



Rustlers **INTERVIEWS**



Interview with Dave "Stenny" Stenhouse

Long-time Rustler Legend and Club Winter President

Chelt website: So, Dave, tell us how long you've been involved in baseball. How did you get into baseball? Tell us a bit about your baseball background.

Dave: Started to play when I was four at Moorabbin in Pee Wee Baseball back then. Now 46 and thinking of retiring after 42 years, but still love the game and waiting to play with Matty when he's old enough. Moved to Cheltenham after beating Chelt in the Coca-Cola championships in under 13's and have been here ever since.

What are some of your highlights / achievements in baseball?

Lots and lots of highlights in this great game. Being coached by Trevorah in under 15's, if we lost he would put us in the back of the Ansett truck and roll us around; he thought we hated it but really couldn't stop laughing, until he opened the doors at the Rustler dome and then we pretended to be sad again. Playing Dingley in a grand final and being 10 runs down only to come back at them to win by five. Another one that is high on the list is under 14's grand final 09/10. And recent times the DBA under 16's win.

Favourite position as a player?

Pitcher and short, batting is always fun.

Funniest thing you've seen at the club / on the field?

Certain people running around the diamond with a gut full, playing silly little fire games as they run. People doing table slides and busting ribs. The outline in bodies in lime was a funny site. Brook's hitting the ball and knocking out an old lady and everybody running away. And a fair few other nights which are better not said.

What do you like about coaching? What are some of your thoughts on coaching?

The main thing I really love about coaching is watching the juniors come through and play great baseball, it is great to watch these kids grow up and play high level ball. There is a great bunch of kids coming through the clubs ranks, who I believe will stay together as baseball players at Chelt, and become real good mates as well.

I try to put the importance of winning, enjoying and learning the game into the kids. Under 12's ok you are there to enjoy and learn about the game, but if you think that winning



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doesn't mean anything well so be it. In other words don't turn up to a morning or afternoon game just to have a run in the park. If you are going to stuff around and just *blah blah* around you are wasting your time and your mates' time. I really believe that sport reflects on how a person's life will be, if you don't want to win and go for it, then you won't win in life.

What are the positives of Chelt BC?

Well the positives are as always the kids coming through. I think the families that are coming through the club are going to be a real force of our club; some of the families are fantastic people and eager to do jobs around the club.

What do we as a club need to get better at? What do you want to see happen from your perspective as Winter President?

Just one day I would love to see all juniors, seniors, and families all get to know each other, this would be so cool if our juniors got to know our seniors and visa versa. The main thing that hurts people that are doing a voluntary job is the "few" that have a lot to say but do little. But in some ways the club seems to weed these people out and kaboom they are gone, "amazing". The people we have around the club now at this moment are great. I was watching one of the parents the other day, doesn't matter who, but walked past a piece of rubbish on the ground only to turn around and pick it up, I just thought that was great to see and it's happening on a regular basis.

We really need to buy all items for the club from the same supplier and sponsors, this way we would get so much more money in and cheaper prices on purchased items. E.g., the Bottle Mentone has given the club \$5000 to date and I can guarantee that not one person has purchased anything from them. This is where soccer clubs are so good at what they do, they buy everything from their sponsors and stick together.

Why are we a strong club?

This is simple, Chelt is strong because of the people who play there and love the club, we have a lot of history at Chelt and it needs to live on and never to be forgotten.

Brilliant, great read, thanks Dave!