

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Season 2015/16 was the beginning of our 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebrations and it started with one of the busiest off seasons we have seen. With a large amount clearances to and from the club we welcomed players from Port Adelaide, Seacombe, West Torrens and Port Pirie to the Rebels family.

We had some fantastic sponsors again this season with Pure Financial Management, Bendigo Bank, Magain Real Estate and Optimal Air & Refrigeration all reconfirming their support of the Rebels and we welcomed Medehealth for the first time. Having the support of these sponsors is vital to our club and helps to relieve some of the financial pressure and we are very proud to have them on board.

Club day was a great way for us to show our sponsors just what they are investing in and this year we had some past and present players, life members, sponsors and future players on hand to enjoy some of our 70<sup>th</sup> birthday cake and as usual, the culinary delights of Chef Doug as well.

Our junior teams were once again very good this season with the Under 15 Navy team making Division 1, and a Grand Final and the Under 17's also making the finals. Our Under 15 White team, which was our development team battled all year to learn and improve their skill and knowledge of Softball and the Under 13's can hold their heads high for competing against the best Under 13's all season in Division 1. Once again our Under 11's thrived and soaked up all the softball knowledge that Kay and her coaching team passed on to them.

Our senior teams had a mixed season with only the D grade teams making the finals. The A grade showed glimpses of the form needed to compete in a competition dominated by international pitchers. The B Grade with Cathy Lambert and Kay Bevan at the helm for the first time started to sort things out as the season went along and finished strong. The C grade teams had a different look and focus this season with a number of players being elevated from D grade to test their skills at a higher level. The D grade teams battled on through with a mixed bag of players and coaches stepping in to help throughout the season.

We had a fantastic recruiting year when it comes to officials with Leanne Bell, Amy Campbell, Amanda Conway, Carmel Edwards, Kim Grinham, Keryn Lapidge, Jessica Pine, Linda Shaw and Tom Whitworth all gaining their Level 1 Scoring Accreditation. We also had 4 of our junior players get their Green Shirt Umpiring Accreditation, Darcy Lapidge, Phoebe Borg, Aleesha Mead and Tara Johnson. Well done to all of you, we really appreciate you helping out the club in this way.

Some of our new Rebels had their first hit out in the Navy and White at the October long weekend carnival where our under 18 team finished 2<sup>nd</sup> and the under 15's made it through to a semi-final.

Our more experience Rebels and some top up players from other clubs competed in the 2015 Australian Masters Games at West Beach in October where there was some cracking softball played. The week was full of Dettol, Softball, hydration, Deep Heat, hydration, compression bandages, blood, sweat and more hydration and in the end we came away with a Bronze medal and a lot of great laughs and memories. Well done ladies!

We took an under 13 and under 17 team away in February for the Junior State Championships in Mount Gambier. As we always say, this tournament is so much more than results alone. It is a great opportunity for players and parents to form close bonds and learn a lot about the game in a very short time. That aside, our teams performed more than admirably with the Under 15 team going down in the GF against Sturt in a nail biter.

Teams cannot play without the help of our volunteers who coach, manage, score, umpire, help at working bees and car parking duties. So a massive THANKYOU to our volunteers who get us on the diamond each week. We are always looking for new volunteers so if you are able to help out please let us know as our volunteers ensure that the club runs smoothly week to week.

I would like to thank the Committee for all of their support throughout the season, my first as President of the Club. I also want to thank my wife Laura who amongst other things looks after my two girls, Kyla and Tilly on many weeknights throughout the year while I take care of the duties bestowed upon me in this role.

We finished the season with a Grand Final, a proposal on Diamond 1, a record amount raised for Breast Cancer awareness, a Presentation Night Sell Out and Sophie Hoyle getting named in the Adelaide Competition A Grade Team of the year, but most of all ... some unfinished business that will see us all return next year to take more steps towards the goals we are all trying to achieve.

Pride in our history, belief in our future!

**Brad Barry**  
Club President

## A GRADE

As another season has drawn to a close, we continue as a club to go from strength to strength. With Junior and senior teams competing in finals again, we are starting to realise some of the potential and benefit from hard work over the last couple of seasons. Our Junior state representation was an all-time high and this shows us that the next few years will bear fruit for the "silverware" cupboard. Congratulations to all those who competed post season, and though ultimately all fell a hurdle short, the experience of being there is what counts long term. Congratulations also to all those who represented this state and club at national tournaments. The reports have all come back as positive and fine ambassadors for our club.

The A Grade year was the toughest I have been involved in, and this is largely due to the enormous influx of players we had from as far and wide as Port Pirie, the Barossa and of course, north western suburbs and the hills. While this presented some exciting expectations for the season, we did struggle at times with providing this new group with an environment that would bring out their best. Lovely problem to have, and the club should be proud of the fact that we have a culture that is appealing to others and while we are still on the hunt for consistent wins at the highest level, we are the envy with the program we have so painstakingly implemented over the last 2 seasons. This will be evident with a couple of small jigsaw pieces to be found, and there will be no stopping this group. It did bring the average age of the A grade side down a couple of years, which is again healthy for the future but does see us still needing some extra game time to "iron out some bugs".

The return of Steph Stewart bolstered our pitching stocks, and if "Morts" had not succumbed to the inevitable "Masters Curse" then we would have been at full strength for Game one. Coming on board as the B Grade coach was our (officially claimed) very own Cathy Lambert, who brought another dimension to our program that others only dream about. With already proven credentials at the highest level in other sports arenas, this was the final icing that sets us up nicely. Teamed with another legend of the sport in Kay Bevan, I am sure the B grade girls still don't grasp the quality of support they have at their fingertips.

