



CHELTENHAM BASEBALL CLUB INC

Summer Season
2003-2004



SENIOR PRESENTATION NIGHT

Saturday, 3 April 2004

Committee Members

Robert Krol	President
Kevin Adams	Vice-President
John Carlile	Secretary
Di Adams	Treasurer
Anne Ferguson	Registration Secretary
Alan Gribbin	Junior Manager
Sue Felsenthal	Tee-ball Co-ordinator
Chris Cunningham	General Committee
John Davidson	General Committee
John Ferguson	General Committee
Bruce Fitzgerald	General Committee
Stewart Pitt	General Committee

Junior Manager's Report

Season 2003-04 saw Cheltenham Rustlers Baseball Club with 24 teams on the diamonds.

Our 16 State Rustlers team had a large number of State Rep players and some very handy club players. I thought their season was a fair one only and feel that they fell away towards the end of the fixtured rounds...a result that was indeed below their achievement level. Focus, team commitment and a desire to always do our best is a firm lesson for all players. Laurie Hall was the boys' mentor and I thank Laurie and Ross MacKay for their time and energy throughout the season and trust they will be back for more next year. To the players thank you and let's all look to next season to get back on track with lots of assertive and fulfilling baseball.

16 Metro Stallions coached by Michael Trevorah have played very well throughout the season and to that end now find themselves in the Grand Final. Their hard work and dedication to being their best has been clearly rewarded with a spot in the grandie...they are already winners and let's hope it gets even better with a good game and a win in the Grand Final.

16 Metro Broncos dual coached by Alan Grierson and Colin Upfill have recorded the same result as the Stallions Metro team...a spot in the Grand Final next Sunday. I say again, this is a terrific result for all players and coaches of this team and is a terrific result for the club. These two Metro teams have shown what depth we have in junior 16's and for good or bad, how competitive it will be for spots in next year's teams. Let's hope the result next week is in favor of the Broncos and that they all have a great time in the final...good luck.

18 State Rustlers coached by Lance Blackley played out a season that I would describe as one full of both chocolates and boiled lollies. Cutting to the chase, this was a team that were very capable of being in the top three of their league (State) and in my opinion may feel like they have let themselves and possibly teammates down a bit through diminished focus and commitment to the team goals and spirit. I thank them for the good times (I umpired every second game at home this season) and would ask them to think clearly and objectively about the season past. As 16 to 18 year olds they may like to empower themselves by thinking 'bigger' despite perceptions or input of others. On a lighter note I reckon if this group can get some better music in their heads that they can rock & roll to the top of the charts next season! Thanks all players and thank you Lance for your time.

Summary

Season 2003-2004 saw many junior players out on the diamonds running around enjoying the socialising and having fun with baseball. We had Tee-ballers, Friday night and Sunday ball, Representative State Baseball and Juniors playing senior ball...it was a very good season with many very good players and many good things happening. The junior club had seven State, three VPBL, and two Rubberball Reps at the National titles this season.

We have many juniors playing right up to first nine Division 1 and 2 seniors, and four players selected to the V.I.S. of Baseball. This in itself is a high achievement by these players and by the coaches they have had at this club. From a Junior club perspective we are on the crest of a wave...so many terrific players coming throughout all the year levels is a very, very healthy sign.

Opportunities to play higher level baseball in either Div 1 or 2 is available to our junior players such as never before. The club has freed up the top end and is in the process of promoting and developing those players who have the want and the commitment to play to their chosen level...this includes all those people who wish simply to play 'a game of club nine baseball'.

As Junior Manager I feel it most important for all our players to continue to enjoy the game as they move up the baseball 'ladder'...whether that be from Metro to State or junior to senior...enjoy the ride. I trust and hope that the future Junior Manager can be of the same ilk and promote a fun, secure and developing environment for our players.

Our junior club will only ever be as good as its people; this is a good club and you are good people...so we can now all celebrate the season past and look forward to the 2005 season.

