



BOARD OF MANAGEMENT



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2015. LANCE BLACKLEY

Each year our Club is presented with a number of challenges and somehow the committee, players and supporters always manage to find solutions and great outcomes. This year has been no exception.

Cheltenham is one of the few baseball Clubs that operates year round. To provide a consolidated overview of the Club's scope of operations, this year I have included comments from the Winter President, Pat O'Neill and Club Coach David Clarkson covering their 2014 season.

A whole of Club appreciation is essential for future dealings with the Kingston City Council and with Governments when seeking grants for infrastructure and also for compliance reasons.

100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

In November, the Club held our 100 year anniversary at the Southern Golf Club. The gala event was attended by over 120 past players, supporters and dignitaries from Baseball Victoria, Dandenong Baseball Association, Umpires Association and Local Council. Australian Men's National Coach John Deeble was the key note speaker on the night and all attending the event were entertained by John and the presentations throughout the evening. The fabulous 50 past players were selected as our very best Along with our outstanding coaches and scorers. Achievement 1000 game awards were presented to Laurie Hall and Peter Burdett.





WOMENS BASEBALL DAY

Early in the season, Cheltenham also hosted the inaugural Women's Baseball Day and over 20 women's teams from the summer league played their round at our grounds. Games started early in the day and finished late afternoon. Cheltenham's expertise in hosting tournament events came shining through as the day was a great success.

BV REGISTRATION PROCESS

Baseball Victoria through Baseball Australia initiated an online registration process that presented great difficulties in administering the process. Secretary Dave Holland and BV liaison Officer Gavin Daniels worked tirelessly over several weeks to meet this challenge. Gavin created and enhanced our website ability to register online. In addition, Gavin also created our online event registration which produced outstanding results for ticketing for the gala event as well as Presentation Day.

LITTLE LEAGUE STRUCTURE IMPLEMENTATION

While all the changes were occurring to the registration process BV also decided to rearrange the structure of the u14/u12 competitions with the introduction of Little League system. Again our Junior Coaches led the way with understanding the new system.

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

During the year we had a nomination of Life Membership for Matthew Gourlay and Dave Coppens.

Matthew as one of our greatest players, Club Coach and team coach at senior and junior levels and Dave for his coaching and umpiring at our juniors levels over an extended period of time. Both have been fantastic club people on and off the field.



Matthew Gourlay.

David Coppens





SUMMER 2014/15

Seniors

Our First Nine remained in 5th spot overall with a 15W-10L record which is one win better than the previous year. The club coaching team of Matt Taylor, Matt Gourlay, Stuart Adams and Laurie Hall put in a big effort over a long season and have been extremely enthusiastic and passionate about the Club's success. Trevor Hogben (Chair of Selectors) along with Brad Lark, Pat O'Neil and Damon Pettit make a huge contribution during the year coaching the minor grades.

Our Second Nine finished in 1st position on the home and away ladder with a 15W-1L record. This clearly shows the depth of the Club. The final's series saw them take on and beat Essendon in a game that saw us in control all game. This outstanding win is believed to be the first occasion since Prahran Seconds won in 1963 that the Club has taken out Division 1 second nine Championships.

Our Third Nine finished low in the field with 3W-12L record however this side was very young and inexperienced and several players acquitted themselves and gained valuable experience for next season. We do need a few strong bodies to be mixed amongst the young players to bolster the strength of the side and we will look into trying to achieve this next season.

Our Fourth Nine entered their final's campaign for the 5th season in a row after finishing in second place on the ladder with a 13W-3L record. Congratulations were again in order as we led from start to finish over Sandringham.

The Division 4 South team KL finished the home and away season in 2nd with a 11W-4L record however they were knocked out of the competition in the semi-finals.

Our other Division 4 Rustler side led by Damon Pettit finished in 5th place with a 6W-9L record which was a great effort for the side that have strengthened this season with a very enthusiastic group of players who enjoy playing together.

