

Play Ball



Vol. 1, Issue. 1

**WELCOME TO THE FIRST
NEWSLETTER
OF THE 2019/2020 SEASON!!**

The WSA Committee are glad to announce that we are introducing a monthly newsletter full of news, updates and information

President Report

This May I was honoured with being elected President of Waverley and with that have had a busy off season!

Firstly, I would like to thank the outgoing 2018-2019 committee for all their hard work last season, the new committee has some big shoes to fill and we are glad that you are all still around the park offering your valuable support and advice.

Over the off season your committee has been working behind the scenes to makes some exciting changes to the WSA Competition. This includes joining into the SEMR competition for our juniors to increase the participation levels and provide a robust and exciting opportunity for our junior teams!

This have been moving forward well and our juniors are looking forward to kicking off their season on October 12th.

Within the seniors grades we once again have a strong number of teams across the Open 1 to Open 4 grades. This year we see Open move into a pool style system to incorporate the growing number of teams within the division.

Fully Loaded Softball is also coming to Waverley this season with Fully Loaded Softball games being incorporated into the Open 1 regular season! This will see 2 rounds of triple double headers being played under Fully Loaded Softball rules creating much hype and anticipation for the event! Our Open 1 grade has also had a Mini Competition added to it – check out our facebook page for more info!

It is great to see so many Waverley players, officials and umpires representing Victoria in both State and Development teams again this year. Congratulations to all involved.

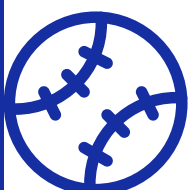
Don't forget if you are interest in learning to umpire Roy is running a fantastic training program! For more information contact him at wsauictraining@gmail.com

Volunteers are always need for small jobs in and around the park. Thank you to all those who have already provided their valuable time in the off season! If you would like to volunteer to help whether it be small or big tasks, please let me know. We have a wide range of items needing attention so many hands make light work!

Feeling Social – we have a new Social Media Coordinator this season. Chelsea is eager to share and promote softball, Waverley and your clubs! If you have anything to share please send it through to her waverleysocials@gmail.com so she can reach out to our socials audience.

Finally, I would like to wish all teams the best of luck for the season ahead! I am looking forward to seeing you all at the park participating in the sport we all love and have a passion for! Feel free to come and find me Saturdays for a chat, my 'door' is always open!

**See you at the park!
Heather**



Preseason

Preview

By Simon Ross



Glen Waverley Angel's star center-fielder Alys Young slides into 3rd Base v Brandon Heights.

Waverley Softball Association's 58th season kicks off next Saturday October 5th with the Open 1 marquee match-up and Grand Final Replay between Northwood Falcons and Glen Eira. Falcons are red-hot favourites going into the season as they look to add to their six Pennants since 2004. Their defence is built around the consummate pitching of Dale Stocker and a very tidy field. They conceded just 35 runs last season in 20 games. Meanwhile, their much vaulted offence is always likely to do damage with Tayla Supple, Amanda Torrington and Nariisse Privitera ready to take

the long handle to opposition pitching.

If Glen Eira are to extract revenge for last season's defeat, twin speed pitchers Hannah Smart and Teraize Bonner will need to quiet the Falcons bats. If they do, Glen Eira's offence carries its own threats with Grand Final MVP Lauren Olsen, Marina Walker and Jess Bahn all posing a huge threat. In Week 1's other match-ups, Glen Waverley Angels take on Eastern Raiders. Angel's Coach Heather Webb believes her team has the talent to get over the semi-final hump that has scuppered their Premiership ambitions in recent years and break their Premiership drought that stretches back to 2003. Their offence smashed 113 runs last season, the most by any Open 1 team, but they crashed out of the finals in straight sets. Their Premiership tilt will be aided by the return to full fitness of Kim Quince and the exciting outfield talents of Alys Young, Chelsea Radin & Brea Kennelly. They have added the talented youngster Kasey Smith and young Titan Grace Peters looks set to have a break out season.

Raiders are likely to still be in the rebuilding phase. They will again be heavily reliant on ace pitcher Nicky Martin and the ever steady Elly Trevethan. A return to March final's action seems the most Raiders can hope for. They will need to give Martin more run support if they are to become a threat to last year's final four.

Syndal made a rapid exit in last year's final series in a slugfest against Glen Eira. They'll be looking to put that disappointment behind them. Star pitcher Tanz Pukatapu is back and chomping at the bit to cut a swathe through opposition offences. Veterans Sarah Beales and Steph Davis make for a strong looking line-up, on paper at least. The return of the dynamic Micah Ropata might just be enough to see Syndal again feature on the last Saturday in March.

Their opponents next Saturday, Brandon Heights, will be looking to finally turn much-hyped potential into on-diamond success. A lot of responsibility will fall on the shoulders of gun catcher, Tash Holt who has just returned from a stint in the College system in the USA. New pitcher Sharni Arthur has recently crossed from Falcons. With the Titans twin speedsters and pivots Bec Schafer and Milli Mercuri, Arthur will be looking to shore up a leaky defence that conceded 129 runs last season.