Thank you to all those people that have been around to help out over the past seasons. It's time for me to step aside and let another person carry the baton for the junior section. Given the good people around the club I'm sure that someone will take on the position and become a very good Junior Manager.

Alan Gribbin
Junior Manager

Under 16 Stallions

The Under 16 Stallions after a couple of revised draws ended up in the 'Blue' League comprising of teams from Blackburn, Preston, Sandringham and multiple teams entered from Upwey and Waverley.

Whilst only a small competition, the games were tight for most of the duration. The early part of the season was marred by two washouts and a bye, however fine weather prevailed for the next 14 games (grand final still to be played at the time of this report).

Five players played in all games, and when some members were away, the team balance was challenged and at the Christmas break we were in third position behind Blackburn and Sandringham.

Some excellent performances to the break were against the ladder leaders, 3 all at Chelt, a come from behind win at home (5-4) against Sandy, a credible loss against Waverley (0-1) on their turf, and a thumping (13-4) win on the replay at Kingston Heath in the last game before Christmas.

Entering the new year, some solid wins against Preston (7-0), the double header with Upwey (10-6) and (8-4), combined with a last round (10-1) rout of Waverley, saw us finish in third place and met Waverley again in the first-semi.

In a game that was played in great spirit by both sides, the Stallions prevailed in a tense last innings (7-6) in controversial circumstances, with a tag at first base over ruled by the plate umpire.

The prelim at Sandy saw us capitalize on the opposition's errors winning (6-0) with Dale Ravesi throwing a no-hitter and Jason Chhit finishing it off in the sixth inning.

The grand final vs Blackburn played 28th of March 2004.

Many thanks are extended to those who contributed their time and effort for the season. Peter Ravesi - **Assistant Coach**, Fiona Henderson -**Team Manager**, Jacque Edgar – **Scorer**, Peter, John V, David Coppens, Alan Gribbin - **Umpires and Ground Marking** and all the parents for their support and encouragement.

Yours In Baseball,
Michael Trevorah

Team Members

James Alexander
David Edgar
Mitchell Jackson
Dylan Trevorah

Robert Brearley
Sean Gabb
Tom Oxley
Trent Vanderheiden

Jason Chhit
Matthew Henderson
Dale Ravesi

Head Coach

Michael Trevorah

Under 16 Broncos

Throughout the home and away games the team played steadily winning 8 games, one washout, 2 walkovers, 2 draws and 2 losses. Blake Cunningham pitched steadily and along with Colin Trigellis-Smith did very well. Sam and Scott shared the catching duties. Our batting was down a bit but fielding and defence was tight.

Having finished in the 'four' our first semi final saw us go down to Essendon in a very tight game. However the prelim final against Malvern saw us fight for a win and the right to play in the grand final.

The grand final saw us give away a big lead to Essendon, however we fought back and the game was only decided in the last innings; a fine effort by all our players.

Overall the team played well as a team and did not rely on any one player. Sam Grierson's lead off home run in the prelim was certainly a highlight during the finals series.

Congratulations to all our players for a very good season ; hope to see you all back on the diamonds next summer.

Regards,
Al Grierson and Colin Upfill

Team Members

Lachlan Ford	Scott Grierson	Sam Osborne
Masafumi Kinukawa	Michael Lever	Ben Macquire
Tyler Pierce	Michael Rizzi	Colin Trigellis-Smith
Jason Cooen	Blake Cunningham	James Upfill
Coach	Alan Grierson	
Coach	Colin Upfill	
Scorer	Janine Rizzi	

Under 16 Rustlers

The team started the season with great expectations!

There were six players chosen to make it either into the State team, or the Provincial team. Congratulations to Tom, Ben, Josh and Andrew Gribbin for making the State Team, and to Russell and Andrew Adams who were chosen for the Provincial side.

Throughout the season we had strong pitching, with Tom and Josh doing the majority of starting, while Russell and Andrew Gribbin coming in as the relief pitchers. Russell Ferguson pitched an outstanding game, with a No Hit shut-out against Williamstown, and Tom Ellis, pitching a 2 Hit shut-out, against Doncaster at home.

