

# Blind Sports Australia

## June 2016



Promotion, Participation & Advocacy of Sports for the Australian Blind Community

IN THIS ISSUE

## A Message from the CEO



Over the last few months the Blind Sports Australia Board and I have been working on

determining the future and the way forward for the organisation. We apologise for maybe being a little quiet externally but there have been a number of matters that have needed resolution internally and we did not want to communicate misinformation or changing information. I am hoping that BSA will be in a position to discuss these matters with member organisations very shortly.

A number of the BSA Board members have also had meetings with the Australian Sports Commission to discuss where smaller, umbrella organisation fit in the Australian sporting arena, and the specific issues these organisations have. We now have a better dialogue with the ASC and they have a better understanding about BSA.

The BSA AGM will be in October and there will be several Board

positions available. David Blyth and Gary Sargent will not be standing for re-election. If you would like to nominate for the Board please get in touch with either Sam Theodore (BSA Chair) or I. People from a vision impaired sports and/or marketing and fundraising backgrounds would be highly regarded.

Stephen Barnes, CEO  
[ceo@blindsportsaustralia.com.au](mailto:ceo@blindsportsaustralia.com.au)

## What have our Members been up to?

### Blind Sports & Recreation Victoria

#### Tennis Come & Try Day

A Men's Blind Tennis Come & Try Day was held at Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club on Wednesday 15 June. The sun was shining and we got to enjoy a great day of learning new skills and having a hit on centre court!

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**Blind Sports Australia**  
 A Foundation Member of the  
 Australian Paralympic Committee  
 ABN 68 008 621 252  
 PO Box 2114, Oak Park Vic 3046

**'On Board with Blind Safety'**

This program is designed to increase your knowledge and awareness of safety in the home and around the city. Thanks to support from the Department of Justice and Regulation, we are offering the following programs:

- July 6 - Meet at Southern Cross Station and learn a bit more about the area and the services that Travellers Aid provides. We will also have a walk around Docklands.
- August 31 - A visit to Federation Square and Treasury Gardens
- October 18 - A talk about home safety and alarms

Contact Sandra Knight at [Sandra@blindsports.org.au](mailto:Sandra@blindsports.org.au) or call 9822 9642 for further information or to register your interest.

**Vision Impaired Basketball**

Blind Sports & Recreation Victoria in conjunction with Basketball Victoria are seeking expressions of interest for a vision impaired basketball program.

This program is for males and females aged 6 - 18 years of age.

Date: Tuesday, 5 July 2016  
(school holidays)

Time: 10am - 12pm

Venue: North Melbourne Recreation Centre, 204-206 Arden Street, North Melbourne

Registration: Email  
[tim.downes@basketballvictoria.com.au](mailto:tim.downes@basketballvictoria.com.au)  
or phone 9837 8000

**Free Football Clinic**

Melbourne City Football Club, supported by Guide Dogs Victoria, are holding a free clinic for boys and girls with vision impairment and their families on Friday 8 July (from 10.30am to 12noon). The program is aimed at boys and girls, aged 5-12 years.

City Kids provides a fun and safe environment for vision impaired boys and girls to develop their skills with the help of qualified football coaches.

Participants will receive a Melbourne City showbag and will have the opportunity to meet the Melbourne City Mascot, Ticker. To register visit [melbournecityfc.com.au](http://melbournecityfc.com.au)

*Maurice Gleeson/Susan  
Blind Sports Victoria*

**Blind Sporting Association of NSW****Touch Rugby League Premier Inclusion League Forms**

NSW Rugby League, NSW Touch Football, Physical Disability RL, Sport for All, Sport NSW, NSW Department of Sport & Recreation have combined resources to form the first ever Premier Inclusive League (PIL). This league will run under NSW Touch Football and be part of the main stream Vawdon Cup competition. In the first year starting at 7:30pm Friday Night on August 5th at a venue still to be named 4 inclusive teams from Hills, Manly, Wests & Penrith

Touch Football clubs. The league will be made up from players with disabilities including low vision, deafness, CP, ID, Amputee & Physical Medical.

A team of Vision based players will represent Wests Magpies and you can get the sign up form link by emailing Blind Sports NSW. Registration will likely be \$80 per player plus uniform, Blind Sports NSW will look to subsidize some of this cost for players with a vision impairment that want to play. This is a mixed league for men & women aged 14+.

