



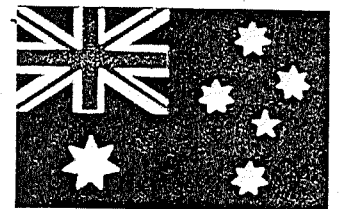
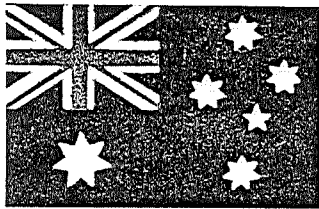
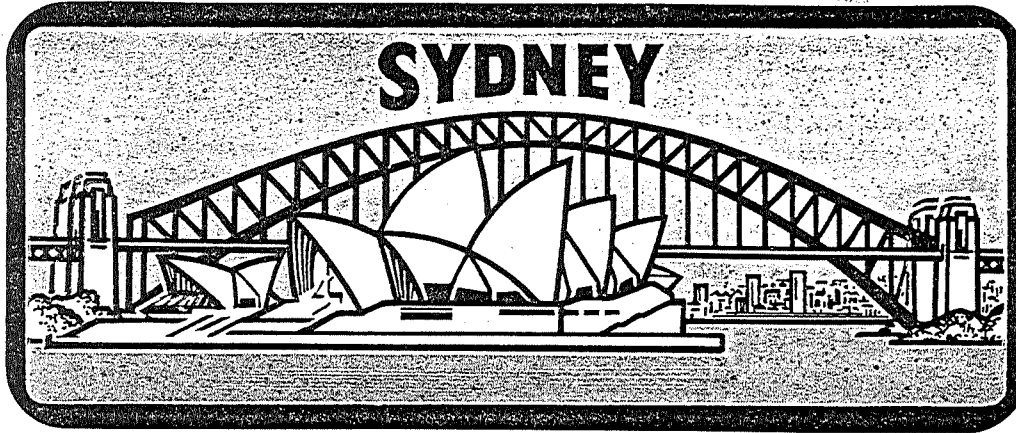
BOOMERANG BULLETIN

JUNE
1982

Boomerang Association of Australia
P.O. BOX 245, LILYDALE, VICTORIA, 3140, AUSTRALIA.

No. 30

Registered for posting as a publication. Category B. NBH4563



1982

50 YEARS AGO THE COATHANGER THAT BECAME WORLD FAMOUS

Editorial

The last Bulletin's editorial certainly encouraged comment on the question of rules. Four letters supporting the Editor's views were received, and a glance through this edition will also confirm that our members do have opinions on this matter. There is, consequently, a much wider authorship to this edition than to previous ones; and this is as it should be.

The volumes of reports and articles received for this edition, coupled with an urge to produce more information without increasing costs, has led us to attempt a new format - reduced print and compact size. We don't yet know if it will work or how well it will be received, but if you find this Bulletin looks as though it has shrunk in the wash, but is still legible, then it has worked! And if you tell us what you think of it, we will know the answer to the second question..... won't we!?

There is also much happening at present. Several different contests have been reported on herein. Your B.A.A. executive is desperately trying to get sponsorship for an Australian team to have a return match with the Americans in the U.S.A. next year. (If you know companies who may come to the party, please let us know as soon as possible). The Guinness Book of Records people will be here in late June to film Bob Burwell, Bunny Read, and others, and their British counterparts are waiting to get in on the act, too. A University of New South Wales School of Marketing group attended the Blue Mountains Championships to study the viability of boomerangs as a marketable item, and produced a very interesting 79-page book: "The Zoomerang Report". And we have put in our proposal to the Australia Games Foundation to have our sport included in the first Australia Games to be held in Sydney, Dec '83 - Jan '84.

So, things are happening, but we are still a small sport. Your individual effort in spreading the word, is still our greatest asset. It's still "Boomerangs and YOU in '82" or it will be "Who are we? in '83".

P.S. Printers have been able to increase
the magazine size instead of shrinking it!

TONY BUTZ
Editor

OVERSEAS NEWS FLASH !!

On the eve of going to press, Peter Jonson has arrived back from the U.S.A. to report that Australian star Bob Burwell has had everyone goggled-eyed with his dazzling displays. In the special American event of Juggling, Bob more than doubled the world competitive record by notching up 69 catches! Champion Chet Snouffer watched in amazement. The nearest tally to Bob's was 6. See the next magazine for a full report on the AMERICAN SAGA. Rain has washed out several comps unfortunately. Melbourne's not so bad after all!

Letters to the Editor

Dear Ed.,

We would like, if we may, through the Bulletin to express our thanks for the friendly encouragement and advice we received at the National Championships at Albury earlier this month. Being novices of only four months at boomerang throwing, we certainly appreciated this.

It amazed & fascinated us to see so many different shapes & sizes of boomerangs as varied as the age groups of the contestants - 2 years to 81 years. In what other sport would you find that variation in ages participating in a National Championship Competition?

