



Annual Report 2024/2025



Minutes of the 74th Annual General Meeting of MWDBA

Held on 18th May 2024 at MWDBA Clubhouse, Aquatic Drive, Frenchs Forest, NSW, 2086

1. Meeting opened at 6.34pm

2. Present

Quorum achieved – Attendance Register saved to MWDBA Google Drive AGM 2024 folder

3. Apologies

Sam Casper-Richardson, Hannah Vaughan, David Gledhill, Michelle Camphius, Tessa O'hagan, Mark Gibson

4. Confirmation of previous AGM minutes

Motion to accept the minutes of the 2023 AGM

Moved: Joe Weller

Seconded: Luke Mallam

Carried

5. President's Address

Welcome to life members.

Junior and Senior baseball is strong. Baseball available everyday of the week. Thank you Manly Eagles committee, Minor League committee, Junior Representative committee, Junior Competition committee, Junior Clubs, to the RSA members (thank you to those leaving David Gledhill, Hannah Vaughan, Sam Casper-Richardson, Renee Phegan)

6. Presentation & adoption of Annual Report

Motion to accept the Annual Report

Moved: John Hughes

Seconded: Michael O'Neill

7. Presentation & Adoption of Financial report

Simplified finances (not holding uniform anymore). Infrastructure fund. New nets for Aquatic. Successful in obtaining a grant for Rat Park. Jay Drezner nominated to take over the treasurer role.

Motion to accept the Financial Report

Moved: Owen Harris

Seconded: Joe Weller

8. Appointment of Auditor

RL SMSF Audits to be appointed as the Association's Auditor for 2023/24.



PRESIDENTS REPORT

Congratulations to the Sub-Committees and Clubs on another successful year.

Well done to the MEBC committee, players, and officials on a great season of baseball. The senior club continues to be a strong presence in the State League competition. The MEBC Committee is committed to maintaining a strong senior club and being supportive of junior baseball, through coaching and cooperation to develop junior as the bedrock of all Manly Baseball.

Congratulations to Jaylin Rae on his selection to the Sydney Blue Sox this past ABL season.

Good luck to the following MEBC players who have committed to US Colleges, good luck with your education and baseball over the coming years:

Zac Morris, National Parks College, Arkansas
Conor Clark, National Parks College, Arkansas
Luke Donaghey, Galveston College, Texas
Max Miotto, Missouri South West Plains, Missouri
Dan Mills, Columbia University

The Minor League competition had another strong season across all competitions. The importance of the Minor League competition cannot be understated. It is a vehicle to keep graduating junior players in baseball, introduce new adult players to baseball and give baseballers of all ages a great competition to continue with their baseball career. Personally, one of the most satisfying sights is seeing baseball played for the pleasure of the game on the weekends and weeknights.

Congratulations to all of those that participated in the competitions and the winners of those competitions.

Congratulations to Minor League Committee, and all those industrious volunteers that maintained the grounds and produced an exceptional cadre of competitions.

The Junior Competition had another exceptional season, players numbers were strong, which is a tribute to the club committees. The Committee and the Clubs produce a quality competition with talented players, supported by their families. Junior baseball has always been a sport that the whole family can participate in and contribute to, and this is evident in the Manly Junior Competition. I enjoyed my visits to all club grounds during the season, seeing kids on the diamond, parents and carers coaching or working in the canteen or scoring or umpiring the games. More importantly, I always enjoyed the cheering and enthusiasm for the safe hit, the great pitch or the play made regardless of the team on the field or in the batting box.

Congratulations to the Junior Competition Committee, the Club Presidents, their committees, and volunteers for great season of baseball.

Well done to Warringah Baseball Club committee and volunteers on a great Junior Competition Finals. Congratulations to all the division winners.

The Junior Representative Program is continuing to be a strong component of the Association.

Manly has mixed results in the recent State Titles. The Little League Division placing second after a tight 2-1 loss in the final. Good Luck at the National Titles.

Congratulations to the following junior representative players for selection in the following representative teams:

NSW Metropolitan Team

Harley Gibson

Kai Harris

Jack Kelly

NSW Country Team

Austin Murdoch

NSW All Schools Team

Hisato Adachi

Harley Gibson

Congratulations to Harley Gibson for his selection is Team Australia, best of luck with your upcoming travels and international baseball.

Well done to the Representative Committee on fielding quality teams and managing the program.