Our defence was solid, with Andrew Adams at first base, Jarrod Hall at second base, Russell Ferguson at third base, and Andrew Gribbin at short stop, while Ben Ford and Karl MacKay shared the catching. The outfield consisted of Tim O'Neill, Justin D'Rozario and Josh Mulherrin.

Unfortunately, with a few injuries during the season, we had to shuffle the players around, not helping our defence, in a few of the games.

Offensively, we batted well against the weaker sides, but struggled against the likes of Waverley and Geelong, who had very good pitching. Losing 2x games to both, and 1x game each to Fitzroy and Upwey. A washout to the bottom side Melbourne, saw us miss the Finals by a game and a half.

Thanks to Ross MacKay for assisting me with the coaching throughout the season, and Alan Gribbin and John Ellis for umpiring.

A special thanks going to Di Adams, for scoring all season.

L. Hall.

Under 18 Rustlers

We started the season with the reality that we had 12 players in the team, and it's great that we have healthy numbers in this age group. Having 18 players and only 9 spots in the team meant it would be a coaches nightmare getting everybody in and out of the game each week whilst trying to win games in this league.

The team started as they left off in other years, meaning that we were just going through the motions on the field, so after a shake up by the coach, the heads got in the game and we started to play 120 minutes of baseball.

Some good team batting in situations saw us win games by several runs and others with squeeze plays in the bottom of the 7th inning to get runners across the plate and take the points.

By Christmas time we were sitting in 2nd spot on the ladder having played and beaten most of the top teams so the coach and parents were getting a little excited and believing that we could actually make finals and maybe the big one.

Well the Christmas break must have seen the lads get too much sun and surfing because we were a different side in the second half and went back to the ways of the start of the season, swinging at bad pitches and making a few errors.

After calling for some serious training we found several players had other things to do so the expectant result was that the losing streak continued and we soon found ourselves outside the 4 with no hope of reaching the finals.

The final few games of the season became a social outing and anybody who wanted could get some time on the mound.

I had a really great time during the first part of the season as these kids have a great sense of humour and they were fun to be around. They also found that if they applied themselves to the task, they had more talent they believed they had. In the end, I think the majority of the players learnt something of the mental side of baseball and how to make good decisions during plays.

On the down side in the last half, non commitment to training meant that advancing themselves was impossible and success against opposition also in social mode will result in a false sense of security for the future.

I would like to thank all of my part time scorers and umpires especially the plate umpire Al who helped out each week with the various duties.

I find myself concluding with a baseball paradox that applies to several members of the team and this doesn't sit well with my competitive nature as we play a game which is the only sport where our players can fail 6 times out of 10 and are still considered highly successful, yet we have many players that want to train less so that they can fail more often.

Well that's OK, there's nothing the matter with that if you love the game and want to play for the social aspect, have a laugh and be with your mates without the win-win in attitude that the state league competition is accustomed to.

I encourage those in that boat to come back next year and do just that as that can be accommodated in the lower grades.

Lance Blackley

1st Nine - Seniors

The 2004 season was a season of learning and getting our younger players some experience in the First's. The season was much like last years in some ways and different in others. The season played out much like last year as far as results are concerned. It was a very new look for the club. Lots of young faces and not too many of the older players around. It was a season that left us one win away from Division One for all of the next season.

The first half of the season found Chelt with a couple of new pitchers. Pitchers who proved that they were capable of pitching in Division One. Dan Williams was on the top of that list with one of the best performances of the season, with a complete game shut out against Essendon. It was Essendon's first loss of the season. Michael Krol also displayed some quality pitching performances. Concentrating on mechanical work and with more game experience, Michael should be one of the top pitchers at Cheltenham in the future. Matt Clements and Tom Ellis also got their feet wet this season with quality outings.

