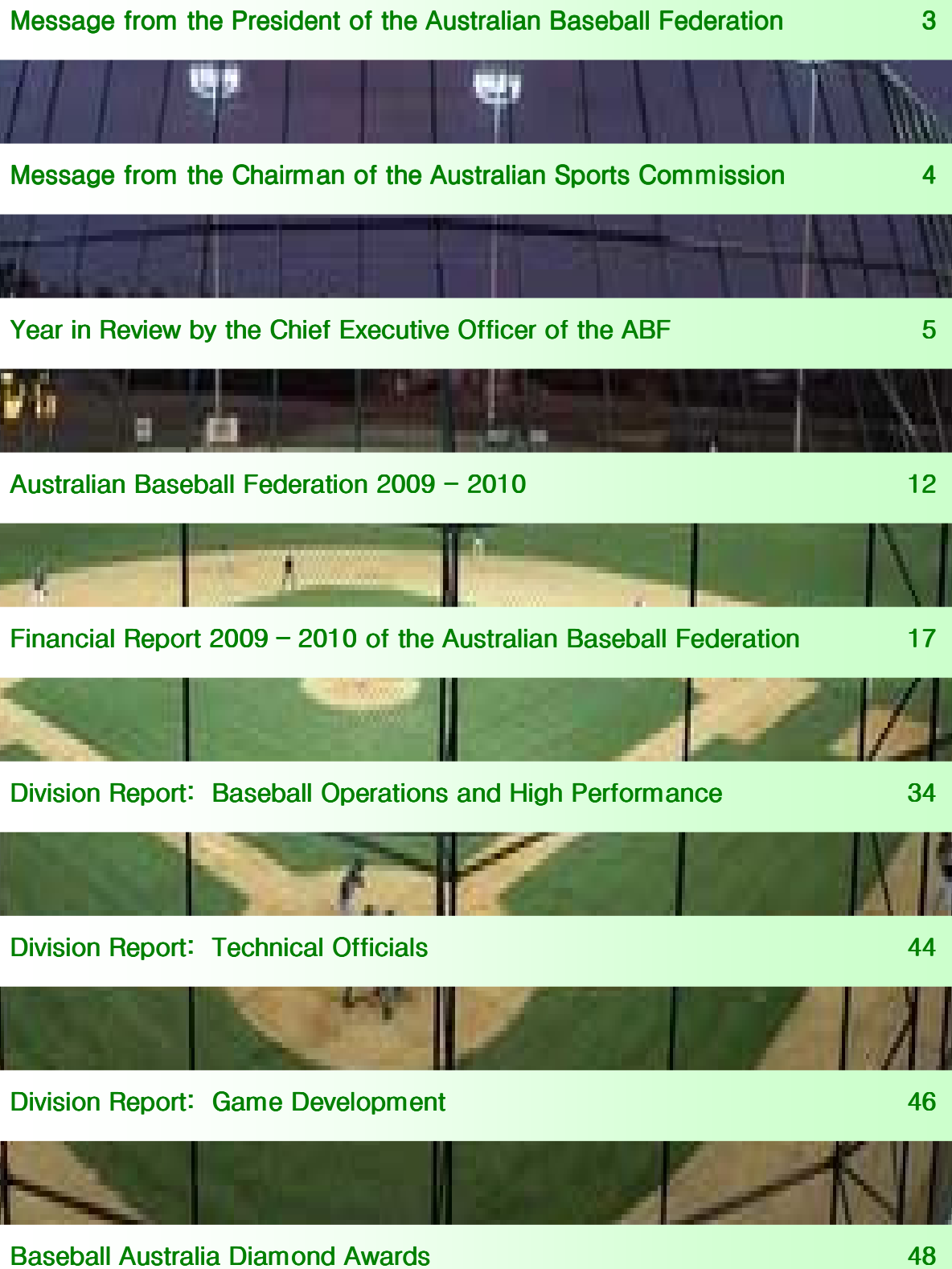


2009 / 2010 Annual Report



AUSTRALIAN BASEBALL

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Message from the President of the Australian Baseball Federation

“...showcasing the many achievements, continued progress, and initiatives, in many areas of our sport...”

On behalf of the Board of the Australian Baseball Federation (“ABF”), I would like to present our 2009 / 2010 Annual Report to members.

The report will showcase the many achievements, continued progress, and initiatives, in many areas of our sport, as well as highlight and explain our recent challenges and future plans for baseball in Australia.

I again extend my personal appreciation to the other members of the Board for their ongoing commitment and contribution to the sport of baseball in Australia. During the 2009 / 2010 year, it has been comforting to have the support and expertise of **Ron Finlay**, **Peter Williams**, **Deborah Healey** and **David Hynes**, and until his recent retirement, **Colin Pitt**.

As has been well reported, the Government review of Australian sport, commissioned by Minister Ellis and lead by Mr David Crawford, has provided both great challenge and new opportunity to the sport of baseball. The funding obtained to support baseball in Australia has been critical and the broader focus of ensuring grassroots growth is valued as highly as elite competition, combined with new funding opportunities, has been welcome news.

We were also pleased during the year to witness the transformation of the Claxton Shield into a test event for the Australian Baseball League (“ABL”). Congratulations to Chairman, **Mark Peters**, for establishing what will become a critical component of the Australian baseball landscape. Congratulations to all of the participants, volunteers, and staff. Whilst it was pleasing to see the resurgence of South Australia with newly appointed coach **Tony Harris**, I was naturally delighted for the eventual Claxton Shield champions, the Victorian Aces and their coach **Phil Dale**.

I would like to acknowledge our Australian national teams who again represented our sport and our nation very proudly, highlighted by our Australian men’s senior team achieving its best ever World Cup result (fifth place) at the 2009 World Cup in Europe. Whilst our overall team placing by our national AA team at the 2009 World Championship and our Cal Ripken team at the 2009 Cal Ripken World Series was not expected, there were many great individual performances.

In closing, I would like to highlight and thank our key partners, being:

- the Australian Sports Commission and their Chairman **Mr Warwick Smith**, Chief Executive Officer **Mr Matt Miller** and our ASC consultant, **Mr Rob Bennett**;
- our ABL and MLBAAP partners, **Major League Baseball**; in particular **Mr Paul Archey**, **Mr Peter Wermuth** and **Mr Tom Nicholson**;
- our sport’s family; including **member state, territory and regional associations, state sport institutes, clubs, members and officials**, and the **Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority**;
- as well as all of our corporate partners, sponsors and preferred suppliers; especially **Virgin Blue**, **Edge85**, **Bob Jane T-Mart** and **Fielders Choice**.

Finally, I wish to extend my gratitude to Chief Executive Officer **John May** and the **team** at Head Office, as well as thank all of our members for their ongoing commitment, participation, and love of our great game.



Geoff Pearce
President

Message from the Chairman of the Australian Sports Commission

“Boosting sports participation and strengthening sporting pathways while striving for international success . . .”

It is an honour to serve as the new Chair of the Australian Sports Commission (“ASC”) Board at this challenging and exciting period for our national sporting system.

The ASC and National Sporting Organisations (“NSO”) have long spoken of a shared ambition to strengthen relationships between all systems partners involved in Australian sport.

Aligned with this ambition, the Australian Government is now encouraging a whole-of-sport reform agenda, aimed at establishing a more collaborative, efficient, and integrated sports system.

Through new direction for sport, ‘*Australian Sport: The Pathway to Success*’, the ASC will work closely with sports to achieve its main objectives - to boost sports participation and strengthen sporting pathways while striving for international success.

The reform agenda seeks for the ASC to assist to provide stability and support for all sporting organisations in their pursuit of a shared, common purpose; creating a better sporting pathway for all Australians, from the grassroots up.

The ASC will implement the new direction and this includes collaboration with all NSOs to allocate a record amount of new sports funding - committing an extra \$195million over the next four years.

This funding is in addition to the current ongoing baseline funding for NSOs. Also, the ASC will assist sporting organisations with access to coaching and officiating programs, governance support, planning and education opportunities, and assistance with becoming more inclusive - particularly in the areas of indigenous sport, sport for people with a disability, sport for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, and women’s sport development programs.

This is the first time key sport partners, such as state and territory institutes and academies of sport, and state and territory departments of sport and recreation, have collaborated on a Commonwealth funding decision in the interests of Australia’s sporting future.

This is an exciting time for all of us involved in Australian sport. With significant new funding from the Australian Government, sports will be better positioned than ever before to lead the drive for higher participation levels and strong

success on the sporting field by promoting the unique nature of their sport, creating a legacy and a lasting impression for communities across the country.

The ASC will continue to work with all NSOs, the state and territory institutes and academies of sport, and state and territory departments of sport and recreation, reinvigorating access to and participation in sport across the country and driving Australia’s continued sporting success.



The Hon Warwick Smith AM
Chairman
Board of the Australian Sports Commission



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

Year in Review by the Chief Executive Officer of the ABF

The 2009 / 2010 financial year was both an exciting and challenging year for the Australian Baseball Federation ("ABF").

Together with many sports that are supported by the Australian Government, the ABF navigated the 2009 / 2010 year with great uncertainty regarding the recommendations of the Crawford Report and the outcome of future grants.

I am pleased to provide a summary of the highlights and key issues relating to the operations of the ABF over the 2009 / 2010 financial year.



The creation of a national competition has been a long standing objective for Australian Baseball. The fulfillment of the development pathway, game and player development opportunities, venue development, participation growth, and public interest in the game, along with many other tangible benefits, would all be significantly improved by the successful introduction of a national competition.

The ABF had been in discussions with Major League Baseball International ("MLBI") for many years regarding partnering the concept and with agreements completed in December 2008, the full operation is scheduled to commence in the summer of 2010 / 2011.

The importance of Major League Baseball ("MLB") to Australian baseball needs no clarification and their support of the Australian Baseball League ("ABL") has been another example of a great relationship that has been developed between Australia and MLB over the last two decades.

The 2009 / 2010 Claxton Shield became an enhanced test event for the ABL. With **Mark Peters** appointed as the inaugural Chairman of the ABL, he was tasked with the responsibility of establishing the initial ABL operation, which we all recognised as a challenging task.

Whilst the ABF and MLBI acknowledged that there were difficult economic times globally, leading to sponsorship and media challenges, overall, the season provided enormous learning experiences, with crowds gradually increasing and media interest picking up as the season progressed.

The 2009 / 2010 season was encouraging and provided optimism

for the future, with the financial support required from the ABF to the ABL consistent with budget expectations.

The experience and greater lead-in time to the inaugural ABL season, combined with new team names, new playing uniforms, and an expanded roster to include international players and returning Australian professionals, will allow each team to better establish itself in their respective markets.

The importance of appropriate venues was highlighted, as Adelaide benefited significantly with the improved arrangements at Norwood Oval, compared with the venue challenges faced in Brisbane and Melbourne.

Overall, the competition was well run with good games. Congratulations to all those involved in the off-field and organisation and, in particular, to ABL Chairman and Acting Chief Executive Officer, **Mark Peters**, and ABL Operations Manager, **Ben Foster**.

The season culminated with a great finals series which saw South Australia narrowly beat New South Wales in the semi-final, but to then be overcome by Victoria in Melbourne.

Congratulations and thank you to all **players and on-field support**, especially the **South Australian team** and their coach **Tony Harris** and of course, the competition Champions, the **Victorian Aces** and their coach **Phil Dale**, as well as **Matthew Blackmore** who won both the Pitcher of the Year and the Final Series MVP awards. Congratulations also to **Wayne Lundgren** who was announced the 35th winner of the prestigious Helms Award, ahead of Paul Mildren and Michael Collins.



The 2009 / 2010 ABF financials have recorded a loss of \$208,261 as the Board of the ABF has taken the most conservative view in relation to possible Astarra outcomes.

As many would be aware, the ABF has had a long association with Astarra, as they introduced Financial Wealth and AOIFP as major sponsors to our sport. Additionally, our own involvement with Astarra has included the Board of the ABF electing in January 2005 to place an investment of \$1million as part of an overall arrangement, including sponsorship, with a fund (Huntley Investment Funds - later the Exploration Fund).

Year in Review by the Chief Executive Officer of the ABF

Astarra Funds Management continued...

Since January 2005, the ABF has received over \$1.5million in both sponsorship cash and redemptions (through the ABF accounts). It is of note that this has exceeded our initial investment and provided other opportunities and enabled support for baseball programs.

Whilst we are now approaching the 12-month anniversary of Astarra being placed in the hands of administrators and the first investigation by ASIC, at this point in time, there is great uncertainty regarding the Astarra Strategic Fund ("ASF") assets and very serious questions are raised about whether the assets are recoverable.

It is important to also understand that whilst the ABF conducted appropriate due diligence at the time, there has been a wide range of independent processes that provided additional comfort to investors and the ABF. This included Astarra passing the Federal Regulators licensing regime, as well as three highly regarded research houses' 'recommended status'. Importantly, Astarra had also passed KPMG's audit / compliance process and the responsible entity / trustee's approval, including advice through corporate legal advisors, Norton Rose. KPMG (the auditors) had provided an unqualified audit of Astarra's financial reports only three months before the problem was uncovered.

ASIC and administrator (PPB) documents show that around 40 different financial planning practices supported Astarra to varying degrees over time, including Financial Wealth and AIOFP.

In summary, there are recovery options for investors in the ASF to consider going forward. These include the slight possibility of monies being returned over the next 12 months, but a more likely recovery strategy is legal action against those responsible for the alleged mismanagement of the assets. There are some parties who the ABF believe are clearly responsible for negligent conduct that allowed this unfortunate situation to occur. Their culpability is currently being assessed with the view to join various legal actions at the most appropriate time. However, this may take some years to complete.

In conclusion, the Board of the ABF has decided that the most conservative approach is to write off the entire Astarra asset with a view to add back any funds received from the recovery efforts in the future.



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

Whilst many of the impacts of the Crawford Report are yet to be fully implemented, it is very clear that there has been a "system shift" in relation to the Australian Government's support of sport and the structure of the Australian Sports Commission ("ASC").

The key issues contained within the Crawford Report could be summarised as:

- Issue 1: Defining our national sports vision.
- Issue 2: Reforming the ASC to lead the sports system.
- Issue 3: Merging our institutes of sport.
- Issue 4: Building capacity of our national sporting organisations.
- Issue 5: Putting sport and physical activity back into education.
- Issue 6: Building community sport with people and places.
- Issue 7: Ensuring Australia's sports system is open to all.
- Issue 8: Sustaining the funding base for sport.

Following an Australian Government review of the Crawford Report, the Australian Government released "*Australian Sport: The Pathway to Success*". This plan is a whole-of-sport focused vision delivering in three key areas:

- (1) increasing the number of Australians participating in sport;
- (2) strengthening sporting pathways; and
- (3) striving for success.

The new approach tackles the core issues and commits to a more cohesive and aligned sports system characterised by collaboration on core planning and program delivery and cooperation on national priorities.

The plan also provides a realistic balance between making a difference at the grassroots and focusing the commitment to elite sport. It promotes stronger leadership, a restructure to the sports system, the removal of duplication and internal competition, and the encouragement of collaboration between all levels of sport, Government and public, and private sectors.

Year in Review by the Chief Executive Officer of the ABF

Australian Sports Commission continued...



Sports were also informed of their funding status and importantly for baseball, the baseline ASC funding that our programs have enjoyed remained in tact, although the usual quadrennial funding cycle has been replaced with a more results-orientated review process and on a rolling renewal basis; all of which is positive for our sport.

Furthermore, the ASC announced an injection of \$195million in new funding to sport and in collaboration with state and territory institutes and academies of sport, identified those sports which were considered to be the higher priority for possible additional funding investment.

Whilst the high performance portion of this new funding was directed largely to Olympic sports and baseball's submission for additional high performance funding was unsuccessful, we remain very hopeful regarding our participation funding bid.