Blind Sports NSW will have a trial at our next multi sports day, scheduled for Sunday July 10th at Trinity Grammar School 10am start.

**Memo from the BSNSW CEO**

*CEO, Murray Elbourn, Blind Sports NSW*

Blind Sports NSW are pleased to announce two major funding programs that will be possible due to NSW Department of Sport & Recreation through the Hon. Minister for Sport Stuart Ayres. Last week Blind Sports NSW received \$20,000 to fund 2 Blind Sports Camps & \$20,000 for

Governance, Training & IT infrastructure which will assist in building a fully accessible website for our Blind Sports Members and a new data base.

*Murray Elbourn, President  
Blind Sports NSW*

## Sporting Wheelies & Disabled Association of QLD

### Junior Disability Sport Showcase helps kids to be more active

A free junior disability sport showcase hosted by Sporting Wheelies and Disabled Association has helped families to identify opportunities for their children to get active and healthy.



*Australian women's goalball representative Raissa Martin shows a young participant how to throw a goalball*

The event was held at the Bowen Hills YMCA in Brisbane on 22 March, and invited children with a physical disability or a vision impairment to come along and have some fun.

Participants got to spend time with coaches for bocchia, goalball,

gymnastics, wheelchair basketball, and wheelchair rugby, and were encouraged to join in on current programs for each sport. Sport and Recreation Manager David Bartholomaeus said the event provided a valuable opportunity for children and parents to find out about opportunities to get involved in fun activities and to meet coaches.

"We know that parents want their kids to be healthy and active, so this showcase was all about allowing kids to try a number of fun sports, and parents seeing their kids in action," said David.

"We also wanted to provide parents with the opportunity to talk to coaches and our staff about how their kids can get involved in any sports they enjoyed, as well as find out about what other opportunities are out there such as our free LinkUp advisory service and our RecUnlimited and NeuroMoves rehabilitation programs."

For more information about sports for people with a disability, visit [www.sportingwheelies.org.au/our-services/sport](http://www.sportingwheelies.org.au/our-services/sport).

### 2018 Commonwealth Games to set new benchmark for para-sport inclusion

Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games organisers have announced that the event will feature the largest para-sport program in Games history.

State Minister for the Commonwealth Games Stirling

Hinchcliffe joined para-athletes including Queensland's Brenden Hall, Rowan Crothers and Sara Tait at an event in Brisbane's South Bank on 14 March to announce details of the record-breaking program.

The sports to be contested are athletics, swimming, lawn bowls, powerlifting, track cycling, table tennis and triathlon.

"Gold Coast 2018 is going for gold to deliver an inclusive Games," Mr Hinchcliffe said.

"We will be setting a new record in Commonwealth Games sporting history, hosting up to 300 para-sport athletes and 38 medal events across seven sports, which is an increase of 45 per cent more athletes and 73 per cent more medals compared to the para-sport competition staged at the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.

"I am also pleased to announce there will be an equal number of men's and women's events across all seven para-sports, highlighting the commitment to equality and inclusion at the 2018 Games."

Disability Services Minister Coralee O'Rourke said increasing the inclusion of people with disability in the Commonwealth Games was a step in the right direction towards creating equal opportunities for all Australians.

"People with disability should be supported to participate in and

contribute to all levels of sport, and I am pleased that this has been recognised in time for Gold Coast 2018," Ms O'Rourke said.

Events for para-athletes have been included in the Commonwealth Games since Manchester 2002. The Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games will be staged from 4-15 April 2018.

*Source of contribution: Sporting Wheelies website*

## Association of SA Blind Sporting Clubs

### Vision Challenge Fun Run/Walk 2016

Our Annual Fun Run / Walk is not too far away now! 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 the opportunity to ride a tandem bike (for a small donation) & participate in other vision impaired sports for free!

Date/Times: Sun 4 Sep at 8:00am to 1:00pm

For further details, or to enter, visit <http://www.sportitude.com.au/events/visionchallenge2016>

*Kent Dredge  
Sports Development Officer  
Blind Sports SA*

## WA Blind Sports Federation

### Blind speed

Sydney man on track to break world record for fastest motorcycle ever ridden blindfolded!

Riding a motorcycle at 265km/h is scary enough but doing it blindfolded? But Ben Felten, who is totally blind, is on track to break the Guinness World Record for the fastest motorcycle ever ridden blindfolded.