To give all some context of the diversity of the squad, the club welcomed new players from all walks to this level. Jamie Mead (Pt Adelaide), Caitlin Carrol (Pt Adelaide), Amber Cook (Pt Adelaide), Lauren Beck (Pt Adelaide), Gemma Cochrane (West Torrens), Regan Lambert (West Torrens), Montana Edwards (Seacombe), Amber Steff (Pt Pirie), Steph Stewart (unretired), Kushla Brewster (Hills) and Emily Govier

(West Torrens) all made senior debuts this year, with home grown players moving up the ranks like Molly Matotek and Sofia Higgins to name a couple who saw some action above their season finishing rank last year. This was very pleasing but presented some unique people management situations to smooth out the pathways, and found that we certainly need more resources to properly manage a squad this size.

On a win/loss result the season was an underachievement to state the obvious. There were however many highlights that make the coaching side of life satisfying as a rule. The squad hit its straps at times, with some close games against the likes of Seacombe and West Torrens that with an ounce of luck could have gone our way, and wins recorded against Seacombe and Port Adelaide, with the highlight for me being the "no hitter" shut out mercy game against raining premiers Sturt. This was absolute reward for effort for Sasha Penglase, who pitched by far her most successful outing to date. The bats rallied for her and this was a small taste of the future for us. Outside of these, consistency with bat and ball were the keys that eluded us again, and given such a young squad this is frustrating but not worrying, as much of this will come fairly quickly. Stand out solo performances not mentioned were the batting displays of our own Sophie Hoyle, who launched a couple more out of the park off of the non-national pitcher who ultimately won the leagues' highest honour. Her reward from her peers was her selection in to the "team of the year", showing the respect that she has earned and the value she adds to this squad. Other notable achievements were the selection of Jamie Mead in to the National Under 19 side, Montana Edwards featuring in every A grade game at the ripe old age of 15, Kushla Brewster establishing herself as a regular starter in the A grade at 17 and Lauren Beck earning some starts at 16.

In closing, my thanks to Chris Wheatley for again taking on the team managers duties, even while Megs was battling long term illness, Simone who is fast becoming one of the states' premier statisticians, Grant Cochrane for his valuable time when able, and JT for filling in Gaps. Also thanks to my "weekend wife" Michelle, for powering the data in to I-Score, and to Cathy, Kay, Tamyka and Dean for valuable assistance at both trainings and on game days. To all the supporters who all pitched in when required, all of these things make it possible to get teams on the diamond and it does not go unnoticed.

Finally, to the committee for their support again, although it has been a trying season at times, we are all still on the same page and this spells success on many levels. To the award winners, it was tough to call but all very worthy winners in my mind and I hope in some small way I have been able to contribute to those successes this year.

**Most Valuable Player** - Jamie Mead

**Runner Up Most Valuable Player** - Sophie Hoyle

**Rebels Spirit/Rising Star** - Montana Edwards

**Rick Mead**

A Grade Coach



## B GRADE

In case you missed me saying it on more than one occasion, (more like 20+ times), B grade finished, “just out of the finals”. Well, in reality we were a “little ways out” but we had a successful finish to the season, and this enabled us to move up to 5<sup>th</sup> place on the table. It was a wonderful result considering our numerous challenges during the season. Our score keeper, Marcie Trzcinski noted that we never had the same team on the diamond twice! That about sums it up. Commitments for work, state team, illnesses, needs of the A and C grade, and holidays kept both Kay and myself on our toes with regard to putting a team on the diamond each week. With a maximum of 18 games that could have been played, we had 1 player who played 13 games, 2 players play 11 games, 2 players on 10 and the remaining players on 8 games or less. There is no doubt that these made it difficult for the team to bond and players to develop their game play. Despite this, the team won 4 games across the season and were competitive in least 75% of games where the result could have gone the other way. Apart from the games against Walkerville, I never felt we were out of our league. I believe that improvement in our mental and physical game, some consistency in our team line up, and a regular training routine will mean we will be forced to be reckoned with next season.

I would like to personally thank every player who played during the season whether as a regular player or a fill in. Your availability and enthusiasm to be a part of our team was very much appreciated. As a big fan of athletes who show passion and a positive attitude in their sports, I would particularly like to highlight Megan, Georgia, Cara, Bek Jury, Michelle, Steph, Lisa, Gemma, Jamie, and Bree for bringing that to the field every game and every training. It certainly makes our lives as coaches that much easier. From a statistical point of view, and basing this on players who played 7 games or more; our top 5 batters for the season included Lauren Beck, Jacquie, Sasha, Michelle and Amber Cook, while Lisa, Gemma, Amber, Lauren, and Regan were the top 5 fielders. With the exception of 1, all players are 20 years and under and this is very exciting for the future of the club. With such a young group of players in our senior teams, it is important that as coaches we continue to develop their skills and game play to ensure they will continue to grow and develop into high level players.

A big thank you to many people who helped with the team during the season in particular Kay Bevan, Chris Wheatley, Marcie Trzcinski, Rick Mead, Michelle Mortess, Tamyka Penglase and Dean Jury. A special thanks also to the committee for their support over the season.