We were surprised how little is known of the B.A.A. or in fact the sport. We have caused many a raised eyebrow & indeed quite a few chuckles when we have made enquiries into the sport, and tried, unsuccessfully, to purchase any books on boomerangs. With this thought in mind, may we suggest that advertising in local libraries could in fact be a great help to the Association and to the people like ourselves who are interested in throwing & making boomerangs. Our local library has a section covering most sporting activities with the name & address of the secretary for further information.

As two of the newest members of the B.A.A., we are looking forward to many happy hours of boomerang throwing in the congenial company we met at Albury.

Yours sincerely,

John & Betty Bailey (Vic.)

(Well, what about that libraries idea, everyone!? - Ed.)

One of our Queensland members, Conrad Stacey, is doing for his final year of Mechanical Engineering at University of Queensland, a thesis on the aerodynamics of boomerangs. He is specifically concerned with "the values for the forces and moments acting on a boomerang in flight" and "the equations of motion", in order to predict flight paths by computer. He has written seeking a copy of Felix Hess's "Boomerangs, Aerodynamics and Motion", printed by Groningen University. If any member can help, please write immediately to Conrad Stacey, 46 Edson St., Kenmore, Qld., 4069.

Dear Ed.,

Have just read the U.S.B.A. proposals re rules with a view to comment but don't know where to start & finish. To develop as a sport we need to have competitions which can tolerate wind. Doubling and Juggling would appear least suitable in this regard. The Australian General & Fast Catch are probably most possible, followed by Distance, Accuracy, MTA and Suicide. The latter does not appeal as a sporting contest, being too open to unfair tactics of interference. Judging is also too difficult with a mass of contestants. Our established rules should be submitted and amended where necessary.

Regards,

Barrie Forsyth (S.A.)

RULES SUGGESTIONS

(The following article is from notes and comments supplied by Chris Henzgen, President of the new V.B.T.A. In writing them up in this form, the editor accepts full responsibility if anything, as stated, misrepresents what Chris has intended by his remarks).

A. THE NEED FOR STANDARDIZATION

1. To avoid situations that developed in the Aust. v U.S.A. Test series last November.
2. To establish a set of rules for all the world to use.
3. To counter the more theatrical American competitions by being first with a set of proper competitions.
4. To have a recognised way of running things that will lend credibility to our competitions and our sport.
5. To make the establishing and keeping of (world and local) records both meaningful and accurate.

B. EXAMPLES OF INCONSISTENCIES FROM AUST. v U.S.A. SERIES

1. Sometimes no practice throws, sometimes allowed.
2. Practice throws sometimes permitted but not counted.
3. Variations in number of throws:
in the Duration, sometimes 3, sometimes 5.
in the General, sometimes 3, sometimes 5.
4. Variations in throwing point: sometimes centre circle, sometimes anywhere.
5. Variations in names. e.g. Duration, Maximum Time Aloft, Slow Catching, for the same competition.

C. CONCLUSION

We should:

1. Decide upon definitive names for events.
2. Decide on simple, sensible rules for all events (even those we may hardly ever use, so they are there if needed)
3. Print the rules and distribute to all B.A.A. members and to all local and overseas bodies.
4. Ensure that such rules are:
 - a) fair to all;
 - b) easy to police;
 - c) exciting for spectators;
 - d) practical in terms of time.

D. CONSIDERATIONS FOR BASIC RULES

1. A legal (to be defined) boomerang must be used.
2. No gloves are to be allowed for throwing or catching.
3. No practice throws for any competition.
4. Three throws per competitor per event.
5. Sequential throwing.
6. 20m qualifying outward distance.
7. All throws from centre circle.
8. Pre-determined throwing order (by lottery) including provision for late entries.
9. Three stopwatches to be used for timed events.

E. CONSIDERATIONS FOR SPECIALISED COMPETITIONS

ACCURACY

Leave B on the ground until the end of the round.
Highest total for 3 throws wins.
If you land in accuracy circles, go in next round; if not: out.
Measure closest B for "nearest to the pin".

DOUBLE-BARREL

Same as Accuracy, except 2 B's thrown simultaneously and the scores of both are counted.

SMALLEST

Must land in accuracy circles to score.
Size determined by B.A.A. formula.

LARGEST

As for Smallest.

CONSECUTIVE CATCHING

Must be caught inside 20m circle.
One miss and you're out.

ONE-HANDED CATCHING

Same as for Consecutive Catching but catch must be made with one hand only, without touching any other part of the body.

SLOW CATCHING

Stand anywhere, so the onus is upon the thrower to make the throw and catch away from spectators buildings, etc.
Best (slowest) time recorded.

FAST CATCHING

Must be caught within 20m circle.
Best (fastest) single catch recorded.

JUGGLING

Throw from anywhere.
Next throw must be made while other B is in the air.
Total number of catches recorded.

