

**NEW SOUTH WALES
WOMEN'S BASEBALL
LEAGUE**



**ANNUAL REPORT
2005/06**

Chair Report

This year has seen Women's Baseball in New South Wales grow and develop from strength to strength.

The beginning of the season saw the departure of Max Costello who has held the position of Chair Person for the League over the last couple of years. I would like to thank Max for her dedication and continued support she gave to the NSWABL during that period.

With a new Committee elected: -

Chair	-	Kellie Walbancke
Secretary	-	Stacey Hutchinson
Treasurer	-	Narelle Gosstray
Sponsorship/Promotions	-	Kate Zucconi
Development	-	Mark Cordingley

goals were set to develop our Junior Women's Baseballers and maintain a high standard of structure in running and developing the current League and the current players within the League.

Summer 2005/06 was a growth year for the league, with Illawarra joining the A Grade ranks, to round the competition to 6 teams, and the B grade competition growing to 9 teams (Baulkham Hills, Eagles, Greater Western, Quakers Hill (x2), Rouse Hill, Star and Warringah Warriors). Both A and B grade had back-to-back premiers, with Cronulla and Greater Western taking out their respective gongs.

With what was to be a successful year in development towards juniors both within and outside the League saw us host a number of events aimed towards juniors girls.

On December 10 2005, the NSWABL held a Futures Tournament for girls aged 14-18 currently playing in the League. The event showcased the future of women's baseball and involved 20 of the leagues future stars, both players and coaches.

Our second event saw the introduction of the first All-Girls Junior Classic, held April 1 & 2 2006 at Northmead Reserve. With what was to be an outstanding success, with Baulkham Hills declared undefeated champions. Five teams from Sydney and Victoria competed in the Pee Wee age group (11-14YO). For the first time junior girls were in a league of their own.

The tournament had teams and players from all over Sydney: Baulkham Hills had girls from the Hills area, Manly and Macquarie, The Stingrays from Cronulla, Illawarra and the Junior Bee's with girls from every junior association, and the Victorian Vixens travelled to Sydney after months of training. They were keen to get some playing time.

It didn't matter what the score was or who did what, the girls were having fun playing with and against other girls. There was some competitive baseball played amongst the hot pink playing tops of the Junior Bee's to the girlish laughter and friendships that were born from this event. One of the Junior Bee's said "It was the best time I have had in five years of playing baseball". That summed up the atmosphere of the event and the experience of All-Girls Baseball.

Both of these events would not have been possibly without the continuing support from our major sponsors The Dugout and Easton. The contributions they have made to the League and Women's Baseball in general is fantastic and greatly appreciated.

The League continues to grow due to the passion and commitment of many people. With many contributors to the NSWBL over the years, the league has established a sound foundation to continue growing and developing for many years to come.

KELLIE WALBANCKE

Chair Person

2005/06 Finance Report

The NSWBL finished the season with a moderate surplus. The surplus was derived through a variety of sources, and puts the league in a solid position for future development.

A key driver for the 05/06 surplus was sponsorship and the league's ability to reduce administration expenses (including additional supply of balls from Easton over and above the original sponsorship agreement). This meant that the costs for both the pre-season tournament and the junior's tournament were considerably less than originally budgeted for.

Following the implementation of the National Registration process known as MyClub, BNSW administers the charging and collection of Insurance and Capitation fees directly with individual clubs. As a result these fees have not been shown within this finance report.

The original competition budget included the usage of Bogabilla, at higher ground fees than either Fairfield or BOP. The withdrawal of the use of Bogabilla combined with a number of washouts, meant that overall competition costs were reduced, even though additional fees were paid to BOP and Fairfield. *The Women's League Standing Committee (WLSC) recommends that the competition surplus is \$1,238 is retained by the WLSC for reinvestment into the Women's League.*

It is also important to note that BNSW has also agreed that the BNSW administration fee of \$2,250 (as budgeted in team fees @ \$150) will also be used for the development of female participation and the women's league in general. The WLSC will work together with BNSW to identify the best use of these resources.

