



# Boomerang Association *of* Australia

Issue 139, Nov 2020

vin: A0004912M [www.boomerang.org.au](http://www.boomerang.org.au)



Features in this edition: James Hoy Boomerangs, Maurizio Saba  
Memorium, Manuel Schutz Relative Scoring System and more



01/	Presidents Report
02/	Other News
03/	West Australian Championship
04/	Happy Birthday Boomerang
04/	William Dampier's "Wooden Sword"
05/	Covid-19
06/	Covid-19 Boomerang Fiesta
08/	Maurizio Saba in Memorium
09/	James Hoy and Long Distance
11/	Fadjar Hidajit
12/	A Trip to India
13/	Life at the Carter's 2020 Style
15/	Relative Scoring System - Manuel Schutz

## Inside this Issue

We are pleased to be able to bring you this issue during the virus pandemic, which despite the tremendous impact it has caused to sport and cultural activities across the globe, has at least availed the BAA committee time to focus on improving its media and consider it's future direction. In the last issue, we mentioned the plan for a new BAA website that will have a more contemporary web page look and feel. We are excited to say that we are now very close to realising this project, thanks to the wonderful web work by our recently appointed Secretary Christene Metzakis. There will be more about the new website in this issue, including results of the West Australian pre-pandemic annual competition, an article on Britain's James Hoy, Long Distance record holder and consummate boomerang maker, the controversial Relative Scoring System

developed by World Boomerang Champion Manuel Schutz and a memorial to the wonderful Maurizio Saba, whose contribution to boomerangs as former IFBA President and organiser of the 2010 World Cup in Rome will never be forgotten.

And there's more! Sit down somewhere and enjoy the read. You have time.

Matt Barker  
BAA Editor

**Front Page photographs:** Maurizio Saba and Throwing Stick by James Hoy

# President's Report 2019-2020

Hello Everyone. In late 2019, I visited India for the first time and had a wonderful trip. See more details inside. 2020 has been a tough year with the BAA having to cancel the Nationals, along with our usual AGM held at the same time. The AGM has now been rescheduled for August 23<sup>rd</sup> in Perth. Covid-19 has certainly rocked the world with boomerang events cancelled, including the World Championships. I was also forced to cancel the new trip to India, Indonesia, and Europe 2020. Let's hope the world can get on top of this virus sooner rather than later!

I would like to thank the committee for their work during 2019/2020. The exciting news is that we are working on a complete revamp of the BAA website. A big thanks to Christene Metzakis who is currently working to create the new web pages. We hope to have it finished in the next 2 to 3 months. If you have any interesting photos or boomerang related articles please send them in. We are always looking for them for future bulletins. You will notice the International slant on our articles looking at makers and throwers, not just from Australia. I hope you enjoy this bulletin and thanks to our editor Matt Barker for his work. Please stay safe and keep throwing.

*Roger Perry*

*Former BAA President*



## 2020-2021 BAA New Committee

After a long and productive afternoon at the BAA AGM in August at which only the Western Australian members were able to attend due to Covid-19 border restrictions, Robert Croll, former World Cup champion, was elected President of the association for the first time. Rob was delighted to be given the opportunity to lead the organisation and members look forward to his contribution. The committee thanked Roger Perry for his excellent work as President over the past 6 years.

Rob will be giving direction to the following new committee for 2020-2021:

**President:** Robert Croll

**Vice President:** Grant Perry

**Secretary:** Christene Metzakis

**Treasurer:** Roger Perry

**Editor:** Matt Barker

**WA State Representative:** Kirsty Perry

**NSW State Representative:** Paul Bryden

**Victoria State Representative:** Jarrod Byham

**Queensland State Representative:** Paul Craft

**South Australia Representative:** Unfilled



# Other News

## New BAA President making his mark

Recently appointed BAA President **Rob Croll** arranged his first meeting with the BAA committee in August using the Zoom video communications app during the Covid-19 lockdown. It was a lively meeting during which Rob proposed a new position within the BAA as **ambassador**, whose function is to promote the interests of the BAA to the rest of the world and within Australia. Following was a committee election of who best to assume the new role. Roger Perry, Treasurer, was chosen, since he has flown all over the world introducing both the culture and sport of boomerangs over the years and to Indonesia and India recently. Also discussed was the issue of how to attract **new members** to the association in the Australian states and the committee unanimously agreed that as a first incentive, the new BAA website should attract more interest to BAA and state boomerang association activities.

## BAA Membership Fees 2020-21

Please get behind the association and renew your membership. Even though we had to cancel our Australian Nationals we are still working to keep our Association strong. A new website will be appearing soon and we need your support to continue the work. If you're interested to join the BAA, details for payment is following, and please complete the form too:

\$10 junior membership (less than 16 years)

\$10 ordinary membership non competitive throwers

\$15 veteran membership (55 years and over)

\$15 membership all ages

\$25 family

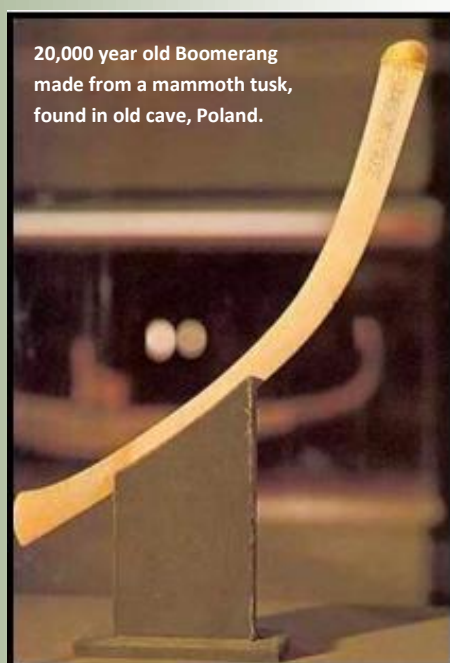
\$10 overseas membership

You can renew your membership by paying directly into the BAA bank account BSB: 063151 Account No: 00904182

Stay tuned for more events at <http://boomerang.org.au/wp/events/>

Regards Robert Croll

BAA President



20,000 year old Boomerang  
made from a mammoth tusk,  
found in old cave, Poland.

## Australian Nationals Competition 2021

Gold Coast Queensland is still targeted for the 51st Australian Nationals, but hasn't been officially decided. The BAA is still waiting on confirmation from the council. The likely date for the competition will be weekend 15-16 May.