LONG DISTANCE

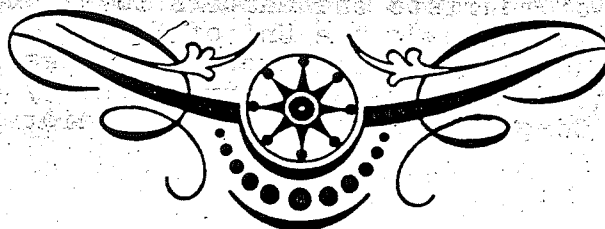
If measured across axis, then throwing would not be sequential, so thrower can adjust axis for each of his 3 throws.
If not on axis, then throwing would be sequential.

GENERAL

Two rounds of three throws, with no final round.

CHRIS HENZGEN

(Okay, the gauntlet's been thrown down! Let's hear your views on Chris's ideas for the next Bulletin - Ed.)



WAVERLEY CONTEST RESULTS 1982

(Contest Organiser, Robert Croll, reports on the first Waverley Boomerang Club (Melbourne) Contest)

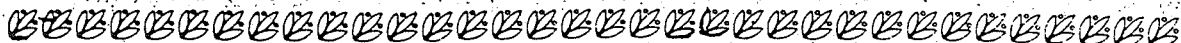
An overcast day with strong to very gusty wind conditions resulted in relatively low scores through the day. Sixteen competitors contested the Accuracy Competition which was won by Morris Maxwell on 7 points. Ian Stapleton & Mike Flynn, both in their first competition, scored 6 points, with Ian narrowly beating Mike for the nearest to the pin; Bill Knight also scored 6 points - a close contest.

On the line Catching saw all throwers out after only 3 catches, but Bill & Sharryn Knight battled the wind in a throw-off for first place. Many throws later, Bill emerged the victor.

The wind, however, was only just warming up, and the General Competition found just about every boomerang headed for destruction. The eventual winner was Chris Henzgen, chalking up his first General Comp. win after scoring on every throw and taking some spectacular catches. Second was Bob Croll with 58 points to Chris's 64, and third was Sharryn Knight on 37 points. During this event, one boomerang disappeared for good, and Peter Maxwell tried stopping one of Ian Stapleton's with his head. After quick repair work by father Dennis and Uncle Morris, Peter was back out on the field.

Few people entered the Shortest Time for 5 Catches, but those who did had a close competition. Bob Croll won in a time of 1 min. 54 secs., followed by Chris Henzgen on 2 min. 0.1 sec. The Duration was also won by Bob Croll on 15 seconds, chased by Dennis Maxwell on 14 seconds. Chris Henzgen scored 12 seconds and a broken boomerang.

ROBERT CROLL



BLUE MOUNTAINS CHAMPIONSHIPS REPORT 1982

The first Blue Mountains Boomerang Championships were held on Anzac Day, 25th April at Katoomba Falls Reserve, and a brand new B.A.A. record was set: we started precisely on time and finished precisely on time! Much of the credit for this goes to Di Jonson who did all the paperwork at the table, including signing up new members, handling enquiries and recording results.

It was also a time for "other things" happening, such as: the Channel 10 helicopter landing on the field and drawing a crowd of tourists and campers to watch (Channel 10's Ron Wilson also threw); the Uni of N.S.W. Marketing group (mentioned in the editorial) were there taking notes and asking questions; and we set a precedent by establishing a Pensioner's Competition entry fee at junior rates.

1
1
5
1
E
F

A team of eight juniors contested the General Comp. which was won by Paul Heath of Roseville, Sydney. This gave Paul a hat-trick, holding simultaneously the Australian, Sydney and Blue Mountains Junior Championships. Paul's score of 69 was achieved in gusty winds with a boomerang he had made himself. Robert Arthur of Lane Cove and Phillip Walsh of Killara came in second and third places respectively with scores of 41 and 27. Other scores were: M. Heath, 23; D. Heath, 21; R. Costa, 15; A. Lenehan, 12 and D. Williams (suffering from a nasty virus) 4.

In Junior Accuracy, Robert Costa scored 14 points to win and also to take nearest to the pin by decapitating a balloon sitting on the centre pin. Damian Heath was second on 10 and Anthony Lenehan third on 8. In Catching it was a family feud as Paul Heath just edged in over brother Michael to win this competition, which saw Scott Haywood take third place.

The Senior General was won by B.A.A. President, Bro. Brian Thomas on 60 points. His consistent throwing gave him a comfortable lead over other contestants, with Rick Haywood taking second place on 40 points and Peter Jonson third on 36 points. Only 10 throws were allowed each contestant, there being no finals. Ken Arthur came in fourth and retired headmaster Ken Barwick, who joined up on the day, came fifth.

Ken was persuaded to "have a go" although he "only came to have a look", and managed to knock us veterans of competition out of the Accuracy Comp. to WIN that event! Second was Rick Haywood, with 8 points to Ken's 10. The Consecutive Catching was won by Tony Butz, with (again!) Rick Haywood in second place.

Special thanks must go to Les Carrett of Blue Mountains City Council (and wife Val) for a lot of help in the preparation of the event; to Patsi Fields, also of Council for presenting the trophies; to Bernie Burke & Bro. Thomas for donating the trophies; to Di Jonson for the paperwork; to the Heath family for administrative assistance (and raising a family of boomerang throwers!) and Channel 10 for giving us News coverage.