With many of the additional recommendations regarding the ASC "system shift" likely to be implemented in the post-2012 period, there is little doubt that alignment of programs and collaboration between stakeholders will be key platforms for the future.

2010 to 2013 Strategic Plan



The environment created with many of the delays, challenges, and uncertainties surrounding the ASC structure, the Crawford Report recommendations, and general funding availability, interrupted the historical planning timeframes of the ABF. Therefore, as an interim measure, the ABF bridged the conventional quadrennial cycle to develop the 2010 to 2013 Strategic Plan and I continue here with a high level summary for your information.

Australian Baseball's Mission

"To provide national leadership and a national framework for harnessing the energies of the many baseball people and organisations throughout Australia with the aim of building the business of baseball for the benefit of all... building the business of baseball together."

Introduction

The sport of baseball is at an important point in its life-cycle with an enormous opportunity to move the sport forward in a quantum leap through the successful implementation of the national league and the flow-on benefits and relationships.

Whilst not a panacea, the national league will add to the platform

already established that has positioned Australian Baseball to succeed within an uncertain future environment, which is still evolving with no final position on future funding following the Independent Sports Panel review.

The previous Strategic Plan was extended, as the Crawford Report and other ASC restructure projects delayed the usual quadrennial cycle.

The system shift that has occurred has resulted in setting our new planning period from July 2010 to June 2013. Additionally, as the quadrennial cycle has now been replaced with a four-year rolling cycle, our intention is to review and update our plan annually.

The world for Australian Baseball has changed greatly. As well as the adoption of many of the Crawford Report recommendations, the ABL significantly changes the baseball landscape. The challenge of aligning programs and building and supporting a national plan will require the Australian Baseball community and key stakeholders to work in collaboration and in the spirit of what is in the best interests of the sport.

The process and development of this plan provides the ideal opportunity for national integration and alignment of strategic priorities.

Our Vision

The game of baseball is about to enter the most exciting and dynamic stage of its long history in Australia.

With the eminent launch of the national league, the current five-year commitment by MLB (our major stakeholder) is likely to be extended during the term as the ABL becomes successful and cash neutral.

The ABL will provide a call-to-action that will enable us to triple our registered player base, increase our volunteer network and, with further assistance from MLB, substantially improve the number and quality of baseball facilities available in Australia.

Providing national leadership and as key enablers, we will build and support a national sustainable capacity for the delivery and growth of our sport.

Combined with a top eight world ranking, Australia will be firmly entrenched as part of an international, sustainable baseball structure.

Our Values

People:

Australian Baseball is the embodiment of people involved in baseball throughout Australia.

Year in Review

by the Chief Executive Officer of the ABF

Our Values continued ...

Leadership:

The Board, committees, and management of Australian Baseball will provide leadership and direction for the national good, whilst fostering collaboration and engagement with all key stakeholders.

Integrity:

Australian Baseball is committed to ensuring a strong reputation, for the integrity of our sport, is upheld through effective leadership and by maintaining the highest standards of ethical and fair behaviour.

Cooperation, partnerships, and linkages:

The achievement of national priorities and common goals will depend on working collaboratively with many partners and maintaining links with all baseball stakeholders, in particular, grassroots of baseball throughout Australia.

Business best practice:

The future viability and growth of baseball will be built upon the application of business principles, an understanding of the needs of the sport, and engaging and focusing on systemic initiatives and improvements.

Cost effectiveness:

The internal operations and service provision functions of Australian Baseball will be undertaken on a demonstrable cost effective basis.

Transparency and review:

Corporate decision making, management processes, and service delivery programs, will be undertaken in a collaborative way and all stakeholders will be kept appropriately informed of national directions and activities with regular measurement and review of performance objectives.

Our Goals

ABL deliverables:

Australian Baseball will support and develop a successful national competition to showcase baseball and build the profile, participation, public interest, and career opportunities, for the sport. Our expectation is that the national competition will be cash neutral by the end of the planning period and that our key partner will extend the arrangement for a further five years.

International performance:

Australian Baseball will continue to improve the international competitiveness of Australian national teams at all levels, resulting in increased international success and placing Australia in the top eight of world rankings. Australian Baseball will also provide a leadership role in Baseball Oceania, whilst further developing their relationship with Baseball Asia.

Sport development:

Australian Baseball will continue to develop and grow baseball as a vibrant sport with a strong public profile, as well as significantly increasing the participation numbers, targeting 100,000 members by the completion of the planning period. The target will be assisted with the adoption of an inclusive sports strategy and strategic participation plan.

Venue development:

Australian Baseball will establish quality facilities to meet both the elite level “showcasing” and future participation growth needs of baseball. These facilities will include an appropriate national league venue in each major city.

Commercialisation:

Australian Baseball will ensure the financial viability and sustainability of Australian Baseball and its member states and territories by providing strong national leadership and a culture of strategic planning and quality management at all levels of baseball.

Key Strategic Objectives

ABL deliverables:

- (1) Develop a national competition structure to allow for strategic growth within the sport which incorporates a comprehensive collaborative national league business development plan with responsible financial budgets and expectations.
- (2) Successful promotion of the national league as a development tool, which creates interest and collaboration between the national league, states and territories, and clubs (grassroots) of baseball, will foster growth in participation and exposure.
- (3) Utilise the national league to underpin and grow professional and international opportunities for baseball players, coaches, scorers, umpires, officials, administrators, and executives.

Year in Review

by the Chief Executive Officer of the ABF

2010 to 2013 Strategic Plan continued...

International performance:

- (1) Increase the number of players with international or professional league performance characteristics through all age groups and levels.
- (2) Ensure full integration and alignment of programs with all pathway partners and other service providers, focusing on achieving successful outcomes at all levels and applying centrally coordinated efforts to identify, recruit, and train, athletes.
- (3) Position all key Australian high performance teams to secure regular invitations to the major Asian series final with a view to eventually re-positioning Australia as part of the Asian region.
- (4) Assist the International Baseball Federation (“IBAF”) with the restructure of Oceania and position for Australian representation on the IBAF Board.
- (5) Develop and implement a comprehensive international competition plan which best suits national elite and development teams and bolsters achievement.
- (6) Establish and maintain strong working relationships with key strategic partners, such as the ASC, MLB, and corporate groups, to ensure adequate resources are available for the high performance program schedule each year.

Sport development:

- (1) Strengthen alignment and collaboration by leading the engagement of all key stakeholders in planning and development processes.
- (2) Utilise the ABL to promote and encourage kids to engage in baseball activities and build local identity by utilising profile players in clinics and community programs.
- (3) Develop and implement a national recruitment program incorporating schools and other sport partners that focus upon entry level programs such as T-Ball.
- (4) Increase participation by developing year-round baseball competition and programs to better utilise venues and facilities with targeted marketing for skill development for participation from other similar skill-set sports.
- (5) Provide opportunities within the sport for improved access and inclusive practices for all people, including those with disabilities, or cultural and language diversity, for playing,

coaching, umpiring, administration, and volunteering.

- (6) Establish and maintain strong working relationships with key strategic partners, such as the ASC, MLB, and corporate groups, to ensure adequate resources are available for key participation programs schedules each year.

Venue development:

- (1) Develop a master plan for the future needs of the development and management of facilities.
- (2) Generate greater influence at a commercial and political level (state and federal) to ensure the long term facility needs of the sport are achieved.
- (3) Develop a network and process to share information, increase communication, and coordinate efforts for facility development and venue improvements.

Commercialisation:

- (1) Identify achievable commercial opportunities and events linked to the strength and uniqueness of the sport, including non-baseball specific options.
- (2) Establish a commercial development plan that successfully leverages the sport’s brand, image, and assets, returning consistent and sustainable economic benefits to the sport through sponsorship, investments, licensing, and other revenue streams, in a nationally (all-of-sport) coordinated approach.
- (3) Develop and grow competitions and events, including a national and international calendar of tournaments, incorporating user-pays international tours (to and from Australia), specialist training camps, and develop commercial opportunities by establishing partnerships or sanctioning of masters competitions.
- (4) Utilisation and development of the membership database and e-commerce opportunities, including merchandise, equipment, and virtual and business services.
- (5) Develop a portfolio of baseball services and facilities and market these to international and professional baseball organisations as suitable for training venues.

Support and Review

Our strategic priorities will be supported by good governance, sound financial planning and management, stakeholder engagement, and well developed marketing, communication, and research.

Year in Review

by the Chief Executive Officer of the ABF

2010 to 2013 Strategic Plan continued...

Governance and sustainability:

- (1) Operate with appropriate governance principles, policies, and procedures.
- (2) Ensure the integration and alignment of all stakeholder strategic plans, to provide a common vision and commitment to the future of the sport.

Financial planning and management:

- (1) Maintain sound budgeting and financial management, and reporting practices.
- (2) Develop and maintain appropriate risk management policies and practices.

Stakeholder engagement:

- (1) Assist all stakeholders to successfully engage their communities and customers to support our sport.
- (2) Operate in the spirit of collaboration with a cooperative approach to providing resources to maximise and develop capacity within the sport.
- (3) Support national programs, such as Sports CONNECT, to ensure an inclusive practice philosophy is maintained.

Marketing and communications:

- (1) Provide regular and effective communication and marketing information to promote the sport.
- (2) Ensure effective two-way communication between all stakeholders.

Review of Strategic Plan:

- (1) The Strategic Plan will be monitored regularly by the Board and executive management of the ABF.
- (2) The Strategic Plan will be reviewed annually in consultation with all stakeholders.
- (3) The Strategic Plan may be adjusted to take into account new opportunities, new legislation, or changing conditions affecting the sport.

General

There were a number of key activities and achievements made during the 2009 / 2010 year that I would like to highlight:

- (1) The membership base of Australian Baseball grew by almost eight percent from the 2008 / 2009 financial year (FY 2009: 34,537 v FY 2010: 37,164) and whilst there are some general trends, the increased numbers in Little League are very pleasing.

The ABF has continued discussions with Little League International regarding the objective of Australia gaining a direct qualification into the USA tournament rather than through Asia.

- (2) The World Masters Games were held in Sydney in October 2009 and the Baseball component was very well represented at both a competitive and social level.

Congratulations to the **Games organisers** and also to the Baseball program host, **Baseball NSW**, who managed some outstanding events and delivered a very successful program.

- (3) The ABF also moved our "home" from Southport to Carrara. The move has been very successful, as we are close to the Palm Meadows facility, being the base for the MLBAAP, and have enough space to accommodate both the ABF and the ABL whilst reducing rental expenses.

Financials

Contained within this Annual Report are the 2009 / 2010 audited financial statements.

For the year, the ABF recorded a trading profit before extraordinary items of \$477,161, compared to \$88,662 in 2008 / 2009.

The write off of the Astarra investment and resulting transfer of reserves to cover operational costs, saw a net loss of \$208,261 compared to a profit in 2008 / 2009 of \$688,909, which included the one-off profit from the sale of the Exploration Fund investment (\$599,851).

Total operating revenue increased \$549,073 (14%) from the previous year. Grants from the ASC were up \$405,535 and income from other sources up \$143,538. Despite the significant growth in revenue, operating expenses only rose marginally by \$153,573 (4%).

As previously noted, the overall financial position of the ABF reflects a reduction from the Astarra write off with net assets declining by \$939,252. However, the Federation's financial position remains very positive with net assets of \$1.6million and sufficient liquid assets to meet all commitments and liabilities twice over.

For further details, please refer to the financial report section.

Year in Review

by the Chief Executive Officer of the ABF

Acknowledgements

On behalf of the Board of the ABF, I would like to sincerely thank all those who have contributed, participated in, or supported our great game during the year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the following individuals and organisations:

- ⇒ Congratulations to **winners and inductees** of the Baseball Australia Diamond Awards; particular thanks to **Major League Baseball** who were awarded the ABF President's Award. Also, welcome again to **David Clarkson** and **Doug Mateljan** as the most recent inductees into the Baseball Australia Hall of Fame.
- ⇒ To our **corporate partners**, including preferred suppliers, licensees, and event sponsors; in particular **Edge85** and **Bruce Edwards**, **Virgin Blue** and **John Kelly** and **Gary Manuel**, **Bob Jane T-Mart** and **Peter Hamden**, and **Fielders Choice** and **Geoff Hooker** - thank you very much for your support.
- ⇒ Congratulations and good luck to the **Australian Baseball League** and their Chairman **Mark Peters** and new Chief Executive Officer **Peter Wermuth**.
- ⇒ I would also like to thank my own staff for their efforts during the year and offer my gratitude to the Board of the ABF for their leadership and guidance during a very challenging period. I would especially like to thank **Colin Pitt**, who retired as a Director on the Board after providing 10-years continuous service.
- ⇒ My last note of gratitude is to the **membership of the ABF**, including state and territory associations, regional associations, clubs, members, and officials, the army of volunteers, state presidents, and executive officers.

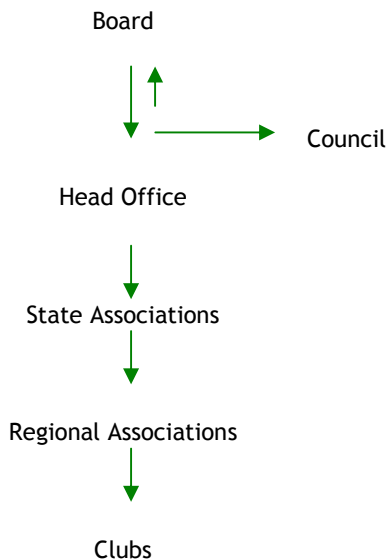
We look forward to the next 12 months!



John May
Chief Executive Officer

“To provide national leadership and a national framework for harnessing the energies of the many baseball people and organisations throughout Australia with the aim of building the business of baseball for the benefit of all... building the business of baseball together!”

Organisation Structure



Board

For 2009 / 2010 the Board of the Australian Baseball Federation (“ABF”) consisted of the following members:

Geoff Pearce:



Geoff was elected as Vice President of the new Board in 1999. He was re-elected in 2000 and 2003. In 2005, Geoff was elected as President, replacing Ron Finlay and was re-elected in 2006 and 2009. Geoff’s portfolio includes: national competitions, sponsorship, commercial affairs, and governance.

Colin Pitt:



Colin was also one of the new Board members, joining as a director in 1999. He was elected to the position of Vice President in 2006 where he stayed until his resignation in 2010. Colin’s portfolio included: baseball development, Tournament Management Committee, and provincials.

Ron Finlay:



Ron was appointed as a director to the new Board in 1999 and was elected President in 2001 where he resided till 2005. Ron stood down as President to fill a vacant position of which he still maintains. Ron’s portfolio includes: international relations (BCO, IBAF, MLB and IOC), legal, governance, and Hall of Fame. Ron has just recently been elected as President of the Baseball Confederation of Oceania - congratulations Ron.

Deborah Healey:



Deborah joined the Board in 2002. She was re-elected in 2004 and again in 2007. Deborah’s portfolio consists of legal, administrative, and appeals.

Peter Williams:



Peter became a director in 2004 and maintains the portfolio of finance, commerce, licensing, and merchandising.

David Hynes:



David, our newest Board member, began his directorship in 2007, responsible for the portfolio of Olympics, high performance, and baseball operations.

Council

The Council consists of a representative from each state and territory (ultimately the president or commissioner of that state's / territory's board) as follows:

Australian Capital Territory:

Theo Vassalakis, Commissioner, Baseball ACT

New South Wales:

Tony Richards, Chairman, Baseball NSW

Northern Territory:

Monty Erickson, President, Baseball NT, replaced by **Gary Lambert** February 2010

Queensland:

Neville Brockie, Commissioner, Baseball Queensland

South Australia:

Kevin Jennings, President, Baseball SA

Victoria:

Rob Sadler, President, Baseball Victoria

Western Australia:

Evan Stewart, Chairman, Baseball WA

The ABF sincerely thanks both Board and Council delegates for their expertise, time, and support provided to baseball and its members over the last year.