Thank you to the Manly Warringah Baseball Umpires for your continued commitment to Manly Baseball. The games could not be played without those committed umpires that we see week in and week out. Thank you for your commitment to the development of junior umpires. The Committee looks forward to a continued partnership with you. I would encourage all players young and old to consider the other participation component of baseball and join the Manly Warringah Baseball Umpires, it is a fantastic way to contribute to the game.

I want to thank the Manly Warringah Baseball Association Committee. The way the Committee worked together this season is to be commended. The meetings and all the communications in between were collaborative and productive. I am proud of the way the members used their own personal skill set to enhance and improve the performance of the Association.

Personally, I want to thank the members of 2024-25 Board for their work and commitment to Manly baseball and I wish those well that are not returning to the Board for the coming year.

Finally, to all the players, families, committees, volunteers, scorers, umpires, grounds keepers, canteen staff and everyone involved in Manly Baseball, I want to simply say thank you.

I encourage everyone that participates in Manly Baseball, who does not already volunteer your time to do so in some manner, no matter how large or small that contribution may be.

I also encourage you all to consider roles in Club Committees and Manly Baseball Committees. No sport can operate without enthusiastic Committee members who undertake the roles to provide enjoyment in the sport of Baseball.

Yours in Baseball,
Brook Russell
President



ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT

Annual Treasurer's Report

Fiscal Year - March 2025



INTRODUCTION

The 2024-25 season was a mixed but largely positive year in terms of operational and financial results. Financially, the Association ran a surplus and also added to its investment for the future via its Infrastructure Fund. Operationally, player numbers increased for Juniors and we had three teams go to Nationals but our Minor League participation was down substantially.

This year was also a transition in staffing as a new Treasurer was brought in starting May/June 2024 with the added responsibilities of doing the day to day accounting and banking for the Association (taking over from a part-time Bookkeeper who was being paid). I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Carly Prior, the previous Treasurer, who has helped immensely with the handover and transition and thankfully, has continued to be available as the Reps member of the Committee. My initial focus as Treasurer has been to make sure that our financials continue to be reported accurately while also assisting our playing groups around budgeting and reporting. For the Association as a whole, ensuring a financially strong and durable sporting association and improving our infrastructure, hence providing more playing opportunities for all players is key. MWDBA continues to focus on the following strategies:

- The fiscal management of each playing entity, ensuring they are contributing to the overall wellbeing of the association.
- Grow our player numbers through marketing and promotion.
- Reinvesting in the game, particularly through infrastructure development providing more playing opportunities for the growing number of players.

This season Juniors had 743 players, an increase of 5% over FY 2024. Minor League had 419 total players which was a decrease of 25%, largely due to the elimination of our 1st grade competition in Summer and the Friends and Family initiative. In June 2024, Junior Reps sent three teams to Nationals, held their winter development program with approximately 60 players, had 95 players in Sydney / Association Cup teams from Sept-Dec and 77 players across 6 All Stars teams from Feb-April.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Continued investment in our Infrastructure fund, including both earnings from interest income as well as from additional contributions, increasing the total from ~\$97k to almost \$112k by the end of FY 2025.
- New sandboxes at Aquatic and rebuilding of the mound and batters boxes with new brickwork. Also, MWDBA assisted with the funding of replacement netting for the Aquatic batting cages. This investment was also partially funded via a community building partnership grant organised by Mel Bristow.
- Uniform inventory has been completely eliminated – due to the separation of State League we have no need to carry inventory and all remaining items were written off.
- In addition to the grant received for the batting cage netting at Aquatic, we also received a local sports grant totalling \$3,635.50 for the upgrade of netting at Rat Park.
- Reduction in overhead expenditure – due to the new Treasurer also handling bookkeeping responsibilities on a volunteer basis, we have reduced our annualised overhead by ~\$5k.

FINANCIALS

MWDBA financials are a combined set of accounts reflecting all the activities of MWDBA which includes Juniors, Junior Representatives, Minor League and the MWDBA “parent” organisation which handles overhead and expenses across groups.

RESULTS

MWDBA’s total revenues for 2025 were \$160k, which was down on the previous year for a few reasons, including:

- FY 2024 had uniform liquidation sales of ~\$7k which were not repeated in FY 2025
- Lower registrations from Minor League as mentioned above
- This was partially offset by a grant received for the Pittwater batting cage nets and some reimbursements from NB council on some repair work done by the Association

Profits were \$19k in FY 2025 as compared to \$12k in FY 2024 with the largest single difference being a reduction in Infrastructure Spend of \$10k. In addition though, FY 2025 accrued a sizable expense of \$9k which is to be refunded back to our member clubs after a more profitable Junior baseball season than expected.

