

SPRING 2020– AROUND THE COURTS



A U S T R A L I A

From the Chair

This has been a difficult year for many but boccia has continued to be played across Australia. It's good to see competitions being planned again and opportunities for our athletes to get out and enjoy their sport. To encourage more people to be involved, BA has made registration free for 2020-2021

We have just celebrated 20 years since the Sydney Paralympics which saw our team of 6 athletes show Australia what great sports men and women they were.

I am proud and excited to announce our new Australian Head Referee Lisa Hanssens of NSW. She will be supported by Lucy Bates. Both are well known Referees and will bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to those positions. It will be sad to lose Pam Johnston in February, but she is leaving a great legacy, which I know Lisa, Lucy and their team will build on.

See you on a court somewhere –

May your balls run true.

Richard



Save the date!

NSW State Titles

5th December 2020

Queensland State Titles or Boccia Battle

12 -13th December 2020

More information:
davidb@sportingwheelies.org.au

Tasmanian State Titles

27th February 2021

More information:
pdst@paraquadtas.org.au

BA National Titles

November 2021

HOBART

Starting Back in Boccia

As one of the states worst affected by the pandemic, it took NSW a little longer to get back to boccia and we had to find new ways of playing. Here is how it worked at CPA, Sydney.

Couple of different ways were tried in order to comply with social distancing.

Firstly, the outside boxes were used creating quite different tactics and consequently results. The second and better method was 'throw and withdraw'. This had the players in the middle boxes only while playing their ball, moving in and out when directed by the referee. It took longer to play, with the tactical challenge of re-aligning, but was a better game. Only one player came out to look at the head at a time.

Not the friendly, rowdy, close up boccia we are used to but beats the alternative of staying isolated at home!



CPA Sydney



Hunter Boccia

New home for boccia in Queensland

Sporting Wheelies recently opened its new home in Brisbane which features the first purpose-built boccia and goalball court in Queensland! The facility features 2 boccia courts & will be the home of Brisbane City Boccia & Queensland Boccia Squad. The centre also includes a goalball court, & Queensland's most accessible health & fitness centre with specially trained Exercise Physiologists.

And in Launceston...

On 21 September, the Launceston Boccia team got together to have their usual Monday training session in Trevallyn. Although coach Ro Blaney was away visiting family in Queensland, 7 players and their supporters were present. It was good to have trainee Ref Jenny Watts and she was encouraged and helped by Minna, Ryan, Dana, Scott, Carolina, Kate & Nic. After a warm-up we played pairs and finished off with a team game, including Jenny as a player. We are now having a rest during the school holidays and will be back practicing mid-October.





Scott Elsworth



John Richardson in action



Ange McReynolds

Sydney Paralympics 2000

Ange's story

Paralympics was a great opportunity to be part of. Imagine yourself being 21 and walking out in stadium to a lot of people who was cheering for you. I was one of the lucky athletes who was picked to go in the 2000 Sydney Paralympics. However, I didn't get the chance to attend the Opening Ceremony because I was playing the next day.

In the morning, I got up and went to the stadium to start training and warm up. Then about an hour before my first game, catastrophe happened because my ramp assistant got injured by a physiotherapist from another country, after that they couldn't help me, therefore I had to ply my first game with someone who didn't know how assist me properly.

The Closing Ceremony was awesome because we had the opportunity to party after all our hard work over 4 years to train for the Paralympics.

Ange McReynolds Northern Beaches Waves.

The Australian boccia team 2000 had 6 members: John Richardson (BC1), Lyn Coleman, (BC1), Warren Brearley (BC2), Scott Elsworth (BC2) Karen Stewart (BC3) and Ange McReynolds (BC3). The Head Coach was Joan Stevens, well known for all the hard work she put into the early days of boccia in Australia. She was also Ange's ramp assistant.

The Paralympics was a wonderful time for Australia. It showcased boccia to the nation, showing them what our great athletes could do!

Scott remembers

The Paralympic games was the most amazing experience of my lifetime. A time that I'm so proud of and will cherish. The sportsmanship was fantastic throughout the games. It was just awesome to wear the Green and Gold in such a landmark event

Scott Elsworth Northern Beaches Waves

Special Memories

We didn't go to the Sydney Olympics; we choose instead to go to the Paralympics. We didn't know much about para sports , just thought it would good. We bought tickets for 3 days. I went with my husband & 10-year-old son & we had such fun.

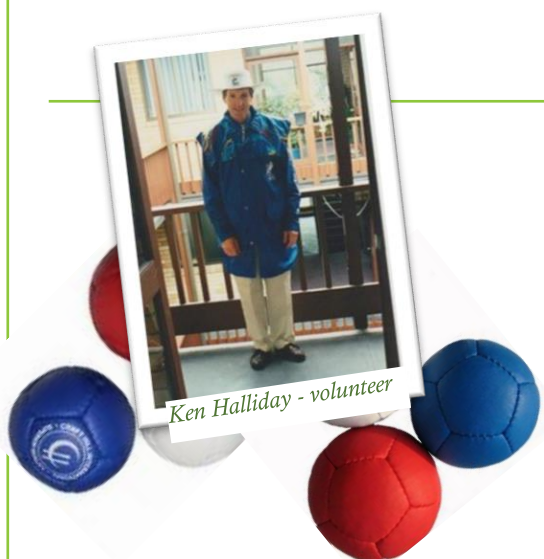
We saw blind runners, wheelchair tennis, soccer, & wheelchair races We wandered into a large pavilion & sat down to look at game. We didn't know the name or rules then later discovered it was Boccia.