TONY BUTZ

Contest Organiser
NSW. BTA Secretary

ADDRESSES

PRESIDENT: BR. BRIAN M. THOMAS, C.F.C., 35 Anderson St., Chatswood. 2067. (02) 411 4733

VICE-PRESIDENTS: JACK BYHAM, Boorim St., Cobram. Vic. 3644. (058) 72216

BUNNY READ, 380 Broadway St., Wycheproof. Vic. 3527. (054) 937612

BARRIE FORSYTH, 75 Norrie Ave., Whyalla Norrie. S.A. 5608. (086) 457674

SECRETARY: MORRIS MAXWELL, Box 245, P.O., Lilydale. Vic. 3140. (03) 739 1809

TREASURER: MRS. DI JONSON, 26 Underwood St., Paddington. N.S.W. 2021. (02) 357 4585

EDITOR: TONY BUTZ, 6 Griffiths Ave., West Ryde. N.S.W. (02) 807 4529

REGISTRAR: ALAN THOMPSON, 12 Highmoor Ave., Bayswater. Vic. 3153.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN RESULTS 1982

The fifth annual South Australian Championships were held at Schulz Reserve, Whyalla, on Saturday 15th May, 1982 in ideal weather conditions. New records were set in 5 of the 6 events.

RESULTS

Junior Accuracy: John Maffea (Whyalla) 1st, on 14 points
Junior Catching: Colin Varney (Whyalla) 1st, 7 catches (S.A. record)
Junior General: Colin Varney 1st, 149 points (S.A. record)
 Martin Mathews (Whyalla) 110 points, 2nd
Senior Accuracy: Bunny Read (Wycheproof, Vic.) 1st, on 25 points (S.A. record)
Senior Catching (Shortest Time for 5):
 Trevor Loveland (Charlton, Vic.) 1st: 43.79 (S.A. record)
Senior General: Barrie Forsyth (Whyalla) 1st, 219 points (S.A. record)
 Bunny Read (Wycheproof, Vic.) 2nd, 212 points
Best Novice Thrower: Michael Richardson (Whyalla)

We struck the jackpot with weather: almost flat calm in the morning and a slight easterly in the afternoon. 8 seniors & 6 juniors participated. Spectators were coming and going all day and two demonstrations given by Bunny Read and Barrie Forsyth were very well received. These two contestants also took all 20 catches in the General Competition, and it was good to see George Tunstall in third place on 123 points.

BARRIE FORSYTH

Contest Organiser
& S.A. Regional Supervisor

STOPPRESSSTOPPRESSSTOPPRESSSTOPPRESSSTOPPRESSSTOPPRESSSTOP

VICTORIAN BOOMERANG THROWING ASSOCIATION

At a meeting held on 6th June, 1982, a Victorian state association was formed, and given the official name of the Victorian Boomerang Throwing Association. Office bearers were elected:

President: Chris Henzgen
Secretary: Andrew Webster
Treasurer/Registrar: John Bailey

Next meeting will be held on 8th July, 1982 at Ian Stapleton, 22 Waratah Avenue, Burwood, Vic. (8 pm.)

All Victorian members welcome

STOPPRESSSTOPPRESSSTOPPRESSSTOPPRESSSTOPPRESSSTOPPRESSSTOP



18th JULY, 1982

SYDNEY CHAMPIONSHIPS

The fourth annual Sydney Boomerang Championships will be held on SUNDAY, 18th JULY, 1982 at BEAUCHAMP PARK, Nicholson Street, CHATSWOOD, from 12 noon to 3.00 pm.

Note: Registrations must be made before 11.45 am.

Entry fees: B.A.A. members: SENIORS- \$3; JUNIORS- \$1
Day-comp " : SENIORS- \$5; JUNIORS- \$2

Entry fees entitle Juniors to: General, Accuracy & Catching.
Seniors to: General plus any two others of Accuracy, Catching (consecutive); Shortest Time for Five Catches & Multi-bladers.

JUNIORS NOTE: Junior preliminaries will be held on SUNDAY, 11th JULY, 1982 at CHAPLIN OVAL, Mars Road, Lane Cove, 12 noon to 3.00 pm. General Comp. finalists only will compete on 18th but all Junior trophies and certificates will be presented on the 18th together with seniors.

TROPHIES have once again been generously donated by the COMMONWEALTH BANK, including a magnificent trophy for the first interstate competition: NSW v. VIC.

