



## 2013 NSW Women's Invitational Tournament

### Day 1. Aquatic Reserve.

#### Division 1.

Welcome to day 1 of the Invitational. Weather: Very hot and humid. Some highly skilled play was anticipated but not to the extent that was shown on Friday. In Division 1, Ryde came out for the first game and in a hard fought match where they were leading by a single run (7-6) managed a win over Blacktown eventually getting up 11 – 6.

**Game 2** saw Ryde up against the Melbourne Wolverines. Ryde jumped to the lead and at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> were leading 3-0. Melbourne came back in the 3<sup>rd</sup> with some strong hitting but Ryde maintained the lead 5-4 going into the 4<sup>th</sup>. Ryde batted well with 3 runs to lead 8-4 but Melbourne came back with 5 themselves to win the game 9-8 in what was the match of the day.

**Game 3**, Melbourne Wolverines backed up in the second match of their double header against Central Coast Marlins. Marlins led 2 -0 at the end of the first and through the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Melbourne came out swinging and scored 8 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> to only 1 by Marlins to take the lead 8-3. With singles in the next 2 innings followed by 7 in the 6<sup>th</sup> innings, the final result was Melbourne 17 over Marlins 3.

**Game 4.** The last game of the day was Central Coast Marlins playing the 2<sup>nd</sup> of the double header games up against Baulkham Hills. After 2 innings it was 1-1. Baulkham Hills scored 4 to only 1 by Marlins to take the lead 5-2. Both teams scored a single each in the 5<sup>th</sup> which finished at 6-3 to Baulkham Hills. Marlins then scored 4 in the 6<sup>th</sup> innings to Baulkham Hills 2, but the result went to Baulkham Hills with a very tight 8-7 win.

#### Division 2.

This is the first year that a Division 2 competition has been run and it was tightly contested first up game with the young Central Coast Marlins taking the match over Blacktown 7-6.

**Game 2.** Marlins backed up in the double header against the somewhat unknown ACT team. ACT were a batting powerhouse scoring 7, 6 and 6 to take the game 19-0.

**Game 3.** Hawkesbury v Act was a much anticipated game and the match-ups looked like the game would be very close. ACT held the Hawks to 1 run only in the 1<sup>st</sup> then went in to bat and hit 3. Again ACT pressured Hawkesbury and kept them scoreless through the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> while managing to post 4 runs followed by another 7 in the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Result 14- 1 to ACT proving that they would be the team to beat in Div 2.

**Game 4.** Hawkesbury played against Greenway in the final game of the day. Two Sydney B Grade teams who know each other's game well. Score 2-2 at the bottom of the 1<sup>st</sup> and through the 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Hawks scored 4 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> innings to lead 6-2. Greenway managed to reply with 3 in the 4<sup>th</sup> innings to be behind by 1 run only 6-5 but Hawkesbury finished off with 4 themselves to win 10-5.

**Day2. Saturday.** Outlook. Hot with late thunderstorms forecasted.

#### **Division 1.**

**Game 1.** Another highly anticipated matchup and Blacktown were ahead 6-3 at the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> after some very big hitting. Blacktown managed a single to lead 7-3 in the top of the 4<sup>th</sup> but again Melbourne hit very well bringing 5 home to take the game 8-7 in one that Blacktown let slip through their fingers.

**Game 2.** With every team playing 1 double header round in the tournament it was Blacktown's turn and they played their 2<sup>nd</sup> game of the day against Central Coast Marlins. Marlins managed 1 in the 1<sup>st</sup> with Blacktown going to the lead 3-1 going into the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Marlins hit 6 in the next while Blacktown scored 1 to be down 4-7 going into the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Marlins kept Blacktown scoreless in the next while adding 2 more to their tally. 9-4 to Marlins. Marlins again hit well to score 9 more in the 4<sup>th</sup> which Blacktown could only reply with 4. Marlins 18-8 over Blacktown going into the 5<sup>th</sup>. Blacktown was held to 2 only in the 5<sup>th</sup> with Marlins winning 20-8.

