



ANNUAL REPORT

1976



ALLAN BURDETT PRESIDENT



ALAN TANNER CLUB COACH

Rustlers

CHELTEMHAM BASEBALL CLUB
FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT 1976.

OFFICE BEARERS, 1976

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R. BAILLY	K. ROBERTS
F. CAPPER	R. ROBERTSON.

CHELTHENHAM BASEBALL CLUB

FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT 1976.

Members, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the President and Committee we submit for your approval the 4th Annual Report and Balance Sheets for the year 1976.

Season 1976 was not as successful as we had hoped for and we are disappointed that premierships in our senior VBA and DBA sides did not come our way. Nevertheless premierships to our LBA-B Grade, C Grade and Under 17 teams were excellent results and our VBA-1 side gave a creditable performance in the final series.

There was also a great deal of consolation to be gained from the continued improvement of our younger players. Our Under 15 and Under 13 teams both finished in the finals and the season produced outstanding performances by individual players. The most notable being a 12-0 shutout Grand Final win to Trevor Hogben in the Under 17's, a batting average of .576 by Paul Kilburn from Under 15's and 6 home runs and a .355 batting average by Neil LePage in the Under 13's.

Alan Tanner, our Club coach and Al Manager since the amalgamation in 1973 retired from the position at the end of this season and it is appropriate that we record our thanks and appreciation for his dedicated service. Under his leadership the VBA-1 team won 50 and drew 1 out of the 94 games in which he lead the club and the team appeared in 6 final games over the last four years. Managing is a thankless and exacting task when flags elude you and Alan is to be congratulated on a job well done.

The Social Committee continued to give excellent support and through their efforts we enjoyed a number of functions. The efforts of Nola and Alan Burdett, John Landry and Kew Hewitt in running the club rooms every week were outstanding and were the foundation of the clubs off the field successes this season. Our hard working social group do not get the support they deserve and we appeal to you all to give them greater support next season.

The Junior Presentation Night was a notable success thanks to Graeme Ainscough, Frank Babiidge (jnr.) and others who assisted.

The ground improvements to Cheltenham Park have eliminated a number of problems we had experienced in recent years and the assistance and co-operation we received from the Moorabbin City Council and in particular Cr. D. Blackburn was greatly appreciated. Future improvements of a relatively minor nature are all that are required to meet our needs with respect to the No 1 Oval and the Councils Plans for large scale improvements to the No 2 Oval during this current financial year will ensure that our Club has first class facilities for future seasons.

Special mention must also be made of the efforts and substantial contributions of materials by Lance Purton, Leo Anderson and Don Smythe which enabled the ground to be available for this season. Our thanks is also extended to Terry Anderson and Lance Purton for the pitching machine.

Finally our thanks to all those who assisted with our secretarial duties throughout the year, especially Jim Upfill whose successful co-ordination of 6 senior sides for the past four seasons is little short of amazing.

John Ferguson

HONORARY SECRETARY

Colin Anderson

HONORARY ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

PREMIERSHIPS

1973 - DBA A GRADE

1973 - DBA UNDER 17

1973 - VBA UNDER 13

1975 - DBA C GRADE

1976 - DBA B GRADE

1976 - DBA C GRADE .

1976 - DBA UNDER 17

1976/77 - VBA UNDER 13

Players:

A. Bentley	J. Ferguson (VC)	G. Siddel
P. Bibby	P. Ferguson	A. Tanner (C)
F. Capper	L. Hall	M. Trevorah
R. Chapman	P. Purvis	R. Upfill
J. Dinga	R. Robertson	D. Whatmore

Manager: A. Tanner

Scorer: E. Landry

Games Played: 24

Won: 13

Thirteen wins and eleven losses hardly represent a successful season and if ever the Club hopes to become the No. 1 Club in Victoria greater dedication and application is required. Early in the season while the team was able to practice effectively the overall performances were good and the move to summer should enable the team to exploit its considerable talents next season.

On the positive side team moral was high and our batters continued to produce extraordinary performances, both as a team and as individuals. Any team with hitters of the calibre of Dav Whatmore, Charlie Siddel, Fred Capper and John and Paul Ferguson can never be taken lightly as Newport found in the Elimination Final.

The season also produced some fine pitching by Laurie Hall at times and the potential showed by Phil Bibby in his first few A Grade appearances argue well for the future.

Congratulations are extended to John and Paul Ferguson and Dav Whatmore for gaining selection in the Victorian State Squad for 1977.