Head Office

The staff of the ABF over 2009 / 2010 consists of some old and some new faces:

John May, Chief Executive Officer:

- Commenced with the ABF October 2007.
- Board Director.
- Full-time contractor.
- Responsibilities include: business development, facility development, international relations, stakeholder management, strategic planning, marketing, and sponsorship.

Brett Pickett, General Manager, Baseball Operations:

- Commenced with the ABF May 2002.
- Full-time employee.
- Responsibilities include: baseball operations, national and international events, national teams, scouts, game development, player and coach development, technical, elite programs, academies, funding.

Geoff Robertson, Manager, Technical and Officials:

- Commenced with the ABF April 1994.
- Part-time employee.
- Responsibilities include: Hall of Fame, Heritage and Umpire Development Committees, CABS liaison, baseball rules, umpire development, scorer development, technical inquiries, and members' protection.

Michelle Anderson, Administration Manager:

- Commenced with the ABF October 2001.
- Board Secretary.
- Full-time employee.
- Responsibilities include: Office management and administration, Board and Council, Baseball Australia Diamond Awards, national My Club database and My Sites, Life Members' liaison, sanctions.

Jennifer Stockman, Marketing and Membership Manager:

- Commenced with the ABF August 2003.
- Full-time contractor.
- Responsibilities include: branding, marketing, sponsorship, member services and systems.

Cassandra Sedgman, Marketing and Events Coordinator:

- Commenced with ABF September 2008.
- Part-time to full-time employee.
- Responsibilities include: assistant to both the Marketing and Membership Manager and the National Programs and Competitions Coordinator.

Australian Baseball Federation 2009 / 2010

Stuart Allen, National Programs and Competitions Coordinator:

- Commenced with the ABF August 2009.
- Full-time employee.
- Responsibilities include: national and international competitions, national teams' programs, MLBAAP, national Little League administrator, Secretary Baseball Operations Committee and Tournament Management Committee, tournament director National Youth, Provincial and Little League championships.

Peter Gahan, Player and Coach Development Manager:

- Commenced with the ABF January 2010.
- Part-time to full-time employee.
- Responsibilities include: national playbook, MLBAAP coaching, national coaching accreditation scheme, national testing, national performance, national coaching staff, state academy programs, talent identification program, Baseball Operations Committee.

Tom Taylor, Game Development Coordinator:

- Commenced with the ABF February 2010.
- Part-time employee.
- Responsibilities include: national development plan, inclusive action plan, sports profile, membership recruitment and retention, club development.

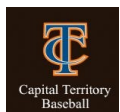
Chris Wilson, Financial Controller:

- Commenced with the ABF September 2009.
- Part-time contractor.
- Responsibilities include: financial reporting, budgeting, payroll, accounts payable and receivable.

Chris Wilson was replaced by **Kerran Evans** as Financial Controller of both the ABL and the ABF in October 2010 (full-time).

State and Territory Associations

ACT Baseball Association (T/A Baseball ACT):



- Commissioner - Theo Vassalakis
- Deputy Commissioner - Greg Kent
- General Manager - Ken McInnis

- Board Member - Damian von Demleux
- Director of Umpiring - Bill O'Malley
- Head Coach - Brent Phelan
- ACT Scorers Association - Vicki Beard

Baseball NSW:



- Chairman - Tony Richards
- Chief Executive Officer - Glen Willott
- Administration Officer - Narelle Fox
- Competition & Communications Coordinator - Daniel Ristic
- Coaching Director - Barry Holland
- Umpire Director - John Robertson
- Scorers - Paul McCullough
- High Performance & Baseball Operations - Glenn Williams
- Game Development Officer - Jason Pospishil
- Game Development Manager - Tim Harradine

Baseball NT:



- President - Monty Erickson / Gary Lambert
- Executive Officer - Lisa Hooley
- Scoring Director - Libby Williams
- Alice Springs - Clay Evans
- Katherine - Peter Hopkins
- Regional Umpires Coordinator - Craig Marquardt
- State Coordinator for Umpiring - Steve Tibble

Baseball Queensland:



- Commissioner - Neville Brockie
- Chief Executive Officer - Colin Dick
- Administration Manager - Peter McClenahan
- Development Manager - Gareth Jones
- Development Officer - Shayne Watson
- Development Officer - Kevin Johnson

Australian Baseball Federation 2009 / 2010

- ⇒ State Director of Scoring - Dianne Connors
- ⇒ Director of Umpiring - Mal Mackay

Baseball SA:



- ⇒ President - Kevin Jennings
- ⇒ General Manager - Paul Begg / Paul Chandler
- ⇒ Administration - Trish Hollands

- ⇒ Development & Coaching Manager - Ron Harvey
- ⇒ Operations - Lorraine Dunn
- ⇒ Operations Database - Derek Slater
- ⇒ Director of Umpiring - Andrew Bell
- ⇒ Scorers - Carolyn Smith

Baseball Victoria:



- ⇒ President - Rob Sadler
- ⇒ General Manager - Brett Hidson

- ⇒ Administration Services Coordinator - Christine Little
- ⇒ Participation & Development Coordinator - Grant Karlsen
- ⇒ Participation & Development Officer - Jade Hough
- ⇒ Financial Controller - Les Flower
- ⇒ Events & High Performance Coordinator - David Zucchet
- ⇒ Director of Umpiring - Mark Gooding
- ⇒ Director of Scorers - Michele Winther

Baseball WA:



- ⇒ Chairman - Evan Stewart
- ⇒ Managing Director - Geoff Hooker
- ⇒ Development Manager - Steve Fish

- ⇒ Events Manager - Travis Kalin
- ⇒ Office Manager - Sue Reid
- ⇒ Competitions Chairman - Andrew Todd
- ⇒ Media Liaison - Gemma Laidler
- ⇒ Results, Stats, Scorers Assoc - Natalie Todd

- ⇒ Umpires Tribunals, Rules, Regulations - David Gripper
- ⇒ Registrar / Competitions Secretary - Caroline Adamson
- ⇒ Little League / Regional Coordinator - David Hayes
- ⇒ Fixtures, Scheduling, Umpires Assoc - Mark Richardson
- ⇒ Webmaster - Ron Doorn
- ⇒ Tee Ball Assoc (TBAA) - Dianne Mount-Bryson

Life Members

* Denotes deceased:

- 1957: Mr Reg E Darling *
- 1976: Mr G C (Don) Mould *
- 1977: Mr J B (John) Hollander OBE *
- 1977: Mr E (Tim) Bassingthwaighte
- 1978: Mr Robert J (Bob) Black *
- 1985: Mr John Anderson
- 1992: Mr Neville Pratt OAM
- 1993: Mr Kingsley Wellington
- 2000: Mr Ken Douglas
- 2000: Mr Peter Dihm
- 2001: Ms Jan Thurley
- 2003: Mr Ross Straw *
- 2003: Mr Rod Byrne OAM *
- 2004: Mr Ian Ross
- 2005: Mr Alan Waldron
- 2009: Mr Ron Morgan

Committees

Baseball Operations:

- ⇒ Brett Pickett, ABF
- ⇒ David Hynes, ABF Board
- ⇒ Stuart Allen, Secretary
- ⇒ Phil Dale, VIC
- ⇒ Jon Deeble, QLD
- ⇒ Peter Gahan, ABF
- ⇒ John May, ABF
- ⇒ Geoff Robertson, ABF

Tournament Management Committee:

- ⇒ Stuart Allen, Secretary
- ⇒ Geoff Robertson, ABF
- ⇒ David Nagy, NSW
- ⇒ Neil Barrowcliff, NSW
- ⇒ Dean White, WA
- ⇒ Shayne Bennett, SA

Heritage Committee:

- ⇒ Ron Finlay, ABF Board
- ⇒ Geoff Robertson, Secretary
- ⇒ Kevin Cantwell, QLD
- ⇒ Hartley Anderson
- ⇒ Lionel Harris, NSW
- ⇒ Brian Davis, NSW
- ⇒ Peter Dihm, VIC
- ⇒ Robert Laidlaw, SA
- ⇒ Doug Corker, WA

Umpire Development Committee:

- ⇒ Geoff Robertson, Secretary
- ⇒ Mark Gooding, VIC
- ⇒ David Gripper, WA
- ⇒ Mal Mackay, QLD
- ⇒ John Robertson, NSW
- ⇒ Steve Tibble, NT
- ⇒ Andrew Bell, SA
- ⇒ Bill O'Malley, ACT
- ⇒ Craig Marquardt, NT
- ⇒ Trent Thomas
- ⇒ Ross Picot, NSW
- ⇒ Nathan Clegg, NSW

Scorers Development Committee:

- ⇒ Paula Kenning, CABS Coordinator
- ⇒ Vicki Beard, ACT
- ⇒ Paul McCullough, NSW
- ⇒ Libby Williams, NT
- ⇒ Dianne Connors, QLD
- ⇒ Carolyn Smith, SA
- ⇒ Michele Winther, VIC
- ⇒ Natalie Todd, WA

Financial Report 2009 – 2010 of the Australian Baseball Federation

Australian Baseball Federation Inc

ABN 18 610 026 404

Financial Statements
for the year ended 30 June 2010



Chartered Accountants & Company Auditors
Suite 13 Level 1 Riverwalk One Building
140 Robina Town Centre Drive Robina QLD 4226
Phone: (07) 5562 0333 Fax: (07) 5562 0777
Email: info@jmrgroup.com

Directors' Report

In accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors, the Directors present their financial report of the Australian Baseball Federation Inc ("ABF") for the year ended 30 June 2010 and the state of the ABF's financial affairs as at that date.

Geoff Pearce	1
Colin Pitt	2
Ron Finlay	2
Peter Williams	3
Deborah Healey	3
David Hynes	3
John May	3

Board Members

The following persons held office as Board members of the ABF during the period, or since the end of the year and up to the date of this paper.

Geoff Pearce	President
Colin Pitt	Vice President
<i>(Resigned 6 March 2010)</i>	
Ron Finlay	Director
Peter Williams	Director
Deborah Healey	Director
David Hynes	Director
John May	Chief Executive Officer

Board Meetings

During the year, three Board meetings were held which were attended by the following members:

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the ABF are set out throughout this report and there were no significant changes.

Review of Operations

The surplus / (deficit) from ordinary activities amounted to:

	Year ended 30 June 2010 \$	Year ended 30 June 2009 \$
ABF Operations	(888,517)	17,857
MLBAAP	(39,160)	22,222

Financial Report 2009 – 2010 of the Australian Baseball Federation

Changes in State of Affairs

No significant changes in the state of affairs occurred during the year.

Board Member Benefits

One Board member has received, or is entitled to receive, during or since the financial year, a benefit because of a contract made by the entity or related body corporate with the Board member, a firm which the Board member is a member, or an entity in which the Board member has a substantial financial interest:

John May, Chief Executive Officer:	
2010: \$160,000	2009: \$175,000

This statement excludes any benefit included in the aggregate amount of the emoluments received or due and receivable by Board members, shown in the entity's accounts, or the fixed salary of a fulltime employee of the entity or related body corporate.

Financial Position

The net assets of the entity have reduced \$939,252 over the year, due mainly to the write off of the Alpha Strategic Fund to zero.

After Balance Date Events

There have been no significant changes in the state of affairs of the ABF since year end.

Officers' Indemnities and Insurance

During the financial year, the ABF entered into an insurance contract which serves to indemnify directors and staff for costs incurred by them in defending legal proceedings arising out of the performance of their normal duties as directors and staff officers.

Environmental Issues

The entity's operations are not subject to significant environmental regulation under the law of the Commonwealth and State.

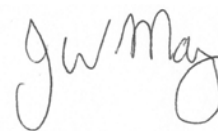
Auditor's Independence Declaration

A copy of the auditor's Independence Declaration, as required under section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001, has been included.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the members of the Board on: 30 September 2010



Geoff Pearce
President



John May
Chief Executive Officer

Auditor's Independence Declaration

Under Section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001

To: THE BOARD MEMBERS of AUSTRALIAN BASEBALL FEDERATION INC

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2010, there have been:

- (1) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- (2) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Signed on: 30 September 2010



Russell John Trevorrow
Lead Audit Principal
JMR Group
Gold Coast

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.

Financial Report 2009 – 2010 of the Australian Baseball Federation

Independent Auditor's Report

To: THE MEMBERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN BASEBALL FEDERATION
INC

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report of the ABF, being a special purpose financial report which comprises the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2010, the Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Changes in Equity, and Cash Flow Statement for the period ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes, and the Directors' Declaration.

Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The directors of the company are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, which form part of the financial report, are appropriate to meet the requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The directors' responsibility also includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of

the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the directors' financial reporting under the Corporations Act 2001. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001. We confirm that the independence declaration by the Corporations Act 2001 was provided to the directors of the ABF on the same date as the date of this auditor's report.

Audit Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of the ABF is in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, including:

- (1) giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2010 and of its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1; and
- (2) complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Corporations Regulations 2001.

Signed on : 30 September 2010



.....
Russell John Trevorrow
Lead Audit Principal
JMR Group Gold Coast

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.

Financial Report 2009 – 2010 of the Australian Baseball Federation

Directors' Declaration

The directors have determined that the company is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

The directors declare that:

- (1) the financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 23 to 33, in accordance with the Corporations Act:
 - (a) comply with Accounting Standards and Corporations Regulations 2001 to the extent described in Note 1 to the financial statements; and
 - (b) give a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2010 and its performance as represented by the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements; and

- (2) in the directors' opinion:
 - (a) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable; and
 - (b) the financial statements and notes are in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the directors.

Signed: 30 September 2010



Geoff Pearce
President

Financial Report 2009 – 2010 of the Australian Baseball Federation

Statement of Comprehensive Income for the Year Ended 30 June 2010

(Notes to and forming part of the financial statements are attached.)

	Note	2010 \$	2009 \$
MLBAAP:			
Revenue	2	443,170	400,214
Expenses	2	(682,330)	(578,315)
Total MLBAAP		(239,160)	(178,101)
Revenue			
Operating revenue ABF		4,154,147	3,633,502
Interest received	2	11,231	25,760
Profit on disposal of assets		-	599,581
Total Revenue		4,165,378	4,258,843
Expenses:			
Operating expenses ABF		(3,442,578)	(3,391,634)
Interest paid	2	(6,479)	(865)
Total Expenses		(3,449,057)	(3,392,499)
Write up (down) of impaired assets	15	(1,404,817)	-
Prior year adjustment		(21)	666
		(927,677)	688,909
Plus: transfers from reserves	12	719,416	-
Profit (Losses) Attributable to Members of the Entity		(208,261)	688,909

Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2010

(Notes to and forming part of the financial statements are attached.)

	Note	2010 \$	2009 \$
Current Assets:			
Cash and cash equivalents	13	1,760,684	1,576,003
Trade and other receivables	3	339,868	710,748
Other assets	4	448,752	335,988
Total Current Assets		2,549,304	2,622,739
Non-Current Assets:			
Property, plant and equipment	6	52,018	56,290
Other assets	4	364,475	35,475
Financial assets	5	25	1,483,479
Total Non-Current Assets		416,518	1,575,244
TOTAL ASSETS		2,965,822	4,197,983

Financial Report 2009 – 2010 of the Australian Baseball Federation

Statement of Financial Position continued...

(Notes to and forming part of the financial statements are attached.)