**Most Valuable Player** – Gemma Cochrane

**Runner UP Most Valuable Player** – Megan Wheatley

**Coaches Trophy** – Michelle Mortess

**Cathy Lambert**

B Grade Coach

## C GRADE NAVY

Well, what can you say about C Navy? A whole lot of potential but we just can't seem to pull it together on the day...

This year the Club took a different approach to C Navy, with several new players into the mix, having been promoted on merit from D grade. It was good to have some new players (the younger and fresher legs helped...) and everyone worked very well together. Sadly, injuries (some from the Master Games, and some from game day action) knocked a few of our team around, and we were never really able to form a consistent starting 9. Add to that coaching and scoring commitments for some of the girls, and it was always going to be a big ask – to mix it with some of the more experienced, stronger teams, but we all battled on well, and pulled off some very tough wins. It was good to have Vicki Kolen and Carol Warne back in the mix for a few games, helping us out, as well as the assistance from Brad and Dean. We also called on some juniors for back-up, in particular, Lozza and JJ – let's hope they are not mentally scarred forever! Special mention also goes to Amy Campbell for volunteering to score for us, while at the same time having her first baby – so now young Holley is a fully-fledged member of the Rebel family!

### **Best team player – Sue Campbell**

Sue really picked up the extra duties this year, being manager, scorer's assistant and Grandmother. Always happy to do the “team thing” and help out when needed – and to have a cleansing beer after the game and debrief.

### **Coaches award – Sarah Wright**

Sarah has developed a great deal this year – but there is much she still can learn, and most importantly, she really wants to learn. It's possible she didn't miss one training session all year, and even went to train with other teams when C Navy was “absent” from Thursday night sessions. She is always looking for advice and ways to improve her catching, and her overall game, so we hope that in the off-season we can spend some time working on the parts of her game that will help her get to the next level. Always supportive and a great team person.

### **Most valuable player – Jess Pine**

Solid from the mound, and more than handy with the bat, Jess has really held the team together during the year. She has a great attitude, was always willing to push on through when we needed her. There were hardly any “Princess” pitcher moments either! Special mention to Buggsie for an excellent season with the bat, and some very nice stints in the middle as well. Best player was a close run contest and you both should be proud of your efforts this year.

**Jenny Turner**

C Navy



## C GRADE WHITE

Firstly, I must thank the following: Morts & Brad for talking me into the C Grade position. Thanks also to Sandra & Sharon for scoring, All Juniors & B-Graders for filling in during season. Morts (again) for your total support for me especially and the team as a whole both on & off the diamond. Jane for your team managerial skills and this one is special - Emily Fry who, on the understanding that she wouldn't play in place of a senior, still wanted to be part of the team and spent the first 1/2 of season on the bench until opportunities arose. She has the respect of all players for this (and deservedly so.)

After thinking long and hard, I finally came out of my comfort zone and accepted the C White position, even though it has been a while since I was coach of a potential B Grade squad. I knew my methods were "old fashioned" but they work. And I thought that if we combine the team's ideas with mine, it may be accepted. It took a while, but generally it worked, even though I think some are still not sure it did?

Our first "real training" together was probably our first game due to A & B squads not being finally decided on until very late. The fact that we only had 8 regular players all season, and were never sure who would be our 9th & 10th (for various reasons) made it very tough on the team and no picnic for me either! With that in mind, the girls stuck together and "toughed it out", always believing they were a finals chance. We nearly were!!!!

With the mix of players straight out of juniors, some experienced B/C graders etc. You would have to say that this team achieved more than they expected, and a few were very unlucky not to have been selected in B's. From me personally, I have appreciated your all round efforts and general team attitude during a very tough season. There is a fair bit of softball talent in this group, and I hope they don't waste it and get the opportunity to show it further.

**Batting** - Jade Downs

**Best Player** – Laura Barry

**Best Team Person** – Jess Ward

**John McGahey**

C White Coach

REAL ESTATE  
**magain**

## D GRADE NAVY

Firstly, the thankys, to Brad, Kay Bevan and JT for coaching while I was unavailable (due to a clash with my C White team) also thanks to our talented scoring panel of Kerry, Amanda & Donna. JT again, for arranging all of the above plus fill-in players and anything else we needed. (Usually under very short notice) and to all players from juniors & both C Teams who filled in when needed ... If I missed anyone, please accept my apology.

This was a very challenging season for not only myself, but more importantly, the players!! Five were new to the club and 3 were relatively new to the game; and some hadn't played for "a while". They had to play against some teams with far more experience and who had played together for a very long time, and this was really a "rookie season" for them. Most weeks there was at least 2 or 3 unavailable, 1/2 the season they were coached by different people that they may or may not have known, plus me (who we all know is definitely "different"). They won two games and played in prelim final – how many people can say that??! PLUS we are the current holders of the "Double D" Trophy" (Maybe holders is not the right word...)

All attended training as much as they could and we had good numbers most weeks. They got some frightful beatings, but they persisted, improved and hopefully had some fun along the way. Thankyou ladies for your support to myself and others who were trying to help and improve your game, and I hope to see you all again next season.

**Batting** – Amy Buckney

**Most Improved** – Dannii Conway

**Best Team Person** – Dana Wright

**John McGahey**

D Navy Coach

## D GRADE WHITE

What a year it's been!! Where do we even start? I just want to thank everyone from D White for this season. I know we have our challenges but the fact we all held together and made this season work means a lot. A special thank you to KB for stepping into a coaching role that wasn't easy. We had one new player to the team/club this year - Leigh-Anne and it's been amazing watching you find your groove and get back into softball after a number of years off. It was great that so many made the efforts to trainings which helped us come game day.