VBA - 2

Players:

C. Anderson	R. Kausman	R. Robertson
P. Bibby	R. Lewin	L. Royston
S. Bott	P. Mullens	D. Roulston
R. Chapman	M. Manning	R. Lovell (C)
T. Cromwell	I. McIntyre	P. Georgiadis
J. Dinga	T. Martin	M. Trevorah
M. Ducksbury	M. Powell	A. Tanner
R. Ginns	P. Purvis	C. Upfill
L. Kausman (VC)	R. Parker	M. Waye

Manager: R. Lovell

Scorer: E. Landry

Games Played: 18

Draws: 1

Won: 6

Although the team started the season well with 3 wins the problems associated with lack of practice during the winter were borne out as the season progressed.

The team however stuck to the task and every opportunity was given to younger players to gain some experience in senior baseball. In all 6 Under 17s were tried and they handled themselves very capably, especially Ricky Kausman and Mick Waye.

Phil Bibby pitched some excellent games, and was supported at times with some good batting from Dayrl Roulston, Ron Lovell, Les Kausman and the ever unpredictable Russel (The Crow) Robertson.

Our thanks go to Ron Lovell for combining the difficult jobs of Manager and catcher so effectively and to Les Kausman for his assistance in introducing our junior players into senior baseball.

Players:

P. Burdett	R. Ginns	M. Powell
L. Bailey	S. Jamieson	C. Petrie
W. Bailey	H. Kalinski (C)	D. Roulston
P. Bibby	P. Kilburn	L. Royston
S. Bott	R. Lewin	N. Smith
R. Charles	M. Manning (VC)	M. Spencer-Gardiner
I. Curnow	P. Mullens	A. Watson
M. Ducksbury	D. Mill	J. Brewster
P. Georgiadis		

Manager: H. Kalinski

No where in the Club was the lack of experienced players felt so keenly as in Harry's team. With little or no pitching and a team made up of mostly U15s this team had little chance of winning many games. However as it is often the case when a situation looks absolutely hopeless events suddenly begin to change for the better.

The younger players Paul Kilburn, Wayne and Lee Bailey, Peter Georgiadis and Andrew Watson began to find their feet and combined well with Harry and Sam Jamieson to improve remarkably over the last few games.

The Club is sure to benefit from the experience these boys have gained and there is every chance that this team will have helped produce several A Grade ball players for the seasons ahead.

Thanks Harry for a difficult job well done.

DBA - A GRADE

Players:

C. Anderson	B. Grabowsky	T. Martin
T. Anderson	T. Hogben	W. Quaiffe
S. Bott	K. Hewitt	W. Trevorah
K. Bear	B. Hall	C. Upfill
K. Boocock	R. Lewin	

Manager: K. Knorr

Scorer: M. Knorr

Played: 18

Won: 5

Unfortunately this side finished in the cellar position but were well-served with a bit of youth (T. Hogben) and experience (K. Knorr). K. Knorr put in a fantastic season to be runner-up in the Association's best and fairest.

DBA - B GRADE - PREMIERS

Players:

C. Adamis	N. Giasoumi	W. Quaiffe
S. Bott	B. Grabowsky	A. Richardson
K. Bear	B. Hall	W. Trevorah
K. Boocock	I. McIntyre	I. Turnbull

Manager: M. Johansen

Scorer: C. Johansen

Won: 13

Lost: 3

This side finished the home-and-away games in second place and easily won the second final and repeated this effort in the Grand Final. This side had no real outstanding players but their performance during the season showed what an even combination they were.

DBA - C GRADE - PREMIERS

Players:

F. Babidge Sen.	G. Ingram	C. Peacock
F. Babidge Jun.	M. Lewis	K. Roberts
S. Babidge	D. Mason	D. Upfill
G. Cox	L. Nicol	S. Williams
G. Dossor		

Manager: P. Teasdale

Scorer: J. Roberts

Won: 13

Lost: 4

Last season's Premiers repeated the dose in 76. After finishing the home-and-away season in second place, they were defeated in the Semi-Final but came back and had a run-away victory in the Preliminary Final. The Grand Final was a tense affair with Chelt. finally winning by 3 runs. F. Babidge Junior put up a fine performance to be equal, best and fairest in the C Grade competition.

DBA - UNDER 17

Players:

J. Brewster	P. Georgiadis	P. Mullens
I. Curnow	R. Ginns	A. Watson
R. Charles	T. Hogben	M. Waye
M. Ducksbury	R. Kausman	

Manager: J. Ferguson

Ass. Manager: S. Bott

A PREMIERSHIP -- won in magnificent style when the team overwhelmed Noble Park 12-0 in the Grand Final. The application and dedication of the team throughout the season was first class and the Club can be justifiably proud of the boys' achievement. The outstanding feature of their play was their all-round ability and strength in all positions, depth in pitching and consistent power at the plate. The battery work of Trevor Hogben to Mick Waye were superb in the final games although Andy Watson and Peter Georgiadis carried the bulk of the pitching during the home-and-away games.

