

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUSTRALIAN SHUFFLEBOARD ASSOCIATION TO THE 2018
ANNUAL MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL SHUFFLEBOARD ASSOCIATION AT HIGH RIVER,
ALBERTA, CANADA - July 2018

How quickly another year of shuffleboarding in Australia seems to have passed, it is hard to know whether it is the enjoyment of this wonderful game that seems to make time pass so quickly or just 'old age'.

We have continued during the year to play three days a week at the Elanora courts and one day a week at the Coolangatta courts. All members can play on each or any of the days.

We are pleased that during the year we have arrested the decline in our membership and are now on the increase. In the last few months this has gained momentum with a number of the new members now introducing friends.

The problem of satisfying a smaller group of very competitive players and a larger group of social players and beginners continues, we have to ensure that the social players and beginners do not become disheartened by never winning a game or a prize or are embarrassed to the extent of resigning by being completely demolished by the competitive group.

Having tournaments is not popular as the outcome has become completely predictable. We have tried with some success having 'fun tournaments' where by drawing lots a strong player is partnered with a weaker player for the tournament and this has now created some interest in tournaments.

In the next year we are proposing to introduce a system of handicapping so that players of any standard can play each other with a more equal chance of winning a game. The 'bragging' right being the handicap you play off.

Win three games in a row and you have a handicap of starting games on minus 10, lose three games in a row and you have a handicap of starting games on plus 10. The handicaps would continue to be adjusted so eventually each player would have to fight hard to win. It could be one player starts on minus 30 and the opposition for that game starts on plus 10. It will be interesting to see how it works out. In theory every game should have an interesting outcome not a predictable one.

In Australia for shuffleboard we have no gender bias, ladies play gentlemen on an equal basis. The handicapping should overcome any, if there is any, inequality due to gender.

The Australian Association once again continues is in a strong financial position and has been able to keep its playing fees to a very modest amount.

We are pleased that we are able to field three players to play in the United Nations teams at High River this July.

Ian Reiher,
President ASA
26th May. 2018