

President Report - SABSA AGM 9 June 2021

As always, a big thankyou to all scorers, across all grades who volunteer their time to ensure that their team can play. Special thanks to the dedicated core group of scorers who always seem to find time to meet SABSA commitments and responsibilities.

Once again, COVID caused interruptions to the baseball season. 2020/21 saw interruptions to all local divisions. Fortunately, all local grades were able to complete finals series, unlike last year. The Giants schedule was changed many times and ended up being eight days straight with double headers on each day. The Women's Nationals and other Junior National competitions were either cancelled or had their dates and configuration changed many times. These changes meant that finding resources for each event was problematic but the elite scoring group were amazing with their flexibility and patience.

The Women's showcase was moved several times but was finally played as a four-game series in Adelaide. It was a privilege to score during these games; the first to be played in Australia.

Thanks to the efforts of the BSA staff, a grant from Bendigo Bank was secured which has enabled the purchase of 5 new iPads. This will enable SABSA to switch to GameChanger as the online scoring program from next season. GameChanger is used at all National Tournaments and has become the standard used across Australia.

Training on GameChanger use has begun and more is planned to occur before the next season. Negotiations with BSA about getting the GameChanger statistics opened up for all to access has been discussed and Sarah has given a commitment that this will be funded.

Once again, training was offered to any scorer interested in increasing their knowledge in the art of scoring. Thirty-one people responded. This group was divided into four smaller groups to allow for a better student to instructor ratio. Some groups met in person while other groups chose to meet via zoom. Each group covered the training material and did some practice exam questions. Of the students who chose to sit the exam, five were successful in achieving accreditation. While five seems like a small number, the fact that so many students attended the training will help to increase the overall standard and knowledge of scoring in SA. This alone makes the training worthwhile. Thankyou to all the students and trainers for putting in the time and effort to make this happen.

A lot of work has been put into creating a new constitution for SABSA. This; in part; is to comply with the BSA requirement for each of its affiliated associations to be Incorporated. The new constitution will be presented at our AGM in June with the hope that it can be adopted at a special meeting soon after.

Michael Phillips

President SABSA