Happy New Year to all my fellow Australian Poker Hall of Famers.

Here is my contribution to the discussion on this year’s Hall of Fame inductee(s) and Young Gun Award.

**DISTRIBUTION LIST**

Whilst I have been prevented from attending the Aussie Millions since 2017, I seem to remember that we inductee Grant Levy into the APHOF in 2018 so I have added him to this email distribution list. I’m not too sure why Crocky, Joe, Joel and all others have chosen to exclude him from their emails, but I feel that he is certainly entitled to contribute to the discussion and vote on this year’s awards. So welcome to the discussion Grant, some of the latter part of the thread appears below but I will try to cover most of the issues here in my contribution.

**APHOF CRITERIA**

First, I thought it would be a good idea to let Jonathon and Grant know what the pre-requisites and criteria are for induction into the APHOF. It seems from the discussion that both Joel and some of the older members could also do with a refresher so here it is:

*This criteria was determined by the inaugural HOF members at a meeting chaired by Maurie Pears on 15 January 2009 with subsequent amendments as shown*

*The inductee will;*

*(a) Be a current or former resident of Australia or New Zealand; and*

*(b) Have demonstrated outstanding and extended service to the game, bringing credit to Australian Casino Tournament Poker.*

*And/or*

*(c) Have displayed outstanding Poker excellence.*

*9/3/2012*

*Inductees should have a substantial acceptance by members including 50% of Foundation Members.*

*25/1/2015*

*To satisfy (b) above, the inductee will have at least 10 years’ experience in the Poker Industry where they have gone beyond the call of duty required in just doing their job.*

*To satisfy (c) above, the inductee will have, as determined by the Hendon Mob web site:*

*(i) their first tournament cash at least 10 years before the commencement of the current year;*

*(ii) at least one tournament cash in each of the 3 calendar years prior to the commencement of the current year.*

**PLAYER CANDIDATES**

So the 21 players eligible for induction under (c) above (who have at least USD$1m in tournament prizemoney), in the order they appear on the Hendon Mob prizemoney list at 31 December 2019, are as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Country | USD$ | 1st cash | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |  Notes |
| Kahle Burns | Aust | 7824389 | 19/11/2009 | 7/1823167 | 11/610934 | 25/4364548 | 2 bracelets, YA 2018 |
| David Steicke | Aust | 3870206 | 26/11/2007 | 1/107458 | 2/5444 | 2/7052 |  |  |
| Martin Kozlov | Aust | 3241672 | 25/07/2007 | 9/1010170 | 13/306026 | 14/174556 | 1 bracelet |  |
| James Obst | Aust | 2986899 | 13/01/2009 | 14/584324 | 6/220012 | 12/99622 | 1 bracelet, YA 2015 |
| Daniel Neilson | Aust | 2605974 | 16/10/2008 | 15/267677 | 10/95133 | 8/187422 |  |  |
| Andrew Hinrichsen | Aust | 2232204 | 19/03/2009 | 5/33179 | 4/100782 | 9/895933 |  |  |
| Brendon Rubie | Aust | 1814641 | 27/11/2008 | 12/277838 | 6/34077 | 2/11164 |  |  |
| Jarred Graham | Aust | 1709966 | 7/01/2008 | 7/82742 | 9/100833 | 12/46060 | 1 bracelet, YA 2014 |
| Jackqueline Glazier | Aust | 1409296 | 15/07/2008 | 7/44165 | 6/39473 | 3/7628 | Ladies bracelet, YA 2014 |
| Daniel Laidlaw | Aust | 1370454 | 28/01/2008 | 9/339999 | 11/178718 | 8/84930 |  |  |
| Robert Campbell | Aust | 1360705 | 04/2007 | 3/82835 | 3/41402 | 14/753668 | 2 bracelets, 2019 WSOP POY |
| Michel Bouskila | Aust | 1253631 | 23/04/2009 | 19/79371 | 25/176399 | 25/177409 |  |  |
| Tino Lechich | Aust | 1253253 | 30/11/1988 | 3/6434 | 4/78419 | 7/29231 |  |  |
| Sam Khoueis | Aust | 1202782 | 30/11/1997 | 27/68944 | 26/94447 | 21/33286 |  |  |
| Sam Higgs | Aust | 1167194 | 29/07/2007 | 5/174212 | 4/40063 | 10/418776 |  |  |
| Jan Suchanek | NZ | 1165376 | 26/09/2005 | 3/65135 | 5/98580 | 2/28351 |  |  |
| Julius Colman | Aust | 1135339 | 21/12/2006 | 5/37261 | 8/117838 | 3/106477 |  |  |
| Dean Blatt | Aust | 1075890 | 26/01/2007 | 24/233040 | 27/120629 | 28/176017 |  |  |
| Warwick Mirzikinian | Aust | 1072284 | 12/01/2008 | 8/303081 | 4/21635 | 2/329458 |  |  |
| Joel Dodds | Aust | 1017525 | 29/08/2006 | 1/5417 | 1/19679 | 1/2842 |  |  |
| Shivan Abdine | Aust | 1015603 | 24/08/2009 | 8/71726 | 13/83498 | 8/235517 |  |  |

