

2019 SWBL ANNUAL REPORT

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- Donates 2019 Inductees

Presidents Report

Another year, another fantastic season of SWBL. We welcomed a lot of fantastic new people into the SWBL family, and excitingly saw the introduction of the UNSW Lions.

Having been a part of SWBL for 10 years, I have witnessed new and unique challenges every season. This season was no different. With an increase in underlying costs, most significantly the cost of grounds from the newly amalgamated Inner West council, it was with great regret that we decided to put up registration fees and some BBQ costs to ensure that our association remained in a comfortable financial situation.



Stacy Warren has done a fantastic job as Treasurer ensuring that budgets were set and adhered to, and the whole committee worked hard to manage costs as we stabilised our financial position after the significant investment last year of our fiery red van.

We were again able to put on fantastic social events thanks to the fantastic efforts of our social coordinator Claire Gorman, and here band of merry helpers. You can read more about our social events in the social report.

SWBL would not be the same without the fantastic support of the Golden Barley Hotel. Not only have they continued to be our largest sponsor, but the environment they create for SWBL to gather is so important. We gather at the GBH for committee meetings, events like the meet and greet, pool comp and on a Sunday evening after a hard day's play. It is like a home away from home for many of us. Thank you for always welcoming us.

Again, we are excited to have ACON as a community partner. Our participation in the Our United Front campaign was both exciting and rewarding. It was also fantastic to see some of our members attending the photo exhibition in July, that featured not only myself but several other SWBL members. In addition, as part of our partnership with ACON it was great to see our new shirts get their first outing on the Rookies vs Lifers game.

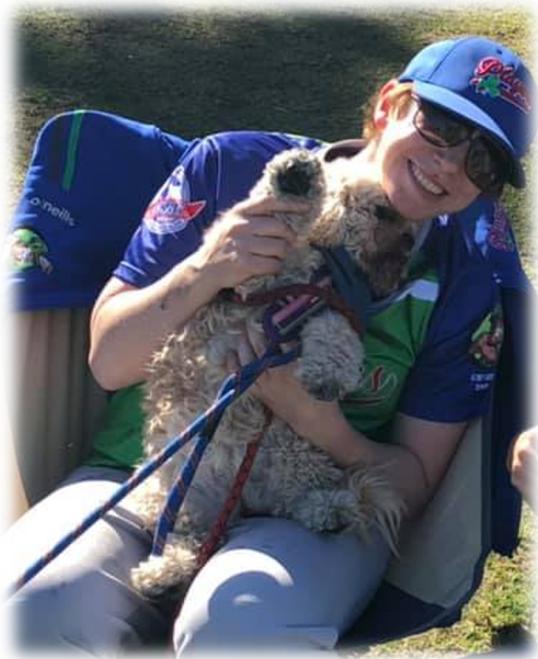
On the baseball diamond we had plenty of spills and thrills. The weather again mostly looked after us. With only one weekend washed out for the season we all go a lot of baseball which is always our priority. Whilst our Lions did not win a game in their first season their improvement was there for all to see. And the enthusiasm

made playing against them a pure delight. We had our first ever Pride round, and it was great to see us “rainbow” up for the day.

Whilst the season ended on a familiar note with the Stealers and the Shamrock Players as the grand finalists, it was not without a competitive season to get there. The Angels and the Saints played a consistent brand of baseball throughout. The Devils not only beat the Stealers but had an early lead over the Shammies before the eventual premiers overtook them in the last innings. Both the Devils and the Sliders showed some real improvement and have plenty of reason for optimism going into next season. Congratulations to the Stealers for being the minor premiers and mostly to the Shamrock Players on being the 2019 premiers.

It was a privilege to have a new breed of Blues umpiring our finals matches, thank you Mellisa Tallon for arranging them. Also, a special thankyou to Rob McFarland for filling in at the last minute for week one of finals. Your ongoing support of SWBL should not be understated and was greatly appreciated.





Treasures Report

After living the high-life in 2018 with the purchase of the new van and well-needed equipment, it's been back to basics for SWBL this season. In 2019, and for the next couple of years, we need to rebuild our reserves and develop the League's long-term strategy. At the same time, we want to keep costs manageable for our members, ensure equipment and grounds are fit-for-purpose, and that we can continue to provide a range of subsidised and inclusive social events for our members.

Expenses

This year, the season cost about \$40K to run, comprising \$32K during the season and an outstanding liability of \$8400 at the end of the SWBL financial year. The liability is largely due to final payment for the Presentation night and the registration costs for the van. Notable costs this year included \$4500 for our playing-fields (covering both 2019 fees plus an unexpected back-payment for grounds in 2017). The van, although a convenient option for the League, is a high-ongoing cost (\$3,389 this year, including insurance, repairs and maintenance) and \$1,559.35 yet to be paid for registration. It's also a depreciating asset over 5 years, losing \$3687 in value each year.

