



CHELTENHAM BASEBALL CLUB 2017-2018



BASEBALL VICTORIA LIFE MEMBER

"I didn't really want to get involved, but Matt enjoyed the game, so I thought that I should make a contribution"

(Michael Gourlay)



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BASEBALL VICTORIA
LIFE MEMBER
MICHAEL GOURLAY



Michael Gourlay

Life Membership of Baseball Victoria was conferred on Michael Gourlay for distinguished service to baseball in Victoria.

Michael Gourlay is now a Life Member of Baseball Victoria in recognition of his outstanding services and commitment to Baseball at the Association and Club levels as an administrator, official and a scorer over the past 30 years.

Michael first got a “taste” of baseball when son’s Matthew and Stephen took up Tee Ball when it was first introduced in 1985 and immediately became an involved parent and quickly became a strong supporter of the Game.

The pavilion at Kingston Heath Reserve was built in 1986 and Michael took a position on the Kingston Heath Advisory Committee as Hall Secretary and occupied that position for 10 years.

Along the way Michael conducted scoring classes for the numerous junior team scorers - mostly mothers of junior team players, training dozens of new club scorers over the years.

Michael also served as Chairman of Selectors for several years during the 1990’s including during a difficult rebuilding period as the Club sought to expand its junior program. This role is one of the most demanding roles in any Club and it requires a special level of commitment and tactful maturity.



BASEBALL VICTORIA
LIFE MEMBER
MICHAEL GOURLAY



Michael was elected as a Life Member of the Cheltenham Baseball Club in 2010.

As Michael's knowledge and interest in baseball continued to increase he was nominated for a position on the Victorian Baseball Association Pennant Committee and over a period of some 10 years moved on to become the Chairman of the Tribunal serving with distinction in that position for many more years.

Michael has also been involved at the Australian Baseball Federation assisting with the running of junior championships and has taken on the key role of Tournament Referee on many occasions.



PRESIDENTS REPORT

BRAD LARK



CHELTHENHAM BASEBALL CLUB 2017/18 PRESIDENTS REORT

Each season, all involved in a committee capacity seek to improve on our performance across all areas of the club from the previous year where the unpredictable nature of our game where an untimely injury or close result can impact on our path forward.

As next season approaches we face significant challenges. Having as yet to receive Baseball Victoria confirmation, the likely-hood is that we will be competing in the Division 2 competition.

As hard as this seems at the moment, we have been down this path before and as a club we need to take it upon ourselves to unite and give ourselves every opportunity to change this position. The game of baseball delivers amazing highs, as experienced by the successful Under 16 and Under 18 teams. An extraordinary effort by all involved, in particular Michael Rizzi and Chris Anderton.

We use the down time in the off season to reflect, what went right, what went wrong and where we can improve. We seek to convert potential into actuality while not losing our focus on participation and the clubs broader community involvement. The continued growth of our Women's programme saw the introduction of a second team, the tireless work of Anthoney Harrowell and Michelle Ogilvy in achieving this cannot be understated. Monday nights saw the consolidation of our master's team. John Ferguson steers the ship, resurrecting forgotten careers while encouraging new players to have a go. Our Masters programme is something that our club can be extremely proud of.

Our Seniors men led by Bryan Kloppe and Adam Blackley continued to work hard and set high standards in what was a challenging year in an extremely even competition. The introduction of many debutants from our junior ranks into the Division 1 first and seconds teams is vindication of the work being done at the junior levels of our club by both coaches and administrators.

Bryan and Adam were well supported by Kane Davidson, Sean Miler, David Johnson and Damon Petit, all have had a direct hand in ensuring the development of our young players while maintaining the contributions of our more seasoned campaigners.

Our junior programme continues to thrive, all coaches can be rightly proud of their contributions. From T-Ball to our Under 18 champions, the dedication and leadership of all involved is to be congratulated.



PRESIDENTS REPORT

BRAD LARK



It is a real credit to the club that we continue to produce players that are continually selected to be involved in the elite pathways of baseball while ensuring the participation and enjoyment of all players.

My heartfelt thanks goes to Ron Carothers. His attention to detail and relentless drive to educate and support our players and coaches is leadership personified. We are indeed fortunate to have such a well credentialed and dedicated individual overseeing our junior programme.

Season 17/18 would not have been possible without the continued support of our sponsors. We as a club thank and acknowledge:

**Bentleigh RSL - 50 Acres
Platinum Post Tensioning
Terry White Chemmart
A1 Building Group
Davidson Plumbing
Inner Melbourne Landscapes**

There are a number of people who work tirelessly, all volunteers, to ensure that as a club we do our best to continue to grow and to attract people to play baseball. Marking grounds, scoring games, helping in the canteen, cooking a BBQ or umpiring are all tasks that need to be done on a weekly basis. I would encourage all people involved with our club to help where they can. It is so important.

Congratulations must go to Damon Petit and Jeremy Cormick for being awarded the best Senior and Junior Club person respectively.

I would like to thank the 17/18 committee for their support and dedication. A special mention goes to Connie Upfil and Pia Dunkley, while not being part of the committee the fundraising activities that they organised and ran were essential in helping our financial performance this season.

Andrew Gribbin, Allan Gribbin and Stuart Dunn contributed their own time and materials to compete the junior diamond. A showpiece of our junior programme that was officially opened by Clare O'Neil late last year.



PRESIDENTS REPORT

BRAD LARK



Initiatives including the Teal Day in remembrance of Gabby Taranto to raise funds for ovarian cancer was again generously organised by Pat and Katrina O'Neil, which, along with the inaugural Terry White Chemist Breast Cancer Fundraising women's game should make all members extremely proud of our club.

As an organisation we were all saddened by the loss of life members Alan Burdett and Len LePage along with Annie Hall, Isabelle Coppins. All were much loved members of our club and will be missed.