Andy Watson's pinch hitting double in the Preliminary Final kept the team in contention at the critical moment and set the scene for a 2-run homer by Mike Ducksbury to give us a 5-3 win in extra innings in a game which was the highlight of the season.

Thanks to Mrs Betty Hogben for her assistance with transport.

VBA - UNDER 15

After a slow start, in which a number of games were narrowly lost, the Under 15s won only 2 of their first 7 games and looked headed for a dismal season. However, at this stage Sections 4 and 5 of the competition were amalgamated after the withdrawal of St Kilda and with Team Manager, Mick Trevorah increasing the tempo of training, improved results began to be reflected in match performances.

The improvement in the team's performance was so dramatic that they went on to win 9 games on end culminating in a 10-5 win over Moorabbin in the Final home-and-away match to make the Finals. Stephen Babidge, fresh out of Under 13s handled most of the pitching in the early part of the season and won 4 games. Lee Bailey took over towards the end of the season winning 4 and losing 1 game and with strong batting from Paul Kilburn, Peter Burdett, Rod Dowell and Ashley Kausman, the team moulded into a winning combination.

A Grand Slam Home Run in the Semi-Final by Wayne Bailey was instrumental in achieving a narrow win over Waverley (2) but Waverley (3) with several State players proved too strong in the Preliminary Final to win 6-1.

Trophy Winners: Best Player -- Paul Kilburn - Bat. Av. .516 (16 Hits)

Best All Rounder - Lee Bailey - Bat. Av. .478 (11 Hits)

Fielding Award - Rod Dowell - 12 P.O. 13 Ass No errors

The Club was indeed fortunate to have a young player of Mick Trevorah's ability who was prepared to put in the time and effort with the Under 15s with undoubtedly some loss of performance in his own game during part of the season and Mick deserves special Thanks from the Club for his efforts. The Club would also like to thank Mrs Molly Knorr for scoring for the boys throughout the season and also thanks to those who assisted with transport, marking diamonds etc. during the season.

VBA - UNDER 13

During the season 21 boys took part in Pee Wee Matches at

Sandringham although 7 of these boys dropped by the wayside for varying reasons. Of the 21 boys 10 were first year players and the Club has recruited some excellent prospects with the team moulding into a formidable combination with many players adapting themselves to being able to play in more than one position.

The team won 12 games and lost 6 (4 to Sandringham) and finished a clear second to Sandringham with the main difference in the teams being Steve Wilson, Sandringham's pitcher generally being too quick for most of our players.

Some excellent performances were achieved by the boys, these included: Bruce Leo (Best Player) Bat. Av. .500 (26 Hits), Neil LePage (Best All Rounder) Bat. Av. .355 (16 Hits) (6 Home Runs) Pitched 15 games and won 11. Andrew Kausman (Best First Year Player) narrowly from Andrew Wills. Other players to perform well during the season included Paul Roberts, Rob Stewart, Tim Woolford (First Year), John Bentley (First Year), Warren Kennedy (First Year).

Attendance at practice by all boys was exceptional and much of the credit must go to Neil LePage, Team Captain, who did a first class job in the position and set a high standard of leadership and ably assisted the Team Manager, Graeme Ainscough. Special thanks to Joy Roberts (Scorer), Charlie Siddel and Kel Roberts at Matches, Don Smythe who assisted every week umpiring at the centre and John Ferguson for his coaching of the boys mid week.

A special 'thank you' to the parents who gave their support each week at the games and at the Lightning Premiership.

THANK YOUS

The running of a Baseball Club for about 120 senior and junior players is not a simple operation especially considering the difficulties we have experienced in attaining a ground and adequate practice facilities. 1976 was a particularly successful year in establishing satisfactory playing and practice facilities and our special Thanks is extended to the following:-

Lance Purton	-	Poles for back net and pitching machine.
Terry Anderson	-	Pitching machine.
Dan Smythe	-	Hanging and edging the back net.
Leo Anderson	}	- Marking the No. 1 Oval.
Colin Anderson		
Nola Burdett	}	- Club Rooms Canteen
Alan Burdett		
Ken Hewitt		
Liz Landry	-	Scorer for both VBA-1 & VBA-2 and social activities.
John Landry	-	Social activities.
Jim Uphill	-	Chairman of Selectors and Player Co-ordinator.
Graeme Ainscough	-	Juniors and Dinner Dance.
Molly Knorr	-	Scorer DBA-A and U15.
Sheryl Johansen	-	Scorer DBA-B
Joy Roberts	-	Scorer DBA-C