



PRAHRAN- CHELTENHAM BASEBALL CLUB ANNUAL REPORT 1973



Old Cheltenham

Prahran



Park Road

(Retyped into digital format, pictures added March 2020)





ANNUAL REPORT 1973

Gentlemen,

It gives me great pleasure to present the first report of the Club following the Amalgamation of the Prahran and Cheltenham Clubs in 1972 and I am sure you will agree that during the first season of operation we have made great progress towards our aim to the strongest club in Victorian Baseball. Our achievements were greatly by the help given by members and I feel sure that with the knowledge of our mistakes behind us we shall continue to climb to the top of the ladder.

The Club fielded six senior teams and five junior teams and from this effort we won two premierships and acquitted ourselves quite well throughout, both the in the V.B.A. and the D.B.A. Without doubt much of our success could be attributed to the coaches of each team and to the Chairman of Selectors, Mr. Jim Upfill and I take this opportunity of expressing the thanks of the Club to Jim and to the Captains for their assistance to him. I also wish to express my appreciation to the Captains of each of the teams, for their

dedication to duty and to Club Coach Alan Tanner for his untiring efforts to improve the standard of our players.



Jim Upfill

COMMITTEE AND EXECUTIVE

I wish to thank the members of the Committee for their work during the year in the general administration of the Club and to convey my thanks and appreciation to our President Leo Anderson, Treasurer, John Ferguson and Assistant Secretary Graeme Ainscough for the assistance and guidance given to me throughout the season. I can assure you that much of the development of the Club to this stage is due to the efforts of these men.



Leo Anderson





DISCIPLINE

It is with concern and regret that I must report that during the year a small minority of our members did not behave in a manner acceptable to the Club.

Action was taken by the Committee in some instances and in other cases has expressed deep concern especially with regard to the behaviour and type of barracking by members supporting teams in which they are not playing. I take this opportunity to ask that all players conduct themselves properly whether playing or supporting the Club in the future. Remember you are part of the Club and your actions are reflected on every other Member of the Club.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Graeme Ainscough

I would like to thank the donors of the trophies, for their support in this direction and express my appreciation for their gifts. A partron of the Club Mr Ted Greenwood donated a trophy for the best batting average in the A1 team. Mr Graeme Ainscough donated trophies for the D.B. A. "B" Grade Team and the trophies presented to the junior teams were donated by Mr. Phil Cartledge.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

An active Social Committee operated throughout the year with Max. Johansan Snr as Chairman and Graeme Ainscough Secretary and faced with the problem of raising a large amount of income their task was unenviable. However, the dedication of this sub-committee is shown by its results and they deserve the commendation of every Club Member for such a sterling effort. The attendance at some of the functions was not exceptional and as the season progressed it became evident that some of the players were not giving the proper support to social functions even to the extent of not attending at all. If you did not do your part in supporting the Club off the field last season you should make sure you attend Club functions next year. I feel that all players should attend at least three quarters of the social functions of the Club.





The Social Committee organised a number of events during the season and thanks to the support of a group of regulars, a profit was shown on each occasion. The best attended event was our Annual event at Caulfield Town Hall and with an over flowing hall a great night, socially and financially was assured. The Wine Tasting Night was another successful evening which resulted in a tidy profit and a few sore heads. Unfortunately, the dances at Mordialloc were not well attended and much of the “door” went to pay the band and for the hire of the hall. However, those who attended enjoyed themselves.

Most players and supporters enjoyed the after games discussions and refreshments at the pavilion and apart for a few untimely trips to the showers these evenings were great for the Club.

Remember the Social Committee works hard and it deserves your support.

PLAYING ACHIEVEMENTS

A1- V.B.A.

Under the leadership of the Club Coach Alan Tanner the side began in fine style winning the opening match but was not able to maintain this ascendancy thorough the early part of the year. However, the side stuck together and when the position became desperate they came through to reach the finals by winning the last five games of the home and away matches. They won the Elimination Final against Preston and confidently faced Footscray in the Preliminary Final. However the “ Blue Machine” never really got into gear and with hits few and far between we reached for the mothballs for 1973. I feel confident that the team will benefit from this year

and play a decisive role in the fight for the 1974 premiership.



Club Coach Alan Tanner





A GRADE – D.B.A.

We are all proud of the fact that this team provided the Club with our only senior premiership. Led in the early part of the season by Lance Purton and from June by Don Smythe the team fluctuated between first and second position throughout the season. They defeated Noble Park 3-1 in the Semi Final and faced that team again in the Grand Final. In a typical clash with Noble Park in which the lead changed several times it was with great courage and determination that, after looking beaten a couple of times the team lifted its standard to make up a 2 run deficit and eventually win the game.

A great triumph to a close knit team capably lead by coach Don Smythe.