Many thanks to Rob Pink and Mellisa Tallon for all their work in keeping our wheels on the road and managing our equipment.

The Committee also recognised the importance of social events in creating a sense of belonging and community, and in increasing participation. This season we spent almost \$8500 across our four major events: the Meet and Great, the Pool Comp, Main Event and the AGM/ Presentation night. Thanks to Claire and Hayley for delivering these great events and expertly managing the social budget.

After many years of use for the old shirts, the Committee also agreed to buy a new set of player's jersey for the ACON All-stars game. The new jerseys matched the importance we attach to this long-standing tradition and our continued support for ACON - and as a major plus, they also looked great on the diamond!

Other major expenses were our business as usual costs for the garage rental and our player insurance.

Income

The League's income was approximately \$37k. As with other years, our player registration contributed a large section of this income (about 40%), and we decided to increase our fees slightly. The challenge for the League is to source the remainder of the operating costs outside direct contributions from our membership base.

The Committee reluctantly decided to increase beverage prices this year, subject to agreeing to improve the quality of drinks on offer. After debate, in the interests of our members, we agreed not to increase our sausage or water prices. We also simplified the raffle prizes to reduce our weekly outlay. A huge shout-out to Sharon Spring who ran the raffles and worked the microphone beautifully each week.

Combined efforts across our BBQ and raffles generated a profit of \$5782, which is wonderful.

We were very lucky to have again received \$4700 from the Golden Barley Hotel as our sponsor pub, and \$2000 from ACON.

The SWBL Mother's Day cake stall also raised \$300, which was donated to the Breast Cancer Network.

Surplus/ deficit

Based on our income and expenditures at the end of the SWBL financial year, we had a surplus of \$4,650. However, overall (including our end of season liabilities), we finished with a deficit of about \$3k, largely as a result of some unplanned expenses, including previous ground expenses (that had not been previously invoiced), purchase of ACON All-star jerseys and some extra van costs.

Cash at bank

At the end of the SWBL financial year, our cash at bank is \$20,141.15.

With \$8,403.85 in liabilities, we will start the 2020 season with about \$11,700 cash at bank.

Although this is significantly lower than previous years, with careful financial management, good-decision making and support from our members, SWBL will continue to be financially sustainable over coming years.

Looking forward

For next year, I'd recommend the Treasurer's key focus will be to introduce cashless payments, develop stronger partnerships with other community groups and Inner West Council, and strengthen our proposals for funding applications.

Thanks again to all our members who generously give their time and efforts. Without doubt, we wouldn't be able to run the League and deliver such great events without your help and support.

It's great to also welcome the UNSW Lions to the SWBL family!



Onwards and upwards into our 25th year.

2018	Income	2019
13,680	Registration Fees	14,790
11,622.40	BBQ & Meat Raffle Takings	10,260
6500	Sponsorship	6,700
0	Merchandise	0
1960	Social Events	2,267
2245	Presentation Night	2,310
125.74	Bank Interest	132.48
1000	Equipment Sales	0
755	Other Revenue	
	Bake sale	300
	Sock sales	150
37,888	Total Income	36,909
	Expenditure	
4,442.56	BBQ purchases	2,395.31
2,309.00	Raffle	2,083.86
4,088.20	Equipment	2,522.19
2,204.00	Ground hire	4,520.50
1,653.80	Insurance	1,638.69

800.00	Plate umpire fees	0.00
0	Merchandise	0.00
205.58	Website	220.98
7,000.00	Presentation Night	3,155.50
6,163.17	Social events	3,847.66
3,000.00	Garage rent	2,000.00
18,437.81	Vehicle expenses	3,389.05
998.64	Depreciation of assets	3,199.81
1,285.05	Printing and communications	1,492.45
250.00	Donations	300.00
130.00	Bank fees	120.00
55.00	External memberships	0.00
0	Miscellaneous	0
0	Trophies	1,372.80
52,427.81	Total expenditure	32,258.80
14,540.00	Net surplus/ deficit	4,650.7
	Assets	
22,244	Cash at bank	20,141.15
15,999	Fixed assets	12,799
0	Accrued revenue	0
38,243	Total assets	32,940.15
	Liabilities	
	2019 Presentation night	6,064.50
	Umpire fees	780.00
	Van registration costs	1,559.35
	Total liabilities	8,403.85
31,939	Net assets	24,536.30

Social Coordinators Report

Well, what a year. Could 2019 be one of our best social years so far? We had a new team, meaning fresh blood and they certainly like to socialise!

We kicked off our year with the annual Meet & Greet at our sponsor pub The Golden Barley.

We had such a great turnout and I'll like to give a round of applause to everyone for attending. It was a great night and a great way to meet the new team the Lady Lions and say hello to the returning teams.