It is important that junior development funds are also quarantined, and the net funds generated from junior activities were \$584, with the Futures tournament running at a loss. *It is the WLSC recommendation that these funds be reinvested in the next year to junior development.*

The additional funds generated by the WLSC total \$2,109. These funds were generated through the pre-season tournament and sponsorship funds. Key Sponsors for the year were Easton, the Dugout and Kirrawee Chiropractic. Their financial and in-kind contributions have contributed substantially to the success of the women's league over many years, and particularly this season. *The WLSC recommends that these funds be retained for the future development of Women's baseball in NSW.*

Overall, the season has been a financial success for the WLSC, and puts the NSWBL in a solid position for growth in the 06/07 season and beyond. The WLSC would like to thank BNSW for their assistance in managing the finances.

NARELLE GOSSTRAY

Treasurer

Income

Sponsorship

Easton/Dugout		\$	1,500
Kirrawee Chiropractic		\$	200
Sub-total		\$	1,700

	Pre-season tournament	Entry Fees	Total Charge
Competition Fees			
Cronulla		\$ 636	\$ 636
Star		\$ 1,272	\$ 1,272
Buzz	\$ 136	\$ 636	\$ 772
Baulkham Hills	\$ 136	\$ 1,272	\$ 1,408
Warringah Warriors		\$ 1,272	\$ 1,272
Illawarra	\$ 136	\$ 636	\$ 772
Greater Western		\$ 636	\$ 636
Eagles		\$ 636	\$ 636
Quakers Hill		\$ 1,272	\$ 1,272
Fairfield		\$ 636	\$ 636
Rouse Hill		\$ 636	\$ 636
Sub-total	\$ 409	\$ 9,540	\$ 9,949

Futures Tournament

Income received		\$	530
Sub-total		\$	530

Juniors Tournament

Buzz		\$	164
Baulkham Hills		\$	164
Illawarra		\$	164
Cronulla		\$	164
Victoria		\$	164
Sub-total		\$	818

Total Income

\$ 12,997

Expenses

Futures Tournament

Umpires Lunches		\$	145
T-shirts		\$	506
Sub-total		\$	651

Season Costs

Blacktown Ground Hire		\$	4,150
Fairfield Ground Hire		\$	750
Fairfield (Finals)		\$	150
Finals Umpires		\$	630
Statbook		\$	69
Trophy reimbursement		\$	303
Bball NSW Fee		\$	2,250
Sub-total		\$	8,302

Juniors Tournament

Trophies		\$	113
		\$	113

Total Expenses

\$ 9,066

Total Surplus (Loss)

\$ 3,931

Award Winners

A Grade

<u>Premiers:</u>	Cronulla Sharks
<u>Runners Up:</u>	Star Sports
<u>Grand Final MVP:</u>	Renee Straumetis
<u>Minor Premiers:</u>	Cronulla Sharks
<u>Pitching Award:</u>	Renee Straumetis
<u>Batting Award:</u>	Angela Catford
<u>Rookie of the Year:</u>	Brooke Maclean

B Grade

<u>Premiers:</u>	Greater Western
<u>Runners Up:</u>	Warringah Warriors
<u>Grand Final MVP:</u>	Belinda Boye
<u>Minor Premiers:</u>	Greater Western
<u>Pitching Award:</u>	Alyx Mcevoy
<u>Batting Award:</u>	Donelle Turner
<u>Rookie of the Year:</u>	Kasey Fullam

Sponsorship and Promotion Report

If you thought that last season was good for women's baseball this season has seen a significant increase in members and teams and as a result a greater competition across both grades.

The website, in only its second year of operation, provided an effective mode of communication to delegates, coaches and players alike. We were able to promote the league with upcoming events, league statistics and any other information regarding the League.

We welcomed Kirrawee Chiropractic as a sponsor of the statistics pages for both A and B grade and thank them for their support throughout the season.

Unfortunately the statistics pages were not kept as up to date as we would have liked due to some poor statistics sheets, problems with software and missing links. These problems were addressed throughout the season and as a result the League purchased a Stat Book site licence. It was also acknowledge that the input of the statistics was too big a job for one committee member and this role was delegated to 2 committee members, one person in charge of updating the statistics for each grade.

