



Rustlers

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CHELTENHAM BASEBALL CLUB INC

Summer Season
2006-2007



Under 12 Broncos
Grand Final Winners SE Centre
2006-07

JUNIOR PRESENTATION
Friday, 24 March 2007

President's Report

I am writing this the week before the senior team plays Upwey Ferntree Gully in the preliminary final next weekend. I do not want the outcome of that game to cloud what has been a very successful year. I would like to congratulate Matthew Gourlay on his continued commitment to the club and the encouragement and leadership that he provides.

We have been in Division 2 for the last couple of years but we are knocking on the door. If we continue to focus our combined efforts, when the opportunity presents itself we will be ready to take up the challenge without fear of failure.

The year started with a presentation by John Ferguson to our playing group from U16 up. The presentation focused on goals, attitudes and direction. This gave the players and parents a very tangible understanding of what the club is trying to achieve and the environment and culture we are trying to foster.

My observation is that we have followed through in what was presented and have been competitive throughout the club.

On Sunday I watched our U18 State side play off in the grand final for the 3rd year in a row. The loss to Waverley 1 - Cheltenham 0 tells you what a tight game it was. What is not told by the score is that 6 of the players were at Altona the previous day playing in a Senior Elimination final. What this tells me is that the qualities displayed by this team are what this club is about – give it your best, each and every time you put the uniform on. I am sure the same fighting qualities were shown by the U18 Metro side in their loss to Blackburn/Mulgrave.

On the Friday night I watched the U12 domestic grand final between two Cheltenham sides – the Broncos and Stirrups. After an hour and twenty minutes – 4 ½ innings - the score was 2 runs b 1 with some fantastic pitching, catching and fielding. The players all had fantastic games which should build on their confidence going forward. We may have seen quite a few future champions playing on the night to follow in the footsteps of Travis Blackley etc. The parents should be very proud of their children's efforts and spectators were treated to a wonderful exhibition of junior baseball. The U12 Sunday coaches were left to lament what might have been.

At a club level I believe it has been one of our most successful. If I tried to thank everyone who deserves recognition in this report, the report would continue on for many pages. I think the number and quality of people nominated for club awards speaks volumes for where this club is at and where it is heading.

The following are some big positives from my point of view:

- A fully committed and functional committee
- A commitment to informing our members on a regular basis

to the areas of their games that needed most attention. Reading back on those suggestions, the areas identified remained relevant and the weaknesses identified remained throughout the season. To improve at the game you need to work on the game, practice, and accept direction and guidance.

- What do you think of this idea? If you put in the work (practice) first you can have the rewards (fun/success) later. If you want the fun first...either the results won't be there or Boy!! will you have to work hard later!! In baseball...and life, your choice.

Greg Blaskett—Coach

Team Members

Adam Burdett
Anthony Blaskett
Brett Curnow
Daniel Lapa
Jak Jowett
Nicholas Fitzgerald

Angus Macguire
Ben Leslie
Chris Welsh
Dean Cooper
Jordan Michaelis
Yoshi Campitelli

Coach	Greg Blaskett
Assistant Coach	Bruce Fitzgerald
Scorer	Marcella Lapa
Umpire	Simon Michaelis
Manager	Ian Curnow

Under 14 State Rustlers

I'll start with the thank you's.

Bruce, as with a few of our life members, is into everything around the club, and has been for many years. Thanks for the support and time you have given me and the team, on top of Committee duties, Playing, T-Ball, parenting and general support and maintenance around the Club.

Marcella and Simon – thanks for your support and willingness to “step up” and be reliable in your roles – it is a great relief when I know your parts will be covered. **Peter Leslie**, thanks for your support as Co-ordinator and around the Club. Often another seemingly thankless task that needs to be done. Thanks for doing it. **Ian and the other parents** who have helped at training (particularly when I was late), in setting up/packing up or just providing transport and support of your kids.

The State Under 14 team was competitive against every team we played this year (except one) yet we only finished 8th on the ladder. We were obviously a sound team at this level but I felt as though I failed in creating that “spark” that would have pushed the team to meet its own goals and targets and allowed the kids to meet their team goals set earlier in the season.