The first half of the season was a bit of a struggle. We had a hard time scoring runs in order to take some pressure off our young players. We could have won a few more games in the first half of the season with just a couple more breaks in our favor. It was a great learning experience for the team to see where Chelt should be in a couple of years with hard work and dedication to baseball. The young players also saw some quality playing time in the field. Players like Shane Valenti, Dan Gribbin, Pat DiSicri, and Ben Ford, all got some playing time in the first half. All players showing promise at times and showing their age at times. They will all be quality players with some more experience. The older players were the glue who held the team together throughout the season.

The second half of the season was filled with highs and lows. We would win some close games and we would lose to some teams we should not have lost to. We were held together by some really well played games. Games that saw the team do all the little things that make a team a Division One side. Well played team games. The only thing that was missing was the consistency to go out and have the same performance week in and week out. The older players held the team together with some great performances from some of the younger players, Shane Valenti, and Andrew Gribbin. The older players, Matty Gourlay, Dan Williams, Travis Blackley, Adam Blackley, Steve Gourlay, Chris Martin, Chris Wiltshire, Pat O'Neill, and Luke Kasperczyk all made great contributions this season.

The one who I would like to thank the most is Matt Gourlay. who was the voice of reason when I would get too caught up in the game as a player and lose touch as a coach. Matt would always give a helping hand whenever it was needed. The team really suffered when Matt was away for a month. When he returned we had our longest winning streak of the year and got us over the line and into the finals.

The one thing that everyone at the club should take with them this season is - that we finished one step down the ladder. With a team, which would have to be one of the youngest sides playing in the First's in Victoria. The young players shouldn't look back but look forward to what they could become if they put in.

Finally, I would like to thank all at the club for their efforts this season. Special thanks to Bev, Lance, Robert, Allen, John, and Di. Thank you Matty for all your help on the field and for your friendship. Last but not least thanks to my wife for putting up with me for the season.

Thanks
Shawn Miller

2nd Nine - Seniors

It is great to be back at Cheltenham. It was a pleasure coaching the seconds. We have such good young talent. Three of the regular seconds players became regulars in the firsts.

Stephen Gourlay hit his way into the team batting an amazing .467 with team highs - 5 home runs and 14 RBI's.

Andrew Gribbin played well beyond his years and finished the year as lead off for the firsts in the finals.

I wish all of my players played with the intensity that Pat DiServi displays. He also finished the year in the firsts and was the starting catcher during the finals.

The future is going to be exciting for Cheltenham and we must keep working hard and not settle for second best.

Matty

3rd Nine – Seniors

A big thanks to Janette Holland for scoring, it is always a great way to start a season, being the scorer is few and far between.

The Summer season was a competitive one; most teams had a firm 11 or 12 players but with players coming in and out it was hard to win most games, losing 4 games by one or two runs did end up costing us finals, which with the standard team we had would have been competitive one; we had a great time playing, with the kids joining in on the fun.

Congratulations on the season and good luck on the up and coming winter Season.

“Play with your Heart “

No MVP to be given out as we thought that we did play as a team, with no outstanding personal effort, that's how it should be too.

Thanks for the season

Dave Stenhouse & Steve Kavanagh

4th Nine – Seniors

In a disappointing season for a side, which has a proud winning history, the fourths were unable to make the finals. With just 8 wins for the year and only a couple after the Division 2 cut the team missed 4th spot on percentage.

Unfortunately the side lacked balance through the middle and could not settle in to a winning combination. In a somewhat disjointed season 26 players in all filtered through the team and added to the instability. Peter 'Petey' Burnett, last years' Grand Final champion pitcher was hampered by an arm amputation and also was required to catch a number of games which limited the sides' flexibility.

Possibly our best win of the season was achieved when the 4's had to forfeit due to low numbers above and most of the team played in a spirited win over Springvale in the Thirds.

Age shall not weary them... the top 6 hitters (all above .400) included Lawrence John, Fitzzy, J.C., and Petey. The fly in the ointment, batting .462 was young Ben Macquire who had a stellar season.

The younger players, of which the side had an abundance, played some excellent baseball and with maturity and consistency I'm sure we have seen many of the future Cheltenham elite.

