



2011
ANNUAL

REPORT

THE COMMITTEE

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Social Coordinator

Loretta Cosgrove

GENERAL MEMBERS

Chloe Mulheron

Felicity Martin

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Casey Lewis

Wendy Stanton

Aileen Leddy

SOCIAL SUBCOMMITTEE

Stacy Warren

Sarah Marsden

Cheryl Webby Webster

Hayley Lockett

Amy Shaw

Chloe Mulheron

Rob Tailor

Tully Lambert-Mills



THE TEAMS

Angels

Coordinator: Cheryl Bernhard

Coach: Natalie Krikowa

Devils

Coach & Coordinator: Aileen Leddy

Jets

Coordinator: Stacy Warren

Coach: Lara Sabbadin & Ellen Young

Saints

Coordinator: Jackie Mills

Coach: Mandi Barnao

Shamrock Players

Coordinator: Loretta Cosgrove & Lisa OSullivan

Coach: Karlie Wise

Sliders

Coach & Coordinator: Chloe Mulheron

Stealers

Coordinator: Sarah Marsden & Belinda Evernden

Coach: Kelly Griffith

Swingers

Coordinator: Marika Nabung

Coach: Gillian Mahony

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Max Costello

Elizabeth Haines

Ken Douglass

Pip Marks

Kelly Griffith

Stacey Warren

Cath Saunders

Jordana Blank

Lena Caruso

Oriel Webster

Janna Richert

Shelley Tinworth

Belinda Evernden

Pete Anderson

Natalie Espinosa

Amy Shaw

Mandi Barnao

FROM THE PRESIDENT

What a fantastic SWBL year 2011 has been! For me personally, I've been playing and coaching for 14 years and it has to be one of the better ones, with a real focus on community, skills development and in particular a positive elevation of the SWBL culture. It is however, my first stint as President and I couldn't be prouder of the achievements this year's committee has delivered on. I'm also very thankful for the hard work you coaches and coordinators do. Without their efforts the league wouldn't exist so if you haven't already, make sure you thank them because these ladies make it possible for you to come and play and enjoy more than just the game.

All 8 teams showcased improved player ability and teamwork in 2011. Here is how I saw it ...

The Angels – over the moon with their first win early in the season they didn't stop at 1, they had at least 4 wins and partied like they'd won the grand final. Well done ladies!

The Devils – being the only two members returning from 2010, HUGE congratulations to Aileen and her trusty side kick Narelle in pulling together and keeping together an entirely new team from scratch. They may not have won many games but they excelled at team spirit and at the social events! I think the Devils had more fun during the year than most teams and their skills development was outstanding.

The Jets – cemented their dominance in the league, tussling for the top position all season, but finishing in 2nd place on the ladder however they were first to make it to the Grand Final knocking out the minor premiers. Competitive with a fierceness that has their opponents shaking in their boots are our Jets. Runners up 2011, congratulations ladies!

The Saints – well didn't they give most teams a run for their money? Consistently snapping at the heels of the top 3 teams with only a run or two behind each game, they demonstrated their years of experience, and finishing a well deserved 4th on the ladder. Murphy you need to give up that other sport!

The Shamrocks Players – they were wearing a new item of sporting apparel every 2nd week (usually sponsored by

some local watering hole). I'm expecting matching shoes next year – Jimmy Choo cleats with a Guinness logo no doubt. These Minor Premiers fought a great season and deserved their position at the top of the table. They put up a great fight during the final series but it wasn't the year for them. Maybe 2012 will be the one! If Mad Monday was a competition, they certainly won that.

The Sliders – what a fantastic job Chloe did leading and coordinating the team successfully this year. Losing Mel & Amelia mid-season was a blow for this bunch, however the many new rookies who joined have some fantastic talent and with the highly anticipated new uniform next year these ladies will be a force to be reckoned with.

The Stealers – the old girls of the league, took a more relaxed approach to the season mixing up the positions on the field to develop some new skills. It was enough to get them into the top 4 and then they showed us what they are made of, peaking at the right time to triumph their way into the Grand Final, taking out another victory. Congratulations to my favourite team!

The Swingers – with Marika at the helm coordinating the lasses they were off to a great start but mid way through the season struggled to field a team due to injury, holidays and work commitments hence they were absent from the diamond on a few occasions. But these ladies swung back into action and soon cleaned up many a game and narrowly missed the finals. One





can only imagine where they would have ended the season without the forfeits. Will 2012 be the year for 'keys in the bowl'?

I would again like to thank the coaches & coordinators for their cooperation and for getting behind the shift in culture this year. It wouldn't have happened without you.

As mentioned earlier, the committee delivered on an extensive program of works in 2011. Everyone on the committee contributed enormously and worked their arses off. Some of these achievements are obvious but some were not. Here are the highlights;

A big focus was put on positively enhancing the SWBL Culture, and from the feedback I've received this has been the case. Many factors have contributed but one in particular is the delivery of a number of exciting and successful social events. This wouldn't have happened without the assistance of the social subcommittee. I shall leave the recap detail to Loz, our leader in that department, who did an amazing job.

The Code of Conduct was rewritten from scratch to incorporate what we are all about.

The Constitution has been rewritten and updated to reflect modern times.

The rules relating to SWBL have been revised and updated ready to be distributed in the 2012 season.

Your grounds and equipment ladies along with the VP managed to overcome some rather large issues with the van by getting it running and keeping it running throughout

the season. Their persistence was probably unnoticed by most of you, but essential to us being able to play each week.

We had a great turn out at Open Day this year with more than 30 new members signing up. This was due to the successful recruitment drive which the publicity team (the pubes) triumphed in.

We delivered several training clinics this year to improve player skills.

Mandi ran our umpiring clinic and we introduced the umpire mentoring program, which was a success and I recommend it continues and grows next season.

We delivered a new and fun format for the SWBL All-Stars day with two games; the rookies taking on the Life members, and selected members facing off for the All-Stars title. Not only that, we crowned the fasted legs in SWBL for the first time!

In a nut shell we grew the bank balance significantly through key savings, successful grant applications, and of course more expenditure by you at our BBQ! Now we get to give it back with a classy AGM/ Preso night which is heavily subsidised. The dollars have again been well managed by our trusty treasurer Tracey!

The SWBL Hoodies were a success with most teams kitted out for comfort, warmth and style but perhaps not as stylish as the Shammies, but close. And I can't go past talking about apparel without a mention to Wendy who managed to flog just about all

the umbrella stock in sight (perhaps along with 3 pairs of missing pants).

