



WINTER 2018 - OUR INAUGURAL SEASON

# ANNUAL REPORT

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APRIL 2019  
[WWW.SAABL.COM](http://WWW.SAABL.COM)



*Kevin Brooks*

# PATRON'S REPORT

I believe in the tremendous power of basketball to do good for our community. When everyone has the opportunity to be involved in a league that is run professionally, highly competitive and fun for everyone, the whole community wins. SAABL has already started delivering that in its very first year and I am proud to be a part of it as the Founding Patron and the coach of my team of young and developing talent: KB's Hit Squad.

My involvement throughout almost all levels of basketball in South Australia means I know how important it is that the game is growing in terms of both quality and participation. Strength at the elite levels such as the NBL and National Team, and even in the NBA, starts with quality competitions at the grassroots. In short, I believe you need to have as many people as possible enjoying playing the game as often as possible with the right coaching and officiating support.

We have had a focus on making SAABL fun. We want it to be a professionally run competition, but not one where we worry about things that do nothing more than make it harder to just play ball.



Over the years, I've been involved with Basketball in many countries and at many levels including playing in the highest professional level of all, the NBA, and I can safely say that SAABL is right up there in terms of the calibre of league administration. We are clear in our goals of what we want to see and how we believe we can go about achieving our goals. Then we work hard as a team to make it happen.

On court, basketball is a team sport that requires people with different skills to complement one another and to work hard for each other. Running the League has been a similar experience as we have brought together a strong team with different and complementary strengths to build this League from scratch.

I'm looking forward to continuing to work with the SAABL Leadership Team, Clubs, teams, Players and Officials over the coming year to give more people across South Australia more opportunities to come together and play basketball. We all know you get better with practice, so I'm looking forward to a bigger and better SAABL in 2019 and beyond!

Sean Heylen

# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



What a year! I can confidently say that we have achieved our objective of providing the best Saturday afternoon basketball competition in South Australia using the best venues with the best officiating outside of District basketball. I am extremely proud of what we have achieved in the Inaugural South Australian Amateur Basketball League season.

In late 2017 we gathered as the foundation team of Board members fueled by the tireless enthusiasm and work ethic of Ben Palk - whom would become our Founding Executive Officer. Ben's relentless efforts to drive and manage the day to day operations of SAABL has been the bedrock of our League. He is the main reason we now enjoy SAABL and I want to recognise and thank him accordingly in this: our first SAABL Annual Report.

In early 2018 the foundation Board put our governance framework in place, finalised the League's Incorporation as a not for profit and legally founded our new League. There are three key reasons SAABL has succeeded so strongly in its inaugural year of operation:

1. The SAABL Board has performed outstandingly well as a group of passionate volunteers, all of whom are respected professionals in their various fields of work-life along with being great basketball loving people committed to the support and growth of the grass roots of our sport. In short, I can confidently say that our leadership team and the voluntary work they have done this year are of the highest calibre.

2. The Clubs, Teams and Players of SAABL have embraced this new paradigm in SA basketball and really engaged with the Board and our great team of game day Officials along with our shared common sense way of doing things. With very few exceptions, everyone has represented themselves and the sport with a wonderful mutual respect and open lines of communication, while at the same time being highly competitive on the court. Our umpiring and refereeing is of the highest standard possible and the way our Umpires in Charge and Stadium Supervisors go about their Saturday afternoons is to be commended and is already recognised as best practice by everyone in our community.

3. Our sponsors and supporters have gone above and beyond to make sure SAABL has everything it needs to succeed, and in doing so, provide a basketball community for people from all walks of life to participate in. In particular, I would like to call out the enormous support afforded to SAABL by our legal and governance partners: Finlaysons Lawyers, our Patron Kevin Brooks Basketball, our uniform partner Ozlooms and our beverage sponsor Coopers. Grant funding from the Government of South Australia was also instrumental in the setup stage and it cannot be overstated how important that was to enable the momentum we have carried through the year. Just before this annual report was published in early 2019, SAABL also received grant funding support from the Federal Government to continue our push to setup a Women's competition and continue our technology acquisitions in support of the growth of the League.