All games commence at 4 pm with the feature Falcons-Glen Eira match taking place on Diamond 2.



Open 1 Player Profile



Marina Walker

How long have you been playing softball for?

18 years

What position do you play?

2nd Base

If you could be another player for one game, who would you be and why?

Alys Young - So I could have those long legs and run the bases effortlessly

Go to snack on the bench?

A sneaky potato cake (chicken salt and sauce)

Favourite movie?

Legally Blonde

Favourite singer or band?

Guy Sebastian

Funniest person on your team?

Grace Bibby, we all spend a fair bit of time laughing at her

Favourite softball moment?

Every time I get to play pivots with Jackie DiSiervi. She's an absolute superstar! She grounds me but pushes me to match her skills all whilst having a laugh

Favourite softball field?

Mirrabooka Stadium in Perth, the bounce is clean and fast. However, I always love training at Moorabbin brings me back to my roots and holds some of my best junior memories.

Super power?

I always wanted to be Sabrina the Teenage Witch so I could make things happen with just a flick of the finger!

What's happening this season at Waverley?

Peta Edebone Cup

Games

13/10/19 & 20/11/19

2020 Under 16 Girls' and

Boys' National Championships

4/1/20-10/1/20

Open Women's and Men's

State Champs

4/4/19 - 5/4/19



Introducing...

The new Mini Comps for Open 1

Beginning this season, the WSA Committee are introducing three new Mini Competitions for the Open 1 Players to compete in throughout the season. At the end of the Round games, the winner of each comp will win a cash prize of \$350 and a plaque.

The Committee have thought well and hard about each comp and have decided to go with a Batting, Pitching and Base Running awards.

The Greg Brown Batting Award: will be awarded to the player with the most amount of safe hits at the end of round games (must play half of the season games to be eligible)

Greg Brown has been involved in softball at Waverley since the 1970s. He began with Mount Waverley Softball Club before switching to Glen Waverley in the 1980s. He has coached Waverley and Victorian teams over many years. But it is as a batting coach and technician that Brownie is most renowned. He has helped hundreds of Waverley players become skilled hitters over several decades.

The Belinda “Chop” Cunningham Base Running Award: will be awarded to the player with the most Safe Stolen bases at the end of round games (e.g 22 out of 26 attempts. NO pass ball steals will be counted)

Chop started playing for Brandon Park about 1980 after watching her sister playing the year before. She played a number of years for Waverley Rep teams. Chop represented Victoria at U16 level, winning the National Championships in Hobart in 1990. Throughout her softball career Chop has been known for her ability to run. She uses her excellent game sense and speed to seize every opportunity to steal bases. If you are not alert, she will take advantage of that to advance to the next base.

The Jo Paez Pitching Award: Will be awarded to the pitcher with the most amount of K2's by the end of round games (must pitch half of the season games to be eligible)

Jo Paez has a tremendous resume when it comes to softball. From 1969 to 1985, you would see Jo wearing the red, white and blue Waverley Uniform with pride. Jo has represented Victoria at many National Championships, and she was a member of the U16 Girl's team who won the inaugural National Champs in 1971. From 1972-1982, Jo Represented Australia at numerous international events. In 1981, Jo pitched 23 innings against NSW. She has also been inducted into the Softball Victoria and Australia's Hall of Fame. Once finishing her career as a State Plater, Jo then began to Coach numerous Victorian State Teams.



Umpires in NT

By Jason Irvine

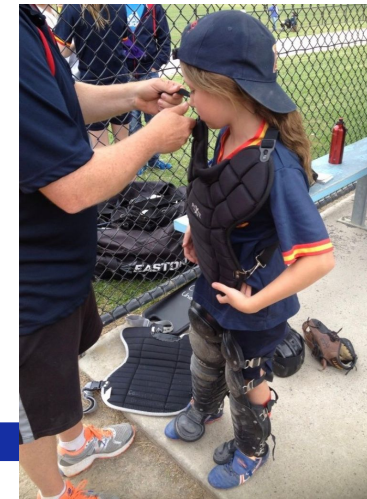
On the weekend of September 13th, Softball Northern Territory held their Championships at Alice Springs Softball Association. It was the first time in 10+ years that the tournament would be held in the southern part of the territory, but teams still travelled from far distances to compete. As well as the teams making the journey to the red center, Softball NT enlisted the help of some extra umpires to officiate each game at the tournament - which in the past was difficult to round up the help they needed. Kian Privitera, Rob Dykstra and Jason Irvine made their way from Victoria, while Steven Wallace-Yellow and Michael Bendall made the trip up from South Australia with local umpires from Darwin also helping. The blistering temperate in the middle of the country reached maximum temperatures in the low-to-mid 30s, but it didn't have a reflection on the standard of umpiring, especially when back-to-back plates were a feature. As was the nature of the tournament too, each game usually consisted of one umpire, however as we umpires are looking to practice more and more, each were willing to place themselves upon a game. It wasn't only about the development of umpires as we head into our own summer seasons and national appointments, but an opportunity to teach the players and coaches a little bit more about the sport we love. Without being too forceful of some rules, a calming approach was taken as the most important thing to see was everyone enjoying themselves and getting as much play in on the weekend as possible. Alice Springs Softball Association is a scenic place, the backdrop around the grounds were beautiful with views of the mountains, whistling kites soaring above the fields. The town center was quiet but had real touch of the Indigenous culture of the land. The standard of ball was exceptional, which could be told just via seeing teams training before a game. Players would seek to hit every ball no matter the height. It is certainly a huge testament to the team working behind the scenes at Softball NT to go into local communities in rural outback areas and teach them softball. With 12 women's teams and two men's teams, the talent on show was enormous. Each game was an exciting mix of hitting, fielding and pitching with a top level of respect shown by everyone involved. The men's competition was hotly-contested with Alice Springs winning the first two match-ups between them and Tennant Creek. Tennant Creek though were able to square the ledger at 2-2 heading into the final, with one run deciding who occupied which dugout in the deciding game. In the end it was Tennant Creek who prevailed. On the women's side of the draw, the two best teams from each pool booked themselves a spot in the final. The game was played against Alice Springs 1 and Mt Liebig Saints, with the former team taking out the title. At the awards ceremony at the conclusion of the event, Softball NT CEO Nicky Bacon declared that it wouldn't be as long of a wait until Alice Springs held the Championships once again. It was decided that Darwin and Alice Springs would alternate hosting duties each year, something Alice Springs Softball Association President Michelle loves. A huge thanks must go to Nicky and Gemma at Softball NT for allowing us to experience the softball community, see the Territory culture, witness some great softball and contribute to another successful NT Championships.