We've kept you up to date with the introduction of our weekly newsletter – the *SWBL Weekly*, and a massive thanks to the pubes crew (particularly Aimo, the sub pube) for making this happen. It's an awesome piece of communication that has kept the troops entertained and well informed.

Our website is being revamped onto a more current platform which will allow us to not only save money but deliver an easy to use photo gallery. Watch this space as it will be with you before the new season starts.

SWBL in the community, a new fundraising focus for SWBL this year saw us raise the bar significantly with more than \$10,000 contributing to 2 key organisations. The first was the Mothers Day Gala, or should I say spectacular, raising in excess of \$8,000 for Breast Cancer Network Australia (BCNA). What a day it was, with so many of you involved. It was a very proud and personally emotional experience having had Cass affected by cancer and then being able to hand over the cheque on behalf of SWBL. Our second event was Bingay where we witnessed a hilarious night raising money for ACON (Aids Council of NSW). This has been an ongoing reciprocal sponsorship event and one which I'm pleased will continue again for a number of years.

Every year families continue to grow with more youngsters being added to the SWBL crèche. Keep breeding ladies, so we can secure the future of the league!

Thanks to our sponsors this year and also to our 'blues' Terry and Noel who umpired (and danced their way through) our final series.

To all the members of the committee, you are legends!

Finally I must thank my gorgeous kids Jack and Sydney and my amazingly supportive girlfriend, who encouraged me to not give up on this role despite her personal battle with cancer this year. Not only is she a cancer survivor, new mum and a useful sounding board but she is a great host at committee meetings!

Ciao for now,

Kelly Griffith
SWBL President

FROM THE TREASURER

The sun really shone on SWBL this year - we had fabulous weather throughout the season and lost only one round to rain.

It was also a bumper year in terms of additional fundraising and we leave SWBL in a good position for 2012.

In response to increasing costs, we raised fees and BBQ prices this year and this has helped us to meet those costs with a safe buffer for contingencies.

The refreshment sales at the BBQ showed a big improvement on last year's revenue and the sensational Sunday raffles at the Barley were a huge success. The Lucky Member draw was a great reason to come back to pub, especially with a jackpot to \$250. But you've got to be in the right place at the right time for your luck to be running, as a few members found out!

Thanks to all those who bought tickets, drinks and snags and went to SWBL social events throughout the season. These fundraising efforts enable us to build a better SWBL and to contain costs throughout the season.

In 2011, we've been fortunate enough to receive sponsorship again from ACON and the Golden Barley and have made a few more grant requests through FACHSIA and City of Sydney.

Thanks to some savvy work by Marika, we made some great savings on insurance premiums this year, reducing our costs by nearly 50%.

Grounds costs were pre-paid from last season, so that unexpected saving also enabled us to get ahead.

Our merchandise sales this year were the gorgeous rainbow coloured hoodies – so good, several members bought two!

Don't forget these are a great way to promote SWBL in the off season, so keep wearing them on those breezy summer nights.

The AGM/Presentation Night has been substantially subsidised to acknowledge the great effort that everyone put in this year and to ensure that everyone who wants to come can afford to come – particularly as this is our major event of the year and a season closing event not to be missed.

Thanks to all who helped out this year – and thanks to all who appreciated our efforts in a great year.

Tracey Lambert



11 SEPTEMBER 2010 – 10 SEPTEMBER 2011

2010	Income	2011
\$12,125	Registration Fees	\$15,195
\$4,251	BBQ Takings	\$12,141
\$4,000	Sponsorship	\$4,000
\$1,000	Government and Community Grants	\$4,960
\$2,885	Merchandise and Entertainment Book Sales	\$2,580
\$1,143	Social Events	\$0
\$160	Presentation Night 2010	\$290
\$1,200	Presentation Night 2011	\$1,590
\$0	Bank Interest	\$280
\$840	Other Revenue	\$513
\$27,604	Total Income	\$41,548

2010	Expenditure	2010
-\$2,486	BBQ Purchases	-\$5,290
-\$1,164	Equipment	-\$1,494
-\$4,100	Ground Hire	-\$100
-\$2,250	Insurance	-\$1,188
-\$580	Plate Umpire Fees	-\$1,430
-\$2,661	Merchandise	-\$3,684
-\$331	Website	-\$550
-\$263	Presentation Night 2010	-\$746
-\$3,495	Presentation Night 2011	-\$6,474
-\$1,761	Publicity	-\$1,039
-\$2,270	Social Events	-\$625
-\$2,572	Garage Rent	-\$2,572
-\$1,991	Vehicle Expenses	-\$3,635
-\$1,300	Depreciation of Assets	-\$1,706
-\$84	Printing & Communications	-\$982
-\$120	Bank Fees	-\$110
-\$185	Miscellaneous	-\$4,498
-\$27,613	Total Expenditure	-\$36,123
-\$9	Net Surplus/(Deficit)	\$5,425

2010	Assets	2011
\$16,747	Cash at bank	\$25,950
\$4,550	Fixed Assets	\$4,468
\$750	Accrued Revenue	\$150
\$586	Stock Held	\$270
\$22,633	Total Assets	\$30,838

