

NPC FIRST-TIMER CHRIS ON SPOILER RAMPAGE

Newtown Wed 23 Nov 2022:

The world-famous Nick Power Cup finally returned to the green felt... oh wait, black felt... after a 3-year hiatus reportedly owing to an outbreak of the Wuhan Flu in the local flea market. Old timers and first timers alike flocked to the 2022 NPC venue, the Golden Barley Hotel, concurrently located in Enmore, Newtown and Marrickville. First-timer, **Chris** (reclaiming his biologically-awarded title of **Jink Junior** from imposter JJ a.k.a. Aidan), although knocked out in the 1st round by a fellow buyback spoiler **Garth**, charged his way through to the finals in would become one of the most spectacular buyback spoiler rampages in NPC history. Chris ended up taking out **Alex** in the final albeit with only 4 precious NPC points from his first-round first-ever NPC game.



Above: Winner and winner. Chris (left) the night's winner with Alex (right) current NPC points winner

One old-timer reappearing after many years out of the limelight was that charming and loveable Santa doppelgänger **Jackory Peckory** who, after dusting off his trusty old pool stick, went into the NPC comp with gritty determination albeit ending up with only 4 balls sunk after pub local and NPC first timer, **Dior**, took him out of play.



Above: Old-timer and Santa doppelgänger Jackory Peckory

Another old timer, **Pug** (a.k.a. Andrew) who just happened to be drinking at the bar with UK visitor and Inner West returnee, **Mike**, was first out of the gates against **Col**. However, Col's characteristic cockiness to gain points was shattered by his early defeat to Pug. After his win, Pug retired for the night, claiming the excessive intake of alcohol he had consumed that day had significantly reduced his ability to play pool and, noticeably, to hold a coherent conversation. This early retirement allowed Col to proceed to the next round as a spoiler where he first beat Mike but then was taken out by Dior in the 3rd round.

Other premature departures by firstly **Bevan**, who won his first game, put **Kate** in the hot seat briefly before she also departed causing the need for a buyback draw to fill the spot by **Smokin' Joe**, decked out in his traditional cyclist attire (though thankfully no lycra shorts were involved). After his 1st round closely-fought defeat, he was still able to spoil **Dave C's** (current NPC holder) attempt at taking out the night's glory and coveted points.



Above: Dave G (front) and John L (rear) on their unsuspecting ways to inevitable 1st round defeats

Dave G's totally-expected and totally-futile hopes for spiritual guidance from his newly-purchased headband (forsaking his rainbow model of previous years) were totally kyboshed in the 1st round with a truly lacklustre effort picking up only 1 meagre NPC point, possibly his worst-ever NPC failure. It was a truly sad sight seeing a grown, once-proud man mopping up his uncontrollable tears with his yet-again-to-be-proven-totally-useless headband.

Peter T, always one to bring a high calibre of pool to the table, particularly shone with his first-round defeat of out-of-town and out-of-luck **John L**. However, Peter T decided to utilise his tried-and-proven "total cock-up on the black" strategy in his 2nd round game against **Dean**. After sinking the white ball on the black, some observers pondered whether Peter T is now just past it or whether he was simply too pissed to play pool as has so many times been the case.

Drew, an NPC'er adopted on the HPDP's second visitation of the Harold Park Hotel, managed to dash **Garth's** hopes of securing serious lashings of NPC points by narrowly beating him in the 1st round. Garth's nervous "bum buzzer" sound effects were heard resonating throughout the venue during the game until ultimately silenced by Drew's butt-shutting win.

Birthday Boy, **Dave T**, didn't get quite the birthday present he'd expected with his sound thrashing by fellow Dave, Dave C. An alternative present of churros offered by Drew drew (see what I did there) a welcome smile to Dave's forlorn face.



Above: Birthday boy, Dave T, with consolation prize from Drew

While **Jink** had a good but not good enough 1st round game, his loss was offset by his proud dad moments seeing (the real) Jink Junior go through to take out the night's honours and earnings.

Should our remote and exulted Scoremeister, Henare, return safely from his 4-day motorbike adventure next week, the final scores might be found on the HPDP NPC statistics website at: stats.hpdp.org.au/2022/npc