	Note	2010 \$	2009 \$
Current Liabilities:			
Trade and other payables	7	889,676	672,472
Short term provisions	10	35,087	20,143
Tax liabilities	8	-	64,182
Other liabilities	9	374,852	837,861
Total Current Liabilities		1,299,615	1,594,658
Non-Current Liabilities:			
Long service leave	10	17,827	15,693
Total Non-Current Liabilities		17,827	15,693
TOTAL LIABILITIES		1,317,442	1,610,351
NET ASSETS		1,648,380	2,587,632
Equity:			
Reserves	11	-	798,032
Retained earnings	12	1,648,380	1,769,601
Total Equity		1,648,380	2,567,633

Statement of Changes in Equity for the Year Ended 30 June 2010

(Notes to and forming part of the financial statements are attached.)

	Note	Reserves \$	Retained Profits \$	Total \$
Balance at 30 June 2008:		1,328,060	1,080,692	2,408,752
Profit / (Loss) for the period		-	688,909	688,909
Reserves		(530,028)	-	(530,028)
Balance at 30 June 2009		798,032	1,769,601	2,567,633
Balance at 30 June 2009:		798,032	1,769,601	2,567,633
Profit / (Loss) for the period		-	(208,261)	(208,261)
Reserves	12	(798,032)	-	(798,032)
Prior year adjustment		-	87,040	87,040
Balance at 30 June 2010		-	1,648,380	1,648,380

Financial Report 2009 – 2010 of the Australian Baseball Federation

Cash Flow Statement for the Year Ended 30 June 2010

(Notes to and forming part of the financial statements are attached.)

	Note	2010 \$	2009 \$
Cash Flows from Operating Activities:			
Receipts from clients		4,855,362	4,692,952
Payments to suppliers and employees		(4,334,855)	(3,738,396)
Interest received		11,234	26,170
Interest paid		(6,479)	(865)
Net Cash from Operating Activities	13(a)	525,262	979,861
Cash Flows from Investing Activities:			
Payment for:			
Other investments		(329,000)	(1,404,842)
Purchase of property, plant, and equipment		(11,581)	(3,116)
Proceeds from:			
Sale of investment		-	1,404,817
Net Cash from Investing Activities		(340,581)	(3,141)
Net Increase / (Decrease) in Cash Held		184,681	976,720
Cash at the Beginning of the Period	13(b)	1,576,003	599,283
Cash at the End of the Period	13(b)	1,760,684	1,576,003

Note 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

(These notes should be read in conjunction with the financial reports.)

Reporting Status

The directors have determined that the company is not a reporting entity. As a result, the financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared to satisfy the financial report preparation requirements of the Corporations Act 2001.

The ABF is an incorporated society, registered in South Australia. The association's principal activity is to manage, develop, and promote baseball in Australia.

Basis of Preparation

The report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 and the following applicable Australian Accounting Standards:

AASB 101:	Presentation of Financial Statements
AASB 107:	Cash Flow Statements
AASB 108:	Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors
AASB 1031:	Materiality
AASB 1048:	Interpretation and Application of Standards

No other accounting standard, Australian accounting interpretations, or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, have mandatory application. The company has, however, applied the measurement and recognition criteria of all accounting standards.

Financial Report 2009 – 2010 of the Australian Baseball Federation

Note 1: Continued...

(These notes should be read in conjunction with the financial reports.)

Reporting Basis and Conventions

The financial report is presented in Australian dollars.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs modified by the revaluation of selected non-current assets, financial assets, and financial liabilities, for which the fair value basis of accounting has been applied.

The directors evaluate estimates and judgements incorporated into the financial report based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data obtained both externally and within the company. There were no key adjustments during the year which required accounting estimates or judgements.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the company in the preparation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

(a) Income Tax:

The charge for current income tax expense is based on the profit / loss for the year adjusted for any non-assessable or disallowed items. It is calculated using the tax rates that have been enacted, or are substantially enacted, by the balance sheet date.

Deferred tax is accounted for using the balance sheet liability method in respect of temporary differences arising between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts in the financial statements. No deferred income tax will be recognised from the initial recognition of an asset or liability, excluding a business combination where there is no effect on accounting or taxable profit or loss.

Deferred tax is calculated at the tax rates that are expected to apply to the period when the asset is realised or liability is settled. Deferred tax is credited in the income statement, except where it relates to items that may be credited directly to equity, in which case the deferred tax is adjusted directly against equity.

Deferred income tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that future tax profits will be available against which deductible temporary differences can be utilised. Future income tax benefits in relation to tax

losses are not brought to account unless there is virtual certainty of realisation of the benefit.

(b) Property, Plant, and Equipment:

Property, plant, and equipment are brought to account at cost, or at independent or directors' valuation, less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation or amortisation. The carrying amount of property, plant, and equipment is reviewed annually by directors to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from these assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows which will be received from the assets employment and subsequent disposal.

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets, including capitalised lease assets, but excluding freehold land, are depreciated over their useful lives using the diminishing method, commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Leasehold improvements are amortised over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements. Depreciation rates and methods are reviewed annually and, if necessary, adjustments are made.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable asset are:

Plant and Equipment 20-40%

The gain or loss on disposal of all fixed assets, including re-valued assets, is determined as the difference between the carrying amount of the asset at the time of disposal and the proceeds of disposal and is included in operating profit before income tax of the economic entity in the year of disposal. Any realised revaluation increment relating to the disposed asset, which is included in the asset revaluation reserve, is transferred to retained earnings at the time of disposal.

(c) Intangibles:

Licenses, Patents, and Trademarks:

Licenses, patents, and trademarks are recognised at cost of acquisition. All intellectual property has a finite life and is carried at cost, less any accumulated amortisation and any impairment losses.

Financial Report 2009 – 2010 of the Australian Baseball Federation

Note 1: Continued...

(These notes should be read in conjunction with the financial reports.)

Research and Development:

Expenditure during the research phase of a project is recognised as an expense when incurred. Development costs are capitalised only when technical feasibility studies identify that the period will deliver future economic benefits and these benefits can be measured reliably.

Development costs have a finite life and are amortised on a systematic basis matched to the future economic benefits over the useful life of the project.

(d) **Impairment of Assets:**

At each reporting date, the company reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the income statement.

(e) **Payables:**

A liability is recorded for trade creditors and other accounts payable with respect to goods and services received prior to balance date, whether invoiced to the company or not. Trade creditors and other accounts payable are normally settled within 30 days.

(f) **Employee Benefits:**

Provision is made for the company's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee benefits expected to be settled within one year, together with entitlements arising from wages and salaries and annual leave which will be settled after one year, have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled, plus related on-costs. Other employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits.

Contributions are made by the company to employee superannuation funds and are charged as expenses when incurred.

(g) **Provisions:**

Provisions are recognised when the company has a legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

(h) **Cash and Cash Equivalents:**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within short-term borrowings in current liabilities on the balance sheet.

For the purpose of the statement of cash flows, cash includes cash on hand and in banks, and investments in money market instruments, net of any outstanding bank overdrafts.

(i) **Trade Debtors:**

Sales made on credit are included in trade debtors and are recorded at the balance due, less a provision for doubtful debts, for an amount estimated to be uncollectible. Trade debtors are due within 30 days from the end of the month.

(j) **Revenue:**

Income is recorded on an accruals basis as the goods are delivered or the service provided. Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

Government grants are only recognised as revenue when they are received and there is reasonable assurance that the company will or has complied with the conditions attached to them. Grants are recognised as income over the periods necessary to match them with the related costs which they are intended to compensate.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

(k) **Financial Instruments:**

Recognition:

Financial instruments are initially measured at cost on trade date, which includes transaction costs when the related contractual rights or obligations exist. Subsequent to initial recognition, these instruments are measured as set out below.

Financial Report 2009 – 2010 of the Australian Baseball Federation

Note 1: Continued...

(These notes should be read in conjunction with the financial reports.)

Loans and receivables:

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market and are stated at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Financial Liabilities:

Non-derivative financial liabilities are recognised as amortised cost, comprising original debt, less principal payments and amortisation.

Fair Value:

Fair value is determined based on current bid prices for all quoted investments. Valuation techniques are applied to determine the fair value for all unlisted securities, including recent arm's length transactions, reference to similar instruments, and option pricing models.

Impairment:

At each reporting date, the group assesses whether there is objective evidence that a financial instrument has been impaired. In the case of available-for-sale financial

instruments, a prolonged decline in the value of the instrument is considered to determine whether impairment has arisen. Impairment losses are recognised in the income statement.

(l) **Good and Services Tax:**

Revenues, expenses, and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset, or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables are stated with the amount of GST included.

The net amount of GST receivable / payable to the ATO is included as a current asset / liability in the balance sheet.

Cash flows are included in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities, which are recoverable from or payable to the ATO, are classified as operating cash flows.

Comparative figures have also been changed where classifications of income and expenditure items have been altered from the prior year as a result of a review by the directors. The new classifications have been altered to reflect a more accurate view of the company's operations.

Note 2: Revenue

(These notes should be read in conjunction with the financial reports.)

	2010 \$	2009 \$
Operating Activities:		
ASC grants	1,935,029	1,529,494
Marketing	125,846	315,302
MLBAAP income	443,170	400,214
Member fees	562,585	540,917
Other income	132,998	108,433
Events / program income	1,358,546	1,089,002
Development	39,145	50,355
Interest revenue	11,231	25,760
	4,608,550	4,059,477

Financial Report 2009 – 2010 of the Australian Baseball Federation

Note 2: Revenue continued...

(These notes should be read in conjunction with the financial reports.)

	2010 \$	2009 \$
Non-Operating Activities:		
Profit on disposal of investments	-	599,581
TOTAL REVENUE	4,608,550	4,659,058
Operating Expenses:		
Event costs	1,626,359	526,596
High performance general	580,337	1,426,310
Marketing	144,639	149,396
MLBAAP expenses	682,330	578,315
Membership	176,463	218,975
Development	185,836	280,225
Administration	399,124	369,139
Payroll / consultants admin	277,457	420,993
Other expenses	41,163	-
Interest expense	6,479	865
Audit services	11,200	7,000
	4,131,387	3,977,814

Note 3: Trade and Other Receivables

(These notes should be read in conjunction with the financial reports.)

	Notes	2010 \$	2009 \$
Current:			
Trade debtors		286,333	712,658
Provision for doubtful debts		(10,000)	(10,000)
Other receivables		5,306	1,928
Current tax assets		1,559	-
		283,198	704,586
Loan - Australian Baseball League (recoveries)	16	56,671	6,162
		339,869	710,748

Note 4: Other Assets

(These notes should be read in conjunction with the financial reports.)

	2010 \$	2009 \$
Current:		
Loans - other	4,450	43,318
Prepayments	444,303	292,670
	448,753	335,988

Financial Report 2009 – 2010 of the Australian Baseball Federation

Note 4: Continued...

(These notes should be read in conjunction with the financial reports.)

	2010 \$	2009 \$
Non-Current:		
Loan related entity - Australian Baseball League	364,475	35,475
	364,475	35,475
	813,228	371,463

Note 5: Financial Assets

(These notes should be read in conjunction with the financial reports.)

	Notes	2010 \$	2009 \$
Financial Assets Available for Sale:			
Exploration Fund Limited - at cost	(a)	-	<u>1,000,000</u>
Opening carrying balance		-	1,413,901
Less: disposal of units		-	(1,404,837)
Plus: asset revaluation		-	(9,064)
		-	-
Alpha Strategic Fund - at cost	(b)	<u>1,404,817</u>	<u>1,404,817</u>
Opening carrying balance		1,483,454	1,404,817
Less: write back of reserves from prior years		(78,637)	-
Plus: asset revaluation		-	78,637
Write off of impaired assets		(1,404,817)	-
		-	1,483,454
* Impaired value of the investment has been written down to zero. Any subsequent improvement will be reinstated.			
Other:			
Investment - Australian Baseball League	16	25	25
		25	25
		25	1,483,479

Australian Baseball League Pty Ltd ("ABL") is a company limited by shares, incorporated, and domiciled in Australia. The company's principal activity is to develop and operate the Australian Baseball League, being professional baseball in Australia.

Financial Report 2009 – 2010 of the Australian Baseball Federation

Note 6: Plant and Equipment

(These notes should be read in conjunction with the financial reports.)

	2010			2009
				\$
Plant and Equipment	224,160			212,578
Less: accumulated depreciation	172,142			156,287
	52,018			56,291
	Furniture & Fittings at Cost	Office Equipment at Cost	Computer Equipment at Cost	Total
Gross Carrying Amount:				
Balance at 30 June 2009	98,839	45,579	68,160	212,578
Additions	240	2,828	8,514	11,582
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Balance at 30 June 2010	99,079	48,407	76,674	224,160
Accumulated Depreciation:				
Balance at 30 June 2009	62,164	41,200	52,923	156,287
Expense	7,357	1,448	7,050	15,855
Disposals	-	-	-	-
Balance at 30 June 2010	69,521	42,648	59,973	172,142
NET CARRYING AMOUNT	29,558	5,759	16,701	52,018

Note 7: Trade and Other Payables

(These notes should be read in conjunction with the financial reports.)

	2010	2009
	\$	\$
Unsecured:		
Trade creditors	307,588	535,478
Accrual and other payables	582,093	136,994
	889,681	672,472

Note 8: Tax Liability

(These notes should be read in conjunction with the financial reports.)

	2010	2009
	\$	\$
Current Tax Liability	-	64,182

Note 9: Other Liabilities

(These notes should be read in conjunction with the financial reports.)

	2010	2009
	\$	\$
Revenue received in advance	374,852	837,861

Financial Report 2009 – 2010 of the Australian Baseball Federation

Note 10: Provisions

(These notes should be read in conjunction with the financial reports.)

	2010	2009
	\$	\$
Current:		
Accrued annual leave	35,087	20,143
Non-Current:		
Long service leave	17,827	15,693
	52,914	35,836

There were nine employees at the end of the financial year.

Note 11: Reserves

(These notes should be read in conjunction with the financial reports.)

	2010	2009
	\$	\$
Balance at the Beginning of the Year:		
Capital profit reserve	719,711	719,711
Asset revaluation reserve	78,637	608,665
General reserve	159,367	159,367
Less: Funds paid to state bodies	(159,662)	(159,662)
Prior year adjustment	(21)	(21)
	798,032	1,328,060
Increase (decrease) in Reserves During the Year:		
Capital profit reserve	(719,711)	-
Asset revaluation reserve	(78,637)	(530,028)
General reserve	(159,367)	-
Less: funds paid to state bodies	159,662	-
Prior year adjustment	21	-
	(798,032)	(530,028)
Balance at the End of the Year:		
Capital profit reserve	-	71,971
Asset revaluation reserve	-	78,616
General reserve	-	159,367
Less: funds paid to state bodies	-	(159,662)
	-	798,032

Nature and purpose of each reserve:

Capital Profit Reserve: The capital profit reserve sets aside funds for future expansion of the entity.

Asset Revaluation Reserve: The asset revaluation reserve realises capital gains (losses) on the entity's investments.

General Reserve: The general reserve records the transfer of interest income and investment gains for distribution to various state bodies.

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Note 12: Retained Earnings

(These notes should be read in conjunction with the financial reports.)

	Members' Equity Brought Forward	General	MLBAAP	BALME	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
30 June 2009:					
Balance at the Beginning of the Period:	717,081	295,503	65,769	2,339	1,080,692
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	-	667,010	21,899	-	688,909
Transfer to equity	-	2,339	-	(2,339)	-
Equity at 30 June 2009	717,081	964,852	87,668	-	1,769,601
30 June 2010					
Balance at the Beginning of the Period:	717,081	964,852	87,668	-	1,769,601
Surplus / (deficit) for the year (i)	-	(888,517)	(39,160)	-	(927,677)
Transfer from (to) reserves	-	719,416	-	-	719,416
Prior year adjustment (ii)	-	87,040	-	-	87,040
Equity at 30 June 2010	717,081	882,791	48,508	-	1,648,380

(i) The results are grossed up (down) by including funds allocated to the MLBAAP by the ABF.