Reality:

- We were probably a “middle of the table” team, that lost a couple of close games. If we had won a couple of those close ones, maybe we would have achieved our goals and played in the finals.
- Although we won 5 games and lost 7 we scored 12 runs MORE than our opposition.
- I think we all were frustrated by close losses, bad luck and the odd (costly) silly mistake. So long as we learned from those things, if we work at our game we can expect better success.

Positives:

- Our last game was our best of the year. A blinder over Newport.
- Our first year players Yoshi, Ben, Brett and Adam did very well and their experience this year should give them confidence for the future and 2007-2008, in particular.
- Angus represented Victoria and Brett Victorian Provincial (a great effort for a first year player).

Parting thoughts:

- For those of you playing Winter ball, have fun but 2nd year players – push yourself and play Under 16 rather than Under 14. You will learn more and develop quicker.
- At the start of the year, I made suggestions and provided guidance to the players as

- A canteen run by a wonderful lady and supported by her family
- An enthusiastic bar manager and manageress
- A committed senior selection panel chaired by John Ferguson
- Working bee at the start of the year – one of the best attended for a long time
- Well attended family nights – any feed back welcomed
- Increased pool of coaches and assistant coaches
- Continued support from our juniors to take on Friday night coaching and umpiring roles
- Improved standard of equipment

Where to now?

- On the 31 March we have our working bee and hopefully a lot of you will be able to make it.
- We have had a number of junior representative players who now will be senior players. We are hoping that these players will take on junior coaching/training roles to pass on the knowledge which they have gained through the State programs.
- If we can get approval from Council we will be trying to improve the infrastructure around the club. We are currently seeking approval to extend the pitching practice areas. Improved lighting is a big ticket issue which we are monitoring but appears out of reach at the moment.
- Tee-ball – the committee will be very shortly be reviewing our strategies around recruiting tee-ballers. This year we had 60+ tee-ballers – we want to increase this to 80 by next year and have a goal of 100 by the year after. Anyone with ideas to help us achieve this target, please contact me.

How can you help?

- Make yourself aware of what is happening around the club – the club website – www.rustlers.org.au is a great source of information.
- Keep us informed of changes to email addresses
- If you are able to do little things, the committee can focus a few more big ticket items

I would like to thank our club sponsors:

BTS Towing

APC Logistics

Home Loans by the Bay

Anyone who maybe able to help with sponsorship or fund raising, please feel free to contact me on BH 9275 2981 AH 9878 4338 or email carlilej@bigpond.net.au.

Yours Sincerely

John Carlile
Summer President
Cheltenham Baseball Club

Under 12 Coordinator's Report

At the U12 level I have had great assistance from all parents, you have all put up your hands for small jobs which has made my job so much easier. With this kind of support Cheltenham Baseball Club can only continue to provide the best environment for our kids to grow from young boys/girls to mature supportive young adults.

Thanks to all players and parents this year for your training attendance and enthusiasm for improving their baseball.

Remember – Talent is very common – Applied Talent is very RARE

Congratulations to all the teams that made the finals – they will have been played and won by the time you read this.

Congratulations to all award winners.

All the best to Kane Bode and Sam De Rose for the U12 Rubberball tryouts.

In closing special thanks to the team coaches, scorers, umpires and team managers for your assistance this year.

John Carlile

Under 14 Metro Stallions

Daniel Williams
Team Members

Under 14 Coordinator's Report

What a great club Cheltenham Baseball is and this year the Under 14's were a pleasure to co-ordinate. We had 24 kids that wanted to play at the top level baseball.

Greg Blaskett and Bruce Fitzgerald stood up for the State League and Daniel Williams and Allan Ogilvie Metro. All coaches put a huge amount of time into there teams and should be congratulated for there work in both coaching and other tasks all four put into this club at many levels not just coaching.

Well done to the Metro team for making the prelim final.

Friday nights is meant to be a more fun less stress baseball and this year I feel we managed to achieve both. Daniel Grotaer co-coordinated 14s training with some youthful spirit (maybe a little to much on one game day) he made my job so much easier knowing Friday training went smoothly. Thanks Daniel.

Well done to Diamond backs for making the grand final. With 2 weeks of the Friday night comp to go they came from 5th to play the grand final. With Dodgers coming 3rd and cardinals fifth on percentage just missing final action.

Without the help of the umpires and scores our games do not go ahead. Well done them!!!

