



Sydney Women's Baseball League

Annual Report 2024

Honouring our legacy of 29 years



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President's report

Ruth Lindsay, SWBL President 2024

Wow, what a year from the start. As we geared up for what is normally our biggest source of new players Mardi Gras Fair Day was cancelled a week out.

Despite not having a public recruitment space, we still managed to get over 50 new people to the open day and over 50 returning players to hone their skills.

We ended up with more players wanting to play than we could take, so we had to cap the number and start a waitlist. What a problem to have.



SWBL had 83% of players return in 2024 which is a fantastic retention rate of current players and 48 new members. Clearly, the word's out that we are the place to be.

These new players stepped right up. They played in all positions, from pitching full games to catching full games throughout the finals series. Out of the 9 teams, 7 had rookies who came in the top 3 of MVP points for their team, and rookies in 4 teams came on top of the MVP points for their teams. What an effort. We thank you all for being integral parts of your teams and SWBL.

For the second year in a row we welcomed a new team the Mittildas, who had a great year of baseball. Thanks to Shae, Ash, Craig and Pip for leading this new team.

What a year of baseball we had. We had a resurfaced ground and facilities and lucky we did as there was a lot of rain and we only had 2 games washed out (other baseball leagues lost half of theirs). And what a difference did the storage sheds make I know my boot wasn't full all season with a kit bag. Thanks to everyone who helped get the gear in and out each week.

We had wonderful displays of sportspersonship, with many teams helping their opposition with pitching and catching advice while the games were going on. It's fantastic to see the members helping each other, no matter how long they have been in the league or what team they are on. This is what makes SWBL so unique and such an amazing supportive community.

We started Friday night training, and I turned up nervously to the first one wondering if anyone would show not knowing if it was going to be a success or flop. Thank goodness it was a success. The Cubs and Mittildas turned up in force every fortnight as well as players from every team. While walking around the diamond on a Sunday some Angels were heard saying "the fielding skills have improved so much this year". SWBL owe a big thanks to Allen and Brad who gave up their Friday nights to help improve the skills of our members.

All 9 teams showed improved skill levels and had some fantastic games on the diamond...here's my point of view as my first year as president.

The Angels, just scraped into fourth place and brought the magic at the pointy end of the season to take home the glory for the third win in a row. A very well-rounded team with some huge hitters, well done Angels. Everyone has you in their sights next year.

The Cubs, in only their second year, came in third on the ladder, what a mammoth effort and it was great to see their excitement and how proud they were to get to the finals and deservedly so, and clearly superbly coached by Jasper. They have their eye on the prize in 2025

The Devils were delighted with their win in round 1 and then ended the year on a high, beating the grand finalist Stealers. Weren't the Devils over the moon? They celebrated like they had won the GF – great to see. The Devils also had the third win in a row in the boat race, beating the Stealers again. I think that if the Devils had the choice of winning the Premiership or the boat races, they would find it hard to choose.

The Lions had so much fun this year and looked fantastic in their new kit. You could see them racing around the diamond from a mile away in their bright orange socks. Well done, Lions, on what was a rebuilding year for you. Great baseball with a great attitude. Some fantastic wins throughout the season. The Lions always had a grin on their face and laughter on the diamond.

The Mittildas, our newest team who bonded well really quickly. It's not easy to start a new team and they did it in style, with a few players well up in the slugger stats. They won their first-ever game in SWBL which is something they will not forget. They also finished the season on a high with a great win. Congratulations on your first of many years.

The Saints, with half of the team being new players and Heather stepping up to take on the coaching role and what an amazing effort in what was also a rebuilding year for them and some close games that could have gone either way. A lot of their new players had never played before but stepped up to play all sorts of positions, you should all be proud of yourselves.

The Shammies, came home strong winning 3 of their last 4 games and it came down to the last round to see if they could get into the finals and they were pipped by 1 run. Great to see the Shammies using this year to upskill a lot of players by giving the team a go in all different fielding positions. They will be back next year with vengeance.

The Sliders, played some solid baseball throughout the season to take the minor premiership position with only one loss. I think the whole league were willing the Sliders on to take the whole thing out. Great baseball and an all-round team effort with a large player list. This is one really consistent team here. They will be back harder and stronger next year, watch out all.

The Stealers, after coming second they were the first into the GF by knocking out the minor premiers. All round improvement by the new Stealers with players taking on new positions for the first time. Congratulations on coming in second, very proud of this team, but I may be a tad biased here as they are the closest to my heart.

Back in November 2023 we started working on a grant from the NSW Office of Sport to replace a lot of our equipment. Just as the season was about to start, we received the fantastic news that we had been awarded \$7400. I would like to thank Kellie from the Angels who worked tirelessly on this, and we wouldn't have got this grant without her.

We had an amazing launch day attended by members of council and state parliament.

SWBL was also tabled in parliament by a speech from Jo Haylen and Jo attended our Rookie v Lifers game and is very supportive of our future.

I had a lot of feedback about what as members of SWBL you wanted to see happen. Hence I made the committees motto this year “to give back” to our community. At the beginning of the year we made the decision not to make any money to put it all back into our members. Poor Spike the amount of receipts you had to deal with from me was huge.

We could only do this thanks to the previous committee. In 2020 we only had \$17870 in assets and cash and the end of LY we had over \$60k in the bank. This years committee could only do what we did thanks to Holly, Jacqui, Collie and Jasper and our grants, you made me feel like Santa, Ellen or Oprah, not sure which one.