## Upcoming WABA Events

WABA has held a number of interesting boomerang events and coming up is the following:

**Have a Go Day 2020 11th November Burswood Park 9-3pm, run by the Seniors Recreation Council.** The aim of the event is to promote the sport of boomerangs and will coincide with a service for Remembrance Day.

The **WABA WA State Championships 2021** - WABA Event organiser Chrissie Metzakis is looking at the Maida Vale reserve for the next competition but it needs to be confirmed. Chrissie said that it has been difficult to confirm venues due to Covid-19 throwing summer sport fixtures "out of whack".

The next **WABA quiz night** will be held **28 November** at the RSL (Returned Serviceman's League) in Cannington 6pm \$10 entry. Save the date in your calendars.

## Logan Broadbent achieves a Doublers Record



Logan Broadbent and former world champion Chet Snouffer with the Doubler Pair.

USA boomerang champion Logan Broadbent at the Delaware, Ohio boomerang event set a 2 minute Doubling record of 25 catches. He bested Swiss champion Manuel Schutz by a single catch. Logan said "I've never juggled before so it was pretty fun". "Chet gave me coaching before my round".

Congratulations Logan on achieving a Doublers record!

# West Australian Championship

Fortunately for West Australians, the championship was planned by **WABA (WA Boomerang Association)** for February just before the Corona Virus spread insidiously across the world and forced everybody into stay at home isolation.

It was a good day, cool, cloudy, a welcome relief from the intense summer heat which can make play uncomfortable.

Even though former West Australian champions Roger Perry and his son Grant were buoyed up and showed readiness for competition, Nick Pritchard blitzed the day by coming 1st in most of the events, despite serious back pain which had taken him away from the usual Sunday training sessions for some months. Nick, however, quietly prepared for the event in his own time and practiced on the very field where the event would be played. The preparation had paid off. He threw better than he had ever done, a surprising return to the joy of competition, taking the first place trophy for the second year running.

In 2nd place was Grant Perry. Despite unfortunate set backs in Endurance and Fast Catch, which are usually his strongest events, he achieved an excellent 158 points in Aussie Round when the wind was unpredictably choppy.

Matt Barker, despite lack of training, performed consistently throughout each event with a 2nd place in Trick Catch, coming 3rd overall.

Chris Johnson who finished in 4th place kept closely behind Matt Barker throughout the day with strong performance in Fast Catch and Endurance, and Mike Bryant in 6th place performed well in Accuracy in equal 3rd and 2nd in Endurance.

There was stronger performance among women throwers Kelly Perry and Chrissy Metzakis this year, with Chrissy coming 3rd in the MTA event with 22.3 seconds in firm wind, which secured her 1st place as women's champion.

Former Australian champion Roger Perry had an unfortunate day where the usual magic from him refused to show, but in his inimitable style, he fought on tenaciously and his personal best was sharing 3rd place in Accuracy with Mike Bryant.

Overall, there was good performance from everybody who participated, including efforts from young children and newcomers of the WA Boomerang Association who enjoyed the Accuracy event with the champions.

Throwers thanked WABA for another superbly organised and well managed event and a fun filled day at Rossiter Park, Piara Waters – Leonie and Chrissy Metzakis and Chris Johnson.



Winners from left - Chrissy Metzakis Women's Champion, Nick Pritchard WA Champion, Grant Perry 2nd Place (3rd Place Matt Barker - not present due to leaving event early).

## Results

Rank	Name	First name	Nationality	Category	Overall
1	pritchard	nick	aus	m	7.5
2	perry	grant	aus	m	13.5
3	barker	matt	aus	m	27.5
4	johnson	chris	aus	m	28.5
5	perry	roger	aus	m	30.5
6	bryant	mike	aus	m	31
7	metzakis	chrissy	aus	f	34.5
8	perry	kelly	aus	f	43
9	perry	angie	aus	f	54



WA Champion Nick Pritchard during Trick Catch



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY **BOOMERANG!**

The Australian word *boomerang* celebrates a significant birthday this year.

The boomerang is known across the world as a symbol of Australia and the oldest continuous culture on earth. Boomerangs found in South Australia have been dated to 10,000 years and painted rock art of them in Arnhem Land to an amazing 25,000 years.

Throughout the continent more than 250 Aboriginal languages plus many dialects had their own words for boomerangs. Even so, the word is derived from a traditional language spoken near the first European settlement, which became the city of Sydney.

But when did the modern word first appear? Let's go back in time and revisit an historic moment. Lieutenant Phillip Parker King RN in command of the "Mermaid" departed Port Jackson (now Sydney), where he knew Aboriginals, some words of their languages, and *Bungaree*, Aboriginal guide for the voyage, and headed north to survey the coastline. King and crew had been ashore near present-day Bowen, Queensland, where they explored the landscape, collected plants and met local "natives," and King recorded their observations. On July 22, 1820 he wrote:



Phillip Parker King

"...one of the men carried a spear, another had a **boomerang** of a smaller size but otherwise similar to that which the Port Jackson natives use..."

That was the moment: The first time our world famous word *boomerang* was recorded with its current English spelling. With a quill and ink, and probably without realising it, Lieutenant Phillip Parker King made an important contribution to Australian history. Therefore, on July 22, 2020 the word "*boomerang*" was 200 years old!

Happy Birthday *Boomerang!*

## William Dampier's "**Wooden Sword**"

Western Australia has an important place in the European story of boomerangs, because an important event occurred in the north-west of the state many years ago.

William Dampier, an English buccaneer sailed around the world on board the "*Cygnet*" before visiting New Holland in 1688 and anchoring off the present-day West Kimberley

coast. The area is now called King Sound, and the ship and crew members stayed for three months. They made repairs to the vessel, collected specimens, recorded flora and fauna, and met local Aboriginal people.



Dampier wrote fascinating accounts of his discoveries in "*A New Voyage Round the World*" (1697) and included "*Indians*" - as he called Australian Aborigines - and their implements:

"Some of them had Wooden Swords, others had a sort of Lances. The Sword is a peace (sic) of Wood, shaped somewhat like a Cutlass."

In the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries the names of European weapons were often given to implements used by native peoples. These included sabre, sword and scimitar, but drawings which illustrated those reports are difficult to locate.

However in 2019, after forty years of boomerang research, a colourful card flashed onto my computer screen! I was instantly transported back in time and saw Dampier watching an Aboriginal tribesman about to throw a "wooden sword". What an amazing find!

The artist had given life to Dampier's experience by interpreting the event that occurred in Western Australia (then New Holland) 100 years before the First Fleet arrived on the east coast. Thus establishing Dampier as the first white man to see a boomerang.