Also like to thank John Ferguson without his help with ground and equipment we would not have the great club facilities we had this year with out him and his support.

You may not have seen the hard work that the committee does to run this club and without the hard work of these people, especially Kathy Whiteside and John Carlile were would we be? Well done to them as well.

Peter Leslie

Under 12 – Cheltenham Broncos

Well what can I say **UNDEFEATED**, throughout the entire season we did not rely on one player to get us a win we were a team from start to finish. This was through dedication and hard work; it was quite rare that we did not have our entire side at training on a Wednesday and on Game day, which was very much appreciated. Throughout the year it was great to watch every player develop his or her baseball skills and grow in confidence every game.

Adam Asi with developing skills shows great promise both in the batters box and in the field. He is an extremely confident young baseball player who was willing to try most positions.

Connor Doody as usual was a pleasure to coach; with his ability and personality he is a coaches best friend. With superb infield skills and hitting ability his quite easy to fit in the line-up where ever I need. He is one of many players who were willing to give every position a go including catcher.

Jack Enciondo with outstanding natural hitting ability he will be one to watch. With an Average over .750 he was a great asset to the team. Being a utility player he was able to play every position throughout the year.

Michael Fiore was one of many players who gave 110% the entire season. As one of the first year players I was extremely impressed with his natural ability. Michael played numerous positions including 7 games as catcher where he showed great skills behind the dish.

Hailei Holmes developed her hitting and fielding ability to a whole new level this year. She applied herself and ended up with a number of hits to her name, this was an outstanding effort.

Adrian Marcon throughout the year developed his skills like none other. He started the year struggling a little in the batters box with only 2 hits from 9 at bats but from then on collected 11 hits from 14 at bats and became one of our most reliable hitters. He was a great asset to the team in the field as well including a game winning catch in the grand final.

Will Mason was outstanding as our starting pitcher all season long with an ERA. of only 3.33. With him pitching 7 innings for only 2 runs in the finals was somewhat unbelievable. Not only was he a pitcher he was one of our power hitters who if got on was deadly when running bases.

Under 14 – Cheltenham Cardinals

This year we had a slow start to the season only winning 1 out of the first 4 games, but we made up for it by winning the next 4 out of 5 games putting us back in the four. In the second last game of the season we came up against Sandringham and unfortunately it was a big upset. Sandringham came out and blew us away knocking us into 4th spot, putting our heads on the chopping block. When the last game of the season came round we came up against the Chelt Diamondbacks and it was the most important game of the season. If we didn't win the game we were out of the four and didn't get to play in the finals.

Both teams came out swinging the bat well, they scored three off us in their first at bat and we scored four in ours. It looked as if it was going to be a close game with the score being 5-3 our way after Nick Fitzgerald scored in the second for us, but in the third the diamondbacks score a huge five runs and then they shut us out. In the fourth they had another big inning and the game was called half way through the inning so it reverted back.

Throughout the season we had a handful of pitchers including Nick Fitzgerald, Anthony Blaskett, Ryan Williams and Yoshiki Campitelli. We were a solid batting side lead by Ryan Williams, but it was our fielding that was the biggest improvement throughout the season with some great outfield work by Nick Richards and some great infield work by Trent Bartholomew. The biggest achievement was that Adrian Hare caught the whole season for the first time in his life and did an excellent job for the team.

All up it was a great season for the team. Everyone listened, tried their hardest and played as a team- you couldn't ask for any more. Thank you to all parents for supporting the kids and to Greg and Fitzy for umpiring of games. Big thank you to Elaine Williams and Christine Fitzgerald for scoring the games. Special thanks to my Assistant Coach Steve Smith [a good bloke] thank you for all your help, support and looking after the kit for all training and games.

Best of luck to you all with your Winter Baseball
Wiggy

Team Members

Under 14 – Cheltenham Diamondbacks

The Diamondbacks started the season in a great way playing at Bonbeach resulting in a win.

We were a very competitive side during the year winning six games, drawing one and only losing four which was enough to put us into the finals finishing third.

We went into the last game of the season having to win to make the finals. We made it into the Grand Final where we were beaten by Bonbeach in a close game. We had a couple of injuries that did not help us but we still had fun and I was proud of all the team.

We had some great young players in our side. At the start of the season, we had players in positions that they had never played in before and they continued to play in these positions throughout the season. We had some great hitting and great fielding that won us a lot of games.

