



BLIND SPORTS AUSTRALIA

A.B.N. 68 008 621 252

A Foundation Member of the Australian Paralympic Committee

Newsletter

June 2014

From the CEO

It has been a busy few months for Blind Sports Australia. We have finalised the Strategic Plan for the next three years with key Strategic Priorities of

- Participation
- Promotion
- Advocacy
- Internal Capability
- Financial Stability

We have also completed the Financial Plan and the Operational Plan for 2014-2015.

I have attended a few functions on behalf of BSA in the last couple of months. I attended the Australian Sports Hall of Fame inaugural "Integrity in Sport" forum and panel discussion. The forum discussed ways in which integrity could be brought back into sport, and how participation and not competition should be a driver of sport.

A few days later I attended an ASC presentation to NSO CEOs regarding the ASC's 'Approach to Participation'. BSA has many concerns with the ASC's approach to participation and has communicated these with the ASC both verbally and through a written paper. More detail on this later in the newsletter.

Also later in the newsletter you will see details regarding a discounted travel insurance opportunity for not only BSA members, but their family, friends, colleagues and acquaintances.

For BSA members will have also secured an arrangement to distribute unlimited press releases for the next year. Please see details further on in the newsletter.

BSA has a national fundraising promotion underway – the 'Pin & Win' campaign. We ask the public to buy a collectible lapel pin and receive a complimentary scratch card where they could win some of the \$60,000 of cash prizes on offer. If you see the sellers of

the 'Pin & Win' please go up and have a chat to them – it really helps them to sell the cards when they have a better understanding about vision impairment and the benefits of sport to our constituents (and please buy a lapel pin too!)

BSA has also made a start at redeveloping its website. If you have anything that you would like included in the website please let me know as soon as possible.

BSA will be partnering with Blind Sports Radio to run a regular segment. We will be looking for people to fill these segments so if you have an event you wish to promote, or an issue you would like to discuss please let me know. Please also help spread the word about Blind Sports Radio. Blind Sports Radio promotes and publicise all blind sports. Please share to help them continue to grow and further reach into new markets, thus assisting their work to promote and publicise all blind sports to every corner of the world.

And finally, a quick heads up that the BSA Annual General Meeting will be in October in Melbourne. We would like to have as many people as possible attend so mark in a diary a weekend in the sporting capital!

Stephen Barnes
Interim CEO

BSA Budget outcomes

With BSA's Strategies Priorities in mind we have been working on the financial plan for 2014-2015. This year we asked all member organisations to tell us what projects and initiatives they had planned and sought to assist, both financially and in kind, as best we could, and in keeping with our Strategic Priorities. We are pleased that we have been able to achieve a balanced budget, a budget that includes assistance to our member organisations, and a budget that starts to make BSA financially sustainable.

Eye to Eye Ball – Adelaide

I was very pleased to have the opportunity to attend the Blinding Sporting Council's Eye to Eye Gala Ball in Adelaide this month. By all accounts the Ball was a success and thank you to BSC for their hospitality. I also availed myself of the opportunity to catch up with Michael Zannis and Kent Dredge from Blind Sporting Association of South Australia and discussed ways that BSA and BSA SA could work more collaboratively. I was had a meeting with BSC president, Brad Jansen, Vice-president Viktor Velgush, and CEO Raj Vasan to discuss how the two organisations can work more closely together for the betterment of blind sports in Australia.



Kent Dredge, BSA SA Development Officer, and Stephen Barnes, BSA Interim CEO

We would also like to congratulate Dennis Lorenzin who was BSC Hall of Fame recipient.



Kent Dredge and Dennis Lorenzin

ASC – Approach to Participation

At the end of May, Stephen Barnes, BSA Interim CEO, attended a presentation by the Australian Sports Commission on their 'Approach to Participation'. Their proposed approach has had very little consultation with smaller NSOs and none with some such as BSA.

The approach, in our opinion, shows very little understanding of the issues faced by small NSOs, their members, and disabled sports in general.

BSA has requested meetings with executives at the ASC, and sent a paper outlining our concerns. At time of writing we have had no response from the ASC. We will persevere and advocate for an approach to participation that reflects the needs of all NSOs and also considers the requirements of disabled sports.

Commonwealth Games

ABBA members Joy Forster and Tony Scott, along with their respective Directors Bruce Jones and Peter Scott will be part of the 17-strong Australian lawn bowls team competing at the Games.

Events for elite athletes with a disability were introduced at the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester, and the number of events has been steadily growing ever since. The 2014 Commonwealth Games will feature competition for athletes with disabilities in lawn bowls, athletics, swimming, cycling and weightlifting (powerlifting).