As the 18/19 season approaches I would like to wish the incoming committee well in what I am sure will be another season of highs and maybe the occasional low. Thank you to all of our members, along with their partners and families for the opportunity to be President of the Cheltenham Baseball Club for the 17/18 season.

Your Sincerely,

Bradley Lark.



T-BALL 2017/2018

CONNIE UPFIL



Following on from the growing numbers of last year, this seasons Tee Ball numbers were once again improved. The Club was fortunate to see the return on many of our intrepid youngsters from last year, with the added bonus of welcoming many new comers ready to grasp the opportunity of the 2017/18 T-Ball Season.

We were able to improve from 3 teams last year to 5 teams this year with much of the thanks to go to Mark Buccilli who each week at the start of the season seemed to show up with a new player he had recruited from his day job as a school teacher. Thanks Mark. Also, thanks to the ladies from the women's teams who happily brought down their children for Tee Ball before taking the field themselves.

It was a reward in itself to see the interaction of the players and the wholehearted support, help and good humour of the many parents, friends and relatives who chipped in to help the kids out in training drills and whenever help was needed.

Special thanks must be given to the parents who put up their hands to act as Team Managers; Eddie Marshall for the Marlins, Richard Elton for the Cubbies and Tara Lian for the Red Sox, Mark Buccilli for the Astros and Mike Chamoff for the Yankees. Also, a special thanks to one of our juniors Jeremy Cormick for his assistant coach role with the Astros. Without their cheerful sacrifice the season would have proved very difficult.

It again fell, for much of the on-field organisation, on the apparently limitless shoulders of Peter Leslie, who once more proved what a wonderful person and asset to the Club he is. I don't think there was a dry eye on the diamond (or dry anything else) for Pete's famous water slide training.

Thanks also to Colin (Cuppy), not only for dusting off his propeller hat for another season, (I am sure he is having more fun than the kids) but also for organising training rewards and the spectacular **"Tee Balls Got Talent" Day** where we uncovered some very promising off field talent. Well done to all who participated.

There are a few others to thanks for this year's fun and festivities on the Tee Ball Diamond. Our thanks to our special visitor at Christmas time – Santa as well as the



T-BALL 2017/2018

CONNIE UPFIL



Highbett Fire Brigade and our official Santa photographer, Michael Gourlay, and also to the occasional help from a former Marlin Tee Baller – Jimbob.

Finally, I must thank Carolyn Allen for all her work and assistance in organising the administration side of things this year which also included organising the Gala Nights. Her help has been invaluable, and I hope she is happy to continue in years to come as her young family continue to enjoy Tee Ball.

I hope all those involved had a great year, learned some new skills and made some new friends and invite their friends and continue on at the Club either in T-BALL or the next steps of their baseball careers in the years to come.

Yours in Tee Ball and Baseball

Connie Upfill

Tee Ball Teams 2017/18



Roaring Red Sox



Yippee Ki-yay Yankees



Courageous Cubs



T-BALL 2017/2018

CONNIE UPFIL



Awsome Astros



Mighty Marlins

The day Santa rod into town on the big red fire engine



T-BALL 2017/2018

CONNIE UPFIL



The day Santa rode into town on the big red fire engine



T-BALL 2017/2018

CONNIE UPFIL



Gala Night





CHELTENHAM LITTLE LEAGUE BLUE



What an amazing season for Chelt Blue! A Premiership, testament to what the amazing job the kids did of coming together and pushing themselves.

This team represents what's best about Friday Night Little League. Friday baseball is unique – the biggest range of ages and skill levels until Seniors.

Chelt Blue had the full range. Top aged kids playing for the first time – Flynn (Decker)'s quest for a home run (he hit it in the Preliminary Final!) and Matthew taking the grand final winning catch are standouts. We also had younger kids, born with a bats in their hands - Landon Holland's love of the game is eclipsed only by his hitting statistics.

This varied group took ownership of their season, with 5 rookies committed to training hard and getting better week by week. Everyone took their chances to play everywhere, gaining experience, and exploring their on-field capabilities. Along the way, they turned themselves into a premiership team. Miller's transition from kid-who-can-pitch into starting pitcher and (rookies) Harvey and Noah's evolutions to top of the lineup hitters were season defining.

I have to thank all the parents for getting the kids down to training. The thrill of the grand final win was built on the players committing to training every single week.

See you all next summer!



THE SUNDAY MINORS



The Cheltenham Sunday Minors team had a season that ran the gamut of emotions and experiences. We had multiple rainouts, teams that cancelled games because drives were too far, a period of over two months in which we played zero games, blowouts, nail biters, and a lot more wins than losses.

We had kids that learned both skills and a love for the game. We had some that went from playing one position at the beginning of the season to locking down and taking ownership of another by the end of the season. We had kids that developed not only as athletes but also as young men and women, exercising respect and learning accountability. They grew both physically and mentally throughout the season. Instances of feeling helplessness or irate beyond control became fewer, and feelings of resolve became stronger. Sometimes the tears of frustration and the gritting of teeth meshed together in the same game, resulting in inspired play above that which given players may have originally believed they were capable.

I can honestly say that every kid on the team surprised me at some time in the year, many multiple times. They all delivered at some point in the season and played an important role in racking up the wins, and the way that they fought throughout the season, both in wins and losses, was inspiring. Although we did not win a championship, we played good baseball throughout the year and got better all season long.

Thanks to all of the players, and thanks to all of the parents that helped out with coaching, practices, setting up the field, keeping score, bringing snacks, and arranging your schedule such that you could give your kids the opportunity to grow in this crazy game called baseball."



LITTLE LEAGUE MAJORS

JOHN CARLISE



Well here I am at the computer a couple of hours after a grand final loss. We came up against the top side and just missed out. That is what you want as a player– to face the best and the challenge that it brings. The boys did a terrific job but just fell short at the end.