A huge gratitude of thanks to our major sponsor The Golden Barley Hotel where we gather every Sunday night, not only do they give us a financial payment they also allow us to do the meat raffles every Sunday night which is a big earner for us.

We received \$2000 from ACON this went towards us getting a new you beaut camera for all those fantastic social media photos. It was also great to have them do the first pitch in the rookies v lifers game.

We had a committee of 16 brilliant individuals and I would like to thank each and everyone of them. A lot of hard work and hours go into making SWBL what it is.

Charlie did a fantastic job on events bringing us all together on many fun occasions. We started with the Mardi Gras viewing and after party in conjunction with Sydney Queer Irish and what a great success it was giving people a safe fun environment to watch the parade and party afterwards. Rainbow Diamond Nights with the Lip Sync was a super fun night, congratulations to the Angels for taking the win home and to all teams, you could see by the performances a lot of work was put in to make it an amazing night. A big thanks to Lesbians Incorporated who gave us a \$2000 grant to help us put on this night and keep the tickets to a very low \$20. As well as other social events.

I'm sure you will all agree that our social media was taken to the next level. The team of Jess, Elle and Renee kept the socials coming and informed us all of what was happening on and off the diamond.

Kylie and Janna on grounds and equipment and an extra bonus with Janna and the coffee van.

We had our bellies filled every week at the BBQ with Jojo and Co doing all the shopping.

Kellie did all our grants work netting us a total of \$11400 in cash to help us play and party. Plus already another \$10k for 2025 & 2026 to train our coaches and umpires.

And our general members who chipped in with all sorts of jobs and were putting their hands up to help with whatever they could, Naomi, Jude and Holly.

On the SWBL executive committee this year we had 3 new people out of 4 and I would personally like to thank Laura, Lisa and Spike. The support and back up they gave me was first class. They were far from “yes” people and challenged me on anything they had a different opinion on which I have huge respect for and this gave the best results for all of SWBL. We worked as a great team to get everything done

Finally a heartfelt thanks to all the coaches and coordinators who keep the teams running smoothly and organised getting people along to team duties. And we wouldn't be playing games without our volunteer umpires who do an amazing job under pressure circumstances.

Last but not least a big thank you to each and every player who makes SWBL what we are.

And on a personal note I would like to thank my partner **Mary** I couldn't of done this without her help and support.

Bring on our 30th Anniversary!



Financial report

Antonella (Spike) Schulte, SWBL Treasurer 2024

2024 has been a massive year for SWBL. Expanding teams, incredible social events and so much support from the community. We started the year with the plan to give back to the league as much as we could, and hopefully we have done just that.

Through the amazing work of our President Ruth and grants queen Kellie, we have received \$17,900 in cash and kind from our fabulous sponsors the Golden Barley Hotel, ACON and RBI as well as incredible grants from the Office of Sport (how's the new equipment?) and the Lesbian Inc (talk about a brilliant mid-season party!).



Speaking of equipment, the Office of Sport grant (with extra cash we pitched in) allowed us to replace all the old equipment that was worn and old so we can continue to ensure the safety of our members. All teams received new catcher's mitts and bats, we replaced team helmets that had no padding left and bought brand new kits for the Mittildas and Lions, plus a range of other equipment for the league to share. All in, we spent \$14,474 on new equipment this year, compared to the combined total for the previous 10 years (2014-2023) of \$16,742.

We have continued to offer some of the lowest fees in community sport and will work with anyone in need to ensure financial hardship is not a barrier to participation.

As mentioned, this year was all about giving back. We started paying our wonderful plate umpire volunteers (plus a free sausage and drink for them and the base umpire), did a double member's draw on grand final night (two Lions won! Who would have guessed?), raised over \$1,900 for charity and put on some wonderful social events, subsidising the cost whenever we could (including this year's AGM tickets). We also hired the ground for an extra night every fortnight to host league wide training, which we hope everyone could attend and enjoy.

All in, a snapshot of our finances for the 2024 SWBL season is as follows:

- Cash and kind received from sponsorship **\$8,500**
 - Golden Barley increased from \$4,700 to \$6,000
 - RBI provided \$500 to spend on league equipment, plus a discount on league purchases throughout the year
- Cash received from grants **\$9,400**
- Income from registration fees **\$22,981**
- Operating cost (income - expenses) of BBQ and meat raffle **+\$10,019** (compared to +\$9,416 last year)
- New equipment purchased **\$14,474**
- Umpire payments **\$1,300**
- Member's draw **\$2,000**
- Raised for and donated to charity **\$1,954**
- End of year surplus **\$13,662**
- End of year net assets **\$65,713**

The Financial Statement overleaf covers the period of 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024, covering the entire 2024 Sydney Women's Baseball League season. Go team!