That's right. William Dampier's "*wooden sword*" was a boomerang!

And his discovery made history.

Both articles written by Paul Bryden

BAA NSW State Representative

# Covid-19

No one could have foreseen the Corona virus outbreak across the world, because boomerang sporting and cultural events were planned and organised, airfares were paid and accommodation booked (in the same rhythm followed in the past), but as the virus quickly spread, hopes for any of the events happening grew dim. By late March, IFBA President Gunter Moller made a "major announcement" on Facebook to the boomerang community around the world and with good reason, the Bordeaux 2020 World Boomerang Cup was cancelled. The small fraternity of boomerang throwers in Australia had arranged and paid for the 51st Annual Boomerang Competition in Queensland scheduled for May. BAA President Roger Perry and I had also paid for a trip to Indonesia the following month for the Tunasbumi annual competition and to do some reconnaissance work to investigate fields suitable for a future World Cup. We waited until late April when Roger made the unhappy decision to cancel all boomerang events for the near future. It was the first time that a year passed without the BAA annual competition in its 50 year history, along with the biannual World Cup, which had always played since it began in the early 80's. A contagion has changed boomerang association history for the first time.

Boomerang throwers responded to the lock down in the most novel and creative of ways. Indoor

**Covid-19 lockdown, Loofy Boiteux of France pulls off all his Trick Catch - in the living room!**



Indonesian thrower Denis Suprana made boomerangs in bulk during the height of the virus pandemic.

boomerang MTA, Accuracy, Trick Catch and Tapir Terror challenges were devised, virtual competitions were arranged, throwers posted boomerang retrospectives and historic photos to the World of Boomerang Facebook pages and boomerang makers made use of the imposed isolation by throwing themselves headlong into boomerang making. Boomerang facts and online competitions were shared and like everybody else around the world, throwers found time to relax and spend more time with family.

With half a year gone and with the virus now threatening a second wave of highly contagious transmission, planning boomerang events such as the Boomerang World Cup and the annual European championship is still not possible. American champion **Daniel Bower** cancelled his trip to the US Nationals this year because the spread of the virus increased so rapidly. To all of us, it is a very strange and unusual time, and it could be many more months before people are allowed to travel internationally. However, with the latest news about a highly effective vaccine, this long sustained global situation may finally change.

Covid-19 has at least forced us all to develop an even deeper appreciation of the special bonds we have as a global boomerang fraternity, and to have more time to establish stronger bonds with those who are special to us - our friends and families.

*Matt Barker - BAA Editor*

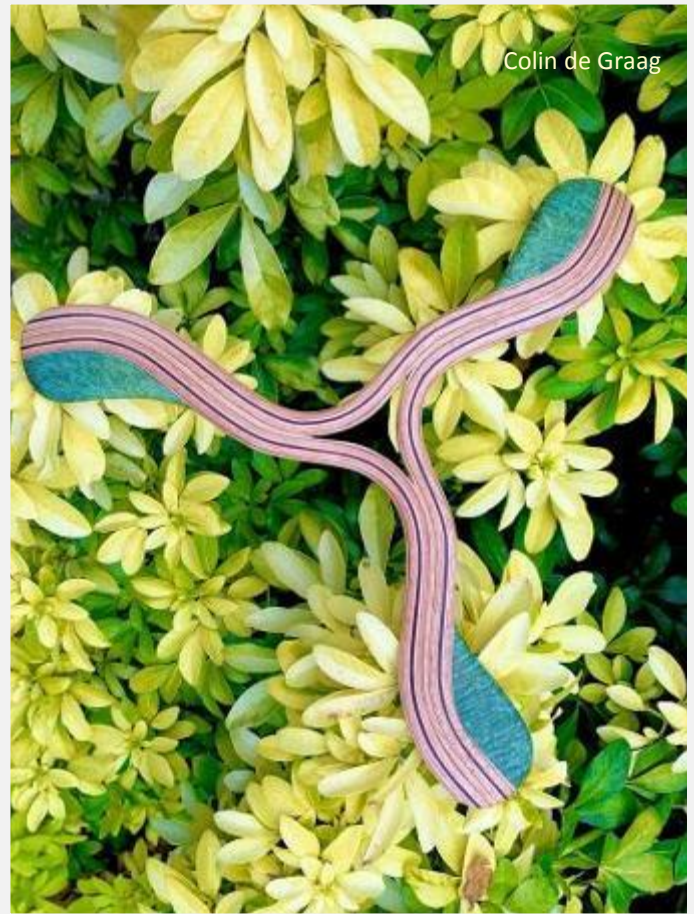


## Covid-19 Boomerang Fiesta

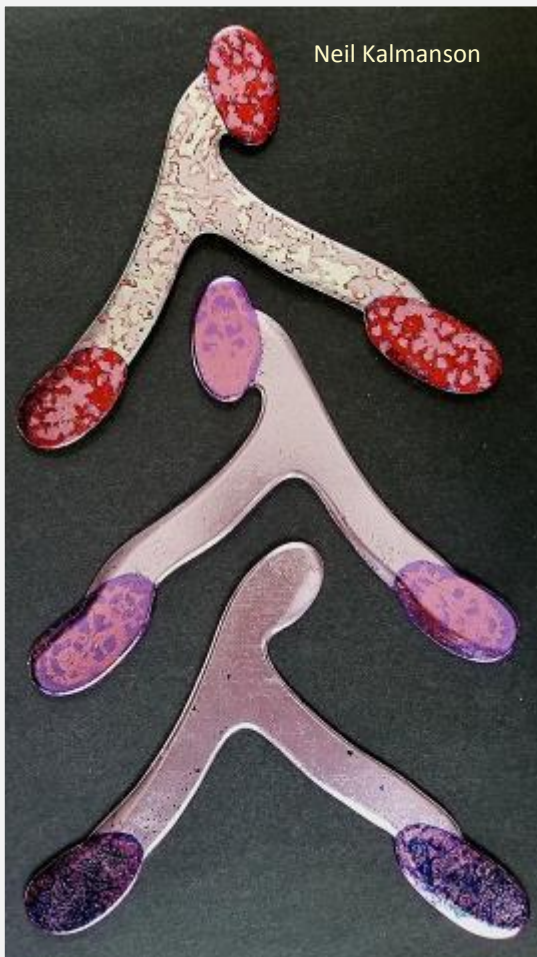
*Covid-19 has definitely been a strange time for all of us but for boomerang collectors and makers, it has been a very creative time. I scanned the whole of the World of Boomerang Facebook posts from March 2020 onwards, from the start of the virus outbreak till the present and found some remarkable photographs of boomerangs. There were so many beautiful boomerangs posted and I had to make a difficult decision to select only 9 that were chosen not just for the beautiful craftsmanship of the boomerang but for the way it has been presented. For a Covid treat and to ease the mind, enjoy these wonderful shortlisted contributions from some of the finest boomerang makers and collectors - Matt Barker BAA Editor*



Colin de Graag



Colin de Graag



Neil Kalmanson



Heart by Adhit



James Hoy



Octavio Augusto

Leonilson Junior  
Fibreglass Copper



Vivek Montrose\*



\*Vivek Montrose Collection - Top 2 by Ken Colbung, bottom by  
aboriginal elder Gerry Collard.