Thanks to Liv's mum Leanne for scoring for us and Mr Whitty for filling in when Leanne couldn't. Thank you to the juniors who benched / played with us this season. I know this was a huge help to both D Grade teams. Win or lose we still booze! You could always find cold ciders and team gathering after our games.

**Batting Trophy** - Andrea Slade

**Best Team Spirit** - Rebecca Catt

**Coaches Award** - Leigh-Anne Hodgetts

**Kim Grinham**

D White Team Manager

## UNDER 17

One of the main focuses for the U17s this season was to prepare the players for seniors, this meant that they were responsible in letting the coaches know about their availability, making sure they had all their required equipment and the teams equipment but having a better understanding of the game. The first game which was at the October long weekend tournament, the girls were all set to



play without helmets bats and balls before one of them realised that these items were an essential part of the game so went to find the gear bag. By the last game, the team organisation was like clockwork, the gear bag was collected and the gear put out ready for the game, they would run their own warmup and were always ready to play on schedule. It might seem a simple thing, however, all of these things were done for them in the past and when they head into seniors in the next few years they will be held responsible for everything themselves.

We also had a big emphasis on communication, not only to the coaches but between the players themselves. As coaches we took a step back in regards to telling each players every single pitch what they needed to do if the ball was hit to them but let the girls start to think about the game and current situation themselves to make informed decisions themselves. The girls found it hard at first and we had a very quiet group of girls whilst they thought through each situation, but by the Christmas break they grew in confidence in their own knowledge of the game but also the ability to communicate that with each other. We then had a very vocal team on the field and the difference in their performance, I believe is commensurate with their increased self confidence.

This group of girls are very driven to achieve good results both as a team but also as individual. This internally driven high expectation of their own performance sometimes led to a few tears being shed but they must always remember that softball is a game of failure so they should always celebrate their successes and try not to dwell on their mistakes, as a player we will never bat 1.000 or field 1.000 as it's a game of averages. The biggest thing we can take from making mistakes is reflecting on how we can use that experience to make it into a positive experience the next time it arises. We had a fairly consistent season and had some fairly tight games against the top teams. In the games we did lose they were generally by a very small margin. There was a large variance in pitching each week which made it hard for the girls to have consistent performances each week as they had to make big adjustments each week. Montana led with the bat and ending up with a batting average of .765 which is an amazing effort, she was followed closely by Emily who batted .667. Elena, Lauren B, Kushla, Jasmy, Amber and Jess all hit over .333. Meaning, we had eight players hitting more than .333 for the season which is a great effort with a team average of .371.

Kushla did a fantastic job pitching most weeks and was well supported by Sophia. Montana and Lauren did a great job behind the dish each work to support out pitchers. Kate, Rhianna and Coco provided us solid defence in the outfield in the second half of the season as they were kept busy with the tops team's big batters. Outfield becoming a very important position in this age level due to the increased number of hits in this age level. All players were extremely versatile throughout the year as they were quite often played in positions they weren't used to. Being exposed to new positions allows the players to gain a better understanding of each position and of the game in general.

Our elimination final was closely fought against Sturt with us going down 2-1 in the end. A few balls didn't bounce our way early in the game but we were able to hang tough with a few tough situations such as bases loaded to get out of the

innings fairly cheaply. We were unable to convert all our baserunners into runs as we always quite often to put together a hitting rally when we had 2 out. I was so proud at how hard the girls fought throughout this game and never gave up and pushed Sturt all the way into the last innings.

I'd like to wish the girls moving into the seniors all the best, I believe you are all prepared and confident for this transition. To the girls who get to have another crack at U17s, continue working hard and hopefully next season you will go a few steps further.

A big thankyou to my support staff. Kayla and Sophie as assistant coaches allowed for many activities to be run at training which were both individual and team focussed, I am thankful for the experience that they have been able to pass onto the girls. I would also like to thank Chris Wheatley for running a tight ship on the bench and to Sandra for colouring in all the runs each week.

**MVP** – Kushla Brewster

**Best and Fairest** – Montana Edwards

**Best Team Players** – Elena Blenkinsop and Amber Dodd-Mobius

**Nat Brinkworth**

U17 Coach



## Vale Brian Reeves

Earlier this year the Rebels family lost one of their finest, with Life Member and former President Brian Reeves passing away. Brian covered just about all of the roles you can hold – a coach, umpire, administrator and mentor. He first appeared in an official capacity at Glenelg in 1968/69 as an Umpire and also took on the C grade Coach role. He was elected president for the 1969/70 season (the year District Zones were introduced and we became Glenelg Rebels), as well as C Coach and U14 weekday training coach. During the 1970-71 season he continued as President, A Reserve Coach and Zone Commissioner to SAWSA (SA Womens Softball Assoc). He coached the A grade through to 1975/76, and worked strongly with our junior development program during this time. His wife Natalie was also a very handy Rebel and State pitcher, and they often worked together in developing our juniors. From our records, he coached four premierships - 1968/69 C Premiers, 1969/70 C Premiers, 1970/71 A Reserve Premiers and 1972/73 A Reserve Premiers. Brian was awarded the club's second Life Membership in 1976/77, behind Mr EO Radloff.

