# SPRINGVALE LIONS BASEBALL CLUB INC.



ANNUAL



REPORT

2015-2016

PRESENTED BY DARRYL ROSEWALL SECRETARY

# **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**President** Simone Wearne

**Vice-President** Rod Anderson

**Vice-President** Peter Higgins

**Secretary** Darryl Rosewall

**Treasurer** Michael Wearne

Committee Persons Mandi Avent

Michael Crooks

Sinead Flanigan

Rowan Hall

Lucas Price

Cassandra Shelverton

Roger Sissing

Web Master Rowan Hall

## **President's Report**

In another very successful season, the club was able to continue its move forward with a focus on juniors into the future. Our senior list in both the men's and women's programs was bolstered with a large number of young players who represented at all levels, and continued to gain great playing experience in various teams.

We were able to secure another five Premierships for the club, with the women's program again proving successful with a Division Three and Division One Premiership, plus a Men's Fifths Premiership, Masters 38+ Premiership and Under 18 Metro Premiership. It was fantastic to see the Under 18 Metro Team go back to back, and also for the women's Division One team to win their fourth on the trot. It was also the first time in the history of the club that all three women's teams finished on top of the ladder at the end of the regular season.

We had 9 juniors represent the club in state teams (5 boys and 4 girls), all who did the Big Cats proud in their respective competitions. But aside from representative baseball, we had players represent the club in tee-ball, under 12's, under 14's and two teams of under 18's. All teams had good seasons. Our younger teams may not have won as many games as they lost, but they all worked hard and learned a lot throughout the season. A big effort by our Under 18 state side who led the league all season but lost the big one by one run. A fantastic season by Stenny and the boys.

Our Men's program had a great year, back in Division One for the first time in many years. Scott, Freddy and the rest of the coaching staff amongst the seniors worked hard, and in the end, marginally missed out on a finals appearance. It was simply a great effort to compete in Division One, let alone win quite a few games. Chipper Maurer was great in his first year working with the Reserves, a good, solid group of young players, ably assisted by some older boys who really worked well together. Well done to the Fourths who made the finals but were unfortunately out in the first week. And to Mini and the Women's Seconds, finishing on top, but out in two weeks. Still a fantastic effort.

Well done to Mick and Timmy who again ran the Masters program on a Monday night. The 38+ team were able to have another successful campaign, with a win meaning back to back titles. The 45's team were able to finish in the four too. Not only does our Masters program provide opportunity for many players to play midweek baseball, it also provides some great off-field opportunities for social time at the club, with the weekly bbq's a great initiative from Mandi and her crew of workers.

Off field, the club again had a great season. The annual Calcutta event, \$1000 Draw for our Junior State Representatives, the Fourths Seafood Bonanza, and five fundraising bbq's headed up by Mandi Avent and the rest of the women's program. Without the great voluntary contributions by a few of the women's players (and a couple of men), we would not have been able to raise significant funds for the club throughout the season.

In what was a real disappointment, our Breast Cancer awareness day ended horribly, with almost \$3,000 stolen. After huge efforts from some valuable volunteers, a horrible person from within our baseball community stole from a charity that really needed the money. I would like to say a huge thanks to those who did put up their hand to help out, donate items, bake cakes, or just be there on the day. The club is still investigating this theft, and is in talks with Dingley and the Council in order to install security cameras to reduce the risk of future theft.

Along with some great fundraising efforts, we had a new major sponsor come on board. "Log Cabin Park Accommodation' made a very valuable contribution for the club, in a relationship that we hope will continue into the future. A big thanks to Vic Brown and her family for their assistance in making this happen. Also, to Martin and Jenni Wearne, and Brian and Lynda Lillywhite. This year marked 10 years of ongoing sponsorship from Brian and Lynda, with a plaque awarded to them at Presentation Night. Very well deserved, and the club thanks you for your continued support. To anyone else who donated items or money during the season, we cannot thank you enough for your support.

I would like to thank the committee, but mainly Darryl Rosewall and Mandi Avent, for their continued support of me. Mandi was awarded the BA volunteer of the year, and also our Best Club person award for the 2015/16 season. She takes on many jobs at the club, and without her service, the club would certainly not run as smoothly. Darryl continues to provide valuable administrative support to all of us, and takes on some of the really annoying jobs that no one else wants. Thanks to both Darryl and Mandi for their hard work and assistance.