The list shows when the first cash was earned, total prizemoney won, and the number and amount of cashes for each of the last three years. It is easy to see who has performed well during their career as well as who have been the better and more consistent performers over the last three years.

Many other players who have not yet earned USD$1m in tournament prizemoney are also eligible for induction and these include, but are not limited to: Peter Aristidou $938k, Joel Feldman $932k, Bobby Zhang $897k, Raj Ramakrishnan $875k, Antonis Kambouroglou $852k, Tony Hachem $815k, Hun Wei Lee $814k. However, my personal view is that this year’s inductee should come from the 21 players in the USD$1m+ list.

Remember, this is not a popularity contest, we want to induct the person who has displayed outstanding poker excellence and has been a credit to the game. My form guide above is heavily weighted on monetary success but this should not be the only consideration.

Some players who have not satisfied the criteria and are NOT eligible for induction into the HOF this year include Jeff Rossiter, Michael Addamo, Alexander Lynskey, Aaron Lim, Mike Guttman and Mike Ivin.

**NON-PLAYER CANDIDATE**

Since the inception of the APHOF in 2009 we have had two members inducted, not because of their poker excellence under paragraph (c), but because of their outstanding and extended service to the game under paragraph (b). As we are all aware these (non-player) members are Maurie Pears (2009) and Danny McDonough (2010). As ten years have now passed since we last inducted a person under this provision I propose and nominate Lynn Gilmartin as our third inductee under this rule.

Lynn is a delightful young lady from Melbourne who is now in her 13th year working in the poker industry. She is intelligent, diligent and has gone from strength to strength in her career in the poker industry to the extent where she now has a very high profile throughout the poker world.

Here is her expanded poker bio:

*Lynn Gilmartin started in poker in 2007 working as a marketing assistant at Crown. Primary role was to promote all poker events including Aussie Millions, Victorian Poker Champs and PokerNews Cup.*

*In 2008, the early days of online video content, she worked with the Crown marketing team to start highlighting poker events at Crown on YouTube, interviewing celebrities and professional players during major events.*

*In 2009 she left Crown to work with PokerNews as a reporter, traveling through more than 30 countries on the WPT, APPT, EPT, LAPT, NAPT and WSOP. In these four years, she created over 1,000 online videos of poker content across the globe for the biggest brands in poker — PokerNews, PokerStars, WSOP, PartyPoker and WPT.*

*Locally, she attended every stop on the APPT and ANZPT for ~3 years, sharing video updates online to the poker world via PokerNews and PokerStars.tv.*

*Her debut on television was Aussie Millions 2012 when she hosted 10 episodes of Crown’s Aussie Millions coverage. She did that again in 2013, co-hosting 9 episodes with Joe Hachem, as well as 6 episodes of the 2013 WSOP APAC. Both aired on ESPN Aus/NZ and One HD.*

*In 2013 she moved to Los Ángeles, taking on the role of anchor on the World Poker Tour, alongside Mike Sexton and Vince Van Patten, which airs to ~1 million viewers per week in the US, and broadcasts in an additional ~16 countries.*