A few weeks later the annual Pool Comp was on. Now, taking out this comp means your name is written in glory FOREVER. Is it better to take out this than the Grand Final? I mean we normally know that it will be Shammies vs Stealers, with the Saints thrown in one year. This comp, ANYONE can take it out. This year our normal host Loretta was a part of the comp with her pool partner Lauren and they made it all the way to the final. It was vs Dee & Mal. It was every bit as close as we thought, and LORETTA and LAUREN walked away with the win. Your names will be etched in glory FOREVER!

So, maybe not anyone can take it out, it is still the Shammies win with the Saints thrown in.

Now, I must say for the first time, I lost the semi-final for my annual pool partner Dani. Normally, I'm writing to inform you that she is the one that loses it for me, every year. EVERY YEAR. Yet, this year, I let her down. I am sorry!

Also, while playing in the comp, Loretta & Lauren, helped me run it on the night. So a huge THANK YOU.

Is the Main Event the biggest social event of the year for us?

The theme this year was Bands – Through the Decades. We were thinking, Queen, Hanson (ahhhh Zac!), Spice Girls, Salt n' Pepa, the list goes on!

First, I would like to thank Dani Bowman for once again helping me setup. It is actually an effort to setup for these events and every year, she puts her hand up to help. As Bette Milder once sang, 'She is the wind beneath my wings.'

The night itself, was FANTASTIC. We had a great turnout from all 7 teams, with the Lions attending, dressing the part and making their mark on their first Main Event.

The outfits were outrageous! We had some Buddy Holly's (Vanessa & Heidi, did you check with each other about what you were going to wear)? We had the 60's being represented, the 70's, not as much. Angels, we really need to pick up our game. 80's seemed to be the biggest hit of the night with Annalise from there Slider taking out BEST DRESSED.

We then had our entertainment for the night arrive – CARMEN GEDDIT! The category is LIP SYNC. She was also our guest judge for music videos!

Every team this year submitted a video and geez, it was a tough to find the main winner.

The LIONS had the 90's and had a mega-mix of all the best songs out of the 90's! Mel T certainly made a superb Mel B! I thoroughly enjoyed it, as I was obsessed with the Spice Girls.

The STEALERS told us that we wish our girlfriend was hot like them? There was some strutting over the water, some working out and checking out! It was a good effort for the noughties.

The SLIDERS probably got one of the best decades, the 80's! They certainly didn't waste it. They reminded us that we have fight for our right to party. A must with the current Sydney lock out laws. They went to prom, they had a pact to lose their virginity at prom, Rochelle didn't manage to lose her virginity at prom. Are we watching American Pie, but the Australia version – Meat Pie? We certainly won't forget about them!

The SHAMROCKS went for the obvious and BEST choice of the 60's – Hey Jude by The Beatles. It was chosen because of the lovely Jude Hartnett in their team! It got the whole party singing along. Lorretta & Dee sending in videos from their trip over in Ireland.



The ANGELS got the 70's and had the best time filming it! We managed to borrow my friend's Lobster costume. She wore it to Fair Day one year and people just wanted to butter her up. BOOM-TISH! Veg & Texas played a perfect Agnetha &

Anni-Frid in the middle of Sydney Park, in the middle of the day. Claire, Beni, Nat & Jodie stuck their heads through a black sheet and called it Bohemian Rhapsody!

Finally, Sharon from The SAINTS made a photo slide video for the Saints inclusion. Must say, picked a great song and some great photos. Really showed the spirit of The Saints. Hopefully next year, they can contribute again!

The Top 3 was voted by Carmen to be between Sliders, Devils and the Angels. All 3 videos were very close but, in the end, it was the DEVILS video taking out the WIN! There was a thunderous applause when announce, closely followed by We Are The Champions by Queen.



How could they not win with all that “fake” sexual tension between Shae & Lucy in Love Is Strange. Then Narelle & Aileen arguing if it was a band or not. It was an amazing video and deserve the win on the night. Looking forward to seeing what they produce next year.

Just remember to wake up little Suzie!

That wraps up my last year as Social Coordinator. 3rd times the charmed and I'm done!

Shout out to all the people that helped me throughout the 3 years, especially my Angels ladies and Hayley Lockett!

PEACE OUT!





Shamrock Players

To start this report at the end, we thought the **Stealers** had it in the bag this year after the season they've had. It was a complete pleasure watching you play, and we sincerely mean it when we say that we share this victory with you. And what a victory it was! A true nail biter in all the ways.

Great pitching from you, Stealers; phenomenal pitching from our **Collie CCK, grandmother extraordinaire!**

Then, when dear **Jacqui** hit that homer and brought what felt like half the Shammies home? BOOM. Well deserved MVP on the day, babe. (And nice homers in the season!!)