To all the coaches, officials, scorers, canteen staff, and other volunteers at the club, I cannot thank you enough. You are the reason this club is great, and you are the reason it all works. Without you, our fees would increase, we would not have the great facilities and people that we do, and our teams would not have the chance to succeed like they do.

Yours in baseball,

Simone Wearne

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT

What a season this has been, after many years absence we returned to Division 1. Although our actual player numbers decreased slightly, all teams, men's, women's and juniors enjoyed a very successful season. Congratulations to all the Coaches and support staff, who organised all the teams on the field each week. Our Men's Fifths, Women's Firsts and Thirds, Masters 38+ Tomatoes and U'18 Metro teams, all achieved ultimate success by each winning a Pennant.

Rod Anderson, Vice President, was again the Junior Co-ordinator. Thanks for all your good work in handling the administration tasks so efficiently. Having someone to complete all the off field tasks, allows our Junior Coaching staff to do what they do best – coach.

Congratulations to Mandi Avent on being presented with the 'Volunteer of the Year' award by Baseball Victoria. It is truly great for someone who does an extraordinary amount of things around the club, to be formally recognised.

Over the Easter break the 'Greater Melbourne Women's Open Friendship Baseball Tournament' held at Springvale. The event was an outstanding success, due to the time, effort and commitment shown by many of our members. A big 'thank you' to all those who contributed to the Event.

I would also like to thank all the Committee, especially Simone as President and Michael as Treasurer, for their tireless efforts this season. It is very rewarding to have dedicated committee members involved in the running of the club, doing all the tasks that contribute to the success of our club, a great club.

Next season as a Division 1 club, it will be even more challenging than this year, as we move to establish our club as a Premier Division 1 club.

#### DARRYL ROSEWALL

# TREASURERS REPORT

**Contact Secretary for details at:** 

secretary@springvalebaseball.com.au

# **COACHES SENIORS**

FIRSTS COACH SCOTT WEARNE

SECONDS COACH CHRIS MAURER

THIRDS MANAGER ROWAN HALL

**FOURTHS** MANAGER DAVE STENHOUSE

FIFTHS MANAGER GRAHAM HOUGH

WOMEN'S FIRSTS COACH SHAE LILYWHITE

WOMEN'S SECONDS COACH JESSICA ADKINS

**WOMEN'S THIRDS COACH** SIMONE WEARNE

# **COACHES JUNIORS**

U'18 STATE COACH DAVE STENHOUSE

U'18 METRO COACH BEN ROSEWALL

U'16 STATE COACH ROBERT HOGAN

JUNIOR LEAGUE COACH GRAZ DiGIOVAMBATTISTA SOUTHERN MARINERS

LITTLE LEAGUE MAJOR COACH PETER GELSI

SOUTHERN MARINERS

#### **Men's Firsts Report**

I must say I was initially a little concerned that we had made our way up to Division One so quickly, and with quite a few young guys in our squad. But, I noticed pretty early on that we had a good group that were going to have a good crack each week, and ultimately, we did a good job to not only stay up in Division One, but to compete with the best teams in the league.

Big thanks to the committee, who supported us and have played a big role in getting the club to where it is now. And also to my assistant coaches who were always around to lend a hand, whether it be at training or on game days – especially in my absence throughout the season.

I want to acknowledge Freddy Flores, a good friend of mine, who had his battles during the year, but was solid for us and went on to win the Stephen Wearne medal. Freddy was a valuable contributor in various positions, including coming up clutch in many situations as a hitter.

Well done to our young players who came up and performed. There are too many to mention, but I want to give a shout out to Ando who really took his game to a new level – in the outfield, but especially with his hitting. He worked hard and I am excited to see him continue his development next year. And also Mac, who was able to get some valuable opportunities in the infield and the batters box which can only assist him as he continues with his baseball. Both of the boys performed well and showed maturity beyond their years. Certainly both are players who will play big roles for the club into the future.

I want to say a huge thank you to Jenni Wearne and also Mandi Avent who scored all of our games. It is hard to find volunteers to do these jobs, and we always appreciate what you guys do.