Income & Expense Statement	2023 Season	2024 Season
Income		
Operating Income		
Registration fees	\$ 21,175	\$ 22,981
Grant (Office of Sport)	\$ -	\$ 7,400
Grant (Lesbian Inc)	\$ -	\$ 2,000
Sponsorship (ACON)	\$ -	\$ 2,000
Sponsorship (GBH)	\$ 4,700	\$ 6,000
BBQ and meat raffle	\$ 18,499	\$ 23,394
Social events	\$ 6,850	\$ 12,823
Total Operating Income	\$ 51,224	\$ 76,598
Non-Operating Income		
Interest	\$ 374	\$ 136
Raised for charity	\$ -	\$ 1,954
Total Non-Operating Income	\$ 374	\$ 2,090
Total Income	\$ 51,598	\$ 78,688
Expenses		
Umpires	\$ -	\$ 1,300
BBQ	\$ 6,383	\$ 8,988
Meat raffle	\$ 2,700	\$ 4,387
Member's draw	\$ 1,700	\$ 2,000
Ground hire	\$ 2,092	\$ 3,012
Equipment	\$ 2,767	\$ 14,474
Batting cages	\$ 500	\$ -
Insurance public liability	\$ 2,144	\$ 2,564
Insurance personal accident	\$ 2,285	\$ 3,281
Social events	\$ 10,880	\$ 22,060
Fair day	\$ 370	\$ 597
Bank fees	\$ 190	\$ 473
Tyro fees	\$ 420	\$ 74
Non-playing equipment	\$ -	\$ 2,272
Miscellaneous	\$ 575	\$ 845
Given to charity	\$ -	\$ 1,954
Total Expenses	\$ 33,006	\$ 65,026
Surplus/Deficit	\$ 18,592	\$ 13,662
Skipped month (2023 Season: Sep 22-Aug 23 2024 Season Oct 23 - Sep 24)		
Total income September 2023	\$ 1,410	\$ -
Total expenses September 2023	\$ 12,035	\$ -
Balance Sheet		
Assets		
Cash at bank @ end of season	\$ 69,320	\$ 67,963
Petty cash	\$ 2,105	\$ 150
Accounts Receivable (AGM)	\$ 1,000	\$ 580
Total Assets	\$ 72,425	\$ 68,693
Liabilities		
Accounts payable (AGM)	\$ 7,175	\$ 2,980
Total Liabilities	\$ 7,175	\$ 2,980
Net Assets	\$ 65,250	\$ 65,713

Sport and community grants

Kellie Stromberg, SWBL Grants Coordinator 2024

Gear For All

LGBTQIA+ Inclusivity, Breaking Barriers & Celebrating Diversity On and Off the Diamond: SWBL was thrilled in 2024 to be successful in receiving a NSW Government 'Local Sport Grant' of \$7400. This funding provided our league with much-needed new baseball gear and safety equipment, supporting the growth of our club with high-quality equipment. Thanks to this initiative all teams received requested new gear (and a full kit for the new team). This grant also helps us promote inclusion for women and LGBTQIA+ athletes in our sport. Proudly supported by the NSW Government.

Proudly funded by



Rainbow Diamond Nights

A Sensational Mid-Season Social for Sydney Women's Baseball League Community. After a successful grant application, SWBL was delighted to receive a generous \$2000 grant from Lesbians Incorporated. This grant, which supports lesbian and lesbian-friendly groups across Australia, helped SWBL host the event and subsidise the cost of tickets. The evening featured a Lip Sync Competition with SWBL teams, guest judges, and a DJ. "Rainbow Diamond Nights" wasn't just a celebration of the sport but also a vital opportunity to foster belonging and inclusivity, creating a safe space for those often marginalised in the community.

Diamond Inclusion

Women & LGBTQIA+ Sydney Women's Baseball League Coaching and Umpiring Clinics. In September 2024, SWBL was awarded a \$5,000 Active Inner West Council Grant for both the 2025 and 2026 seasons, totalling \$10,000. This funding will support the launch of coaching and umpiring clinics aimed at fostering inclusivity within the league. The program, scheduled to begin at the start of each season, will provide valuable training opportunities for women

and LGBTQIA+ participants, promoting skill development and leadership in the sport. The positive impact of these clinics is expected to benefit SWBL and its community throughout the 2025 and 2026 seasons.





Governance and people

Lisa O'Sullivan, SWBL Secretary 2024

As a Committee we have 100% thrown ourselves into a year of superfine sport, skills development, and the occasional celebration. A personal highlight for me was Rainbow Diamond Nights. I had an absolute ball strutting my stuff on the stage (soz) and watching everyone shake their groove things.

It's hard (fun) work making these things happen. Ditto is getting the season ready, running equipment audits, packing up at the end of each game day, making sure folks have what they need, sorting out the field bookings, and all the other bits and pieces that are too numerous to list here.

So, I wanted to say thank you to my Committee comrades. Everyone's hard work has not gone unnoticed, from Ruth's spreadsheets of awesome to the social team's updates and all the rest – you have slayed, the lot of you.

Thank you, too, to everyone in our community for bringing us to this point in our long and dazzling history – from the official folks who came before us on the SWBL Committee, to the players, supporters, partners, parents, mates, dogs and volunteers who have made our winter Sundays so delightful. In the words of Roy and HG, "Too much sport is barely enough", and I wouldn't have it any other way. Thanks all. x

SWBL Executive and Committee 2024

President: Ruth Lindsay

Vice President: Laura Barbat

Secretary: Lisa O'Sullivan

Treasurer: Antonella Schulte

Grounds and equipment: Kylie Whittam and Janna Richert

Publicity: Jess Stagg, Elle Allsop, Renay Jones

Social: Charlie Rose

General: Holly Creenaune

General: Naomi Munro

General: Jo Sperring

General: Kellie Stromberg (Grants)

General: Nicole Skyllas-Vosta

General: Jude Harnett



SWBL history and information

Established in 1995, SWBL is a community baseball league based in Marrickville. We are LGBTQ inclusive. For the folks reading online, you can click the following links to learn more about the policies and principles that guide us.