Did you know?

The athletes are fully integrated in their national Commonwealth Games teams and any medals they win are counted in their country's medal tally.

All the best to Joy, Tony, Bruce and Peter.

Two old war horses set off again

In July 2014, the Irish Blind Golf Championship and the British Blind Golf Championship are being held in Dublin and Belfast respectively. Run over 3 days for each event, with one day travel in-between, it is a great opportunity to travel, compete and link up with old friends.

It is summer in Europe and hospitality is great all over Ireland, so Gary Sargent and David Blyth decided to travel across and shake up our Northern distant cousins this year.

These events are only possible with the great Japanese philanthropist, Dr Handa's incredible generosity and commitment to supporting Disabled Sport throughout the world. You do need to get yourself there, but for your moderately priced entry fee the golf games, accommodation and most meals are covered. And these Courses are some of the best in the land.

It is worth it. What you get in return are lifelong friends, incredible camaraderie, and really living and experiencing life in strange (to us) and wonderful locations. We meet up with friends we have made from all over the world. And you never know, as the Events are handicap Events, you may even come home with a prize; this is just the icing on the cake.

There is a big world out there just waiting for you to experience; all blind sport is the perfect way to grow yourself, push yourself out there and reap the rewards. You will come back with dozens of stories, mostly humorous and you can't wait for your next adventure.

Member opportunities

Blind Sportsperson are ardent travellers

by Gary Sargent

Eileen and I are travelling to Ireland and France in July 2014 and have researched the pros and cons of various travel insurance policies.

After being let down by a previous travel insurance company, we looked more thoroughly this time at what was actually on offer.

We found the following interesting points:-

- 'Covermore' seems to offer the best package. It covers the things you think you should be covered for, that others fall short on.
- We obtained quotes for Covermore policies through our Travel Agent, and were quoted \$652.00 for approximately 5 weeks of travel. We then compared the quote with the exact same policy with Covermore but through the BSA website link. The cost reduced to \$455.00.

We suggest you book any travel insurance through this link and save approximately 30%. Simply go to BSA website and click on the Covermore link, fill in the forms..it is that simple. The more we use that link the stronger our bargaining power will be; this offer is not restricted to vision impaired people, anyone can use the link.

Happy travelling.

To add to Gary's comments - to access this opportunity you must use this web link

<https://track.commissionfactory.com.au/t/15299/11003/>

If you go direct to Covermore or through a travel agent you will not receive the discounted price.

Press releases

Getting the news, events and concerns of blind sports out into the public arena has been difficult. We are very pleased to be able to offer member organisations unlimited press releases to be distributed to all media outlets in Australia – print, radio, TV and through search engines.

We encourage our members to avail themselves of this opportunity – every time you have an event happening, or something to celebrate please write a short press release and send it through to Stephen Barnes at BSA. Please also include the contact details of the people who would be available to be contacted regarding the press release. Also give me a few days notice so the press release can be distributed at the correct time.

NICAN

Nican is information on recreation, tourism, sport and the arts for people with disabilities and supports an Australian society where any recreational opportunity values diversity, supports freedom and choice and strengthens inclusive communities.

Nican aims to create active and dynamic national links between people, places and resources that improve access to recreation experiences for people with disabilities and their communities.

Nican is funded as an Information Service by the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

Nican provides:

- Information Service
- Membership
- Qantas Carer Concession Card
- Conference information
- Newsletter

The Qantas Carer Concession Card is issued to people with a disability and high level support needs who require the full-time assistance of a carer whilst they are on the plane. A person is eligible if they need to have one-on-one support when seated on the plane for assistance with meals/drinks, transferring to the bathroom, orientation, communicating with the flight staff etc. A person would not be eligible if they only need assistance boarding the plane, or when they arrive at their destination.

Qantas Carer Concession cardholders and their nominated carer will receive the following discounts for Qantas domestic travel within Australia.

For Qantas Carer Concession Cardholders:

- 10% discount on domestic Economy Class fares

For Nominated Carers:

- 50% discount on domestic Economy Class fares

Business Class Travel For Qantas Carer Concession Cardholders:

- 50% off J class Business Class Fares when D class are available

For Nominated Carers:

- 50% off J class Business Class Fares when D class are available

BSA is a member of NICAN, and you can find out more on NICAN at

<http://nican.com.au/>

Good Company

BSA has gone online and is now a member of Goodcompany – an online portal to acquire donations – both financial and volunteers. It makes donating to Blind sports Australia really easy - all you need to do is click [here](#)

Use the BSA logo

On most correspondence from BSA and on our website you will notice that we include the Australian Sports Commission and the Australian Paralympic Committee logos. We invite, and encourage, our member organisations to use the Blind Sports Australia logo on their correspondence and advertising material in much the same way.



