



2025 SEASON OFFICER REPORTS

Director's Report - Jon Clanton

Registration for the 2025 season opened on the 26th of February. 51 teams registered this season, the most we've had in the post-COVID era. We welcomed two new teams this year - the London Asteroids, who joined the league in Majors 3, and the Base Bandits dev squad team, who joined in Minors 3.

The addition of these teams brought div3 to 9 teams, and div6 to 10. As in other years with large divisions, the extra teams (and extra games) led to a longer season and resulted in complications with scheduling. Looking ahead to the 2026 season, we will add the 2025 dev squad team, Glove Island - bringing us to a total of 52 teams, 1 shy of our record season in 2018.

The season officially kicked off at the end of April and ran over 16 weeks. We had an overall smooth season, aside from a few rainouts. The London Asteroids got off to an impressive start, going unbeaten and winning their division in their first year. Below is the list of winners and runners-up for each division:

- **Division 1**
Winners: Mescalitos
Runners-Up: Meteors Black
- **Division 2**
Winners: LNZ
Runners-Up: Mezcalitos Nino's
- **Division 3**
Winners: London Asteroids
Runners-Up: Oblivion
- **Division 4**
Winners: Fly Ballers
Runners-Up: Diamond Dogs
- **Division 5**
Winners: Knights
Runners-Up: Bat to the Future
- **Division 6**
Winners: Bangers & Smash
Runners-Up: Tecumsehs

Outgoing roles:

Tiernan Evans, Fixtures.

Tiernan joined the committee in 2023, taking on what most consider to be the hardest job in LSL. Handling the scheduling for 50+ teams over 16 weeks (nearly 400 games!), dealing with rainouts and reschedules, tournament scheduling - Tiernan never batted an eye and got on with the job.

Thank you Tiernan, for all of your hard work the past few years. And thank you for leaving us your magic spreadsheets that make the schedules - now we just have to hope we can actually figure out how to use them!

We wish Tiernan all the best and look forward to seeing her around on her (hopefully) frequent visits!

Dani Arashida, Development Officer.

Dani joined the committee in 2024 as the new development officer alongside Marty. Taking over the development role is no easy task - it's one of the few roles on the committee that require a regular weekly commitment all season long.

In her first year, Dani primarily focused on working with Marty to ensure continuity of the 101 program. After a successful first season, Dani and Marty decided to split the role to try and achieve something that has long been discussed - expansion of the development program by adding a 102 course. Dani took the lead on setting up 102, aimed at experienced players who want to continue developing their skills. As with any new program, there are plenty of places we can improve, but I'm incredibly thankful to Dani for taking the leap and building a whole new program for LSL.

Thank you so much for all of your hard work over the past few years, Dani.

Majors Report - Dana Granville and Dan Ferguson

Majors 3:

The biggest story of Majors 3 in 2025 was without a doubt The Asteroids, who delivered one of the most dominant Majors 3 campaigns in league history in their very first year on the LSL scene. A perfect 16–0 record, 374 runs scored, and a +187 run differential made their promotion a foregone conclusion. They will be joined in Majors 2 by Oblivion, who secured second place with a strong 10–6 finish and held off a crowded mid-table battle.

The Base Invaders and the Pimlico Buccaneers both finished 9–7, continuing their reputations as two of Majors 3's most competitive teams. Raiders Blue claimed fifth place with an 8–7–1 record, bolstered by 318 runs scored—one of the most potent offences in the division.

The Dazzlers recorded a 6–8–2 season, finishing sixth despite a near-even run differential, and hanging on to their Majors status for 2026. Just behind them were Game of Throws, whose 6–9–1 season featured multiple close contests but ultimately left them short of a mid-table push.

Base Jumpers finished with a 4–10–2 record, showing improvement on both sides of the ball

but not quite enough consistency to stay in Majors 3 for 2026. The Cheetahs endured a difficult season, finishing 1–15 and scoring just 189 runs. They will be looking to regroup in 2026 after a tough campaign.

Majors 2:

Majors 2 once again proved brutally competitive with 2024's relegated teams LNZ and Ninos slugging it out for top spot in the division. Ninos started quickly out of the gate and were one of the last undefeated teams standing in the league. LNZ came storming back in the second half of the season. Their 12–2 record and dominant +141 run differential sent them right back to Majors 1 for 2026. Close behind were Niño's, who posted an impressive 11–3 season with 295 runs scored (the highest total in the division) and earned the second promotion place.

The Pirates remained firmly in the Majors 2 elite by finishing third with a 10–4 record and a +25 run differential. Raiders Gold rounded out the top half, continuing their strong multi-year run with a 9–5 season and 260 runs scored.