I want to wish Bumpy all the best next season. I can't think of a better person to lead the Big Cats into the future. It will be strange not being around the club, and I know there are some exciting times ahead, so I will be watching on from afar and keeping in touch – and I hope to play a few games here and there in the coming years when able.

Wishing the club all the very best.

**Scott Wearne** 

# **Thirds Report**

The season started roughly for the thirds with Waverley giving us a reminder that we had stepped up to division 1 and our preparation was probably lacking. Things only improved slightly over the next few rounds with the opening loss followed by two draws and a tough loss. Our two draws were both good close games and our losses were by 3 runs and 4 runs. We were not being smashed just not quite making the adjustments, before our 5th game a quick team meeting led to some adjustments particularly in the batters box and we came out with a resounding win. The following week Division 1 powerhouse Geelong showed us again what we were lacking. This defeat showed us all what was needed and the team proceeded to rattle off 4 consecutive victories.

It was during this stretch that the younger guys on our team began to step up and take their place amongst the core of the team that had led the group to a grand final berth the previous year. We used this good play to sustain out record throughout the rest of the season. In the end we only missed out on finals by 1 loss, not a bad effort for a club stepping up to division 1 for the first time.

We had many guys step up and play great defence or hit the ball well throughout the year in particular Adam Thatcher and Joel Stubbs were awarded the team trophies. Both players managed not only to compete but at times dominate, Stubbs was fantastic on the hill and played excellent defence and hit well. Adam Thatcher played great defence, and led the way often for our hitters from the top of the lineup. Many other players played well and everyone contributed to the team.

Overall a good solid season if not too successful in the hunt for finals and a flag. Many of the players we had should be returning to the club and hopefully we can build from here.

Rowan Hall Springvale Lions Baseball Club

# **Fourths Report**

Well after playing in Division Four South we moved up as a club to 1st division.

As a team we took up the challenge and the end of the season opens for spot only to play Sunshine in the first semi-final and we beat 8-2 in the previous week in the semi-final though we found it tough to put a run on the board with the experienced Earl Burn throwing, only to end up going down 10-0.

With all out team to return with a few more hitters to join we can only look forward to the season coming also Sunshine and Doncaster who played off in the grand final, but as a club have both been relegated to 2nd division which is a shame because we would've like to play them and go through is premiers in the coming season.

We wish the club all the best in the upcoming season and look forward to catching up.

**Cheers and all the best Dave Stenhouse** 

# **Springvale Lions Fifth's Report**

#### **Premiers Division 4 South 2015-2016**

What a strange season we had to say the least. With our core of regular players, some beginning to feel their age and not as agile as they used to be, it was good to welcome back Rodney Arms, who caught most of the season, supported by Simon Wainwright, to join brother Stephen in a pitching catching role. Michael Wearne joined us as well, adding pitching support to Steve and Graham Hough, and Stuart Capel joined us later in the season.

Cheltenham, who already had 2 teams in 4 South, decided to add another one starting Rd 4. Did we get to face the Cheltenham 5ths team once? NO! Did we get to face either Doncaster A or Doncaster B teams? NO! Instead we got to play Cheltenham TH twice, Cheltenham RL 3 times and Mulgrave 3 times. The rest once or twice each. It was pretty obvious that the Cheltenham teams were going to be the tough opposition.

Somehow we scraped into 3<sup>rd</sup> place on the ladder at the end of the H&A, with 11 wins and 5 losses.

The finals were a knockout 1v4 and 2v3. We, to our surprise, beat  $2^{nd}$  place Cheltenham RL, 16-9, putting us in the GF against favourite Cheltenham TH. Some good team batting helped by opposition errors certainly helped.

The GF started tight, with neither team scoring by the end of the  $3^{rd}$  innings. Lions scored their  $1^{st}$  run in the  $4^{th}$  followed by a 6 run inning in the  $5^{th}$ , with Cheltenham getting their  $1^{st}$  run in the book in the  $5^{th}$  followed by 2 more runs in the  $6^{th}$ . Another 3 runs for the Lions in the  $7^{th}$  sealed our victory 10 runs to 3.