[Code of Conduct](#)

[SWBL Constitution](#)

[Gender Diversity Policy](#)

_ Visit swbl.org/documents for more, including a download of League rules.

Meet SWBL Life Members

Olivia Liu
Holly Creenaune
Randi Irwin
Shae McLean
Alice Lindeman
Jane Tsai
Aileen Leddy
Lee Griffin
Allyson Witten
Lena Caruso
Amy Shaw
Lisa O'Sullivan
Anne Condren
Loretta Cosgrove
Belinda Evernden
Maggie Jenkins
Benita McFadzen
Mandi Barno
Cathy Saunders
Mary Brewer
Cheryl Bernard
Max Costello
Chloe Mulheron
Mel Garrett

Collie Patterson
Mel Murphy
Elizabeth Haines
Michelle Link
Ellen Young
Nadine Brown
Hayley Lockett
Nadine Lutherborrow
Hetty Ashton
Narelle MacDonald
Jackie Mills
Natalie Espinosa
Jacqui Brooks
Natalie Krikowa
Jacquie Walden
Oriell Webster
Janna Richert
Pete Anderson
Jenny Gunther
Pip Marks
Jordana Blank
Rochelle Peen
Jude Hartnett
Robynne Taylor

Karlie Wise
Roz Vanderzwet
Kate Howe
Sarah Marsden
Kelly Griffith
Shelley Tinworth
Ken Douglass
Simone Roco
Kylie Jordon
Stacy Warren
Lara Sabaddin
Jasper James
Tracey Lambert
Warner Ward
Anna Manning
Davina Pye
Mel D'Arcy
Claire Gorman
Stacy Speer
Kate Gardiner
Vanessa Braddon
Jo Sperring
Lyn Doherty
Mellissa Tallon
Jenenne McKenzie

Eligibility for life membership:

1. Registered player for ten years
2. Registered player for seven years including three full years' fulfilment of duties as a SWBL committee member
3. Outstanding contribution to the league



Team reports

Tuck in a have a read of the words straight from the coaches and coordinators who keep our teams running beautifully. A big thank you to everyone who helped put these together – your efforts in this (and the rest) mean a lot.



Angels

Primary colours: Pink and Grey

Final placing 2024: 1

Award nominees: Lisa Inglese (Rookie), Ace Hooke (Most Improved), Kellie Stromborg (Players' Player)



The Angels baseball team has a legacy that stretches back more than 15 years, actually further than what I know, but the road to building this team was far from easy.

I know when Nat and Beni first joined the team 15 years ago, they couldn't even field a full side, and the rules had to be adjusted just to allow us to play. It was a humbling I, and as the team grew, the challenges kept coming. When I joined 10 years ago, we didn't win a single game that season. Our lack of a pitcher meant we walked players regularly, and every match felt like a struggle. But even through those tough times, there was something special about The Angels.

We didn't give up. Slowly but surely, we began to build what is now the heart of our team. Year by year, piece by piece, we found players who were not just good, but committed. They returned season after season. Over time, this consistency and dedication laid the foundation for a team that is no longer about just playing but about a shared joy.

Winning the grand final once is a remarkable achievement, but to do it three years in a row shows how far we've come. From a team that struggled to fill positions, to a team that returns year after year stronger than ever, The Angels are a testament to perseverance and growth. Each player, new or returning, brings something unique, and together we've built a legacy

that we're all incredibly proud of. The sense of camaraderie and achievement goes far beyond the field—The Angels have become a family.

I've thoroughly enjoyed being the Angels coach the last few years, they have certainly made it easy.

Here's to more seasons of teamwork, heart, and, of course, victories!

Team leads

Coach – Claire Gorman

Coordinator – Kellie Stromborg

Players

Allie Tame, Ami Wallace, Amy Pisani, Antonia Hooke, Bec Bochtler, Benita McFadzen, Claire Gorman, Emma Shirt, Evangeline Aguas, Jenenne Mckenzie, Jenni Chase, Kellie Stromborg, Lisa Inglese, Liz Gulson, Liz Todhunter, Louise Tonge, Lydie Whitehead, Melissa Absalom, Natalie Krikowa

Stealers

Primary colours: Red and White

Final placing 2024: 2

Award nominees: Renee De Celis (Rookie), Antonella 'Spike' Schulte (Most Improved) & (Players' Player)



Another year around the diamond for the mighty Stealers, our 26th or is it 27? Either way the red, white and black were back for another exciting SWBL season. It's a joy to come down and play ball once a week in this inclusive league of their own with this crew.

I couldn't be more proud of the team making the grand final and giving it their best shot on the day, runners up for 2024, hold your heads high Stealers!! Congratulations Angels you were the best on the day and deserve your win.

We gained three new players this year, first is 'Speedy' Shauna who finally switched from WAG to player and she absolutely owns the fastest feet on the team, she also now has Steph showing up to pre-game warm up on time and can take a handy catch on the run under pressure! Secondly is Kali Kenny Rodgers (not to be confused with Collie Kenny Curry from the Shammies) our Kali rocked the lip sync battle and now is a baseball 4 winter, softball 4 summer kind a gal. Then there's our Rookie of the year Renee the sausage hog, and I'm not referring to her husband's sausage. Such a versatile player, she was our secret weapon this year pitching, catching, infield, outfield and a batting average better than anyone in the team, hog away lady!