# UNDER 15 NAVY

Someone said to me the other day "So who'd have thought the girls would play in 2 grand finals this season?" To be honest, I did.

I saw a great deal of potential in these girls when I was asked to coach them and knew that they were capable of great things. They are probably one of the most equally skilled sides that I have coached. We had a few discipline issues to deal with, but we set some ground rules early on.

Most of the girls can play equally well in a number of positions. We also worked a lot on batting this season and finished the minor round with a team batting average of 535.

I did ask them at the start of the season what they wanted to achieve this year. This year no one actually said win. They all pretty much said to develop their skills, with a few mentioning that they want to be ready for U17s next year. I'm confident that they will all do quite well in U17s next year.

Amy & I tried to do a few different things this year. We started the preseason by evaluating the players & then reassessing them just before the Christmas break. They all showed huge improvements. I thought it was only fair that the girls get to evaluate their coaches, so they filled out an evaluation on Amy & myself after the break. A couple of little surprises, nothing huge, but it just meant that Amy & I had to work a bit harder on one or two things. Fair enough though, as I expected them to work harder as well. We worked on not watching 3<sup>rd</sup> strikes and eliminating fielding errors this season. We also talked about effort & attitude. When they came to the game or to training with the right attitude and put in the effort, they played some fantastic softball.

We also started the season training once a week on Thursdays. I then added catching training on the Tuesday, which became battery training, which ended up as Team training. All because the girls kept asking to do more.

With our season we got off to a reasonable start, but the occasional lapses in effort and attitude did affect where we sat at the Christmas break. We went into the break with 3 losses, 2 of them by 1 run and the third by 6 runs. The latter was after giving the opposition a 7 run head start. So they certainly showed their potential early on, especially if they had the right attitude. We went into the Break in 4<sup>th</sup> spot, enough to end up in Div1 after Christmas.

After the break we were 3 wins from 3 games before heading down to Mt Gambier for the Junior State Carnival. The girls played some awesome softball in Mt Gambier going into the Cup Grand Final without a loss. We started the grand final really well with the girls putting on a great batting display, but we were just pipped at the last minute going down by 1 run to the only other undefeated side. Thanks to Demi from U15 White for joining us for the carnival.

We had a couple of wobbly games after the carnival but managed to head into finals in third spot. Our Semi saw us defeat Seacombe 10-6, to then take on Sturt Navy in the

Prelim. The girls played the way I knew they could and got up from behind for a nail biting 1 run win 8-7. Our first win against this side this season. This put us into the grand final against Sturt. I'm not sure if it was the huge Glenelg crowd or what, but we didn't quite match our previous week's performance, unfortunately seeing us as the bridesmaid twice this season.

It was great to see 3 of the girls (Phoebe Borg; who unfortunately for us had to move back to Queensland during the Christmas Break, Angel Downing & Aleesha Mead) make one of the SA U15 Development sides that played in Queensland.

We did use a few helpers over the course of the season so a big thank you to Amy for being my assistant this season, to Kylie for team managing & keeping the girls in line, Andrea for also helping to Manage the girls, Donna for scoring, Sue for scoring, Lia for putting the stats into Iscore, Bek & Lozz for assisting in Amy's absence, Rick, Cathy, Peter Edwards & Kushla for helping out with drills & specialist advice, Rick for assisting at Mt Gambier, to all the parents/siblings that were 'volunteered' to base umpire and to all of the parents for your support. Apologies for anyone I may have missed.

Now on to the awards.

I always like to award a **Most Improved Award** as I think it's important to recognise players that are looking to improve and are working on their skills. As I said we have done a couple of assessments of the players over the course of the season & they have all made big improvements. However there was one person who made improvements in a lot of areas including attitude. She actually started asking to do more training, she finished the minor round with a batting average of 545 and an On Base average of 821, she improved her base running from 4.9 seconds to 3.8 seconds. She started the season as our slowest runner but made the biggest improvement not just in her base running but in all aspects of her game, the Most Improved Award goes to **Rachel Reid**.

The next award is the **Best Team Player**. Again, a lot of the girls came into contention for this, but when we looked at this we were looking for the person who when asked to play a certain spot or try something different, just takes it on the chin. They're the one who always helps out, packs up the kit bag or training gear. They listen and take on board what we say. They are always encouraging and never negative. They always try and they have a great attitude. In short they put the team above themselves. This player is a joy to coach, she epitomises a great team player, on one occasion she actually came out to training to tell me she couldn't come out to train. She finished the season with an amazing 14 walks and a fielding average of 939, the award goes to **Darcy Lapidge**.

The final award is for our **MVP**. So to pick this award Amy and I would award 3,2,1 votes at the end of each minor round game. When awarding points we would not only look at who played well, but attitude, player improvement, team approach etc. I'm happy to say that every player was awarded points over the season. This player was a bit of a utility. She can play in most areas on the diamond, was one of the 5

catcher's we started the season with but proved to be an awesome asset in shortstop and the outfield; finishing the season with an impressive batting average of .667, the MVP goes to **Skye Downs**.

**Most Valuable Player** – Skye Downs

**Best Team Player** – Darcy Lapidge

**Most Improved** – Rachel Reid

**Dean Jury**

U15 Navy Coach

## UNDER 15 WHITE

One of the best part of the 2015/2016 season has definitely been the new faces we are so lucky to have welcomed to the Glenelg Rebels family.