We also signed sponsorship agreements with Addlon Trading Co Pty Ltd (Easton) and The Baseball Dugout Pty Ltd as the Major Sponsors of the All Star Games. This allowed us to provide each player and coach from all 4 teams with a commemorative tee-shirt. Much thanks goes to Tony and Graham for their ongoing support and hopefully we can work through the glitches this year and work together again next year.

Not only did Addlon Trading Co Pty Ltd (Easton) generously provide all teams in both A and B Grades with Easton 700 game balls, they also supplied balls for the All-Star games, development days and Juniors tournaments.

Addlon Trading Co Ltd Pty (Easton) also provided the end of year awards for both A grade and B grade and the bat for the winner of the home run derby.

Addlon Trading Co Ltd Pty (Easton) also offered the B grade players an opportunity to trial a new "fluro" wet weather ball to assist with problems seeing the ball and handling in the wet. These balls got mixed reactions from the players and thanks goes to Warringah Warriors, Greater Western, Star and Rouse Hill for trialing those balls for us. This is an area that will continue to be a focus leading up to the new season.

Thanks must also go to McDonalds for kindly providing all the juniors from the All Star Day with food vouchers. Also thanks to Bare Bites who provided the junior players with fresh vegetable bags for sustenance throughout the games.

KATE ZUCCONI

Sponsorship and Promotions Officer

Development Report

Pre-Season Junior All-Girls Development - in-conjunction with NSW Baseball League we conducted a 10 week junior development program for junior girls aged from 11 to U/16. The program was split into two groups, one of U/13 and the other of U/16. The program for the younger age group was to evaluate their skills and set a sound foundation to work from. There were about 20 girls who attended.

Pre-Season Tournament - had three teams enter the 5 inning 5 runs per inning handicap tournament, the Buzz, Baulkham Hills and eventual winners Illawarra (B-Grade). The handicap for B-grade teams was to encourage them to enter and play against A-Grade teams to provide a challenge to both grades.

The Pre-Season tournament gives the league the opportunity to develop; it also gives B-Grade teams a level playing field to take on A-Grade teams. With a ten run head start and only 5 runs per inning it challenged the A-Grade teams to push hard to make up the deficit.

The tournament's objective was reached, the three teams that entered enjoyed themselves while using the weekend as an opportunity to find some hidden talent.

With more teams entering, the format could really push the development process for teams, testing the limits of each teams pitching and the ability to back up game after game in preparation for the upcoming season.

The Format

5 innings with 5 runs per inning and a 2 inning tiebreaker if required.

Stats - last season the stats were used to determine awards and the selection criteria for the All-Star games. From a combination of regular stats the Players Productivity Index was formed. This Index while not a complete view of a player's ability gave an unbiased view of each team and players performance.

Below are the stats and the awards and how they were used to determine the All-Star teams:

Pitching Productivity Index (PPI) - WHIP + ERA = PPI

WHIP - In, walks plus hits per inning pitched (WHIP) is a measurement of how many base

runners a pitcher is responsible for allowing per inning.

It gives a general measure of a pitcher's ability to keep off base. A WHIP of around 1.15 or below will place a pitcher among the top ten in - bases on balls plus hits divided by innings pitched

ERA - earned run average (ERA) is of the runs given up by a pitcher per 7 innings. It is determined by multiplying the number of earned runs allowed by seven and dividing by the number of innings pitched.

In modern baseball, an ERA under 2.00 is considered exceptional and is rare. An ERA between 2.00 and 3.00 is also considered excellent and is only achieved by the best pitchers in the league.

An ERA above 5.00 is generally considered below-average, and a pitcher with an ERA above 6.00 for a prolonged period of time is usually in danger of demotion to a lower league.

Batting Productivity Index - $BA + OBP + SLG = PPI$

BA - Batting Average (also abbreviated AVG) - hits divided by at bats

OBP - On Base Percentage - times reached base (H + BB + HBP) divided by plate appearances. In baseball, on base percentage (OBP)

SLG - Slugging Percentage - total bases divided by at-bats. In, slugging percentage (SLG) is a measure of the power of a hitter.