Lance Purton

A2 – V.B.A.

In the early part of the season this team, although playing reasonably good baseball was unable to win many games and after 13 games were in eighth position. However, they continued to improve and by winning the last five games finished only one point out of the finals with 10 wins and 1 draw. I feel that the Club will benefit in future by the experience gained by the younger members of this team and I am confident of and place in the finals as next season.

B Grade – D.B.A.

The leadership of this team also changed during the year Fred Capper started the season as Captain and when he was promoted Graeme Ainscough took over. This team, our Club's 9th meets the firsts of several teams in this grade and I feel it is a great credit to the players and to Graeme to finish the home and away games in second position. They were unfortunate to lose a close semi-final 2 runs to 1 and had to face Lyndale, the eventual premiers in the Preliminary Final. In appalling in conditions, they took the lead in the game but failed to capitalise on several key opportunities.

A 3 - V.B. A.





The summary of this team capably led by Harry Kalinski is somewhat similar to that of the A2 team and was similarly unfortunate after a good finish to the season to finish only one point out of the finals. The team took a while to settle down and had some selection problems during the year which included the ss of a regular pitcher. However, their performances were quite credible for, as our Club's 5Th nine faced the 3Rd nine of other clubs in the competition and we look for a place in the finals next year.

C Grade – D.B.A.

History has habit of repeating itself for this team and 1973 under the leadership of Mick Walton was no exception. Again finishing the season with a double chance, we all thought that this year would be a premiership. It was not to be however and we were soundly beaten in both the semi- final and the preliminary final. This team provided a spot for many of our “veterans” to continue in baseball and I am sure that a good year's sport was enjoyed by those who still wish to play and support the Club.

JUNIOR REPORTS

The Club fielded 5 junior teams and our greatest problems experienced was to find coaches and managers for these teams. Two U13 teams played in the V.B.A. competitions – one at Sandringham and one at Fawkner park. The team at Fawkner Park played good consistent baseball throughout the season and finished in the finals. However, occasion or the opposition proved to be a bit much for the youngsters and they were soundly defeated in their Semi=final.

The team at Sandringham did not enjoy the success of the Fawkner Park boys and it took some time before they scored their first win. However. success did not come very often and it was a credit to the boys and their coach that they continued to try hard each week and I trust that they will experience better success next year.

A Third U13 team was entered in the D.B.A. and for most of the year was in the top four but a late season slump proved fatal and they needed to win the last game to reach the finals. The game was lost however the team had to be content with fifth place.

Each of these teams contains some excellent young players and I feel sure that with so many boys of this age in and around the Club our future is bright, provided we are able to find enough competent coaches to teach these lads the fundamentals of good baseball.

An U15 team played in the D.B.A. and we suffered from an acute shortage of players in this age group throughout the season. So you can see that although playing many games with only seven players the effort of reaching the finals was surely first class. They won the Semi-final against Noble Park with only 8 players and faced Frankston again with only 8 players





with an U13 substitute in the Preliminary Final and they were unfortunate to lose 2 runs to one. I must congratulate the boys on their efforts and trust that we will be able to find another 4-5 boys of this age next year.

The U17 team playing in the D.B.A. – presented the Club with its second premiership for the year and it was probably the most unusual performance of all time. The preliminary was called against them 4-2 but a protest was upheld and the final 30 minutes of the game were replayed. This was enough time for them to level the score at 4 all. The game was replayed the following Saturday and won by Chelt/Ptrahran 10-6. The boys performed really well in the Grad Final in which the lead changed with almost each frame. However they fought the game out well to eventually win a great game.

I thank, on behalf of the Club the following Members for their efforts in coaching and managing the junior teams.

U17 George Ingram and John Ferguson
U15 Michael Trevorah, and Gordon Dossor
U13 D.B.A. Kel Roberts and Colin Anderson
U13 Sandringham Donald Upfill
U13 Fawkner Park Graeme Ainscough and Bruce Weir

REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS

John and Paul Ferguson – **Victorian teams**

Alan Bentley, Michael Trevorah, Lance Purton, George Ingram, Fred Capper, Russell Robertson, Ken Hewitt and Laurie Hall - **D.B.A. Seniors**

Robert McEwan and Wayne Tayler – **D.B.A. U19's**

Phillip Bibby, Mark Manning and Rob Nicholson – **D.B.A. U17's**

Russell Ingram, Stuart Howe, and Peter Innis **D.B.A. U13's**

Grant Weir – **Victorian U13's**

Next season we will need: Coaches and scorers for both seniors and juniors and if you think you could help please let us know.

In conclusion I would like to thank each and every player and supporter for the part they played in a successful season for the “ Rustlers”.

Allan Burdett
Hon. Secretary