Manly Warringah District Baseball Association

MWDBA	FY 2025	FY 2024	Variance	Change
Revenues	\$160,104	\$163,565	(\$3,461)	-2%
Cost of Goods	\$103,977	\$118,304	(\$14,327)	-12%
Gross Profit	\$56,127	\$45,260	\$10,866	24%
Other Expenses	\$37,616	\$23,383	\$14,233	61%
Infrastructure Spend	\$4,113	\$14,289	(\$10,176)	-71%
Interest Income	\$5,018	\$4,425	\$594	13%
Net Profit	\$19,416	\$12,013	\$7,403	62%

As an Association, we continue to look for cost reductions where possible and in FY 2025, we saved over \$3k in accounting costs due to getting a volunteer to perform those functions as opposed to a paid contractor. These sorts of cost reductions depend on the availability and willingness of appropriate volunteers though, and it may be necessary in the future to incur costs to make sure the Association is performing all of it’s functions as required.

ASSETS

The vast majority of Assets are Cash and Cash equivalents with the remainder consisting of Trade Debtors. Note that uniform inventory has now been completely eliminated after being as high as \$32.4k as of 31 March 2020.

For the \$7k listed under trade debtors this mainly represents invoices sent out towards the end of the Fiscal Year around All-Stars and a few other matters which are expected to be collected.

LIABILITIES

Liabilities consist of Accrued Expenses (including the Junior refund mentioned above) and Accounts Payable. Other key accruals / accounts payable include audit fees, moving some All-Star revenue to FY 2026 to match expense incurrence and umpiring fees invoiced received late in the Fiscal Year.

EQUITY

Total Equity as of March 2025 was \$189k of which retained earnings was \$170k and current year's surplus \$19k.

PERFORMANCE

In summary, the overall net profit for the Association was \$19k, noting that if the accrued \$9k in likely refunds to the member clubs was not taken, net profit would have been \$28k. While the Association does not seek to operate in a consistent profit position, we are comfortable with temporarily running a surplus to allow for the increased investment in future Infrastructure.

PLANNING

The two key challenges that MWDBA continues to face are providing adequate grounds and growing player numbers. The Infrastructure Fund that has been established is partially meant to address the former while a more coordinated effort with our member clubs may be required to address the latter.

i. Grounds:

The use and demand of our sports fields in Northern Beaches is forever increasing and the Northern Beaches Council is actively looking to improve sports ground use.

Northern Beaches Council has committed to refurbish Aquatic's baseball grounds with a focus on a complete re-grading and new infields / fencing. This was initially meant to start in FY 2025 but has been subsequently pushed out into FY 2026 due to NB Council execution timing. We continue to be in dialogue with NB Council and their contractors around this initiative and see no reason it will not take place.

MWDBA also supports other initiatives that will likely require NB Council funding / assistance, including improved drainage on A2-A5 (following the re-grading process), ground lights for fields A2-A5, as well as ground lights for Rat Park 1. MWDBA believes it is likely that it will need to spend money from its Infrastructure Fund on these initiatives should NB Council not be able to properly fund them.

ii. Playing Numbers:

Player numbers in MWDBA juniors have substantially rebounded and are now almost as high as they were in 2019 (pre-COVID). The composition of our member clubs has changed substantially though with Forest now representing 47% of all Junior registrations, up from 35% in 2020. The growth at Forest has almost entirely replaced the previous contribution from North Sydney but our other clubs have largely stayed flat or slightly down over that same

period. Having an Association with more balance amongst its member clubs would be beneficial from a competition standpoint, particularly if Seaside, Warrigah and Pittwater are able to achieve growth like Forest has historically to provide better overall growth.