The key venues we have used to play our matches and the people behind those venues should be recognised for the invaluable head start they gave SAABL in getting things off the ground: Prince Alfred College and Saint Peters College, and more recently MARS Sporting Complex through Life Be In It. Having access to some of the best stadiums in South Australia has been key for SAABL. So, where does SAABL go from here? As mentioned above, our next step is to create a vibrant Women's competition. The Board has set that as the number one strategic priority for SAABL in 2019. We expect to succeed in this endeavour given the level of interest that has already been expressed to us by the community, just as we did in setting up our 2 Men's grades in 2018. The Board also expects to build on the Men's competitions in 2019 with the addition of another 10 to 15 teams in 2 more grades.

SAABL was the first Saturday afternoon basketball competition in South Australia to embrace the use of new technologies to enhance the game day experience and make administration of our games easier and more enjoyable for all involved, at the same time as providing more information about performance to the Clubs, Teams, Players and Officials. We expect to go one better moving forward and are currently in the research and vendor selection stage for video recording and live-streaming of our games.

I could write thousands of words about the many great ideas that have come out of both the SAABL Board and the SAABL community as a whole, but the key thing that we have done better than anyone else and will continue to stay focussed on is listening carefully and actively to what the Clubs, Teams, Players and Officials want for their basketball community. The Board is 100% committed to continue working hard on doing everything we can to provide for our community's ongoing needs, especially when those needs change and develop, within realistic and common sense boundaries. It is quite simply all about open lines of communication and clear and regular feedback in a respectful and constructive dialogue.

*My heartfelt thanks goes to everyone that has volunteered their time and worked for the betterment of basketball on Saturday afternoons in South Australia and I look forward to seeing you at one of our venues soon.*

*Ben Palk*

## WINTER SEASON REVIEW

In 2017, I attended the SA Church Basketball Association AGM with Sean Heylen. Sean and I had the vision to improve the quality and competition of amateur basketball on Saturday in Adelaide. Sean delivered a careful, well-reasoned and thoughtful pitch to the members of the SACBA to become president of the Association, he was beaten by a vote of 26-3. In my mind, that night was the night that the SA Amateur Basketball League was born: 27th October 2017!

Sean and I spent two months developing the vision and mission of this new league, we wanted to be the best administered, well organised basketball association in Adelaide, with a focus of inclusion, excellent officiating and common sense. The vision was to create a senior Men's and Women's basketball competition in metropolitan Adelaide. As Sean focused on the big picture - establishing contacts, building relationships, media relations, and developing our network, I focused on the operations. We developed a marketing plan and started to approach potential clubs and sponsors.



One of the earliest sponsors to come on board was Vin Nair from OZLOOMS – a uniform and sports apparel company. Vin is well known in the SA basketball community, his network and support helped legitimise our new league in its infancy. Vin's sponsorship saw OZLOOMS providing excellent uniforms for our member clubs at cost as an incentive to join the new league. His support was vital in getting the competition off the ground. In addition, it was Vin's team that designed the SAABL logo and provided apparel for our referees and officials.

Sean and I were speaking daily as the league gathered steam through late 2017. During these conversations we established the name of our new league, SA Amateur Basketball League. The name was chosen to align with other Saturday sports in metropolitan Adelaide and differentiate ourselves from other Saturday and mid-week Associations. We set up our website at [www.SAABL.com](http://www.SAABL.com) and Facebook group in which members were adding and sharing every day – in a month we had 600 members and now we have over 1000 members.

Recruiting clubs then started in earnest. Our first targets were Prince Alfred Old Collegians and Saint Peters Old Collegians Basketball Clubs. Our pitch was focused on being the “best competition, in the best stadiums, with the best officiating outside of District”.

As those clubs went to their members, we started having other conversations with well-established basketball clubs and community organisations. Tim Muehlberg came on board early with his RAVSTASS organisation, and they have been an incredible support to the Association since its inception. Brad Haydon from Forestville was interested early and came aboard with two teams. Shea Banks from Moonshiners and Tim Moors from Pick N Pop registered their interest very early and signed up when SAABL was in its infancy. Then through a number of conversations we managed to get 12 clubs to register teams, Josh Warnock from Adelaide Uni Black, Rashard Tucker and Rod Brown from Game Time Moves, the A-Town Warriors joined and Will Jang started a new basketball club with his school: the Old Ignatius Basketball Club.