2010	Liabilities	2011
-\$3,060	Creditors	-\$5,840
-\$3,060	Total Liabilities	-\$5,840
\$19,573	Net Assets	\$24,998

FROM THE SECRETARY

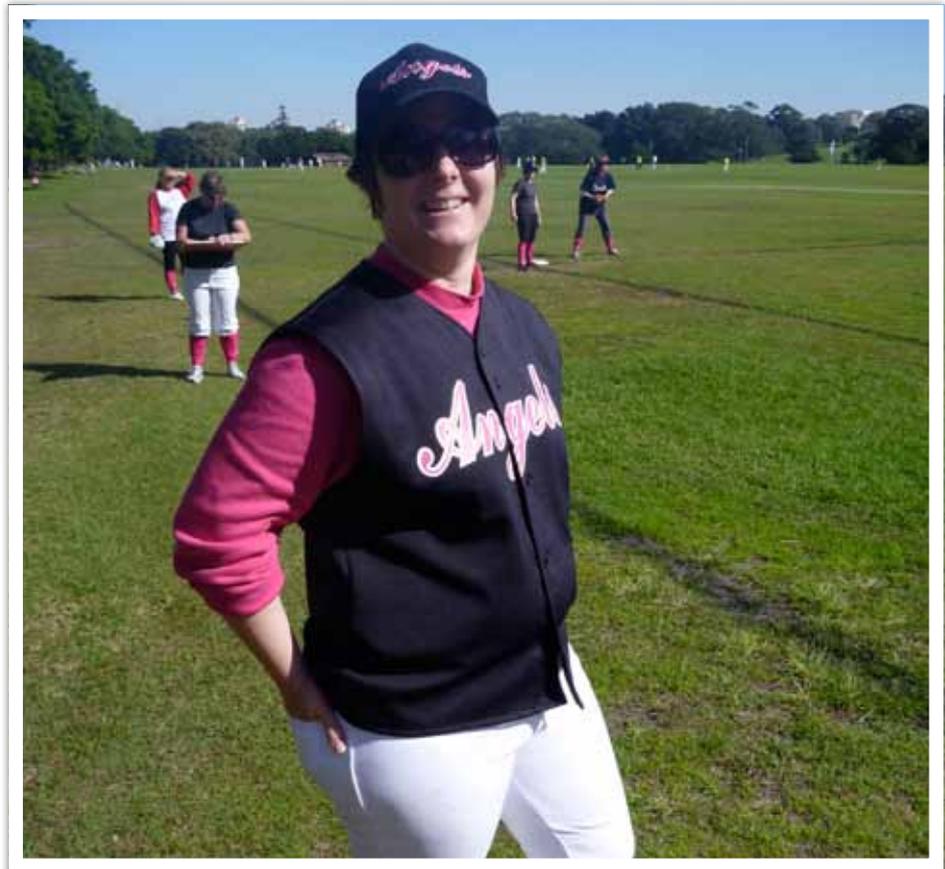
The 2011 SWBL season saw a change to the committee with new and a few existing members voted in including Kelly Griffith taking control of the helm and Jackie Mills elected in a different role as Vice President. With the new committee formed an official handover took place last October along with a welcome drink or two. The handover allowed old and new committee members to put in writing their thoughts on what worked, what didn't and what needed to be improved and so the Stop, Start & Continue list was born.

With all committee members quickly finding their feet in their roles so became the excitement of the pre-season.... the flurry to advertise, the booking of the grounds and of course shopping (for new equipment of course). This season saw SWBL move into the 21st century with the purchase of a new laptop and the task of archiving all SWBL information which began early in the season and continues as I write.

The committee kicked off the SWBL event season with the annual Mardi Gras Fair Day, a hot event in any SWBL diary with this year's temperature hitting a sweltering 40°C. Not to be put off by the heat SWBL recruited many new players to the league and so it was onto the Open Day. Open Day saw the committee form eight teams including a new team of rookies (bar two experienced players) that would make up the Devils. Much support was offered by our veteran players including Mandi Barnao and Kelly Griffith who assisted with the coaching of the rookie team.

The skill level within the league continued to improve as the year progressed. We welcomed Michael Wilcox to SWBL; with his baseball experience he offered our league ladies fortnightly skill clinics. The clinic's proved to be a success with some teams managing to find a new pitcher amongst their players. Mandi Barano offered her assistance with the umpiring rules clinic. This year also saw the introduction of the mentor umpire to assist all those new plate and base umpires, a welcome initiative for many players.

Strong, competitive spirit for that top spot saw the Shamrock Players, Jets & Stealers battling it out each week for that number one position. After 14 rounds the Shamrock



Players were sitting strong in that number one position, however after quarter finals and semi-final results a turn of events saw their season end in 3rd place. The Stealers secured themselves their 12th grand final place taking on the mighty Jets, which some might say was looking like a repeat of the 2010 grand finale... and this year proved to be just that with the veteran Stealers winning the competition for the 6th time.

Ten official committee and two coach and coordinator meetings were held this season with a number of amendments finalised. Included were amendments to the SWBL rules and constitution in preparation for the AGM, a review of the Code of Conduct and the process by which the MVP was selected with game umpires ultimately responsible for the awarding of the all-important 3,2,1 points.

We thank the continued support of our sponsor The Golden Barley Hotel which remains the home of SWBL. This year the Golden Barley hosted many SWBL events, with every Sunday seeing the weekly meat raffles enjoyed by both league members

and locals, the annual pool comp and who could forget the Mother's day gala head shaving, all in aid of raising awareness for Breast Cancer and the Breast Cancer Network Australia. We also thank the support of ACON who along with the Bingay crew offered not only an entertaining evening but also an opportunity to raise money for ACON.

And finally I would like to thank the committee who have always worked hard to ensure the smooth running of the season; together they redefined the phrase "great team work", working through all the challenges to make sure this season ran so successfully and at the same time raise the spirits and morale of the SWBL league.

My special thanks to Tracey Lambert & Jackie Mills for the collection of those important score sheets whilst I was away.

See you next season!

Jacqueline Walden

*SWBL Secretary & Winner of 'Best in Show'
– Mother's day bake-off 2011.*

I like to think of SWBL as being 50% Baseball and 50% social. 2011 certainly delivered on the social and the baseball.

The 2011 SWBL Social calendar has been HUGE, and looking back ... it's no wonder I'm tired!

It all started when the SBWL ladies beat the Convicts in the Tug O War at Fair Day. With a huge crowd cheering us on, it was no wonder so many turned up for Open Day looking for a piece of the action. Ok, so we only beat them once, but that was enough to prove that the SWBL girls would give it their all, on and off the diamond.

2011 saw some exciting changes to the SWBL social calendar. The introduction of the SWBL members draw and meat raffles meant more and more ladies headed to the Golden Barley Hotel (GBH) to partake in the Sunday Sessions. Mingling, chats and even some romance took place over the course of the year. With so many new faces all wanting to party, it was up to the social subcommittee to keep the ladies entertained. The extra cash from the raffles also filtered straight back into the league. Better prizes, better events and an all round better social atmosphere.

The annual SWBL Meet and Greet was well attended at the Alexandria Hotel, with many of the rookies getting to know team mates and meet some of the old timers. A nice relaxed evening with food and drinks, it was the perfect way to get you in the mood for the season ahead.

Mothers Day was marked with the biggest fundraiser SWBL has ever seen. 'The Mothers Day Gala' was something everyone at SWBL can be very proud of. Teams in pink socks, enough baked goods to feed the entire Inner West, and who will ever forget the SWBL Head Shavers who bravely shaved their lovely locks all in the name of raising awareness for breast cancer and raising alot of dosh for BCNA in the process.