SPAM and Soft Boiled both finished 5–9, but both teams had bright spots as well. SPAM's 273 runs scored showed off their trademark offensive punch, and both did just enough to secure their Majors 2 status for 2026.

Below them, BBG Muppets and Private I's endured difficult seasons, each finishing 2–12. Despite flashes of competitive play, both teams ultimately fell behind the pack and will be heading to Majors 3 in 2026.

Majors 1:

For the first time since 2021, The Mescalitos reclaimed their place at the top of Majors 1 with a commanding 12–2 record, pairing a relentless offence with the league's stingiest defence. Their 278 runs scored and just 136 conceded made them worthy champions. Meteors Black finished runners-up with a strong 9–5 season, while The Mob completed their sophomore Majors 1 campaign with another top-three finish, going 8–5 with a +43 run differential. Right behind them were Mouse Rat, who posted a respectable 7–7 season anchored by a disciplined defence that allowed just 201 runs.

MI6 also finished 7–7 but did win Platinum club nationals, and will be looking to bounce back in the LSL standings in 2026. The Fuzzy Ducks, just up from Majors 2 in 2025, avoided being sent right back down with a 5–9 record, scoring enough key wins to keep themselves safely afloat.

The biggest drama came at the bottom of the table as a three-way battle to stay afloat unfolded. Perennial Majors 1 team Coyotes struggled late in the season, and will be heading to Majors 2 in 2026 alongside Odd Sox, who will be returning to Majors 2 after just one year in the top flight.

Minors Report - Riki Sharma

Minors 3:

The 2025 season in Minors 3 saw a surge in competition, with the number of teams growing from 9 to 10. This expansion meant each team had to grind through 18 league games, including some grueling double-header weeks. Just reading about it makes me feel tired!

As the season unfolded, it quickly became clear that the battle for the top two spots would involve three fierce contenders: Banger & Smash (last season's development squad), Tecumsehs (freshly relegated from Minors 2), and Swamp Monsters (a dev squad from a few seasons ago). Banger & Smash, already looking like the team to beat, sealed the Minors 3 title before the final round of games. Along the way, they racked up an eye-popping 508 runs, the highest in the entire league, averaging 28 runs per game while only conceding 149. A dominant performance! But their final match of the season, against Tecumsehs, was nothing short of dramatic.

B&S were aiming for an undefeated season, while Tecumsehs needed a win to secure 2nd place and a promotion to Minors 2. The stakes were high, with a few Swamp Monsters hanging out on the sidelines, secretly hoping for a B&S victory, which would set up a play-off match for second place. In the end, Tecumsehs emerged victorious, clinching promotion, and leaving Swamp Monsters hungry for the same in 2026.

The debut of the Base Bandits was another highlight of the season. The new dev squad made an impressive start, finishing joint 4th alongside Raiders Green, who continued their strong form with a solid 2025 campaign. We can expect both teams to be serious contenders in the future. Meanwhile, the Banditos struggled to match their competition, ending the season with a neutral 9-9 record. The lower spots were claimed by Base Jam, Raiders Indigo, Orange, and Beavers, all of whom will be hoping for a stronger showing next season.

Minors 2:

2025 saw the arrival of new faces in Minors 2, with Raiders Red and Bonk Squad making the jump from Minors 3, and Meteors Red and Meteors Purple dropping down from Minors 1. It was a season of fierce competition, but in the end, it was The Knights who emerged victorious, finishing with an 11-3 record—just edging out Bat to the Future who were close behind at 10-4. Both teams will now be making the leap to Minors 1 in 2026, where they're sure to bring the heat.

High Voltage and Meteors Red both finished strong at 8-6, securing 3rd and 4th place, respectively. The real drama, however, came with Raiders Red and Bonk Squad, who fought hard to stay in Minors 2 after their promotion. They managed to hold on, finishing 5th and 6th, respectively.

Sadly, it was a tough year for Badgers and Meteors Purple, who each finished with 4-10 records and were relegated to Minors 3. It's going to be a long road back, but I wouldn't count them out just yet.

Minors 1:

Minors 1 was the division to watch in 2025, with fierce competition from top to bottom. The newly promoted Fly Ballers and Battitude wasted no time making their mark, while the relegated Mafia and Bat Intentions were not to be taken lightly.

It all came down to a battle between three teams for the top spots, with Diamond Dogs and Fly Ballers securing promotion to Majors 3 with 12-2 records. Fly Ballers took the crown, capping off a meteoric rise through the ranks—securing their third consecutive promotion since the team's inception! Battitude was just a step behind with a 10-4 record and an impressive 367 runs, the most in the division. Expect them to come out swinging for the title in 2026.

