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WALTER and HORACE LINDRUM BILLIARDS and SNOOKER

The word billiards is probably derived from the Old French word *Billard* meaning a stick with a curved end.

The game is first mentioned in English literature in *Mother Hubbard's Tale* by Spencer in 1591. Shakespeare mentioned it in 1607 in *Antony and Cleopatra*.

The British Billiards Association was founded in 1885 and a code of rules was formulated by the Billiards Association and Control Council in 1919.

A British Empire amateur championship was introduced in 1926.

Bro. Bob Marshall was four times World Amateur Champion. (See Masonic Historical Society Bulletin No. 71). A grand challenge match was played in Sydney for 100 in 1936.

The game became firmly established in Australia by Henry Alcock, a non-playing Melbourne furniture manufacturer who began producing tables in a small factory in 1853.

John Robertson Senior, the English Champion, toured Australia in 1864 and the professional game was on its way.

Snooker is believed to have been invented in 1875 by British Army officers serving in India. The name Snooker is derived from the term applied to First-year cadets at the Royal Military College at Woolwich. The game was introduced to Australia in the 1880's by Frank Smith Senior, the manager of the billiard room at Sydney's Australia Hotel in conjunction with Henry Alcock, the billiard table manufacturer at the instigation of some visiting Indian Army Officers.

The game is a combination of billiards, pool and pyramids. Pyramids is a game played on a billiard table with 15 coloured balls arranged in a pyramid with the apex-ball resting on the 'pyramid-spot.'

The game soon caught on and in the twentieth century attained even greater popularity than billiards in Australia especially with the televised *Pot Black* series. Frank Smith, jun., son of the snooker pioneer, was Australia's leading exponent of the game until the early 1930's.

Enter the Lindrum family. Fred, his sister Violet, Walter and nephew Horace began to dominate the game both in Australia and overseas. The greatest of the family was Walter.



WALTER LINDRUM, O.B.E.
(1898 - 1960)

Walter Albert Lindrum was born in Kalgoorlie, Western Australia on the 29th August, 1898. The family moved to Sydney and he received his education at St. Francis's Boys' School in Darlinghurst.

Walter Lindrum's great-grandfather, grandfather and father were all Australian billiards champions, his brother Horace was world snooker champion and another brother, Fred, was world billiard champion.

It was no surprise to anyone when young Walter, a left-hander, became a professional billiards player at the age of twelve.

He went to England in 1929 and, during the following five years, broke all records for speed of scoring and size of breaks.

His cue used in his record break of 3262 on 7th Decembner, 1929 was found at the 729 Club in Sydney in August 1991.

Lindrum became world champion in 1932 after his devastating win over Joe Davis. He broke his own world record with a score of 4137, made in 175 minutes. Davis' best break was only 1247.

The London Correspondent for the Melbourne 'Herald' reported that when the record-breaking shot was played 'a great roar of applause' broke out, and 'cooees and shouts of "Good old Walter", such as might have been heard in a crowded stadium.'

Lindrum's score included 15 sequences of nursery cannons, a very difficult shot which was his greatest asset.

As a result of Lindrum's overwhelming success, the authorities who controlled the game made several changes to the rules, including a restriction on the use of the nursery cannon, in an attempt to curb his scoring rate and give his opponents an even chance.

It was the equivalent of the introduction of bodyline bowling by Brother Douglas Jardine in an attempt to restrict another Australian champion, Brother Don Bradman.

In Lindrum's first game under the new rules, he scored 3905.

The world championship lapsed after 1934 as it became difficult for Lindrum to obtain opponents. Each of his matches was virtually an exhibition and huge starts, up to as much as 7,000, were offered to enable him to play. Even so, he had run out of opponents.

In a game of 1,000 in 1940, for example, he made an unfinished break of 1,002 at his first turn at the table. His opponent did not score.

He retired undefeated world champion in 1950 and spent the remainder of his career giving exhibition matches in aid of charity.