The first weekend in June was jammed pack with SWBL action. The most hotly contested pool comp in SWBL history took place on the Friday night with 24 pairs taking to the tables at the GBH. Helen Wells from the Jets was crowned 'trick shot queen' with an amazing jump shot. Tracey Lambert took pool-wear to new heights, winning best costume. Over at the pinball machine, 29 ladies went head to head, all vying for the title of 'Pinball Bitch' of the night! Felicity took out the boobie prize, while reigning champ Collie from the Shamrock Players could not be knocked off her pinball perch. Back to the pool, It was a night where the rookies shone brightest. Lauren and Renee from the Jets would prove too good, upholding the Jets honour. You could of been forgiven for thinking Devils had won with the celebrating on show.

Sunday, it was All-Star action. Rookies, Lifers, Warriors, Crusaders, Fastest Ladies and more. Oh SWBL how I do love thee. It somehow makes winter bearable.

The main event – the 'SWBL Dead Ball' – resurrected many famous celebrities. Bush rangers, killer carpenters and zombies all

stepped into the SWBL Crypt and danced the night away to Dj Sandi Hotrod. Vamps, ghouls and ghosts mingled, wine and dined at the Fangtasia style bar while classic horror movies screened on the roof. Collie took out best costume with her back from the dead gravestone interpretation and Stacy Warren was most creative as Steve Irwin complete with a very sorry sting ray on her back.

The annual fundraiser for ACON, Bingay had ladies with heads down at the ready. Another great night, thanks to Webby and Hayley for taking the helm.

With rain threatening the grand final celebrations, it was great to see so many come and support both the Jets and the Stealers as they slogged it out. Free snags do pull a crowd and the BBQ on flames is a great curtain raiser to the main event, the SWBL boat races back at the GBH. So with bellies lined with free snags and Margaret's tasty platters, it was once again The Stealers who walked away with Boat Race champion status. The extra meat trays meant alot of teams will be well stocked for some team BBQs in the coming weeks and Felicity from the saints deservedly took home the \$250 big ones!

Ladies partied until they were thrown out of the GBH and many were seen shaking there booties 'till the sun came up, and the hardcore backed it up at the Coopers for Mad Monday celebrations. The Shamrocks might of not won the GF, but certainly were the last ones standing after the Coopers, Freaky Tiki and Imperial mini Monday pub crawl.

I hope you have all enjoyed the year of social SWBL activities. Thanks for all your support at events and making this year at SWBL one to remember. Of course all of these events would not of been possible without the help of the SWBL Social subcommittee, Stacy Warren, Sarah Marsden, Hayley Lockett, Cheryl 'Webby' Webster, Amy Shaw, Rob and Chloe, Rita from Betta Meats Newtown, Penny from the GBH, Tully and everyone that helped sell raffle tickets, and the SWBL Committee.

The impossible is possible when you've got the help of your mates! Love your work people.

Loretta 'Paddy Whacker' Cosgrove



PUBLICITY + COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

The Publicity team (the pubes) launched the 2011 recruitment drive at Fair Day with the 'Strike it Lucky' campaign. Despite the flyers being 'road-tested' (literally) before Fair Day, the take-home postcards seemed to be very popular and encouraged many new faces onto the fields for the Open Day.

We followed with a feature article in LOTL, which really highlighted the important role SWBL plays in our local community and the inclusiveness by welcoming players of all standards, backgrounds, stages and ages to join us.

Once the season started our focus was on communication with our members. We prepared the Players' Handbook and revamped the website, and encouraged the use of the site as the information hub.

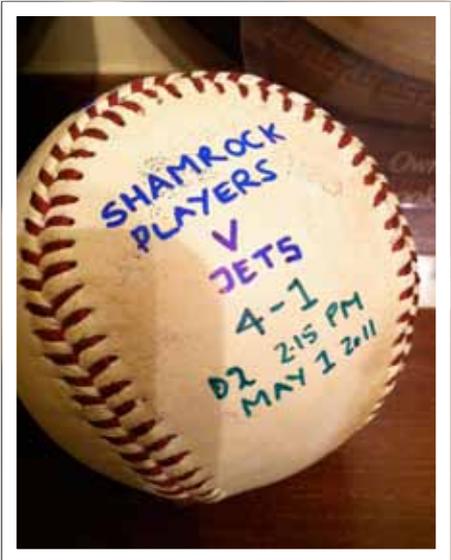
One of the big achievements this year was the introduction of the revamped, digitised, fabulised 'SWBL Weekly' newsletter. Many thanks to Amy Shaw (sub pube) for designing the template and producing this throughout the season.

We also supported Loretta, and her merry band of women, in advertising the League's great social events: the meet and great, the Dead Ball, the Pool Comp and the AGM/ Presentation.

Again, a huge thank you to Amy Shaw for all your help and creativity with the newsletter and the website. A new era for SWBL! Thanks also to Lisa O'Sullivan for her excellent word-smithing throughout the season.

Stacy Warren & Sarah Marsden
Publicity Officers







THE ANGELS

The 2011 Angels are the self proclaimed most improved team in the SWBL competition this year. That was probably not hard to achieve given the basket case we were in the 2010 season.

This season started with 3 players with greater than 1 year's experience, 4 players starting their 2nd year who had never experienced the feeling of winning and a bunch of untried newbies.

Our first game in the rain, whilst close, was a loss to the Swingers 7-9. I do not think I have seen a game with as many nervous players and errors in my short time with the competition, but I had not been involved in a game played in such good spirits where everyone had so much fun. We had a great turn out at the Golden Barley which gave a good indication what a hardy bunch this new group of Angels were.

Our 2nd game against the Shamrock Players was a massive 17-3 loss. It was a reminder that we had a lot of work to do to become competitive against the best teams, and that finding a pitcher or two within the team was paramount to the team's success. As a team we trained hard early in the season, with a goal of increasing the sense of team, improving our skills and developing our pitching ranks.

Pretty quickly we identified 2 new players Jenenne Flood and Eryn Clarke with real potential as pitchers, we got some professional assistance and started to reap the benefits pretty quickly. As the season progressed we first started to scare teams, forcing them to bring on their best pitchers in fear of losing to us.



