

BLIND SPORTS AUSTRALIA

A.B.N. 68 008 621 252

A Foundation Member of the Australian Paralympic Committee

Blind Sports Australia

Annual Report

2015-2016



Chairman's Report

The 2015/16 year was once again a challenging, but progressive year for Blind Sports Australia.

The organisational rebuild continues, with a changing of the guard on our Board. Two long standing Board members, and outstanding athletes in their own right, have decided to retire and not stand for re-election. David Blyth and Gary Sargent have provided tremendous support to me and the Board. Their experience and level headedness has assisted the organisation in this period of evolution and change. Even though they are retiring, I am confident that they will still be strong advocates for blind sport going forward.

Additionally, I would like to recognise Garry Humphries for his work with the Board early in the year.

Blind Sports Australia advocates, advises and provides centralised services to its member organisations and builds long term sustainability to increase vision impaired participation in sport. As an organisation we advocate on behalf of our members, at a national Level with the Australian Sports Commission (ASC), Australian Paralympic Committee (APC) and other National Sporting Organisations (NSOs), raising awareness of inclusion for vision impaired people in sport.

Blind Sports Australia's activities have been quite varied resulting in positive and encouraging outcomes. Our activities include:-

- Advising member organisation on governance in Sports e.g. worked with the Goalball Australia and Blind Sports NSW (BSNSW) on developing their governance frameworks;
- Running a sports development forum for members, to identify and highlight current issues and share ideas about further development of blind sports nationally;
- Working with Goalball Australia, the APC and ASC to secure ongoing funding and the attendance of the Women's Goalball team at the Rio Paralympic Games;
- Facilitating strategic planning workshops; and
- Working with members to develop Blind Football in Australia through hosting a development forum and developing a national strategic plan for Blind Football.

BSA provides shared/central services to members. Examples include comprehensive association insurance cover, administration of our member protection policy, website, job boards, event calendars, referral of volunteers and promotion and marketing to our extensive database.

Over the last two years BSA has provide financial support to member organisations to assist with the development of blind sport which had not been previously possible. The restructuring of BSA has been ongoing and in recent months BSA has under taken a restructure of our office and administration. BSA, through our consultants, Byronvale Advisors, now has a dedicated part-time Sports Development Coordinator, who will work closely with member organisations to increase participation in vision impaired sport.

I would like to thank the Australian Sports Commission and the Australian Paralympic Committee for their continued support throughout the year.

The scratch and win trade promotion was once again a success and we are exploring new and diversified opportunities going forward.

Blind Sports Australia continues to reinvent and reinvigorate ourselves and continue to evolve. The momentum continues with the new members of our Board joining us, as we continue to be successful and be in a better position to meet any challenges that lie ahead.



Sam Theodore
Chairman
Blind Sports Australia



Sam Theodore



Message from the Australian Sports Commission

The Australian Sports Commission (ASC) congratulates our National Sporting Organisations (NSOs) on their achievements this year. In particular, we congratulate all of our athletes who represented Australia in the Rio Olympic and Paralympic Games. You did so with great distinction. The country is proud of your commitment and dedication, and the manner in which you conducted yourself throughout the campaigns.

In the aftermath of the Games, the Board of the ASC has re-committed to the core principles of Australia's Winning Edge, the ASC's ten year plan for high performance sport introduced in 2012. The four key principles are: high aspirations for achievement; evidence-based funding decisions; sports owning their own high performance programs; and a strong emphasis on improved leadership and governance.

We are confident these principles serve the long term interests of sporting sector.

We will also use the experience of the last four years to seek to improve implementation of Winning Edge in ways that will benefit the sector.

The ASC is equally committed to increasing community participation in sport, particularly amongst our children and youth. We have been pleased this year to see our flagship participation program Sporting Schools reach over 4,300 schools in partnership with NSOs.

Innovations by the ASC this year included the release of our Integrity Guidelines for Directors and Leaders of Sporting Organisations, which provides directors with comprehensive and practical guidance for the first time on anti-doping, sport science and medicine, illicit drugs, match-fixing, child protection and member protection – vital issues for maintaining trust and respect in the sporting sector.