*At the same time, she also took on the role of anchor and producer of WPT’s new spin-off show, WPT Alpha8. She produced off-the-felt segments to introduce poker players to the audience and highlight each tour location. She anchored 44 episodes alongside commentators Olivier Busquet and Ali Nejad. WPT Alpha8 aired for three years on Fox Sports 1 in the US.*

*Today, Lynn remains the anchor of WPT and has filmed approximately 200 episodes now in her 7th year on the show.*

*She regularly collaborates with the WPT marketing team to expand their online reach, something not within her contracted role. With her enthusiasm for WPT being in Australia for the first time in 2019, she ran the WPT’s online content at The Star Gold Coast, ensuring thousands of international viewers online saw the best possible insight into the event and the Australian poker scene. She often collaborates with WPT League to help enhance their offering to Australian pub poker players.*

*A casual poker player herself, she won her first trophy in 2015 after winning the EPT Barcelona Womens Event. It was the largest ladies event in EPT history at the time with a total of 148 players.*

*Lynn has also played a key role in WPT’s expansion into the Spanish-speaking market of Latin America, with her partner Angel Guillen taking on the role of commentator in Spanish.*

*She hosted the American Poker Awards in Los Angeles in 2018 and continues to travel the world with WPT, not only on the regular tournament circuit but also with WPT Foundation, introducing the game to thousands of people around the United States while raising money for causes such as the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Tiger Woods’ TGR Foundation and Education Reform Now.*

I hope you agree that Lynn’s resume is impressive, and her high profile could improve the focus and profile of the APHOF. If we were to induct Lynn, or any other non-player candidate under paragraph (b) it would be in addition to our paragraph (c) inductee.

**YOUNG ACHIEVER AWARD**

A young achiever award is traditionally given to a player who does not satisfy the 10 year rule but has performed exceptionally well since they started playing poker and is a person we would like to encourage and who may be considered for future HOF induction.

In my view, the top 5 eligible candidates for the 2020 Young Achiever award are:

Michael Addamo (Aust) USD$6180703

Aaron Lim (Aust) USD$2323855

Sosia Jiang (NZ) USD$1482278

Adrian Attenborough (Aust) USD$1454641

Shurane Vijayaram (Aust) USD$1286086

**VOTING**

All voting is conducted privately by emailing Joel Williams. HOF members need to give attention to voting on three separate issues, ie player inductee, non-player inductee and Young Achiever award.

Voting for the player (para (c)) inductee should be conducted by each HOF member emailing their preferences on a 3-2-1 basis (3 being for the most preferred) to Joel Williams. The player receiving the most points, providing they have received some points from at least 50% of the foundation members, will be this year’s inductee. Last year Johnno received points from 4 of the 8 foundation members despite only 6 of the foundation members casting votes so his induction satisfied all criteria but if only 6 foundation members choose to vote this year then I would think the requirement would be that only 3 of the foundation members would need to allocate points for the candidate with the most points to be inducted.

Voting for the non-player (para (b)) inductee should be conducted by each HOF member emailing a yes or no (for or against) with respect to the only nominated candidate, Lynn Gilmartin. Should the candidate receive more “for” than “against” including the approval of at least 50% of the voting foundation members then this candidate will be inducted.

Voting for the Young Achiever Award should be conducted by each HOF member nominating the name of the person they think most deserves this award. The person with the most nominations will receive the award.

Maurie, Crocky is quite correct in that it was resolved during the APHOF meeting held on 18 January 2017 that no proxy votes would be allowed. Of course, you are able to cast your own votes in the same fashion as other HOF members by emailing Joel Williams or you may abstain from voting at all, your choice.

Anyone who has already voted but has not taken all of the above into consideration may change, clarify or add (with respect to the non-player candidate) to their vote by emailing Joel.

Finally, best of luck to all Hall of Famers at this year Aussie Millions and my thanks go to Joel Williams and Crown Casino for handling the voting process and hosting the APHOF awards.

Cheers

Gary Benson