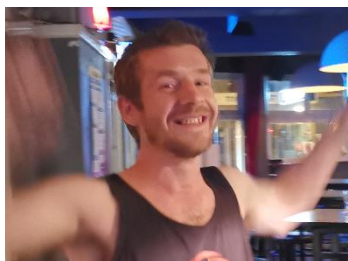
# “IT’S SUCH A BUMMER BEING ON TOP”... ALEX

*Newtown Wed 13 Nov 2019:*

Unlike during the afterglow of his surprise 2018 Nick Power Cup win in February 2019, Alex’ words this time reflected how easy it can be to fall from the pinnacle of the sporting world and take one for the team. After taking out the top honours overall for the 2018 cup event, Alex suffered a cruel defeat in the 1<sup>st</sup> round this week at the hands of Aussie battler, Col, who was himself swiftly taken out by rookie player, James.

The domino effect continued with James then extinguished for the night by Smokin’ Joe who went on to the semis before being denied one of the top rankings by Dean, recently fired up from his international harvest tour of the U.S.

Despite his valiant efforts, Dean finally succumbed to NPC 2018 first-timer and 4<sup>th</sup> place-getter, Dave C, in the finals.



*Above: Flexing Dave C - is this the man to beat this year?*



*Above: Smokin’ Joe with fire in his eyes and... oh... fire in his hair!*

Other newcomers, Rob, and new Dutch import, Martijn, fared

less successfully by being removed from the rankings in the 1<sup>st</sup> round. In the case of Rob, this was in a dramatic black ball finish when the not-quite-world-class tables stole him of a win against Peter T when the black ball decided to autonomously travel in a hyperbolic arc away from the pocket. Perhaps the pool gods were still looking down when, in Peter T’s next game against Chris, the black successfully navigated its path into the pocket followed in agonisingly slow motion by the white ball in what many, including Peter T himself, described as one of most “dumb-arsed shots of the night”.

Of course, NPC media coverage would be incomplete without suitable commentary on that loveable clown, Dave G. Going into the night with his usual lashings of over-confidence, expecting the mythical powers of his headband to produce that elusive result he has been so sorely deprived of, Dave lost to local girl, Julie, even before the elastic in his headband had warmed up to optimum tournament temperature.



*Above: Faces of despondency – a shattered Alex (left) and an inconsolable Dave G (right).*

Other notable events on the night included headline-hogger from 2018, Garth, taking an early walk after a 2<sup>nd</sup> round loss to Dave C; Kat scratching up only five 1<sup>st</sup> round points against the same formidable opponent;

and Dave T also only gaining 5 points against him although making it through to the 3<sup>rd</sup> round. Geoff charged out of the pits on a buyback spoiler crusade heroically attempting to thwart the rampage of Dave C but this too was to no avail.

Thanks to Henare, the latest scores can be found on the HPDP NPC statistics website at: [stats.hpdp.org.au/2019/npc](http://stats.hpdp.org.au/2019/npc)

## IN MEMORIAM

Having adopted countless newcomers to the esteemed Nick Power Cup as it has migrated between venues since 1999, it is timely to pause and reflect on the reason why we come together each year. It is not simply a get together to play a few games of pool, it is for the memory of a friend to many of us, a much-loved and dearly-missed brother to Julia and uncle to Dan and Dave and an avid and highly-proficient pool player which is what it is all about.



### Nick Power

1952 – 1998

*Photos courtesy of Julia Cameron (nee Thomson nee Power)*