

Vale Gabriela “Gabby” Taranto

24 January 1969 – 13 March 2013



The Cheltenham Baseball Club is greatly saddened at the passing of one of its most beloved and respected members **Gabriela “Gabby” Taranto** aged 44, on the 13th of March, 2013.

Gabby, wife of Phil and mother to Cheltenham players Matt, Stefan and Ryan, put up the greatest fight against ovarian cancer, a fight which inspired those around her. Just recently she was at a place she loved, Farm Rd Cheltenham, watching her sons and their team mates in action wearing teal socks and ribbons in tribute to her struggle.

Gab was a long time member of Cheltenham Baseball Club and a very active member in both Summer and Winter sections of the club. At various times she performed the roles of Teeball Coordinator, Uniform Shop Coordinator, Summer Committee member and of course, the role she probably enjoyed most, that of team scorer; she loved doing the stats! She was passionate about the club and worked tirelessly to do all the things she could to contribute to its continued success and was only slowed down at the end by debilitating sickness.

Sons Matt, Stefan and Ryan have all been with the club from early ages, going through the ranks of teeball, junior and senior baseball. Just last week, Ryan's Under 16 AA team took out their division's premiership – something that would have given Gabby enormous pleasure. Phil has also taken coaching roles with junior teams – and along with Gabby's extensive contributions, the Taranto Family name is a very strong and honoured one at Cheltenham BC.

Everyone around the club will miss her greatly; her passion for the club and for her boys playing the game was clear to all – she was the classic ‘team mum’. Strong clubs exist because of people like you Gabby Taranto – you will be missed.

The Cheltenham Baseball Club wishes to extend its sympathies to Phil, Matt, Stefan and Ryan.



From the Taranto Family:

On behalf of our families we'd like to sincerely thank each & every member of the Cheltenham Baseball Club. Some knew Gabi a little, others knew her very well. We are touched by the kindness, compassion & support we've received not only now but during her entire time whilst battling ovarian cancer. To everyone who has sent cards, flowers, attended her funeral & called with words of sympathy we thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

Gabi loved the baseball club & it was equally good to her. Matt started playing T.Ball some 10 years ago & with him came the Taranto family. Stefan began playing the following season & then little Ryan continued the tradition. Gabi soon became T.Ball coordinator and I became coach and we loved these roles. She got to meet some fantastic families and the number of children playing almost reached 100 during her rein. She'd diligently contacted local schools in the area in an attempt to grow the club. Gabi would spend countless hours in her role and she just loved talking to the kids & parents and you only had

to read her weekly reports to see how much she loved Cheltenham. She was a strong believer in fair play, sportsmanship and that the scoreboard was irrelevant. It didn't matter to her if you were the best or the worst player, you were all equal in her eyes. It was all about children doing what they were supposed to do and that was to have fun.

From T.Ball she progressed into various roles such as the Uniform Shop Lady, general committee person, team scorer & stats lady. From knowing very little of the game she participated in the scorer's clinics just so she could help out each week. Scoring for her 3 boys became the norm whether it be juniors or seniors, she just did the role with great passion. She made every effort to make new people welcome to the club and listened to what they had to say. K2 sports became her third home as she drove there endlessly picking up the uniforms for both Summer & Winter seasons. Gabi often did the roles which no one in the club really wanted to do. She'd talk about the club at length over evening meals and we jokingly called her the president given the amount of time she spent for her beloved Cheltenham Baseball Club.

Gabi was a strong believer that our juniors were the future of the club. On reflection she was proud of her T.Ball role back then given what talent lies in both the U/18 & U/16 teams nowadays. She dreamed that these kids would be future Cheltenham stars whether it be in the Firsts through to the Fiftths. Gabi always felt welcome at Cheltenham & she always wanted others to feel welcome as well. Baseball was good to Gabi as it gave her two trips to the USA following Ryan's teams & another trip to Queensland following Stefan. She met many great families whilst abroad, many of which we still socialize with even today. Gabi gave full blessing for Matt to seek another club because she felt he was harshly treated as a benchwarmer. He's moved on and has become a good catcher and shows signs of becoming President of his new club. Gabi became team scorer at Monash which will not shock one person I'm sure.

Special thanks to Pat O'Neill who made her last day at Cheltenham such a special occasion. To be flanked by those young men brought a real tear to her eye. Also thanks Pat & the team for dedicating the 4ths premiership to Gabi. Pat & Johnno have been a great support to Stefan during this difficult period. To Paul Cummings & the whole U/16 AA team, thanks for everything you did with Ryno and the special touch at the funeral will always be remembered. To Tina, Andrea, Anthony, Sue, Ian, Katrina, Sandra, Michael, Rita, Craig (apologies to those I've missed) etc, etc, thank you so much for everything you did for Gabi when she needed you most.