**Game 3.** Last game for the day in Div 1 saw Baulkham Hills, the home team against Ryde. Ryde played probably the most awesome women's game seen played in Sydney scoring 3, 2, 4, 3 while preventing Baulkham Hills from registering any score. Result 12-0 to Ryde.

#### **Division 2.**

Greenway v Marlins to start the day. This was a very close game. Marlins up 2-1 at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup>. Greenway taking the lead 8-2 at the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Marlins fight back with 7 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> to be down only 10-9 going into the 4<sup>th</sup>. Marlins again scored 7 in the 4<sup>th</sup> innings to lead 16-10 then they held Greenway who scored 2 runs to win the game 16-12.

**Game 2.** It was Greenways turn to play the double header round and came up against the strong ACT team. Greenway lead off and scored a double but ACT replied with 7 to be up 7-2 after the 1<sup>st</sup>. Greenway scored 5 in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and held ACT to 3. ACT lead 10-7. ACT pitchers held Greenway scoreless in the next innings and then scored 6 more to take the match 16-7.

**Game 3.** Blacktown v Hawkesbury. This was expected to be a close game but Hawkesbury simply came out and hit everything while their pitchers kept Blacktown scoreless until the last where they put on 6 runs. Hawks hit 6, 7, 7 then 5 to take a tremendous 25-6 win against strong opposition. This result setup what should be the match of the Day on day 3, with Hawkesbury Hawks v the unbeaten ACT.

**Day 3. Sunday.** From 40 degree heat to rain bucketing down. For the second year, Aquatic lived up to its name and we were just about able to swim around in the infield. The magpies took over the

dugouts and sat their looking for a bit of a respite from the rain. After much searching around for fields to play on it was decided to postpone the day and hope for better conditions on Monday.

The Manly association did absolutely everything to try to get the ground fit for play but even with their efforts, it just wasn't possible to beat the weather.

Late ground inspections at various other venues didn't look very promising and it was decided to pack up and very reluctantly move everything to Hawkesbury's home ground at Richmond.

**Day 3: at Aquatic: All games postponed due to rain.**

**Day 4. Richmond.** Weather prediction:- Rain, more rain, high winds with gusts to approx 70-100kph.

The Richmond ground did have some rain overnight but it was decided to commence play with a slight drizzle coming down. Everyone had to play on the back junior diamonds, full grass fields, no mounds etc. There wasn't a single complaint from the players and they just wanted to get out there and have a game.

The home club, Hawkesbury Hawks with notice at 8PM Sunday night, had 2 fields ready to go at 8.30 AM Monday. Full canteen facilities were up and going for breakfast. The program for the day was to play all remaining Round Games from Sunday then go into Finals for both divisions abandoning the 3 v 4 playoffs due to insufficient time. Match times were reduced from 2 ¼ hours to 1 ¾ hours to fit the rescheduled round games in on the day.

**Division 1.**

Ryde v Central Coast. Ryde jumped out to a 4-0 lead looking very strong. The 2<sup>nd</sup> saw this lead go out to 6-1 then 6-2 after the 3<sup>rd</sup> innings. Central Coast hit back with 3 in the next innings to be down by 1 only 6-5 going into the 5<sup>th</sup> innings. Neither team scored in the 5<sup>th</sup> with the game finishing at 6-5 in favour of Ryde.

**Game 2.** Baulkham Hills v Blacktown. Baulkham Hills needed to win this game to have any chance of making the finals. Baulkham Hills took the lead 1-0 at the bottom of the 3<sup>rd</sup> innings. Blacktown evened the score at 1-1 at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> in a very tight game. In the 5<sup>th</sup>, Blacktown hit 4 and then managed to hold Baulkham Hills and finished the game with a 5-1 win. The Blacktown side looked back at what could have been, with 2 loses by a single run only after being in front going into the last innings.

**Game 3.** The rain increased in intensity from the slight drizzle to a more substantial and constant rainfall. It was a 3 way struggle between Ryde, Baulkham Hills and Melbourne to see who would play in the 2.30 PM scheduled final. Unfortunately the grounds just couldn't take the rain as it further increased in intensity. The match was abandoned.