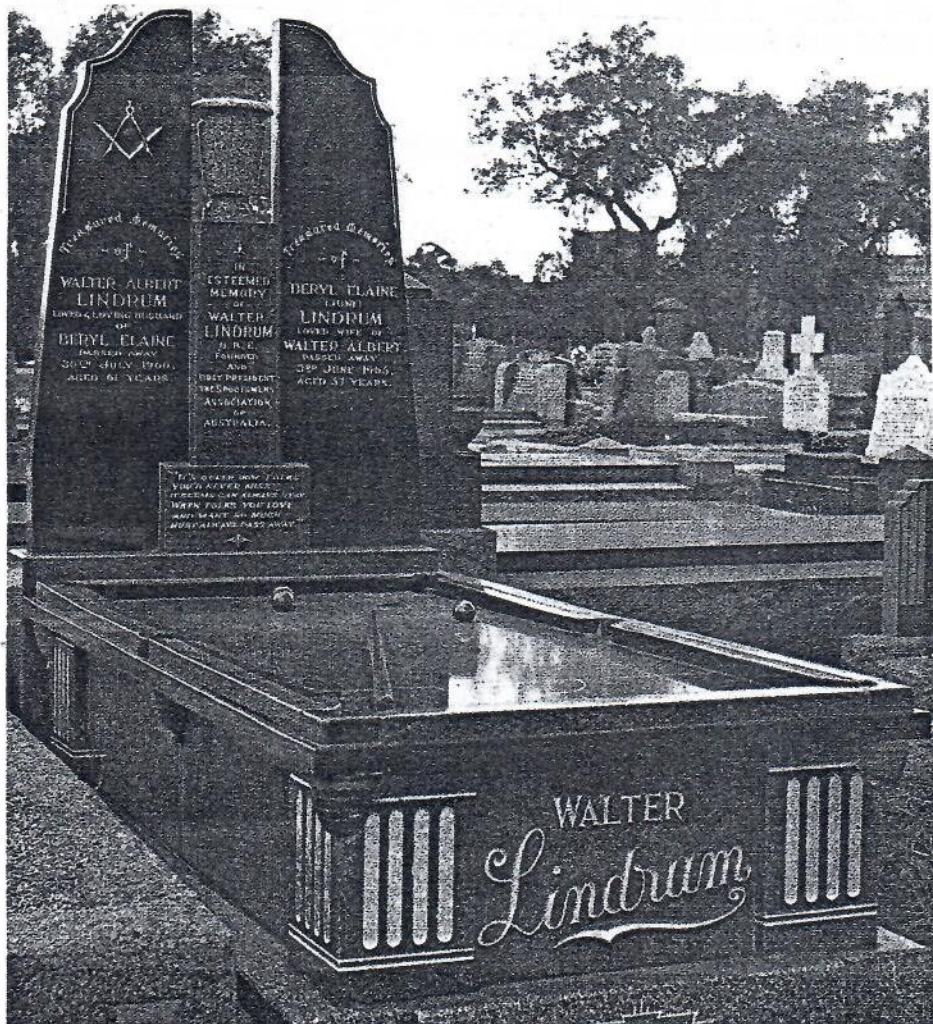
During this time he raised some \$6 million and in 1958 he was created an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for his work.

Walter Lindrum died, aged 62, on the 30th July, 1960.

On top of his grave in the Melbourne Cemetery is a representation of a marble billiard table, with pockets, bronze billiard balls and a bronze cue. The headstone bears the masonic square and compasses.

Brother Walter Lindrum was initiated in Crimea Lodge No. 432 Victorian Constitution on the 8th October 1934. He was passed on 8th November 1937, the delay probably being due to his absence overseas. He was raised on 25th March 1938 in Felicity Lodge No. 431 Victorian Constitution and remained a member until his death.

On 18th February 1981, Australia Post issued a 60 cent stamp depicting Walter Lindrum. It was one of a set of four showing sporting personalities and, as if to rub salt into the wound, sixty cents was the airmail rate to England.



This marble billiard table marks the grave of Walter Lindrum, whose skill at billiards was so great that it ruined his career—the public grew tired of watching him win overwhelmingly

HORACE NORMAN WILLIAM LINDRUM (MORRELL)
(1912-1974)

Horace Lindrum, the son of Walter's sister Violet, changed his name to Lindrum.

Horace Lindrum, Walter's nephew, went to England and in 1936-37 was runner-up to Joe Davis, who had held the Professional championship of England since its inauguration in 1927. Davis was also undisputed world champion until he retired in 1946. Lindrum was never able to defeat Davis in championship tournaments, but became world champion when Davis retired, holding his title well into the 1950's. At this time Davis's official world record for a snooker break still stood. This was 146 out of a possible 147 made at Manchester in 1950; but Horace Lindrum was credited with having scored an unofficial possible (147) at Penrith, NSW, in 1941.

In 1970 he became the first player to compile 1,000 snooker centuries.

Among other leading players was Bro. Eddie Charlton (see Masonic Historical Society Bulletin No.40) Robert Marshall (Bulletin No. 71) was defeated for the Australian Amateur Snooker Championship in 1953.

Bro. Horace Lindrum was made a mason on 8th August 1933 in Lodge Integrity No. 449, United Grand Lodge of New South Wales. He was passed Fellowcraft on 12th September 1933 and raised a Master Mason on 19th October 1933 in Lodge Kuring-gai No. 230.

He affiliated with the Goulburn Lodge of Australia No. 58 on 18th May 1935 and called off on 10th September 1943.

He died on 20th June 1974 survived by his wife and two daughters.