To read an article regarding Ben's plans, visit <http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/city-east/blind-speed-sydney-man-on-track-to-break-world-record-for-fastest-motorcycle-ever-ridden-blindfolded/news-story/e6a9b83ab83a22943da6ddd9e409a04d>

### Video: Strategies for including students with a vision impairment in physical education

The Statewide Vision Resource Centre (Victoria) has produced a video presentation on including students with vision impairments in physical education. The video shows equipment and provides strategies to help make PE more accessible. It also is a useful resource for parents who have a vision impairment as well.

Including Students With Vision Impairments in Physical Education: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uKVUN389mGg> (run time approx. 24 mins)

### Leeuwin Ocean Adventure Foundation looking for young people living with disability to sign up for Ultimate Challenge

The Leeuwin is preparing to set sail later this year with a brand new crew of adventure-seeking youth aboard. The Leeuwin Ocean Adventure Foundation is looking for 24 young people living with physical, sensory or intellectual disability to sign up for the five-day 2016 Ultimate Challenge this November. The organisation is also looking for 16 support trainees to join in while also providing support, care and assistance.

Leeuwin chief executive Anne-Marie Archer said the voyage was a highlight on the tall ship's calendar. "Participants have the opportunity to experience the thrill of tall ship sailing in a safe, fun and supportive environment," she said.

“Individuals meet new friends, learn new skills and increase self-confidence on this exciting, inspiring and rewarding five-day adventure.

“We are pleased to announce Newman’s Own Foundation will be awarding 40 full scholarships, valued at \$1350 each, to fund both trainees and carers for the 2016 Ultimate Challenge Voyage.”

Applications close on July 31. For more information, visit: <http://www.sailleeuwin.com/>

### Enjoy trivia? Our Quiz Night is coming up!

Blind Citizens WA Inc is the public voice of Western Australians who are blind or vision impaired. Our members offer peer support and advocate for themselves and for others who are blind or vision impaired.

Our annual Quiz Night is not too far away – Saturday 6 August 2016. For further information, including contact details, visit: [www.bcwa.org.au](http://www.bcwa.org.au)

*Source of contribution: The Western Australian Blind Sports Federation Facebook Page.*

## Australian Blind Bowlers Association

Two major events in the 2016 ABBA calendar have been run and won since Easter. The Australian team visited Auckland, New Zealand to compete in the Trans-Tasman Series, and the National

Championships were held in Port Macquarie, NSW.

The Trans-Tasman Series was held from 28 to 30 April at the Brown’s Bay Bowling Club, on the north side of the harbour in Auckland. The Australian team – eight Bowlers, eight Directors, and Coach/Manager Wendy Ferguson – arrived in Auckland on 26 April, and used the following day to practise on the unfamiliar greens. For three players: Jayne Parsons of WA; and Chris Backstrom and Lynne Seymour, both from Queensland; the Trans-Tasman was their first taste of international competition.

After a solemn ANZAC Day observance, competition was joined on the morning of 28 April. The team was made up of one male and one female bowler in each of four sight categories, B1, B2, B3, and B4. On Day 1, each member played a Men’s or Ladies’ Singles match in their respective categories in the morning session, and then combined in a Mixed Pairs game in the afternoon. The locals did slightly better on the day, and won six games to Australia’s five, with one draw.

The same format was used on Day 2. The result was even closer. Both teams won six games, but New Zealand had the better shot difference: plus five. On Day 3, the Mixed Pairs were played in the morning, and the competition finished with the last Singles games. The visitors found their form and won eight games to four.

In a change from previous Series, it was announced that each day’s play was a Test Match, and so the hosts won the Trans-Tasman Trophy; two Tests to one. International rookie Lynne Seymour, who won five of her six games, was declared (unofficially) Australia’s best player, and was presented with a bottle of champagne.

In spite of Australia relinquishing the Trans-Tasman Trophy for only the second time ever, the series was a great hit-out for the team. The Players and Directors will continue to prepare for the World Championships, which will be held in Cape Town, South Africa in March 2017.