The final was scheduled to be played at 2.30 PM with a ground inspection to be done at 1.30. It was decided to move from the present field to No2 but this was by now too rain affected. Although Diamond 1 was covered as a preventative measure, there was too much rain falling and the grounds were closed. Our much anticipated finals games simply could not go ahead.

## **Division 2.**

ACT v Blacktown. ACT came out hitting again scoring 6, 2 then 7 to take the game over Blacktown 0, 0, 5 in a rain shortened game. ACT win by 15-5.

Game 2. Blacktown v Greenway. Both teams scored two in the 1<sup>st</sup> innings and then Greenway out scored Blacktown 4-1 in the second to take a 6-3 win in a rain shortened match.

The game of the day with the two top teams to meet, ACT and Hawkesbury, was abandoned due to rain and unfortunately we were not able to see what undoubtedly would have been the match where ACT were pushed to their limit. As above, no further competition was possible due to the grounds not being fit for play.



## Winners and Presentations:

In Division 1, due to the rain it had to be declared a "first past the post" in the round games and here Melbourne Wolverines took the trophy from Ryde in 2<sup>nd</sup> place. This was decided by a count-back with both teams on equal points, then down to a head to head result from the round game between them. Match result was a 1 run win to Melbourne. This final if it could have been played would have been one of the best women's baseball games in the nation and a most fitting final for the Invitational tournament of 2013.

Beside the trophy, the Melbourne team also took home the \$1,200.00 Division 1 First Prize. Photos will hopefully be on the web site on Monday evening.

Congratulations to Melbourne for your win, a very much deserved performance.

Division 2 saw the NSW teams again out of the major placing with ACT being undefeated in the round games. The ACT side were an awesome batting team, hitting very big and most certainly very consistently. Again the final in this division would most certainly have been the game of the round in Division 2, with the very strong Hawkesbury team sure to give ACT a run for the money. It was unfortunate that these 2 teams could not come up against each other during the round games. Next year, both teams will be looking for a rematch I am sure. Results for Division 2: Winners ACT. Runners Up, here we saw joint Runners Up with the very young Central Coast Marlins performing superbly and joining Hawkesbury Hawks in 2<sup>nd</sup> place.

The trophy and prize money of \$600.00 went to ACT for their performance and it was a very deserved win. Again, photos will be on the web as soon as they can.

### Our Sponsors:

- Gary White's Diamond One Baseball and Softball Specialists at Miranda
- Ashleigh Ross' Red Stitches Baseball and Softball Specialists at Waitara
- Service with a Smile Vending.

We could not even think about conducting this event, the premier women's club baseball tournament in Australia without your support. These companies have provided us with prizes for the teams, baseball for all games, prizes for our guessing competitions, water for the umpires, scorers and volunteers. To all of you, a very big thank you for your help in putting this event on for all of the players.

**Our Advertisers:** Grahame Cassel at Hills Indoor Batting Centre and Premier Awards and Trophies, thank you for your support. Every piece of advertising helps the prize pool and this event certainly gives that income straight back to those who put on the show for us, i.e. you the players. To Charlie Straumietis our photographer, for your 4 days of running around at the fields taking shots of every

game, then going back and working until well into the night editing prints for us to post to the web sites for the players to see. Thank you and I would ask everyone to visit Charlie's web site, look at some of the magnificent shots that have been captured, and think about adding some of these wonderful photos to your family collection.

As has been said over the PA many times throughout the weekend, please support those who support us in women's baseball.

**Our Volunteers:** No amateur sport can be conducted without this very large group of enthusiastic and very highly trained people who give up their time unquestioningly. They are there before anyone else and are most often the last to leave at the end of the day. They put up with extremes of the weather and while some others are out basking in the sunlight enjoying the holiday weekend, this group of dedicated people work mostly behind the scenes so that you can show your skills on the field. I cannot say thank you enough to the whole group who teamed together to put this event in place for you. Special mention must be made to our umpires, John Bailey from the NSWBUA, our UIC, who prepared the appointments and was the technical guru quietly working behind the scenes. Elaine Teasdale, the NSW Scorers Co-ordinator and her staff, statistical experts and again without Elaine there would not have been a tournament to play. The Tournament Organising Committee, Sandy Edwards (sponsorship, advertising and marketing), Debra Martin (Financial Controller), Stan Robson (Event Scheduling), Lindsay Eden (web site, Facebook, ground announcer) helpers on the day, Georgia (scoresheet runner, ticket seller) and many others far too many to list, thank you for all of your efforts. You are all very, very much appreciated.