Thanks to James 'Jim-Bob' Upfill & Thomas 'Tank-Engine' Fitzgerald for sharing the scoring duties; the Chardonnay Set for their continued indifference to anything which does not come in a bottle and my darling Concetta for letting me out to play.

Col Upfill
'We haven't got a manager so we'll jut send this bloke out.....'

TEAM AWARDS

Under 16 – Broncos

Most Valuable Player
Batting Award
Coaches Award

Colin Tregellis-Smith
Scott Grierson
Sam Osborne

Under 16 – Stallions

Most Valuable Player
Asst Coaches Award
Coaches Award

Dale Ravesi
Dylan Trevorah
Sean Gabb

Under 16 – Rustlers

Most Valuable Player
Batting Award
Coaches Award

Tom Ellis
Andrew Gribbin
Justin D'Rozario

Under 18 – Rustlers

Most Valuable Player
Batting Award
Coaches Award

Bryce Marshall
Shane Valenti
Paul Morrison

1st Nine

MVP
Batting Award
Coaches Award

Daniel Williams
Matthew Gourlay .323
Matthew Gourlay

2nd Nine

Most Valuable Player
Batting Award
Coaches Award

Andrew Gribbin
Stephen Gourlay
Pat DiSiervi

3rd Nine

Batting Award
Fielding Award
The Attitude

Steve Kavanagh
Tim O'Neill
Justin D'Rozario

4th Nine

Most Valuable Player
Batting Award
Coaches Award

Lawrie Hall
Bruce Fitzgerald
Ben Macquire

CLUB ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Club Champion	Matthew Gourlay
Junior Champion Award –	Andrew Gribbin
Life Member Junior Clubman Award –	Russell Ferguson
Junior Coaching Award –	Simon McLean
Senior Clubman Award –	Alan Gribbin
Golden Glove Award –	Michael Krol
Rookie of the Year CBC Summer –	Stephen Gourlay

SHUT OUTS

Tom Ellis U16 State Chelt -v- Doncaster
Russell Ferguson U16 State Chelt –v- Williamstown
Daniel Williams Div 1 Chelt -v- Essendon 2.11.03 Chelt 1 Def Ess 0
Daniel Williams Div 2 Chelt -v- Mulgrave 22.02.04 Chelt 3 Def Mul 0

NO HIT GAME

Dale Ravesi vs Sandringham 21.03.04

200 CLUB

Adam Blackley	323
Luke Kasperczyk	285
David Olsen	285
Daniel Williams	285
Derryn Beatie	269
Brett Kavanagh	269
Glenn Sanders	269
Travis Blackley	262
Patrick O'Neill	252
Matthew Coppins	245
Daniel Ward-Bourton	245
Bryce Marshall	245
Daniel Gribbin	233
Simon Middleton	228
Kane Davidson	225
Pat DiServi	219
Brad Hennen	210
Shane Valenti	210
Daniel McLean	206
Kyle McLean	206

**CONGRATULATIONS TO CHELTENHAM'S STATE AND VPBL
REPRESENTATIVES FOR 2003-2004**

U14	Vic State Representative	John Blaskett
U14	Vic State Representative	Shane Middleton
U16	Vic State Representative	Andrew Gribbin
U16	Vic State Representative	Ben Ford
U16	Vic State Representative	Josh Mulherin
U16	Vic State Representative	Tom Ellis
U18	Vic State Representative	Daniel Gribbin
U16	VPBL Representative	Andrew Adams
U16	VPBL Representative	Russell Ferguson
U18	VPBL Representative	Patrick O'Neill

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE VIS SELECTED PLAYERS

Ben Ford
Dan Gribbin
Tom Ellis
Andrew Gribbin

UNDER 16 BRONCOS

James Upfill
Michael Rizzi
Colin Trigellis-Smith
Blake Cunningham
Sam Osborne
Lachlan Ford
Ben Macquire
Masafumi Kinukawa
Scott Grierson
Michael Lever
Tyler Pierce
Jason Cooen

Coach	Alan Grierson
Coach	Colin Upfill
Scorer	Janine Rizzi