Juniors by Club	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Var 2025:24	CAGR 2018:25
Seaside	136	130	151	158	135	147	147	165	12%	3%
Warrigah	114	90	50	85	77	91	92	85	-8%	-4%
Forest	193	204	214	253	229	256	331	350	6%	9%
Pittwater	156	168	174	205	152	164	139	143	3%	-1%
North Sydney	153	184								
Dragons	24									
North Shore			26							
TOTAL	776	776	615	701	593	658	709	743	5%	-1%

Senior playing numbers were down substantially in FY 2025 and this was driven by two factors – the effective elimination of 1st grade Summer baseball and the discontinuation of the Friends and Family initiative from FY 2024 (which had 43 participants, very few of which translated to Minor League registrations). The challenges in 1st grade are not limited to MWDBA – from our discussion with other Associations (including PCBL), our understanding is that participation across the board at the upper levels of Minor League (but below State League) has decreased. On the positive side, we do have a pleasing number of parent-child registrations and in one case, an entire team. Our focus needs to be on the retention of our Junior league participants as they age out of Juniors and playing with their parents in Minor League is definitely one way to achieve that.

Minor League	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Var 2025:24	CAGR 2018:25
Winter	250	257	258	273	304	226	253	247	-2%	0%
Summer	100	111	133	172	210	174	193	104	-46%	1%
Masters	47	47	47	76	69	80	73	68	-7%	5%
							43			
TOTAL	397	415	438	521	583	480	562	419	-25%	1%

*Aquatic unplayable - 62 refunds

iii. Coaching & player retention

We continue to be well supported by eager and qualified coaches across most clubs and the rep program. The baseball community is incredibly grateful for the time and effort that they commit to the sport as well as our umpires, scorers and supporters.

After one year to get my legs under me, I look forward to working with the Committee, our member clubs and the baseball community to sustain, promote and improve Baseball in the region.

Many thanks

Jay Drezner
MWDBA Treasurer

Manly Warringah District Baseball Association

Combined Statement of Financial Position

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	FY 2025	FY 2024
Revenues		
Club and Player Registration	\$147,679	\$156,450
Uniform Sales	\$0	\$7,115
Presentations	\$2,184	\$0
Other Income	\$10,240	\$0
Revenues	\$160,104	\$163,565
Cost of Goods Sold		
Club and Player Registration	\$35,590	\$28,758
Uniform Costs	\$6,107	\$13,621
Presentations	\$5,158	\$9,879
Coaching Fees	\$8,045	\$8,210
Game, Ground & Equipment	\$49,076	\$57,836
Total Cost of Goods Sold	\$103,977	\$118,304
Gross Profit	\$56,127	\$45,260
<i>Gross Margin</i>	35.1%	27.7%
General Expenses		
Administrative Expenses	\$28,499	\$16,511
Finance Costs	\$1,314	\$86
Advertising and Marketing	\$7,802	\$6,786
Total General Expenses	\$37,616	\$23,383
Infrastructure Improvements	\$4,113	\$14,289
Operating Profit	\$14,398	\$7,588
<i>Operating Profit Margin</i>	9.0%	4.6%
Interest Income	\$5,018	\$4,425
Net Profit	\$19,416	\$12,013

Manly Warringah District Baseball Association

Balance Sheet

For the year ended 31 March 2025

As at:	2025/03/31	2024/03/31
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$201,853	\$172,324
Trade Debtors	\$7,702	\$7,335
Uniforms at Cost	\$0	\$1,095
Total Current Assets	\$209,555	\$180,754
Fixed Assets		
Fixed Assets, net	\$0	\$1,724
Total Assets	\$209,555	\$182,478
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Trade Creditors and Other Accruals	\$20,348	\$12,687
Total Current Liabilities		
Total Liabilities	\$20,348	\$12,687
Net Assets	\$189,207	\$169,791
Equity		
Current Year Earnings	\$19,416	\$12,013
Members' Retained Earnings	\$169,791	\$157,778
Total Equity	\$189,207	\$169,791

Combined Statement of Cashflows

For the year ended 31 March 2025

	FY 2025	FY 2024
Operating Activities		
Receipts from customers	159,089	162,244
Payments to suppliers and employees	(136,371)	(161,499)
Cash receipts from other operating activities	556	0
Cash payments from other operating activities	(1,724)	(2,724)
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	21,550	(1,979)
Investing Activities		
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	1,724	3,724
Other cash items from investing activities	0	7,024
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities	1,724	10,748
Financing Activities		
Other cash items from financing activities	6,614	(21,549)
Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities	6,614	(21,549)
Net Cash Flows	29,889	(12,780)
Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	171,965	184,744
Net change in cash for period	29,889	(12,780)
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	201,853	171,965



**JUNIOR COMPETITION
COMMITTEE
REPORT**

2024-25 JUNIOR COMPETITION COMMITTEE REPORT

Executive Committee:

Julie Hogan (Pittwater)	Chairman
Kate Parkes (Pittwater)	Secretary
Mel Bristow (Pittwater)	Competition Convener

Board Members:

Owen Harris (Forest)
Nick Thompson (Manly Seaside)
Colin Rossello (Pittwater)
Matt Eisenhauer (Warringah)

Firstly, I would like to thank the Junior Competition Committee (JCC) for their outstanding work in administering junior baseball in the Manly Warringah District. The Committee continue to dedicate a significant amount of their time to baseball, both as representatives of Manly Baseball and their own clubs.