(ii) The prior year adjustment was due to overstatement of accrued expenses in regards to the World Baseball Classic.

Note 13: Cash Flow Information

(These notes should be read in conjunction with the financial reports.)

	2010 \$	2009 \$
(a) Reconciliation of net cash from operating activities to operating profit after income tax:		
Net profit (loss) after income tax	(208,229)	688,243
Adjustment for non-cash items:		
Depreciation	15,856	19,295
Write down impaired asset	685,422	(599,581)
Prior year adjustment	87,040	-
Adjustment for changes in assets and liabilities:		
Decrease / (increase) in:		
Other debtors	(1,761)	(262,624)
Prepayments	(151,633)	(60,635)
Other current assets	408,639	(35,475)
Increase / (decrease) in:		
Accounts payable	(3,194)	536,409
Other creditors	(308,128)	682,480
Provisions	-	11,085
Net cash from operating activities	524,012	979,197

Financial Report 2009 – 2010 of the Australian Baseball Federation

Note 13: Cash Flow Information continued...

(These notes should be read in conjunction with the financial reports.)

	2010	2009
	\$	\$
(b) For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash includes cash on hand and bank deposits at call net of bank overdrafts. Cash at the end of the year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the accounts as follows:		
Reconciliation of cash:		
Cash at bank	1,754,189	1,555,530
Term deposits	-	18,984
Petty cash	6,495	1,489
	1,760,684	1,576,003

Note 14: Auditor's Remuneration

(These notes should be read in conjunction with the financial reports.)

	2010	2009
	\$	\$
Remuneration of the auditor of the company for auditing and reviewing of financial accounts	10,200	7,000
Other services	-	-
	10,200	7,000

Note 15: Profit (Loss) on Investment Income

(These notes should be read in conjunction with the financial reports.)

	2010	2009
	\$	\$
Alpha Strategic:		
During the year, the ABF wrote off the impaired Alpha Strategic Fund to zero	1,483,454	-
Less: Write back of reserves from prior years	(78,637)	-
Loss on written down investment	1,404,817	-
Exploration Fund:		
Disposal of 5,064 units @ \$277.42 per unit	-	1,404,837
Less: Cost of 5,064 units @ \$159.02 per unit	-	(805,256)
Profit on disposal of units	-	599,581

Financial Report 2009 – 2010 of the Australian Baseball Federation

Note 16: Investment in Australian Baseball League Pty Ltd

(These notes should be read in conjunction with the financial reports.)

The ABF holds a 25 percent stake in the Australian Baseball League Pty Ltd.

	Note	2010 \$	2009 \$
Equity 25 ordinary shares	5	25	25
Long term loan	4	364,475	35,475
		364,500	35,500

The ABL is not expected to return a financial profit until 2013 and the ABF has committed to make loans equaling 25 percent of the actual costs.

Division Report – Baseball Operations & High Performance

“Ensuring our sport remains a relevant and thriving component of the greater Australian sporting landscape.”

The 2009 / 2010 year has been one of great change for the Baseball Operations department, indeed for the entire sport itself.

Navigating our way through the findings of the Crawford Report, a change in Government leadership, lengthy delays in Government funding information, the residual impact of baseball’s elimination from the Olympic program, and the impending launch of the new Australian Baseball League, has been a difficult and at times frustrating journey for the Australian Baseball Federation (“ABF”). That being said, the ABF has emerged from the challenging clouds of uncertainty with a clear vision of where the sport needs to go and what we need to do to get there to ensure our sport remains a relevant and thriving component of the greater Australian sporting landscape.

In my 2008 / 2009 report, I indicated that 2009 / 2010 would be a defining year for the Baseball Operations department and with much certainty I can confirm my projection proved accurate. From a Baseball Operations standpoint, the past year has seen:

- the design and implementation of a revised operating model for all ABF national championships;
- the design and preparation of a nationally aligned academy network operated by the sport for the sport;
- the restructure of the national championships portfolio (including the employment of specific staff resources);
- the restructure of the development portfolio to now include:
 - game development (including the employment of specific staff resources);
 - player and coach development (including the employment of specific staff resources); and
 - technical and officials development (including the repositioning of existing staff resources);
- the design of a new national recruitment program for the specific purpose of attracting large numbers of new members to our sport (set for launch in 2011);
- the review and complete redesign of a new national coach accreditation scheme (set for launch in 2011) to ensure its

relevancy and alignment with the new direction of Australian Baseball.

All the while, our national teams’ programs maintained their usual pace, with three national teams leaving our shores to chase international success.

2009 / 2010 was a mixed bag of results, with our senior team achieving its best-ever World Cup result, coming in fifth place at the 2009 World Cup in Europe, whilst, unfortunately, our national AA team (2009 World Championship) and Cal Ripken team (2009 Cal Ripken World Series) could not mirror that success and displayed some disappointing performances at their respective events.

Naturally, it was incredibly pleasing to learn that the Australian Sports Commission (“ASC”) would maintain our funding levels for the year moving forward, so with their assistance, we will ensure that the hard work of the past year - setting up the platform for our revised operational and development efforts - will not go to waste and will indeed be rolled out to achieve the relevant strategic objectives of the organisation.

I’d like to take this opportunity to thank the hard working staff of the Baseball Operations department (**Stuart, Peter, Tom, Geoff and Cassandra**) and Board Director **David Hynes** (whose portfolio encompasses Baseball Operations) for his ongoing support and guidance - many thanks to them all for a very busy and productive year.

The hard work does not stop here, however, as ahead of us is the implementation and refinement of changes put in place over the past 12 months and ensuring that we achieve world’s best practice and standards of competition, development, and servicing.

National Academy Network

As reported previously, baseball’s loss of Olympic status resulted in a substantial reduction, or outright loss, of support from state institutes and academies of sport. In New South Wales, Victoria, and Western Australia, the baseball program was removed entirely, whilst Queensland reduced its status to that of “partner program”, whereby financial support is provided to the sport to conduct its own youth development programs. The ABF, therefore, has taken steps to ensure that state academy programs (which served well over the last 10 years) can continue to play an integral role in our national player development. The shifting ground has necessitated structural changes designed to get the most effective and efficient use of the reduced resources.

Division Report – Baseball Operations & High Performance

National Academy Network continued...

A new “National Academy Network” model calls for a centrally coordinated national approach, including a strategic alliance and operating partnership between the ABF and the respective state associations. Key to this new model is the direct employment by the ABF of a relevant academy coach in each state and the renaming of the position title to that of High Performance Manager. This new title reflects the additional responsibilities to be formally covered, including overseeing the state team programs and coaching in the new League.

The National Academy Network’s specific function is to produce an ongoing stream of players who are equipped with the tools (athleticism, knowledge, adaptability, mental preparedness and highly skilled) required to ultimately play at the highest level and achieve our ultimate goal - long term national team international success.

This new National Academy Network requires some minor refinement and tweaking to suit local realities, but at this time, the foundation for our player development has been set, which we know will assist Australia in becoming and remaining a world leader.

National Coach Accreditation Scheme

As previously reported, the ABF has been in the process of reviewing and updating its National Coach Accreditation Scheme (“NCAS”). With the ASC providing increased flexibility so that each sport may shape its scheme to best suit its needs, the NCAS is being designed to more closely reflect the developmental pathways of players in Australia.

The past 12 months have seen an intense period of framework design, content production, expert panel decisions, stakeholder feedback, and program refinement, culminating in:

- the current Level 0 course being abolished;
- the addition of four extra levels, such that now the scheme will consist of levels 1 to 7; and
- the addition of “specialist” levels (eg, pitching, or managing).

The early levels will specifically be shaped for Tee Ball and Coach Pitch coaches. These will require a relatively small investment of study time by candidates and will be more palatable for Mum and Dad coaches than the current level 1.

Advancing up the ranks will require the coach to demonstrate the capacity to deliver specific instruction and activities to his or her players so that we can ultimately expect our players to receive

more consistent material across the country. In the end, we will have more enjoyable practice sessions and a better product to assist in the retention and development of players.

The higher accreditation levels will be for those who wish to work in a specialist area, ie, managing, or pitching. This will once again help provide consistency in our instruction and will also provide a clear pathway for coaches who wish to advance into high performance areas of coaching.

Completing the many components of the new scheme is a laborious process and is still some way off. The first levels are to be submitted to the ASC in October and are on target for introduction in January 2011, but the scheme in its entirety will take some time longer.

This scheme has the potential to have a major positive impact on baseball in Australia and it is therefore essential that every effort is made to get it right.



The Major League Baseball Australian Academy Program (“MLBAAP”) was once again run at the Palm Meadows Baseball Complex on the Gold Coast from 29 May to 17 July 2010.

A total of 63 players attended, primarily Australian amateurs, but also some Australian and international professionals.

From day one, the group showed they were there to learn and improve, focusing diligently and persistently on the task at hand and behaving off-field in a way that did them and their sport proud.

For those involved, this year’s program was arguably the best yet. Everything seemed to flow smoothly, the behaviour and demeanor of the players was exemplary and the coaching staff, an excellent mix of youth development and professional experience, was productive and efficient.

As with previous years, the program placed a heavy emphasis on all three components of:

- (1) on-field - technical, tactical, and physical development;
- (2) sports science and sports medicine; and
- (3) off-field - education and character development.

Division Report – Baseball Operations & High Performance

MLBAAP continued...

With focus on and adherence to all three being a requirement for all athletes to maintain their scholarship, it was particularly pleasing that all athletes adhered to all requirements of the program and successfully worked on all aspects of their development as a baseball player.

On-field, there was an increased concentration on the development of hitting skills; a major priority for baseball in Australia. With each position player having 45 minutes swing practice, as well as the same amount of more traditional batting practice prior to the daily game, there was no shortage of opportunity to make substantial improvement.

The appreciation and gratitude of the ABF is extended to the major sponsors of the program - **MLB** and the **ASC**. Without the highly valued support of both of these organisations, the program could not act to the capacity it does and our ability to produce the athletes that we do would be very limited.

This year's program staff consisted of:

Head Coach	Jon Deeble
On-field and Catching Coordinator	Tony Harris
Pitching Coordinator	Phil Dale
Hitting Coordinator	David Nilsson
In-field Coordinator	Renee Gonzalez
Out-field Coordinator	Damian Shanahan
Pitching Coach	Graeme Lloyd Warwick Marks Phil Stockman Shayne Bennett Tim Ballard
Hitting Coach	Phil Allen Peter Gahan
Coach / Manager	Don Kyle Glenn Williams Brent Phelan Kevin Hooker Shaun Smith Nathan Davidson
Strength & Conditioning	Andy Utting
Program Manager	Neil Barrowcliff

Operations Coordinator	Bill O'Sullivan
Medical Coordinator	Bruce Rawson
Academic Coordinator	Lydia Najlepszy

2010 scholarship holders were:

Victoria	Liam Bedford Oliver Box Tyler Dale James Darcy Alex De Silva Hayden Gardner Darryl George Mitchell Hayes Andrew Jones Mitchell Kennedy Jon Kennedy Daniel McGrath Samuel Morris Aaron Sayers Jacob Sheldon-Collins Adam Silva Matthew Wilson
New South Wales	Scott Cone Kieran Glynn Travis McDonald James Murphy Luke Parish Cale Penrith Patrick Young Jacob Younis Todd van Steensel Chris Oxspring
Western Australia	Jordan Dyer Elliott Hargreaves Jordan McDonald Adam Millson Joshua Silvi Jake White
International	Martin Cervenka (Czech Republic)

Division Report – Baseball Operations & High Performance

MLBAAP continued...

Queensland

Lucas Bakker
Ryan Battaglia
Andrew Campbell
Matthew Corbitt
A J Elderkin
Nathan Hass
Sam Holland
Jason Kilby
Corey Lyon
Brendan Meagher
Daniel Nilsson
Mitchell Nilsson
Connar O’Gorman
Beau Rohweder
Joshua Warner
Daniel Muggleton

South Australia

Angus Bills
Dayle Child
Wilson Lee
Jackson Lodge
Greg Mosel
Nathan van der Linden

Australian Capital Territory

Caleb Albrecht
Hayden Calvert
Joshua Matavesi
Robbie Perkins
Cameron Warner

National Senior Team

In September 2009, the IBAF Baseball World Cup was staged in a number of European countries, specifically: Italy, the Netherlands, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Sweden, Germany, and Spain. Round 2 was limited to Italy and the Netherlands, while the final round was conducted in Italy.

Continual scheduling issues within the IBAF posed numerous challenges in gathering Australia’s best possible team to contest the tournament, as a number of players were unavailable due to ongoing professional commitments. However, a competitive team was pulled together and traveled from all over the world to meet in Prague for the first round.

Australia was drawn in Pool A, alongside Czech Republic, Mexico, and Chinese Taipei.

First Round Results:

Australia	17	Czech Republic	4
Australia	7	Chinese Taipei	5
Mexico	10	Australia	9

This left Australia in second place in Pool A and with safe passage into Round 2 in Italy as part of Pool G alongside Mexico, Italy, Canada, the USA, Netherlands Antilles, Japan, and Chinese Taipei.

Second Round Results:

Australia	19	Netherlands Antilles	6(7)
Australia	5	Canada	3
Chinese Taipei	5	Australia	4
Australia	5	Italy	4
Australia	5	Japan	0
Australia	6	Mexico	5
USA	4	Australia	3

Following Round 2, Australia moved into Round 3; a cross-over round robin against the top four teams for Pool G (Cuba, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, and the Netherlands) carrying forward a 1-2 record from Round 2.

Third Round Results:

Australia	5	Netherlands	2
Venezuela	9	Australia	4
Puerto Rico	4	Australia	2

This left Australia with a 2-5 record in Round 3 and in third place in their Pool. A play-off for fifth place against the Netherlands loomed. With a 4-1 victory, Australia claimed their highest ever finish of fifth place at a World Cup tournament.

Division Report – Baseball Operations & High Performance

National Senior Team continued...

Team Australia - 2009 IBAF Baseball World Cup - Europe:

Last Name	First Name	Uniform Number	Position	Date of Birth	Height (cm)	Weight (kg)	Hits	Throws
Beresford	James	5	Infielder	19 Jan 89	185	75	Left	Right
Berg	Daniel	20	Utility	21 Nov 84	183	90	Right	Right
Blackley	Adam	22	Pitcher	22 Feb 85	186	90	Left	Left
Bright	Adam	11	Pitcher	11 Aug 84	178	90	Left	Left
Cox	Timothy	7	Pitcher	8 Jul 86	175	80	Left	Left
Graham	Andrew	17	Catcher	22 Apr 82	193	103	Right	Right
Harman	Bradley	12	Infielder	19 Nov 85	184	94	Right	Right
Hendriks	Liam	31	Pitcher	10 Feb 89	183	87	Right	Right
Hill	Joshua	38	Pitcher	27 Mar 83	192	105	Right	Right
Hughes	Luke	16	Infielder	2 Aug 84	182	90	Right	Right
Kennelly	Matthew	19	Catcher	21 Mar 89	188	96	Right	Right
Kennelly	Timothy	23	Outfielder	5 Dec 86	184	88	Right	Right
Kimpton	Nicholas	10	Outfielder	27 Oct 83	195	90	Left	Left
Linger	James	6	Infielder	6 Sep 90	180	80	Right	Right
Mildren	Paul	15	Pitcher	3 May 84	183	90	Right	Left
Naughton	Joel	29	Catcher	27 Aug 86	185	94	Right	Left
Naylor	Drew	40	Pitcher	31 May 86	195	98	Right	Right
Ruzic	Dushan	32	Pitcher	5 Jan 82	190	95	Right	Right
Snelling	Christopher	14	Outfielder	3 Dec 81	178	92	Left	Left
Tippett	Bradley	18	Pitcher	11 Feb 88	187	85	Right	Right
Welch	David	45	Pitcher	2 Jun 83	193	97	Left	Right
Welch	Stefan	9	Infielder	12 Aug 88	193	85	Right	Left
Williams	Matthew	42	Pitcher	28 Feb 87	182	85	Right	Right
Wise	Brendan	21	Pitcher	9 Jan 86	187	96	Right	Right
Staff								
Deeble	Jon	24	Head Coach					
Lloyd	Graeme	27	Assistant Coach					
Dale	Philip	43	Pitching Coach					
Harris	Tony	2	Assistant Coach					
Gahan	Peter	25	Assistant Coach					
Nagy	David		Executive Officer					
Sattler	Hardy		Head Physiotherapist					
Tang	Alicia		Assistant Physiotherapist					

National AA Team

The 2009 IBAF AA Baseball World Championship was staged in Taichung, Taiwan, from 15 August through 23 August 2009.