The year has been a learning year for the boys trying to work on the basic things that they need to develop to take the next steps as they progress. They need to look back to where they were at the start of the year to where they are now. If they reflect back I think they will be surprised how far they have come. From effort will come rewards.

Congratulations to the award winners.

In closing I would like to thank all the help I have had across the year. Family first – without their support I would not be able to do this thing called coaching.

Thanks to:

Matt for all his help at training and scoring game days,
Cameron for umpiring,
Val for her help at training and counselling sessions when required,
Jenny for team managing and putting up with my emails,
Herman for his vocal support to keep the team motivated,
John Ferguson for all his work around the club,
Kath in the canteen,
And the committee for having faith in me to do a job for them.

If I have forgotten anyone I apologise.

Regards
John



INTERMEDIATE BLUE

MARK BUCCILLI



To the boys,

What can I say??? We have had a lot of frustrations, laughs and jokes as we travelled this journey together. Poor Tony and his phone copped the brunt of the jokes, but so did all the missed catches at training, hey Ryan!!! It has been an absolute privilege to have watched you all grow up from the first year you arrived at OLA until today, and now I know why I don't teach in high school!!!

We have shared in some memorable moments throughout the season like Dylan's spectacular catches, Maxwell's unbelievable games as catcher (even getting compliments from opposition coaches), Ryan and Dylan pitching for the first time in their first season and coaches having to call time to sort out arguments between certain pitchers and catchers!!! Just to name a few.

To watch your skills develop and improve week after week and seeing your understanding of the game grow has been great to observe.

It has been an absolute pleasure and honor to coach you boys this year and I am sure Tony feels the same also. We wish you all the best for your futures and I hope to see you all continue on with playing baseball next season.

Thanks to:

Thank you to all the parents for coming out each week and supporting the team, Tony and myself. It was a real privilege coaching the boys this season and I am sure the boys enjoyed having you there to support them. I did wonder at the beginning of the season how long it would take for the champagne bottles to arrive on game day!!!

Thank you, Andrea, for doing the tough job of scoring each of our games. Still don't know how you find that job easy. I still don't understand how to read the book.

Melissa our team manager. Thank you for keeping our team together and organizing everything this season. Your numerous emails, texts and phone calls certainly kept me on my toes and made sure I was organized. You have done a fantastic job.

Super Tony Kouch – what can I say!! If it wasn't for you, this team would have not developed as they did throughout the year. Your dedication to the team was second to none. Your knowledge of the game and ability to teach the boys was fantastic to observe. I certainly know that I have learnt so much from you. You have so much to offer as a coach and I hope that one day you decide to coach a group of keen youngsters and impart your knowledge on to them.

Regards, Mark Buccilli



FRIDAY NIGHT INTERMEDIATE
CHELTENHAM WHITE
CAMERON HALLOWELL



The Squad

Jai Ciappara

Ben Hallowell Flynn Healy Darcy Messenger Thomas Yuile

Ryan Cliffe Jett Handicott Jeremy Hess Kaden Sforza

Yannis Davis Jesse Harrington Dylan Hind

Nic Volpe

What an enjoyable season with a great bunch of boys and it was a pleasure to coach them. We had a big squad of 13 players with a range of abilities. One of the biggest challenges was rotating everyone through each week so that they got enough playing time and a chance to develop.



The pitching gave Nic & Thomas a chance to hone their skills for the majors and with Jesse they shouldered the majority of the pitching during the season with cameos from Jeremy and Ben. One of the positives was that it was great to see Jett and Kaden get their first pitches in a game.



FRIDAY NIGHT INTERMEDIATE
CHELTENHAM WHITE
CAMERON HALLOWELL



Batting was a real strength of the team, we scored the most runs of any team for the season. The batting was led by Thomas, with two memorable home runs and he was ably supported by Flynn, Darcy, Dylan, Yannis and Jai.

Dylan played a major role behind the plate with some help from Thomas and Ryan.

Overall it was a successful season making the finals before we losing a very close semi final to the eventual winners. Had a couple of things gone our way the result could have been very different.

A big thank you Hermann Hess for being assistant coach, his support was invaluable, Dennis Healy for taking care of the admin and a big shout out to Ron Volpe for his help scoring each week.

Cameron Hallowell



THE SUNDAY MINORS



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JUNIOR LEAGUE MINOR

JOEY TUCKER



Under 14 Major Team Report

The season started on a cool Sunday morning at Sandringham, playing on their make shift diamond with a small back net. We scored 5 runs in the first two innings for a good start. We held on in the end for a 10-9 win. Lachie Stephens was best on ground with two hits and two RBIs.

Next up was a win against Bonbeach. We ended up with 13 hits. Travis Finney was best on ground with a homerun, a double, and 4 RBIs and pitched well.

Mulgrave came to Chelt next. We won 19 to 4 and had 11 hits. Lachie Stephens, Ryleigh Buck, Flynn Healey, and Blake Dunkley combined to pitch a 1 hitter. Thomas Yuile had two hits and 5 RBIs and Travis Finney had another homerun and a triple.

We travelled to St Kilda next and came away with another win, 14 to 10. Travis Finney had two hits and Lachie Stephens pitched well.

We played Moorabbin next. Thomas Yuile pitched 2 $\frac{2}{3}$ innings giving up only 3 hits and Travis Finney pitched 2 $\frac{1}{3}$ innings for no hits. But they weren't best on ground. Flynn Healey had a homerun, a single, and 4 RBIs. We won in a very close game 9 to 8.

So, we started the season winning our first five games. We next had to make the drive out to Sweeney Reserve, Berwick. Even though Berwick only had 8 players, it ended up being a long morning for us. We only had 3 hits off their two best pitchers and lost 11 to 3. Thomas Yuile was voted best for us pitching two innings and only giving up 2 hits and getting one of our 3 hits.