We won the prize for most ambulances called by a single team this season with 2 hamstrings pulled off the bone and a concussion. Yes the president was down and out with her ear bandaged and I believe she was heard chanting 'fight, fight, fight'. Our Ruth, your Pres, is a legend. We love her and she had a fab season on and off the diamond. Mary-Anne is still on the mend after surgery, bb was not for her but were thankful she had a crack. Marsie (my baseball rock) is also in recovery but shall return next season stronger than ever you can be sure of that!! Annie (Stealers royalty) was battling with an ankle injury all season long, unable to play most of it. However both Annie and Marsie selflessly showed up in true Stealers style to cheer the girls on and offer advice and support every single week!!

Cass (my lovely wife) now there's a gal with safe hands at 1st and a lead off batter we rely on, week after week. Renee owes you a sausage. Anna had her 1st season with baby Elis active on the sideline, undeterred by the distraction you also had a cracker this season on the bat and covering wherever, whenever!

Steph like usual you were happy to play wherever we put you, and you put your hand up for different option all the time. Always keen to learn, and put in what it takes. Spike improved out of sight with her glove work behind the plate, always bringing positivity on and off the field. Thank you for being on the committee and our team manager this year, your effort is amazing! Our youngsters Charlotte and Del also made big improvements to their game 2nd year in, they both rocked the outfield and rock the red, white and black, cool as cucumbers we love the energy you bring to the team. Then we have the shorties of the team Helen and Paulette, wise, small and mighty, team mates you can always rely on. They both made some ace plays and had some memorable hits around the diamond.

A huge thanks to our trusty scorer Janet who's ON THE BALL every single week!! To Brad and Allen! a massive thanks for your constant support and help with coaching not just the Stealers and supporting me, but the support and help you bring to the league running Friday night training is ace!!

Love this team, love this league. x

Team leads

Coach – Kel Griffith, Coordinator – Antonella Schulte

Players

Adele Bernardi, Anna Needs, Anne Condren, Antonella (Spike) Schulte, Cass Boyle, Helen Price, Kelly Griffith, Mary-Anne Plummer, Paulette Anderson, Renee De Celis, Ruth Lindsay, Sarah Marsden, Shauna Trengrove, Steph Greaney, Charlotte Price, Kali Hourn, Janet Horton

Sliders

Primary colours: Purple and Black

Position 2024: 3

Award nominees: Jess Miller (Rookie), Naomi Munro (Most Improved), Julie Kalcef (Players' Player)



What a year the Sliders had! A nearly undefeated season! But more importantly - it was a year of fun. We built our confidence as a team, we learned more about the game, and we had fun pulling off some wins in very close games! Coaching the Sliders has always been a lot of fun, but this year felt particularly special. We had a massive roster and huge turnouts every game. It required a lot of juggling, but it was a true testament to the team itself as people played with generosity and a willingness to make space on the field for others. Usually numbers dwindle as the season goes on, but not this year. We routinely had 15, 16, 17 players week in and week out and it required everyone to be a good sport. The team was better for it and everyone learned a bit more about baseball! A big thanks to everyone in the league as it seemed that each week we'd walk off the field saying "That was my favourite game yet! They're so fun to play!" and that wasn't just because people loved Julie's post-game cookies. Thanks to all the teams for making this season as enjoyable as it was! The Sliders have their eye on the Grand Final next year!

Team leads

Coach – Randi Irwin, Coordinator – Rochelle Peen

Players

Alice Lindeman, Ally Ray, Amy Ryan, Annaliese Constable, Co (Nicole) Skyllas, Holly Creenaune, Jamie Lee, Jodie Straube, Julie Kalceff, Kim Ray, Kylie Benton-Connell, Naomi Munro, Neha Madhok, Ngoc Thy Anh Le, Randi Irwin, Rebecca Green, Rochelle Peen, Rose Butler, Jess Miller, Chloe Mulhourn, Marsha White, Jenny Gunther, Lyn Doherty

Cooks River Cubs

Primary colours: Teal and Black

Final placing 2024: 4

Award nominees: Tash Robertson (Rookie), Ace Mulbury (Most Improved), Bec Crick (Players' Player)



This season has been a fantastic one for the Cooks River Cubs. Since our start in 2023, when most of our players were new to the game, we've made huge strides. Last year, we finished 6th in the league, and this year, we've moved up to 4th place, earning our first chance to play in the semi-finals. It's an incredible achievement for such a young team!

While our on-field performance has been impressive, what we're most proud of is the positive culture we've built within the Cubs. It's something you can't see on a scoreboard but is just as important. This kind of supportive and motivated environment is only possible because every player is engaged and committed to the team's success.

Our main focus has been on improving individual skills and building trust through teamwork. We've dedicated time to strengthening our infield skills and developing more strategic game plans. The team has worked hard to become a cohesive unit, learning to support each other and execute plays effectively. This new level of teamwork and shared understanding has made a real difference in our performance this season.

We are so proud of what we've accomplished. With the progress we've made and the passion we have, We are confident we'll keep climbing higher in the seasons to come.

Team leads

Coach – Jasper James, Coordinator – Laura Barbat

Players

Danielle Castle, Heather Gasper, Jaci Dyball, Jasper James, Kathryn Myers, Laura Barbat, Laura Boyd, Loren Utterson, Natasha Robertson, Rebecca Crick, Simone Howwarth, Stephanie Falk, Angela Meers, Ash Marbery, Bella Meers, Elle Allsop, Kate Mulbury, Lieke Groot

Shamrock Players

Primary colours: Green and Blue

Final placing 2024: 5

Award nominees: Lauren Austin (Rookie), Trish Donohue (Most Improved), Janna Richert & Gabby Rennard (Players' Player)



Comprising players from teams of old* – alongside many who have never set foot on a diamond before – each of us has had an extreme amount of fun this year, this this our lucky 13th (or thereabouts). Let's get Shamrocked.