We were watching 'Rampers'.

I remember a young Asian man releasing a ball that knocked another ball while his nestled against the Jack. You could feel his pleasure.

We felt that way too.

Jenny Watts – trainee Ref, Hobart



Ken Halliday - volunteer

Stephen Eaton – gold medalist!

Stephen Eaton, well known Qld Head Ref was also at Sydney Paralympics winning a gold medal in the men's discus F34 event. This event also won him the Order of Australia Medal.

Stephen started in track and field when he was only 8 years old and competed in many international events including Atlanta Paralympics in 1996.

BA is lucky to have such a sporting hero as a referee!



Redlands Activate Inclusion Sports Day

Redlands Boccia Program Officer Tania Stewart and her husband and Boccia Referee Kevin Stewart promoted boccia to over 60 students with a disability at Redlands District Special School on 8 October thanks to Variety Queensland's Activate Inclusion Sports Day. Boccia was one of four sports invited to engage with students and promote pathways to get involved.



Congratulations

Jamieson Leeson – scholarship winner

Jamieson of Dunedoo NSW is one of 16 young Australian athletes who have been selected by the Sport Australia Hall of Fame for a **Tier 3** Scholarship! This is not only an incredible opportunity for Jamieson but also wonderful recognition of Boccia in Australia. Jamieson has represented Australia in the BC3 team in Dubai and Hong Kong. The lockdown, this year, has meant Jamieson has put aside her Paralympic dream to concentration on finishing high school!



Carolina Ascui - artist

For a school project Carolina, from Boccia Launceston, was asked by a Year 11 schoolboy to design an image that was representing how she felt about doing sports in a wheelchair. Carolina choose to represent someone playing Boccia. She used and adapted a logo from the internet and surrounded it by warm colours. The image was later printed on the back of a T-shirt.



NEW AUSTRALIAN HEAD REFEREE

Boccia Australia is proud and excited to announce its new head Referee: Lisa Hanssens of NSW
Lucy Bates will take on the role of Assistant Head Referee.

Goodbye

It is with sadness I announce that I am leaving the post of Boccia Australia Head Referee and to say goodbye to you all.

It has been a privilege to have had this role, to have overseen the development of Boccia officials throughout the five years I have held the position, and to share the enthusiasm for Boccia in Australia. I will miss all this when I return to the UK next year.

I thank the Board and all of you – officials, players, SAs, support workers, coaches, volunteers, Boccia supporters - for your support, & the (mostly!) fun times I have had during competitions.

(And after – zip-wiring in Tas especially stands out!) Thanks to Boccia I have seen many parts of Australia I would not otherwise have had the opportunity to visit.

I will take lovely memories of my time in Australia back with me to the UK and although I look forward to participating in Boccia there I will miss the Boccia Australia Family.

Thank you making me so welcome - *Pam*



And Welcome

I am excited to be stepping back into the Head Referee position with Boccia Australia. I have been involved with Boccia since around 2005, becoming a national referee in 2006, head ref in 2009 and an international referee since 2011.

Thankyou to Pam for the amazing job she has done working with Boccia Australia to get our training up to the highest level. She will be missed. I hope that I can help to build up our referee base and look forward to meeting the new faces and supporting our already established referees.

I'm excited to see how our referees can develop into the future and work together to achieve your goals - *Lisa*



Tokyo Test Event



Coaching Update!

There have been a number of exciting and positive improvements recently for our coaches. Our new Level 1 coach accreditation course has commenced with 14 participants from across Australia, including our 3 National coaches! The course is a combination of on-line modules using video and face-to-face (replaced temporarily with 1-1 virtual meeting due to COVID-19). This level 1 also includes a documents repository.

JP LaFontaine and Glen Lebeau have been selected to become BISFed accredited Coach Educators.

In addition to this opportunity, they, along with Ken Halliday and Peter King will attend the BISFed online courses on self-reflection, stretching and pre competition warm-up. These courses will ensure that coaching delivered in Australia will be aligned with the international standard and will help our boccia athletes grow.

If you are interested in the coaching course, email Glen on glen@boccia.com.au



Useful documents

- Framework and Guidelines for Return to Boccia
 - <https://cdn.revolutionise.com.au/news/vfyaypzlu9jb8sx.pdf>
- BA Anti-doping Policy
 - <https://cdn.revolutionise.com.au/site/7nux6rmaobzktbfb.pdf>
- Boccia & your NDIS Plan
 - <https://cdn.revolutionise.com.au/.../fil.../zcsicfni2g8kmowt.pdf>
- BA Member Protection Policy
 - <https://cdn.revolutionise.com.au/site/yasoqii8uylewca5.pdf>
- Current Classification
 - <https://cdn.revolutionise.com.au/site/zlxe3thz6canjdzt.pdf>
- 2019 BISFed General Assembly Final Minutes
 BISFed General Assembly meeting held on the 4th November 2019 in Povoa de Varzim, Portugal are available
 - https://mcusercontent.com/b3b9215c8f731b496368c4a96/files/d4eb6249-8774-4bad-842d7de2c34c2002/BISFed_2019_General_Assembly_Minutes_Final.pdf



Thank you to everyone who submitted items for this Newsletter from BA. We will keep any unused stories and photos for our next Newsletter. Please feel free to submit more – we want our members to know what happening in boccia across Australia. Photos are particularly welcome!

Send your stories and photos to admin@boccia.com.au