Congratulations to the whole team, an unexpected victory well deserved.

Premiership players were: Michael Sissing, Greg Lacey, Stuart Capel, Martin Contessotto, Stephen Arms, Andrew Sugrue, Tim Wells, Rodney Arms, Simon Wainwright, Michael Wearne, Graham Harrigan, Trent Makin, Roger Sissing, Graham Hough and Darryl Rosewall and Bat Boy Ethan Sissing.

MVP: Michael Sissing.

**Best Batter:** Martin Contessotto

**Team Manager: Graham Hough** 

**Scorer: Janet Hough** 

#### 2015/16 Women's Division One Season Report

The Big Cats Women's program had yet another extremely successful year with the division one girls winning their fourth premiership in a row. Vic Brown threw the majority of our games for us earning herself joint MVP of league, with Simone winning the pitching ERA award.

Standouts were Sinead Flanagan and Hannah Jackson both have been working hard over the last two seasons in improving their game and they really stood up this year with the bat and did a great job hitting in the four and five hole. Kelly Manzie went back to her 'old' position catching the entire season for us and did an impressive job. Our Japanese import and good friend Rieko Abe took up her position at first base, hitting around .500 and a great asset to our team. She will return for another season with the big cats in 16/17 season.

The team only dropped one game for the year and with a few players being shuffled around, the group really gelled together and fought hard each week to compete and improve, which they all did.

The women's program has been going from strength to strength and the level of commitment from a great group of women was even more impressive this year. For the first time in a long time, we had a number of junior girls running around at training and playing in their first senior teams. It was truly great to see the young ones playing such a vibrant role at the club. Our thirds took out the premiership with an exciting final game.

Well done to Simone who took on managing the thirds with the help of Mandi, and to Mini for her dedication to the seconds, who although struggled to get a consistent nine on the field each week, still made it to the finals. Everyone did a great job at managing their players and teaching everyone more and more about the game.

Big thanks go to all the people who helped out at trainings. Simone, Dan, Shevy, Mini, Ryan, Shelley and Chipper were all great in developing the girls' skills, providing more one on one time with individual players and allowing more things to happen at training which in turn allowed it to be more fun and enjoyable for everyone.

We had fantastic turn out at training every week due to a structure the coaches put in place early in the season. We were able to carry it right through and I hope we can again put up another outstanding performance across the women's program in the 2016/17 season.

Springvale Women's Division One Award Winners

MVP- Kelly Manzie Billy Reay Best & Fairest- Sinead Flanigan

**Shae Lillywhite-Coach** 

# Division 2 Women's 2015/2016 Summer Season

This season the coaching staff worked hard to bring a new and diverse training schedule to our team of women. We are continually working hard to grow and develop our women's program, and this season we strongly focused on fundamentals and technique, this saw significant improvement in our players. Again the 2s had a great mix of women; over the course of the season we had over 29 players take the field. Working hard to remain competitive in division 2, all our players showed determination and strength, accepting any challenge they may face during the game. This season we saw a few injuries resulting in many players changing their positions from week to week. Thankfully every player who played in the 2s was adaptable and flexible. We finished the season 1<sup>st</sup> on the ladder, giving a us a double change during finals. Unfortunately we were not able to pull together; consequently we lost both our finals matches. Despite not being in the grand final we all had an enjoyable time and look forward to 2016/217.

Welcome back EJ Jenkinson, Beck Todd, and Krystol Pyke we hope you enjoyed the season and we will see you again.

Huge thanks to Mel for scoring again this year.

Thank you and welcome to Dan, the women's program value and respect your assistance and support. This season would have been significantly harder without your help.

MVP: EJ Tobias. Best & Fairest: Val Langworthy

I look forward to another season.