Through Sean's contacts, we were very lucky to have a TV news report on Channel 10 and newspaper articles in the Messenger Press. Through this publicity Jesse Welsh and Matt Turner started a new club called Southside Spartans. Then a late sign up, Jon Deuter started a club named "The Schvitz" which his players would use to prepare for tournament basketball in October.



With our 12 clubs and 21 teams, we formed two Divisions, Division 1 with 12 teams and Division 2 with 9 teams. In a 16 weeks season, we were innovative with our draw and made two 6 team conferences in Division 1, where everyone played everyone from their own conference twice and everyone from the other conference once. With 4 games to go A-Town withdrew from the League. While this caused some issues, we managed it well and got through to the end of the season. The games were all very competitive and the basketball was of the highest standard.

In Division 1, Saint Peters had two teams make the semi-finals, with PAOCBC and The Schvitz. In two incredibly competitive semi-finals, the Schvitz and SPOC Blue won through to the Grand Final. In Division 2, Spartans beat PAOCBC Red in the elimination final and RAVSTASS beat Spartans to make the Grand Final against Adelaide Uni Blacks.

In the Division 1 Grand Final, the Schvitz beat SPOC Blues 56-47, with Thomas McKenzie winning the Grand Final MVP. In the Division 2 Grand Final, Adelaide Uni Blacks beat RAVSTASS Ravens 56-45 with Toby Lightheart winning the Grand Final MVP.



We wrapped up the inaugural season with an awards night at the Walkerville RSL. We had a great medal count with Aljosa Severinski from The Schvitz winning the Division 1 Kevin Brooks MVP, the Division 2 MVP was Ngor Daniel from RAVSTASS Ravens and the Phil Haines Award for Best Referee went to Todd MacDonald.

For a first season I believe that it went incredibly well, because the feedback from our community was almost universally positive. We learnt some lessons along the way - we had some basketball incidents that we felt we could have handled differently in hindsight. We also fell short in starting a Women's competition and there is still some work to do in this space. All things considered I think we have been incredibly successful in fulfilling the vision that we had back in October 2017.

On a personal note – I want to thank the board for their unbelievable efforts – William Strangways, Ben Bishop, Liam Golding, Kirsten Gordge, Isabella Robertson and Billy Wilson. Thanks to all of the extra supporters we have had along the way – Sally Siggs, Lyn Wieland, Greg Love and Jarrod Cresp. Special thanks to Kevin Brooks for being an amazing support to our competition and being an even better person and to Phil Haines. The work he has done to support this league with officiating and basketball expertise and knowledge is a major reason for our success. My largest thanks is to Sean Heylen, we envisaged this together but he is the one that made it work.





*Phil Haines*

# UMPIRE IN CHARGE'S REPORT

Our main objective has been to provide a high standard of officiating right across the league. To do this I enlisted the help of Jarrod Cresp (Premier League and National Wheelchair Basketball League official) and Nathan Durant (current NBL official) to assist me with monitoring and educating our referees.

We really worked on bringing in officials that would both complement the league values and each other. Our vision was to use the league as a development group, challenging our team to better themselves throughout the season with a view to seeing them progress into higher competition with Basketball SA.

I believe that as a group we did very well in providing the games with a high level of officiating and thereby allowing high quality competition on game day. Did we make mistakes? Yes, of course we did, but we should be measured on how we learnt from those errors. I hope in the coming season to introduce further types of education aids which I will touch on later.



We have also made an effort to recruit young female officials into the league to provide a clear pathway for women in sport. We see this as an excellent opportunity for them to work with highly experienced mentors on great quality of games to help nurture their confidence and allow them to set clear goals for the year ahead. We hope to grow this number even more for the upcoming winter season.

The hope moving forward is that with the aid of more funding, we could purchase more iPads to allow us to clip games and provide visual feedback to our referees which would fast track their learning. I also hope to bring in other experienced officials to help mentor the group. With the likely increase in the number of teams, a suitable court supervisor for an additional venue will need to be added to our team.