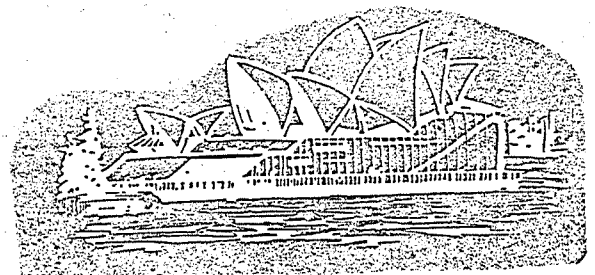
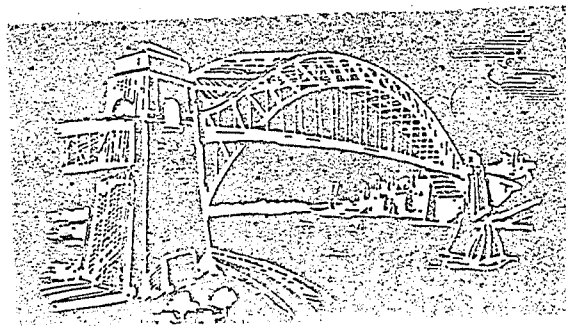
The INTER-STATE CHALLENGE MATCH will be based on the scores of the top three scorers for each state in the first round of the Senior General Competition.

The MULTIBLADER COMPETITION will be based on the Accuracy Comp. Legal sticks will be those with three or more distinct projections from the centre. The multiblader may be either caught or allowed to land in the accuracy circles, either way scoring only accuracy points.

DEMONSTRATION THROWING of novelty boomerangs by all members interested is also programmed. Fancy or trick catches, and other crowd pleasers are welcome.

ENQUIRIES: Contact NSW BTA Secretary & Contest Organiser, TONY BUTZ 6 Griffiths Avenue, West Ryde, NSW 2114 Telephone: (02) 807 4529

Victorian members please wear yellow BAA T-shirts or Boomerang Cup T-shirts; NSW members wear light blue NSW tops.





BOOMERANG THROWING ASSOCIATION OF N.S.W.

New South Wales members please note the following:

- * If you have not yet picked up your membership certificate, you may do so at the Sydney Championships. Distant members may have it posted on request.
- * ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS to the BTA of NSW will take place at the July 11th meeting (Sunday) at Chaplin Oval, Lane Cove, following the junior preliminary contests and competitions.
- * The North Sydney Region of the BTA of NSW continues to meet on the last Sunday of each month at Chaplin Oval, Mars Road, Lane Cove, 9.30 - 11.30 am. All welcome.

TONY BUTZ
BTA NSW Hon. Secretary

COMING EVENTS

- SUN. JULY 11th SYDNEY JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS
Chaplin Oval, Mars Rd., Lane Cove. 12 - 3 pm.
ANNUAL ELECTION OF BTA of NSW OFFICERS
Chaplin Oval, Mars Rd., Lane Cove. 3.00 pm.
- SUN. JULY 18th FOURTH SYDNEY CHAMPIONSHIPS
Beauchamp Park, Nicholson Street, Chatswood.
12.00 - 3.00 pm.
(Contact TONY BUTZ: (02) 807 4529.
- SAT/SUN OCT. 2nd & 3rd ALBURY CHAMPIONSHIPS & GENERAL
MEETING. Alexandra Park, East Albury
Competition starts 10 am.
(Contact KEN OVINGTON: (060) 25 2648

BBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBB

NOTICEBOARD

A reminder is here given that interested (non-competing) people may become Bulletin subscribers for only \$4.00 p.a. This fee does not allow voting rights or reduced entry fee to competitions, but sends you the Bulletin five times a year, to keep you informed of news in the boomerang world.

RULES REVIEW

Competition rules are reviewed here to initiate a forum of discussion via bulletins appearing between now and the General meeting in Albury in October.

For the benefit of those not involved with discussions in the past, I present here an update of a review included in Bulletin No. 14, May 1975.

Morris Maxwell.

ORIGIN & DEVELOPMENT OF CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION RULES

The basic rules used by the Association for General Championships are unique and time-proven. They are a definite test of accuracy, catching and range, while providing constant action for spectators, especially entertaining when a running commentary is given. The rules were drawn up in their original form by the late Bob Burns of Yarraville in collaboration with Eric and Bill Onus. The Harold Blair Aboriginal Children's Project used the rules for several years in an annual competition held in Victoria.

REVIEW & EXPLANATION OF BASIC COMPETITION RULES

Discussion regarding Title :-

Originally these rules were used to run the only competitions which had championship status. Then when "novelty events" became "specialised competitions" resulting in "accuracy catching etc. championships", the main event was described as the "General Championship" to distinguish titles. Now to save any future confusion, I suggest that the name "General Championship Competition" be taken as the accepted title for this event and following rules.

GENERAL CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION RULES (Suggested title)

1. General

- (a) A competition held in accordance with the following rules is a test of accuracy of return ability to catch the boomerang and range.

This first sub-section covers the overall aim of the competition, being a simultaneous assessment of the three major skills.

1. (b) Such a competition shall be used for all General Championships which are recognised by the B.A.A.

This sub-section was introduced to distinguish the title and to make it clear that these rules are required for official titles.

1. (c) These rules may be altered only in accordance with the By-Laws of the Association.

The By-Laws state that after all members have had reasonable notification of proposed revision, this may be carried by a positive vote of no less than 75% of voting members. This is a most topical point as we are now commencing the procedure. "Voting members" will be those present at the general meeting on Sat. 3rd October, 1982.