We also staged our inaugural Athlete and Coaches Forum, giving Australia's elite athletes and coaches the opportunity to share their experiences and enhance their leadership capabilities.

And we were delighted to see fruits of our efforts to improve female opportunity in sports, with improved elite and participation opportunities in women's sport, better media exposure, some outstanding new commercial deals, and an increase in female representation at NSO board level from 27 per cent to a 39 per cent across the top 23 NSOs.

Looking ahead, ASC priorities include:

- further institutional and governance reform in sport, with an emphasis on increased national integration and alignment
- increased funding for sport, including new non-government sources of funding
- further embedding sport in schools' educational programs
- improved national coordination of sports infrastructure spending, and
- Improved use of data and technology in sports.

Reforms like this are often hard to achieve but have profound long term benefits. The evermore competitive environment in world sport on display in Rio highlights the critical importance of further reform if Australia is to maintain its proud reputation and traditions as a sporting nation.

The ASC thanks all of our sector partners for your effort and contribution to Australian sport. We look forward to continued success and progress together.

John Wylie AM
Chair
Australian Sports Commission



John Wylie AM

Activities during last Financial Year

The Blind Sports Australia rebuilding process has continued with the significant milestone of being able to invest in its own revenue programs without external support.

During the year Blind Sports Australia has also worked on a number of initiatives to increase participation in vision impaired sport. An inaugural meeting of State Member representatives to develop blind football (soccer) in Australia. Subsequently this group has developed a strategic plan and there has been substantial progress at a State level.

Blind Sport Australia worked directly with members on the development of their sports and organisations. Highlights have included

- Assisting Blind Cricket with their successful 'Come and Try' Days, supported their national training camps, and attended their Nationals and Lords Traverners test against England.
- Working with Goalball Australia and the Australian Paralympic Committee to develop a structure that will grow the sport.
- Supported the Pacific School Games
- Meeting in person with members in Sydney, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide and Melbourne and discussing with them their issues at a regional level.



Blind Cricket Victoria Come and Try Day

In October, Blind Sports Australia hosted all member organisations at a two day Sport Forum to encourage members to share ideas on how to grow participation and to update members of the changing landscape of sport in Australia. I was also

pleased to have the opportunity to talk at the Blind Citizens Australia conference in Perth on the Challenges in Sport in Australia.



Members at the Sports Development Forum



Stephen Barnes at BCA Conference

Congratulations to all our athletes that have competed overseas during the year. A special mention to the Women's Goalball team that got a late call up to the Rio Paralympic Games and the lawn bowlers narrowly who lost the three test trans-Tasman series. Also our best wishes to the golfers going to the World Championships in Japan in November, and the cricketers going to India in January.

The next year is going to be financially challenging for Blind Sports Australia. It will take focus and commitment from both the BSA Board and all members and supporters to navigate through this period. The BSA Board has begun implementing a number of strategies and this will be their main focus. Operationally there has also been a change with the appointment of Dave Mackenzie as Sports Development Coordinator to focus on member engagement and sport development. I will be continuing as Acting Chief Executive Officer and working closely with the BSA Board focusing on the strategic development of BSA.



Top shot: Gary Sargent with his wife Eileen at The Ridge Golf Club. Picture: John Waugh

Gary Sargent after a 'hole in one' at The Ridge Golf Club with his caddie and wife Eileen Sargent

Lastly, and definitely not least, I would like to particularly thank David Blyth AO and Gary Sargent for their dedication and unwavering support of blind sport and being instrumental to the development blind sport nationally, and their rock solid support of me as Acting CEO. Also Eileen Sargent who has been the Secretary of BSA for the last two years – you will all be missed – and thank you!



Stephen Barnes
Acting Chief Executive Officer
Blind Sports Australia



Stephen Barnes,



Lord Taverners Cricket, Adelaide, January 2016

Financial Report

Note: Presented below are unaudited Financial Accounts as they audit had not been completed as at 23rd September 2016.