After a rainout with Sandringham, we were up against Moorabbin again. At the end of the first inning in which we had two hits, it was a close game Moorabbin 5, Chelt 4. We didn't get another hit until the 4th and 5th innings finishing with only 4 hits. We lost 12 to 5. Lachie Stephens and Travis Finney hit solo homeruns.

Our next drive was to Dandenong to play Mulgrave. Lachie Stephens, Kyle Yong, Travis Finney, and Blake Dunkley combined to pitch a 2 hitter. Nathan Yong had a double and a single. Blake Dunkley had two singles along with pitching one inning with no hits.



JUNIOR LEAGUE MINOR

JOEY TUCKER



After the Christmas break, we were at St Kilda. We started well with a 4-run lead after one. St Kilda came back to take the lead and we had to score two runs in the last inning to win 11 to 10. Travis Finney had two hits and pitched well. Lachie Stephens had two hits with two RBIs and pitched well.

Bonbeach came calling next. Travis Finney, Thomas Yuile, and Lachie Stephens combined to pitch a two hitter. Nic Volpe had two hits and Darcy Messenger had two hits and two RBIs.

Berwick made the drive to Chelt this time. The game played out to a hard fought 8 to 8 draw. Thomas Yuile and Lachie Stephens pitched outstandingly to combine for a 2 hitter. Flynn Healey had a homerun and single with 3 RBIs and Lachie Stephens had two doubles with 2 RBIs.

We came to our last game against Sandringham needing to win to secure second place on the ladder. We walked away happy winners 11 to 4, thanks to Lachie Stephens' 3-run homer and Blake Dunkley's solo homerun and great pitching from Lachie and Travis.

So, we finished an outstanding season with 10 wins, 2 losses, and 1 draw. More importantly, I hope the players learned a bit more of how to play the game and had fun in doing it. Making it to the grand final was well deserved. The outcome was unfortunate, but it was a learning experience. This team never gave up when they were down which included the grand final. So now we look forward to next season.

See you at the ballpark.

Joey Tucker



UNDER 16 METRO

DAMON PETTIT



I hadn't planned on coaching a junior team this season but after seeing the requirement for a coach I thought I'd give it a go. Co-managing the team with me was Darren Hiddlestone. We've played a bit of baseball together and get along really well. I think together we made a really good coaching team.

As I wasn't familiar with the players I found it best to play the players in various fielding positions and to find their strengths. I think we did well to move the guys around the ground and give as many players as possible a go at pitching while still staying competitive.

Over the season we had 9 different pitchers with James Radford and Dylan Williamson doing the majority of the work. We also had 4 catchers including Kellan Hill who quickly learnt the position and could fill in for Michael Hill and Cooper Williamson. Special mention to Josh Tribe who helped out by playing several games in Metro side as well as the State team.

With players of varying skill and ability, together we were a very talented and competitive team. A strong hitting side led by power hitters Max Phillips and Jack Octigan. We went the season undefeated until facing Premiership winners Bonbeach in the last home and away game and again in the Grand Final.

It was a great season with an awesome bunch of guys. Although we didn't end up winning the Premiership we had a great time and achieved a lot. The guys really came together each week and played like an experienced team. I hope many of these players go on to be the future of the Cheltenham Baseball Club. I really enjoyed coaching the players and learnt more about setting a line-up and managing pitchers.

Thank you to our umpires Steve Earle, Ron Carothers, Gavin Daniels and the various seniors who helped out. Thanks to Andrea Cormick and Under 16 Coordinator Rosie Hawkins. Thank you to Chris Anderton for training both U16 teams each week. Special thanks to Steve Hill and Jackie and Michael Phillips for scoring.

Damon Pettit



UNDER 16 STATE
CHRIS ANDERTON



Again, I looked after the state team but also ran Under 16 Metro training with the help of Damo and Darren.

What a year, not only for the State Team but the Metro Team as well, with only one loss during the home and away season combined, culminating in both teams making their grand finals.

Even though the Metro Team was unable to bring home the chocolates they should be proud of their achievements.

With some new faces this year I was looking forward to the season ahead in what these boys could achieve, I was not disappointed.

Again, we were well represented in the Vic State Teams with 6 being selected for Vic Blue and 3 being selected for Vic White.

Vic Blue: Chris Neilson, Dante Caruso, Jed Woodger, Blake Holding, Mack Turley and Tom Seddon.

Vic White: Shelby Roberts, Rhys Fairweather and Cam Zimmerman.

We went through the season undefeated which is a huge effort in any age group but to only give up 32 runs over the season was some feat. We achieved this due to our pitching staff which was led by Jed who pitched the majority of games and was fantastic. He was backed up with some great performances from the likes of Chris N, Rhys F, Josh A, Blake H, Tom S and Shelby R.

We had a couple of injuries through the season which meant an opportunity for someone from the Metro Team to step up and did they step up. Josh Tribe was called up and showed he didn't look out of place especially in the field. His solid outfield work and training commitment secured his position for the remainder of the season.

Finals were here, and we came up against a team we hadn't played during the season in Preston (forfeit), so it was an unknown.

In a game that was very scrappy we came away with a win, a narrow one at that, 3-2, our lowest score for the season. Dante C got the start and threw 5 fantastic innings, our defense was huge with Cam Z rolling a double play through 2nd to end Preston at a pivotal



UNDER 16 STATE
CHRIS ANDERTON



moment of the game. Tom S took over in the 6th and continued from where Dante finished, he shut out Preston's fight back for the last 2 innings to book our spot in the big dance.

In a replay of last year's grand final (Waverley) we wanted revenge.

Chris N got the start, with a shaky start and a couple of errors we escaped with only giving up 1 run. For the first couple of innings we were being outplayed, we gave up another un-earnt run but after a rev up the boys started to turn the corner.

Blake led off with a hit, Rhys F moved him over and with 2 out Josh T punched the ball out to right field to score Blake from second, but it didn't end there, Shelby then got on and little Josh A stepped up and smashed a ball to right field to score 2 and leg out a triple. The boys never looked back after that.