1. (d) Competitors will use boomerangs which are of similar shape to the Australian Aboriginal Boomerang.

This sub-section was the result of a lot of discussion, summarised in the following :-

The shape referred to means "a bent stick shape", being a two bladed boomerang, the blades or arms of which may be more, or less curved. It prevents the use of multi-bladed types and other complex shapes which may give an unfair advantage aerodynamically and especially in catching by the use of certain materials etc.

Now it appears that this rule is due for some clarification. Precedent has been set by allowing the use of a variety of shapes for competitions. These shapes satisfy the understanding of having only two arms or blades, not giving any catching advantage, a few of them could hardly be classed as being of similar outline to the "generally accepted shape of the Australian Aboriginal Boomerang". To avoid a reference like this which could be interpreted as something quite different from one person to the next, that this rule be altered to something like:

"1. (d) Boomerangs used must comply with the following:

- (i) An outline shape which has only two effective blades or arms
- (ii) Have no mechanical power source incorporated or any other device which may control the flight.
- (iii) Have no extra protrusions, wires etc. which may be an aid to catching."

This still leaves a bit of vagueness as far as defining "two effective blades or arms". Perhaps someone could come up with a more exact description or perhaps a definition like "average width ratio" or "distance from centre of gravity ratio" etc.

Any requirement for restriction of the type of material used is conspicuous by its absence. In the early days of competition development, there were many varied and conflicting opinions on material type; from those who considered that only natural timbers be used, to those who considered that this encouraged damage to the environmental flora; and from those who considered that synthetic materials should not be permitted, to those who considered that only plastic boomerangs be used. The only practical course to take was that of no restrictions.

This has the advantage of encouraging experimentation with materials and away with any requirement to examine the material of all boomerangs used would be a practical impossibility.

To clarify the matter for future reference and avoid unnecessary queries, I suggest that a note of the abovementioned policy be included in the rules as follows:

"1. (d) (v) There shall be no restriction on the size of boomerangs used."

1. (e) Competitors will throw by hand from the centre of several concentric circles drawn on level ground which is free of obstructions.

The first part of this sub-section means that no mechanical device may be used to launch the boomerang. An interesting point was brought up last year by Brian Shattell that this discriminates against any person who is disabled in such a manner that prevents throwing without some form of mechanical aid. With this in mind, I suggest that the rule be altered to read something like :-

1. (e) (i) No mechanical device may be used to launch the boomerang except in the case of a bona fide medically required mechanical aid for a handicapped person.

The central clause of this rule means that each throw must be made from within the centre accuracy circle. As we now have precedents of throws being disallowed when contestants stepped over the line of the centre circle, it would seem appropriate to spell this out in the rule. eg:-

"1. (e) (ii) Competitors will throw from within the centre accuracy circle (re. 2a) and must not step out of said circle before the boomerang is released."

The clauses referring to ground marking and ground quality could be expanded and included as a separate sub-section to more clearly define the ground and area required as follows:

"1. (logical order would make this (d)(i) The field used shall be level, of normal sports ground quality and no smaller than 100 m in the smallest dimension.

(ii) The field shall be marked as described in later sections with standard sports ground lines or equivalent as technology permits."

1. (f) A scoring throw is one which causes the boomerang to pass over a point on the ground not less than 20 m from the centre-point of the circles and come to rest in the scoring circles or is caught.

The logic here is as follows: 1. If the boomerang returns to the accuracy circles after going out the qualifying distance the throw makes a score. 2. If the boomerang is caught on the return it also scores. 3. The boomerang must either return to the accuracy circles or be caught before any points for range are added as a bonus.

1. (g) If the weather is inclement, or very windy, the competition will not be held, unless by vote not less than 75% of the members present approve.

This rule proved its flexible worth at the Australian titles in Canberra when all competitors agreed that their journies would be wasted if the competition were not held. A strict rule regarding some particular wind velocity may have resulted in cancellation of the event for that year.

2. Accuracy

- (a) The scoring circles shall be of 1.5, 3.5, 5.5 and 7.5 m radii.
- (b) A score of 8, 6, 4 or 2 points is scored if the boomerang comes to rest in the 1.5, 3.5, 5.5 or 7.5 m circles respectively.
- (c) If the boomerang comes to rest on the line separating scoring zones, then the average of the two adjacent zones will apply. ie. 7, 5, 3 or 1 point.

The circles and score are such that approximately each large pace taken from the centre point makes a difference of one point in the accuracy score. The theoretical ideal would be to have a varying grade of accuracy score starting at zero near the 20 m line, and increasing to a maximum value in the centre. With this theory in mind, I drew up a special set of circles for a local competition in Melbourne in 1971. There were five accuracy circles, having radii of 1, 3, 5, 7 and 9 m. When the current rules were ratified later that year, the existing circles were chosen, being a compromise from the original three circle layout.

Now we still have the anomaly of an uneven relationship between range and accuracy requirements. ie. we have range references at 20, 30 and 40 m and no reference to the 10 m mark. Why not make this the outer accuracy reference? The addition of an extra accuracy circle would then increase maximum points for accuracy to 10.

