



2019 Season reports

Director's report – Kat Macann

The league continued to go strong this year with 51 teams across 6 divisions, however with three fewer teams than last year we were unable to sustain the additional Minors 4 division we added in 2018. Around 380 games were played, with 11,333 runs scored. We saw tight finishes in several divisions, with play-offs required in a few cases. A full list of division winners and runner ups is below.

One of the changes we made this year was to introduce trial inclusive rules for non-binary players. Thank you to High Voltage for raising this pre-season and helping us develop the rules. We've received generally positive feedback regarding the rules and will be proposing that a version of these are formally adopted by the league, subject to a review of some details over the winter.

Another change was to introduce a new Softball 101 session in south London, which Paul has reported on below. We continued to run our usual tournaments and events – All Stars day saw a great turnout of players and supporters enjoying the late September sun.

A small number of technical and conduct issues were formally reported to the committee and dealt with by the technical officer and director, with some decisions appealed to a sub-committee. We responded to all these issues within a the target timeframe and have kept a summary of decisions in inform future committee decision-making.

Behind the scenes, the committee has been working on plans for a new website and started discussing some other ideas for improving our organisational structure and governance. More on this later when we come to the proposed constitutional changes.

This was my last year as director – I've enjoyed my time on the committee and the opportunities this has offered to help sustain and strengthen our league. I'm proud of what the committee has achieved over the last few years and, while I'm a little sad to be stepping down, I'm confident the league will be in good hands – we have a great bunch of people running for next year's committee, bringing a good amount of experience as well as fresh energy and ideas.

Thanks to everyone on the committee for their hard work behind the scenes, and to all team captains and organisers for the work they put in.

End of Season survey feedback – themes:

Lower response rate than previous years, but we still heard from 173 people.

Satisfaction ratings:

- Players rated happiness with their overall playing experience as 4.4 out of 5 stars



- Lower satisfaction ratings for grounds (3.8/5) and umpiring (3.6/5) but those ratings are in line with feedback in the last few seasons
- Tournament satisfaction ratings were the highest they have been in the last few years

Themes in comments:

- Several comments from captains with ideas for ways to source ringers
- Most negative comments related to grounds or umpiring standards
- Issues raised with tournament after party venues, mainly that service was too slow.
- Tournament venues – positive and negative comments about both venues, but weighted more positively in favour of Regents Park (barring issues with batters boxes)
- What works well: Several comments about the league being inclusive, well organised, good standard of play, sense of community
- Priorities for the future: Grounds and umpiring again, scheduling, development and bringing in new players

We asked some specific questions this year on umpiring – qualification levels, confidence of umpires, views on changing umpiring requirements: This feedback will be shared with an umpiring working group to look at over the winter.

Umpiring – Liz Knight

This season 146 Umpires went through Umpire training. 4 Bronze courses were delivered, 4 Silver courses were planned but only 3 ran due to late withdrawals and 1 Gold course (BASU qualifier). Thanks to Mike Jennings from BASU who delivered the Gold course.

Based on previous feedback some midweek courses for Bronze and Silver were offered. This worked well with bronze and had mixed success with Silver.

Some course participants took up the Umpire Mentoring Programme offer although we would like to put more focus back on this in 2020.

Umpiring was a common theme in the end of season survey and as a result we will be setting up a working group over the off season.

Development – Paul Beaumont

Softball 101 North went really well this year, we had good turnouts with an average of 20-30 people per session. One new team formed from the sessions called 'Battitude', who had a fantastic start – the team entered GLSML Lastball tournament and came 2nd, then came 3rd in the Publisher's Tournament and were also plate runners-up in the Cotswolds Autumn Tournament. Thanks to all the volunteers who have supported Softball 101 North: Ryan Turtill, Liam Morrison, Claire Read, Lizi Josypenko, Liz Knight, Kim Comer, Whitney Hollis and Lukas Kelly.

This season we started a new Softball 101 South session on Friday nights. Thanks to Lukas Kelly, Matt De Lima, and Stephen Lord who helped at the development sessions at Colliers Wood. The



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sessions had between 5-10 people, including new players to the game, to the league and inexperienced players looking to develop further.

The sessions covered the fundamental softball techniques of throwing, catching and hitting; along with the basic rules of the game. These were then used in game situations to help the players turn the techniques into skills and improve their decision making on the field.

The GLSML also supported the end of season Girls' Game, organised by Claire Read and Lizi Josypenko. Claire and Lizi have organised this event for the last couple of years and done an amazing job – this year was the biggest yet with enough players turning for three teams. The teams played a mini round robin, with coaching sessions for the non-playing team in each round. Liz Knight, Sara 'Dizzy' Vertigan and Kat Macann helped with umpiring and coaching.

Tournaments – Steve Karmeinsky

As usual we held two GLSML tournaments this year, Firstball at Regents Park and Lastball at Wormwood Scrubs. Both were successful and people seemed in the majority to enjoy them.

There are issues with both venues and if we continue to use them, we will try and address these going forwards i.e. field spacing / holes in batters' boxes at Regents Park and bad field marking and lack of toilets at Wormwood Scrubs.

The league is always keen to find new locations to hold tournaments (within London, near a tube station and large enough to hold at least 10 fields) so if anyone has any suggestions do get in touch.



2019 Awards

Outstanding Contribution to the GLSML

New award introduced this year to recognise individuals who have made a significant contribution on or off the field.

- Dan Armstrong
- Jenny Fromer
- Ryan Turtill

Team awards

- Minors Best Defence: **Brew Jays**
- Minors Best Offence: **Pimlico Parrots**
- Majors Best Defence: **Oddsox**
- Majors Best Offence: **Pimlico Pirates**
- Team spirit / Fair play award: **Golden Sombreros**

Division Winners and Runners Up

Minors Div 3
Winner: Pimlico Parrots
Runner Up: Brew Jays (following 3-way play-off)
Minors Div 2
Winner: The Mafia
Runner Up: Pimlico Buccaneers
Minors Div 1
Winner: Game of Throws
Runner Up: Soft Boiled
Majors Div 3
Winner: Pimlico Pirates
Runner Up: Oddsox
Majors Div 2
Joint winners: Base Invaders and Beyond Bermuda Guns
Majors Div 1
Winner: Mescalitos
Runner Up: Coyotes