Back to the beginning

Let's not mince words. It was a very hard year for the team. But we banded together, dragged ourselves through those first few games and held each other up. A few of the

factors that really helped us along were, in no particular order, our **families**, our **friends**, our **partners**, our **snoop doggies**, and the **other teams in the League**. Thanks guys.

Special mention

Head cheerleader **Mal!** We love your guts and all that sparkly attitude you bring to us on game days. You are one of us and always will be.

Fresh (true) blood

We had newbie **Cheryl** join us this year – yet another solid link to the Irish, a boat race novice (rulz, smoolz), and a mightily improved player (oh & hi **Seamus!!!**).

Plus we had young **Karlie** come back, tag teaming with her partner-in-crime **Laura** who took the year off to grow a whole baby in there. Karlie, you took some thumping catches this year, well done on a magnificent return and for dipping your toes into coaching when we needed you.

And what about that **Chuckie** from the, um, other side? We are beyond glad to have you with us. So fast, so graceful, and very safe hands in outfield and when up to bat. What an all-rounder!

Speaking of thumping great stuff

Hayley girrrrrrrl, your catches and stops this year were sick as. Ditto your coordination and coaching skillz. We are way lucky to have you. Thank you.

Big mentions to **Dee** and **Jude** and **Jane** for some epic catches in the outfield. While Jane may like to fly under the radar, we seeeeeee you. But seriously, you three had us well covered this year.

How fly? Way fly!

How we managed to fly what seemed like half the team around the world and back, and still field a team each week, is a mystery. But we did it.

Speaking of, Coach **Loretta** and your super fly merch (love the new hoodies), extra fly graffiti (WOW!), and ultra fly moves out there on the field. If ever there was a most improved at baseball, it's 100% you in our eyes at every game you played this year.



More than a game...

Yum yum we love a bake off...as evidenced by Miss **Stacy's** 'most fancy' gong for her Rocky Road (though rumour has it she organised the judges!!!) and 'mum's favourite' **Lara** with her Pistachio Zucchini & Lime Cake.

We also had that strong Pool comp crew, with the winners on the day being Loretta (and our dear mate, **Saint Lauren**) defeating none other than Dee and Mal.

Janna, you did at again with the main event video, making us look way more schmick than we could have without you. Thanks also for always being at the games, even when you didn't think you could. And you know, you played some great ball this year. Even though you may beg to differ.

Great people

A team isn't a team without all of the people who make it so. **Mary**, you moved away with your gorgeous intended, **Mel**, but you still (both) showed up. Please keep coming back!!

Vanessa and Gabby, you've brought a lot of love n laughs n naughty to our team. Please keep up the good work. (And Gabs, thanks for turning **Cindy** into an accidental sport chick.)

Mel Hardwicke, big hello to you for coming along each week and supporting your wifey. **Annette**, thanks for supporting us whenever you could, even though your neck got the best of you. **Rob**, thanks for all the hugs and stuff.

The rest

Too many to name, though: **Lisa** cops a mention for turning herself into the stat-lady from hell; welcome to the **New Blues**; many thanks to the **outgoing committee members**. Catch you on the flipside in 2020, everyone.

Natasha Ball We played the final this year for ourselves and for our mate Natasha. You may have seen her name written on our bodies on the day. Natasha was our catcher and coordinator, our whip crackingly smart friend and confidante. Tash took her own life this year and took little pieces of ours when she left. Tash, you are sorely missed by so many. It's not the same without you.



Everyone, please remember that if you don't feel OK or you see someone who isn't OK, it's MORE THAN OK to say something. There's a lot of good out there. And we as a sporting community have a lot of good to give.



The Stealers

Mahoney Park has never seen so much action on and off the diamond as what happened in 2019. There was some major sideline trading going down between us and the Shamrocks at the very beginning of the season. Monies were not exchanged but we did see Jade exchange her usual Green for Red, it goes faster. We also acquired new talent to the dugout in Miles, Kaz and Liesl.

The usual shenanigans unfolded throughout the season. Injury to ourselves, injury from one team mate to another. How's that egg Annie? There were some epic slides at the bases and some extremely close calls and near misses – we're looking at you Mandy.

Roger kept score and Cathy kept calling the runners around the diamond, but mum and dad are packing up and moving out. Our once littlest leaguer, Jack is all grown up, has himself a girlfriend and is of legal drinking age. Who feels old(er) now!



Our amazing bunch of Stealers this year consisted of the following:

Honey – aka “Sweet As”; “Honey Pot”; “We are like bees to her”; “Boo Boo”. Honey played a critical non-playing cheer leading and morale building role this year. Chief banner waver, pom pom shaker and sideline lolly snake provider! Hope to see you back on the diamond in 2020.