League Development Player Productivity Index - $BA + OBP + SLG + FP = PPI$

BA - Batting Average

OBP - On Base Percentage

SLG - Slugging Average

FP - Fielding Percentage

Using the Players Productivity Index each player was graded or ranked from highest to lowest with the top twenty players selected into two teams of odds and evens. The Pitchers

Productivity Index was used to rank the pitchers in the same way. If a player was selected from the Players Productivity Index and was also in the top six pitchers their spot would then go to the next available pitcher not already in the top twenty players.

For these stats to be effective in choosing the best possible players the minimums must be high enough to allow players that play every game over the course of a season not to be beaten by a player who has only played half of the season. Players that play every game should be considered League Champions in each category.

These stats can also be applied in team situations with no minimums applied as each team competes in every game.

NSW WBL Futures (age: 14-17) - this series was designed to give the up and coming players an opportunity to play at the next level. This series will be played throughout the regular season in conjunction with the league development series. It is open to the league as a whole and will give both A and B grade players the opportunity to participate in a three game series. The Futures teams will be selected from both A and B grade and will only be age specific, players who make the League Development Series each selection round will not be able to participate.

League Development series - derived from the Players and Pitchers Productivity Indexes the League Development Series will see the best players over the course of the season be selected into two teams for three games including the All-Star game.

All-Girls Junior Classic - the first all-girls junior tournament to be held in Australia was an outstanding success, with four teams from NSW and one from Victoria teams played 4 games each with the eventual winners Baulkham Hills going through the tournament undefeated.

The Pee Wee age group had girls aged between 11 and 14 competing on a modified diamond, pitching from 48ft, base paths at 75ft while the outfield was approx 220ft Left 250ft Centre 220ft Right.

The ball used was an 8.5 inch diameter ball.

The specifications suited the girls and while most were playing live ball rules for the first time they all had fun and there was some good ball played.

Pee Wee Tournament Format:

Game Length - 75 minutes or 5 Innings

Five runs across the plate per inning

Stealing is allowed with the view to score the five runs per inning as quickly as possible to keep pitch counts down. Umpires will be informing to call strikes two balls on the outside and one ball on the inside.

Pitching - as per the NSW Junior Baseball rules expect that all pitchers will have a 100 pitch limit for the tournament. That is no pitcher can throw over 100 pitches for the weekend.

Final Format

Game Length - 75mins or 5 innings plus a tie breaker if required

Tie Breaker - 1 inning, last batter out goes to second base for the start of the tiebreaker, the team that scores the most number of runs at the end of the inning will be declared the winner.

Five runs across the plate per inning.

All-Girls Junior Baseball

To develop the continued growth of women's baseball a junior program must be started to ensure that junior girls are not lost to other sports. From the first Junior All-Girls Tournament we have enough teams to start a mini competition, run possible on Sundays so not to clash with the NSW Junior Competition; if the four teams that entered the All-Girls Tournament were to play the competition could be played over two rounds with finals. This would give the girls more time together and a stepping stone to the NSW Women's League.

There are a large number of clubs who have junior girls in the under 10's to under 12's, the possibility for a Tee Ball tournament exists.

Age Groups: with Junior girls there are not enough players with each age group that would allow the regular age divisions to occur. As with the All-Girls tournament the age brackets were over three years to allow clubs to put teams together. For junior All-Girls baseball to

succeed initially this would have to be the approach.

Next season Calendar (option)

Week -2 Pre-Season Tournament - Club Challenge 06

Week -1 free weekend before regular season starts

Week 1 Game One

Week 2 Game Two

Week 3 Game Three

Week 4 Game Four
Futures tryouts

Week 5 League Development Series Game One
Futures Game One
No Regular games, possible washout time-slot

Week 6 Game Five

Week 7 Game Six

Week 8 Game Seven

Week 9 League Development Series Game Two
Futures Game Two
No Regular games, possible washout time-slot

Week 10 Game Eight

Week 11 Game Nine

Week 12 Game 10

Week 13 Game 11

Week 14 All-Star Game A-Grade only
 Futures All-Star game
 No Regular games, possible washout time-slot