We have lost a wife, mother, daughter, sister in law, aunty and are doing it tough right now. Cheltenham has lost a great lady and we all share your pain as well. We know the Cheltenham family will continue to support us and we again thank everyone for their large and small contributions over the past 10 years in making Gabi's life complete.

Yours sincerely

Phil, Matt, Stefan, Ryan & the whole Taranto family.

Tributes:

I first met Gabby when we joined the club with a child in Teeball many years ago. Gabby was fantastic and supportive to my family and myself right from the onset. Her positive and inclusive manner was reassuring and welcoming. Gabby will be sorely missed by all, a quality person who was enthusiastic and inclusive with everyone she met. Her tireless work as T-Ball Coordinator, Uniform manager, scorer etc etc over many years was just an extension of the kind and giving person she was. Our thoughts and support go to Phil, Matthew, Stefan and Ryan. **Michael Family**

Gabby, we always loved your obvious passion and care for the club and more importantly, for the people that make it up. People like you are what make clubs like ours what they are. You will be very very sorely missed. Phil, mate, Matty, Stef and Ryan, our thoughts are with you. **Campitelli Family**

Along with Col Upfill, Gabby was the first person Matt and I met when we joined this great Club at tee-ball age. She would always frown at me when I asked where my team was on the ladder. "David, it's not about winning!" Gabby taught me to score, which I still enjoy when not coaching. A warm and giving person, a wonderful Club person and an inspiration to all. You will be sadly missed by so many people. Deepest sympathy to Phil, Matt, Stef and Ryan. **David and Matt Holland**

Words cannot express how sorry we were to hear about "Gabby". You are going to be missed as member of our club, but mostly you are going to be missed as a wonderful friend who was always there. Deepest sympathy to Phil, Matt, Stefan and Ryan (how lucky were we to have met you and your family through baseball) RIP Gabby. **Johnson Family**

Gabby, I first met you early on in tee ball when I put my hand up to score. It was evident from those early days how passionate you were about baseball but more importantly how passionate you were about your boys. Although you have left us way too early you can be proud of the family you have brought up. Your three boys are some of the nicest well-mannered young men this club has.

You will be sadly missed by so many people. Cheltenham will never be the same. Deepest sympathies to Phil, Matt, Stefan and Ryan. **Cummings Family**

Gabby, you were a wonderful person and a fantastic contributor to the Cheltenham Baseball Community. You will be sadly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with Phil, Matt, Stefan and Ryan. Deepest Sympathy – **John, Jenny, Matt and Amy Carlile**

I was saddened when I recently heard the news. To a great Mom, supporter, friend to all and above all an outstanding scorer for me during the seasons when I had both Stefan and Ryan in my team. You fought a courageous battle and you will be missed tremendously. Phil, Matt, Stefan and Ryan my prayers will be with you. Love you Gabby. **Ronnie Carothers**

Thank you Gabby for all your unselfish time & effort you put into the club, it's what makes Cheltenham a great club. Our deepest sympathy to Phil, Matt, Stefan, and Ryan. We share your grief. **Rita, Craig, Luke and Ben Sexton**

*I have so many memories of you Gab over the past nearly 10 years that I've known you. It was truly heartbreaking to watch the past 18 months unfold. The strength, courage and dignity you displayed and selfless love you showed for your family during this terrible time was awe inspiring. You and Phil have raised such a beautiful family and you leave behind a great legacy. My memory of you will always be on a Thursday night sipping on your red cruiser, trading cheeky comments and giggling away with your baseball family - happy in the knowledge your score books and stats were up to date. You are already missed Gab. Our love goes out to Phil, Matt, Stefan and Ryan. **Robyne and Logan***

*A special lady who always had the time and passion to help and support others. A great mum, wife and friend. You will be sadly missed and fondly remembered. **Chris Reece***

*Gabby - our friend - a beautiful person who did anything for anyone, we will never forget Gab's one of a kind sense of humour - Gab will be very sadly missed - To Phil, Matt, Stef and Ryan our thoughts and love are with you. Gab - Now Resting In Peace x **Dave, Pauline, Brandon & Matt***

*Gabby was and will forever be much loved. Trusting that you're looking over all of us with your lovely smile. Thoughts go out to Ryan, Stef, Matt, Phil and family. Forever loved Gabby. **Warner family***

*We were very sad to hear about Gabby's passing - she was truly a special person and a joy to share the scorer's box with! Our thoughts are with Phil, Matt, Stefan and Ryan. **Curry family***

*My dear beautiful friend who I knew for over 20 years. We shared our good and bad times together. I was honoured to be your bridesmaid. I miss you every day. I quite often think on a bad day what would Gab say to make me feel better. All my love to Phil, Matt, Stefan and Ryan. **Christine Blackmore***