After another bad loss in Round 3 to the Saints, the Angels won their first game in two seasons against the Devils in Round 4. The winning feeling was amazing as most of us had no idea what it was like. The belief and improvement that came out of that game was massive. We had found a pitcher in Jenenne while Eryn, Jo and Karen showed us some real potential in the batting ranks.

Rounds 6 & 7 saw continuous improvement in our patting and fielding, and despite being defeated by the Jets and Sliders we made both teams work really hard for their victories. Eryn showed us her pitching prowess and Vanessa showed us her versatility by giving catcher a go.

The midseason break was highlighted by a team BBQ that shall remain permanently etched in my mind, as the team 'bonded', some more than others. We re-energised for the 2nd half of the season where we were ready to 'present' at bat whenever we could, ably led by Maria. We had a new team anthem provided by Jo that was the envy of the other



teams. A win over the Sliders in Round 8 and the Devils in Round 9 was a great way to kick off the 2nd half of the season.

Rounds 10-11 were great learning experiences for us against the top teams. We scared the Shamrocks, and got pummelled by the Saints. Susie got an opportunity to pitch and Sandy started the birthday cake precedence, which was greatly appreciated by all.

Round 12 saw our best win for the season knocking off the eventual premiers the Stealers in a really close game played with great spirit, followed by the best turnout at the Golden Barley for the season. Following the Rounds 13 washout, and a loss to the Jets in round 14, we had a fantastic last game of the season finally losing to the Swingers in the 2nd extra innings in the 5th vs 6th playoff.

The Angels were an inexperienced team, supported by the ever reliable Annie on First, Brooks as catcher and Waldo wherever she was needed, played well above expectation for the season. Wendy, Benita, Nat and I in our second seasons pretended we knew what we were doing, and all of our first year players showed massive improvement as the season went on.

Natalie Krikowa in her 2nd SWBL season volunteered to Coach and I would like to formally thank her for all of her efforts in ensuring that training and game days were always well organised.

Angels are Hot to Go!: H-O-T-T-O-G-O!

Cheryl Bernhard (a.k.a. The Boss)
Angels Co-ordinator



THE DEVILS

The Devils started 2011 as a brand new team with only two returning players from 2010. These two were joined by 12 newbies; 11 were rookies to the League.

One of these rookies was appointed coach, but she shot through in week 2, obviously deeming us 'un-coachable'. She may well have been right, but she missed out on a truly great season by the Devils. Don't let the competition table fool you, the Devils had many triumphs along the way and are the proud recipients of the 2011 Wooden Spoon.

The Devils had one stunning win during the season. We're bursting with pride and happiness still. The game had it all. It was jam-packed full of excitement, injury, great batting, fine fielding, good humour and sheer determination.

Going into the bottom of the final innings, the score was 3:2, not in our favour. The Devils batted like the little demons we are and brought home two runners to finally sample the sweet, sweet taste of victory.

The celebrations were worthy of a grand final win.

The Devils started 2011 as a team of strangers; played and laughed through one of the most enjoyable seasons this coach has ever had; and ended up as a team of

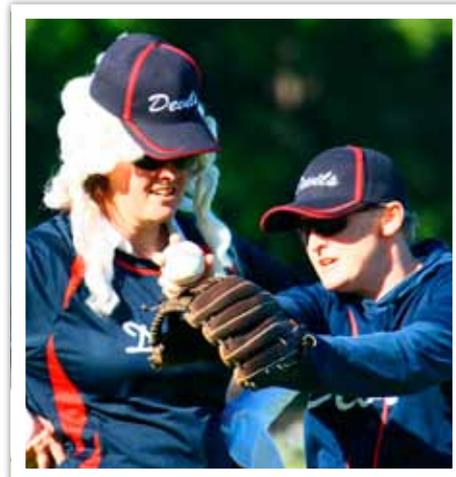
friends. We bonded over good-humoured ribbing from the sidelines, drinks at the GBH, and a magnificent victory (almost) in the pool comp (we went nuts). We baked our pink socks off for Mothers' Day, were 'deadly' at the Ball, looked hot in our new uniforms (and were hot, bloody polyester), and displayed some interesting, surprising, and thankfully not too revealing (unlike certain members of the opposition ... looking at you Rob) taste in sleepwear in our final game.

In spite of our results, the Devils never lost sight of the fact that we play for fun not sheep stations (although that win was mighty enjoyable) and were to be seen smiling, cheering and laughing no matter what the score line or the weather threw at us.

So Devils, well done, each of you were part of a great season. We've earned that spoon.

And finally, a thank you to all the other teams. You were gracious in your slaughtering, and merciful in your play and we hope that playing the Devils took the pressure off and allowed you to have a bit of fun too.

But a warning, we're a cohesive team now who have come along in leaps and bounds and we'll be back next year.





The Jets completed its 4th season in 2011, and although we have a long way to go to make history, we've established ourselves as a core SWBL team. Having been runners-up in 2010, we were pleased to make strong start to the season. It was great to have such a close rivalry with the Stealers and the Shamrocks at the top of the ladder for the majority of the season.

At the outset, the Jets faced some upheaval with several of our founding players withdrawing from the due to injuries and personal commitments. The initial slump in numbers opened the door for fantastic new team recruits. We were lucky to have Claire McKay join us to provide strong boost in the infield. Claire brought several enthusiastic rookies with her including Lauren, Renee & Jasmine. All our new recruits have been a great compliment to the remaining Jets players, with their supportive team attitude, enthusiastic social style and healthy sense of competition enabling them to slot right into to our team.

Lauren James is possibly one of the most easy going Jets ever to step onto the diamond – eager to help out, play extra games and always unfazed. Having never played baseball, Lauren picked up the new sport very smoothly, and is now one of our strongest batters and safest hands in the infields. Renee Young has also adapted to the game very well, and brings great levels of energy to the team! Renee has developed into a

great batter, sending out some huge hits into the outfield and also proving to be a solid fielding at 3rd base and in the outfield. Most importantly of all, Renee and Lauren were outstanding to keep the SWBL Pool Comp Trophy in safe Jets' hands.

Jazz brought a whole new level of dancin' energy to the team, and despite some pressing work commitments, has showed some fancy baseball moves and above all else, is highly amusing!

Helen Wells also made a welcome return to the team, after a season-off to give birth to our cutest Jets of all, Lui and Archie. Juggling a pram, feeding the boys and playing in the team has been a challenge for Helen during the season, however having said this her performance on the field has been strong, and continuously improving – both in infield at third base, outfield, in the batter's box and during several pitching stints.