Mandy – aka “coach Barry”. We didn't see as much of Mandy this year due to work commitments, but she totally made up for it with her kick-arse playing and all-round great vibe (and hair!). Mandy goes from strength to strength each year.

Helen – aka “cragswoman” - Helen approaches baseball like she approaches rock climbing, with sheer grit and determination. Always reliable, always listens to the

base coach, always improving! If we had a difficulty grading for baseball as they do in climbing you'd be a 38!

Sarah – aka “Marsy”; “Marsy-pants”. Words fail me Marsy: You are our rock (but not one climbed by Helen), you are our coach, you are our star player who can take any position and make it your own, you are the backbone of the Stealers!!!

Jade – aka “Jade-o”. What a champ and what an absolute bonus to have you join the Stealers this year. The Shammie’s loss is totally our gain! She can bat, she can run, she can throw, she can catch, she can steal, what else do we need? We love you Jade!

Kaz - aka twinkle toes, ‘don’t cha’, hottest girl in da club’! This is one energetic lady! Always bringing the good vibes, the positivity and those weird warm up stretching devices! You’ve been a fabulous addition to the team this year Kaz, bring on the next!

Kelly- feared by other teams, loved by her own- people are always caught saying ‘is Kelly Griffith playing’ in the hope that maybe just maybe they still have a chance... a true all rounder of the game with talent to die for.

Leisl- what a firecracker!! The Stealers welcomed the cool calm and collected Leisl this year who very quickly converted her cricketing skills to baseball ones and shone all over the diamond. This massive hitter would even have Babe Ruth shaking in his boots!

Mags- I’m not going to play this season. I’ll play part time this season. Maybe I’ll play this season. I don’t want to play today. I’ll play a half game today. Do you need me to play today? I’m ok to watch today. I might come down for a sausage. Who knows what 2020 will bring... not even Mags...

Shari- N.B. Don’t hit to outfield if Shari is fielding, there’s really no point, you’ll be out. Even when you think it’s in the gap...it’s not. She’s a little bit magic. Oh did we mention she’s also a star batter and base runner, law advisor, deck builder, sex therapist, dog minder and fire builder? Shari really has the diamond covered... seek her out... for everything.

Miles- what a great first season for this speed demon! Miles took to the field head first and quickly learnt skills many have taken years to accomplish. When she wasn’t “overdoing it in the gym” she was gunning around those bases like no one’s business!

Roger- he’s been around... he knows where it’s at. A loyal Stealer through and through he’s been such a massive part of our team throughout the years. Thanks for all your scoring efforts, taking the kit for us and just your all round baseball motivation! Please make up 15 beds when we come to visit you next year!



The Angels & Cherubs

2019 was a new season, we went in full of hope and optimism.

Cherub Claire – Our new coach set the tone. She was here to take us one step further than last year. The Grand final was her goal, and she was going to take no prisoners getting there.

Cherub Louise – Our rookie Angel joined the team. Filling the hole created by fallen Angel turned Police officer Emily



Angel Nicole and **Cherub Olivia** – Before the season even started, we welcomed our first baby to the team as little Olivia Astrid Martins was born.

AS the season got under way, we came up against the Shammies and the Saints in the first 2 rounds. The lack of a solid pre-season showed as we started the season with 2 narrow and disappointing losses.

Rounds 3 and 5, surround our round 4 bye, looked much more Angelic as we showed what we were capable of against the Devils and the Sliders to get our season back on track.

Sadly, little **Cherubs Arlo and Luca** made it a little too hard for **Angel Jess** as she with great regret withdrew for this season. Fingers crossed we see her back in the new Angels shirts next season

Round 6 had us come up against the highflying Stealers in gale force winds. We scraped together 9 players and were outclassed in a score line that did not fully reflect the opportunities we had. #\$\$%@ing Mel D'Arcy.

Cherub Evangeline vs Cherub Lions - Round 7 saw new **Angel Veg**, join the team brought us up against the new team in the competition the Lions. A comfortable win ensured we went into the halfway point of the season in the top 4. Our finals dream still a reality.

Round 8 saw the one and only wash out for the season. Unfortunate as we were primed to defeat the Shammies 😊.

In Round 9 we failed against the Saints where we were a little slow off the mark giving them 7 runs in the first innings. **Cherub Kristy** – had her first go at pitching as we battled out the game losing 7 -3.

Round 10 – **Cherub Joh and Angel Dani** starred in Pride Round – The first Pride round for SWBL saw the youngest Angel Joh star with 2 on bases as we good triumphed over evil against the Devils.

The main event was the precursor for our round 11 Bye. **Cherub Veg**, doing a fantastic job co-producing with the experience Angel Nat our latest attempt to win the best performance. If it was not for those darn clever Devils we would have won – alas second again. Kudos to all involved it was an amazing production.