Temoe Suyatno



# In Memorium - Maurizio Saba

Of great loss to the boomerang community around the world was the passing of Maurizio Saba in February. During his time throwing boomerangs, he made a significant contribution to the development of the sport and was a positive and inspiring force as excellent thrower, teacher and mentor.

Maurizio was involved in the formation of the IFBA (International Federation of Boomerang Associations) in 2003/2004 and with the help of others, including the now IFBA President Gunter Moller, established the "Statute of the IFBA". He served as IFBA President for several years and was the principal organiser of the Rome World Cup in 2010. He attended many world cups during his time as IFBA President, participating as both thrower and presenter, and offered wise counsel at official boomerang meetings.

Here are some memories shared by those who knew him well, my own memory of him being a man wearing always a cheeky smile. He was feisty, had a keen intelligence and was fun loving:

"I have lost a close friend. Maurizio Saba has left the boomerang field. I will always hear him say "Ooo-Ah-Ooo".

- Gunter Moller (Germany - IFBA President)

"What a sad day for our sport. The news about our friend Maurizio is deeply shocking. Maurizio was a generous person, who enjoyed boomerangs 100%. He was IFBA President for several years, but also the organiser of the Roma tournament. We will miss him. His legacy for the sport will remain for us as a motto: A sport for all, open and inclusive."

- Alejo Palacio (Italy)

"Maurizio was a great figure in the boomerang world! He was a friend to all with that easy going persona. He could be feisty, and forthright, which made him a force in the boomerang world. I will miss his presence at the world cup. Condolences to his family and friends. We have lost one of the greats".

- Rob Croll (Australia - President of the BAA)

"Maurizio was a humble man, always positive and never judgmental. It felt to me that he was the wise father of our boomerang family. Always keeping us together and making everybody feel welcome."

- Kevin Overzee (Holland)

## We will remember him...

The Smile



Maurizio in Action





# James Hoy and Long Distance

*"Nothing else matters when I go out and throw a boomerang. It's a form of meditation". - James Hoy*

James Hoy from Wallasey UK has entered the boomerang sport recently, both as thrower and boomerang maker, choosing only one of the events which has become an obsession - Long Distance, one of the most challenging events of the sport where a thrower attempts to achieve the longest throw possible and have the boomerang return through a 10 metre "gate" where the boomerang was thrown.

"Buzzwhip" - Carbon Fibre Long Distance models.



His passion for making has led to creating some of the most beautifully crafted Long Distance boomerangs, using a range of materials, including carbon fibre, capable of a range of well over 200m.

James was interviewed by ABC's Renaud Breton recently and a transcript of the interview in which he tells his story is reproduced here:

ABC: James, who are you?

James: James Hoy born 1970, husband and father of eight children and grandfather to six. I'm a shopfitter, house maker and boomerang maker from Wallasey in the north of UK between Wales and Liverpool.

James Hoy at his workshop.



ABC: You are a professional boomerang thrower?

James: That's correct, yes.

ABC: Tell us about boomeranging?

James: It is quite a well known sport. There are boomerang throwers around the world. We could do with more throwers actually.

ABC: How do you make a sport out of it?

James: There are different games. Long Distance is my game.

ABC: How did you discover boomerang throwing?

James: I was given a boomerang from Australia in 1977, a Bill Onus. It wouldn't work for me, so I just put it on my shelf as ornament. Then in the summer of '79, my friend threw it and it worked. Hmm?, So I threw it again and it landed up a tree. That night lying in bed looking at it I had an epiphany. This might

be right handed and I'm left handed. So next morning I searched my fathers shed for plywood and there was no plywood, which was unusual for my father because he is a carpenter, so I went to my room and cut a square out the back of my wardrobe and then put the clothes back to hide the hole from my mother. I copied the Bill Onus boomerang from a mirror image. I took it to the field behind our home and it worked brilliantly! So that's how it began for me.

Long Distance Tournament Group, Carcassonne, Languedoc, France. James, 2nd from left, won the Long Distance with 150m.



ABC: Where do you find boomerangs in the UK?

James: There's a number of other makers so boomerangs are very easily available to purchase, such as those from Jay Butters, Adam McLaughlin, Martin Lasslet and of course, you will see them on eBay but be careful what you buy - not all of them may return.

ABC: What are your favourite designs?

James: I make strip laminated boomerangs as I'm a big fan of Al Gerhards and John Clyderman.

ABC: Your favourite design of all?

James: My biggest boomerang hero is of course Herb Smith. I love old school boomerangs that are heavy weighted.

ABC: Do you throw several times a week?

James: I throw as often as possible every weekend, sometimes for 6 to 7 hours Long Distance throwing and in the lighter days, after work for an hour or two, twice, maybe 3 times per week weather permitting.

ABC: Where do you throw?

James: We have a great selection of big fields in Wallesey. My favourite is 350m x 350m, which is a huge, square field, flat as a pancake, with no obstructions, such as trees nearby to disrupt the flowing breeze. It's half a mile from the beach so we get clean fresh winds, mainly from the west.

ABC: What is your favourite material?

James: I love to collect elbows from UK forests and have a shed full of different varieties of English hardwoods. I also like to use aircraft grade plywood and G10 epoxy glass.

Strip laminated models



ABC: Did you play other sports before you became interested in boomerang throwing?

James: I wasn't good at other sports such as football. I like boomerang throwing. I realised I wasn't as good as I thought I was when I started competing. Best I go and try to make a better LD to improve. I'm now the 4<sup>th</sup> best LD thrower in the world and record holder in Britain and make boomerangs for people around the world.

I like Long Distance because it gets my cardiovascular going and it's social distance friendly. Nothing else matters when I get out and throw a boomerang. It is a form of meditation.





# Fadjar Hidajat

The BAA interviewed Fadjar Hidajat who is President of the ABI (Asosiasi Bumerang Indonesia). Fadjar was born August 1968 and lives in Semarang, Central Java, Indonesia.



