

Rolling On—May 2011



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President Report

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On behalf of the players and Committee I would like to warmly welcome everyone attending the Pride Mobility Family and Friends/Finals Day for the Victorian Electric Wheelchair Sporting Association (VEWSA). The end of the season is a time to reflect on our year and look towards planning for our next season. The highlights of this season have been our Bendigo game and the very enjoyable Albury weekend. We are also very proud of our State team, the Pride Warriors for their valiant efforts in the National Electric Wheelchair Sports in Sydney. The regional competition fielded only 3 teams (The Patriots, The Panthers and The Broncos) this year but despite the overall decline in numbers the competition was fierce, with some exciting matches. Our challenge this year and in previous years has been to attract more players to the sport and to encourage players to attend regularly. Participation in sports has many benefits including developing social skills and building team and leadership skills, to name a few. For me personally, VEWSA has provided me with the opportunity to be actively involved in my son's interests and to form long lasting friendships. We are very excited about our recent affiliation with the Australian Powerchair Football Association. Powerchair Football, which is in its infancy in Australia, is played internationally and has the potential for attracting more players to VEWSA. In the meantime we welcome any suggestions for ways to increase membership.

In closing I would firstly like to thank my fellow Committee members for all their hard work and support during the year. Secondly, I would like to thank the parents, carers, umpires and officials who volunteer to help out where ever it is needed. Volunteers are the backbone of our association and all help is greatly appreciated. Finally, on behalf of VEWSA and the players I would like to thank our generous sponsors and supporters Pride Mobility Australia, Motion Wheelchairs, Maroondah City Council, DSR, RACV and the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

I hope you all have an enjoyable day and look forward to the 2011/2012 season.

We have also decided NOT to hold the end of season presentation day. Trophies and awards will be given out at the season launch for 2011/12.

Grace



The committee of VEWSA recommend all players join Disability sport and recreation (DSR).

DSR is the health promoting peak organisation for disability sport and recreation in Victoria with its mission to provide and promote positive health outcomes for Victorians with a disability through sport and recreation.

So why join? Firstly its free! VEWSA is a partner and we hope to get new players through our partnership. **DSR also provide grants for disabled players to attend competitions (like NEWS). More details to come on this.**

Either complete the application form given out today or join online at www.dsr.org.au

NEWS 2011 Report

RESULTS:	Soccer	1st NSW	2nd VIC	3rd QLD
	Hockey	1st NSW	2nd VIC	3rd QLD
	Rugby	1st NSW	2nd SA	3rd VIC

Victorian Best and Fairest: Andrew Brandreth

NEWS Overall Best and Fairest: Andrew Brandreth (VIC)

All Australian Team: Andrew Brandreth (Captain), Luke David

All Stars Teams: Jules North-Coombs, Chris Green, Jamie McBryde

Once again the National Electric Wheelchair Sports (NEWS) were held in Narrabeen NSW in April 2011. The Victorian State Team (The Pride Warriors) consisted of Chris Green (Captain), Jamie McBryde (Co Vice Captain), Luke David (Co Vice Captain), Andrew Brandreth, Jules North-Coombs and Michael Deayton, while Michael Murdaca and Sam Rendell represented the ACT at the games. The Pride Warriors coach was Hans Boers. This year four players were able to attend the games due to the generosity of the Muscular Dystrophy Association who kindly donated the use of the MDA bus.

The sports began with the traditional Opening Ceremony and Service Awards. Congratulations to Chris, Anne and John Green on the acknowledgement of their 10 years of Service. With the formalities over it was time for the competition. It was obvious every player was built up with excitement.

Day 1. Balloon Soccer! We were eager to go one better than last year when we just lost against NSW in the finals. We knew we would be facing tough competition. We couldn't take any of the opposition lightly. In our first game of the day the team started off slow just edging out SA 2-1. Qld was next, with new players in their team we weren't sure what to expect. We worked hard as a team which gave us the win 2-1. In the next two games against WA and ACT we started to play better. It was now time for the real test against NSW. It was a tough game with the final score 2-1 against Victoria. We knew we were capable of beating them; we only had to tweak our game to give us a better chance in the finals.

Day2. Hockey! It was our sport, the sport Victoria had dominated in the 26 history of NEWS, losing only 5 finals. We wanted to go back to back in the hockey. It was a good performance all round from the guys with QLD and NSW fiercely challenging us for a spot in the finals. Qld managed to draw with us while we just beat NSW 2-1 with Andrew scoring a last minute goal to give us a win and secure a spot in the Grand Final against NSW.

Day3. Rugby! The trophy we desperately wanted. Victoria had never won a Rugby Grand Final, we were close last year but we just fell short. We wanted to play well to get another shot at it. Our first round robin game against SA didn't go to plan. A disappointing first half and a wrong call in the second half didn't help our chances and we lost to SA 18-22. We picked up in the next few games but once again NSW was our greatest challenge. We came so close. With a minute to go and the score at 12-14 Andrew kicked the ball and I was right on to it. But unfortunately it had too much power and it went off court before I could get to it. We fell short of making the Rugby Grand Final by 1 game.