Round 12 had us again struggle for numbers with only 9 players. Some big hits and an **almost Cherub Amy** home run saw us pinch a 7 -5 win over the Sliders to seal a position in the top 4.

It was a relaxed round 13 dead rubber against the Stealers and final game against the Lions that allowed us to try a few things with different pitchers and fielding positions as we fine tuned ourselves for the upcoming finals.

We welcomed this season's second little **Cherub - Kyler** to **Angels Benita and Nat**. We won the games we should but had failed to beat the teams above us as we finished 4th. But Finals are a new season, and Coach Claire was ready.

Our Semi Final against the Saints was our best games of the season. With **Angel Jenenne** pitching to **Angel Liz**, and all players available we were able to control the game from start to finish. I say all players – that was until my most Angelic moment of the season saw an over excited **Cherub Joh** jump the kit bag, land on a bat and twist her ankle – can't fault her enthusiasm. Still we won 10 – 4 to put us into the Final against the Shammies for a place in the Grand Final.

The weather favoured the Irish, as the biting cold and wind showed up. So did the Shammies – hungover and dangerous. It was a good effort to make the Shammies work hard for their win. Down only 5-3 late in the game we were still a chance. However, some great batting by them, and a few errors us and we are left to rue a missed opportunity – and prepare for another assault next year. Bring it on - **The Year of the Angels**.



The Saints

2019 was another great year for the Saints. Finishing the regular season in 3rd place, we all had the feeling that we could possibly take it all the way this year, however our



semi-final performance was just not up to scratch, and our final standing resulted in a 4th overall. Not bad for a bunch of injury prone old ball players (well not all of us), we still have a few spring chickens in the brood.

This year saw the arrival of three new recruits - Danielle, Emma and Kristin. We were so lucky to gain three incredible chicks to our team. Each bringing with them great enthusiasm and energy... Thanks chicks (you can stay!). We also saw the return of some of our long serving Saints – Lauren, Robbie, Kylie and Hetty, and after a year off Jackie also returned. Another of the Saints longest serving members Mel M also pulled out her glove from retirement and re-joined the Saints. Along with the return of some of our last year rookies – Margie, Nic and Sabine, and not a rookie but not an oldie - Sharon, we now had a great team that was ready to give its all to the new season.

2019, in our brand-new professional team shirts, saw both new and returning players alike develop and learn new skills. Some awesome team batting and fielding, which steadily improved throughout the season, and resulting in some really close and competitive games.



Lauren - our amazing first-string pitcher had a cracker of a season on the mound, whilst battling through so many injuries, she maintained her cool and got us through each game. **Robbie** – our all-rounder - Pitcher, First, Third, Shortie and four-hole batter. Whilst there are too many highlights to list - your pitching effort to close out the last game of the season to get us the win was outstanding... the Saints MVP for the season. Oh and looking forward to the arrival of the new Saint Baby Taylor-Gillum. **Mel M** – a successful comeback. Had a cracker of a year at short stop and an even better year with the bat (luckily she can hit a long ball as the legs aren't as fast as they use to be). **Kylie** - taking charge of 1st base, also had a great year with the bat, hitting in lots of runs from the 7 hole in the line-up. **Hetty** - who

wears her heart on her sleeve gave her everything in each and every game. **Margie** - reliable anywhere on the field, also giving pitching a crack this year... another all-rounder... and another great year for Margie. **Jackie** – the matron of the team, still giving it a go for her good ol' Saints. But still injury prone. **Kristin** - one of our rookies, had a fantastic first season and even saw some time on the mound. Can't wait to see what she can do next year! Our other new recruits **Dani** and **Emma** had an awesome season taking care of the outfield, as well as Dani giving 1st base a crack and Emma at 2nd, both pulling off some great plays. Bring on 2020 for you two! **Sharon** - had another awesome season with the bat, and looking after 2nd base most games. **Nic** – What a difference a year makes. Last year a rookie, this year smashing the ball around the diamond. Though we still need to teach her to catch the ball in her glove and not her legs (LOL). **Sabine** - started out the season on a high, with her bullet arm from 3rd base, and producing some cracker hits, however succumbing to some injuries finishing her season early. And me, **Mel G**, after an Achilles injury in round 2, I took on the full-time role of coach and coordinator.

Congratulations to all SWBL teams, for your own team achievements and milestones. Thanks for providing some great competition for us. As you know the Saints love a good competitive game of Baseball. My mantra for the season “you haven't played hard enough until you get dirty” – now the season is over, Robbie and Mel M have now finally washed their pants...

All round it was a fun and eventful season for the Saints with many more highs, than the lows. I'm so proud to have been part of this team and how we played each weekend with both skill and professionalism.

We look forward to hitting the diamond and competing next season. Watch out Shammies, we want our name on the Trophy again... bring on 2020.