Our well-seasoned members have held the team strongly together and have been the driving force for our finals run. Ellen Young has been pivotal to the team, on the mound, at short stop, and at occasions in catch and highly valuable assistant coach. Ellen's pitching continues to rate as one of SWBL's best, and her expertise in baseball has been a great asset to the Jets over the past few years. We appreciate her continued enthusiasm and knowledge in developing our new players.

Milly Greenwood returned as one of the Jets' regular catchers, and has shown real development over the season. Her batting has provided the consistency the team has needed to settle, and her work at the plate has been very solid. Milly never fails to had a great attitude to the team!

Simone Rocco has shown her fine form in the batting box this season, with some consistently strong and forceful batting. Simone rarely gets rattled and knows how to handle the pressure in her stride.

Alice Lindeman has refined her rookie skills developed last year to become one of Jets core players. Only in her second season, Alice has continued to train hard which is paying off in both the field and batting box.

Petra Hartridge, also only in her second year, is a great team member, happy to play wherever need in either the outfield or infield. Always smiling, Petra has also continued to train hard, and regularly gets a solid hit in. And if all else fails, she will happily crash tackle you on the side-line!

The team has been held together by Lara, this season often with one eye on Lui and Archie, and the other eye on the field. Lara herself has had an excellent season in the field and at bat. Jets coordinator, Stacy Warren showed some consistently strong batting this season, combined with her sturdy fielding, meant that where ever she was placed in the field, she collected the balls smoothly and made the outs that counted.

2011 saw the Jets enter the SWBL grand final for the second time in as many seasons, again facing the experience and consistency of the Stealers. Unfortunately we were unable to match the mighty strength we have come to know as the Stealers. Well done Stealers on a great Grand final performance!

The Jets would like to thank the Committee for their fine efforts to keep the league running seamlessly throughout the season. The fundraising, social events, and league culture definitely reflected some strong leadership and team work which enabled SWBL season 2011 to be a great one.

THE SAINTS

Season 2011 started off with a new look Saints team and an enthusiastic bunch of new players to be ordained as Saints. Karen took on the role as Co-Coach and provided a fresh outlook and added some great skills to the role. Once again we donated one of our senior players to a team in desperate need of a top gun, and we wished her well in her new colours. She unfortunately felt the sting of a scorching strike call when facing a Saints pitcher who unleashed the ball at glacial speed, the mighty Karma giving her a taste of what she had chuckled at countless opposition batters for doing!!

With a team bursting at the seams we definitely had to crunch the numbers to ensure that everyone had a crack at the opposition on a weekly basis. We welcomed back into the fold Mel, who returned from a stint with the Devils, and she joined the dynamo Lee on the mound for the season.

Our infield got a great boost with Bea and her rocket arm on 3rd, she joined Mandi and Kiki on the left of the diamond to make the plays that counted. We had great depth with our catchers, with Casey taking the role as our primary defence player and Felicity and Hetty tackling the dual roles of Shorty and Catcher.

Kylie was great taking on the responsibility as our main 1st base player, the lanky lefty Leanne having a go too, it was promising to have some depth again at 1st after Michelle's ankle took her out for the season. Our outfield, once our Achilles heel, was in safe hands with Meredith chasing down fly balls like a pro and Tracey backing up

in right and providing the soul of the team along with our 2nd base player Jackie. These two are becoming league legends and are the epitome of what SWBL should be about.

Bec was a champ all season and has shown a real grasp of the game, she along with Casey have really built on their game and have shown some strength at bat with some really spectacular hits. Sue has come along in the field and has been strong at 2nd base and centre with some tricky plays to try and pick off the runners from 2nd. Mel was itching to be part of the action but had to sit the season out due to a long recovery from shoulder surgery.

The Saints have been creeping up the ladder for the past few seasons and have gone from strength to strength during a rebuilding period after a stint at the top of the table. Our team have once again supported the league this season with numerous players making the commitment as committee members and supporting League events. It is great to know that each season we do not struggle for players and the players make a commitment to support the team each week including duties and game time. This year it has been terrific to have both Karen and Jackie step up and take the reins of the team when I have been away, and the team have respected their guidance.

During the season we didn't look at the ladder and it was a real surprise to see that we were sitting in a prime position to make the final series; the newly minted Saints had not experienced the finals and were keen to make a strong play in the final few

rounds. With the Swingers breathing down our necks and the Sliders giving us a scare in the last round, we could have narrowly missed a finals berth, but we dug deep and literally limped over the line with Mel and Mandi both out of action in the finals due to injury (old age???).

The Stealers had other plans and put on a strong display in the first day of the finals and confirmed that these veterans of the league are smouldering hot and should never be discounted. The lowest point of the game was the realisation that maybe we should have not pointed out the missed bases and let the homer go. After the appeal came the realisation (sorry Mars). We don't take responsibility for Shelley's almost homes that is in the hands of the 3rd base coach (you know who you are).

So once again we thank the league for their support during the season, thanks to all the players in the league for fronting up each windy Sunday to play the game and I thank my team the Saints for being a great example of what baseball should be about – team work and improvement.

Congrats to the winners and to the losers, hang in there and climb the ladder.

A special mention to our scorer Tracey Pearce, supporting the team each season and making sure that the coach is correctly wrangled and to those on the disabled list for a big part of the season – Michelle (dodgy ankles), Tracey (dodgy neck), Vanessa (gran duties), Mel (dodgy calf), Mandi (dodgy back), Mel (dodgy shoulder), Karen (dodgy back).



THE SHAMROCK PLAYERS

It's been a stellar season for the Shammies both on and off the field, and we've simply love-love-loved being part of the whole baseball she-bang.

Why we're Minor Premiers

Because we don't take ourselves too seriously. Because we pulled together really well as a team. Because we had a totally awesome coach in Karlie. And because we played our hearts out.

Big shout-out to the team

Alison – notice how this Shammie became a stealth batter over the course of the season?

Ally – powerhouse performer who's always willing to answer a thousand stupid questions.

Amy – did someone say home-bleeping-run? You rock Ms Shaw.

Claudia – her Qantas economy-class biscuits on the fold-out table were the biggest hit of the season.

Collie – her pitching and reflexes left us gobsmacked. All with a big fat smile on her dial, always.

Hayley – we missed you when you were gone, then you came back and hit a homerun all the way to the other diamond. Woot!

