

## **Chairperson report 2024**

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 to revive the Adelaide Thunder team.

### **Adelaide Wheelchair Basketball League**

This season teams were allowed to select their own players, on paper it worked but in practice it fell short in some areas. Division 2 became unequal, with yellow being the only team to trade players it became dominant resulting in games that were clearly one sided. Division 1 saw a major trade which not all players in the 2 teams affected agreed with creating 1 team that didn't choose to play together which was ineffective, this coupled with players behaviours on court resulted in people not coming out as they did not enjoy it. After feedback provided online we looked at changing teams but this was decided against as in the face to face feedback session those present were against changing teams.

Looking ahead we all need to remember why we are out playing and to treat each other with kindness, if we do this the competition will be welcoming for everyone.

### **Juniors**

Unfortunately due to not enough interest we were unable to put a KCC team in this year, we did have 4 members play interstate. Next year the junior high performance pathway will be run by basketball SA including the KCC team.

We still provide junior sessions for those that wish to participate on a Sunday morning which currently involves 4 juniors. We will continue to provide a junior training session for our members.

### **Australian Pathway**

We currently have 6 athletes on the Australian pathway who were also given the opportunity to apply for a SASI scholarship. We have 3 juniors Kane, Alex and Cooper who went to the under 23's selection camp for the Spinner's AOZ campaign. Lucinda and Katelin will at the end of the year attend the Gliders selection camp for Osaka Cup.

### **Adelaide Thunder**

This year the National League was rebranded and run by Wheelchair Basketball Australia, we entered an open team to the men's competition, whilst we did not win any games this was not our reason for entering. For us we saw it as an opportunity for our athletes to compete against Australia's best, an opportunity that many members have not had available to them for 5 years. We were able to get support from sponsors Enable Fitness, JobEdge, PhysioXtra rehabilitation Clinic and Belgravia Apparel, as well as athletes self funding. There was a lot of good feedback

from the rest of the competition regarding how we as an association conducted ourselves and for our players. WBA and Basketball Australia were both very congratulatory for our efforts this season.

Along with the Thursday training sessions for Adelaide Thunder National League team we had Thunder development training sessions on Monday nights. This has been a highlight for the year with consistent attendance of 9 to 10 players each week and a huge improvement in skills over the past few months. We are putting in a women's team and an individual nominating to play with a team for the Illawarra Festival to provide some of the Monday night athletes with the opportunity to compete in a competition against others from around the Nation.

### **Board**

Unfortunately we have had 3 board members leave their positions over the year, these were as a result of multiple factors, but highlights the stresses that come with being a board member.

There is a lot of work that goes into running the Association and the Board has done an excellent job to achieve the above outcomes. At the time of writing there have been no official nominations for the Board.

### **BSA Partnership**

Multiple aspects of the agreement have not been communicated effectively BSA believe the only aspect they have not upheld is providing coaching or referee courses. The definitions of some aspects are too broad and need clarification. National league was not endorsed by BSA, they provided the association with \$8,000 towards finances from the Basketball Australia grant at the insistence of Basketball Australia but they decided against assisting with social media or court hire. Court hire for the National league cost \$3,849.

The biggest benefit from the partnership is the money saved on court hire for the social league. We save around \$8,000 each financial year on court hire for social.

Moving forward we will continue to work with BSA to ensure the best for the members and the sport.

### **Chairperson/President**

Lucinda Bueti