



Chelt takes 2010 DBA A1 flag again!

Rustlers A1s three-peat! 08-09-10 flags to Chelt



2010 Winter DBA A1 Premiers: Cheltenham Rustlers

Cheltenham 10 v def. Berwick 4

Back L-R: Coach Dave Clarkson; Daryn Cassidy; Adam Blackley; Matt Blackmore; Anthony Reinke; Ben Leslie; Nick Rossell; Kane Davidson; Dean Cooper; Matt Carlile; Dylan Trevorah

Sort of standing up: Assistant Coach Trevor Clemens

Front L-R: Andrew Russell; Kyle Brooks; Blake Cunningham; Brett Curnow

The Cheltenham firsts successfully defended their A1 premiership in 2010, taking out their 6th DBA flag in the last 7 years; a remarkable achievement for club and coach **Dave Clarkson**.

Led by pitchers **Blake Cunningham** and **Adam Blackley**, and the big bats of **Andrew Russell** and **Brett Curnow**, the star-studded Rustlers just had too many guns firing in a commanding 10-4 win over a very competitive Berwick Dodgers out at blowy Bonbeach. In what was a closer game than the final scoreline indicated, especially in the middle part of the game, the Rustlers provided a highlight reel of brilliant plays that had the sizeable crowd thoroughly entertained.



Rustlers

Regular starter **Blake Cunningham** (right) took to the hill throwing 6 strong innings, managing to keep the Dodgers bats well under control for the most part. The first couple of innings were scoreless for both sides in the sometimes difficult blustery conditions; then **Andrew Russell** busted out spectacularly, opening up Chelt's account with a 3-run shot over the centre-field fence. **Brett Curnow** struck an RBI single soon after to make it 4-0 and **Dylan Trevorah** added another RBI single to take it out to 5-0.



But, just when the crowd were sensing a comfortable Chelt win, the Berwick boys started to have a bit to say in proceedings, managing to get to Blake for 4 runs as he started to tire late in the 5th and 6th, and with the score at 5-4, it was definitely 'game on'. However, there was to be no more joy for the Dodgers that day as coach **Dave Clarkson** turned to a pretty handy reliever in **Adam Blackley** (left). Adam continued Blake's good work on the mound by shutting down the opposition bats for the rest of the game, while the Chelt lineup went to work on what ended up being four Berwick pitchers.

The Rustlers piled on 5 more runs towards the end of the game, including a second **Andrew Russell** 2-RBI bomb, to take out their 3rd consecutive first grade pennant. And it was a hugely entertaining game with highlights for the big crowd coming constantly throughout the match, including:

The Pitching



State batting lineups.

- Blake's first 5 commanding innings where the Berwick bats were just shut right down. Excellent controlled aggression.
- Adam's last 3 digs where he pitched right through the heart of the Berwick order and just smacked Kane's glove hard repeatedly with fastballs mixed with his off-the-table curves.

Again, tough gig for the Dodgers – going from Blake Cunningham to Adam Blackley would be a tall order for most

The Batting

- **Andrew Russell's** (right) two over-the-fence shots with 5 RBIs providing half of Chelt's offence. Enough said.



- **Brett Curnow's** (left) sweet 3 hits, including 2 doubles; top shelf effort from the youngest player in the team (probably unlucky to be gazumped for likely MVP honors by A. Russell's Big Day Out). Brett also reached on error in his other at bat; going .1000 for on-base percentage for the day. AND he got a face-full of onticar in a head-first slide into home. Good day at the office, Brettie.



And the Fielding

- A huge pick out of the air from **Daryn Cassidy** at Centrefield – he caught the ball behind his head in what looked like at least a certain double.

- This spectacular play was at least equalled by a beautiful DP from **Matt Blackmore** who, with 1 out and 2 on, took a hard grounder at 3rd, touched his base for the first out then executed a long Derek Jeter-throw-in-mid-air to 1st to end the innings.

- Then came the big daddy of them all: that man, **Andrew “Superman” Russell**, playing at 1st somehow takes the sweetest innings-ending catch off a screaming line-drive – no one else saw coming up the line except Andrew. The crowd are still shaking their heads right now at that one. Just beautiful.

But the day was about the whole team, everybody obviously contributes to the team getting to the final and then winning it, from the manager on down to the guys on the bench. Congratulations to Berwick for a great game, it can't be forgotten that for a decent part of the game it was a very close thing. Well done Dave Clarkson on yet another successful campaign, I'm sure President Stenhouse will have more to say on what has been a great year, so we'll leave it to him.