#### Jess "Mini" Adkins-Barber.

Name	PA	1b	<i>2b</i>	<i>3b</i>	HR	ROE	RFC	HBP	SACf	SACb	IBB	BB	FO	GO	K's
Adkins-Barber,															
J	11	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	1	0
Glover, F	14	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	3	2	2	2
Hitchcock,S	24	6	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	3	4	4	4
Jenkinson, E	37	13	8	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	6	4	3	0
John, J	36	8	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	9	3	4	8
Langworthy, V	44	10	3	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	13	8	5	2
Shelverton, C	41	8	1	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	13	6	4	4
Singleton, M	43	14	2	1	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	6	5	5	6
Thomson, J	28	8	3	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	8	3	1	0
Tobias, E	45	12	2	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	14	7	2	4
Todd, R	41	12	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	8	5	11	4
Pyke, K	13	6	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0
Team Totals	377	101	22	1	1	21	10	3	0	0	0	89	53	42	34

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Name	RBI	RUNS	SB	SBA	DP	LOB	AB	Н	BB%	Krat	BA	ОВ%	Slug%
Adkins-Barber,													
J	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	1	0.364	0.000	0.143	0.455	0.143
Glover, F	1	1	0	0	0	0	11	3	0.214	0.182	0.273	0.429	0.273
Hitchcock,S	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	6	0.125	0.200	0.300	0.417	0.300
Jenkinson, E	6	2	1	0	0	3	31	21	0.162	0.000	0.677	0.730	0.935
John, J	0	0	0	0	0	0	27	10	0.250	0.296	0.370	0.528	0.444
Langworthy, V	1	3	2	0	1	1	30	13	0.295	0.067	0.433	0.614	0.533
Shelverton, C	2	2	2	0	0	2	28	9	0.317	0.143	0.321	0.537	0.357
Singleton, M	1	1	1	0	0	0	37	17	0.140	0.162	0.459	0.535	0.568
Thomson, J	2	1	1	0	0	2	20	11	0.286	0.000	0.550	0.679	0.700
Tobias, E	4	2	1	0	1	1	30	14	0.311	0.133	0.467	0.644	0.533
Todd, R	1	1	1	0	0	2	33	12	0.195	0.121	0.364	0.488	0.364
Pyke, K	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	8	0.154	0.000	0.727	0.769	1.091
Team Totals	18	13	9	0	2	11	285	125	0.236	0.119	0.439	0.576	0.533

#### **Women's Thirds Report**

The Women's Thirds had a great season in 2015/16. Not only were we able to finish the season on top of the ladder, we went on to win the Premiership, defeating Moorabbin against the odds on Grand Final day.

But from the very outset, our team set out not looking at wins in order to measure our success, but instead to learn more about the game and ourselves as players. We incorporated a new warm-up system, which all players took on board – no matter their age or ability. The girls really embraced what we were doing. They were willing to listen, and really grabbed every learning opportunity with both hands – and it paid off.

We had a wide range of age groups in our team, with a couple of 13 year olds, through to some older 'veteran' players. It was a great mix, and the girls really gelled well together and took on each weekly challenge as a group. I'm not sure they all realise, but they all improved – not necessarily in all their skills, but simply in their ability to think more about game situations and what is required in various positions on the field.

It was a pleasure to coach such a great bunch of girls, and I hope they will have me back next season.

Stand out performances during the season were Mandi Avent, our Best and Fairest winner who stepped up when the team really needed her. She was our best hitter by a long way, and played multiple positions, mainly in the outfield, and always made big plays when under pressure. She also led from the front with her leadership of the younger girls.

Gabby Bevan was our MVP. At just 13 years of age (now 14), she caught most games for us, and really tried hard. She learned a lot over the season and I think she will be a great player for this program in the future. A fantastic attitude and someone who was always playing for the team, not herself.

The smiling assassin Hanami also had a fantastic first season in the seniors. She went about her business quietly, but always with a smile on her face. A breath of fresh air around the team, and someone who will only continue improving with a great work ethic and attitude.

Other impressive contributions came across the board, but especially from Lili with some great plays at short stop, Rob Fraser at third base who was very solid each week, Sue Page at first – solid as a rock, and Janine Cavanagh in the outfield. Deb was again fantastic and kept us in every game. She worked hard to keep her emotions in check, and I have no doubt she will continue improving that part of her game.

Some huge improvements from some of our players – Jo Campbell and Aleks Sklepic, both showed much better focus and concentration in the batter's box, and were able to significantly increase their success as hitters over the season. And Gab Kovess. Hard working, always so hard on herself, but she commits to the team and keeps giving things a go. She played some of her best games at second base, was really vocal and drove in runs when we needed them.