Our leadership group will be working hard over the summer to ensure we have the core ingredients in place to help the league grow and continue to provide a competitive yet fun environment to enjoy basketball.

*Inaugural SAABL Board*

## BOARD REPORT

The South Australian Amateur Basketball League Inc. ("SAABL") held its Inaugural General Meeting on the 7th of February 2018. Kindly hosted by key SAABL sponsor Finlaysons Lawyers in their Boardroom, the meeting saw the election of office bearers and regular members of the league board of management as well as the adoption of our league's constitution. As well as fulfilling the legislative requirements for the league to become an incorporated association, this first meeting set an ambitious plan for the establishment and development of the league. The board affirmed our vision for 2020: a competition of 100 teams with the best officiating, the best competition, and at the best stadiums.

Our achievements through this first year have been beyond our expectations, however this merely places additional pressure on the Board to continue our development at an accelerated pace. The board will now focus on expanding participation to include a women's competition and more teams from Adelaide's ethnically diverse communities. Additionally, we expect additional teams from our existing clubs and we will work to attract entirely new clubs to our growing league.

The SAABL Board of Management has achieved a colossal amount in its first year. Essential achievements for the proper legal functioning of professionally run competition, such as successfully registering as an incorporated association, opening a bank account, and receiving an Australian Business Number were achieved in a two week period in February. The league also secured the appropriate insurance policies and the IT equipment required to receive payments and operate as a cashless league comfortably in advance of the commencement of the season.

The Board procured a logo to brand our league and worked with our sponsor, Ozlooms, to produce uniforms for our umpires and officials as well as an extremely low-cost uniform option for teams that included SAABL branding. From the first round of matches, the league succeeded in delivering a corporate image that projected our identity as Adelaide's premier strictly amateur competition.

Match-day policies were developed with the intention of ensuring a safe and player-friendly experience for all involved in our competition. The Board also ensured the league constitution, codes of conduct for players and spectators, as well as by-laws were available to all attendees at our stadiums. League Executive Officer, Ben Palk, and Umpire in Charge, Phil Haines, are to be commended for all they achieved.

The setting up of a new association requires a great deal of legislative compliance, following of process, and establishing precedents that may not be tested for a long time, but must be well thought out. The league has been incredibly lucky to be able to rely on the services of our legal officer Kirsten Gordge and the support of Finlaysons Lawyers. In addition to hosting our Board meetings and ensuring our legal compliance, Kirsten Gordge and Finlaysons Lawyers also provided vital support when the league dealt with its sole disciplinary matter for the year. The single incident referred to the tribunal related to a breach of the spectator code of conduct. It was heard promptly and led to a sanction of 4 weeks suspension, in line with the guidelines set by the leagues code. It is unfortunate that this outcome was met with dissent, however the process was followed appropriately and the certainty provided to the league from the outcome provided clarity to the league about the rigour and firmness of the boards resolve. No further incidents occurred through the remainder of the year. The guidance and assistance was vital to successfully navigating this most challenging period for the league this season.

Recruitment of teams was led by Vice Chair William Strangways and required remarkable tenacity, but his relentless efforts, in partnership with others on the board, led to a strong recruiting outcome of 21 teams.

The Board has also worked hard to secure substantial amounts of grant funding from both the State and Federal Governments to fast track the establishment of our league. The South Australian Government provided \$25,000 to support infrastructure acquisition and to underpin the league's focus on providing teams from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds an elite standard amateur level competition. For season two, the Federal Government has provided half of the funding for the league's \$13,000 inclusive expansion project. This support demonstrates that the Board has already created a league with the rigour and legitimacy required to successfully apply for competitively allocated Government grant funding. The Board will continue to work hard to identify available grants that can support our league mission of providing the best officiated, strongest competition, held in the best stadiums in South Australia. All the while ensuring that our league is also the most open and inclusive basketball competition in the State.

Sponsorship was also provided to the league by Coopers, The Archer Hotel, the Kevin Brooks Basketball Academy, and the aforementioned Finlaysons Lawyers and OZLOOMS. The assistance provided by these league partners was vital to the development of the league and amounted to thousands of dollars of in kind support. Our partnership approach to sponsorship broadly provided our teams and players exposure to the products and services provided by our sponsors. This led to our league's teams and players accessing excellent and exclusive offers of which many took advantage. The Board will continue to work hard to identify league partners that will offer our teams and players outstanding opportunities while supporting the growth of our league.