Fadjar at the BAA Nationals 50th Anniversary Team Competition Perth 2019

**BAA:** *What made you interested in boomerangs?*

**FH:** I like the flying objects that I can play with like Kites, Chuck Glider, Paper Plane and Boomerang. I tried to make a Natural Elbow boomerang when I was 14 years old but failed and I then I forgot it.

**BAA:** *How did you finally get boomerangs to work?*

**FH:** I didn't have a good guidebook or internet access to get information on how to make a boomerang. I only got the guide from Bobo, one of my favourite children's magazine in Indonesia. And then in November 2012, my wife asked me "Honey, do you know something my friend posted on Facebook?" My wife and **Listyo Bramantyo** (RIP) were high school classmates. When I saw Listyo's Facebook, I was very surprised. I was just like a Tiger that woke up from its long sleep. Wow! It's a boomerang! It's something that I dreamed of all this time. Please ask him how and where I can buy it? And then, you know, I bought boomerangs, learned about boomerangs, how to throw boomerangs from him. Someone who influenced me was Listyo.

**BAA:** *What is your favourite boomerang and event?*

**FH:** My favourite type of boomerang is **Steppy**, designed by Listyo, and my favourite event is **Aussie Round**.

**BAA:** What is your job and your family status?

**FH:** I work for a legal firm and have a beloved wife named Rina Arifati. She is an Accountant in a private company. I have two beloved children, my son named Muhammad Haidar Pandu Hidajat, 24 years and my daughter named Fairuz Zahra Maharani Hidajat 17 years.

**BAA:** How many tournaments have you been to?

**FH:** My first tournament was the Indonesian tournament name Tunasbumi 4 and every Tunasbumi since then, which is now number 9. I also competed at the Australian Nationals in 2019, (50th BAA Anniversary) because it was my first time participating in a boomerang sports competition abroad, which I really loved. In 2015, I organised the Tunasbumi 5 with 5 other helpers in my home town of Semarang. This began my interest in promoting boomerangs further in Indonesia and to become active in the world of boomerangs.

**BAA:** *Do you have other hobbies?*

**FH:** My others hobbies are travelling, watching movies, singing sometimes and the other activities that can make me happy.

**BAA:** *We know you have grown the sport in Indonesia, especially with children. How did you do this?*

**FH:** I always say to them (kids) and their parents that boomerangs are not dangerous and that it is a fun activity as well as a sport. I ask them to try, let them get fun and get interested with boomerang and then I train them step by step using beginner, intermediate and competition boomerangs. I must do it step by step and I never train them too fast. I keep the children interested by also keeping the parents involved in our clubs which is very important. Sometimes I hold a competition to train mentally and give awards to the winners. It will make them more enthusiastic to practice and their parents will be happy because this activity will reduce the activities of their children playing gadgets.

**BAA:** *After many year of hard work with your ABI the IFBA have finally recognised your association.*

**FH:** I was very happy when I to know that ABI has been accepted as the 13th member of IFBA and now my big goal is make a boomerang sport become a National Sports under the auspices of the Indonesian Ministry of Youth and Sports and ABI is legally recognized by Indonesian government. Many people including Listy Brantyo who recently passed away helped to make this happen.

**BAA:** We wish you the very best for the future and hope Indonesia continues grows even bigger.

Fadjar was interviewed by Roger Perry, former BAA President.



# A Trip to India



Last year I was invited by **Lily Khauler** to travel to India to speak and demonstrate at universities and colleges on boomerangs and throw sticks used by Australian aborigines and also to share the link they had with the Tamil Nadu region.

Most of the time was spent in Southern India, Tamil Nadu, home of the Valari, made famous by the Marudhu Brothers who used the metal throw stick against the British from 1790's to early 1800's.

The Marudhu Brothers were hanged by the British and many Valari's were confiscated. Many of them were hidden away and are treasured and revered by the Indian people.

The Valari was made from wood and metal and date back thousands of years. They were used to protect the herds of animals and for hunting and use in war. The Marudhu Brothers were said to have thrown a metal Valari over 250 metres and this is quite believable. Most metal Valari's we saw were in fact very heavy and would be thrown only about 20 metres. We did not see any returning boomerangs and research is ongoing as to whether they used the returning boomerang.

We spent a lot of time with Professor Pitchapann at the universities, who proved the South Indian's Tamil Nadu migrated to Northern Australia and settled thousands of years

ago. We even had the opportunity to meet **Virumandi** whose ancestors had the same chromosomes as those found in Northern Australian aborigines. The link of the Tamil Indians migrating to Northern Australia was found when the university in Madurai studying tuberculosis found the DNA match from a similar study being done at the same time on aborigines in the Northern Territory.

We had planned to travel to India on an extensive tour in 2020 but unfortunately it has been put on hold with Covid-19 restrictions. Since the trip, India has formed a boomerang association and set up many clubs and hopes to have a team for the next World Cup. A big thanks goes to Lily for making this such a memorable and amazing trip.



Click on the link below for more information about the Valari:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/The-deadly-weapon-that-exemplified-Tamil-spirit/article14382086.ecce>

Article by Roger Perry, former BAA President



## Life at the Carter's 2020 Style



Lockdown and it's March 2020. Arguably the best month of the year to throw boomerangs. Australia and the world are in lock down, but the beauty of this great sport is that we can do it on our own.

However, I cannot go out alone without Molly our Red Heeler dog. She screams the place down if you venture out into the boomerang field without her.

For over 35 years I have had dogs chasing boomerangs. Some simply bark at them. I had Boomer who loved to catch them. He had a few teeth knocked out and many cuts in his mouth and tongue. Boomer once accompanied me in 1990 for a demonstration at a major festival. Melbourne advertised 'Come and watch the amazing Boomerang catching dog'. Now Boomer could catch some boomerangs. The crowd was huge and formed a tight circle around me, maybe allowing me 30 metres to play with so all I could throw were trick catch rangs up and over the crowd. But it was perfect conditions and my catching was as hot as the weather, yet every time I took a good catch, including foot catches, the crowd yelled out 'Let the dog catch one!' So out came a plastic Hornet, the dog catches it, the crowd goes wild. Do it again, I throw and catch and the crowd roars for the dog. There was rapturous applause every time Boomer caught one. Maybe 3 or 4½ hour demos that day and not much life in Boomer by the end of the day.