The Competition was run across all age groups from U8 Teeball to Senior League with a total of 60 teams participating from all four clubs, up from 56 last season. The following team numbers show changes since last season in brackets.

- U8 Teeball 6 teams (5)
- U9 Teeball 8 teams (7)
- LL Zooka 13 teams (11)
- LL Minors 8 teams (8)
- LL Majors 10 teams (10)
- Intermediate League 3 teams (4)
- Junior League 8 teams (6)
- Senior League 4 teams (5)

The 2024-2025 Junior Competition had 745 player registrations (up from 709 in 2023-24) with the following breakdown by Club and division. Last season numbers in brackets:

- Forest Baseball Club 350 (331) players
- Manly Seaside Baseball Club 161 (147) players
- Pittwater Baseball Club 141 (139) players
- Warringah Baseball Club 83 (92) players

- Minis, TeeBall and Zooka 221 players
- Minors 179 players
- Majors 244 players
- Junior League 82 players
- Senior League 19 players

The 2024-25 season continued cross-club play on Saturday mornings for U8 Teeball which had returned to the competition in 2023-24. The other cross-club Saturday

morning competitions include U9 Teeball, Zooka, Little League Minors, Little League Majors and Junior League.

On Wednesday nights Manly Juniors hosted the Intermediate League competition at Aquatic. The Intermediate competition gives the opportunity for the kids to play on teams with players from other Clubs. This was another great season that also provides the players the opportunity to watch some great baseball and support Manly First Grade when they are at home on Wednesday nights. This year there were 3 teams overall, down from 4 the last couple of years. The age group is slightly lower in number across clubs and contends with a high level of representative player mid-week trainings. Positive feedback was received about the 3-team format which included a bye giving teams a break some weeks.

For Junior League and Majors, the skills gap between teams was quite noticeable. The JCC, in consultation with coaches, split the Majors division after a full round to create a more even playing experience and a final for the second half of the division to create purpose for the remainder of the season.

The Friday night Senior League Competition saw four teams participating from all four Clubs. Seaside and Warringah worked together to create a combined squad, the Warsiders. I would like to congratulate the Senior League players who have completed their Junior Baseball careers and hope they continue with baseball in the Manly Senior Competitions.

We are always looking to improve the Manly Junior Competition. Three key areas for future focus have been identified by the JCC continue to be collaboratively working together to increase new player registrations and player retention (particularly post majors age); partnering with Manly Umpires to increase numbers and ongoing education, as well as coach development opportunities.

Congratulations to the following teams for being Minor Premiers at the conclusion of the Competition Rounds:

- LL Zooka Braves (Forest)
- LL Minor Stingrays (Pittwater)
- LL Major Whalers (Pittwater)
- Intermediate League Yankees
- Junior League Manta Rays (Pittwater)
- Senior League Sharks (Pittwater)

Congratulations to the Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Managers, Scorers, Pitch Counters, and the families involved with the Minor Premier teams.

Manly Warringah Baseball Club hosted the finals series. Congratulations to Matt Eisenhauer and the Manly Warringah Baseball club on running a successful finals series. St Matthews Farm Reserve was a great place to host junior games and Matt Eisenhauer worked hard to ensure Aquatic 1 was in perfect condition for the Senior League finals series.

Grand Final day brought sunshine and great baseball again this year. The opening ceremony was held to start the day with teams, officials, and spectators gathered.

Congratulations to the championship winners of the respective Grand Finals:

- LL Zooka Rockies (Forest)
- LL Minor Dodgers (Forest)
- Majors Eagles Narwhals (Pittwater)
- LL Major Whalers (Pittwater)
- Intermediate League Diamondbacks
- Junior League Manta Rays (Pittwater)
- Senior League Forest (Athletics)

Congratulations to all the Coaches, Assistant Coaches, Managers, Scorers, Pitch Counters, and the families involved with the Championship teams.