Financially, the Board has coped extremely well with the need to establish budgets from scratch without certainty about the total number of teams in the league, and therefore expenditure requirements, until the competition commenced. The Treasurer, Billy Wilson, and Chair, Sean Heylen, led the Board through a thorough process of revenue and expenditure projections that were refined as the season progressed. Combined with effective capital controls that have facilitated expenditure when required and the timely payment of accounts while preventing excessive spending, the league completes its first season in a strong financial position. A net surplus of \$12,800, some \$1,300 dollars above budget, was delivered.

## Statement of Cash Flows

### South Australian Amateur Basketball League Incorporated For the 9 months ended 30 September 2018

JAN-SEP 2018

#### Operating Activities

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Receipts from customers                         | 49,283.07        |
| Payments to suppliers                           | (36,426.74)      |
| <b>Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b> | <b>12,856.33</b> |

#### Investing Activities

|   |                   |
|---|-------------------|
| Payment for property, plant and equipment       | (6,634.96)        |
| <b>Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities</b> | <b>(6,634.96)</b> |

#### Net Cash Flows

6,221.37

#### Cash at Bank

|                                      |                 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Opening Cash Balance                 | -               |
| Closing Cash Balance                 | 6,221.37        |
| <b>Net change in cash for period</b> | <b>6,221.37</b> |

Finally, the Board would like to thank the efforts of everyone who has made this first winter season a success in so many ways. From our referees and umpires in charge, without whom we'd have no competition at all, to our sponsors, management of our stadia at St Peter's College, Prince Alfred College, and Mars Recreation Centre, our supporters and of course the players, thanks to everyone. SAABL has built a community who seem to have embraced South Australia's newest basketball competition, thank you to all you have done to deliver an exciting and enjoyable first season. Now for season 2019's first meeting, we set an ambitious plan for the establishment and development of the league. The board affirmed our vision for 2020: a competition of 100 teams with the best officiating, the best competition, and at the best stadiums.



# Income Statement

South Australian Amateur Basketball League Incorporated

For the 9 months ended 30 September 2018

Cash Basis

|                              | ACTUALS          | BUDGET           | VARIANCE          |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Income</b>                |                  |                  |                   |
| Game Day Tickets             | 22,293.07        | 23,440.00        | (1,146.93)        |
| Grants                       | 25,000.00        | 25,000.00        | -                 |
| Team Registration Fees       | 1,800.00         | 2,100.00         | (300.00)          |
| Umpire Administration Fees   | 190.00           | 250.00           | (60.00)           |
| <b>Total Income</b>          | <b>49,283.07</b> | <b>50,790.00</b> | <b>(1,506.93)</b> |
| <b>Expenses</b>              |                  |                  |                   |
| Advertising & Marketing      | 4,585.48         | 2,000.00         | 2,585.48          |
| Bank & Merchant Fees         | 381.38           | 540.00           | (158.62)          |
| Filing fees                  | 192.00           | 192.00           | -                 |
| General Expenses             | 455.15           | 2,800.00         | (2,344.85)        |
| Insurance                    | 2,124.84         | 2,125.00         | (0.16)            |
| League Functions             | 2,459.50         | 2,500.00         | (40.50)           |
| Stadium Hire                 | 10,495.00        | 13,483.00        | (2,988.00)        |
| Subscriptions                | 2,250.22         | 2,625.00         | (374.78)          |
| Telephone & Internet         | 260.67           | 235.00           | 25.67             |
| Trophies                     | 2,918.50         | 3,000.00         | (81.50)           |
| Umpire Costs                 | 10,304.00        | 9,789.00         | 515.00            |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>        | <b>36,426.74</b> | <b>39,289.00</b> | <b>(2,862.26)</b> |
| <b>Net Surplus/(Deficit)</b> | <b>12,856.33</b> | <b>11,501.00</b> | <b>1,355.33</b>   |



For more information about SAABL or to contact us go to  
[www.SAABL.com](http://www.SAABL.com)