A sad day indeed for the family when Boomer was killed one night when playing in the back field and was run over by a vehicle driving fast through the paddocks. Buster the big pointer was a stray I picked up from the dog pound. Fedde Engwerda from the Netherlands was with me when we picked up our new dog. I can see still Fedde's look of surprise when a handler brought the dog to us on a chain lead and as soon as it reached us, it ran circles around Fedde until it ran out of chain and both Fedde and the dog were chained together. Buster quickly became part of the family and played an amazing part in our fight against Trent's chronic fatigue.

Buster loved Boomerangs from the word go but was not interested in catching them. He would jump into you until you threw a rang. He loved to bark at a flying boomerang and have other dogs chasing him. Very distracting having a Boomerang coming to you at a rate



of knots being followed by 10 dogs at full speed. If Craig took too long to throw, Buster would nip him on the ankle as a reminder of time wasting.

But these dogs don't match up to Molly, she was a gift from Trent. She will jump all over you on the way to the field, the moment you pick up a boomerang you are a target, but boy can she catch and is fast and desperate to beat you to the boomerang.

We have had Molly 6 years and my guess is she has lost or broken 30 rangs. Sometimes she pounces on a boomerang at full speed and the boomerang breaks as she picks up a rang with some of it still on the ground. She hasn't learnt to pick them up from the middle!

cont...

So its Covid-19 time, and my folks now 94 and 92 years old are in a local nursing home. My dad made many of my boomerangs, he loves watching me throw and Molly chase and try and catch them. We did this every day for 2 months. However, my throwing got harder and harder to do, as I had now a sore back and side.

The pain got worse and soon I could no longer sit up without a hand or bend over. I had back scans, MRI's, but nothing came up apart from a damaged back with curvature of the spine and some badly worn discs. It was a Chiropractor who got me up and about as he felt I had damaged and badly bruised ribs and muscle damage in my side.

So no more boomerang throwing for me for a while and regular trips to the Chiro when the pain gets too intense to handle.

Because I am diabetic, and have little to no feeling in my feet, after a shower one cold morning (I was trying to warm up near the heater) I accidentally put my foot on the heater. I burnt my foot badly and was admitted to hospital for 5 days. I returned home when all the housework was completed. I had daily changes of the dressing and use special boots and a walking stick for assistance.

I have been laying on my back during the lockdown and watching all the re-runs of travel shows, as we plan on doing a 15000km trip in 10 weeks, once things open up and the foot heals, and my folks are in good health.

During my recovery, the thing that amazes me the most is the dedication, love and support from Kay. Last year she broke her shoulder in 2 places, which is far more painful than what I am going through. She soldiered on for months and was no where as much support for her, as she has been for me.

The trip will see us 2 weeks in Tasmania in mid November and we will catch up with Adam Carroll and family.

We would set off to Canberra, then Batemans bay on the NSW coast to visit Kay's sister. Sydney to catch up with Trent, then Gosford to see a nephew, then onto Cattai to see family and friends. I have to visit Scone and **Paul Bryden**. Orange then Dubbo to Bourke and Lightning Ridge in the Opal centre out back NSW.

Outback Queensland and Birdsville is a must, Camerons Corner if I can get there in a van and across to Gold Coast and Brisbane. A chance to say 'Hi' to **Bob Burwell, David Schummy and Rod Jones**, then along the coast to Cairns, to Cooktown, onto Weipa in Cape York. Back around to Darwin, down to Alice Springs, 'Ayers Rock', before cutting across to Broken Hill and see a special mate, Gavin Carmichael in Mildura and then to Bendigo to visit Leanne Loveland - another very special person.

12 months later we will go to Perth to see the Perry clan and up to Broome and who knows from there?

So ends this saga. I miss all you guys and love receiving emails. If you have Diabetes, stay clear of heaters, and if you have a long time relationship, cherish it, as you never know what's around the corner. I could not have survived the past 6 months without the help of Kay.

©

Article by Bruce Carter

BAA Member

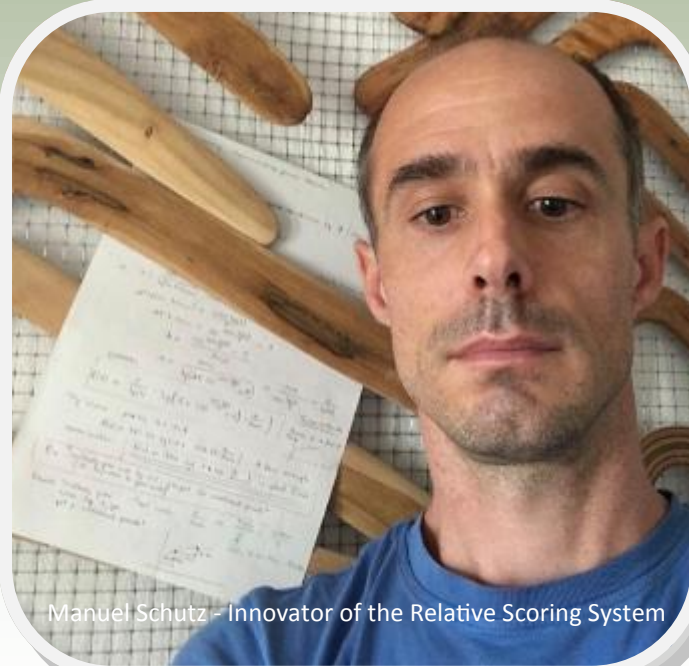


# The Relative Scoring System

*"Performance matters."*

*"The traditional system is so unfair. It must go away. The sooner the better! The next World Cup is the chance to do it."*

- Manuel Schutz



"too complicated and mathematical", while other criticism has labelled it as favouring the elite.

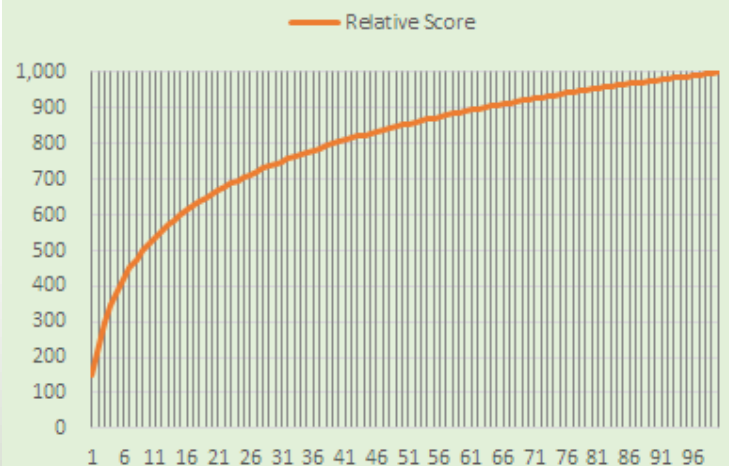
So what is Manu's Relative scoring system and how does it differ from the traditional system? The traditional scoring system is a *ranking* or *position* based system, which ignores a throwers individual performance in an event, whereas the Relative Scoring system is *performance* based, which applies equal distribution of points to all throwers from novice to elite. His system is about measuring performance, not about whether a thrower beats another thrower by rank. The most important thing Manu points out about his relative system is that it gives 20 points for every 10% improvement of a score, from the lowest score to the highest, which is achieved with the use of a logarithmic formula, an especially powerful function of mathematics.