Congratulations to the Minor League and State League competitions on their respective seasons.

On behalf of the Manly Warringah Junior Baseball Committee, I thank the Manly Warringah District Baseball Association Committee, the Minor League Competition Committee and the State League Competition Committee, and the Manly Warringah Baseball Umpires Association for their support of the Manly Warringah Junior Competition, as coaches, mentors, umpires, parents, and supporters.

Congratulations to the clubs, their teams, team officials and importantly the parents for supporting the Manly Warringah Baseball Junior Competition by allowing their children to participate in this year's competition.

Julie Hogan
Chairperson

on behalf of the Manly Warringah Junior Competition Committee



JUNIOR REPRESENTATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT



MWDBA Jnr Reps – Committee Report 2025

The 2024/25 season was another highly successful year for Manly Junior Reps.

The winter development program saw 60 participants take part in a 6 week program focusing on baseball fundamentals. The program was supported by a number of experienced coaches and offered some of our younger State League players an opportunity to share their skills with younger players.

We entered 4 teams into the Greenies tournament over the October long weekend. Teams faced some quality opposition and received valuable experience against strong pitching and hitting. The Manly Minors were undefeated until the grand final placing 2nd, our 2 Manly Majors teams finished 3rd and 5th and our Junior League team finished 3rd.

Manly had a highly successful Sydney, Association & Gaynor Cup campaign, proudly represented in the U16 (x1), U14 (x2) and U12 (x3) age groups. Players and coaches were able to develop their skills and gain experience against quality teams in each age group. All three Manly Sydney Cup teams qualified for the Finals: the U12s won the Championship, U14s made the Semifinals and the U16s made the Grand Final. In the Association Cup Competition, the Manly U12 Maroon squad won the Championship. The Manly U12 White and U14 teams had competitive Association Cup campaigns and gained valuable experience. Manly entered one team into the inaugural BNSW Gaynor Cup Girls competition. The girls team represented Manly with pride, seeing strong growth as players throughout the competition. Special thanks to the coaches for providing this valuable experience.

In January, Manly was proud to enter one team into the inaugural BNSW Girls State Championships. The Manly Girls squad played strong qualifying for the semifinals.

February brought the Rookies Cup where Manly fielded 4 teams. Rookies Cup is where Manly's representative pathway begins and is always a great experience for the players, coaches and parents. This year Manly had 48 players who participated across 4 teams. All of the teams performed well and continued to build on the strong performance from the previous year. Manly Maroon finished with 1 win and a draw in some very close games, Manly White had 2 wins, Manly Grey 2 wins and Manly Blue went undefeated for the day with 4 wins. For many of these players this was their first time as a Manly Representative player and it was exciting to see so many talented girls and boys starting their baseball journey. It was also the first time coaching and being an EO for many of the teams, we appreciate the time and effort from all those involved.

The April 2025 All Star season saw Manly enter 6 teams across 4 different divisions in the State Championships. The highlight of the 2025 All Star season was Manly sending one team to Nationals, the Little League Majors Maroon team overcame a difficult schedule to qualify for the Grand Final. The Manly LL Majors team will play in the Australian Championships in June at Blacktown International Sportspark and we wish them the best of luck!

The Manly Junior League squad qualified for the Semifinals. The LL Minors Maroon, LL Minors White, LL Majors White (Dev) and the Senior League teams all put in a strong performance with some outstanding individual plays along with some amazing team moments.

All of these achievements are not done in isolation, but with the combined effort of the Manly community. We saw the joy players and families had in our social BBQ's and hat presentation. Our aim as a committee is to build the Manly community so we are a force to be reckoned with. In saying that, there are many people who devoted an extraordinary amount of time and effort into the program. A sincere and heartfelt thank you to all the coaches and assistant coaches who without we would not have a program. To the EO's, scorers, pitch counters and grounds crew we are so thankful and appreciate your expertise. Finally, thank you to the families who get the kids to games and training on time (and don't ask too often if it's shorts or pants!).

Upon reflection, the committee has worked hard to provide many amazing opportunities for development and competition with the assistance of our dedicated volunteers this season. We will continue to strive towards improvement and providing players, families and volunteers a positive experience in the Junior Rep Program.

