

Chairperson report

I would like to start by thanking my fellow board members for the work they have done this year. Our goal as an association is to provide the opportunity for people to play wheelchair basketball and I hope that all members feel like we have achieved that.

Our membership base has continued to grow allowing us to not only grow our social league competition but also look to revive the Adelaide Thunder team.

Adelaide Wheelchair Basketball League

This season we introduced a 2 division system to create a competition that encouraged development (Division 2) and a competition that encouraged competitiveness (Division 1). It took a bit of getting used to and there is definitely room for improvement but the idea seems to be working. We have been contacted by Basketball Australia to say they are impressed with our competition due to the inclusion of a development pathway and they are watching us closely as they want to use our competition as a template for other states' social leagues. It is always difficult to select teams trying to take into consideration social circles, development and competitiveness, so this season we decided that we were going to allow players to select their own teams and we will continue to use this method as it seems to be what the majority of members are happy with.

Under 14's

We are rebranding our active wheelies sessions as under 14's to keep inline with other basketball programs. We have seen an increase in the number of participants and with the upcoming come and try and KidX expo we will hopefully be able to increase our number of participants again.

Juniors/pathways/seniors

We once again put in a team to KCC which included a 3v3 competition and the normal 5v5 competition. One of our teams had great success coming 3rd in the competition and our team as a whole impressed a lot of people, in particular Katelin Gunn who led the team as their captain.

Osaka triplets Annabelle Dennis, Katelin Gunn and myself (Lucinda Bueti) were selected to represent Australia in multiple international tournaments throughout the year including World Championships, Osaka cup, USA series and their nomination for the Paralympic games next year.

Katelin and Annabelle were selected to attend the under 25's world championships in October so we wish them luck.

We also had 8 athletes accepted for grants by South Australian Sports Institute as individual athletes which saw them gain access to the SASI strength and conditioning coach who has assisted with gym work and conditioning sessions.

We were able to put a team in for Sunshine Coast Spinners Competition earlier in the year where they won the division that they entered in. Congratulations to that team which consisted of Cooper, Fernando, Tobias, Shaun W, Soraj, Nathan and myself. We are looking at bringing back the Adelaide Thunder team and have begun training for upcoming competitions such as Slam and Sunshine Coast.

We have 4 young male players invited to Frank Ponta Cup, a junior development camp as well as Nathan who has been invited to attend as a coach.

Committee

This year we had 8 elected directors and 4 appointed directors, unfortunately we never had all directors at any of our meetings and on multiple occasions didn't have enough for a quorum. We had 3 directors leave their positions as directors and another director step down from their role but maintain their position as a director. For the second time in 12 months we had the chairperson step down from their role, as such looking forward we aim to improve the environment of the board, for them as people and for the association.

BSA Partnership

In 2020 SAWBA was approached by BSA to discuss a partnership, those discussions were put on hold until 2021 when there was talk of the State Centre being built. The chairperson at the time was consulted regarding making the State Centre accessible for people with disabilities and to discuss the State Centre becoming the home of wheelchair basketball. When myself and Tim stepped into the role of chair we were informed that BSA had created a proposal which was discussed with the committee and a sub committee was formed to proceed with conversations. This relationship is incredibly important for SAWBA as it will help keep the association going and increase our scope.

This agreement will assist us in areas such as social media, competition management, pathways for coaches and referees, and opportunities for financial assistance via grants.

Fundraising

SAWBA were successful in receiving multiple grants that assisted with things such as court hire, Juniors (KCC) and referee education. We also created a new sponsorship package which has resulted in the association gaining 2 new sponsors.

Social Media

Our social media has grown a lot in the past year. Issy has joined the association and a part of her role is to manage our social media accounts and create opportunities to promote wheelchair basketball. She has done an incredible job, she created a tik tok account, increased the number of people viewing our posts and has been creating video content that has caught the attention of Basketball Australia. She has also organised a come and try event which will be a multi sport event.

Training

We have training sessions running Monday night at the lights for juniors, Tuesday mornings at SASI for SASI scholarship holders, Thursday night at Hampstead for seniors, Friday mornings at SASI for SASI scholarship holders and Sunday mornings for development. The attendance is up and down but we encourage players to attend trainings as this is the only way they will be eligible to compete for Adelaide Thunder, represent SA or represent Australia. Tim has done an incredible job running sessions and coordinating with SASI to improve the program being delivered to SASI athletes.

Communication

One of the areas that the association has struggled with is communication. We have tried different methods such as communicating through captains, social media and word of mouth but information seems to be getting missed. As such I have begun a newsletter that will be sent out monthly to keep members informed with the goings on of the association. I hope that this helps improve the relationship between the Board and members and encourage members to please continue to communicate with us so we can help maintain a welcoming environment for all.

Looking forward

We want to continue to create pathways for players, coaches and referees. We have had great success in terms of players playing at international and national levels, referees at international and national level and coaches being invited to national camps. We want to ensure we have a friendly environment for players wanting to develop and a competitive environment to push those wanting to go further to their limits.

Thank you
Lucinda Bueti
SAWBA Chairperson