



2006 President's Report

2006 has seen some consolidation in ultimate in Hobart, with social leagues continuing each season, repeating the formats for outdoor Autumn and indoor Winter leagues from 2005, and the evolution of the Tasmanian Ultimate Championships (TUC) into a 3 team A-League. This year also saw a whole range of new league organisers running leagues. Thanks to league organisers Matt Smith, Aaron Pinkus, Dave Cooke, Sarah Robinson, Basil van Riet, John Kristensen and Tim Johnson for running TUA leagues in 2006, with ever present support from Jeff Dunn. Thanks also to all the new players for coming along to TUA social leagues and to the old players for coming back for more!

Thanks also to Matt Smith for stepping up to take over the job of Two-Hat Tournament Director. Two-Hat VIII was held at North Hobart Oval in October, with record equalling numbers (48 players and 5 teams) and once again with good support from interstate players. Thanks also to the following people for helping Matt to run the tournament: Alysia Cullen; Shavawn Donoghue; Masni Bennet; Helena Bilton; Joe Boyer; Felix Kennedy; Ash Martens; Mike Baker; Aaron Pinkus; Sam Waugh; John Kristensen and James Bowe. Shavawn Donoghue's record in being a member of the spirit winning team 5 times is particularly notable - especially given that this award has only been made for the last 6 Two-Hats!

The Tassie Tiggers again ventured across Bass Strait twice in 2006, first to qualify for the Australian Ultimate Championship at the Southern Australian Ultimate Championships, held in Melbourne in March 2006. This team had 12 players, including 6 first time Tiggers. Despite lacking some match practice, the Tiggers finished in 6th place and thanks to wildcards and another team giving up their place, the Tiggers secured a place at Nationals.

The Tiggers finished in 15th place out of 18 teams in the Open Division at Nationals. This final placing was three places above their seeding and ahead of two teams that had beaten them at the qualifying tournament. This was a sensational result for the Tiggers, especially given the small team size - 13 players, including 5 who hadn't played Nationals for a Tasmanian team previously. Mike Dunne also received a special TUA youth development grant which provided financial assistance for him to play for the Tiggers in Melbourne at the qualifying tournament, and to give him some exposure to elite level ultimate early in his ultimate playing career. Unfortunately Mike Dunne couldn't make it to Sydney for Nationals.

Congratulations to captain Mike Baker for winning the Most Valuable Player (MVP) Award at Nationals for the second year running. Thanks also to Mike for captaining the team, coaching the team and for general team

management, and for ensuring that the Tiggers played Nationals in 2004 and qualified for Nationals in 2005 and 2006. Mike's efforts on behalf of the Tiggers have been much appreciated over the last three years and we wish him well with his move to Darwin.

Shavawn Donoghue and Ash Martens once again played in the Women's Division at Nationals playing for Southside, a strong Sydney based team which finished in 4th place out of 16 teams.

Matt Petrie played for the Moreton Bay Buggers in the National Ultimate Frisbee League (NUFL) in 2006. In addition, 5 Tasmanian players played at the World Ultimate Club Championships held in Perth in November 2006. Kate Godber and Jemery Day played for the Restless Flycatchers in the Mixed Division and finished in 26th place (seeded 30th), Shavawn Donoghue and Ash Martens played for Southside in the Women's division and finished in 10th place (seeded 6th) and Mike Baker played for Thong and finished 2nd in the Open division (seeded 10th). While these are not strictly national teams, having a Tasmanian player come home with a silver medal from an ultimate world championships is a significant achievement!

A mixed Tasmanian team reformed in 2006 and went to Ballarat for Mixed Nationals, after a one year absence from these championships, thanks to the efforts of captains Shavawn Donoghue and Matt Petrie. With very limited numbers of players, Zing managed to finish in a creditable 14th place out of 20 teams, improving on their seed of 16th.

The University of Tasmania Ultimate Frisbee Club had mixed fortunes with a decline in the attendance at the weekly lunchtime pickup games. On the positive side, the club managed to put together their first ever mixed team to attend an interstate tournament. This team travelled to Ballarat for the Southern University games where they finished 7th out of 12 teams (with 4 wins and 4 losses for the tournament) and qualified for the Australian University Games. After playing their first ever tournament as a team, the team improved even further. The University of Tasmania Ultimate Frisbee Club team finished the Australian University Games played in Adelaide in September in 8th place out of 17 teams, having been seeded 14th, and finishing as the third ranked team in the southern region.

Congratulations to Ash Martens for her selection on the 2006 Green and Gold Merit Team which is selected at the Australian University Games every year. Ash is the first Tasmanian to be selected for this "team". Thanks also to Ash Martens for driving the formation of the first University of Tasmania ultimate team too.

Ashley Button was selected to represent Australia at the World Junior Ultimate Championships in Boston in August 2006. Ashley is the first Tasmanian to represent Australia at an international ultimate tournament - and the Australian Junior Boys team finished in a very creditable 4th place, narrowly missing out on a medal and the team won the spirit of the game award. The TUA was pleased to be able support Ashley by awarding him a

junior development grant to help him play for his country. Ash's selection to the Australian team also resulted in 4 minutes of coverage on the ABC's Stateline, which provided some good publicity for ultimate in Tasmania.

For 2006, it has been fantastic to see the return of a Tasmanian team at Mixed Nationals, a University of Tasmania team forming, Ashley Button playing for Australia, five Tasmanians playing at World Clubs, and an increase in the number of women playing ultimate. Goals for 2007 and beyond include aiming to get a first Tasmanian Women's team to Nationals, developing more youth players, and possibly a youth team in one of our leagues and moving towards a weeknight league which includes more than one division and continuing to recruit new player at the grass roots level.

The TUA has strengthened its sound financial position thanks to the work of Shavawn Donoghue as treasurer and due to the number of well run TUA events throughout the year. This puts the TUA in a strong position to continue development of the sport, by supporting junior players, women's development, elite development and increasing the ultimate playing opportunities in Hobart, ranging from social to competitive.

Finally, I would like to thank all the members of the TUA committee, and others who attended TUA committee meetings, for helping to make things happen. In particular I wish to thank Mike Baker who is stepping down after three years as secretary of the TUA, and Tim Phillips who is stepping down as vice-president after two years in the job. Mike and Tim have both contributed significantly to the TUA during their time on the executive. Without people volunteering their time and energy, there would be no ultimate in Hobart! I look forward to seeing more people stepping up to help run ultimate in Tasmania in 2007.

Jemery Day.
TUA President