Chris N battled through 4 tough innings but did the job to then hand the ball onto Jed. Jed went onto throw 3 scoreless innings in a dominating display of relief work. Redemption from last year was made with us prevailing 5-3 in 7 innings.

To go through undefeated is an exceptional achievement, these boys should be proud of themselves as much as I am.

I'd like to thank Rosie for her work during the season as coordinator sending out all the team selections and keeping everyone informed of changes during the season and for filling in for Mia as scorer.

Mia for scoring again this year. It makes it a lot easier on me when you put your hand up instead of me finding a scorer so thank you.

Darren and Damo for your help during the season at trainings. It was difficult at the start when I was one out at trainings, without you we couldn't have achieved what both teams done.

Ronnie for his constant advice and support during the season, thank you.

Most of all to the parents and players the biggest thank you goes to you. Without the players we don't have a team but without parents dedication to get them to all of their



UNDER 16 STATE
CHRIS ANDERTON



trainings and games we don't have the success that we achieved. Thank you to all your support and encouragements throughout the season.

I am so proud of these boys and look forward to seeing them play and grow into the future.

Congrats on a fantastic season.

Ando.



UNDER 18 STATE

MICHAEL RIZZI



Under 18 STATE – 2017/18 PREMIERS

At the completion of the regular season the Cheltenham Rustlers Under18 State team finished top of the table with 11 wins and 2 losses. Coming into finals we had a lot of confidence after defeating Essendon in the final game of the regular season and taking 1st place. In the semi final it was a hard fought come from behind 5-3 win against a valiant Preston outfit which put us through to host Essendon Baseball Club.

It was a pleasure to coach every single player this year and hope you all continue to improve both yourself and the club in coming years. Thank you for an outstanding season.

GRAND FINAL

With the Grand Final being played at Altona it was a new experience for a lot of the players. At the end of 7innings Cheltenham Rustlers were the 2017/18 State PREMIERS with a hard fought 3-0 WIN. Pitching was flawless on the day with Darcy Trewarn starting for the home team throwing 3 shutout innings before handing the ball over to Declan Croker who threw the final 4 innings for a combined 7inning shutout. Hitting was exceptional right through the lineup with outstanding situational hitting by all players. Standouts with the bat were John Paul Calill who put us up 1-0 in the 3rd with a RBI hit scoring Tatsu Kume from 1st with a deep shot to centre field and Ben Fierenzi who collected 2 hits and a RBI. Other hits went to Declan Croker (RBI), Conor Myles, Darcy Trewarn and Tatsu Kume. In the field we were near faultless especially with Luke Ashen behind the plate who once again lead the side defensively.

TROPHIES

MVP – Darcy Trewarn

Batting Ave – Conor Myles .563

Coaches Award – Luke Ashen

THANKYOU

A special thanks to all parents who helped throughout the year, especially Gavin Trewarn who scored majority of the year and also marked and setup the diamond numerous times. I also want to thank Michelle Ogilvie who was the under 18/s coordinator this season, it was a difficult task managing 2 sides this year but did a terrific job so thank you for making my life easy.



UNDER 18 STATE

MICHAEL RIZZI



Coach: Michael Rizzi Assistant: Jack Dunn





THE FIRSTS

BRYAN KLOPPE



A development year for the Rustler firsts saw strides made toward the future strength of our club. There are areas that need improvement and plenty of work to be done. However, the strength of the juniors that are coming into senior baseball shows that this will soon be a club that will win at all levels and competes for premierships. The culture of trainings and game days took a positive step forward and it showed with how well this team stood together through adversity. It is not hard to visualize that this side can win 15-20 games during a season within the next two summers.

Both at the plate and in the field, the Rustlers were led by the hard work of Dylan Trevorah. It was obvious how much time and preparation that he put in to obtain a .411 batting average and a .459 on base percentage. Veterans Adam Blackley and Andrew Gribbin had productive seasons and patrolled the outfield corners well. Sam Michael had a breakout season in centerfield and continued to improve and develop into a strong leader for the future. After the Christmas break, Michael Leslie got his shot at shortstop and capitalized on his opportunity, ending the season with the second highest batting average on the team. Russell Ferguson stepped up big at the catching position and called great games for our pitchers to lead to victories. Towards the end of the campaign, he was assisted by Brad Kmet who is a consistent Division 1 performer behind the plate. The return of solid players like Brad and Brett Curnow along with the addition of JJ O'Connor helped out dramatically as these guys are not just good players but valuable teachers of the game. Leigh Bertrand and Michael Rizzi both had hot streaks during the season to help out as well. Rookie players Ben Fierenzi, Jack Dunn, Conor Myles, Dante Caruso, and Mac Turley showed the firsts the new wave of talent that will be taking the field in the near future. There are a few other players in the reserves that will be called upon soon as well.

The pitching staff was led by the strong season of Declan Croker who threw 53.1 innings with a 3.54 ERA. Any time Declan was on the mound, he competed to give the team a chance to win. He will continue to improve as a rising star in Victorian baseball. The second most innings came from Bryan Kloppe in a year where his season was cut short by a shoulder injury. After Christmas the team was able to replace Bryan with Ty Geary, an import pitcher from Topeka, Kansas. In his outings, Ty was backed up with little run support to show just how great his efforts were. Jack Enciondo was dominant both on the hill and at the plate while sharing



THE FIRSTS
BRYAN KLOPPE



time with the Aces. Adam Blackley, Andrew Primesburger, Daniel Ward-Burton, Dylan Trevorah, JJ O'Connor, and Bryce Taylor pieced together the rest of the innings and all contributed in some fashion on the hill.

While the nine win season improved two games from the previous year, the league was tough and the team did not finish where it wanted to be. It will be fun to watch how this team continues to develop and improve in the next few years. Cheltenham is a great place to play baseball and one of the leading clubs in Victoria for development and learning of the game. If loyalty and hard work can once again become the culture here at Cheltenham there will be no better club to play at in all of Australia.