The Junior Rep Committee

Carly Clarke (Treasurer)

Kate Murray (Uniforms)

Renee Phegan (Secretary)

Jayson Page (Rep Coordinator)



MINOR LEAGUE COMMITTEE REPORT

MINOR LEAGUE REPORT 2024-2025

Each year, as I sit down to reflect on the past 12 months of Minor League baseball, I'm once again reminded of the enormous contribution this program makes to the MWDBA and the broader baseball community. Minor League continues to thrive as a dynamic and inclusive environment, welcoming players of all abilities and stages of life. Over the past year, we delivered a full calendar of events, including the 2024 Winter competition, the 2024/25 Summer season, and the 2024/25 Masters Tournament.

This level of activity and impact would not be possible without the tireless efforts of the people behind the scenes. My sincere thanks go to Dave Tuckwell and Joe Weller (our Minor League Vice Presidents), and our dedicated Minor League Committee—Andrew Turner and Michelle Camphuis—as well as our Senior Coordinators, Matt Eisenhauer (Warringah), Chris Augustyn / Ben Blackshaw (Seasiders), John Farrant (Forest), and Mark Bernado (Pittwater). Their energy, commitment and leadership continue to be the backbone of our success.

We also mark a moment of transition this year, with John stepping in again briefly and Chris stepping down from their roles. On behalf of all of us, I want to extend heartfelt thanks for their invaluable contributions. At the same time, we are pleased to welcome Ben Blackshaw (Seasiders) to the team.

Weather and field conditions continue to challenge us, particularly during the winter months, but thanks to the unwavering efforts of our grounds crews—led by Joe Weller and supported by Matt Eisenhauer and Garry Coggan, at Rat Park—we've managed to keep baseball alive on many weekends when it might otherwise have been called off. Their work behind the scenes is essential and deeply appreciated.

Our Senior Coordinators play a vital role in bridging the gap between Minor League and the clubs, helping to embed senior baseball more strongly within the fabric of each club. With over 500 registered players, Minor League now represents a significant percentage of the MWDBA—a testament to its importance both in participation and in supporting the financial health of the Association.

Lastly, a very special thank you to our umpires. Under the coordination of Cheryl Amir, the Manly umpiring team has once again been instrumental in allowing our seasons to run smoothly. Cheryl's dedication to securing officials for games each week—particularly for Grand Finals—is deeply valued. Umpiring remains a key area of focus for us, and we continue to encourage our players to consider accreditation and take part in this essential aspect of the game.

Simon Lowde Trophy:

This year, the President's Award was proudly presented to Garry Coggan in recognition of his outstanding and ongoing contribution to Minor League. Garry's tireless efforts, particularly in maintaining the availability of the Rat Park diamonds, have been invaluable—often stepping in at the last minute to manage field changes brought on by unpredictable weather. His dedication behind the scenes has played a crucial role in keeping our competitions running smoothly, and we are incredibly grateful for his continued support.

Winter 2024

Winter 2024 saw ML run a 15 round home competition across 3 grades (1st, 2nd and 3rd grade), with 19 teams in total, (5 Teams in 1st Grade, 6 teams in 2nd Grade and 8 teams in 3rd grade). We had incredibly bad luck with the weather, with more than half the season rained out...shades of 2022! Despite this, the level of competition was terrific, particularly in 2nd grade, where 5 of the 6 teams were in the running right up until the last round and the 4th placed team ended up winning the GF. Well done to all the players for keeping their sense of humour throughout a very difficult season.

Grade Winners:

1st Grade:

Winners: Forest Mavericks

Runners Up: Pittwater Marlins

2nd Grade:

Winners: Forest Fighters

Runners up: Forest Smokies

3rd Grade:

Winners: TT Reds

Runners up: Seasider Hornets

Summer 2024/2025

In terms of player participation numbers, we suffered the lowest registration numbers in many years.. In particular, our summer numbers decreased 46% year-on-year and we are seeing that trend already continuing into the 25/26 winter season. This is almost exclusively an issue for the 1st grade competition, where we are struggling to both attract and keep the best younger players that come through the junior ranks, despite more parent/off-spring combinations playing together than ever. There don't seem to be any easy solutions and we are seeing the same trend in other Minor League competitions around Sydney. Our goal should be to retain every single U-16 player for at least one year in senior baseball however we are still a long way from that.

