

BRANDON HEIGHTS

S O F T B A L L C L U B

Presidents Report for Season 2017/18

In the absence of a president this season I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the Brandon Heights Softball Club for 2017/18 on behalf of the committee. I extend to all present a warm welcome and thank you for your continuing support of this Softball Club.

I would like to acknowledge all our Life Members who are with us this evening. It's a pleasure to have you here. If any life members stories are missing, please contact committee to have them added.

Our Club entered the 2017-18 season with slightly more members than last, fielding 3 junior and 6 senior teams. While our junior teams were combined teams with Northwood Falcons & Northvale Softball clubs, our seniors were sole club teams. 2 x Open 4 teams, 1 x Open 3, 2 x Open 2 and 1 Open 1.

Whilst it is encouraging to see so many adult players in our teams we need to work harder to build our junior numbers – there is a very competitive market out there for children's sport; we need to **all** be proactive in promoting softball. As a club we need to focus on bringing new players, all the children, nieces and nephews of our adult players, to enjoy what is undoubtedly the best game in the world!

Brandon Heights were well represented in the finals this year. Our under 17 girls won the gold medal by virtue of finishing on top of the ladder in what ended up being a wash out game. It was no doubt disappointing for them to not get to play on the day but should remember that their good playing all season allowed them to be in that top spot to take the medal home. Well done girls!

In the Open 4 Grade we had our two teams playing off for gold, a great effort by both teams. It was a hard fought game with lots of batting on both sides including a grand slam by Lyndal Alston.

Black ended up winners on the day 18-7. Congratulations ladies.

Open 3 made the semi-finals but unfortunately couldn't take their campaign any further, losing in a very tight game that came down to the last innings.

Congratulations to all teams, players, coaches, scorers, supporters – on another successful season. The club acknowledges your achievements.

We welcome our sponsors again this year, Waverley Park Physiotherapy Centre who have made a significant contribution to our Club. Andrew, his colleagues and family have been very supportive of the Brandon Heights brand, this season conducting an education evening promoting healthy activity and nutrition which was well attended by Brandon Heights members and the wider Waverley Softball community.

I would also like to acknowledge the continued support of the Mulgrave country Club, who also provide the venue for our presentation tonight.

We once again played the curtain raiser to the Melbourne Aces game at the Altona stadium in November. It was a great experience for all the girls who took part in this initiative for Diamond sports in Victoria. Unfortunately Northwood Falcons were too strong for us this year and won the game 8-0. Thank you to Kate for organising the day and to the members that helped to make it successful. Thanks to Harry Sherwin & Lewis Pooler-Payton for coming and umpiring at the game, greatly appreciated. A big thanks also to family and friends who attended to support the occasion.

Just briefly, as this will be covered in the Presentation of Certificates, Brandon Heights continues to be well represented at Association, State and National Level competitions. Playing at this elite level is not for everyone but we are proud to be able to provide a stepping-stone and nursery to these talented individuals to hone and improve on skills of the game.

Presentation night is when we celebrate the combined efforts of our club, including the competitiveness of our teams and the individual achievements of our players. Softball is a team sport and it is being a part of a team, contributing to it and supporting each other that gives us a sense of belonging and brings us together. Each and every one of our members, whether players, coaches, scorers, umpires, parents, committee or supporters is an integral part of the Brandon Heights family and we thank you all for being part of it.

Finally I would like to thank our committee for their efforts, Julie who did everything behind the scenes, registrations, payments, rosters lists and more lists, great job Julie. Shirl who came on as Treasurer even though this was something completely new to her and succeeded to keep the books balanced and explain the financial situation of the club. Kate for her work obtaining grants and sponsors, well done Kate, our new members Kristen who took on the secretarial role and Jess our social media Guru. It was wonderful to have the younger ones come on to committee with some fresh ideas and I am sure they will agree we had a lot of fun and laughs at our Pancake Parlour meetings.

So I hope you have all filled out your nomination forms for next season. We can take nominations from the floor.

And Donna who just kept us all in line, made sure the governance of the club was heading in the right direction and fostered our players through her work as a club and state coach and mentor. Thanks Donna.

So that's it from me, thank you again, and I hope you all enjoyed your season.

Sue Mercuri

Committee Member

BHSC 2017/18