Pimlico Parrots claimed 4th with an 8-6 record, while the Thundercats secured 5th at 6-8. Unfortunately for Bat Intentions, 2025 was a season to forget, finishing dead last with just a single win. The race for the second relegation spot was tight, with Golden Sombreros and Mafia swapping places throughout the year. Ultimately, it was the Golden Sombreros who survived by the thinnest of margins, thanks to a single extra win. For Mafia, however, their return to Minors 1 was short-lived, as they were relegated once again and will be joining Bat Intentions in Minors 2 next year.

Development Report - Marty Terzic and Dani Yoshimi

Softball 101 continued to attract new players into the LSL community in 2025. This year our sessions were mostly attended by 25 - 40 players, with an average of just over 32 players a session, resulting in the programme generating a small profit for the league. Our core coaching staff was available for most sessions and the new programme we developed in the lead up to last season has proved to be quite successful. We managed to conduct informative, safe and fun sessions, which resulted in one of the highest retention rates we've had in recent years, particularly with SBHs. The split between SBH and BBH was approximately 1:2/2.5 at most sessions, which was a big improvement compared to recent years, and this is truly a testament to the efforts and emphasis our coaching staff has put on creating a positive and encouraging environment for all players.

101 Teams & players

At the end of the 101 programme, a team called Glove Island was created and they will be joining LSL for the 2026 season in Division 6. The team as a whole seems to be very supportive of each other and they have already started organising team socials, as well as team practices as they prepare to enter Div 6. We have offered our support and further guidance and will continue to help in any way we can throughout their first season.

Glove Island as a team have had a chance to experience some tournaments during the 2025 season, including Raiders, Let The Noobs Play, LastBall, Publishers and Hit & Run. The tournaments had some highs and lows, but the team has done a great job of sticking together, encouraging each other and the improvement we've seen already shows that Glove Island have a lot of potential and we hope to see them successful in Div 6 and at future tournaments.

Let The Noobs Play Tournament

This year we managed to organise the inaugural Let The Noobs Play tournament. The idea was to introduce the new team to more of the wider community whilst encouraging the development of newer players across lower divisions. It also created an opportunity to improve bonds both within our league, by creating mashup teams, and with other leagues, by extending an invitation to PSL (Publishers' League) and some players for the Ad League. The tournament also raised some funds for the programme, which will allow us to upgrade the equipment we use during our sessions. We received some great feedback and would like to work to make this tournament an annual occurrence.

What comes next?

- **Programme Development**

We will be reviewing the programme over the off-season and will look at any potential improvements we can/should make.

- **Core Coaching Staff**

In 2025, we worked hard to develop consistency across the coaching staff and we believe Glove Island benefited from this approach. The plan is to have the same staff return next season, but that will be confirmed closer to the time to ensure everyone feels comfortable committing to another year. We hope to develop our coaching staff further by working closely with LSL and BSUK to get some of our staff onto the new coaching courses. We will continue to call on our volunteers when/if needed.

- **Financing 101**

We will continue using Spond for the 2026 season, and will look to finalize the per-session cost soon, but we believe there is scope to increase the price to £9 per session. There has already been interest by new players to join the 101 group on Spond for the following season. A new 2026 subgroup has already been created to make sure any interested players can be added immediately after requesting access.

- **Equipment**

Let The Noobs Play tournament helped raise funds for new equipment. We have done an inventory of the current equipment and will be looking at sourcing upgraded equipment in the lead up to the new season.

- **Let The Noobs Play Tournament**

We will work to make the tournament an annual occurrence. More info will be released as soon as possible.

Registering Interest

If you have any questions about the 101 programme or would like to register your interest in being added to our volunteers' list, please do get in touch by emailing development@londonsoftball.co.uk. Thank you!

Events Report - Magda Baran

Firstball was held on 10th May at Regents, drawing 40 teams across five grades. Running the tournament was made more difficult than usual this year due to a race on the same day which made part of the park unusable, including some of the fields we typically play on. We know that it was frustrating for many of the teams, but it's likely the same race will take place next year - we will look at alternative dates, locations, and formats to ensure that the tournament runs more smoothly next year.

Lastball was held on the 16th August at Regents with 36 teams across four grades. We implemented a few suggestions from the Firstball feedback, including separate chats for scores and a pair of extra hands to act as a runner between pitches and TC. Overall, Lastball went very smoothly.

Both tournaments were followed by after parties at the Regents Refinery. This was our second season using that venue for after parties, and they've been very responsive to our feedback. While we know there are still improvements to be made, we will likely continue the collaboration with them unless something significant changes.

The All Stars showcase took place on 13th September in Clissold Park, and the End of Season event was held on 4th October at Moonshot in Shepherds Bush, a first-time venue for us that worked well. Attendees loved the free batting cages and the live Major League Baseball games, though the lack of a microphone and ability to present was an oversight that we can work on next year if we return.