Australia sent a traveling party of 24, including 18 athletes, a head coach, a pitching coach, an assistant coach, team manager, executive officer, and physiotherapist.

Players were selected through a long and lengthy process which included their performance at the 2009 National Youth Championships and the 2009 MLBAAP.

The team played two practice matches; one against the USA and one against host Chinese Taipei. Once the tournament started, the team's results were as follows:

Division Report – Baseball Operations & High Performance

National AA Team continued...

Round 1 Results:

Cuba	9	Australia	1
Australia	15	Russia	2(7)
Venezuela	9	Australia	8
Chinese Taipei	8	Australia	4
Australia	10	Japan	9

These results left Australia in fifth place in their pool and relegated to the play-offs for positions 9 to 12.

Play-off Round Results:

Australia	15	Czech Republic	0(5)
Australia	10	Russia	0(7)

This resulted in a ninth place finish for Australia.

Catcher **Guy Edmonds** of New South Wales was named to the “All-Star” team.

Team Australia - 2009 IBAF AA Baseball World Championship - Taiwan:

Last Name	First Name	Position
Bedford	Liam	Catcher
Calvert	Hayden	Outfielder
Dale	Tyler	Pitcher / Utility
Da Silva	Alex	Pitcher / Utility
Edmonds	Guy	Catcher / Utility
George	Darryl	Pitcher / Infielder
Glynn	Kieran	Pitcher
Hayes	Mitch	Outfielder
Kennedy	Mitch	Pitcher / 1 st Base
Klemm	Jarryd	Utility
Lodge	Jackson	Pitcher
McGrath	Daniel	Pitcher
Mills	Shannon	Pitcher
Morris	Samuel	Outfielder / Catcher
Nilsson	Daniel	Infielder
Rohweder	Beau	Pitcher
Sheldon-Collins	Jacob	Utility

Younis	Jacob	Infielder
Harris	Tony	Head Coach
Shanahan	Damian	Pitching Coach
Williams	Glenn	Assistant Coach
Marks	Warwick	Team Manager
Barrowcliff	Neil	Executive Officer
Whiteley	Rod	Physiotherapist



For 11 consecutive years the ABF has secured an invitation to attend the prestigious Cal Ripken World Series and we continue to be one of only a handful of international teams that are lucky enough to attend the event each year.

Following a four-day camp in Sydney, the 2009 Cal Ripken Australian team traveled to Maryland, Aberdeen, USA, to participate in the 2009 Cal Ripken World Series from 9 to 16 August.

Following a few warm-up games, the team played four pool games and despite one good win against Canada, lost their three other games against Mexico, Japan, and the Dominican Republic.

As always, the team performed admirably and did their country proud with the way in which they carried themselves at all times.

Division Report – Baseball Operations & High Performance

Cal Ripken Program continued...

Team Australia - 2009 Cal Ripken World Series - Aberdeen, Maryland, USA:

Last Name	First Name	Position
Aron	Justin	Pitcher / Infielder
Bowey	Jake	Catcher
Collins	Bryce	Pitcher / Infielder
Dyer	Joel	Infielder
Eckberg	Nicholas	Pitcher / Infielder
Frew	Dean	Utility
Goodman	Damien	Utility
Herzfeld	Robert	Pitcher / Outfielder
Hewett	Wez	Utility
Howe	Matthew	Utility
Keeping	Benjamin	Pitcher / Infielder
Mayo	Lachlan	Pitcher / Infielder
Packer	Ethan	Catcher
Power	Cameron	Utility
Smith	David	Pitcher / Infielder
Black	Stephen	Head Coach
Fenwick	Jason	Assistant Coach
Balzer	Phil	Assistant Coach
Moden	Robert	Executive Officer

National Championships

The ABF staged the following national championships from early 2010:

- Under 16 and Under 18 National Youth Championships (combined) at Geelong from 5 to 16 January 2010;
- Under 14 National Youth Championship at Beenleigh from 9 to 16 January 2009;
- National Provincial Championship at Geelong from 3 to 10 April 2010;
- National Women's Championship on the Gold Coast from 3 to 10 April 2010; and
- National Little League Championship, also on the Gold Coast, from 5 to 8 June 2010.

Under 16 and Under 18 National Youth Championships

Talk about jumping in the deep end! Our first foray into an inclusive tournament model and we start with a combined tournament for 400 athletes and officials, involving nearly 6,000 bed nights, 18,000 meals, 800 airfares, 4,000 uniforms washed, 48 vehicles hired and most importantly, 96 games of baseball.

Having trialed the model in a limited capacity with the 2009 Little League Nationals, the 2010 Under 16 and 18 tournament represented the ABF's first fully-fledged implementation. Overall, the feedback was positive and constructive with the following key points highlighted:

- The baseball on the field was well administrated.
- The tournament ran smoothly.
- The facilities were first-rate.
- The concept of combining the two tournaments was widely supported.
- Given the magnitude of the task, the off-field elements were generally well received, although it is fair to say some refinements were required.

The on-field results were as follows:

	Under 16	Under 18
Champion	Victoria Blue	New South Wales
Runner Up	Western Australia	Western Australia
Third	Queensland	Territories
Fourth	South Australia	South Australia
Fifth	New South Wales	Queensland
Sixth	Victoria White	Victoria Blue
Seventh	Country NSW	Country NSW
Eighth	Territories	Victoria White
MVP	Aaron Sayers (Victoria Blue)	Jordan McDonald (Western Australia)
Batting Champ	Aaron Sayers (Victoria Blue)	Dayle Child (South Australia)
Golden Arm	Daniel McGrath (Victoria Blue)	Travis McDonald (New South Wales)
Golden Glove	Aaron Sayers (Victoria Blue)	Mitch Williams (Western Australia)

Division Report – Baseball Operations & High Performance

National Championships continued...

Many thanks to the tireless volunteers and host partner, Geelong Baseball Club, who ensured the tournament was a great success.

Winners of the 2010 Under 18 National Youth Championship - NEW SOUTH WALES



Winners of the 2010 Under 16 National Youth Championship - VICTORIA BLUE



Under 14 National Youth Championship

The Under 14 tournament was held in Beenleigh and again was hailed as a successful tournament.

Whilst only one field was available at the Complex due to a last minute facility change, the tournament ran incredibly smoothly; thanks largely to a dedicated event team from the ABF and host partner, Beenleigh Hawks Baseball Club.

The on-field results were as follows:

Champion	Victoria Blue
Runner Up	New South Wales
Third	Western Australia
Fourth	Queensland
Fifth	South Australia
Sixth	Victoria White
Seventh	Country NSW
Eighth	Territories

The winner of the 2010 Under 14 National Youth Championship - VICTORIA BLUE



Division Report – Baseball Operations & High Performance

National Provincial Championship



The National Provincial Championship was held in Geelong, Victoria, traditionally over the Easter long weekend.

Once again, the tournament itself ran very smoothly. Host club, East Belmont Saints, produced an excellent facility and a strong army of volunteers.

Overall results were as follows:

Champion	Australian Capital Territory
Runner Up	New South Wales
Third	Victoria
Fourth	Western Australia
Fifth	South Australia
Sixth	New Zealand
Seventh	Northern Territory

National Women's Championship

In the absence of a dedicated host partner, the ABF conducted all aspects of the National Women's Championship.

2010 saw a change in tournament winner, with Western Australia coming out victorious and perennial powerhouses New South Wales and Victoria Blue relegated to second and third respectively.

Feedback received on the tournament was again positive and constructive and the addition of a closing function was particularly well received.

A firm fixture on the ABF's calendar, the expected growth of participation in women's baseball should ensure a bright future for this tournament.

Results were as follows:

Champion	Western Australia
Runner Up	New South Wales
Third	Victoria
Fourth	Country NSW
Fifth	Victoria White
Sixth	Queensland
Seventh	Australian Capital Territory

Following the National Women's Championship, the ABF selected the National Women's team to represent Australia at the 2010 Women's Baseball World Cup.

Winners of the 2010 National Women's Championship - WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Division Report – Baseball Operations & High Performance



National Little League Championship

The 2010 National Little League Championship is staged annually at the nation's tourism capital - the Gold Coast. The Champion team from this tournament is awarded representation of Australia at the International Little League Championship. Unfortunately, due to security concerns in Indonesia, the ABF chose not to send this year's Champion team to the 2010 Asia Pacific Championship and instead organised an international exchange with our neighbours, New Zealand.

Twelve teams descended on Surfers Paradise Baseball Club for four days of competition to determine the national Little League champion with results as follows:

Champion	Southern Adelaide All-Stars
Runner Up	Ringwood
Third	Cronulla
Fourth	Waverley
Fifth	Brisbane Metro
Sixth	Mt Gambier
Seventh	Perth South
Eighth	Illawarra
Ninth	WA Country
Tenth	Australian Capital Territory
Eleventh	Alice Springs
Twelfth	Far North Coast

2009 / 2010 Professional Signings

The ABF would like to congratulate the following players having signed professional contracts with MLB clubs over the course of the previous year:

Player	Signed	MLB Club
Dylan Child	Jul 09	Pittsburgh Pirates
Jarryd Sullivan	Jul 09	Pittsburgh Pirates
Mark Trau	Jul 09	Minnesota Twins
Ryan Battaglia	Dec 09	Cleveland Indians
Josh Warner	Jan 10	Philadelphia Phillies
Guy Edmonds	Feb 10	Texas Rangers
Jacob Younis	May 10	Minnesota Twins
Chris Lamb	Jan 10	Baltimore Orioles
Wilson Lee	Jun 10	Pittsburgh Pirates
Darryl George	May 10	Tampa Bay Rays



Brett Picket
General Manager
Baseball Operations

National Senior Team - IBAF Baseball World Cup - Europe



Division Report – Technical Officials

Umpire Development

Recruitment, Development and Training

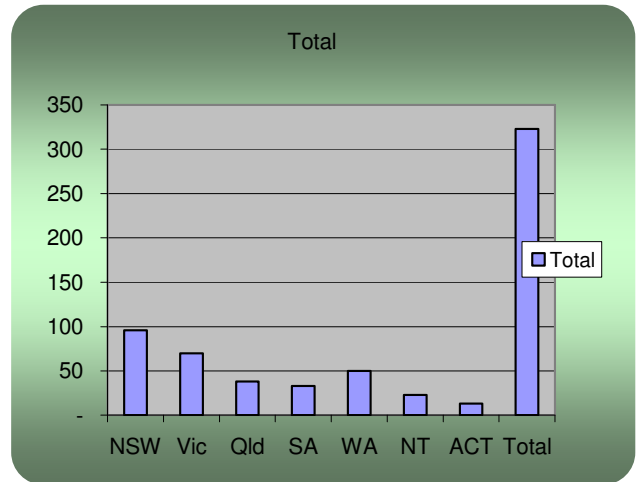
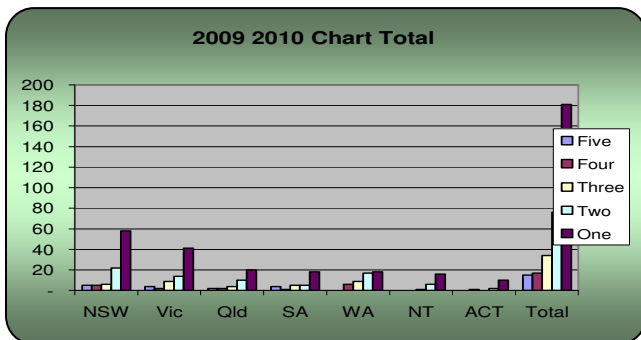
Throughout 2009 / 2010, there was a large number of Orientation to Umpiring (Level O) courses conducted around the country, aimed at those people aspiring to umpire at the very entry point of baseball (eg, parents wanting to umpire their children’s games, etc).

Level O umpires continue to represent the majority of our umpiring numbers. Fortunately, this course continues to be the launching pad for umpires who seek to gain a higher level of accreditation and officiate at a higher level and on a more frequent basis. The challenge, as always, remains in getting more Level O umpires to continue on the umpiring path. To that end, state umpiring bodies continue to conduct Level 1 umpiring courses around the country for those who are interested in officiating at higher levels of club baseball.

The “Green Shirt” program continues to work well. This program targets new and inexperienced umpires at a time when they are most vulnerable; usually in their first one or two years of officiating. They are identified to participants, club officials, and spectators, by a green shirt which is different to the shirt worn by an experienced or fully trained umpire.

This program was established in the hope that it will reduce or even eliminate harassment and abuse that umpires can be subjected to.

In recognition of the fact that the wearing of a green shirt will not totally ease the problem, a continuing mentoring process is undertaken with umpires, together with an education program within the clubs and baseball fraternity. This process is continually monitored.



The strategy of taking umpires from each of the participating states to the respective national championships has worked in creating a viable pathway for aspiring umpires and has created a level of excitement amongst the umpiring ranks not seen for a number of years.

Major League Baseball Australian Academy Program

The ongoing inclusion of the Umpire Development program in the Academy program is proving to be most beneficial in training umpires who have been identified as having the potential and aspiration to officiate at higher levels.

There were four umpires identified to attend the Academy under the guidance of a full-time umpire coordinator assisted by accredited instructors. There were seven umpires that attended the Academy of which five will officiate at the National Youth Championships in 2011.

During the program, the umpires have the opportunity to work high standard games and gain the experience of calling high level pitching.

Overseas Umpires

There were three umpires umpiring AA professional baseball in the USA; **Brett Robson**, **Jon Byrne** and **Travis Hatch**. These umpires continue to pave the way for Australian umpires aspiring to officiate in the major leagues. There is every chance that at least one of them could progress to AAA in 2011.

International Appointments

Mal Mackay of Queensland was appointed to the 2009 World Cup played in a number of cities throughout Europe and was one of a select few who umpired in all preliminary rounds and finals series.

Blake Halligan of New South Wales was appointed to the IBAF

Division Report – Technical Officials

2009 AA World Championship staged in Taiwan. Blake had an excellent tournament and was rewarded with being promoted to plate umpire in the bronze medal game.

A big highlight this year was **Paul Hyham** being selected as the IBAF Umpire of the Year.

Scorers' Development

The training of scorers under a national training scheme is growing annually and proving to be a highly successful initiative. Another "Train the Trainer" workshop was conducted throughout the year, thus increasing the number of trained personnel throughout Australia.

Similar to the opportunity provided to umpires, scorers have been provided with pathways and goals to attend national championships.