THE SECONDS
KANE DAVIDSON



The seconds had a great year in 2017-18. Focusing heavily on junior player development, the twos remained competitive right throughout the year and made it to the finals in what was a tight race.

The emergence of future club stars such as Dante Caruso, Connor Miles and Mack Turley combined with the experience of club stalwarts such as Michael Leslie, Jarrod Hall, Michael Rizzi and Daniel Ward-Bourton meant that the team regularly ended on the right side of the ledger. It was also great to see many of the juniors (and some of the senior) players get exposure at the next level, which will only benefit the club moving forward.

All in all making the finals in division 1 is never an easy task, and credit should be given to the players for the hard work that they put in all year. Unfortunately, our finals campaign didn't go quite as well as planned, but we're all better for the experience.

A big thankyou to Bryan Kloppe, for his work at training and on game day and to the club's committee and coaching panel for organising the season. Finally congratulations to all the trophy winners.

Looking forward to a break over the winter and a return to summer ball next year.

Thanks,

Kane Davidson



THE THIRDS

SEAN MILLER



The 3rds Season in review 17/18

I joined the team as a coach/player just before the break. It had been around 10 years since I had a role similar to that at Newport. It was all the more special because it was back at the Club that I first Coach and played for ever. It was great in the sense that the kids who I coached were now senior coaches and I could really see what the influence coaching has on the youth.

It wasn't until there was only 2 weeks in the season that I actually had a look at the ladder. Mainly because as I was trying to teach to the Team was to take each game one pitch at a time. The main reason for that is because I believe that the key to Baseball and life is being present. Being in the moment and not being stuck on something you done wrong in a prior at bat, pitch or play. Being that baseball is a game of failure and in life the people who succeed in life are those who have failed the most. They have failed and learned from their failure. When, you think about the best baseball players their ability to deal with failure is what separates them from the pack. They accept that failure is part of the game and they learn from it.

The thing really stuck out for me when I looked at the ladder was that the team played a lot better than the record showed. The team that I had witnessed had beaten or had drawn with all the top 4 sides. We had won almost all the games that I was there and the main thing I noticed was that the Team had a no quite attitude. They never stopped competing and played to win until the final out. The other thing I noticed was that when mistakes were made they were made aggressively. Even the stop signs that were run through were done while being aggressor.

I would forget that they are now not quite used to the rules of baseball. For instance when to take a pitch, when to bunt, steal a base or how to set up a hitter with pitch selection.

It was a great blend of youth and experience. The experience that I had around me really led by example and I believe the youth really feed off of them. I am grateful to have had them around and it's great club experience like that that makes the club what it is.

In conclusion from what I seen the club has a bright future with the youth and the experience that it has. With, proper nourishment and dedication I believe that the Club can be a powerhouse in Victoria. With maybe a few individuals being able to go on and further their baseball career in the States or even get. paid eduction to play College Baseball in the States.

I am so grateful for the opportunity to Coach and Play with the thirds and look forward to helping Chelt moving forward in the Future!



THE THIRDS
SEAN MILLER



Regards,
Shawn Miller





THE FIFTHS DAMON PETTIT



After making it to the grand final last year we were looking to come back for another competitive season in 2017-18. With many familiar names returning for another year including power hitters Tony Kouchakdjian and Glenn Sanders, pitchers Aaron Gale and Daniel McLean and adding to the line-up was clean-up hitter Adam Leech.

Playing several games when needed was junior Brad Earle. Filling in for one game were former Fifts players Russell Ashen and son Luke. Also playing one game was Masters player Ben Hall.

Again, I improved my knowledge of managing a baseball team. We ended another fun competitive season on top of the ladder after the home and away season but were unsuccessful in the finals.

Thank you to our umpires Michael Phillips, Brad Heenan and Col Uphill. Thanks to committee members John Ferguson, Andrea Cormick and Mick Trevorah and thank you to Connie Uphill. Special thanks to Jackie Phillips for scoring all season.

Damon Pettit





THE MASTERS
JOHN FERGUSON



CHELTENHAM MASTERS 2017-18

(THE OLDER WE GET - THE BETTER WE WERE!)

Won 11 Lost 3 Winning Percentage .786

A successful season with a Top Four finish for the third successive year.

Lost to a stronger and much younger Springvale Tomatoes in the Semi Final.

In total 18 players managed to cross the white lines during the season and the team consistently produced entertaining baseball based around outstanding hitting and a strong and versatile defense.

Eight different players were judged Best On Ground during the season and 13 players received votes.

Rookie outfielder Heath Dunkley was the MVP, batting cleanup with 14 hits (BA .469). Heath brought the rare combination of power and consistency at the plate as well as blinding speed around the bases.



THE MASTERS
JOHN FERGUSON



“Old Reliable” Darren Hiddlestone pounded the baseball all season to record 16 hits and batted BA .571 to win the Batting Award.





THE MASTERS

JOHN FERGUSON



Our Bullpen depth and length was a major feature this year with Darren Hiddlestone (3W), Ben Hall (3W), Lance Blackley (2W), Tony Koucharjian (1W), sharing the load assisted by some key cameo appearances from Ron Carothers, Russell Ashen (1W) and Joey Tucker.

Damon Pettit and the “Energiser Bunny” David Johnson were solid behind the plate and young Antony Harrowell showed promise when he filled in on a few occasions.

Infielders David Johnson (3B), Joey Tucker (SS), Rod Hind (2B) and Paul Kilburn (1B) provided a very solid defensive infield unit. Back at shortstop this season Joey Tucker glued the infield together and consistently turned games around with his glove combining very well with the evergreen Rod Hind for crucial outs and game winning double plays.

Our outfielders Brent Dunkley Adam Leech Tony Koucharjian pounded the ball and provided solid support in the field all season that kept most of the opposition hitters to single bases.