Looking ahead, Firstball and Lastball in 2026 are likely to return to Regents, with further details to follow early in the New Year.

New Players Report - Erin Marlor

Going into the 2025 LSL season the league held two New Players Day. One at the 108 for those living in North London and one at Clapham South for those living South. Between the two days we had over 60 new players attend keen to join the league. During both days it was very noticeable that there were many more BBHs looking to join teams than SBHs. Over the 2025 season, I've continued to build the New Players database for the upcoming 2026 season.

Fixtures Report - Tiernan Evans

The league this year consisted of 51 teams, with the additions of Asteroids making 9 teams in Division 3 and Base Bandits making 10 teams in Division 6 title. Due to lack of pitch availability, both of these divisions had games scheduled over a 15 week period, with some teams having two games scheduled for some weeks. Due to relatively friendly weather, pitch availability for reschedules was not a major issue this year.

The new ground at the East London Rugby Club, home to Bangers and Smash, provided a long-awaited space in East London. In addition to regular weeknight games, this new ground also hosted the Let the Noobs Play tournament. Morden Sports Ground again proved useful when Clapham South was unavailable due to other council events.

Regent's Park required some management at the beginning of the season, with a double-booking affecting Firstball and ongoing crowding on some weeknights leading to different field allocations than previously agreed. With ongoing change at BSUK, we will need to monitor this carefully at the start of next season to ensure the pitches are allocated reasonably across the many leagues that call Regent's Park home.

Inclusion & Safeguarding Report - Becky Minter

This committee role was newly created for the 2025 season and was voted in by team representatives at the last AGM. The role is responsible for inclusion, safeguarding and code of conduct governance for the league.

Overall it's been a year of learning and establishing, and has been fairly reactive for this first season. Primary focus on understanding safeguarding responsibilities, implementing previously agreed standing order amendments and responding to code of conduct issues.

In the 2025 season, there were a few positive areas to highlight in terms of progress;

1. **Implementation of the new permanent runner provision** - for players with long term disabilities and health conditions. This was voted in at the previous AGM but without all the detail agreed on how it would work. After establishing & communicating the basics at the start of the season, we saw 10 players register, with participation in 5 out of our 6 divisions (excl. Div 5). Anecdotal feedback has been positive overall with no significant issues reported to the committee (1 miscommunication was reported and dealt with swiftly). Survey data - 75% of respondents were aware of it, feedback generally positive with a handful of people expressing concerns about it being exploited, or who felt people should not be playing if they can't run the bases. Focus for next season on communication to raise awareness and ensure it's being used correctly in line with the rules.
2. **Gender Inclusion** - A small win, but i'm proud of our ability to respond quickly to the news earlier this year on changes from the UK supreme court on the definition of a woman within the UK equality act. I had fantastic support from the Raiders inclusion lead and the committee, enabling us to share internal and external comms reinforcing our commitment to our inclusion rules and ensuring trans players know they are welcome in our league.
3. **Resolving code of conduct & inclusion issues** - a small number of complaints were reported to me throughout the season (6 individual complaints on 5 topics). All were resolved swiftly without the need for formal resolution. Considering the number of players across the league, this is either evidence of a fairly harmonious community and good levels of compliance to our code, or a culture of issues not being reported. EOS survey results include a few comments about poor behaviour from teams or individuals, and highlight a need for more clarity on reporting methods. Next season I would like us to focus on league wide & captain comms to ensure reporting methods are clear.
4. **Inclusion insights in our end of season survey.** We've changed the questions we ask in the EOS survey to better understand how effective we are in creating a culture of inclusion for all players. Based on 76 responses, which does only represent a small proportion of players across the league, it's difficult to identify any concrete themes or conclusions. However feedback is broadly very positive across this population, 99% on feeling welcome and included, 97% can be themselves and 93% feel the league is accessible, 87% agree teams treat each other with respect & fairness. Some themes in the open comments around the way we communicate about events and updates, and around how we attract and retain new players, particularly small ball hitters.

Focus for next season

1. **SBH development & support** to ensure we have the numbers to support a growing co-ed league.

New Players Day, and EOS Survey data shows SBH recruitment & retention continues to be a significant challenge for many teams.

Late this season, we provided some financial support for Claire Read's initiative of a tournament for women and non-binary players which included coaching on the day. With annual survey feedback reinforcing the challenges around recruiting and retaining small ball hitters, we are keen to increase our support next year to enable two of these tournaments to take place, once again with coaching to help women and non binary players build their confidence, their skills and their networks across the league.

2. **Support for parents & carers** - outcome to be discussed from focus group call which is currently being diarised.
3. **Safeguarding** - ensuring we adhere to evolving BSUK requirements for team level trained safeguarding reps