After a day of relaxation came the biggest day of the week. Grand Final Day. Just like last year it was us battling NSW in the Soccer. The match started off well, with both teams having early chances to score. NSW gained momentum and then took control of the game. We tried our best but we were just not strong enough to beat the reigning champions with final scores being 2-0 against Victoria. It was time to move on to the next final, Hockey. Our sport, our game. We went undefeated in the round robin matches and we aimed to go undefeated for the whole week. We started slow, very slow. We conceded the first 3 goals and it was going to be hard to get back. We got back into the match with the score at 5-4 and one goal down. An opposition player entering the 3 meter mark gave us a chance for a free hit but it wasn't called. NSW gained control of the ball and made sure there was no time for us to level the score. It was a disappointing loss to Victoria. Our last game of the day was the 3rd against 4th Rugby final against QLD. We played well winning the game 34-20. NSW went on to claim all 3 trophies and the Roger Melnyk Award which has only been done twice in the NEWS history.

News update continued

With the games over it was time to forget about all the rivalry and relax and enjoy ourselves at the Presentation night. Congratulations to Andrew Brandreth for his achievement of both the Best and Fairest Award for Victoria and the Overall Best and Fairest for NEWS. Andrew has also achieved the Victorian record of 242 games at NEWS breaking the previous record of 240 games held by Sam Morgan. Well done Andrew!

On behalf of the players I would like to thank all those who made it possible for us to pursue our passion in sport and represent Victoria at the Nationals. A big thank you goes to our dedicated carers/parents, you guys are amazing. Thank you also to our sponsors Pride Australia and Motions Wheelchairs, the Muscular Dystrophy Association for the loan of the bus, our coach and bus driver Hans Boers, Team Manager John Green and Photographer Bill McBryde. I for one am very proud of my team mates and I am sure everyone else is as well. Next year is our year boys!

Luke David

POWERCHAIR FOOTBALL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP & NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 2011

As previously advised via email, the APFA in partnership with FIPFA (Federation International de Powerchair Football Association) and PFA (NSW) Inc (Power Football Australia (NSW) Incorporated) is planning to hold a development workshop and national championship for the sport at the NSW Sport & Recreation Academy of Sport at Narrabeen, in Sydney from the 14th August to 18th August 2011. This event is open to any members and state teams who would like to attend who use an electric wheelchair. The minimum age allowed to participate is 12 years.

FIPFA will be supplying instructors, officials and a selection of some of the top international athletes to undertake the training and course instructions with the participants.

The event is to be a combined program of a development workshop and our first national championship. The first 3 days will consist of courses for three areas of the sport, Players (Due to numbers and limited positions available the development workshop will be focused on 1st Division athletes who have good basic chair skills or better), coaches & officials and Referees.

The Athlete's course will be for players to develop and learn improved playing skills by learning and practising techniques that will improve ball control, chair control, shooting with the ball, set playing moves and development of a better understanding of the game rules and how best to use this understanding to improve an individual's game.

The course for coaches and officials, as an overview, is aimed at developing their skills and knowledge of the game, how to manage a team, hold competitions, undertake player development programs, improve and develop team playing strategies.

The last 2 days of the event (17th & 18th) will be dedicated to holding the 1st national championship in Australia.

You must lodge your workshop registration form with Grace on finals day as per email.

VEWSA hopes that a few players and officials will attend this workshop.

TRIBUTE TO BRENTON POWELL (29/12/1988 – 29/3/2011)

Brenton became interested in VEWSA back in 2008 when he met up with Luke David and Jamie McBryde attending weekly sessions at MDA First Base activities. He was invited along to see our sports and competitions in action and he soon became a very enthusiastic player, loving hockey and soccer- with rugby taking a third place on preferences.

Brenton was a member of the Panthers across 2008/09 seasons when we had four teams competing. In 2009/10 he joined Storm and then moved across to the Broncos for the 2010/11 season. Brenton was a quiet achiever, yet most competitive once he crossed the white line and there was a game to win.

Like so many of our members he had other sporting interests as well –in particular his AFL team Essendon who are bouncing back into contention this year with Brenton proudly wearing his team's colours throughout the season.

He loved the world of fast cars and speed with racing cars, grand prix events and touring cars providing more thrills for Brenton to enjoy with family and friends.

It was most pleasing to see so many present and past VEWSA players and families able to attend Brenton's funeral Service at Epping on Friday 1st April 2011. We extend our sympathy and best wishes to Jennifer and the members of the Powell family and we will always remember the great times we shared with Brenton across the past four years. GO THE BOMBERS!!!!

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