Please give a big welcome to the Under 15 White team for this season, Erin, Lizzie, Kaitlin, Lily, Ashlee, Demi, Sarah, Maya, Maddie, Lucy and Jaeda. A huge thank you to our under 13 players Sascha and Jade who filled in for us when needed and also to the U15 Navy girls, Tara, Tayla M, Skye and Aleesha who helped out when we were short. And before I move on to the team, I would like to thank a few people who have helped out this year, in big ways or small, you made sure that these girls got on the park each week. Sasha, for stepping up having not coached before, and I think you may have even enjoyed it. Liz for being the most patient scorers you will ever find, I know I am not the quietest or organised coach out there. Amanda for being an amazing team manager, even when I gave her too many jobs to do!! Thank you all for being such an awesome team. Also thank you to Morts, Brad, and my other half Jono for filling in coaching when Sasha had to play, or I was late from work, and also to all the umpires who helped us out with both plates and bases this year, especially Donna Gunn who as a new parent to the game, stepped up and learnt the basics and got us out of a pickle a few times.

Coming together as a squad in the preseason, it soon became apparent that there would be more than the one team we had counted on this year for U15's, and as the season edged closer, Dean and I, along with the committee, worked out the best possible team scenario given the pool of talent and age groups we had to work with. It was a tough slog to make some hard decisions, but we got there in the end. A big congratulations to the U15 Navy team for making the Grand Final this year, you definitely deserved to be there.

The Under 15 White team consisted of only two past Rebels players, with the remaining 9 being new to the club, either from another club, or only having played school softball. From the start, it was back to basics, with 2 training nights focussing on all facets of the game as much as we could. It was a thrill to see a majority of the girls show up even to pitching training every week.

Week in week out, the girls put in their best efforts, and you could always see the thinking cogs turning during trainings and games, I hope it all sunk in, as it was a lot of information for one season. Although we only managed one win for the year, it was a season of small successes, for the coaches, for the individuals and the team as a whole. From finding two

pitchers and two catchers who enjoyed stepping up for the team every week, to hearing the joint voices in the field supporting and telling their team mates what the next play was. Taking some awesome catches in the outfield, and putting bunts down after weeks of just working on watching signals.

It was incredibly hard to single out players this year for awards as they all tried so hard every week, they all had some 'blonde moments' and they all had team and individual highlights. After much deliberation, Sasha and I decided on 3 awards, Most Improved, Coaches Award and Most Valuable Player.

Our **Most Improved Award** was so tough to choose as all our players improved out of sight from the beginning of the season to now. But the player who is receiving this award has shown true talent, particularly towards the end of the season behind the plate. This player is super keen, even practicing with her brothers at baseball and will be someone to watch in coming years. Keep working hard and you will reap the rewards – **Kaitlin Chapman**.

This year's **Coaches Award** goes to a player who has attended every training, including the pitcher/catcher sessions, was present at every game, was a solid presence in the batting box hitting a number of multiple base hits, and scoring numerous RBI's in her number 4 slot. This player has stepped on the pitching mound in nearly every game, showing her intensity and true grit for the game, sticking it out even when she thought she wasn't doing that well... Trust me, stick it out **Ashlee Conway**, because with a bit more practice, you'll be hitting those spots consistently and blowing them away with that pop you already have got going.

Our **Most Valuable Player** this season goes to a player who has shown she is a sponge for the game, who has eagerly listened, learned and performed week in week out. As a new player to the game, she pitched the entire game that we won, even taking all 3 outs in two innings of that game. She has become our starting pitcher each week, and a positive team leader as well, making sure that we even had a roster made up for the gear bag collection. I look forward to seeing what this player will do in the seasons to come with a few more years under her belt. Our most valuable player is **Erin Barrett**. Once again, thank you so much to all those who pitched in this year to get these girls on the park, and a huge thank you to the girls for sticking it out, putting in the hard yards, and being willing to learn every week. What more can a coach ask for. Thank you,

**Most Valuable Player** - Erin Barrett

**Coaches Award** - Ashlee Conway

**Most Improved** - Caitlin Chapman

**Tamyka Penglase**

U15 White Coach

## UNDER 13

This season we had the privilege of coaching the U13 team. We had our ups, downs and challenges as you'd expect with a developing side in a tricky division but overall we had an enjoyable season.

Our team consisted of 13 players, with the late inclusion of 2 future rebels, who trained with us for our last few weeks. With Large numbers we discovered many utility players, potential pitchers and general fielding depth.

Our main focus of the year revolved around improvement in basic skills, game sense and of course fun. This year our U13 team was put in the top division, which proved quite a challenge as our team consisted of many new first year players. Despite this we're proud to say that all players rose to the challenge and improved immensely.

We were lucky enough to take majority of the U13's plus a few U11's to the Junior State Champs in Mt Gambier. This was a great opportunity for the girls to bond as a team and play a whole lot of softball. Everyone hit, fielded and supported each other well, which was great to see. The huge improvements of the team over this weekend were evident in our last game of the season, in which we saw pick offs, double plays and an awesome hitting effort against a strong side.

Thank you to our scorer Kirsty for putting up with our constant line up errors and last minute changes, and to all those who filled in when needed. Thankyou also to Sandra and Sharon our team managers for keeping everyone in line, and to the parents for bringing your kids to games and trainings. Lastly to our cadet coach (bad cop) Jess you were a star, thank you for keeping the kids and us in line, your help was greatly appreciated. Without all of your support we wouldn't have gotten a team on the diamond.