Janna – her return to the League after a long sabbatical made the Shammies a very happy team indeedy.

Jude – you better come back next year toots. And play some actual games. We missed you.

Karlie – this lady can catch, pitch, coach, do a mighty fine booty-wiggle on the sidelines and look foxy with no hair.

Lisa – discovered she could actually catch some people out this year. Who knew?

Liz – massive respect to this yummy mummy re her training regime. You put us to shame girlfriend.

Loz – thanks for making us the best-dressed team in the League and lopping your locks off for breast cancer.

Mary – your defection to the Shammies was met with much excitement and cheer. We're sooo glad to have you.

Michelle – the girl with the cheekiest grin who kept us smiling all season. Oh, and you played beautifully too.

Nikki – just try getting a ball past our Tugs on third. We dare you. We ALL have a crush on you lady.

Tash – your body took it for the team on more than one occasion and you played like a champ anyways! A consummate professional you are!

Vourneen – hey babe, just so you know, if you're on first and the batter hits the ball, you gotta run.

To the ladies who kept us nice

To Michelle, Webby and Meg, we'd like to thank you for scoring with such neatness and aplomb, cheering us on when the going got tough, and telling us to suck it up princesses (as and when needed).

We heart the League

Thanks to all teams of the League for much fun, silliness and damn fine baseball. And thanks to the Committee, you've done an incredible job this year. You chicks have rocked our world.

xxx The Shammies



THE SLIDERS



The year started off with 6 returning players. Luckily it was the best 6 from the previous year, which helped considering all the new ladies that joined the team had only played in school decades ago.

So the league gave us 8 new players. 2 didn't want to play anymore, then 1 played for a bit and decided she didn't want to play, then Suga mutilated her feet and went overseas to watch the royal wedding so we were down to 11.

The league had enquires from women who wanted to play but nothing ever came of it (they didn't know how to answer an email or the phone). Then along came Jane and Anne who slotted straight into the team. Anne would go on to play a vital role in our narrow defeat at the inaugural boat races (she is Irish so I just assume she played a vital role – myself not actually being there to witness and knowing how slow Robbie sculls).

Where was I? So we started the season with 8 rookies, 5 experienced players and Ant. Knowing that Mel and Amelia, one of our pitchers and our only catcher, were leaving to back pack around Europe (lucky much), we had to find a catcher straight away. In comes the amazing Jules, who pretty much caught our whole season. The only experience she had before was being a wicket in cricket, little bit different.



The rest of the girls rotated around the field trying to find where they best fit. Ned (a Mrs of one of those Jets girls) was an invaluable member of the team having watched the season prior she knew most of the rules and had a great arm for 3rd base and a good swing with the bat.

Rochelle, everyone knows she can hit and puts her body on the line every game at 1st base (she is going to be carried off in a stretcher one of these days).

Mel, awesome!!!

Amelia hurt her thumb because of Mel pitching so darn fast (don't call her fast ball D'arcy for nothing) so she was our regular centre fielder. She took some great catches all season. None could beat the catch against the swingers in her last game. Ball was hit, in runs Toohey, was going to land just out of her reach so she dives and catches (the crowd goes wild "WOOOO!!!!").

Jo came to us at the start of the season as a friend of Ally Millers so I saw no real hope for her, but as the season progressed so did her skills on the field. But her real talent shone through on Grand Final night with the boat races (I was told).

Ant improved greatly this season had many good hits, chased balls, stole bases, fell over, got back up and ran after the ball some more.

Hannah, our English woman, came into the side at the end of the season and was enthusiastic, loud and very wooney. Every time up to bat she got a hit (fouls totally count). She eventually made one of those at bats count in our last game of the season by getting home.

Robynne (comes when she doesn't have better sports to play) Taylor, did an excellent coaching job this season with lots of rookies to shape into baseballers.

Having so many new players this year, I think we played really well. Next season – grandfinal here we come!



THE STEALERS

The Stealers commenced their 14th consecutive season in SWBL with the mission statement 'Let's go play some ball, let's mix things up a bit, and above all else, let's have some bloody fun doing it!'

We opened our season with a match against our 2010 grand final opponents: The Jets. And what a shocker of a game we had. Halfway through the game, the heavens opened, shivers set in, and we went down without much of a fight.

However, after that we started to find our feet, and began recording wins against talented and tough competition. At times we struggled to field a full team, but we were extremely fortunate to the players who helped us out in these situations. Special shout-outs must go to 'Meals on Wheels' (Mel & Amelia from the Sliders) and a number of Shamrock Players (our arch-rivals, who we love to love). Without you guys, we would not be where we are today (Yeah, and I bet you're kicking yourselves now!).

So, this year we had our ups and downs. We got beaten by the Jets, the Shamwows and the Angels, but still managed to finish in finals contention. The road to the Grand Final was going to be a difficult one, with every game being sudden-death but we just went for it.

Our quarter Final opponents were the always-dangerous Saints. After a close-fought first few innings, we finally took the match out. So far, so good.

Onto the Semi Final game, and with it, the Shamrocks. There was a bittersweet feeling as we got ready to play our closest mates and fierce rivals. We wanted to win, but we didn't want them to lose. However, we knew they would be extremely hard to knock over, and boy, was that the truth!

And so to the Grand Final – A rematch of 2010. The Jets wanted vengeance, while we were still a bit shocked to even be there. Nonetheless, we could almost taste the back-to-back title on offer.

After an action-packed game and with some fantastic support on the side-line, we won 2011 Premier title, and drank out of the herpes cup for the sixth time in 14 years.

The majority of our veterans were back for 2011, including the hotly-anticipated return of Coach Kel, following her self-imposed gap year in 2010, which was spent



producing the newest little Stealer on the block, Sydney – and what a cutie she is! The breeding is becoming so prolific in our team, the kids will soon be outnumbering the baseballers!

Suiting up this year for her debut in the red and white, was the very talented Cass. After spending the first half of 2011 fighting off the Big C, she took to the diamond (with some new eyebrows) and built up her stamina to such an extent she was throwing herself all over the place to save runs and scoring them at the same pace. The only lapse in concentration she displayed was in the closely-fought semi-final with the Shamrocks. Having successfully made it to 3rd base, she was caught napping, and subsequently picked off by the lethal Collie/Hayley combo. To paraphrase a quote from the day, "Shamwows? More like Shame-wows! Pick on the cancer patient, why don't you?!"