S is for the season of sausages cooked up by our very own JoJo and all the volunteers of SWBL. Shammies Tat and Lisa even got a special sausage this year for great plays and improvements. Everyone loves a sausage.

H is for hats and the rest. The new merch, kindly covered by our sponsor the Imperial Hotel and organised by our founder Loretta, has made us look even more smooth than we thought possible.

A is for taking aim this year with more precision and power. We ran new drills prior to games with many players displaying same-day progress. Looking at you, rookie Lauren A, JoJo and Trish.

M is for Mary as Mrs President and for bringing her calm to our farm. Other players exhibiting extreme chill include Bec, Gabby, Leigh and Stacey. Thanks for keeping our feet on the ground while bringing your A-game. We see and love you.

R is for running like the wind and playing hard. Aimee's form gives us goosebumps and Jacqui continues to bring all the cheers to the yard. For (most of) the rest of us...we can only try.

O is for one team. Our focus this year was on coming together. This included playing half games to help us manage player numbers, trying new positions, and stepping in for last-minute roles when big life got in the way (thank you Ms Hayley, Jane and Janna for being such constants for us in the various ways that you do).

C is for Collie, how could it not? We love your work and your stamina.

K is for the killer moves of Kier as our first base shield and undercover dancefloor lover at Rainbow Diamond Nights. Not to mention our Jude, a King if ever there was one, on and off the diamond.

* including the Celts, Players, Jets, Rebels and Kaos

Team leads

Coach – Jacqui Brooks, Caroline 'Collie' Patterson, Coordinator – Hayley Lockett, Loretta Cosgrove

Players

Aimee Isbister, Caroline 'Collie' Patterson, Gabby Rennard, Hayley Lockett, Jacqui Brooks, Jane Tsai, Janna Richert, Joanna Sperring, Jude Hartnett, Kier Velini, Lauren Austin, Lauren Hiller, Leigh Woods, Lisa O'Sullivan, Mary Brewer, Rebecca Parker, Stacey Warren, Tatiana Sibirsky, Trish Donohue, Loretta Cosgrove

Lions

Primary colours: Orange and Blue

Final placing 2024: 6

Award nominees: Jenny White (Rookie), Peta Wallace (Most Improved), JoJo Brown (Players' Player)



2024 was the first season of baseball for the revamped Lions, comprising of old UNSW Lions, current SWBL players and newbies to the league. Our first game set the tone for our team: a fantastically fun game versus the Devils where we gave them an absolute run for their money and scoring 10 runs! Proving not only that we were a team to watch this year, but were bringing a whole different attitude to the game.

As more games passed our confidence only grew - playing better and better as a team, winning 6 of the 17 games played this season! We really did have such a great time playing every game, and everyone started showing off their skills in batting and fielding with their confidence sky rocketing! Coming 5th overall in the ladder showed off their prowess on the field, and also solidified this team as a serious force of enthusiasm to be reckoned with.

Off the field, the Lions were proud to be a pride! From pub nights to club nights, SWBL parties, bbq's and dance practice we transformed into a tight knit group of friends who happen to all play baseball together. While some victories are on the field, the team's excitement to be playing as one was the real victory this season!

Special thank you to our scorer extraordinaire Emily, our amazing supporters, team buddies Holly and Laura, and of course the team's puppies!

And SWBL for having us, we can't wait for 2025!

From the Coach:

Peta, Mel, Caroline, Tori, Brenda, Fiona, Bec, Irene, JoJo, Harley, Lily, Jenny, Anna, Charlie, Maureen, and Pola: as a coach you have impressed me/made my heart sing to the sky eternally this year from your abilities, humour, care, sportsmanship and dedication to our team and the league. Every expectation I placed on you was blown away by miles and I just couldn't be more proud of you all. Thank you for the best first year coaching, and I'm so freaking excited for our 2025 season! I love you Lions!!!!

Team leads

Coach – Chandler, Coordinator – Anna Manning, Charlie Rose

Players

Anna Manning, Caroline Bugeja, Harley Bernardi, Irene Georgiou, Jenny White, Jojo Brown, Karen Hunter, Lily Petrovic, Melanie Werner, Peta Wallace, Pola Bacolod, Rebecca Chandler, Tori Lehane, Brenda De Wit, Charlie Rose, Fiona Anderson, Maureen Madden, Rebecca Keys

Mittildas

Primary colours: Green and Purple

Final placing 2024: 7

Award nominees: Kathryn Slattery (Rookie), Marina Antunes dos Santos (Most Improved), JoJo Brown (Players' Player)



Love note from an anonymous Mittilda:

As a newcomer to baseball—and team sports in general—joining the Mittildas and SWBL has been an incredible experience. From my very first practice and game, I was welcomed with open arms and felt an overwhelming sense of support and encouragement from my teammates. The comradery and laughter we shared on and off the field have truly exceeded my expectations, creating an environment where I felt comfortable growing and learning.

I've discovered a passion for the game I never knew I had, added by the passion and experience of my teammates. I've even come to appreciate the bruises I've earned along the way. Looking forward to the next season.