Overall we had a great time coaching you and are proud of how far you've all come.

### **Best and Fairest:** Summer Arnold

For consistent performance commitment to the team games and trainings and always being willing to help team mates and coaches.

### **Coaches Award:** Chelsea Billinger

A quiet achiever, who proved her pitching ability late in the season and always gave 110 percent.

### **Most Improved:** Georgia Robinson

Improved her catching in particular immensely, leading the team by example with enthusiasm and support.

### **Cara Davies & Megan Wheatley**

U13 Coaches

## UNDER 11

The U11's started the season with 10 players but with competing forces from family/ injuries/ and other sports saw the team dwindle to just 5 in the last game.

For most of the season we were able to share our average of 8 players with opposing teams who were also struggling with consistent numbers. It was great to see our players and their parents/carers embrace the philosophy of what the u/11 is all about, participation being the main focus. This then was reciprocated on the last game when Sturt gave us 2 players so each side could field 7. Sport a big winner there.

As this age group is often the child and their family's first team and club experience, it is important that their first exposure to rules/ commitment / responsibility / independence is a good one. With the assistance of Lily Wright, Bek Jury as assistant coaches, Kylie Preece scorer, Keryn Lapidge as junior coordinator and the weekly support from parents especially Rusty Gallagher as well as Jess Pine we were mostly able to set the scene.

My weekly spiel of not leaving the tent area to seek support/ cuddles from parents and carers until after the game saw the best behaved parents you would ever see. I am sure they were more intimidated than the kids. I often had a chuckle to myself.

Seeing these young athletes evolve, sometimes in leaps and bounds but mostly subtly each week, gives coaches great pleasure. I am looking forward to seeing where sport takes these energetic and enthusiastic athletes.....hopefully still with the Glenelg Softball Club but definitely enjoyment of a team atmosphere in some capacity.

### **U11 Players**

Angel Bednall  
Alex Wood  
Chloe McKenzie  
Ebony Pine  
Eden Lapidge  
Kiera Ross  
Lily Pine  
Olivia Gallagher  
Olivia Graham  
Chloe McKenzie

Can't wait to see you all out at preseason, faster, stronger, taller and cheekier.

### **Kay Bevan (and Bek and Lily)**

U11 Coach



# AUSSIE REPS

## U19 Men's Statistician - Lindy Rattigan

Lindy, SA Softball Life Member and State Coordinator of Scoring has been appointed Statistician to the **Australian U19 Men's Softball Team**. The Team will compete in the 11th Junior Men's Softball World Championships in Midlands, Michigan, USA in July 2016.

## Australian Junior Women's Squad – Jamie Mead

Jamie was selected in the Australian Junior Women's Spirit Squad for 2016

## Australian Schoolgirls – Jamie Mead

Jamie was also selected to the Australian U17 Schoolgirls team after her performances at the 2015 Pacific School Games

## Aussie Spirit Team – Vanessa Stokes

Vanessa was named in the 17 person team for the WBSC XV Women's World Softball Championship that will be played in Vancouver, Canada in July.



# 2015/16 CLUB AWARDS

## BEST CLUB PERSON

*Donated by Gerald Brown*

Sharon Ward

Jenny Turner

## CLUB SERVICE AWARD

*Donated by Tom Whitworth*

Kay Bevan

## YOUNG ACHIEVERS AWARD

*Donated by Club Marion*

Darcy Lapidge

## JOHNSON MEMORIAL TROPHY

*Donated by Chris Szpunar*

Jamie Mead

## JOY BANNISTER MEMORIAL AWARD ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

*Donated by Bannister Family*

Montana Edwards (Junior)

Jamie Mead (Senior)

# JUNIOR CARNIVALS

These carnivals and tournaments really are a great way to improve your skills and knowledge of the game. They are also invaluable in building friendships, confidence and a great team spirit. We encourage all juniors to participate in these occasions.

## 2015 October Carnival

The season started off with the Carnival at West Beach over the October Long Weekend. The U18s finished the Tournament in 2nd place going down in the Grand Final to Torrens Valley. The U15s lost their semi to Sturt to finish 4th overall. Big thanks to our awesome coaches, team managers, scorers and umps. The teams couldn't take the Diamond without you. As usual the support from the stands was outstanding - it's great how the whole Rebels Family get behind all our teams! Thanks also to the volunteers who fronted for grounds duty on Saturday.

## 2016 Junior State Champs – Mt Gambier

The weekend of February 20 & 21 saw U13 and U15 Rebels teams travel to Mt Gambier for the Junior State Championships. Both teams played well, had fun and did the Rebels uniform proud!

The U13 team were a fantastic group of girls and this tournament was the first for many of them. They improved noticeably with every game and had plenty of fun doing it. Their enthusiasm throughout the tournament was infectious and they looked after each other like the champs they are. Although they didn't get as many wins as they would have liked, they played well and played as a team. The experience will no doubt help improve their game and bring them closer together as Rebels team mates.

The U15 team turned up to play and had an awesome tournament! Convincing wins in each of their pool games saw them qualify undefeated for the Cup Grand Final against Sturt Navy, also undefeated. With our girls ahead for most of the game, the nail-biting finish came down to the wire with Sturt sneaking home at the death to win by 1 run (final score 8-7). Although disappointed, the girls didn't dwell on it and should hold their heads high. It was a great final against two very strong teams and sets up some exciting clashes heading into the season finals.