Minor League - Registered player numbers

Minor League	2017/18 (est)	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	% increase
Winter	250	257	258	273	304	226	253	247	-1%
Summer	100	111	133	172	210	174	193	104	4%
Masters	47	47	47	76	69	80	73	68	45%
F&F	0	0	0	0	0	0	43	0	
Total	397	415	438	521	583	480	562	419	6%

Aquatic
unplayable, 62
refunds

On a positive note, we fitted in a full season of 15 rounds, so the weather was relatively kind for once, with even the March grand finals being played in mid-30 degree heat.

Grade Winners

1st Grade: Not enough teams registered to form a competition

2nd Grade:

Winners: Forest Smokies

Runners Up: Sabres

3rd Grade:

Winners: Mosman Blue Whales

Runners Up: Forest Wahoos

Summer Masters 2024/25 (Over 35's)

Our Summer Masters competition under lights continues to be a popular event on the ML calendar. The competition started earlier than usual this year (November) and was played exclusively on Aquatic 1 on Monday nights, with 6 participating teams. As always, the on-field action was more than matched by the after-game bragging and drinks!

The GF was, once again, an all Forest affair, with the Mud Hens superior offensive firepower winning out after an initial tight tussle.

Winners: Forest Mud Hens

Runners Up: Forest Owls

Our Future:

As we (im)patiently wait for the long promised remediation work to start on Aquatic 2 & 3, we eagerly look forward to next summer where we hope to be able to offer 4 first class diamonds in A1, A2, A3 & Rat Park 1. The next step will be to lobby for game lighting on those fields also, which will allow us to offer more training and game time and hopefully attract the sort of player numbers that we were planning for in our 5 year Strategic Plan. That means we will need an increased focus on a 1st grade competition, a large umpiring pool and more volunteers willing to manage teams and help with ground set-ups. There is always room for enthusiastic helpers in Minor League, so drop us a note if you have some spare time and we will welcome you into the fold with open arms.

Helen Wyatt

Minor League President 2025



INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE REPORT

MWDBA INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE AGM REPORT 2024/25

The MWDBA Infrastructure Committee (MIC) was formed by the MWDBA Board in August 2021 with a charter to:

- Identify, prepare and keep updated a list of infrastructure requirements for the ongoing development of the sport of baseball within the Association
- Liaise with and lobby Northern Beaches Council (NBC) and the State Government to gain the appropriate funding resources for the delivery of that infrastructure.

The Committee comprises of one delegate from each of Forest, Pittwater, Seaside, Warringah and Manly Eagles baseball clubs.

The MIC has continued to jointly work with NBC on the agreed priority major projects, being:

1. Improved drainage on Aquatic Diamond 1
2. Recapping, drainage and releveling of Aquatic Diamond 2, 3, 4 & 5

Aquatic 1 (main diamond)

Northern Beaches Council invested in excess of \$100,000 in July 2024 in installing new slit drainage on both the A1 infield and outfield, to ensure the ground is more weather resilient. Slit drainage is a method of using narrow trenches filled with sand, gravel and pipe to remove unwanted water from any grassed surface. The upgrade made a huge difference to the playability of A1 over the summer season.

Aquatic 2,3,4 & 5 (senior & junior diamonds)

In May '25, a project that has been led for nearly 4 years by the MWDBA Infrastructure Committee, in planning with Council, finally commenced to re-grade the four diamonds that are the home of Forest Baseball Club and MW Minor League.

The scope of works includes levelling the playing field surface to ensure a standardised grade to improve drainage and remove ponding, with approximately 3,500 cubic meters of new topsoil brought in.

Existing dugouts, diamonds and back & perimeter fencing will also be upgraded at a total cost of around \$1.7m. The project will take at least 4 months to complete and represents a major investment by Council in our sport.

In time, and subject to gaining the required funding grants, we have additional plans to install infield irrigation, slit drainage and game quality lighting, to turn Aquatic Reserve into one of the premium baseball facilities in NSW for both juniors and seniors.

Batting Cages

In July '24, MWDBA replaced the old shredded nets in the batting cages adjacent to A1 at a cost of \$14,000, making the cages safer to use. The cages are now locked, with a booking system in place.

The MIC is also in the exploratory design phase of an enclosed/covered Batting Cage area to replace the existing facility. There are many approval barriers (not to mention funding

challenges) associated with such a facility, so this one is definitely a longer term project!

We look forward to bringing further good news to our baseball stakeholders over the coming year.



Thank You

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