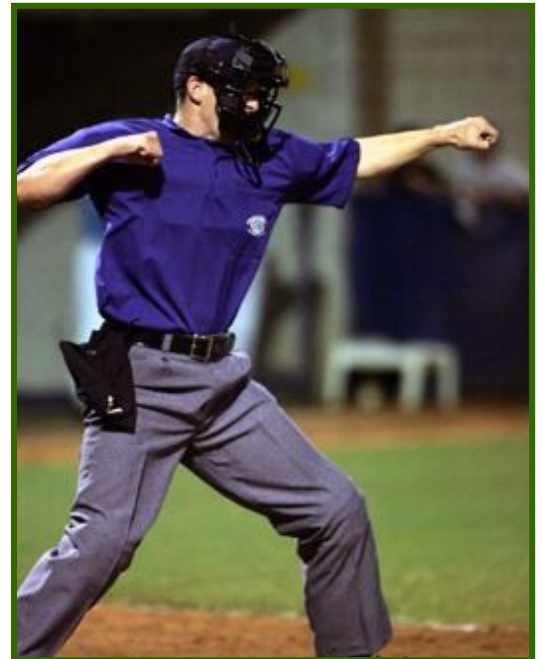
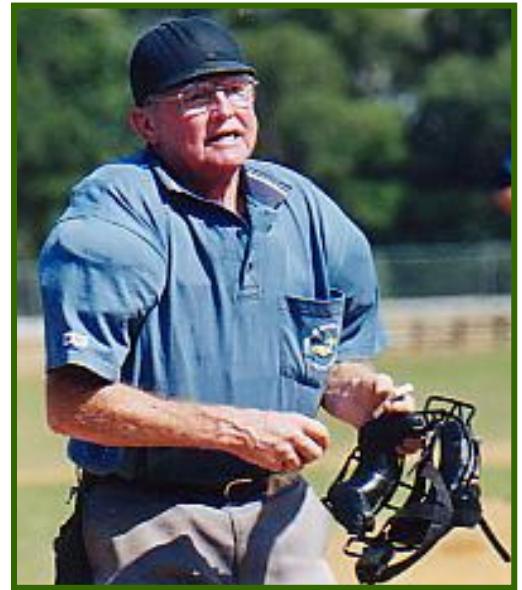
Heritage Committee

Nine nominations for induction into the Baseball Australia Hall of Fame resulted in five being inducted at the 2010 Baseball Australia Diamond Awards:

- **Montague A Noble** (deceased) of New South Wales was inducted as a Player for the era 1900 to 1918;
- **Andrew Watson** of New South Wales was inducted as a Player for the era 1900 to 1918;
- **Cyril Graham** of New South Wales was inducted as a Player for the era 1919 to 1946;
- **Douglass Mateljan** of Western Australia was inducted as a Player for the era 1968 to 1988; and
- **David Clarkson** of Victoria was inducted as a Player for the era 1989 to 1999.



Geoff Robertson
Manager
Technical and Officials



Division Report – Game Development



In recognition of the need of a national junior entry point program for our sport, the ABF has spent considerable time over the past year designing, in collaboration with affiliated state associations, Major League Baseball (“MLB”) and the Australian Sports Commission (“ASC”), the Aussie T-Ball program for clubs and schools.

A test pilot of the program is to be conducted in Queensland, New South Wales, and South Australia, with a total of six clubs and 24 schools participating before a full rollout of the program in 2011.

For clubs, Aussie T-Ball will provide boys and girls, aged five to eight years, with a range of game sense activities to develop core skills (hitting, running, catching, and throwing) required for baseball, over a structured eight-week period. Each week’s session will start with the game sense activities and culminate in a game of Aussie T-Ball. Aussie T-Ball will see a boost in resources, equipment, and overall support to clubs to engage and retain children in our sport.

Due to its easy to learn rules, simple game formats, and general fun, the game of T-Ball has long been included in schools’ sporting programs. Across Australia, baseball development officers see over 100,000 children a year. The ABF wants to further our partnership with the schools system by providing schools with an Aussie T-Ball kit and providing participation opportunities to children in local clubs. The kit will provide an easy to use practical resource and modified equipment which enables teachers to engage their class(es) in enjoyable physical activity with a minimum of fuss.

Aussie T-Ball will provide the much needed support and resources for growth in the heart and soul of our sport - the clubs. Through Aussie T-Ball the ABF will be able to improve avenues for sponsorship, liaison with education providers, and a collaboration of resources and stakeholders, all of which are essential for future growth.

Women’s Baseball

It is the vision of the ABF to develop and implement a nationally coordinated approach to developing women’s baseball throughout Australia. The initiative will be driven, with assistance from the ASC, through the establishment of an Australian Baseball Women’s Steering Committee (“ABWSC”).



This Committee conducted their inaugural meeting at Sports House, Albert Park, on Saturday, 24 July 2010. The purpose of the Committee is to provide strategic advice on all aspects relating to the development of women’s baseball throughout Australia, including:

- grassroots participation;
- competition format and opportunities;
- talented baseball programs;
- development of female baseball leaders;
- coach and umpire development;
- improved sponsorship and professionalism of state and national teams; and
- marketing and promotion.

Women’s baseball is still in its infancy in Australia, however, the days where baseball is for men and softball is for women are long gone. Women’s participation in baseball is going from strength to strength and proving to be a fantastic game well loved by women across Australia. With the momentum of growing numbers, popularity, and international success (as shown by our national women’s team), the ABF aims to leverage off an already strong platform and continue to develop women’s baseball to be a viable sporting option for females of all ages.

Junior Sports Policy

The ABF, in collaboration with the ASC, has developed a Junior Sports Policy. This policy is set for release late 2010.

The policy outlines what is recommended as appropriate conduct for the game of baseball at junior level. The policy will further encourage the best possible sporting experiences for young people at all levels of baseball providing safe, fun, and enjoyable environments.

Junior Sports Policy continued...

The objectives of the policy will be to:

- provide young people with the best possible sporting experience;
- encourage life-long and active participation in baseball;
- foster supportive and safe environments for enjoyable participation in a wide variety of physical activities, through the development of skills and good sporting behaviour;
- encourage the allocation of appropriate and safe resources and facilities;
- ensure equal opportunities for all young people to participate in baseball;
- actively cater for talented young players; and
- demonstrate a consistent and coordinated approach to junior baseball in both the school and community.

The focus for the ABF from now on, is to lead and influence all elements of inclusive baseball through affiliated state associations and club partners, as well as stakeholders from within the disability sector. The ABF is focused on developing all-of-sport inclusive practices with a major focus on a “bottom up” approach to engage people with a disability at the community participation end of the sport pathway.

Tom Taylor
Game Development Coordinator

Sports CONNECT

“The Australian Baseball Federation supports the rights of people with disabilities to be involved in all facets of baseball, including full and equitable participation in grassroots to elite level baseball in both a playing and non-playing role.”

The ABF continues its commitment to inclusive practices and ensuring that participation opportunities in all facets of baseball are available to people of all ages, gender, religion, and ability.

In the past year, the ABF has reviewed the Disability Action Plan and written a Junior Sports Policy, making inclusive practices core business within both policies.

The ABF presented the progress of the Disability Action Plan to the Sports CONNECT Advisory Committee in April 2010. Due to the progress presented to the Committee, the ABF is now a Gold Level Sports CONNECT member. The Committee commented on achievements made in areas of planning, education and training, and state influence and impact. The challenge for the ABF going forward, will be to continue to implement some of the quality plans now in place.

Baseball Australia Diamond Awards

It was my great honour once again to be a part of this history creating event; I think they get better and better each year.

The 2010 Baseball Australia Diamond Awards were held in South Australia's city central of Adelaide this time, on the night of 6 March 2010 at the Hotel Grand Chancellor. It was also held amongst one of the most busiest schedules the ABF had seen in many years, with our national teams on the international stage undertaking friendly series, international championships, fairs, national championships, baseball classics and the like, preparing for the announcement of a new national competition for baseball in Australia, and then followed by more; a world championship, a world series and a world cup. After such a hectic year, it was quite nice getting the breath back by congregating and honouring the great Australian tradition of acknowledging and celebrating achievements in our sport.

Special thanks to sponsors of the evening: Coopers, Europcar, Willis Australia, Edge85, Fielders Choice, Howling Wolves Wines, Bob Jane T-Mart, Virgin Blue, Helping Hand Group, and the ASC. And, of course, without the attendance, in support of this event and its highest achievers, of our baseball friends and family, we would not be able to continue with such a prestigious ceremony, so a big thank you to all of you that attended and made this a very special night.

2010 ABF President's Award - Major League Baseball



Over the past two decades the ABF has worked closely with Major League Baseball to manufacture world class development and high performance programs.

In 1994 MLB launched the "Sizzler Pitch Hit and Run" program with the ABF and ASF, introducing the sport of baseball and softball into primary schools. With publicity and promotion driven by MLB and ABF development officers, the program catered to one million participants and evolved into one of Australia's premier schools programs, providing a strong annual growth in the number of children participating in sport. Later, this program was replaced by the "Play Ball" Program.



In 1997 MLB introduced the MLB Road Show, a promotional vehicle showcasing a range of interactive inflatable equipment increasing the awareness of baseball amongst the young of the general public.

In 1999 MLB established their first ever international outpost in Sydney and in the same year launched the "Training with the Pros" product which was run in clinic style and intended to increase the profile of Australian professional players around the country.



2001 saw the introduction of "Yard Ball", a modified version of the game allowing participants, 11 years upward, to participate in a safe and social environment whilst learning social interaction, conflict resolution, motor skill development, and the principles of fair play. The Yard Ball program continues to be an annual program in Queensland.

In 2001 the Major League Baseball Australian Academy Program was born. The program's aim was to provide athletes with instructional league experience in preparation for the rigors of professional baseball. An eight week development and educational program, it is the first of its kind in Australia and world-wide. Statistics indicate that 35 percent of MLBAAP alumni have entered professional baseball as a result of this program, either via draft, or free agency; two of whom have reached major league status.



In 2006 MLB hosted its first ever fully professional World Cup to which Australia was given a "guaranteed" invitation to participate. The event presented another, very exciting opportunity to showcase Australian talent on the world stage.

Based on the success and strength of their relationship, MLB and the ABF joined forces once again and extended the relationship even further to create of a new national competition which was announced in July 2009 and will be launched in November 2010.

Throughout their long and diverse relationship with Australia, MLB's objective has been clear - "to build the profile of baseball in Australia" - they've certainly delivered on that objective, not once, but time and time again. The ABF are proud to call Major League Baseball their partner and friend and we thank them for their support to the sport and look forward to "building the business of baseball

Baseball Australia Diamond Awards

together” in the future.

2008 / 2009 Coopers Volunteer of the Year - Charles Conrad of Northern Territory



Charles Conrad had a pretty busy year through 2008 / 2009, a man of many hats, he donned his sponsorship hat to spearhead a fundraising campaign which resulted in new bats, helmets, bases, and catchers' gear for the entire junior program. His webmaster hat saw a newly revitalised website for the Alice Springs Baseball Association and his recruitment hat increased participation up to 40 percent.

Instrumental in Saturday morning competition, his knowledge and experience gained him the position as Assistant Little League Coach, whilst successfully coordinating the 2009 Northern Territory Little League Championship.

Charles was awarded the ASBA 2009 Clubman of the Year award, however, being ever dedicated to baseball, was not available to accept his award due to prior commitments - donning his security guard hat to stay overnight at the baseball field staging the Little League Championship.

It has been said by certain peers that “without “Chuck” Conrad, the Alice Springs Baseball Association would have been in a world of hurt last year and would have kept going in the same stagnant manner that we (the ASBA) had fallen into the previous five years. His innovative ideas and determined drive to make Alice Springs Baseball Association better, has pushed us to heights not seen in years”.

Chuck has spent the last 10 years as an active member of the Alice Springs Baseball Association and is credited with “elevating the profile of baseball in Alice Springs”.

2008 / 2009 Europcar Administrator of the Year - Geoff Hooker

Geoff Hooker has been involved in baseball for over 20 years; as a player, a coach, and since joining the Board of Baseball WA five years ago, has excelled as an administrator.

Through his savvy business techniques and revised strategic planning, Geoff has strengthened Baseball WA's financial position, reporting an annual turnover of over \$1million across all divisions in 2009.

In conjunction with Baseball WA's Board and staff, Geoff can be credited for his efforts in achieving a 10 percent growth in membership, expanded volunteer base, dissolution of the uniform “hire” system, a re-established relationship with the Tee-Ball Association of WA, and the establishment of a competition management and little league committee aimed at increasing junior members in a sustainable manner.

Geoff has worked tirelessly with key partners to develop a high performance program to replace the now defunct WA Institute of Sport baseball program and can be credited with the launching of the Diamond Sports Academy in July 2009.

He is Patron of the Tee-Ball Association of WA, was a managing director of the former Australian Baseball League's Perth Heat team, and a long-time, avid supporter of baseball in this country.

Geoff was awarded the TBAWA Outstanding Achievement Award in 2008.



Baseball Australia Diamond Awards

2008 / 2009 Edge85 Club of the Year - Baulkham Hills Baseball Club



Baulkham Hills Baseball Club

ABF Club of the year 2010



Governed by a motivated business-orientated committee, the 2008 / 2009 year proved to be the most successful and productive year for the Baulkham Hills Baseball Club since 1971.

On the field, Baulkham Hills secured championship titles in the Under 12, Under 14, Under 17, Major League 1st Grade, Under 18 Major League, and Women's A Grade competitions and were Runners Up in Division 2 Under 12 and Under 14, and Division 3 Under 12, Under 14 and Under 17. They were named Major League Club Champion a second year running. Baulkham Hills boasts an impressive 30 representative players and three professional players.

Off the field proved just as successful for this proactive club who re-established the Koala League Disabilities program, introduced the "Yellow Vest" Anti-Harassment program, increased player participation and umpire and scorer numbers, improved ground facility standards of Northmead Reserve, increased sponsorship, and implemented a strong coaches and officials accreditation policy.

2008 / 2009 Howling Wolves Wines Territory Association of the Year - Baseball ACT



Capital Territory
Baseball



In 2009 Baseball ACT had one of their most exciting and successful years in the history of the Association.

In a bid to become the sixth team in the upcoming Australian Baseball League, Baseball ACT successfully implemented a campaign that raised over \$250,000 in support of a team for the new league. They also obtained strong Government support for facilities and funding, and rallied support from thousands of bidders from the wider ACT community, in what could be considered the greatest support rally seen in a very long time.

Aptly titled the "Let's Do It Canberra!" campaign, Baseball ACT achieved their target objective through a strategic media, marketing, and promotional strategy.

In addition to this, Baseball ACT endured their busiest registration period in history, improved their bottom line, appointed experienced staff, reduced costs to junior players, upgraded communication tools, became fully compliant with all ABF policies and protocols, and announced their first ever ACT women's baseball team.

They also nurtured eight state representatives, five national representatives, and one professional player. The ACT can boast five members currently in the US College system, and three members who acquired scholarship to this year's MLBAAP.



Baseball Australia Diamond Awards

2008 / 2009 Willis Insurance Official of the Year - Paul Hyham



Since graduating from the Jim Evans Professional Umpiring Academy in 1999, Paul Hyham has worked tirelessly to solidify, not only his reputation as one of Australia's finest umpires, but also his appointment to some of the most elite competitions in the world, which has earned him respect from officials worldwide.



Paul has had one busy and impressive season in which he was appointed to the final Olympic qualification tournament and the 2008 Olympic Games in Athens. He was also selected as one of very few umpires to officiate every round of the 2009 World Baseball Classic in Tokyo, San Diego, and Los Angeles.

Aided by 10 years professional umpiring experience, Paul has officiated in numerous national events and internationally in four Junior World Championships, one Senior Championship, two Olympic qualification tournaments, one Olympic Games, and one senior World Classic. A member of the Umpiring Panel, he has also been an umpiring instructor at many of the Major League Baseball Australian Academy Programs and state development programs.

2008 / 2009 Fielders Choice Coach of the Year - Don Kyle



Don Kyle has long been recognised as an accomplished local, state, and national team coach.