The final results were:

- Test 1: Australia 16 points, +9, New Zealand 19 points, -9
- Test 1 Winner: New Zealand
- Test 2: Australia 18 points, -8, New Zealand 18 points, +8
- Test 2 Winner: New Zealand
- Test 3: Australia 24 points, + 35, New Zealand 12 points, - 35
- Test 3 Winner: Australia

On 1 June, thirty-seven Players and their Directors from five states gathered at the Port City Bowling Club in Port Macquarie NSW for the 39th ABBA National Championships. This was a new

venue for the Nationals, and what a venue it was. The greens and facilities were first-rate, and the hospitality offered by the Port City members was simply wonderful. Apart from two days which were washed out by the infamous 'east coast low', the weather was kind, and the competition was spirited. Players competed in Men's and Ladies' Singles, Men's and Ladies' Pairs, and in Mixed Pairs.

After seven playing days, Queensland emerged as the overall winner. Every one of their fifteen Players won at least one Gold Medal; an unprecedented achievement. Jake Fehlberg, from Burleigh Heads on Queensland's Gold Coast, won every game he played, and took home three Gold Medals, Ron Humphry Perpetual Trophy for Best Male Player, and Gwen Lewis Cup for the Overall Individual Performance. Lynne Seymour, from the Thuringowa club in Townsville, won two Gold and a Silver, and the Ron Humphry Perpetual Trophy for the Best Female Player.

Queensland will host the 2017 National Championships at Coolangatta on the Gold Coast in May. Every state will be on the look-out for new bowlers to carry their colours into next year's event.

The Australian Open is being held on the Gold Coast in June. At the time of writing, the events for vision-impaired bowlers had not begun. There are nine men and eight women competing for prize money in Men's and Ladies' Singles, and in Open Pairs. The finals will be held at the Broadbeach Bowls Club on 23/24 June. New Zealand win Vision Impaired Trans Tasman trophy.

*Chris Backstrom, President, Australian Blind Bowlers Association*

## Blind Golf Australia

### John White wins 2016 BGA Australian Stableford Championships

John White (WA) with his caddy Gaye White won the weather shortened 2016 Australian Stableford Championships played as a one day event at Adelaide Shore GC on May 26. John had a wonderful score of 40 points on the Thursday to clearly emerge as the winner.

Friday's play was called off when inclement weather set in before any group completed 8 holes, to the relief of wet and cold golfers, caddies and officials! Rod Mills (NSW) and his caddy Kerry Eichner finished runner up with 35 points. Credit goes to Robert Curtin (SA) and his caddy Gus Bossenbury with Robert winning his first major trophy being the B3 winner with 34 points.

### News from BGA - 2016 ISPS HANDA World Championships

BGA is delighted to advise that Australia has secured nine places for the 2016 ISPS HANDA World Blind Golf Championships to be held in Japan in November 2016. This is very encouraging for BGA as only 56 players are invited to compete in this event. A little over 25% of our active members will compete in this event.

BGA's team is based on finishing places in the 2014/15 Order of Merit which rewarded participation in and results from competing in the 5 major tournaments (BGA Australian Open and Stableford Championships, BGNSW Open,

WABGA Open and BGV Open) staged each year in Australia over a two year period in 2014/15.

In 2016 the Inaugural Queensland Open will become an Order of Merit event. In addition, Australia has two current world champions who receive automatic invitations and an IBGA Board member who also receives an automatic invitation. The International Blind Golf Association has set criteria that entrants in the 2016 World Championships must have a handicap at or under the maximum for the 3 sight classifications and must have played in a minimum of 8 qualifying events in the 2year period up until December 2015.

### Australia's team

Australia's team is:

Current World Champions

- Malcom Elliott WA B2
- Jenny McCallum WA B2

IBGA Board Member

- Graham Coulton NSW B2 (Graham would have qualified under BGA's Order of Merit in any event)

Order of Merit

- David Blyth Vic B1
- Rod Mills NSW B3
- Doug Burrows WA B3
- Gary Sargent NSW B2
- Stephen Mitchell NSW B2
- Deanna Minciullo WA B2

*Geoff Walsh/Doug Sloan  
Blind Golf Australia*

## Goalball Australia

### Latest Announcement

Goalball Australia is pleased to announce the following appointments;

- Program Director (responsible for logistical arrangements for training camps and competitions for national team programs coordinated by Goalball Australian): Tami Elbourn
- Youth Girls Head Coach: Murray Elbourn

### GA AIC Tournament 2016

A very successful tournament was held at the sunny QLD Gold coast at the Gold Coast Recreation Centre, Tallebudgera from Friday 8th to Sunday 10th April.