We have found that adding the Australian Sports Commission and the Australian Paralympic Committee logos has assisted develop the BSA brand and lent some more creditability to the BSA brand. It also assists promoting the Australian Sports Commission and the Australian Paralympic Committee brands.

If you would like to use the BSA logo please contact Stephen Barnes.

What have the members been up to?

BSA SA

Blind Sporting Association of South Australia are hosting the 2014 Vision Challenge in Adelaide in October. Participants can enter to run/jog/walk either a 2, 4 or 8km circuit within the safe confines of Victoria Park. The predominantly flat circuit utilises the wide road areas and compact pathways starting from in front of the Victoria Park grandstand.

In addition this event provides a unique team challenge where participants can also enter as a team of two, with each member taking turns to wear a blindfold and walk or run whilst being led by their team-mate to around either a 2 or 4km circuit or really challenge the way you see the world over 8km.

This event is aiming to raise awareness of the sporting capabilities of vision impaired or blind individuals, whilst providing the opportunity for integration into a mainstream sporting opportunity.

There will also be an opportunity to ride a tandem bike or participate in other vision impaired sports for free!

BSA member's members get a discount off the entry fee.

ABBA

The ABBA Championships were held at Bedford Bowls Club in Perth from the 28th April – 9th May. The weather was excellent except for the last day and friendly competition took place between all the players.

Outstanding performances were from Lynne Seymour, a first timer, from Townsville, Queensland who won best female and best overall performer for the competition. Tony Scott from Swan Hill in Victoria was the best male performer.

Queensland again won the Toyota trophy for best team performance.



Queensland's Noela Ryan and director Wally Whitehead.

Goalball Australia

Australia will replace Iran in the 2014 IBSA Goalball World Championships women's tournament. Australia will play in pool Y alongside Ukraine, Sweden, Israel, China and Brazil.

Australia finished fourth in 2013 Asia-Pacific Championships, behind China, Japan and Iran. Although they took an unusual route to the World Championships Australia is far from being a pushover in the Games. In Asia-Pacific Championships they drew once with the reigning World Champions China and once won the Paralympic Gold medalist Japan.

Congratulations to the team

Rachel Henderson – SA
Meica Horsburgh- QLD
Nicole Esdaile - QLD
Tyan Taylor - NSW
Jennifer Blow - NSW
Michelle Rzepecki – NSW
and Peter Corr as Coach

All the matches from Sport Hall Tapiola are broadcasted in Yle Areena and they will be available also for foreign viewers also.

How to find the streaming?

When the games are ongoing, go to web site <http://arena.yle.fi/tv> and search with a

Finnish word maalipallo (= goalball).



Congratulations also to the newly appointed Goalball Australia coaches Peter Corr, (Womens), Gerry Crowley (Youth Boys), and Belinda West (Youth Girls)

Goalball also have a weekly radio segment 'High Ball' on Blind Sports Radio with Murray Elbourn, Troy and host Tony Telfer.

Blind Golf Australia

The World Blind Golf Championship was held in Nelson Bay, NSW in May, and also the Australian Blind Golf Open Championship.

Congratulations to all the competitors and to the hard working organising committee for a job well done.

World Championship results

Net B1 World Champion: Zohar Sharon (ISR)
Net B1 World Championship Runner Up:
Andrea Calcatarra (ITA)

Net B2 World Champion: Malcolm Elliott (AUS)
Net B2 World Championship Runner Up:
Garrett Slattery (SAF)

Net B3 World Champion: Paul Appleyard (ENG)
Net B3 World Championship Runner Up: Doug Burrows (AUS)

Gross B1 World Champion: Zohar Sharon (ISR)
Gross B1 World Championship Runner Up:
Andrea Calcatarra (ITA)

Gross B2 World Champion: Garrett Slattery (SAF)

Gross B2 World Championship Runner Up: In Chan Cho (KOR)

Gross B3 World Champion: Paul Appleyard (ENG)

Gross B3 World Championship Runner Up: Darren Douma (CAN)

Gross 2014 ISPS HANDA World Blind Golf Champion: Paul Appleyard (ENG)

Gross 2014 ISPS HANDA World Blind Golf Championship Runner Up: Darren Douma (CAN)

Ladies 2014 ISPS HANDA World Blind Golf Champion: Jenny McCallum (AUS)

Ladies World Champion Runner Up: Jenny Abela (AUS)

