



Rustlers **INTERVIEWS**



Interview with **Michael 'Mick' Trevorah**

This edition of Rustlers Interviews sees us talking to an 'old time' Chelt hand in **Mick Trevorah**.

As we'll see in this interview, Mick's family have been involved with the club since the early days, and he's seen a bit in that time.

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

MT: My first recollections of baseball were a cigarette-smelled lounge room at our house in Moorabbin as a young boy.

As the original Cheltenham club was formed in the same year I was born (1953), my father Ray was enticed away from the Moorabbin Baseball Club to head up the first teams of our inception. The pen names of the two sides entered were the 'Hawks' and the 'Magpies'. (Ed: thank god *that* changed)

After the first two years as club coach Ray took on the presidency as well in 1954 and held that position to 1963. Numerous flags were won during that period in A and B Grades, including the Treble of 1958, '59 and '60 under Jim Upfill's tutorship.

Those smoke-filled room nights were courtesy of the committee meetings held at the house on a monthly basis, with the supper served on the billiard table-top. They were genuinely quick meetings, as the urge to sneak in a few games of billiards afterwards took precedence in the wee hours of the morning.

As baseball was the consuming family pastime, Ray, who was a member of the 1939 Golden Square Club A Grade premiership team in the Bendigo Baseball Association, it was case of following in his footsteps.

In younger years when you found your own way to games and practice, looking for the local club was the general rule. That local club was Sandringham (VBA) playing out of Ludstone Street Hampton in 1966. It was about a 15-minute ride each way. The competition started at the under 14s and in the first year played off in the GF only to lose to Malvern. Successful years followed as the comp moved to under 15s and 2 flags were won in 1967 and 68.



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Having only minor roles and game time, the urge to play more was overwhelming and I sought a clearance to Cheltenham (DBA) in the winter of 1969. This move was life-changing.

The competition started at Under 17s and, because juniors were scarce at that age level, two seniors were allowed to play provided they did not pitch or catch. Without sounding too arrogant, we only needed one senior; our coach George Ingram. He was sensational, and the most competitive person, who led the team by example.

With fewer players, the chance to catch was a reality and vindicated the decision to swap clubs. Not only that, but the under 17s played a full 9 innings game plus extra if there was a tie – how good is that! Certainly unheard of today with pitching and positional restrictions. The chance to play with and surrounded by famous names was what you wanted: George Ingram, the Upfills, Babidges, Burdetts, Knorrs, Purton and Dav Whatmore – just mentioning a few.

Chelt website: What are some of your highlights or achievements in baseball?

MT: When you sign on as a team member it's those moments when you achieve Grand Final success that become highlights of your career. The joy of sharing team success, regardless of the level of competition, are the memories you share and appreciate as you get older.

Playing against a younger division 1 4ths side in Malvern, who were undefeated back in the 90s, comes to mind as we had lost to them on all occasions through the year by some ugly



Mick, front row, 3rd from left, early 1980s

amounts, but by the time the Granny came around, the belief was there to take it up to them. Chelt take home the flag.

Being selected in Rep sides; in early years, being picked for the Victorian Technical School and DBA Carnival sides were morale boosters.

In a division 1 game against Footscray at their ground, the eye and bat coordinated for 6 hits; a record shared with Tony Reid that still stands today.



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Chelt website: Who are some of the characters you've met or some of your memorable moments?

MT: Over the journey you meet and greet a lot of characters on both sides of the dugout. Even the umpires have their humorous times, and those umps who understand there's a war going on out there are appreciated for that situation.

From the club perspective, the annual trip away to various country towns; Yarrawonga, Albury, Ballarat, and Bendigo, brought a lot of humorous moments as each one was vying for the coveted 'Albert (Bert) Downlow Award'. In keeping with tradition, what goes on the trip away, stays on the trip away.

Chelt website: Who are some of the best players you've seen come through the club?

MT: Over a long period of time numerous players come to mind regarding their playing ability, it would seem unfair to miss any on a list; however, those who had a competitive streak in them always got my attention.

Chelt website: How are you involved at Chelt now?

MT: My current position is Chairman of Selectors in our summer section and serving on the Committee. We are a club that caters for all needs; those who aspire to play at the highest level within our ranks, and the possibility of an overseas posting. Just as importantly, we have others who enjoy a game and the social aspect of playing in a team environment.

A competitive person by nature, the composition of the teams should be that everyone thinks on the same page. As a coach, things work if your team mates have the ambition and passion to want the same.



Coach of the Under 17 Premiers in 1981

Chelt website: What are the positives of Chelt BC? What are we doing well?

MT: Some positives happening is that the club, both in winter and summer, has good stable leadership, understanding everyone's objectives, particularly in a competitive environment.

In the area of sponsorship and grants, major achievements have been made to facilities and cutting down costs to the members.



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The Bendigo Bank (Cheltenham) has come on board as a major sponsor for our teeball section, acknowledging a great partnership developing. Another valued sponsor in Middy's has also come on board, forming a strong relationship with the club.

Chelt website: What do we as a club need to get better at? What do you want to see happen from your perspective?

MT: The mentality of the club needs to be strong and that being in division 1 is not a given. There's a work ethic out there that needs to be applied in the short and long term that develops through the senior and junior ranks and maintains our club at the highest level.

As a sports man, it's important to believe in yourself and your ability to perform. Have that same belief in your team mate. Don't bother about bragging about your own ability; if you're good people will tell you.

Our club survives and prospers on the dedication, generosity, and commitment of parents, supporters and players. We're custodians for the next generation; it's your turn.

Remember our club motto: "We exist to win premierships."