This year saw a new format whereby youth were combined with men and women to have a three team Men's and a four team Women's draw.

#### Men's Competition

##### The A Team

- 3 Amir Abdi
- 5 Jon Horsburgh
- 6 Matt Eaton
- 8 Robbie Dunnia

##### The B Sharps

- 5 Daniel Dalton
- 6 Michael Sheppard
- 7 Aiden Smith
- 8 Brendan Young

##### The X Men

- 1 Daniel Pritchard
- 2 Sam Byrne

- 3 Steffan Nero
- 4 Tim Rees

#### Women's Final Series

##### Semi Final

Bonecrushing Ballerinas (9) defeated Chaos Chicks (7)

##### Preliminary Final

Bonecrushing Ballerinas (9) defeated Angry Angels (6)

##### Grand Final

Doomsday Divas (9) defeated Bonecrushing Ballerinas (5)

#### Men's Final Series

##### Preliminary Final

X Men (17) defeated B Sharps (14)

##### Grand Final

X Men (12) defeated A Team (11)

#### Leading goal scorers:

Women: Brodie Smith threw 23 whilst Tyan Taylor threw 21.

Men: Jon Horsburgh threw 35 whilst Dan Pritchard threw 31

#### Officials:

Referees: Warrick Jackes, Simon Smith, Grant Hanson, Rob Crestani

*Jenny Blow, Vice President, Goalball Australia*

## Blind & Vision Impaired Tenpin Bowling

### The 2016 BVIT National Championships Wrap up

Our week started tragically with Ryan and Gail Underwood not

being able to attend after Ryan broke his leg requiring surgery.

We all missed you both. Get well soon Ryan, and do what your mother tells you!!

Gail is a fantastic organiser and all-round good person to have on such a trip, but life intervenes as it does and credit should go to all of you who stepped in to take over the multiple tasks normally handled by Gail.

Competition was tough, but that's what you get at TBA accredited tournaments where-ever you go, and it's a great way to prepare yourselves for future international events.

The Chermside accommodation was just what we needed in terms of its location and facilities; thanks for the use of the courtesy bus and your 'can-do' approach to our needs.

A special thanks goes to Richard Swindail for taking photos all week. He wandered in on Monday for a quick catch up with Joel, and was immediately lumbered with the role of Photographer for the rest of the week. Thank You Richard. You take great photographs !!

While it may seem a little strange to be taking pics at a low-vision, no-vision event like this, it is important for the world at large to see what can be achieved with just a little bit of perseverance and humour.

And finally, Congratulation to you all! Despite your various disabilities and inconveniences, you attacked the week with wit and gusto and are all a fine example to the community at large as to what can be achieved if you just 'have a go'!

After the Committee have caught up on our sleep and our washing, and all those other things we should have been doing while we were working on this event, we'll sit down with the newly elected members and look at what we learned from this event, and where we go to from here.

These decisions will be based on what we can realistically afford and achieve in the immediate future.

Safe trip home, and we'll all catch up at the next event, whenever, and where ever that might be.

### **Presentation Dinner**

The Presentation dinner was held at the Kedron Wavell Services club which had been the 'watering hole' for most of us this week.

Credit to the staff there who had no issues what so ever dealing with our wonderful collection of guide dogs, white canes, dazed and confused committee members and a bunch of real characters you wouldn't normally find in the one place at the same time.

Unfortunately, they haven't heard of Coopers beer in this part of the world, but I suppose XXXX is much easier to spell.

Blind Sports Australia was represented by board member Karen Ryan who presented some awards. Thanks Karen.

Aspley bowl was represented by Debbie Thomas who ran control for a few sessions. Please pass on our thanks from BVIT to Aspley bowl.

Louise Eady did her usual job as ring master handing out medals and trophies, and generally keeping the whole thing under control, sans whip.

Here's a list of trophies and medals awarded on the night.