2014 ISPS HANDA World Blind Golf Champion: Malcolm Elliott (AUS)

2014 ISPS HANDA World Blind Golf Championship Runner Up: Paul Appleyard (ENG)

International Stableford Champion: Kerry Vidler (AUS)



2014 ISPS HANDA World Blind Championship Winner Malcolm Elliott and caddy Neil Walker from Western Australia

The Australian Open results

Net B1 Australian Champion: Brian McLeod (CAN)

Net B1 Australian Championship Runner Up: Zohar Sharon (ISR)

Net B2 Australian Champion: Kris Adams (SCT)

Net B2 Australian Championship Runner Up: Garrett Slattery (SAF)

Net B3 Australian Champion: Paul Appleyard (ENG)

Net B3 Australian Championship Runner Up: Stephen Mitchell (AUS)

Gross B1 Australian Champion: Zohar Sharon (ISR)

Gross B1 Australian Championship Runner Up: Brian McLeod (CAN)

Gross B2 Australian Champion: Jeremy Poincenot (USA)

Gross B2 Australian Championship Runner Up: Garrett Slattery (SA)

Gross B3 Australian Champion: Paul Appleyard (ENG)

Gross B3 Australian Championship Runner Up: Darren Douma (CAN)

Gross 2014 ISPS HANDA Australian Blind Golf Champion: Paul Appleyard (ENG)

Gross 2014 ISPS HANDA Australian Blind Golf Championship Runner Up: Darren Douma (CAN)

Ladies 2014 ISPS HANDA Australian Blind Golf Champion: Jenny McCallum (AUS)

2014 ISPS HANDA Australian Blind Golf Champion: Kris Adams (SCT)

2014 ISPS HANDA Australian Blind Golf Championship Runner Up: Paul Appleyard (ENG)

WABSF

If you have not been able to play your round of golf because you can't see the ball properly anymore or know someone who is in this predicament, come down to the Westerners Blind Golf Club. Their season has commenced and they play each week starting at 9:30am.

The Western Australia State Government's Count Me In vision for access and inclusion for everyone will be the focus of Round 21 in this year's WA Football League (WAFL) calendar.

The WA Football Commission will team with the Disability Services Commission to promote the Count Me In vision at four WAFL games on Saturday 16 August, in a partnership with the Department of Sport and Recreation.

All league games will accept Companion Cards and there will be giveaways for spectators, with each host club planning for specific celebrations and entertainment.

The Association for the Blind of WA has officially changed its name to VisAbility!

They also have a new website

<http://www.visability.com.au/>



Blind Cricket Australia

The Blind Cricket Australia squad toured India and Sri Lanka in April. The squad included

Matt McCarthy (Captain), Ray Moxly (Vice Captain), David Gauci (Deputy Vice Captain), Jespah Soegeng, Stephen Palmer, Brett Wilson, Lindsay Heaven, Cory Heberley, Mark Haskett, Peter Loh, Matthew Kent, Chris Baillie, Michael Zannis, Hamish MacKenzie, Sam Byrne, and Ashleigh Malone. Coach was Peter Robinson

And Michael Clements travelled as umpire.

By all accounts the team acquitted themselves admirably. Mixed results, and mixed weather, but a good time had by all.



BSA NSW

The Blind Sporting Association of NSW in partnership with Sport and Recreation NSW and Blind Sports Australia will host a camp from Thursday 25 – Sunday 28 September 2014 in Penrith for 20 blind and vision impaired persons from 12 to 18 years of age who reside in NSW. The aim of the camp is to introduce camp participants to sport and recreation activities in a fun and enjoyable environment. The activities will include Athletics, Swimming, Sailability, Rowing, Blind Cricket, Goalball, Golf, Tenpin Bowling and Indoor Skydiving.

Sporting Wheelies & Disabled Association

Applications are now open for the 2014 Sporting Dreams grant program. Sporting Dreams provides funds for Queensland athletes with a physical disability or vision impairment to help them achieve their best.

Grants are available in the following categories:

- Introductory grants of \$250 for beginner athletes (with the first year of competition in their sport)
- Development grants of \$500 for established athletes

The grants can be used to cover expenses such as equipment, training and competition.

Applications close Monday 14th July 2014. For more information, visit the Sporting Dreams website or contact Ben MacFie at Sporting Wheelies and Disabled Association on 07 3253 3333



Blind Sports Victoria

Blind Tennis term 3 starts July 25th for five weeks at the Tennis Centre. Contact Blind Sports Victoria for details.