Let us show the effect of the logarithmic conversion by illustrating the Relative points you would be given in an Accuracy 100 event from the lowest score to the highest, which is best summarised in a chart which shows what is known as the **logarithmic curve**, which automatically allocates 20 additional points to every 10% improvement of a score.

There are very few people who enter the boomerang sport and with their developing mastery of the events, raises the sport to a new level. Manuel Schutz, affectionately known as "Manu", is one of these people. Manu is quietly spoken, unassuming and with a gentleman's demeanour, modest about his talent, but on field he becomes a blazing meteor, a powerhouse who breaks world records in the most difficult of boomerang events, such as Fast Catch and Long Distance, using mostly his own boomerangs which suit his extraordinary throwing style. Manu uses his whole body to generate power. When launching his MTA's, his body twists as much as 270 degrees before the arm flashes out as fast as a whip to hurl the boomerang at incredible speed.

Manu has been World and European champion many times over and with a great deal of experience, has come to know the sport very well, which has allowed him time to examine it critically. One of his bugbears has been the traditional scoring system, and with careful analysis at home, using his education in mathematics and statistics, Manu devised a new system of scoring, which he calls The Relative Scoring System. He is passionate and committed in getting things right. His scoring system, showing subtle changes in the results of major competitions has created controversy and a good deal of debate among the boomerang sport community. Members of the IFBA Committee have dismissed his scoring method as

## Charting the Relative Scoring System for Accuracy 100



To read the above chart, the scores from 0 to 100 in Accuracy 100 are transformed into Relative points from 0 to 1000. If a thrower scores as little as 10 points, he gets 519 Relative points. A thrower who scores 11 points, which is 10% more than 10 points will get 538 points, which is 20 points more. This even distribution of points persists to the maximum possible score of 100. There is a sharper curve for the low scores because a 10% greater improvement in score is more significant in ordinal value for the low numbers than in the higher numbers. For instance, among the top throwers, a thrower who scores 80 points will get 952 relative points,

which is 10% more than the thrower who scores 73 points and 932 relative points. This is the ingenious function of the Relative Scoring system, which is applied to all of the other boomerang events, including the timed events. Because of the even distribution of points, there is equal fairness given to all throwers who either scored poorly or very well. You might be asking, how do you convert accuracy scores into Relative scores? Unfortunately, to answer this question goes beyond this article to explain, but for those who are mathematicians, Manu uses the following formula:

**Relative Score** = 500 x log(1 + 99 x Score/100)

Now lets table the results of 5 throwers in an Accuracy 100 (Acc), Aussie Round 100 (AR) and Trick Catch (TC) event to compare the ranking system with the Relative system.

**Traditional Scoring System Example**

Thrower	ACC	ACC Rank	AR	AR Rank	TC	TC Rank	Total Points	Final Rank
A	47	4	67	2	91	1	7	1
B	91	1	36	5	74	4	10	4
C	87	2	84	1	59	5	8	2
D	63	3	56	4	89	2	9	3
E	20	5	64	3	76	3	11	5

Now lets see how the Relative Scoring System compares with the above results.

**Relative Scoring System Example**

Thrower	ACC	ACC Point	AR	AR Point	TC	TC Point	Total Points	Final Rank
A	47	838	67	914	91	980	2732	3
B	91	980	36	782	74	935	2697	4
C	87	970	84	963	59	887	2820	1
D	63	901	56	876	89	975	2752	2
E	20	659	64	904	76	941	2504	5

So the Relative Scoring system has changed all the final placings around and has made Thrower C the winner and Thrower A is placed 3rd, a staggering fall from 1st place in the traditional system! So is thrower C better than thrower A? In terms of performance, yes! If you compare throwers A and C, thrower A scores poorly in Accuracy with 47 points, scores an average 67 points in Aussie Round but elevates in points by coming 1st in Trick Catch with 91 points. Thrower C, however, is more consistent. He scores highly in Accuracy with 87 points, an excellent score in Aussie Round, coming 1st with 84 points and comes last in Trick Catch with 59 points, only because the other throwers were strong in Trick Catch. He was better than thrower A because he performed highly in two

events than Thrower A's singular victory in Trick Catch. Thrower D is better than thrower A for the same reason, since he was only 2 points behind A in Trick Catch on 89, and scored modestly in the other events, whereas A scored modestly in Aussie Round but really blew it with a low score in Accuracy. This example, which attempts to come as close to a real event scenario as possible, clearly demonstrates the greater degree of accuracy in the Relative Scoring System over the traditional system when it comes to assessing thrower performance across several events, which becomes even more intuitive as more events are played.

Now that we have had a good look at the two systems in some depth, it should help to understand the interview with Manu, whose interview answers do imply some familiarity with how his system works and draws from actual competition experience.

**MB:** Matt Barker (BAA Editor)

**MS:** Manuel Schutz

**MB:** *What do you think is wrong with the current method of scoring boomerang competitions and what are the consequences?*

**MS:** Basically everything is wrong with this scoring system. It's the worst possible choice of all scoring systems.

Example: How is it possible, that at the WBC (World Boomerang Cup) 2018, two throwers in Individuals with just 4 out of 6 events completed get an overall rank of 53 and 54 respectively, but a junior thrower who competed in all six events was 4<sup>th</sup> last on rank 69? We are looking for the best throwers of 6 events. When distributing placing points, sometimes a split second more or less in MTA or FC decides over many placing points and sometimes even ten catches more or less in Endurance or ten points more or less in Accuracy have almost no impact. Many throwers think that this "equalizes" over the competitions or within a competition. That is not true. The position based scoring system discriminates top performances and low performances.

Look at the Team Accuracy scores of Day 1, WBC 2016. I divided them into 4 quarters.

99,134,148,168,179,185,189,216,223,241,242,242,242,250,258,266,305

Yes, you can be lucky/unlucky with conditions. That's part of the game. No scoring system can remove that. However, the consequences are very unfair with position based scoring because the impact is different depending on your overall performance level.