Week 15 Game Twelve

Week 16 Game Thirteen

Week 17 Game Fourteen

Week 18 Tournament Weekend
 (Handicapped for A and B grade combined)

Week 19 Game 15

Week 20 Game 16

Week 21 Game 17

Week 22 Game 18

Week 23 Semi-finals

Week 24 Major Final

Week 25 Grand Final

Women's State Program

The State program in my view should be set before the regular season commences, with the coaches selected with the view to use the regular season, League Development Series and Futures games to assess a players potential in game situations and backed up by the Player Productivity Index, giving every player the best opportunity to make it to the next level. This will give the selectors the best opportunity to see how players react under the stresses of a

game. Combining the Stats and season as a whole to select the best possible NSW State Women's team.

Using the player's productivity Index over the course of the season the selected coaches can monitor the progress of players while watching them in action.

MARK CORDINGLEY
Development Officer

2005/06 Overview

Goal	Direct Achievement of WLSC / Indirect Result	Achieved / Not Achieved	Key Aspects
Development - League Growth	Direct	Achieved	2nd Annual All Star & Presentation Day was an enormous success and testament to the improving standards of the league and effectiveness of the Fast Fives Format and selection process
	Direct	Achieved	Overall increase in league size from inaugural season (4) to 15 teams - 275% increase over 3 years. This included the addition of 1 extra A grade team in 2006 and 4 new B grade teams.
	Direct	Achieved	The addition of two new clubs within the league, and existing clubs registering multiple teams.
Development - Junior Players	Direct	Achieved	Establishment of Pre-Season Tournament
	Direct	Not Achieved	PPI Series - Initially planned to occur twice, however it was only played once.
	Direct	Not Achieved	Futures Tournament series - Initially planned to occur twice, however it was only played once.
	Direct	Achieved	Junior & Senior development series provided (at participatory level)
	Direct	Not Achieved	Inaugural u/18 tournament – Lack of interest prevented the league proceeding with tournament
	Direct	Achieved	Inaugural u/14 tournament (1st for Australia)
	Direct	Achieved	Development of relationship with Junior League Standing Committee to develop girls baseball collectively
	Direct	Achieved	Informal acknowledgement as the most progressive State in terms of development of Girls/Women's Baseball
	Indirect	Achieved	Aussie Hearts tour - first ever junior girls team to tour internationally (3 NSWBL representatives) and senior team (9 NSWBL representatives)- Placed 4th in Women's World Series

2005/06 Overview Continued...

Goal	Direct Achievement of WLSC / Indirect Result	Achieved / Not Achieved	Key Aspects
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Development - Player Standards	Direct	Achieved	Record of a full 7 innings game, within the 2 hour timeframe, testament to increasing standards
	Indirect	Achieved	Attraction and appointment of high quality Coaching staff for National Team
	Indirect	Achieved	NSW State Team National Champions, defeating Victoria 4-0
	Indirect	Achieved	NSWWBL Rookie of the Year selected in the Australian Team
	Indirect	Achieved	6 Representatives in Australian Team and 3 other Representatives in Squad
	Indirect	Achieved	Renee Straumietis plays college ball in Japan
	Indirect	Achieved	Meagan Vidler and Christal Fitzgerald play in semi-professional league in US (Fitzgerald returns in 2006)
	Indirect	Achieved	Star tour to Boston - 2nd ever Australian touring team to the States and 8 representatives from NSWWBL
	Indirect	Achieved	Meagan Vidler and Christal Fitzgerald tour Japan with US touring team
	Indirect	Achieved	Ashleigh Ross selected for Level 2 Scholarship at ABF Baseball Academy

Financial / Sponsorship	Direct	Achieved	Year-end surplus recorded which can be reinvested into the future of women's baseball.
	Direct	Achieved	Signing of Easton/Dugout as league sponsors
	Direct	Achieved	Having an updated website that encourages players and interested parties to visit created an avenue for potential sponsors.

Other	Direct	Achieved	Successful use of website to disseminate important league information in a timely fashion.
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