“Super Sub” Rod Hind had a career year with 14 hits and a BA.452 and he provided great defense both in the infield and outfield.

The Bench was filled out by newcomers Gil Guevara and Rick Milson who both made valuable contributions from limited opportunities

The team’s major strength lay in its batting and our hitters consistently put up good at bats and pressured the opposition pitchers. Our approach to hitting was based on the theory of just watching the ball come in and hit it – Still the finest theory of hitting yet devised!

In addition to Heath and Darren and Rod, of the other regulars with at least 20 AB’s David Johnson batted BA.462 (13 hits) Joey Tucker BA .400 (14 hits) Adam Leech BA.370 (10 hits) provided plenty of offensive depth.

Players with less than 20 AB’s who also added great value at the plate were Ben Hall BA.642(9 hits), and Antony Harrowell BA.538 (6 hits).



THE MASTERS
JOHN FERGUSON



Special thanks to my assistant coach Brent Dunkley who managed the team to 2 crucial wins while I was overseas prior to the Christmas break.

Thanks to Bev Blackley our scorer and statistician for her meticulous record keeping and advice and also to Blake Dunkley who filled in on several occasions

Most importantly a big thank you once again to our catering services department led by Katrina and Jade Johnson in helping feed the multitudes at our home games.

In closing I would like to thank all the players - they are great ambassadors for our Club, they played hard and well, with these attributes being displayed it was a privilege to manage the team. Feedback from our spectators was that we “played exciting baseball and were fun to watch” and a couple of opposition managers who mentioned that “you are hard to beat because you don’t make any mistakes”. Great stuff.

Award Winners

MVP: Heath Dunkley

Batting Average: Darren Hiddlestone BA. 571

Manager: John Ferguson

Assistant Manager: Brent Dunkley

Scorer: Bev Blackley

Catering Manager: Katrina Johnson



BALLARAT MASTERS

JOHN FERGUSON



The Master Rustlers really turned it on at Ballarat and established themselves as a major force in the 45 Plus Section, winning 2 out of 4 games and only missed playing in the 2018 Grand Final with a 11-12 loss to the Diggers in an arm wrestle in our last game.

Following an impressive debut at the Carnival in 2017, the Rustlers were given a challenging draw that included the two Grand Finalists. Prior to the game against the Diggers this year they had had only 4 runs scored against them over their 3 previous games.





BALLARAT MASTERS

JOHN FERGUSON



Game 1 Chelt 9 – Cods 6

Batting first, the Rustlers scored the maximum 7 runs in their first trip to the plate on four walks and hits to Darren Hiddlestone, Russell Ashen Paul Kiburn and Brent Dunkley. Pitcher Russell Ashen delivered 4 strong innings to control the game. Dunkley and Ashen each batted in 2 runs.





BALLARAT MASTERS

JOHN FERGUSON



Game 2 Chelt 4 - Bendigo 3

Lance Blackley started after his shut out performed against Bendigo last year but a lead off base on balls and 3 hits saw 2 runs cross the plate as Bendigo took the early lead. Blackley pitched a perfect 3 innings while Cheltenham struggled to get a run on the board. A superb diving shoe stringer by Joey Tucker drew applause from the crowd as well as the opposition. Blackley has now pitched 8 innings for 2 runs in his 2 starts against Bendigo.



Darren Hiddlestone came to the mound in the top of the fifth to retire Bendigo comfortably but the 2 hits in the sixth lead to a run to give Bendigo a 3-0 lead.



BALLARAT MASTERS

JOHN FERGUSON



Down to our last innings, lead off Greg Hondomatdis managed to be hit by the pitch, Hiddlestone followed with slashing double to right field to drive in the first run. David Johnson also managed to be hit by a pitch and Ashen singled to Left to load the bases. Joe Caruso came in as a pinch runner for Ashen. An infield popup for the first out brought Paul Kilburn to the plate. The man with the big pink bat went deep into the count before hammering a long double to the right centre fence to clear the bases with the speedy Caruso crossing the plate with the go ahead run to complete a magnificent come from behind win.



BALLARAT MASTERS

JOHN FERGUSON



Game 3 Chel 2 – Pandas 10

With gale force winds blowing from left field to right field, the tournament favourites, the Pandas wasted no time in showing that they had come to play. Lefty Ace Les Pimm started in less than ideal conditions for him and gave up 6 consecutive hits and 6 runs crossed the plate.

Ben Hall and Greg Hondo pitched effectively in relief but a further 4 runs crossed the plate and the Rustlers were held to 2 in the late innings when Ashen and Ben Hall each batted in a run with outfield hits.



BALLARAT MASTERS

JOHN FERGUSON



Game 4 Chelt 11 – Diggers 12

Based on winning percentage and the Head to Head rule - the winner of this game would play off against the Pandas for the Shield. This turned out to be an epic game that will be remembered for many years.

Hondo started on the mound under gale force conditions that made outfielding a nightmare, 4 hits saw the Diggers jump to a 4-0 lead.



Rising to the occasion, the Rustlers bounced straight back with a maximum 7 runs. Johnson walked, and Hondo doubled to left, Hiddlestone and ashen hammered hard ground ball to the left side that resulted in errors and Pimm picked walk. Tony Koucharjian's line shot to right drove in 2 more. Joey Tucker and Rod Hind singled to the outfield keep the innings alive and Johnson's infield single to the right side drove in the seventh run.



BALLARAT MASTERS

JOHN FERGUSON



The Diggers scored in the top of the second to make it 7-5 and Chelt scored 2 more in the bottom of the third after Pimm lead off with a walk and Kouch was safe on a fielder's choice. Ben Halls double to centre pushed across the second run to give the Rustlers a 9-5 lead after 3 completed innings.

Hondo walked in the fourth and Hiddlestone doubled. Ashen ground ball to the right side made the score 10-5. Hiddlestone flashed the leather at shortstop with a brilliant diving catch and several outstanding assists as the pressure continued to build.