The Devils

The Devils had a good season only just missing out on the playoffs once again. We have no doubt that our new strong foundation will only build on this and we will be contenders for a 2020 shake up!

We had some great games this season and let's not forget about our big W against the Stealers with KG having to take the mound.

Marika was as solid as ever for us during this year and continued to have a dominant sausage season.

Narelle changed things up with a move to third base. She was just as majestic as ever making plays from the infield.

The Devils were once again solid with the bat, Sam W being a powerhouse with multiple screamers and that almost homer.

Olivia was still hit a few times by the ball but we had nothing broken! Unfortunately she passed that baton of pain over to Kylie's Achilles. (Post surgery recovery is going well).



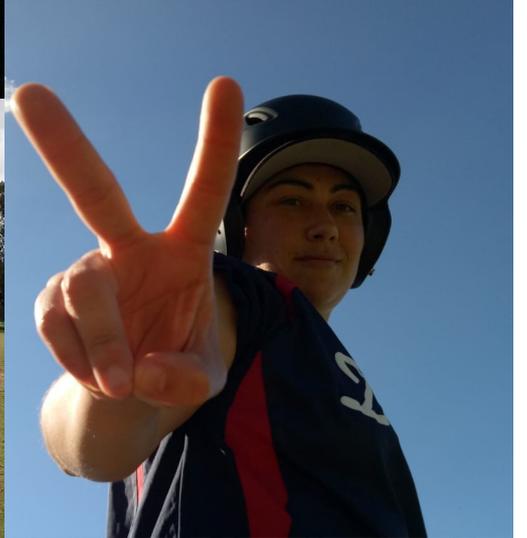
Not one to go un-noticed, our first base Shae turned the humble tag into what can only be described as a "belly flop" onto first base. At the end of the day who cares how you get that out.

The Devils were also lucky to have Heidi make a guest appearance on the diamond. Showing us that talent isn't all behind the camera. Oh yeah and she directed our AMAZING video for the main event that we WON!

And on the subject of being winners, the Devils also reclaimed the boat races this year (thanks to Bui for coming out of retirement).

All in all a fun year was had by the cheeky girls in Blue and Red. Special thanks to Captain/Co-ordinator VB who is an absolute star on the diamond and there is nobody else I'd rather do this gig with.

Cheers SWBL, Coach KG



The Sliders

Sliders...what a year we had! Yet again we were facing another rebuilding year as Emily moved back to Canberra, Charlotte left the country, and Alice had a baby. However, our newest round of rookies jumped right in and were a great fit for the team. I'd argue that the Sliders' record is not reflective of the improvements we made as a team or the very close games that we played. We were so close to so many upsets – here's looking at you Shammies and Saints – but above all we had fun and we sought to do something different this year. As a coach, I was continuously impressed by the unwavering support, enthusiasm, and encouragement that the Sliders brought to each game. We made errors, but we kept at it and put them behind us quickly and looked good doing to it. Let's not forget, the Sliders are host to the league's best dressed player: Annaliese.

Let's not forget, we managed to come in a well-earned third place in the video competition. What secured our position? Probably **Eva** and **Mel's** incredible on-screen (unscripted) kisses, which should be seared into the memory of everyone who has ever watched our video. Though it also could have been the unfortunate rebuke **Rochelle** received from the other **Mel** (Nicole's mum) who flatly refused Rochelle's invitation to prom. We'll never know...

But this is, theoretically, about our time on the field, so back to it. What did we do on the field this year? Some weeks we had our veterans, other weeks we had mostly newer players. What this meant was that on any given Sunday people were playing in new positions. Even when we faced off against the Devils in the playoffs, we saw **Chris** step up to play first base after showing her hot glove at third all season, **Holly** found her place as our catcher while **Mel** – who had a breakout season – and **Eva** traded turns at third base. If anything, our final game was representative of our entire season – everyone stepped up each weekend to learn a new position and take on a



new challenge and we were all better because of it. Some other highlights include **Nicole's** three game hit streak and a couple of line drives off of Collie. Don't forget her great double play with her counterpart **Annaliese**. **Jess** and **Kendall** also never stopped getting better and learning more about the game while **Kira** helped us add another big bat to the line-up while playing a solid first base.

Yet again, **Annaliese** anchored our infield, she played great defense while also mentoring everyone else. **Chloe** earned a significant amount of sausage this year as she went back and forth between pitching and catching. **Princess** brought in a good proportion of our runs. **Rochelle** made a full recovery from last year's injury to guide us to victories from the batter's box. **Jacinta** played some great games at shortstop with a key defensive play to save an important run at the plate. **Georgia**, meanwhile, showed herself to be one of the Sliders' fastest runner with more steals than we could keep track of! Unfortunately, **Bernadette** put too much effort into the season and her foot paid the price, seeing her forced to sit out the rest of the season after an unfortunate injury struck.