The first quarter of placing points (Ranks 17-13) is distributed from 99-179 = 80 Acc points.

So you gain 4 placing points for 80 Accuracy points.

Second quarter: 4 placing points for 44 Accuracy points.

Third quarter: 4 placing points for 19 Accuracy points.

Fourth quarter: 4 placing points for 63 Accuracy points.



## Consequence:

**A team in the top 5 cannot win much with an exceptional performance or some luck.** 267 Accuracy points is enough to win, 38p more didn't help. But a top 5 team can lose many points (due to bad luck or a bad day) when dropping just slightly below the expected level: 229p or 267p makes a huge difference!

**A novice team in the last 5 could often even have scored a zero without much difference in positional points.** In this example, Scoring 0 or 99 or 134 is the same: 17 position points.

**An "average" team around 223p sees strong impacts of the score on it's placing points to the good or to the bad.** 38 Accuracy points more or less than 223 is very important. Maybe that's why a majority of throwers can't see any discrimination because they are not affected. So I ask the throwers on average level to open their eyes:  
Top teams or throwers and novice teams or throwers matter!



European Championships 2015 - Trick Catch

**MB:** Do you believe that your background in mathematics and statistics enabled you to clearly see what was wrong with the current scoring system or did the results of past competitions make it too obvious to see the errors?

**MS:** Both. Up until 2005, I was convinced too that placing points are the fairest possible scoring system and that the design of the disciplines cause that unfairness. But studying basics of statistics is something that obviously is not taught at

schools, even though it is really simple to understand. Keyword: The 4 levels of measurement. We just need two of them to understand. Ranks are "qualitative, ordinal". Scores of a discipline are "quantitative, discrete". What does that imply? The scores of a discipline like Endurance are quantitative data. Adding, subtracting, multiplying etc. is meaningful for the data of this event. You can argue that 20 to 25 catches is a similar difference as 40 to 45 catches. Or you can argue that 80 is twice 40 and 60 is twice 30. When converting scores to ranks, you lose this property. In ordinal data you can just order the data, but saying the distance between Rank 1 and Rank 2 is the same as Rank 4 to Rank 5 is meaningless, as is the assumption that rank 10 is double as good as rank 20 or rank 1 double as good as rank 2. Assigning position points is just arbitrary. Sure, it is more difficult to beat a top 5 team than a top 15 team. Yet you get one extra point in both cases.



Albuquerque World Cup 2018 - Team Super Catch

**MB:** It appears the relative scoring system applies more consideration to thrower performance across events. How does the relative scoring system accomplish this?

**MS:** By few very simple principles: In each event a zero score exists. For each event and regardless on the level (novice to elite) you get 20 additional points for each improvement



of 10%. If in excellent conditions A scores 80P in Australian Round, B scores 88P (10% more) B gains 20p on A. If in the next event (END in horrible conditions) A scores 22c and B just 20c, A gains 20p on B. So disciplines thrown in bad conditions have a similar impact on the overall ranking as those thrown in good conditions.

**MB:** *There are many experienced throwers, including some members of the IFBA committee, who believe that replacing the old scoring system with your system will create confusion when between events throwers will review the latest results on the pin-up sheet and not understand the individual placings or how they got there. The organisers would then have to spend time explaining the results. Do you believe this outcome is possible and what could be done to prevent it? What would you say to people who share the view that it is too scientific?*

**MS:** We live in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and have applied the relative system at the Europeans 2019 using Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. Excel or an App can do the job like in other sports (decathlon has way more complicated scoring tables by the way). I remember when, as a novice, I didn't understand the position based scoring system. What does "10 placing points behind the next thrower" mean? I couldn't tell. And sometimes I still can't tell nowadays, but now I know why: Differences between ordinal data are meaningless. At a tournament of 100 throwers, 10 placing points is "not much", but at a tournament with 12 throwers or teams it is "a lot" if you are a top thrower but can be "not so much" if you are an average thrower. Even an organiser can't help here. It's a matter of getting used to it, of knowing how to read scoring tables. After a few tournaments you even get a feeling for what 30 or 50 points in the relative system mean, which by the way can be automatically converted in statements like "In the next event you have to be 1.2 times better than the next better thrower". Even creating an App would be simple for any skilled programmer, then every competitor could evaluate his overall score immediately.



Manuel Schutz, Long Distance, European Championships 2019

In the crazy time we live in now (masks don't protect you, global warming is a hoax etc.) it's obvious. Science does matter, even if sometimes you don't understand. Do you stop

using airplanes or drones just because you don't understand Newton's laws and the Navier-Stokes equation but know very well that experts have done research in the past years to make it work? Does a pilot know? You would be surprised.

**MB:** *Can the relative scoring system be used for team events?*

**MS:** Absolutely. And for team events it would be a real benefit too! How often have we seen team cups where it was obvious who will win at the beginning of day 3? That would change with the relative system. Also for strategy: One knows how much time you can gain with a faster boomerang in Team Relay and what a drop costs. But how many placing points does a drop cost? No one knows. How many points can you gain with a WR Relay? Probably not many.

**MB:** *In the relative system, you just need a World Record in Trick Catch to win any tournament. Is that true?*

**MS:** No, a world record in Trick Catch alone doesn't make you win a tournament, because there is a cap at 100 points. Scoring 600 points in Trick Catch probably wins the tie break of the event but is still worth 1000 points for the overalls. I scored a Fast Catch world record in Besancon 2017 but was third with position based scoring and second with relative.

**MB:** *If the Relative Scoring System is to become the new standard scoring system for future competitions, including penultimate World Cups, what do you see will be the benefits?*

**MS:**

1. Other than any position based system it is **transparent**. If two throwers A and B compare their scores, they know right away what it means for the overall position. It can't happen anymore that 55 vs 50 points in Accuracy are decisive but not 90 vs 65 points in Aussie round.
2. It is **fairer** than any position based system. Score differences matter! They matter for all throwers, not just in the average region. From novice to pro: Every catch and every second is important.
3. It is **more exciting**. Knowing the winning team after 10 of 12 events is almost impossible with a scoring system other than position based. This is also an issue in alpine skiing where they use a slightly more sophisticated position based system. Very often, a skier doesn't even have to compete at the last race to win the trophy.

Boring!



Photographs courtesy of the IFBA and Matt Barker  
Photo of Manuel Schutz opposite taken by Jerome Guerrero  
Article and Interview questions prepared by Matt Barker, BAA Editor

*And that's a wrap!*