A move was made to introduce this in 1975 and I repeat here a few points in favour:-

The primary conception of a boomerang is something which returns to point from which it was thrown. Therefore, in a simultaneous test of accuracy, catch and range, possible points for accuracy should be the highest percentage of total of all three. This logic is already accepted, and the existing rules allow the greatest single allocation of points to accuracy but this only affects for the more accurate returns. The suggested amendment increases the value of accuracy further, and takes some emphasis off the necessity of making a catch to score, even when a throw has returned most of the way.

In classifying a "returning throw", one could logically define this as a throw which returns better than "half way". Such would be the case when a throw 20 m range returned closer than 10 m. Now a 20 m throw has the minimum qualifying range and is not common in championship competitions.

Throws of 30 and 40 m ranges are most common and these would be within a third and a quarter of their respective orbital axes when returning closer than 10 m. With the existing layout, the average throw of say, 35 m which returns to less than a third of its orbital range, scores no points for accuracy, and does not score at all unless caught. This puts all the required skill on catching to make a score, even though a degree of accuracy greater than 70% was achieved.

The span between the suggested circle and adjacent 7.5 m circle is a third larger than other scoring zone spans. This much larger area provides an appropriate "tapering off" of the accuracy score, instead of a "steeper drop" to zero.

3. Catching.

- (a) For a catch to be valid, the boomerang must be held firmly without allowing it to touch the ground and without the use of mechanical aids. If the boomerang is fumbled and then dropped, no score for a catch will be allowed.

To satisfy this definition, any style of catching may be used, as long as the result is a definite physical possession of the boomerang. Variations in scoring for different styles of catching were suggested, but differences between styles eg. "one handed" or "one handed-against body" are difficult to define and would have a lot of practical difficulties when judging.

The reference to mechanical aids could be dealt with in a similar way to the suggested sub-section 1. (e) (i) as follows:-

3. (a) (ii) No mechanical device may be used to catch the boomerang except in the case of a bona fide medically required aid for a handicapped person."

There is no mention of the use of gloves and there has indeed been no restriction. The understanding being that gloves used are purely for protection, giving no advantage to catching. It also follows that if any competitor deems that gloves are actually advantageous, then there is nothing to stop him or her from using same.

Any webbed glove would of course be classed as a mechanical aid. However, a point raised recently is that new materials available could give an unfair advantage. eg. A thick spongy coating of a substance that also has a high co-efficient of friction (non slip effect) could be used with no visible advantage like webbs.

With this in mind, if gloves continue to be permitted, then additional definitions of coverings etc. will be required and these will subsequently require policing. Even after lots of discussion and finalisation of necessary definitions there may still be some anomaly when a different material becomes available.

A simple alternative may be not to permit the use of gloves at all. In any case, I suggest that a sub-section be added referring to the use of gloves and be something like either of the following:-

"3.(a)(iii) The use of gloves shall not be permitted."

----- or -----

"3.(a)(iii) Gloves may be used providing that they are purely for protection and give no advantage to catching.

3. (b) Another concentric circle will be drawn at the qualifying distance of 20 m radius. A catch taken inside this circle scores 4 points, and outside, 2 points.

Here is an example of an efficient compromise between two sets of rules in the '60s. The original Burns - Onus rules allowed four points for a catch taken anywhere. The Albury Club run by Jeff Lewry used at the time, a variation of this rule, which allowed a catch to score only inside the 20

3. (c) If a competitor's feet are in different zones when a catch is taken, then the average score of the two adjacent zones will apply. ie. 11, 9, 7, 5 or 3 points.

The idea behind this rule is that the accuracy points awarded when a catch taken are determined by the catcher's location in relation to the accuracy circles. As this could sometimes be hard to determine, the location of the feet was taken as the defining reference.

This definition may have helped to encourage the spectacular catching style of Chris Henzgen. Taking the worded definition to its limit, Chris "leans on a circle to take a catch, sometimes ending up laying on the ground but with feet still in the higher scoring zone. This is within the "letter of the law" and a well deserved advantage to Chris and anyone else who wants to try it.

The only complication in judging a catcher's position is when a running jump is made, the catch taken when the catcher is off the ground and the catcher is landing in a different scoring zone to that where the jump was started.

To cover all contingencies, I suggest that the rule be altered to something like:-

- "3.(c) (i) Accuracy points awarded when a catch is taken shall be determined by the competitor's location above the scoring zones at the moment of first contact with the boomerang.
- (ii) If any part of the contestant is over a line at the said moment of contact, then the average score of the two adjacent zones will apply."

3. (d) If the boomerang touches the ground during its return flight and rebounds, then no points will be allowed for a catch but any normal points for accuracy or distance will be scored.

This rule makes allowance for a good strong but low throw which may "skip" the ground before it returns, thus deserving full points including the catch. However, if a boomerang on its return bounces into the thrower's hands then this could not be allowed as a catch.