- FEMALE Bowler of the Year - Marilyn Luck
- MALE Bowler of the Year - Rhian Patching
- FEMALE Encouragement Award 2016 - Cassandra Lovett
- MALE Encouragement Award 2016 - Ryan Underwood
- FEMALE High Game Scratch - Marilyn Luck
- FEMALE High Game Handicap - Jessica Lovett
- MALE High Game - Rhian Patching
- MALE High Game Handicap - David Martin
- Highest Pins over entering average - Glen Barwick

### **All Events - Scratch**

- B1 Female - Marilyn Luck
- B1 Male - Justin Bettes
- B2 Female - Judy Schmidt
- B2 Male - Glen Barwick
- B3 Female - Cassandra Lovett

- B3 Male - Rhian Patching

### **All Events - Handicap**

- B1 Female - Hazel Hockley
- B1 Male - Graeme Byrnes
- B2 Female - Maureen Hardcastle
- B2 Male - Joel Swindail
- B3 Female - Jessica Lovett
- B3 Male - Tim Wilson

### **Teams of 4 - Scratch**

- **Gold** - Marilyn Luck, Glen Barwick, Tim Mitchell, Rhian Patching
- **Silver** - Justin Bettes, Joel Swindail, David Martin, Reg Pollard

### **Teams of 4 - Handicap**

- **Gold** - Joan Andrews, Judy Schmidt, Cassie Lovett, Jenny Ingle
- **Silver** - Hazel Hockley, Matt Bryant, Donna Holland, Tim Wilson

### **Doubles - Scratch**

- **Gold** - Marilyn Luck, Rhian Patching
- **Silver** - Joel Swindail, David Martin
- **Bronze** - Tim Wilson, Glen Barwick

### **Doubles - Handicap**

- **Gold** - Hazel Hockley, Betty Mill
- **Silver** - Graeme Byrnes, Jenny Ingle
- **Bronze** - Justin Bettes, Cassie Lovett

### **Trios - Scratch**



- **Gold** - Marilyn Luck, Glen Barwick, Rhian Patching
- **Silver** - Justin Bettles, David Martin, Joel Swindail

### **Trios - Handicap**

- **Gold** - Maureen Hardcastle, Donna Holland, Betty Mill
- **Silver** - Joan Andrews, Judy Schmidt, Tim Wilson

*Glen Barwick, BVIT President*

## Other News

### **Current Opportunities**

Would you like to be involved with Blind Sports Australia?

Byronvale Advisors is currently seeking two experienced and dedicated individuals to support the development and day to day operation of Blind Sports Australia.

Sports Development Officer, part time (approx. 2 days per week)  
Administration Officer, part time (approx. 4 hours per week)

For more information, including position descriptions, or to apply, visit the Blind Sports Australia website

([www.blindsportsaustralia.com.au](http://www.blindsportsaustralia.com.au))

### **New Website**

Have you seen the new BSA website?

[www.blindsportsaustralia.com.au](http://www.blindsportsaustralia.com.au)

The new website, apart from looking more modern, has a few

extra features.

There is an event calendar that can also be integrated and downloaded into your personal calendars. Please help us keep the calendar up-to-date by letting us know of any events you either would like advertised or that we do not have in the calendar.

There is also a job board from both volunteer and paid job opportunities. If you would like BSA to advertise a role, please again contact us – it free to advertise.

We also have a section on general national sports industry announcements and perspectives. Under the governance tab there is also various policies, and also an insurance claim form for members covered under the BSA insurance policy. Please complete the form and return to BSA – please do not send it directly to the underwriter.

Also the posts on the Blind Sports Australia Facebook page can also be viewed directly from the website (for those people not on Facebook).

We have also put a section of various videos and photos. If you have any videos or photos, please send them through to BSA and we'll upload them on the website.

There is a caveat on the website – we acknowledge it is not the most accessible website for vision impaired people, however it is

designed as an information and marketing website and as such when it was designed it was done so with this in mind.

### **Budgets and Plans**

BSA Board has been developing its 2016-2017 financial budget and operational plan over the last couple of months.

Due to the need to rest its major revenue promotion – 'Scratch and Win', the next year will see some significant changes in how BSA will be structured operationally, and also how it will be able to support BSA members.

Operationally BSA will have a part-time Sports Development Officer, and casual Administration Officer.

The Sports Development Officer will be dedicated at servicing members and driving the development of all blind sports, including 'new' sports such as football and tennis. It is envisaged that this resource will deliver member organisations will greater support than they have had in the past.

Also Stephen Barnes, Acting CEO will reduce his time working with BSA and be focusing on BSA strategic matters at a national and international level.

### **Scratch and Win Promotion**

The 2015-2016 'Scratch and Win' national promotion began on April 7th with sellers in the ACT and concluded in March 2016.

Congratulations to all the prize winners, especially Glenice Mitchell from Geraldton the \$30,000 major prize winner.