Blind Sports Australia largely ended the financial year on budget with a profit of \$53,511 v budget of \$57,918. The variances to budget were as a result of unexpected legal expenses, higher insurance expenses, and lower revenue due to the resting of the Scratch and Win promotion from April 2016. This was offset by lower actual than budgeted costs for several of the BSA Board and member initiatives.

We have provided a balance sheet for the last five financial years to show both trends and the rebuild journey. We have also provided a Profit and Loss for the last three financial year ends. In 2012 and 2013 Blind Sports Australia was both losing money and did not have alternative sources of income. In the 2014-2015 and the 2015-2016 financial years, the Board has spent all the ASC grant directly supporting BSA members, rather than on operational costs. The Wages and Salaries/Consultants expenses has only increased by \$10k over the last three years however this was largely offset by the reduction in other operating expenses that were undertaken as part of the consulting fees.

Profit & Loss

Blind Sports Australia For the 12 months ended 30 June 2016

	Jun-16	Jun-15	Jun-14
Income			
Australian Sports Commission	65,000	65,000	65,000
Donations Received	14,085	19,064	2,245
Memberships	5,000	4,500	2,450
Trade Promotions	182,149	72,742	106,266
Total Income	266,234	161,305	175,961
Gross Profit	266,234	161,305	175,961
Plus Other Income			
Other Income	7,088	23,902	15,551
Total Other Income	7,088	23,902	15,551
Less Operating Expenses			
Administration Expenses	1,592	2,224	8,306
Auditing	6,495	6,369	8,545
BSA Board Expenses	1,873	1,488	310
Consultants	135,000	117,551	92,531
IBSA Expenses	1,675	3,553	4,789
Member Grants and Shared Services	70,150	70,704	4,874
Memberships - Affiliates	546	532	959
Travel	1,115	9,772	10,641
Wages and Salaries	-	-	33,483
Workers Compensation	1,365	1,478	1,209
Total Operating Expenses	219,811	213,670	165,647
Net Profit	53,511	(28,463)	25,864

Balance Sheet

Blind Sports Australia As at 30 June 2016

	30 Jun 2016	30 Jun 2015	30 Jun 2014	30 Jun 2013	30 Jun 2012
Assets					
Current Assets					
Accounts Receivable	-	-	-	350	-
Cash and Cash Equivalents	74,157	19,125	64,013	34,470	61,115
Prepayments	-	68,853	85,625	1,471	-
Provision for fundraising expenses	-	(5,532)	26,134	-	-
Total Current Assets	74,157	82,446	175,773	36,291	61,115
Fixed Assets					
Less Accumulated Depreciation	-	-	-	(1,493)	(136)
Property Plant & Equipment @ Co	-	-	-	2,035	2,035
Total Fixed Assets	-	-	-	542	1,900
Total Assets	74,157	82,446	175,773	36,833	63,015
Liabilities					
Current Liabilities					
Employee Benefits	-	-	-	12,102	-
GST	(301)	2,481	7,673	-	(1)
Income received in advance	-	21,750	45,166	-	-
PAYG Withholding Payable	-	-	-	-	2
Provision for Prize monies	4,730	7,550	21,630	-	-
Provision of Grant to BSC	-	6,166	28,893	-	-
Short Term Provisions	-	-	-	-	2,748
Trade and other payables	3,999	32,282	31,731	9,915	5,608
Total Current Liabilities	8,429	70,228	135,092	22,017	8,357
Total Liabilities	8,429	70,228	135,092	22,017	8,357
Net Assets	65,729	12,218	40,680	14,816	54,659
Equity					
Current Year Earnings	53,511	(28,463)	25,864	- ¹	(62,923)
Retained Earnings	12,218	40,680	14,816	14,816	117,581
Total Equity	65,729	12,218	40,680	14,816	54,659

Notes

1

Conversion to Xero occurred around this time. It would appear the Equity balance was converted. By deduction, the earnings for the year ending 30th June, 2013 was a loss of \$39,769.50



Australian Women's Goalball team at the Rio Paralympic Games