Over all I think we had a great year of playing baseball and had a lot of fun along the way.

Daniel Grotaers—Coach

Team Members

Rhys Pierce our team leader, who lead from the front every game. He wasn't afraid of anything even if it was getting hit by me in practise. He showed us what he's got all season and he's got the results to back it up. It was a great effort coming back and performing so well in the Grand Final.

Jack Warner gave 110% from game 1 to the end of the finals campaign. It's quite unbelievable how much natural talent this player has and he showed it every game as well. His effort behind the dish in the finals was outstanding as well as his hitting.

Lachlan Whiteside has the more natural ability than any player I've ever seen for a 10 year old. Whether it's to do with hitting, catching, pitching or fielding he's got it all. Fantastic effort this year.

Last off we'd like to thank all the parents who helped out throughout the year. Especially big thanks to Fabian Fiore, Claire Pierce and Janine Rizzi for scoring throughout the year and thanks to Pedro Enciondo for helping every week, and thanks to all the players for their dedication to the team throughout the year.

Michael & Andrew Rizzi—Premier Coaches

Under 12 – Cheltenham Cowboys

This year has seen a few ups and downs but all in all has seen some great improvement through the year. By attending training and being enthusiastic this improvement will continue and give them more confidence to swing the bat and dive for that ground ball that was just too far away a few months ago.

As a team we have tried to ensure that encouragement and support for our team mates has been a priority and having fun was above winning.

We just missed the finals but were competitive in all our games.

In closing I would like to thank:

Scorer	Gabriela Taranto
Umpire	Rick Porter
Assistant coach	John Carlile
Team Manager	Maggie Flanagan

Matthew Carlile

Team Members

Under 14 – Cheltenham Dodgers

This season was great and very enjoyable season. I had eleven kids that all wanted to play baseball and have lots of fun. During the year the Dodgers were very reliable players, they always turned up to games and gave it their all. I saw in everyone huge improvements, whether it was more confidence, more skill or were just enjoying themselves. I hope all the players enjoyed the season and gained a little out of the year. All the players where great fun and enjoyable to coach. Thanks to all the parents because they were all willing to help and were supportive to the side. Mainly though, I would like to thank **Marcella** for scoring for the season. Many thanks to **Noel** for being there every week willing to help. Noel and Marcella made my job a lot easier -"THANKS"

"The kids this season were a great bunch of kids I wish them luck in the future for what ever they do"

"THANKS DODGERS"

Tony Cevéc—Coach

Team Members:

Adam Burdett: This kid is a very very talented player and is also the biggest clown I have seen. He threw countless number of games for us and he was a very consistent starter

Angus Macquire: Talented baseballer but a great kid that had a bit of a joke every once and a while.

Adam Smerdl: This kid was a very funny person who had a cannon which at one point of the season hosed a guy out from center field, I enjoyed coaching Adam this season.

Sean Kelly: This kid is not only a top person but he is a great baseballer with lots of power in the batting box and a great first basemen—one to look out for in the future.

Thomas Davidson: This wasn't Tom's best batting season but he drastically improved his fielding and ended up being very good fielder.

Callum Griffith: This was Callum's first season of baseball . During the season Callum got better at fielding and batting he had more confidence he was my little second baseman.

Jack Ogilvie: Jack is a positive player who played in any position and didn't complain and did his best every game.

Daniel Lapa: Daniel had an alright season. He showed a lot of improvement and got even more confident playing baseball as the went on. He is a good reliable catcher.

Jake Cox: Is a good player who did the job and he improved every game. He was a good around player and I could put him anywhere on the diamond.

Chase Cevéc: Chase is a good player but with a little more focus and effort could become a star left handed pitcher because he through strikes, barely any sides could hit him.

Brittney Cevéc: When Britt is having a good game she can really crush the ball when she is batting she is possibly one of the best girl players for her age.

Under 12 – Cheltenham Brumbies

What a great season had by all.

We started as a very raw, inexperienced team and managed to only lose one game and draw one prior to the finals. Our team worked well together and we hope that they will all continue playing. Good luck to all.

Nathan Aron—Coach

Team Members

Under 12 – Cheltenham Stirrups

Will & Tom
Team Members

Under 12 State Rustlers

Steve
Team Members