CONTROVERSY BEFORE KICKOFF

Enmore, Fri 13 Nov 2026:

Once again, the prestigious *Nick Power Cup* was thrown into chaos and controversy as, even before the first break of the 2026 tourney, allegations of corruption and mismanagement were being liberally flung from the overhead fan. Rumours swirled through the venue as punters realised that the usual organiser, Garth, was nowhere to be found. Claims that he was sick were quickly dispelled and a conspiracy theory soon rocked the night as **Peter T** boldly stepped forward to take charge. Was this a coup to take over the reins? No stranger to controversy, Peter T calmly addressed the raucous throng to assure them that everything would be run above board and without the favouritism or systemic corruption plaguing past events. Oh wait, Garth actually was sick. Let's move on then...

Whilst **Marcus** went through and took the honours on the night after his finals match against newcomer, **Michael**, he too became mired in controversy with his obviously cheap Chinese-knockoff t-shirt featuring a tacky representation of the revered NPC cock (see below). The sight of this resulted in horrified gasps and hushed whispers throughout the venue. It is rumoured the HPDP management team is discussing with legal counsel this flagrant breach of copyright and violation of the HPDP branding guidelines.



Above: Marcus (right) with a chicken dinner grin after defeating newcomer, Michael, in the final.
Photo credit: *Peter T*

Proving he had zero immunity from controversy, the current NPC star, **Dave C**, became the biggest stir of the night when he was cruelly taken out in the 2nd round by newcomer, **Dale**, who played a masterful, near-impossible nominated shot on the black involving several cushions, cannons, smoke and several mirrors, a shit-ton of pot luck and possible divine intervention. Once again, a high-flyer was reduced to tears and required immediate counselling from the attending support crew. The pool gods certainly can be viciously cruel even to those seemingly on top of their game.

Note: A GoFundMe campaign is being set up to help fund Dave's ongoing rehabilitation.



Above: Knowing his fate, a despondent Dave C close to tears as he comes to terms with reality.
Photo credit: *Peter T*



Above: Deadeye Dale after showing Dave C the exit door on the night. Onya Dale!
Photo credit: *Peter T*

Other disappointments of the night came through a shocking run of *premature eblackulations* that took out several top contenders including crowd favourite, **Peter T**. He conceded defeat to newcomer, **Matt M**, early in the game, significantly reducing his chances of holding the cock again this year. He was later heard mumbling that "old chestnut" excuse that it was due to a recent change to his medication. Matt then went on to almost win his 3rd round game against **Alex**, who himself went into the semis only to be knocked out by Marcus who went into the finals against Michael for a closely-fought battle for the line honours.

Matt M and his mates happened to be in the venue and decided to join the comp after rather cockily claiming they were "*pretty damn good*" at pool. Unlike Matt's somewhat flukey transition into the 3rd round, his mates **Cameron**, **James** and **Alex** suffered sudden death exits in the 1st round including a spectacular "pants down" for Cameron against Marcus. Despite reneging on the pants down penalty, Cameron promised to make good at next week's round.

It was heartening to see the family spirit well and truly alive on the night with **Jink** and **Jink Junior** (a.k.a. **Aidan**) in attendance showing their solidarity with cute matching hand-me-down outfits.



Above: Jink (left) and Jink Junior (right) looking very dapper in their family regalia looking oddly like the Thom(p)sons in Tin Tin. Not to be outdone, Dave G (far right) looked more the part although he is reportedly also trying out again for best-dressed in the 2027 Mardi Gras.
Photo credit: *Peter T*

Dave G once again failed to capitalise on his supposedly "magical" headband suffering a 2nd round defeat against Marcus. When asked where Dave was when his game was up, an unnamed punter rather insensitively offered "*I can still smell his headband so he must be around*." Dave later disputed this, saying he had recently washed all of his cranial adornments. This whimsical act possibly contributed to his downfall, however, past experience shows that nobody really has any clue what's actually going on with Dave and his headband delusion including himself.

As always, you can check out the full results at hpdp.org thanks to the HPDP uber-nerdacious admin, **Henare**.

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