



The following positions are available for the Summer Committee—
Season 2005-06. If you would like further information on these
positions, please contact Greg Blaskett on 9551 1457

President
Registration Secretary
Junior Coordinator
Tee-ball Coordinator
U12 Coordinator
General Committee Members

CHELTENHAM BASEBALL CLUB INC

Summer Season 2004-2005



Under 18 State Rustlers
Grand Final Winners
2004-05

The AGM for Cheltenham Baseball Club—Summer Committee will be
held at the Clubrooms,
Cheltenham Baseball Club,
Kingston Heath Reserve, Farm Road, Cheltenham,
Thursday, 26 May 2005 at 7.30pm.

Thank you

Thanks to all the coaches for their cooperation throughout the season with report writing,
with special thanks to Trevor Hogben, Rachel Curnow, John Ferguson, Bruce Fitzgerald
and Alan Clements for their contribution.

SENIOR PRESENTATION

Friday, 18 March 2005



President's Report

And another baseball season comes to an end !!

The season has been very successful, on-field, for our U16 and U18 teams.

In U16's, we entered 3 x teams into the Sunday morning competition, with Mick Trevorah's metro team winning their Grand Final, and "Hoggie's Boys" – the State League team, winning their Grand Final.

In U18's, we entered 2 x teams into the Sunday morning competition, with the metro team finishing runners up, and the State League team winning their Grand Final.

These are fantastic results, and are a credit to everyone involved. It has been a long time since Cheltenham Baseball Club has won the U14, U16, and U18 State League Pennants, in one season. It shows that the club's junior programme is going in the right direction.

We entered 4 x Senior teams again this season, and we were elevated to Division 1, by virtue of the 2 x teams, who finished above us in last season's Division 2 finals, not being allowed to enter Division 1, this season, due to failing to meet the required criteria of junior and/or senior team numbers.

We always knew that it would be a long and arduous season, due to our lack of players aged over 21. Our players, however, did not shirk from the task, and all teams acquitted themselves well, in every game. We may not have won many games, for the season, but we were rarely humbled by an opposition team, and it was, generally, only one or two bad innings, in the other games, which separated us from more victories. When you consider the average age of the players, in all our Senior teams, I believe we can hold our heads high, and look forward to next season with great anticipation.

Under the new competition structure, we will play in Division 2 next season. This will be a great opportunity to develop ourselves even more, and all our players have the right to expect fantastic results next season. I believe you should, all, be aiming at finals, and grand finals, given your efforts this season.

The big "plus" to come out of the senior season, was the development of our junior players, who played in our senior teams. You all finished the season better baseballers than you were when it started. You were all outstanding representatives of the club, and you are all a credit to your parents, and to yourselves.

This season saw a new senior coach take the reigns, and on behalf of the committee, I would like to thank Matthew Gourlay for an outstanding effort. Matthew has managed to get good "numbers" to training, most nights, and this trend is encouraging. Matthew has also brought a fresh approach to the job, and I know he has some great ideas in mind, for next season. We look forward to watching Matthew grow into this role even more, next season.

Matthew was very well assisted by Daniel Williams, in his first season as a senior assistant coach. We also look forward to Daniel continuing to develop as a coach, within our club

Turning to our Senior First Nine, this season saw Glen Richards join our club. Glen has played all his junior and senior baseball for Springvale.B.C, and he brings a wealth of talent and experience to our pitching roster. Although Glen was only allowed limited pitching time, by his Major League Team (the Atlanta Braves) he has greatly strengthened our pitching roster, and we look forward to the possibility of him being allowed more pitching time, next season. Glen also contributed admirably in the outfield, and with the bat.

Rustlers



**Under 14, Under 16, Under 18
State League Grand Final Winners**

Grand Final Results 2004-05

Under 12 South East Centre
Bonbeach Blues def Cheltenham Cowboys 6-5

Under 14 South East Centre
Cheltenham Broncos def Cheltenham Brumbies 12-6

Under 14 State League
Cheltenham Rustlers def Waverley Wildcats 9-8

Under 16 Metro League
Cheltenham Broncos def Waverley Cougars 9 - 3

Under 16 State League
Cheltenham Rustlers def Essendon 6 - 2

Under 18 Metro League
Moorabbin/Bonbeach def Cheltenham Stallions 7-2

Under 18 State League
Cheltenham Rustlers def Geelong 5-4

Congratulations to the following players on winning the
"MVP in Grand Final"

**Patrick Liston
Josh Mulherin
Tom Ellis**

The "Battery" (pitching and catching) is often said to be where games are won or lost. This season, our battery lost 2 of last season's outstanding new pitchers, in Daniel Williams and Michael Krol, due to injury and work commitments respectively. This, along with the Boston Red Sox not allowing Adam Blackley to pitch (after the first week of the season) and the Atlanta Braves only allowing Glen Richards limited "mound time", left Shawn Miller having to pitch an unrealistically large number of the season's innings. He was, thankfully, well supported by Adrian Fielden (another new recruit, from Moorabbin.B.C, who has bought a wealth of experience and some able pitching to our club) Rick Wheeler, Tom Ellis, and Andrew "Cheddar" Gribbin. Shawn showed great heart, on the mound, during the season, and he deserves our congratulations, for his efforts.