**Our Hosts Manly Warringah District Baseball Association and Hawkesbury Hawks Baseball Club:** These two organisations without any doubt need much more than a special mention.

**At Manly:** Jeff Bertram, Bob Fox, Maureen Bertram and the many other people involved were an absolute joy to work with. If only everyone in life was as easy and helpful to work with as these wonderful people were. Planning for this event wasn't only a day or two in advance. This has been ongoing for many weeks with the WLSC and Manly committees looking at everything from grounds, maintenance, safety, medical, canteen, financial considerations, alternative venues in the event of weather etc.

When the rain came down it was decided to do a final ground inspection at 3PM Sunday and if the rain had stopped, Manly were willing to get out the graders and scrape off the top layer of dirt, break up the surfaces so that it could dry out, then relay fresh dry dirt over the whole area. These are not just cut-outs as you see at the local fields, here we are looking at the complete professional baseball field layout and on both diamonds 1 and 2. This was proposed to be done under lights at night, then dressed in the morning for you to play on. An extreme effort in anyone's terms but something that Manly were willing to do for us.

Unfortunately the rain beat us and the decision was made to pack our bags and move to the lower mountains area at Richmond.

**At Richmond:** Ground inspections at Richmond at 7- 8PM Sunday night saw some hope, that without overnight rain and with some compromises, the games should be able to be continued there. A massive effort by Mark Inskip and his workers saw us ready to go with an 8.30 AM start on Monday.

Again these few words do not do justice to the massive effort that was put in to get the grounds from their rest state over the holiday break back to playable condition in less than 12 hours overnight. Canteen was available, again with no notice, and our thanks certainly do go out to the Hawkesbury Hawks Club members for staffing the BBQ and canteen on the Monday holiday so that the tournament could proceed. What can we say to the Hawkesbury Club, thank you again and hopefully we can find some way to express our gratitude for your assistance.

**The Tournament:** This Invitational event is to the best of our knowledge the highest paid women's baseball tournament in Australia and possibly even further abroad than that. More importantly it brings together the top women's players from all around the country at this same time every year. This year we saw some of the very best players from NSW, Vic, WA, ACT and Queensland as part of your preparation for the National Championships. 2013 was a milestone year as it also saw the introduction of the next group of Australia's best, the juniors at 13 thru 17 not only in the Division 2 event but now we see these future stars filtering into the premier Division 1 competition. Credit must be given to those who have gone before us who saw the necessity, and the opportunities which could be created for the players and officials from such an event. They had the foresight to deliver this event to the baseball calendar in 2010 and we are now seeing the results of this development. Thank you from everyone involved in women's baseball.

For the 2014 Invitational, we are seeing enquiries from Japan, Mexico and Korea which can only make this tournament even stronger than it is today and planning has already begun for this.

Lastly, I would like to sincerely thank you the players, coaches and team followers. This tournament has been played in the most sportsmanlike manner that I have ever experienced. You played in the heat and dust, you played in the rain, schedules changed, fields changed, you pitched on the flat, you moved 2 hours west from Manly and accommodation at Narrabeen to Richmond, and every other possible conceivable thing that was thrown up in the last 4 days without a complaint. Yes we had questions, rules discussions, interpretations and things that needed to be attended to, but, not one single complaint. This just goes to show the dedication that you have to your sport and your families playing in that sport. It has been my honour to be able to be a part of this event and thank you for allowing me to share this with you.

Hopefully I'll see every one of you (plus others) at the 2014 Invitational which will no doubt be bigger and better than this year.

Yours in baseball,

Brian Delavere

2013 Tournament Organising Committee