Team leads

Coach – Shae McLean

Coordinator – Ash Martin

Players

Ash Martin, Beth Wren, Charlotte Rydstrand, Jessica Cassar, Jorja Brymer, Julia Mc Gowan, Kathryn Murphy, Katina (Kat) Gregory, Laura Haylen, Marina Antunes dos Santos, Noris Rodriguez, Pip Mowat, Shae McLean, Rebecca Bradberry, Lizzy Mathovic, Stephanie Smith

Saints

Primary colours: Blue and White

Final placing 2024: 8

Award nominees: Tash Smith (Rookie), Dani Roussy (Most Improved), Hetti Ashton (Players' Player)



On behalf of the Saints, we offer heartfelt thanks to the 2024 SWBL Committee for their hard work and dedication. Without it, we wouldn't be where we are today.

We've had a big year with nine new players joining the big leagues. Every player stepped-up and couldn't be prouder. This year it was getting back-to-basics and the most important was having fun!

Each week we had a mini baseball player-of-the game. This player either displayed great plays, sportsmanship during the game or just being a solid teammate. As a first-time ever coach, I couldn't be prouder of this team.

A shout out to the returning Saints, Dani is an all-rounder, but we didn't have a pitcher, but she gave it a go and improved each week. She was the talk of the league with those drop-balls.

Stacey and Evan dominated second and third bases and achieved several amazing double plays. Emma shined with outstanding catches on first, and Katie continued to dominate short stop.

Gretel was unstoppable at first until sadly she broke her finger but continued to support the team by attending games. Now we can't forget Hetti, the heart and soul of the Saints. Not only does she consistently support the players, her love for the game shines through.

Now, our rookies.

Tash had amazing plays, alternated pitching duties, helped with drills and mentoring and took on our team responsibilities and for other teams. Michelle, Lexy, Tina, Tania, and Sam dominated the outfield with their backing-up on plays, and improved batting week on-week. Detroit (Christine) improved every game, once she got the bat on that ball, but she got the taste for it there was no stopping her! Kimberly stepped up on short stop and nailed her catching, Kim was an asset as she would assist the outfield with guidance. Vivian joined the team mid-way through the season and put her hand up for any position and took it on headfirst. I cannot forget our favorite scorer and Supporter Sarah. Sarah was an asset not only to score but her knowledge and experience was invaluable. Lastly, I would like to shout out to the spectators and supporters. They are truly what makes the game fun for the players. Without you all supporting the teams and the league it wouldn't be the same. It's been such a privilege to coach such a wonderful team as the Saints. I can't wait to see what 2025 has in store.

Team leads

Coach – Heather Craig

Coordinator – Stacey Jane

Players

Henrietta Ashton, Michelle Balogh, Christine Haiss, Danielle Roussy, Emma Harris, Evan Ferns, Gretel Friend, Heather Craig, Katie Hughes, Kimberly Ashton, Natasha Smith, Sexy Galaxy, Stacey Jane, Tania Viskovich, Charlie Oxford, Kate Mylan, Sam Bowen, Vivien Tang, Tina Angelo

Devils

Primary colours: Blue and Red

Final placing 2024: 9

Award nominees: Sasha Limpyer (Rookie), Suzi Francis (Most Improved), Kirby Mugford (Players' Player)



Meet the Devils, a team so fiery that even the fires of Hades seem dull in comparison. Fuelled by devilish mischief and unstoppable grit, these players own the field like they're running their own corner of the underworld.

The true spirit of the Devils is about having a laugh, a blast on the diamond, and enjoying every moment together as a team. And it's always a devilishly good time!

The Devils aren't just any team—they're the only squad bold enough to claim not one but two prestigious titles in the league in 2024! They've earned the top spot as three-time winners of the all-important boat race (bottoms up), and in true devilish fashion, they also proudly own the wooden spoon title. Winning both ends of the spectrum.

Get to know the 2024 team line-up.

VB leads the charge as both coach and catcher extraordinaire, steering the ship with precision. VB is a powerhouse at the plate, racking up big two-bagger hits and putting her body on the line, driving for foul balls and defending home plate. VB leads by example.

Long-time Devil KG as co-coach is always leading the way, showing everyone how it's done at shortstop and in the batter's box, making it look effortless. Whether it's locking down plays or smashing hits, KG's been setting the standard for years.

Narelle, the longest-serving Devil, embodies the true spirit of the team. A rock in left field; nothing slips by her, and she's always there with words of encouragement, lifting up her teammates both on and off the field.

Sunny, back on the mound with the ever-present smell of tiger balm and their hellfire pitches, causing batters to question their life choices. Sunny steps up as a big hitter when the team needs it most. They are always ready to lend a hand, to help out when needed. Sunny is a true team player.

Deano rules the infield and outfield alike, turning the field into a no-fly zone. In the batting box, Deano smashes balls like she's made a pact with the devil for power.

Kylie has got second base on lockdown like it's Melbourne 2020. Kylie's batting has also gone next level this season. Some may say it's her shiny new bat but don't listen to them. It's her ever-growing skill and dedication to the game, and maybe the new bat just a little; it's a really nice bat.

Sammy, the team slugger whose hits are in a league of their own, sending balls flying like she's been personally offended. And when it comes to the boat race, Sammy sinks beers faster than a lead anchor thrown overboard.

Lucy is a powerhouse at second base, a hitting machine, and an absolute terror for opponents when stealing bases. She's always a step ahead, making every play count.

