



2007 President's Report

The highlights of 2007 have been numerous including hosting the Southern Australian Ultimate Championships, the first Tasmanian women's team to attend nationals, the *Tiggers* qualifying for Nationals in a competitive region, the success of the elite Tasmanian women ultimate players, the further development of two divisions and the growth in our social league, the University of Tasmania's success at AUG, the continued growth of the Two-Hat and the introduction of more Tasmanian juniors to the sport through the inaugural Gala Day.

Hobart Leagues

2007 has seen further consolidation in ultimate in Hobart. Social leagues continued outdoors in Autumn and indoors for winter league. Summer league saw the last season of weekend A-League games in Hobart (which complemented the weekday evening B-League games). While the departure of A-League may be seen as a backward step, the Spring league ran two separate divisions on the one evening (social and div 1). This format produced enough interest for 6 teams in each division, and problems finding enough field space (a much more satisfying problem to deal with than problems finding sufficient players).

This year saw some recycled league organisers coming back for more (thanks to Aaron Pinkus, Matt Smith, Dave Cooke and Basil van Riet) and some new league organisers, Jason de Puit and Masni Bennett, who deserve much credit for successfully introducing two divisions to Monday evening games. Thanks to Jeff Dunn for processing results for TUA leagues. Thanks also to all the new players for coming along to TUA social leagues to the old players for coming back for more!

Two-Hat

Thanks to Matt Smith for directing his second highly successful Two-Hat Tournament. Two-Hat IX was forced to move fields by sheer weight of player numbers with a record breaking 67 players and 7 teams playing back at Wentworth Park on Hobart's eastern shore. Two-Hat IX had excellent support from interstate players with our first players from Newcastle and Brisbane, as well as good support from players from Melbourne and Sydney.

Thanks to the following people for helping Matt to run the tournament: Alysia Cullen; Shavawn Donoghue; Masni Bennet; Helena Bilton; Joe Boyer; John Kristensen and James Bowe.

Southern Australian Ultimate Championships

The TUA hosted a very successful Southern Australian Ultimate Championships in March 2007 featuring 6 Open teams and 5 women's teams, with 9 teams travelling from South Australia and Victoria to attend. This tournament was the largest tournament ever held in Tasmania, eclipsing both the famous Two-Hat and the Australian Championships, last held in Tasmania in 1986 and 1989.

The Southern Australian Ultimate Championships featured the first Tasmanian women's ultimate team, *Bush*, who qualified for nationals at their first attempt, finishing 4th at this tournament and winning the spirit prize in their first tournament. The *Tassie Tiggers* also qualified for nationals by finishing in 5th place and securing a wild card. Both teams finished above their seedings at this tournament. Thanks to Ash Martens for putting her hand up and running this tournament so successfully, and to Ash's band of helpers (Matt Smith, Jeff Dunn, Chucky Wall, Mike Baker, Aaron Just, Charlie Prevost and Paolo).

Australian Ultimate Championships

Having qualified for Nationals at home, the Tassie teams only had to travel across Bass Strait once in 2007 to Nationals in Melbourne, where *Bush* finished a creditable 11th place (seeded 13th) and the *Tassie Tiggers* finished in 16th place. The *Tiggers* also reclaimed the coveted Spirit prize at Nationals, last won by the *Tiggers* in 2003. Thanks to *Tiggers* captain John Kristensen and *Bush* co-captains Shavawn Donoghue and Ash Martens for organising these teams.

Australian Mixed Ultimate Championships

A Tasmanian team, *LOG!*, captained by Shavawn Donoghue travelled to Sydney for Mixed Nationals in October 2007 and finished in a creditable 15th place in this increasingly competitive tournament.

University of Tasmania Ultimate

The University of Tasmania Ultimate Frisbee Club again sent a team to the Australian University Games. This team was seeded 7th and improved on this seeding to finish in 5th place, the highest ranking for a Tasmanian team at a National tournament. Thanks to captain Tania King for organising this team and congratulation to Tania and Ash Martens who were both selected on the 2007 Green and Gold Merit Team. The University also entered a team (based on their successful AUG team) in Division 1 of Spring League.

Elite Players

In July 2007, Shavawn Donoghue, Kate Godber, Ash Martens and Tania King were selected for the Women's National Training camp and Shavawn Donoghue, and Tania King played for *Canberra* and Kate Godber and Ash Martens for *Sultry* in the National Ultimate Frisbee League (NUFL) in 2007. Ashley Button played NUFL in the Open competition for *Heads of State*. Ex-Tasmanian men, Mike Baker, Ian Warren and Tom Caldwell were selected for the first Men's National Training camp.

These camps and leagues were the first step in the process of selecting Australian teams for World Championships in 2008. The next cut was the announcement of the Australian squads in October 2007, which saw Shavawn Donoghue, Ash Martens and Tania King and ex-Tasmanian Mike Baker all selected.

Schools Development

Tania King initiated the first Gala Day held in Tasmania in November 2007, featuring ultimate players from 5 Tasmanian High Schools and a band of TUA volunteer helpers. In addition to this gala day, Tasmanian ultimate players helped run coaching sessions at Collegiate and Rosetta High School during the year. The TUA was sorry to see Tania return to Sydney at the end of 2007 chasing employment opportunities, thank her for her efforts on behalf of the TUA and wish her well with her continuing ultimate career.

Administration

The TUA has strengthened its financial position thanks to the work of Shavawn Donoghue as treasurer and due to the number of well run TUA tournaments and leagues 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. In addition, 2007 saw the TUA's first successful grant application with \$2100 awarded to spend on equipment under the federal government's Volunteer Small Equipment Grant scheme.

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 would like to thank Treasurer Shavawn Donoghue for her continued work and John Kristensen and Joe Boyer for stepping up into executive positions. I look forward to seeing more people stepping up to help run ultimate in Tasmania in 2008.

Jemery Day.
TUA President