Overall, a great season and here's hoping we can work hard again in 2016/17 and continue our success on and off the diamond.

Simone Wearne - Thirds Coach

# **TROPHY WINNERS SENIORS**

**FIRSTS** STEPHEN WEARNE MEDAL **MOST VALUABLE** 

> FREDDY FLORES SCOTT BAILLIE

**MOST VALUABLE BEST TEAM PLAYER SECONDS** 

> **AUSTIN MASSEY** RYAN KIRBY

**THIRDS BEST & FAIREST MOST VALUABLE** 

> ADAM THATCHER JOEL STUBBS

**FOURTHS BEST & FAIREST MOST VALUABLE** 

> MARK ANDERTON BEN COOEN

**FIFTHS** MOST VALUABLE **BEST BATTING** 

> MICHAEL SISSING MARTIN CONTESSOTTO

**WOMEN'S FIRSTS BILL REAY TROPHY MOST VALUABLE** 

> SINEAD FLANIGAN **KELLY MANZIE**

WOMEN'S SECONDS BEST & FAIREST **MOST VALUABLE** 

> ELIZABETH TOBIAS *VAL LANGWORTHY*

WOMEN'S THIRDS BEST & FAIREST **MOST VALUABLE** 

> MANDI AVENT GABBY BEVEN

MICK WEARNE AWARD 'Hardest Working Women's Player'

ELIZABETH TOBIAS

MOST RUNS

**BATTED IN** MARTIN CONTESSOTTO 30 RUNS

MOST IMPROVED

**PLAYER** LUCAS ANDERSON

MACKENNA HURA

**BEST CLUB PERSON** MANDI AVENT

#### Junior Section 2015-16 Summer Season

The past season was again a busy and successful one for the junior section with two under 18 teams in the Vic Summer League, a Junior League and a Little League team in the Southern Mariners Charter and Friday night T-ball.

This past season was also the final one in juniors for a large batch of players who have been together at the club for a number of seasons (some since u12's and u14's). I wish all these young men all the best as they move forward into their senior careers.

The club entered two teams into the U18's in the Vic Summer League, one in the State League and one in the Metro League. The State League team was coached by Dave Stenhouse and assisted by Brad Hughes and Shane Nelson and went through the season undefeated only to lose an epic grand final 2-1. Ben Rosewall was assisted by Ryan Butler with the U18 Metro team who blazed through the season and won back to back grand finals. All those who got to watch these boys play would have been impressed with the spirit and respect for the game shown by this team.

Graz Di-Giovambattista was assisted by Austin Massey with the Junior League team which competed in the Southern Mariners Charter competition. With the first year of a reorganisation of the Junior and Little League into a charter competition this team was forced to play some games against very strong opposition but acquitted themselves well and developed across the season.

Our final Sunday team was the Little League entered into the Southern Mariners Little League major competition coached by Peter Gelsi and assisted by Tim Hanson. As with the Junior League this team competed in a very strong competition and while results may not have gone our way the team developed well and had a lot of fun!

Special thanks to all the above mentioned coaches as well as all the assistants, scorers and helpers who made all our lives easier across the season. Congratulations to all the juniors who made representative teams, this season we had players involved in the following: Victorian U18 Blue and White teams, Victorian U16 Blue, Victorian Women's junior team, Victorian Schoolboys team, Mariners Junior League representative team and the Mariners Little League Development team.

### **Rod Anderson Junior Co-ordinator**

# TROPHY WINNERS JUNIORS

U'18 STATE LEAGUE MOST VALUABLE LUCAS ANDERSON

**BEST TEAM** *JYE NELSON* 

U'18 METRO LEAGUE IRON HORSE RHYS BULTER

SILVER SLUGGER ADAM THATCHER

JUNIOR LEAGUE

SOUTHERN MARINERS

MOST VALUABLE

MOST VALUABLELILI CAVANAGHMOST IMPROVEDLINCOLN GUILIAN

LITTLE LEAGUE MAJOR SOUTHERN MARINERS

BEST & FAIREST TYLES ELLIS

MOST VALUABLE COOPER DRUMMOND

T- BALL MOST IMPROVED HOPE ELLIS