Kirby, this year's Devils' "Player's Player" at first base and the backup catcher. Kirby is a master base stealer who sometimes gets a little too into it, forgetting baseball is not a contact sport! Always ready with a joke or a word of encouragement, Kirby brings a fun-loving spirit to the team, ensuring that every game is filled with laughter and good times.

Suzi, this year's Devils' "Most Improved" has levelled up in her second season so much that she's giving the veterans a run for their money. She is a force at third base, launching massive throws to wherever they are needed. A dependable batter with an eye for the pitch and a knack for placement and consistently getting on base.

Sasha, this year's Devils' "Rookie of the year", a fresh-faced recruit who took on the challenge of pitching like a natural. In her debut season, she stunned everyone with her pitching precision and consistent batting. Her keen fielding skills and powerful arm make her a versatile player, capable of turning any play in the Devils' favour.

Moree, in her first season, is eager and ready to go. She has dominated right field and has improved her batting game by game.

Kebby and Nova, the cameo wonder duo, weren't here for a long time, but a good time. Graced us with their devilish charm and skills when they could.

Then there's Helen. Let's not forget Helen's heroic sacrifice—her calf muscle, which tore in the line of duty. Helen was an unbelievable talent for her first and only season. She'll be missed, but her spirit (and limping shadow) will not be forgotten and will forever haunt the field in the name of the Devils.

Special shout-out to VB for taking 3rd place in the SWBL tenpin bowling comp and the dynamic trio Sunny, VB and Kirby for taking 3rd place in the lip sync battle at the Rainbow Glitter Ball and all the Devils that attended dodging the dreaded Rainbow Glitter Ball plague, win for immunity.

Can't wait to do it all again next year. Go Devils!

Team leads

Coach – Vanessa Braddon, Coordinator – Kate Gardiner

Players

Anita Deans, Kate Gardner, Laura Keby, Sam Wellam, Suzi Francis, Kirby Mugford, Kylie Whittam, Lucinda Brown, Narelle Macdonald, Nova Bandian, Sunshine Cunningham, Vanessa Braddon, Moreeliec Pena, Sasha Limp, Helen Blyde

SWBL Social

SWBL is about the love of sport, clear open skies on Sundays, and having occasionally too much fun. As we say farewell to this year, we look forward to more baseball and partying, too many thermoses of tea to count, cuddles with kids and pooches, musings over what to order at the Barley for din-dins, and debates about exactly how many raffle tickets to buy to win. Over the following pages you'll find a mini-reflection. Hit up our socials for everything else.

Rainbow Diamond Nights



Meet & Greet



Pool Competition



At the Pub





Bowling





Our biggest supporters



Join us!

If you're reading this report (good on you!) and aren't sure whether SWBL is right for you, join as a social member in 2025. Friends we haven't met yet, neighbours, players from other codes...everyone's welcome. Send us an email or visit our socials, and someone will get back to you.

Vice President's report

Laura Barbat, SWBL Vice President 2024

As we step into 2025, we are excited to celebrate a significant milestone – our **30th anniversary**. Next year represents not only a commemoration of SWBL's past achievements but also an opportunity to set the stage for future growth and development. Our focus for the year will centre around three key areas – honouring our legacy, enhancing skill development, and deepening community involvement.



1. Honouring 30 years of SWBL

Reaching three decades is a testament to the dedication and passion of everyone involved in the SWBL, from players and coaches to supporters and volunteers. Throughout the year, we will celebrate this achievement by reflecting on our journey and recognizing the contributions that have shaped the league. These celebrations will be woven into various events, creating moments to honour our history and the individuals who have made it possible.

2. Enhancing skill development and training

Our commitment to skill development continues to be a cornerstone of the SWBL's mission. In 2025, we will introduce a variety of initiatives designed to support the growth and development of all players, from beginners to seasoned athletes. These will include targeted training sessions, skill-specific workshops, and enhanced coaching programs that cater to diverse needs and playing levels.

In addition to player development, we are expanding our focus on umpiring and coaching. We will offer workshops aimed at providing in-depth training for those interested in these crucial roles, ensuring that our league maintains high standards of play and officiating. Our goal is to create a holistic environment where everyone involved in the sport can grow and contribute meaningfully.

3. Strengthening community engagement

Community involvement is a vital aspect of our league's identity, and next year we are committed to expanding our outreach and engagement efforts. Our participation in events like the Sydney Mardi Gras Parade will showcase the diversity and inclusivity of the SWBL, reflecting our values and inviting more people to join our community.

We will also focus on giving back through volunteer initiatives and partnering with local organisations. These activities will provide our players with opportunities to make a positive impact beyond the baseball field, reinforcing our commitment to community service and engagement.

In addition, we will host a variety of social events to strengthen connections both within and beyond the league. Our iconic events along with community days, and informal gatherings, will foster a sense of camaraderie. These events provide a welcoming space for supporters and newcomers alike to connect, celebrate, and experience the spirit of the SWBL.

...Looking forward

As we celebrate 30 years of the Sydney Women's Baseball League, we look forward to a future filled with continued growth and success. Our focus on skill development, community involvement, and honouring our history will ensure that SWBL remains a vibrant and welcoming space for women and gender diverse people in sport. We are excited to build on our legacy and create new opportunities for players, coaches, and supporters in 2025 and beyond.



Information and contacts

Let us know if you'd like to get involved as a player, social member or volunteer. We are always looking for new recruits and start back up in terms of communications around February 2025. The 2025 season will kick off in either March or early April. Follow us for details.



_League documents and info

www.swbl.org

info@swbl.org

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