The Masters team led by John Ferguson finished in 3rd place on the ladder with a 10W-4L record. Facing Bonbeach in the semi-final saw a nail biting conclusion to a 1-0 loss in the 10th inning.

Juniors

The under 18 State team finished in 2nd place on the home and away ladder with a 10W-2L record and won convincingly with Jack Encionda taking out player of the game with a 3 run home run, a 2 RBI double and closing pitching performance. That's back to back championships for our u18 side!





Our u18 metro team led by Trevor Hogben gave themselves every chance for a flag with a 9W-2L record. The team fought valiantly in the final but just came up short but a great season.

The Under 16 State League team were a little disappointing this season with a 1W-12L record however they are a small young team who will only get better next season.

We fielded two teams in the State Junior League and our sides finished mid field against some tough opposition.

Our State Little League team led by John Fairweather finished in 1st place on the ladder with a 9W-1L record. After having our u12 side in the finals on many occasions over the years, it finally became Cheltenham's turn to put on a display of how well junior baseball can be played. The team won 13 – 3 evoking the Mercy Rule at the 70min mark of a 2hr game. This, the first under 12 Championship the Club has achieved since 1963, so congratulations to the team and to MVP Josh Ashen who threw almost 3 innings of good quality pitching and also scoring an in the park home run.

Our Metro Little League team also faired very well finishing in 4th place with a 8W-3L record and had a great win over Moorabbin in the final.

Southern Mariners Little League Major squad also fielded 3 teams: Yankees, Giants and Braves who finished 1st, 2nd and 5th. The Yankees made it to the Grand Final and took out the title 6 – 5 over Bonbeach with a walk off Home Run to Josh Ashen. Great effort.

Tee Ball

Our Tee Ball competition only had 4 teams comprising of 40 players this year as the restructuring of the juniors saw Tee ball players entering the baseball Little league system earlier. This competition is played without keeping score with participation being the focus.





WINTER 2014

President Pat O'Neill (Extracts from EOY report):

This season as a club we have been very successful on field with 6 out of the 7 junior teams making the finals with our under 13s playing off against each other in the big dance. We also had 3 out of the 6 senior teams finishing in the top 2 and making the grand finals. Finishing Premiers A1, B2, U13 white)

But with such a huge on field year we have been struggling to get people to attend the very few social function we do put on. We need attendance at these kinds of nights to help keep our fees down but also make a great vibe around the club.

Big thanks to everyone who sold there 1000 draw tickets and thanks to Stenny and helpers for a huge night.

Sponsorship was down a bit this year but a big thanks to all our sponsors who have either come on board this year or have stuck by us for many years, please support our sponsors and if anyone would like to come on board next year please get in contact with a committee member.

Big thanks to my committee members

Club Coach David Clarkson (Extracts from EOY reports):

I feel the Cheltenham Baseball Club has taken huge step in cementing a strong period of winning over the next 5-10 years.

The amount of talent coming from within the junior ranks is ridiculous, no wonder a lot of clubs are jealous of this great baseball club. If I go back to the last A Grade game against Frankston, our player's average age for that day was 19.2. Frankston must have been over 30 year with not a kid in sight. Boys battled hard but unfortunately lost in the 14th innings

Overall the A Grade had a successful season finishing on top at the end of the home and away season. There were not too many times when we had our full strength team out on the field at one time, but still managed to win enough games to have us in finals contention.

The A2's were a young team and held themselves remarkably well to also finish on top at the end of the season. It was great to see Russell Ferguson take control of these kids and he did a great job in nurturing and teaching along the way.





B1 were also a very young team and this showed in their position on the ladder. These guys were often up against other clubs firsts teams and handled themselves well. A big thankyou goes to Brad Heenan for his help in looking after this team over the year.

B2 consisted of the old crew who never seem to want to be separated. Again these guys seem to win a lot of games but also had a lot of fun along the way. Finishing in 2nd spot after the home and away season shows what a terrific year they had and let's hope there is a win against Dandenong in the Grand Final this year. Daniel Ward-Bourton looked after the B2's and did the job that only Dan could do. Cheers Mate.