4. Distance

- (a) A bonus of 2 points is allowed for each scoring throw which causes the boomerang to pass over a point on the ground not less than 30 m from the centre point of the circles.
- (b) An additional bonus of 2 points is allowed for a throw which causes the boomerang to pass over a point on the ground not less than 40 m from the centre point of the circles.

It has been suggested that further ranges of 45 and 50 metres be introduced with appropriate bonus points. However, it would not always be practical to have a layout of such dimensions, which may result in varying standards from one contest to another.

5. Procedure

- (a) In a championship competition, each round shall consist of five recorded throws by each contestant and each heat shall consist of two rounds.

This rule serves to define terminology for phases of competition. While providing a basic standard for number of throws taken, programming remains flexible as there is no requirement or limit to the number of heats, finals etc.

5. (b) Each contestant will be allowed one non-scoring practice throw before the first recorded throw in each round.

As mentioned in the 1975 Bulletin - No points may be allowed for this throw, although for some strange reason it often results in a good flight. This has remained the case until recently when at some competitions, competitors have been allowed to nominate the first throw as a practice or not, after the throw has been completed.

The original idea of the rule was to give throwers the chance to warm up with a sighter throw each time they got up to compete. However with a general increase in the standard of throwing and with our policy of increasing the spectator appeal of events, this now seems unnecessary. I suggest the rule be altered to the following:-

5. (b) No practice throws will be allowed during competition."

5. (c) Each throw must be taken within 20 seconds of taking up a "ready" position at the throwing point except when an extension of this time is allowed by the Judge.

At the discretion of the Judge, a pause may be allowed, usually for some distraction or handicap to pass. These could be things like noisy vehicles, a strong gust of wind, parachutists mistaking the circles for a target, etc.

5. (d) When a final heat is included in a championship competition, finalists will be those competitors whose preliminary total scores are the three highest, regardless of the number of competitors on those scores.

If a final heat is held this saves a lot of time in deciding finalists. extra finalist uses a lot less time than would a throw off round.

5. (e) The order of competing in finals shall be determined by the scoring in preliminary rounds. Lowest total throws first, highest total throws last. In the event of equal preliminary totals, countback will apply. ie. if the last round totals are equal, then the last throw determines highest, and so on, until a difference in scores shows.
- (f) Final placings will be determined by the addition of total scores attained in both preliminary and final heats.
- (g) If a tie occurs in the final placings, then the positions will be decided by a throw-off of 3 throws per person, until there is a difference in the scores.

6. Judging

- (a) The Judge controlling the event, shall be appointed in accordance with the by-laws of the Association.

The by-laws state that the Judge shall be approved by the Executive of the Association, and should not suffer from any handicap which may impair his/her ability to Judge.

6. (b) Stewards may be appointed as is practical, and depending upon the importance of a competition. There may be stewards for accuracy points, catching and distance.

The Stewards are equivalent to Linesmen used in a major tennis match.

6. (c) The Judge may declare a throw to be taken again, if he has any, or if she has any doubt regarding the score for that throw.

The Judge has the power to declare another throw if not personally satisfied with the result.

6. (d) If the Judge deems that a contestant is prevented or handicapped; in throwing, pursuing, or catching the boomerang; by any obstruction, then the contestant may take the throw again if he or she wishes.

The obstructions mentioned here have been such objects as; two-way radio antennae, a bag of boomerangs left on the ground, stray dogs, the Judge and Stewards.

6. (e) Upon entering the competition, all contestants will agree to abide by the decisions of the Judge.

In major competitions this is to be effected by each contestant signing a registration form.

NOTE to organisers:-

The Association supplies specially designed score sheets to keep a clear record of competitions, and also a detailed list of equipment needed to run a competition. These items are available on request.

NEW MEMBERS

A very warm welcome is extended to the following new members, and to some of our not-too-new members, who haven't been formally welcomed before.

BRUCE KENNEDY of WEST HEIDELBERG, Vic.

ANDREW ATKIN of DARLINGTON, N.S.W.

JOHN & BETTY BAILEY of WEST BRUNSWICK, Vic.

MAL BROOKSBY and FAMILY of SALISBURY, S.A.

PETER BYHAM & FAMILY of BAROOGA, N.S.W.

JOHN & ADDY CARROLL of SCARBOROUGH, W.A.

DR. FRANCIS, ROSE, HEATHER & DAVID COULDRIDGE of ALBURY, N.S.W.

DAMIAN & MICHAEL HEATH of ROSEVILLE, N.S.W.

BARRY & ROGER KYLE of ABBOTSFORD, N.S.W.

TREVOR & BEN LOVELAND of CHARLTON, Vic.

KEN BARWICK of EMU PLAINS, N.S.W.

LINDY JONSON of MITCHAM, Vic.

BRUCE MORGAN of ST. MARYS, N.S.W.

ANTHONY LENEHAN of ROSEVILLE, N.S.W.

PHILLIP WALSH of KILLARA, N.S.W.

JAMES B. EJOKWU, ESQ. of NIGERIA.