Rob, Jason and Kian



The Young Ones
Rachel Miller



My first memory of softball is of the whole family heading down to Waverley Softball Association for my big sister, Elly, to play with the Glen Waverley Angels. I liked all the cheering and it looked like lots of fun. I remember trying out t-ball and loving it, although I didn't like the heat too much, it was a really hot day and I was 4 years old. Ever since then I've been hooked on softball. I really enjoy playing with my club team mates, making lots of friends, knowing that each Saturday I'll be part of a really good community. I love watching the Women's Open games and hanging out with friends from other clubs for the afternoon and aspiring to be as good as these women one day, especially the Titans.

The Glen Waverley Angels and Waverley Softball Association have helped me grow in my skills, they have been very generous in offering development programs to their juniors, to which I was really lucky to have been invited. I've enjoyed playing at Waverley's Easter Carnival for years, playing representative softball for Waverley and then School Sports Victoria U12s for a couple of years. I was thrilled when I made the U15 Victorian State team last year and now, with the age changes, the U14 State team for this year. This year I was invited by Softball Australia to play for an U14s team in New Zealand for an Easter Carnival- that was amazing! I think I've been really lucky that my club and association have nurtured, encouraged and supported me in all of these moments. I can't wait for the next 2019/2020 season to begin and join the SEMR, it should be lots of fun!

True or False?

A warming (compression) sleeve may be worn but it will be treated in a the same manner as a long sleeve. Both arms must be covered, and both sleeves must be of the same colour as the undershirt worn by players wearing long sleeve undershirt.

Circle 'True' or 'False' and drop off your answer at the Pavilion... tune in for next month to see the answer



Week 1 Fixture

U15 Pre Season Glen Waverley vs Northvale D2 5-Oct-19 9:00
U12 Pre Season Northvale vs Glen Waverley D3 5-Oct-19 11:30
U12 Pre Season Falcons vs Raiders (B&R) D4 5-Oct-19 11:30 U17

OPEN 1 Round 1 Glen Waverley vs Eastern Raiders D1 5-Oct-19 4:00
OPEN 1 Round 1 Glen Eira vs Northwood Falcons D2 5-Oct-19 4:00
OPEN 1 Round 1 Syndal vs Brandon Heights D9 5-Oct-19 4:00

OPEN 2 Round 1 Glen Waverley vs Eastern Raiders D1 5-Oct-19 2:00
OPEN 2 Round 1 Lilydale Ejays vs Syndal Spartans D2 5-Oct-19 2:00
OPEN 2 Round 1 Syndal Blue vs Brandon Heights D9 5-Oct-19 2:00
OPEN 2 Round 1 BYE Northwood Falcons

Open 3 Round 1 Eastern Raiders vs Monash Magic Masters D3 05-Oct-19 04:00
Open 3 Round 1 Brandon Heights vs Syndal D4 05-Oct-19 04:00
Open 3 Round 1 Glen Waverley Gold vs Bruisers D6 05-Oct-19 04:00
Open 3 Round 1 Glen Waverley Blue vs Northwood Falcons D7 05-Oct-19 04:00

Open 4 Rigg 1 Northvale Red vs Heathmont Raiders D3 05-Oct-19 02:00
Open 4 Rigg 1 EJAYS White vs Monash Magic Masters D4 05-Oct-19 02:00
Open 4 Rigg 1 Eastern Raiders Black vs Brandon Heights Black D5 05-Oct-19 02:00
Open 4 Chambers 1 Bluebirds vs Northvale White D6 05-Oct-19 02:00
Open 4 Chambers 1 EJAYS Blue vs Northwood Falcons D7 05-Oct-19 02:00

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