



Bunbury & Districts Softball Association Inc

Annual Report 2018-2019 season

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Incorporation Number: A1000029X

ABN : 66 951 583 866

Club Restricted Liquor Licence: 6190076414

Overview:

Bunbury and Districts Softball Association Inc. is a non-profit, volunteer run organisation and are affiliated with Softball's state body, Softball WA.

Bunbury and Districts Softball Association (BADSA) season historically runs from mid October each year to the end of March the following year, with a four week break over the Christmas/ New Year period.

This report covers the period of the Association's 2018/19 season and our financial year which is from May 1st 2018 to the 30th April 2019. The 2018/19 softball season commenced on October 20th 2018.

The Softball Pavilion was officially opened on the 1st of August 2017 by Hon. Michael (Mick) Murray MLA, Minister for Seniors and Ageing; Volunteering; Sport and Recreation. BADSA would like to thank the Shire of Dardanup staff for their continued help, support and guidance during this first full year of operation.

Key Focus Areas

Governance:

This past year presented many challenges not the least was filling all positions on the Board of Management. For a large part of the season the Board operated with limited human resources which had a impact on some of the operational areas. BADSA's information statement lodged as required by the Incorporated Associations Act.

The Board of Management continued to educate members on the requirements of the Working with Children legislation. The association's dedicated Working with Children Check coordinator provides monthly reports to the Board as required.

Membership:

Overall membership of the association remained at very similar levels as in the past with total senior membership numbers at 217. Junior Softball & Tee Ball membership increased slightly from 271 in 17/18 to 290 this past year.

At the annual wind up BADSA awarded Life Membership to the husband and wife team of Nathan and Lia Smith for their outstanding and significant contribution to the association over many years.

Softball Facility:

During the year the association experienced several incidents of vandalism to the facility. These unfortunate events has seen outside tap stolen, car park lights smashed and required erected signage torn down along with several incidents of graffiti over the building doors. Apart from the car park lights all have been rectified by BADSA and or the Shire.

In April 2019 BADSA installed a PA system in the function room which has been well received by users of the facility.

Soft fall rubber covered with astro turf cut outs were installed around home plate on both playing diamonds during the association's Christmas/New Year recess. This was required to protect the safety of players when sliding into home. Further installation of cut outs around the bases (hire wear & tear areas) will be required in the very near future to address player safety concerns. Prior to the coming season permanent pitching mats will need to be installed on both diamonds. Cut outs around the bases and permanent pitching mats are common standard requirements for diamond sports.

The softball pavilion continues to be utilised by various community groups as well as individual community members. The facility is hired on a permanent basis Tuesdays, Thursday's and Sunday afternoons during each school term. All the local softball Clubs use the facility to hold their annual presentation nights and AGM's. Various other function

Promotion and Participation:

The Association was fortunate again to have the WA State Open Men's Team (The Western Blaze) visit to participate in an exhibition game in December 2018

Local BADSA player, Nastassya Buswell was selected in the WA State Team to compete in the U19 Women's National Championship held in Blacktown in January 2019.

Also participating in our local competition is Australian representative, Brendon O'Byrne along with State Open men's players Mathew Beckett, Mark Harris, Jack Bert, Sam Beattles and Nathan Brown to name a few.

In June 2018 BADSA had two representative teams compete in the annual Geraldton Women's carnival.

Inter Association games against Rockingham were held at the Eaton Softball Pavilion on February 2019

One of our local Club teams participated in the underage championships that were held in Perth in March 2018.

Training and Development:

Two BADSA appointed members obtained Restricted Approved Managers Licences along with several BADSA appointed members who obtained their RSA certificates to ensure all bar staff comply with the requirements of the Liquor Act.

One on one and group skills sessions for juniors were conducted by Coach's from the Perth Softball Academy in November 2017.

With the assistance of Softball WA's Participation & Development Officer and members of the State Open Men's team a further skills clinic for juniors took place on Sunday December 10th with some 40 odd children in attendance, once again this was a successful day in helping to improve the skills and knowledge of our junior members.

Financials:

A focus on better purchasing practices along with the increased use of the facility by community members plus minimal capital expenditure resulted in the association recording a financially pleasing result. The 2018/19 financial year audited accounts (copy attached) of the Association show an annual turnover in excess of \$124k resulting in a net cash surplus of sum \$32k.

Now that the association has experienced a full financial year of income and expenditure further refining of the budget will follow.

Over the years of its operation the Association has developed sound, prudent and transparent financial management processes. These process and the overall financial health of the organisation, is and will continue to be, a major focus for the BADSA Board of management.

Items to Note

As mentioned previously cut outs were installed around home plate but further installation of permanent pitching mats & dirt cut outs around bases will be needed.

The installation of cut outs is common practice on softball (and baseball) fields nationally and internationally.

There are two main areas' where ball's that fly off the bat, over the playing field fencing could result in damage to property and or personnel.

One is behind home plate where balls have landed on Recreation Drive and in the car park. There are signs warning people about parking in the car park while games are in progress; however this is seen as an inconvenience to people attending the pavilion and particularly to those with a disability.

Fortunately to date no cars travelling along Recreation Drive has been hit but there have been several near misses. Balls have also ended up in the front yards of the houses on Recreation Drive adjacent to the Softball Pavilion.

The other area where balls have narrowly missed community members is at the playground/BBQ facility. Several of these came dangerously close to people using the playground and BBQ's. This could have resulted in injury to children playing in the play ground or to parents.

Another item of concern is the grassed area between both diamonds adjacent to the part of the facility that faces the football oval. This area is popular with spectators as thye can observe both games however there is no protection from the sun or fly balls from both diamonds. BADSA is exploring possible options (shade sails etc) that might address both these issues however to date the costs associated with implementing suggested solutions has halted ant further progress.

Yours in Softball

Megan Scott
President