Beyond the lines of the field, the Sliders received continuous support from our wonderful and excellent scorekeeper, Lyn, as she trained Viv to score in her absence. Both Lyn and Viv were key parts of our cheering section this year and were backed up by another new face, Mel, Nicole's mum. Baby Georgia couldn't really join us on the sidelines, but we look forward to seeing her dressed in her Sliders jersey next year. Wendy the puppy was also a welcome addition.

While last year the Sliders took some turns at in-season pub trivia, this year we turned to the batting cages and bowling. It turns out **Kira** is a bowling shark and **Randi** and **Holly** are terrible. If you're twelve and looking to steal games of air hockey from someone (not advised), it turns out that **Nicole** is an easy mark.

Thanks for a great season Sliders – it was full of laughs and I'm so glad that I got to be a part of this really wonderful and supportive team. None of this would have been possible without the weekly work **Rochelle** put in as coordinator and that deserves endless amounts of thanks. I look forward to being mocked for the earnestness above. – Randi



UNSW Lions

So, there you have it! The Lady Lions have completed Season 2019 in Sydney Womens BL...

We have had a great time... and none of this would have occurred without the seed being planted by Loretta Cosgrave... so thank you for suggesting to Mellisa that she could coordinate a team... who knew?

Our season started with Mellisa telling us that she wanted us to simply to have fun and learn how to play the game that she loves.... Which we feel we did.

We feel we first made an impact with our matching shirts at the annual Pool Competition...



And again at the Main Event and corresponding round.... People made comments about our outfits both at the venue and again the following day.....

Our season has been made by the players within our team and one player recognised that we all couldn't be nominated for awards she made some for everyone: We hope you like them as much as we do:

- Best On Field Entertainment- Mellisa
- Best Catch (Fly Ball) – Paulette
- Best Stack Off-Field- Laura
- Best Stack & Recovery On-Field – Della
- Best Play Hungover- Emily
- Best Run To Pitchers Plate Instead Of First Base- Vanessa
- Best Catch With Vagina – Heather
- Best Dancing on field – Sara
- Best Self Haircut- Kylie
- Best Support Noises & Actions – Elma
- Best Disappearing Act – Alex
- Best Pitcher & Best Hugger- Bridgette
- Best Jokes & Laughs- Della and Sara
- Best Slide Into Home – Emily, Paulette and Kylie
- Best Dog Whisperer – Annemarie & Robert
- Best Scorer – Robert
- Best Ass – Vanessa
- Best Support Laura Mum – Matthew - Phil – David – Kirran and Mr Elma
- Best Warmest & Supportive Person - Mellisa ❤️
- Best Pride Round Outfit – Bonnie
- Best Sausage eater & Bin Cricket Hater – Orson

And continuing our vocal presence. Here are some thoughts from the players themselves:

Vanessa Hill – I have had a great first year with SWBL.... It was everything I could have wished for and more. Things that helped this were a warm and supportive



coach and hubby, fellow team members with excellent music tastes (you know who you are), fellow team members that give good hugs, social activities and loads of encouragement and support from players in other teams – notably Shae Mclean from the Devils. But the thing that made it the best was the doggies. I don't even like baseball, I'm really only there to pat the dogs (joke) I will miss you all so much, until next year, thank you for everything – best wish Vanessa Hill

Kylie Sweet - The highlight of the season for me was being in awe of many capable women who showed everyone what it's like to play ball.

I thoroughly enjoyed and respect the players and teams who showed respect to us "as newbies" and who helped us through, not only the game but the season!

The funniest moment for me was "idiot" Vanessa running to home plate rather to first. (Love ya Ness xxoo)

My favourite moment was and is every week when I see you all.

To me, we may not have won any games, but to me I have won more than that. I've won friendships that I feel will last a lifetime.

Lady Lions forever xxoo

Laura White – Vanessa That's ACE haha 😊 And Kylie That's prefect! Not sure what I could add..... the community feeling of our team is amazing and I can't wait to be back on the field with you all!

Mellisa Tallon - As the coach and team co-ordinator of the Lady Lions, we simply want to thank all the Lady Lions for attending training and always putting in 100%. Both Annemarie and I could not have asked anymore of you ladies...

Inclosing the Lady Lions would like to thank our vocal supporters; Mums, Dads, partners, husbands, wives, girlfriends, boyfriends, mates, local politicians, ring-ins and pooches (especially Orson and Bonnie), the volunteer umpires and the 2019 SWBL Committee for all of your positivity and support this year.

We have had a fabulous season.... And we will continue to celebrate being a Lady Lions again on Presentation night and throughout the summer... until we are playing again in 2020.... What we are proud of what we have accomplished, we have not won the SWBL Premiership but rather something bigger from being a part of the 2019 SWBL competition... thank you



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