Thanks to all the team officials, scorers, umpires, parents and supporters who also made the trip. You all ensured it went smoothly and the players had a positive and successful experience. We encourage all our juniors to get involved in the tournaments next season! See our Facebook page for more pics from the weekend.

A big thanks to Keryn Lapidge, Sharon Ward and Andrea Mead for their efforts in organising this weekend, which is no small task.

# SA STATE REPS

## Starz (SA Open Women's)

Vanessa Stokes  
Steph Trzcinski

## U19 Girls

Amber Cook  
Bek Jury  
Jamie Mead  
Regan Lambert

## U17 Girls

Marcie Trzcinski (Statistician)  
Montana Edwards

## U15 Girls Development

Aleesha Mead  
Angel Downing  
Phoebe Borg

## 2015 Pacific School Games

### U17 Girls

Lauren Beck  
Montana Edwards  
Regan Lambert  
Jamie Mead

### U17 Boys

James Harris (Coach)

### U12 Girls

Sacha Mutze

### U12 Boys

Alex Trzcinski

## A Grade Team of the Year

Sophie Hoyle (Utility)

# CLUB UMPIRES

Thank you to Dana Wright who again took on the duties of umpiring coordinator this season and to everyone who did an umpiring duty throughout the season. It is not something that everyone enjoys doing, but without you and the blue and green shirts we would not even be playing each week.

We were blessed to welcome 4 new green shirts to bolster our Club umpiring ranks this season, the majority of the time these girls rotated between the U13 games, we look forward to their further development in coming seasons ... big thanks to Darcy Lapidge, Aleesha Mead, Tara Johnson and Phoebe Borg

N.B. Phoebe and her family returned to Northern QLD midway through the season, we wish them all the best for the future.

# LIFE MEMBERSHIP

## NAT BRINKWORTH (MEAD)

We would like to congratulate Nat on her life membership to the Glenelg Rebels Softball club.

Nat has been with Rebels for 11 years, following her transfer from Walkerville, in both a playing, coaching and committee roles. Nat was President of the club from the beginning of the 2010/11 season through to the end of the 2014/15 season and on the committee for several years prior to that. In addition to her club roles she has coached Waverley development teams as well as State U16's and also been an Australian selector. She has also been a delegate to the Adelaide competition meetings as well as a representative on the Diamond Sports redevelopment committee.

In addition to club coaching commitments Nat has also made herself available to work with individuals/small groups both during and outside of the club season to help prepare these players for state, state schoolgirls competitions. As well as helping small groups she also assisted individual players improve in their own game.

Her knowledge of the game and of the administrative organisation of both Softball SA and Softball Australia have been a benefit to our club as have her contacts in these areas.

She is well and truly deserving of this award as she has been a very committed club member and an advocate for softball in general.

# YOUR 2015/16 COMMITTEE

## President

Brad Barry

## Vice Presidents

Jenny Turner

Wayne Davies

## Secretary

Liz McGee

## Treasurer

Sharon Ward

## Committee

Jane Bennett

Chris Wheatley

Keryn Lapidge

Dana Wright

Andrea Mead

We would like to say a big thanks to all of the coaches, umpires, scorers, managers, parents and especially the players who put on the Navy and White this season. It goes without saying that this club would not be the proud developing club it is, without you.

## GRSC VOLUNTEERS

We couldn't do it without you!

Once again this has been a big season for volunteers and we would like to take this opportunity to say a HUGE thank you to those who have put up their hands to help out with the various duties we, as a Club, are asked to perform each year. Volunteers are a vital part of any club. Without them life at Glenelg Rebels would be extremely difficult. No one wants to pay more fees or see games cancelled – but that's the reality if our trusty band of volunteers didn't roll up their sleeves each week.

Glenelg Rebels has some excellent members who continually put their hand up for one or all of the above duties and we are extremely grateful for this assistance. It would be fantastic if we could build an army of volunteers ensuring that all the work is not left to a few!

Volunteering is a great way to meet other members within the Club and can even be a bit of fun! Not one of these duties is difficult, and is an easy way for players, (juniors and seniors) as well as parents/partners to chip in.

So, next season when **YOU** see a call out for volunteers please put your hand up to help. We will happily guide you through what you need to do.

Best wishes for a relaxing off season!

**Chris Wheatley**

GRSC Volunteer Co-ordinator

## NOTICE OF AGM

Advance notice of the Annual General Meeting to be held on

**Monday 16 May 2016 at 7.00pm at Club Marion.**

Nominations are sought for the following positions:

Executive:

President

Vice President(s)

Secretary

Treasurer

Management Committee

*Applications are sought in writing by midnight Sunday 24 April 2015.* Nominations must be endorsed by two financial members, and accepted by the nominee prior to submission.

## SPONSORSHIP

We welcomed back Pure Financial Management, Bendigo Bank Glenelg Branch, Magain Real Estate, and Optimal Air & Refrigeration this season and thank them for their continued support. We were also delighted to have Medehealth join us for this season.

## MAJOR SPONSOR



We thank our major sponsor Club Marion for their continued support of the Glenelg Rebels Softball Club in providing us with the amazing facilities we get to utilize every week. Please show your support by having a meal at the club from time to time.

Thank you to the City of Marion Council for their ongoing support of the Glenelg Rebels Softball Club and Club Marion. We would also like to thank the City of Marion Council.



See you all in a few months to take on Season 2016/17

# GO REBELS!