C1 had a different feel to it with the influx of David Stenhouse. The boys seem to win more games this year than last year. This means they are improving and are looking forward to next season already so Stenny tells me. A big thank you to Stenny and Ben Cooen for looking after this team.

C2 obviously improved this year because they won some games. It is great to see parents of junior players trying the game and learning as they go. To Russ Ashen, a big thankyou for looking after this team and judging by some of the reports I read they didn't miss you when you were unavailable!!!!!! Seriously, you did a great job guiding some of the novice players.

DBA AWARDS

A2 MVP Yoshi Campitelli

B2 MVP Dan Ward-Burton

Best Player U14 Ben Fierenzi

Best Player U12: Josh Ashen

REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS

ACES: Brad Harman, Ben Leslie and Lachlan Madden

Victorian Junior State Team representatives were:

U14 - John-Paul Callil, Ryuto Nashiro and Benjamin Fierenzi

U16 - Jack Dunn

U18 - Max Barrett, George Callil, Jack Enciondo, Mitch Holding, , Yuta Sekino, Sam Trend-Beacon, and Jack Daniels





National Team representatives were:

Jack Dunn representing Australia in the AA team that toured Mexico for the World Championships.

Mitch Holding, Jack Enciondo, George Calil and Max Barrett all represented Australia in the AAA team that toured New Zealand for the World Cup qualifying series.

DBA Teams

Seniors: Kane Davidson Blake Cunningham Russell Ferguson Geoff Holland

Juniors (20):

U18 Lucas Anderson Jack Daniels Naoki Lui, Matt Stenhouse

U16 Angus Octigan, Jake Pocock

U14 Oliver Bowley, Dante Caruso, Declan Croker, Ben Fierenzi, Thomas Ogilvie, Fraser Parsons, Will Tucker, Mack Turley

U12 Josh Ashen, Genevieve Beacom Ben Campbell Sean Dunne Rhys Fairweather, Blake Holding Josh Tribe.

SPONSORS

We continually try to improve our sponsorship alliances each year and this year we were fortunate enough to gain support from Pharmacy First in Cheltenham. Sponsorship money made available from Pharmacy First allowed the Club to purchase new junior playing tops so that a hire scheme could be formed. This helps considerably to lower the cost to families who have children playing baseball.

We thank the continued support of our existing sponsors Bridgestone, Braeside Cellars, Bendigo Bank and Bentleigh RSL and our own Peter Leslie and Gavin Daniels.

John Fairweather also provided a considerable donation that is to be used for ground improvements on the junior diamond. We will be applying for a community grant to add to the ground improvement funds.

All of the sponsors are highly valued with a significant percentage of the sponsorship going directly to junior coaching programs. The sponsorship dollar enabled us to gain the services of our US import player/coach Bryan Kloppe and he acquitted himself extremely well in both pitching and general coaching of the juniors providing both an immediate uplift in skills and sustained value as players careers progress.





COMMITTEES

Away from the on-field activities, your Summer and Winter Committee and especially those who are involved in running the Canteen and Bar, are a group of very dedicated people who are passionate about delivering the very best program possible. I thank every person who volunteered their time willingly to help out during the season.

Last, but not least, a huge thank you to my wife, Bev who just looks at me every time I walk out the door and return home an hour late and smiles (well nearly every time!) We are very lucky at Cheltenham, we have some fantastic people involved with our Club and that means great kids and great talent.

Will I be back again next year? Yes, returning if I'm voted in for maybe the last time as this has been the 3rd year of my presidency. Whilst enjoying the Club immensely, there could be somebody else out there that could do a better job or lead us to bigger and better things. We'll see!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Lance Blackley'.

Lance Blackley
Club President

The 'Rustlers' logo in a stylized, blue, cursive font with a white outline and a shadow effect.