With 3 outs to get to gain a place in the Final, Ban Hall replaced Hondo who had done a superb in the conditions. Pitching to the heart of the strong Diggers line up Hall gave up 2 hits and a walk before being relieved by Les Pimm. The change almost came off. Chelt maintained the lead as we battled hard to get 2 out but a bases clearing triple to the left field fence by Tony Cornish gave the Diggers the lead 12-10.

In the bottom of the fifth with 2 out Joey Tucker doubled to centre and Hall singled through the middle to drive in Caruso who was running for Tucker.

David Johnson came to the plate and ripped a line shot that was snared somehow but the pitcher to end the rally and the Rustlers tournament hopes.

The Diggers went on the play the Pandas in the Final but lost 6-14 no doubt drained and depleted by their win over us in what was commonly agreed to be the most exciting and entertaining match of the tournament.

In summary,



BALLARAT MASTERS

JOHN FERGUSON



Starters were great Russell Ashen, Lance Blackley and Greg Hondo produced top performances and Ben Hall and Darren Hiddlestone were solid in relief.

David Johnson caught most of the innings, batted brilliantly and was the team's **Most Valuable Player**.



Joe Caruso was the teams designated runner and his outstanding speed around the bases provided an important edge in critical situations. None more important when he scored from first for the go ahead run against Bendigo.



BALLARAT MASTERS

JOHN FERGUSON



Defensive highlights included Joey Tucker magnificent shoe stringer at centre field and Darren Hiddlestones diving catch off a line drive at short stop. Tony Kouchardjian did some great work at centre and at right field in extreme conditions.



BALLARAT MASTERS

JOHN FERGUSON



Darren Hiddlestone batted **BA .571** (4 hits) to lead the hitting, closely followed by David Johnson BA.556 (5), Russell Ashen BA .454 (5). Other players with multiple hits were Joey Tucker, Greg Hondo, Paul Kilburn, Rod Hind and Ben Hall.

Well played guys.

Thanks to the Assistant Coaches, Brent Dunkley and Anthony Bowley and our Scorer Anne Ferguson.

John Ferguson

Manager



WOMEN'S BLUE
ANTHONEY HARROWELL



Enthusiasm for an additional women's team had been building over the winter months and after some dedicated recruitment by many of the previous season's players, it became apparent that Cheltenham would comfortably fill two women's teams for the 2017-18 season.

As coach of the Women's Blue team, I was extremely proud of the team's progress throughout the season. While it took several weeks for the team to settle in, once they found their mojo, they were pretty much unbeatable and ended the season full of confidence. In fact, other than a draw in round 12, we won every game from round 10 until the end of the season. Resulting in 7 wins and 1 draw from the 15 Rounds (13 games played). Unfortunately, there weren't enough wins to make it to the finals, finishing 5th on the ladder from 13 teams.

What impressed me most was the enthusiasm and commitment shown by all 12 players and their ability to support and encourage each other at all times. This commitment was on display from the beginning of pre-season training. Even if it was raining or miserable weather, the players would turn up and give it their all.

Some impressive stats include:

Every Player batted over .150, 10 Players batted over .200, 7 Players batted over .300, 6 Players batted over .400 and 2 Players batted over .500

The team Scored 166 Runs for the season, averaging just under 13 runs per game

The team stole 128 Bases for the season, with every Player stealing at least 2 Bases

The team's Fielding Percentage for the Season was .833, meaning that 83% of the time we had an opportunity to get an out we did.

We had three players who played all 13 games of the season, Tara, Michelle and Sam.



WOMEN'S BLUE
ANTHONEY HARROWELL



It was great to have two fantastic women's teams that we could each draw from. Thank you to the players from the White Team (Caz, Jess C, Brittany, Deb and Teresa) who played with us during the season and also Jen H for her cameo appearance in the last game.

Also, a huge thanks to Brad Lark as the Coach of the White Team for his work at training; to Damon Pettit for his great work as our First Base Coach; to Brad Heenan for his assistance at training and on game day; to Denise Healy for her fantastic work with the match reports; and to the guest umpires we had for home games (Galvin, Josh, Russ, Brad, Stu and Johnno -apologies if I missed anyone).

A special mention must go to Peter Leslie who was our scoring Master. His great work has enabled us to extract the stats (listed above) that demonstrate the terrific work by the team.

I thoroughly enjoyed coaching the team this season and wish everyone the all the best in what they choose to do in the Winter Season (playing baseball is a great option) and I look forward to seeing everyone back for 2018-19.



WOMENS WHITE

BRAD LARK



When the club found itself in the enviable position of entering 2 women's teams into the Division 3 competition and Michelle Ogilvy approached me to coach, I felt that supporting this section of our club was the least that I could do.

Training as a squad alongside Anthony Harrowell and assisted by Brad Heenan, our goal was to establish 2 even and competitive sides that would encourage participation and development. As always competitiveness found its way into the equation as well.

The commitment from the players is to be commended, this resulted in our performance improving considerably as the season progressed. Individual development along with team structure within both sides saw both squads make a late push for the finals, a position that at the start of the season seemed unlikely.

The Cheltenham White team finished the season with 5 wins and a number of close losses against far more experienced outfits than ours. I think that our two games against Sunshine are indicative of our improvement. Early in the season we were soundly beaten by them 13-2 only to reverse the result in our last game of the year 15-4 with both teams fielding similar outfits for both games.

Other highlights included a memorable victory against Essendon and a close loss to eventual Grand Finalist, Moorabbin.

I congratulate all players on their approach and attitude throughout the season and would like to thank all of our teams' scorers and assistants.

Recognition must go to Michelle Ogilvy and Anthony Harrowell for promoting and driving the Women's section of our club. I believe that their efforts, along with the continued commitment of the players can lead to Women's baseball becoming a strong growth area for Cheltenham Baseball Club.