Thank you also to all that supported this promotion, and to those that donated their prizes back to BSA.

### Use of 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.



*Correct BSA Logo*

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. Putting the

BSA logo on your letterhead, uniforms and marketing material adds creditability to your organisations and helps BSA promote itself and blind sports.

Additionally, we have BSA banners, and access to ASC banners, that we would appreciate being displayed at all national events and competitions, and for state members at state events.

If you would like to use the BSA logo, or the BSA and ASC banners please contact Stephen Barnes.

### Volunteering?

Do you, or one of your members, need some volunteers? Need help with a 'Come and try' Day, or a sausage sizzle? Then let Stephen Barnes know the details and BSA will try and get some volunteers to assist. Send what types of volunteers you need, time commitment, and any other requirements and information – and don't forget to send contact details too. We will put the opportunities on the BSA Job Board and depending on the opportunity, also arrange for it to go on the Australian Sports Commission job directory.

### Blind and Visually Impaired International Friendly Tennis Tournament, Great Britain 25 – 28 April 2017

We are very pleased to invite you to participate in the very first Blind and Visually Impaired International Friendly Tournament. If after reading the information below you

are interested in taking part, please contact Maurice Gleeson, the Australian international representative, via [info@blindsports.org.au](mailto:info@blindsports.org.au)

### Venue

The friendly competition will take place at Loughborough University, Great Britain on 8 newly refurbished indoor courts. The tennis centre is home to a number of international and national tournaments throughout the year.



### Arrival Date

All teams are recommended to arrive on Sunday 23 April 2017.

### Transport

Complimentary transport will be available for all players and support staff from East Midlands (EMA) and Birmingham (BHX) airports.

- East Midlands Airport – 20 minutes to hotel/tennis centre depending on traffic.
- Birmingham Airport – 1 hour 15 minutes to hotel/venue depending on traffic.

### Official Hotel

Players and guests will stay in an

official hotel. The hotel and rooms will be booked as soon as we have an idea of how many people attend. If the hotel is not within walking distance from the tennis centre a shuttle service will be available.

#### Classification and Practice courts

Sight classification will take place on Sunday 23 and Monday 24 April. Practice courts will also be available from the Monday.

#### Tournament Programme

First matches will start on Tuesday 25 April (time TBC but either 09.30/10.00am). Off court activities, workshops and networking sessions will take place in the evenings throughout the week. More information will be sent out in due course.

#### Accommodation/Catering costs

All costs below are per person and based on arriving on Sunday 23 April and departing on Saturday 29 April 2017.

#### Full-board

- 6 nights' accommodation with full English breakfast from Sunday 23 April
- 5 lunches from Monday 24 April
- Airport transfers both ways
- Daily shuttle from the official hotel to the tennis centre

Single room (1 person) - £510

Twin room (2 people / 2 beds) - £310 per person

Extra night - £76 per night single room / £86 per night twin room

Kind regards, Kirsty Thomson,  
Disability Tournament Director

## Upcoming Events

For more information regarding upcoming events, visit the Events section on our website. An excerpt of some events is included below for your reference.

### July 2016

**2<sup>nd</sup> July:** Golf Come & Try Day

**5<sup>th</sup> July:** Junior Blind & Vision Impaired Tennis Program

**8<sup>th</sup> July:** City Kids Football Clinic

**18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> July:** BGA Queensland Open

### August 2016

**7<sup>th</sup> August:** Blind Football (B1) Coach Workshop

**15<sup>th</sup> August:** WABGA WA Open

**17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> August:** ISPS HANDA Australian Open

**20<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> August:** IBSA Tenpin Bowling Singles World Championships

### September 2016

**7<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> September:** Rio 2016 Paralympic Games

**19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> September:** BGNSW NSW Open

For enquiries contact [admin@blindsportsaustralia.com.au](mailto:admin@blindsportsaustralia.com.au)

# Blind Sports Australia Board Members



**Mr David Blyth AO**  
Director, Chair



**Mr Gary Sargent**  
Director



**Mr Sam Theodore**  
Director



**Ms Karen Ryan**  
Director



**Ms Voula Karantzias**  
Director



**Ms Melissa Martin**  
Director



**Mr Stephen Barnes**  
CEO (Acting)



**Mrs Eileen Sargent**  
Company Secretary

# Blind Sports Australia Member Organisations



**Blind Sports Victoria**