Upcoming events

- 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow July 24th - August 1st
- 5th IBSA World Championships and Games, Seoul, South Korea May 8th – May 18th 2015
- Vision Challenge, Adelaide, October 26th
- Blind Sports Australia Swimming Championship. Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre November 29th 2014.
- 34rd Australian Goalball Championships, Oct 2nd – 5th, Adelaide SA
- IBSA Goalball World Championships, Finland, 28th June – July 6th 2014
- Goalball Australia Youth Training Camps July 3rd -4th, Trinity Grammar, Strathfield, NSW
- Goalball NSW State Championship, July 5th – 6th, Trinity Grammar, Strathfield, NSW
- Goalball QLD State Championship, July 25th – 7th, TBA, QLD
- Adult Blind Soccer, Sunday Jul 13th, Docklands Multi-purpose Sports Field, Harbour Esplanade, Melbourne
- The Blind Sports Victoria's Tennis Program will once again be conducted during 2014 at the National Tennis Centre Indoor Courts. Contact BSA Victoria
- Swimming NSW Country SC Champs, SOPAC, July 5th -6th
- FISA World Rowing Cup, Lucerne, Switzerland, July 11th -13th
- Goalball 'Come and Try Day, Bunbury WA – July 2014
- Goalball Perth Schools Program – July – October 2014
- Goalball Border Challenge, Mt Gambia, July 2014
- Goalball Melbourne Schools Program – August 2014
- Blind Young Persons Camp – Southwest WA – 2014
- WABSF 'Come and Try Day – 2014
- Sunshine Coast Goalball Gala Day – November 2014
- UCI Paracycling Road World Cup, Spain, July 11th – 13th
- SNSW Country SC Championships, SOPAC, July 5th -6th
- SNSW Metropolitan SC Championships, SOPAC, July 12th -13th
- Blind Golf NSW Christmas in July, Blackheath, July 12th - 13th
- PSSA Cross Country, Eastern Creek, July 18th
- SSA Swimming Champs, Melbourne, July 20th -26th
- AKF Australian Open Champs, Perth, 1st -3rd August

- UK Goalball Youth Cup, Hereford, England, 5th – 11th August
- Para Pan Pacific Swimming Champs, Pasadena, USA, 6th – 10th August
- Tom & Mary Watson West of the Mountain Memorial Trophy , Blayney, 9th – 10th August
- SNSW MC LC Meet, SOPAC, 16th August
- IFDS World Champs, Halifax, Canada, 16th – 24th August
- SSA Cross Country Champs, Albany, WA, 22nd – 25th August
- FISA Rowing World Champs, Amsterdam, 24th – 31st August
- UCI Paracycling Road World Champs, Greenville, South Carolina, USA, 28th August – 1st September
- SNSW State Age SC Champs, SOPAC, 29th – 31st August
- WKF Karate, Okinawa, Japan, 30th -31st August
- ITU Triathlon World Champs, Edmonton, Canada, 30th -31st August
- CAS Athletics Champs, SOPAC, 4th – 6th September
- Polding Athletics Champs, Glendale, 5th September
- CCC State Athletics Champs, SOPAC, 12th September
- SNSW State Open SC Champs, SOPAC , 12th – 13th September
- McKillop Athletics Champs, SOPAC, 15th September
- Association of Independent Schools Athletes Championships, SOPAC, 17th September
- BGNSW Open Golf Champs, Barnwell Park GC, 18th – 19th September
- BGNSW Erik Royds Trophy, Barnwell Park GC , 27th September
- NSWVIBBA State Champs, Everglades BC, 3rd – 6th October
- FISA World Rowing Masters Regatta, Ballarat, 9th 12th October
- IBSA World Blind PL & BP Championship, Antalya, Turkey, 11th - 18th October
- PSSA Athletics Champs, SOPAC, 15th – 18th October
- Asian Para Games, Incheon, South Korea, 18th – 24th October
- BGA Australian Stableford Champs, Adelaide, 30th – 31st October
- 22nd WKF World Champs, Bremen, Germany, 5th – 9th November
- SAL Australian Open SC Champs, Adelaide, 5th – 9th November
- IBSA Futsal B1 World Champs, Tokyo, 13th – 25th November
- SSA Track & Field Champs, Penguin, Tasmania, 27th November – 1st December
- BGNSW Christmas Cup, Barnwell Park GC, 7th December
- Western Australia Blind Bowls State Championship, Mid October (to be confirmed)

- Victorian Blind Bowls State Championship, Early December (to be confirmed)
- Queensland Blind Bowls State Championship, 31st August – 4th September

Contact details and links

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Board Chair – David Blyth AO

Board member – Gary Sargent

Board member – Sam Theodore

Board Secretary – Stephen Barnes