Boasting 10 years at the helm of the WA Institute of Sport baseball program, Don has been instrumental in the accomplishments of many Western Australia state team victories and has spearheaded the development of many high performance athletes both domestically and internationally.

A notable leader amongst his peers, Don has held national coaching positions on a staggering 10 national team tours at both a junior and senior level and has been a member of every coaching staff for the Major League Baseball Australian Academy Program since its inception in 2001.

Don became the recipient of WA's Department of Sport and Recreation 2009 High Performance Scholarship after he led the Perth Heat Claxton Shield team to victory defending their 2008 title.

2008 / 2009 Bob Jane T-Mart Youth Player of the Year - Nathan Driessen



Nathan Driessen became the first Western Australian to sign a professional baseball contract with the Cincinnati Reds in 2008. That same year he traveled to Edmonton, Canada, with the AAA national team to participate in the 2008 AAA World Championship of which the team secured a respectable fourth place finish.

A former member of the WA Institute of Sport baseball program and recipient of an MLBAAP scholarship in 2008, Nathan was selected as the Gold Medal Game's MVP for dominant pitching performance at the 2008 WA Schoolboys Tournament and was selected also to the 2008 Australian Secondary Schools All Star team.



2009 proved to be the hallmark year for this promising young athlete however, and at the 2009 Under 18 National Youth Championship, he produced a 1.90 earned run average over 23.2 innings with 14 strikeouts.

He later embarked on what proved to be an impressive rookie season with the Reds, posting a 3.66 earned run average over 14 games. Nathan pitched 32 innings with an impressive 21 strikeouts.

A valued member of the Perth Heat 2009 / 2010 Claxton Shield team, Nathan is an admirable player with a promising future.

Baseball Australia Diamond Awards

2008 / 2009 Virgin Blue Women's Player of the Year - Tahnee Lovering



In 2008 / 2009 Tahnee Lovering excelled in every level of baseball.

Not a stranger to international baseball, Tahnee was a member of the Australian women's team that traveled to Edmonton, Canada, in 2008 to participate in the IBAF Women's Baseball World Cup where they secured fourth place.

Following double honours in her home state of New South Wales as the MVP and Players Player, Tahnee was awarded the Golden Glove at the 2009 National Women's Championship, posting a .462 earned run average with 12 hits, 13 runs, nine RBI and a .615 slugging percentage.

Tahnee shone for her club team "The Knights" where she was awarded Women's MVP and is considered to be a respected member of the Knights' Sydney Major League Men's team, being the first ever woman to catch in a Sydney Major League 1st grade game.

A team player, Tahnee's achievements have earned her respect from both her peers and the nation.



2008 / 2009 Men's Player of the Year - Trent Oeltjen

Trent Oeltjen has been a staple fixture on the Australian national team for many years and in 2010 Trent was considered the "spark plug" for the senior national team.

In his limited, but outstanding performance at the 2009 Claxton Shield, he produced a .455 batting average in his 22 at bats, producing nine runs, 10 hits, one home run, and three RBIs. His on-base percentage was an impressive .538 and he earned a fielding percentage of 1.000.

In March, Trent displayed a dazzling performance at the 2009 World Baseball Classic providing some much needed ignition at the top of the team line up. In three games he secured six hits in his 12 at bats, scoring one run, one RBI, and boasted an on-base percentage of .538, a slugging percentage and a batting average of .500.

Following a great season at AAA, during which Oeltjen was batting .300 with 27 doubles, 10 home runs, 61 RBIs, and 19 stolen bases in 106 games with the Reno Aces, Trent was leading the PCL with 14 triples before being promoted to the major leagues for the first time in his eight year professional career.

On 6 August 2009 in his first major league game, Oeltjen recorded his first major league hit and first major league home run. Oeltjen finished the game two for six with an RBI and two stolen bases. He hit a lead-off home run in his third game as well as one in his fourth. Oeltjen hit his first three home runs in only 20 at bats and also came one hit shy of the cycle in a four hit game. The four hits meant that he became the fifth player in the "expansion era" since 1961 to have 12 hits in the first five major league games played.

On 29 August, Oeltjen was optioned back to Reno for Chris Young as only had hit five times in his last 55 at bats. He was recalled only 10 days later and on 10 September, as a pinch runner, was the winning run against the Los Angeles Dodgers in a base-on-balls walk off.



2010 Claxton Shield Helms Award (The Ron Sharpe Medal)

The nominees are...

Baseball Australia Diamond Awards



Wayne Lundgren (RHP - NSW Patriots)!

New South Wales Patriots' Wayne Lundgren has long been one of the Claxton Shield's most feared pitchers. The towering right-hander uses a mix of control, deception, and overall pitching guile to near perfection and his 2010 campaign was no exception.

Making eight starts for the NSW Patriots, Lundgren compiled a three to one record to compliment an impressive 3.02 earned run average, but those numbers become staggering when you consider his quality starts throughout the year.

Lundgren lasted at least five innings or more, six times throughout the year and during those starts, allowed a total of just three runs over 33.1 innings, while striking out 28 and walking only three batters.

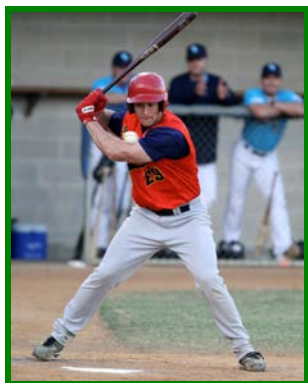


Paul Mildren (LHP - South Australia)!

Paul Mildren announced his return to the forefront of Australia's elite pitchers this year in emphatic style.

After a lengthy year in the USA, book-ended by both World Baseball Classic and World Cup duties with the national team, Mildren turned his focus to his native South Australian side in their storied return to Norwood Oval.

High amongst the League leaders in innings pitched, strikeouts, earned run average, and wins, Mildren was the staff "ACE" on a club that turned a miserable 2009 campaign into the near story-book worst-to-first finish this year. Always the consummate professional, his tenacity on the mound was second to none, highlighted by a completed game effort against eventual champions, the Victorian Aces, in his "must win" final start of the regular season.



Michael Collins (Catcher - South Australia)!

Without the benefit of his hometown Canberra fielding a team in 2010, Michael Collins jumped at the opportunity to be the everyday catcher for South Australia this year and certainly didn't disappoint his adopted state.

Making his debut in Round 3, Collins made an immediate impact hitting a home run and driving in three runs in his first game for South Australia.

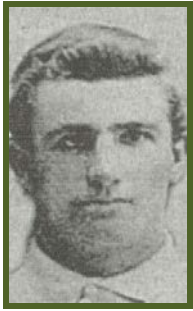
From that point on, Collins simply devoured opposing pitchers, compiling a gaudy .417 season batting average while leading the League in home runs, slugging percentage, and on-base percentage, as well as ranking highly in nearly all other offensive categories.

Most impressive however, was a remarkable stretch where Collins hit safely in nine straight at bats while slugging four home runs, and knocking in 11 RBIs.

... and the winner is: Wayne Lundgren - congratulations Wayne!

Baseball Australia Diamond Awards

2010 Hall of Fame Inductions



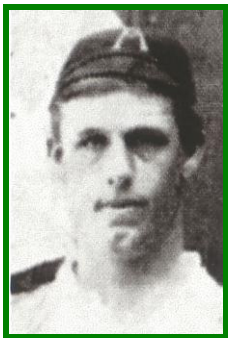
Montague Alfred (MA) Noble - Player, 1900-1918

Montague Alfred Noble, born 28 January 1873 in Sydney, was, at the time of his death, a Trustee of the Sydney Cricket Ground where his principal memorial is the M A Noble Stand.

Better known and regarded as the greatest all round cricketer produced in Australia, Monty's minor representation in baseball commenced in 1898 and his first grade career started in 1900 to 1908. As player and captain for New South Wales, his team was premiers in 1901, 1903, 1904, and 1908.

A notable mentor to young players and administrator of his era, promoting baseball at every opportunity, Monty's influence played a huge part in cricket's effect on baseball. He was also President of the New South Wales Baseball Association from 1920 to 1940 - the second longest serving President in NSW baseball history.

An Australian sporting icon, Monty was inducted into the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame in 2006 and is inducted into the Baseball Australia Hall of Fame for his achievements as a player for the era 1900 to 1918.



Andrew Watson - Player, 1900-1918

Andrew Watson, an athletic outfielder who played with the Sydney University Baseball Club, represented New South Wales nine times between 1906 and 1914.

He competed on the representative team that played against international teams such as: Presley's touring US footballers in 1907, the California Collegiate Footballers at Petersham Park in 1910, and the New York Giants and Chicago White Sox at the Sydney Cricket Ground in 1914.

Andrew Dugald Watson's achievements as a player for the era 1900-1918 make him an honourable addition to the Baseball Australia Hall of Fame.



Cyril Graham - Player, 1919-1946

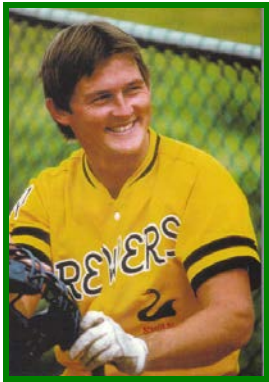
Cyril Graham, a strong pitcher and avid team player, commenced with the premiership winning Petersham Club in 1918. In 1921 he moved on to become the first grade pitcher for Marrickville.

He was selected to represent New South Wales 11 times between 1921 and 1937 and represented Australia in all three tests against the US Stanford University team in 1928.

For 10 years, from 1922 to 1932, Cyril was Treasurer of the New South Wales Baseball Association.

Cyril Wilfred Graham is a praiseworthy addition to the Baseball Australia Hall of Fame.

Baseball Australia Diamond Awards



Douglas Mateljan - Player, 1968-1988

Born 6 January 1960, Douglas (“Doug”) Mateljan became a household name in Australian baseball, a landmark achievement through an impressive 40 years involvement in baseball at local, state, and national levels.

After joining the Morley Eagles Baseball Club in 1968, Mateljan moved to Wanneroo Baseball Club for five years, before ending his club ball playing days with the Swan Districts Baseball Club in 1989.

Mateljan commenced his representative career in 1972 at the age of 12, when he was selected on the Western Australia Under 13 state team. This was the beginning of a long representative career for Mateljan who became a regular on the Western Australia team for the better part of the following three decades.



As his career progressed, so did his accolades. In 1976 he was awarded WA’s “Patrons” award and the “J A (Mick) Lee” award as the best under 17 player in WA. For three years (1977, 1979 and 1980), for runs scored, Doug received high recognition from WA Baseball Umpires’ as the “Best Under 21 Player”. In 1980 he received WA’s “Mickle” medal for best player in the WA Claxton Shield team and again in 1983. Also in 1981, Doug was the WA Baseball League’s batting champion and was presented with the “Don Callanan” award, replicating this achievement in 1988. He was also a nominee for recognition as the “WA Caltex Sports Star” in 1983. Doug was awarded the state league grade’s “President’s” medal in 1985 and in 2000 was recognised by Australia and received the prestigious “Australian Sports Medal”.



Mateljan was a regular on the WA Claxton Shield team between 1978 and 1987 and boasted a career batting average of .343 with 107 hits during 379 plate appearances in 92 games, 84 RBIs, an on-base percentage of .440, and a fielding percentage of .968. His efforts paid off and he cemented his name in Australian baseball history by becoming a recipient of the prestigious “Helms” award in 1983.

Mateljan donned the green and gold for the first time in 1976 as a member of the Australian under 17 team and again in 1977. He was named “Team Captain” of the Australian A team that toured Florida in 1978 and held his position on the national team from 1980 through 1986, during which he competed in the 26th World Championship in Japan, the 5th Intercontinental Cup in Canada, the 27th World Championship, and the 12th and 13th Baseball Federation of Asia Series in Korea and Perth (WA), and the America’s Cup Festival of Sport Series also in Perth.



Doug commenced his baseball administrative career in 1992 when he assumed a position on the Board of Baseball WA Limited for two years. He was appointed as the General Manager of the Australian Baseball League’s Perth Heat team from 1996 to 1999.

Throughout his four decade-long career, Doug won numerous state and national championships, built himself a reputation as a respected player and valued administrator, won numerous awards, and became a valued ambassador for our game. In 2010 he is a welcome and deserving addition to the Baseball Australia Hall of Fame.

Baseball Australia Diamond Awards



David Clarkson - Player 1989-1999

David Clarkson's four decade long baseball career commenced with Waverley Baseball Club at the age of eight. Over the duration, he achieved many milestones in Australian baseball and cemented his reputation as one of the game's elite.

From 619 games as a senior player of Waverley Baseball Club, David was named "Club Champion" an amazing seven times between 1980 and 1999 and was the Club's club coach for two seasons.

David was soon recognised as a legend by Waverley Baseball Club as both a player and a coach with similar status afforded him by the Australian Baseball League and the League's "Reds" team. However, it was as a representative player that David solidified his reputation as an exceptional catcher and a dominating hitter who flourished in tough situations at the plate.

David competed in six Claxton Shield series, posting a career batting average of .322. Ever a fan favourite, "Clarko" was a staple fixture on the ABL's "Reds" team between 1990 and 1997 and boasts a life time batting average of .300 in 342 ABL games. He was awarded the first ever ABL "Batting Champion" award in 1990, with a batting average of .444 with 33 home runs.

Clarkson made his Australian team debut in 1983 and went on to don the green and gold a further nine times. In 1985, Clarkson travelled to Canada to compete in the 1985 Intercontinental Cup and in 1988 he competed in the Seoul Olympic Games. He continued his Australian representation till 1995.

He was inducted into Flintoff and Dunn's Australian Major League Baseball Hall of Fame following his magnificent career. Baseball Victoria further acknowledged this achievement through his selection into the Victorian Claxton Shield Team of the Century.

Now the nation acknowledges those same achievements, as David "Clarko" Clarkson becomes a part of Australian baseball history and is welcomed as an inductee into the Baseball Australia Hall of Fame.

Baseball Australia Hall of Fame Inductees:

PLAYERS: Pre 1990 - Rue Ewers, Harry Simpson, Tom Gleason 1900-1918 - Harold Franks, Erick McElhone, Les Agnew, Charles Simmonds, Wallace Pratt, Montague Alfred (MA) Noble, Andrew Watson 1919-1946 - Harold Kennett, Charlie Puckett, George Dickinson, Ken Gulliver, Ron Sharpe, Alf Emmerick, Ernie Yum, Billy Ford, Cyril Graham 1947-1967 - Ross Straw, Dave Roberts, Kevin "Crazy Cantwell", Ron "Bandy" McPherson, Ray Lawler, Don Deeble, Graeme Deany, Mervyn Deigan, Jack Rowley, Billy Edmonds 1968-1988 - Adrian Meagher, Neil Page, Kevin Greatrex, Larry Home, David Mundy, John Swanson, Lionel Harris, Ray Michell, Don Knapp, Douglas Mateljan 1989-1999 - Shayne Bennett, Matthew Sheldon-Collins, Phil Dale, Bob Nilsson, Ron Johnson, Andrew Scott, Tony Adamson, David "Clarko" Clarkson, Gary White, Paul Elliott **SPECIAL CATEGORY:** Craig Shipley, David Nilsson, Graeme Lloyd **MANAGERS:** Pre 1900 - James Searle, Frank Laver 1900-1918 Norrie Claxton, Harold "Mum" Turner 1947-1967 Cec Kemp, Kingsley Wellington 1968-1999 Rod Byrne, Jon Deeble



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission

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The Australian Sports Commission is the Australian Government agency that develops, supports and invests in sport at all levels in Australia. The Australian Baseball Federation has worked closely with the Australian Sports Commission to develop baseball from community participation to high-level performance.

The Australian Baseball Federation is one of many national sporting organisations that has formed a winning partnership with the Australian Sports Commission to develop its sport in Australia.

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