Also making her Stealers debut was the uber-skilled, and always lovely, Yan. After a lengthy absence from SWBL, we were the lucky beneficiaries of her talents. This girl can do everything! (except make it to home plate). Although anyone who will wear big pink undies over her uniform and a pink mask is worth hanging onto.

Roz successfully pitched her guts out and took the mound for the majority of the season, even inventing her own style of 'flipper change up' from her cricket days.

Mags' baseball career peaked with her Grand Final MVP award. When she wasn't receiving awards, she could be found bobbing up and down on the pitching mound.

Chuckie (while not breaking bones in her

downhill riding pursuits) kicked arse behind the plate, catching on a number of occasions.

Baseball legend Cathy Saunders made sure nothing got past 3rd base. Her batting improved outasight, but we are yet to do a nudie run for her muchly anticipated home-run.

Mars sure can hit, but needs to remember to touch the bases.

Nadine dutifully covered 2nd base, when she wasn't recovering from her second love, AFL.

Amy-San came up with the goods when we needed them most this season – winning runs and double plays. She also mastered the best ever underarm toss.

Kylie always managed to impress us with her batting, and she even made it to the pub!

Our old girl Annie turned 50 this year and shuffled those knees around the diamond when she wasn't freezing them in Canberra.

When Shell and Bel weren't stuffing themselves with pasta in Italy, they were covering first base and shortstop, and chalked up their 13th and 10th years respectively playing with the Stealers.

To the rest of our Stealer family, we love you; Stat Man, Kim, Paul, Mia, Evie, Jack, Jordana, Tina, Catherine & Shari.

Finally, we would like to acknowledge the work of the Committee this year. We are all incredibly grateful for the time and effort you all put in, and know it takes a lot of work to get SWBL up and running each year, and keep it going week to week throughout the season. You are all bloody legends!

Thanks to all the SWBL teams who made this season fantastic. See you all next year!

THE SWINGERS

While Swingers may not be winners in 2011, we are certainly grinners ... and found out at the SWBL Grand Final that we can also be Singers!

The Swinging chicks returned in droves for the new season only to succumb to pre-season injuries, the perils of shift work and the allure of exotic holidays.

We even started the season with 2 members with broken bones in their feet - crikey, what are the odds of that?

Consequently, as a team, we certainly enjoyed giving points away for free this season. A hat-trick of forfeit freebies in fact.

But when we did play, we often kicked some serious butt and laughed and giggled our way through the Season. The most important part of a Game for us is to simply enjoy ourselves ... so we did just that!

Those butt kickers were the returning Swingers of Marika (Co-ordinator), Gillian (Coach), and (in alphabetical order, or if your name starts with an 'A', it is in order of importance): Ali, Dot, Jen, Jodie, Ms Katie G, Lex, Nic and Sarah.

Those who also threw their fresh keys into the Swinger's hat (with gusto we may add) were Catherine in her inaugural SWBL Season with her fabulous matching blue shoes and the delightful Steph who managed to play both AFL & Baseball each weekend!

Special thanks to the Swingers cheer Squad: Dirty Deb (injured from a devastating but otherwise magnificent slide in the 2010 season) along with Margot, Kimberley and the 2 Rachelles.

While attendance on a Sunday was not our strong point in 2011 due to a plethora of injuries and unreasonable shiftwork expectations, for the most part, Swingers emerged from their close knit circle and enjoyed SWBL's festivities and unofficially declared themselves the 'Hottest Team in the League'.

We turned up to the Golden Barley regularly (ok, except that week when Ali's name was drawn for the \$250 member's prize) and we even fielded a team at the ACON Trivia night and had 4 Swingers players in the All-Stars game!

Swingers enjoyed sharing our specialist pitching coach with the rest of the League, and I'm sure the whole League would like to thank Michael Wilcox for his time (and Swingers for their generosity).

And who could forget our very own Alison 'Millhouse' Miller who led the singing of the SWBL Grand Final national anthem (and I'm sure the whole of the League would like to thank Swingers for that gem also).

Swingers had a many standout moments in the 2011 season.

Most notably however, as proudly reported in the SSO, we managed to have SWBL renamed to the Swingers Baseball League.

And of course, we still look mighty fine in our shiny new uniforms!

Probably the only thing we didn't enjoy this year was the season ending too soon ... so bring on 2012.

Yeeeeeeeeeeowh!



FINALS



ALL-STARS



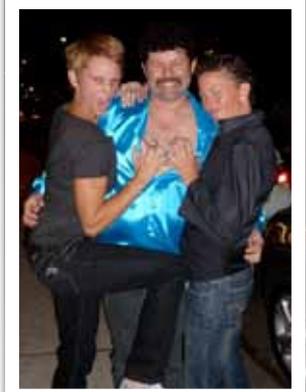
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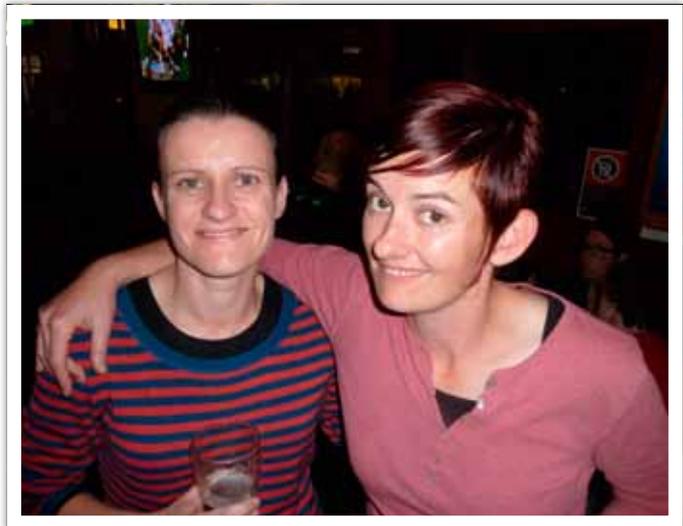
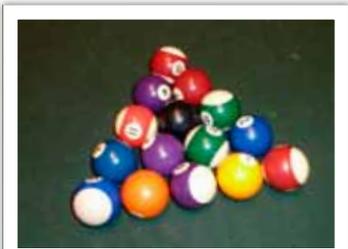
MOTHER'S DAY



POOL COMP



POOL COMP



DEAD BALL



DEAD BALL