In looking to next season, we **must** improve our batting. It is up to the players to practice in the cage whenever possible, and to take those practice swings, every night, at home. I know this is an area that Matty Gourlay is very keen to help all players improve, next season.

The off-field efforts, this season, were limited in their success, by two major factors:-

1. A lack of support of the social functions
2. A lack of people, prepared to "put their hands up" and take on a job within the club

The club desperately needs more volunteers to fulfil roles such as office bearers on the committee, team managers, assistant coaches, grounds maintenance and preparation, raffle ticket selling, social function organisers, junior manager, cleaners, etc, etc, etc. There are approximately 70 jobs, or tasks, that need to be performed, every week, for the club to function correctly. This season, as with many previous seasons, there was a total lack of people willing to get involved, therefore many of these tasks were either, only partially done or not done at all. This trend **must** be reversed, if you want your baseball club to survive, long-term.

It is about time that the players, and parents, realised that things don't happen by magic. Just because you pay your fees, doesn't mean you have the right to sit back and expect other people to do things for you. In short, it's about time the culture, of our club, changed from "what is the club going to do for me ?" to "**what can I do for the club ?**"

In closing, I would like to thank all those people, who gave up their time to take on the roles of coaches, scorers, and team managers/assistants. Your efforts are greatly appreciated. I would also like to thank the members of the committee, for their fantastic efforts during the season. You all made my job a lot easier. The club could not have functioned without each and every one of you. I would also like to thank Christina for her reliable, and fuss-free, running of the canteen. Christina has, again, posted a terrific result for the club.

This will be my last President's report, as I am stepping down from the committee, at the end of the season, to spend more time on my business activities, and with my family. I have enjoyed my time on the Cheltenham Baseball Club committee, and I look forward to seeing the club, and its players, continue to grow and develop in the future.

I encourage each of you to **get involved in the club now, and help make it a bigger and better place.**

Yours, in baseball,

**Robert Krol
President**

Under 16 Coordinator's Report

The Under 16 programme submitted three teams in the 2004/05 season. Comprising one in the State League competition and the remainder in the Metro League (Stallions and Broncos).

As at the time this report was written, at the conclusion of the Home and Away season, the State and Broncos finished second in their respective divisions, with the Stallions a well respected fifth position.

A more informed detail will be forward by the respective coaches, however I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have helped coach, manage, score, marked diamonds, transport, and in general support these teams in a successful summer season.

The teams ran with basic "nines" each week and so game time was very much at a maximum.

It was gratifying to see players taking the opportunity of playing seniors, stretching from the Firsts to the Fourths. Well done on your achievements.

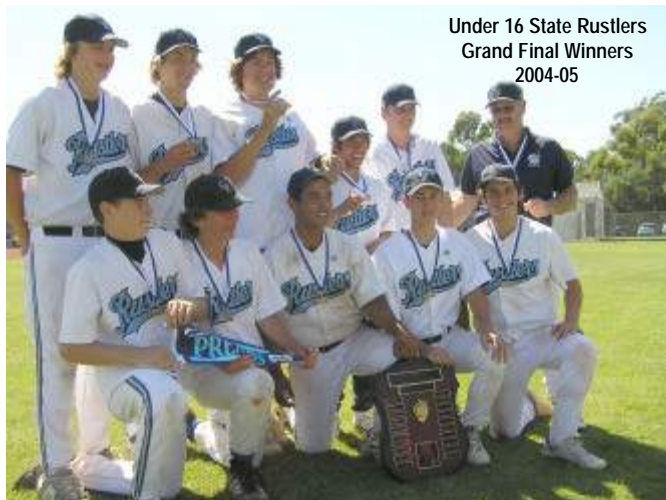
Congratulations are in order to those players who represented State and Victoria Country. To Blake, John, Josh and Justin, the feedback from the Championship was extremely positive, enhancing your careers.

Keep up the good work.

I would also like to remind our members that to maintain this level of achievement, personal commitment to the Club and team is paramount.

Move forward together

Regards
Michael Trevorah



4th Nine—Seniors

The season, which might have been. The 18 players who filtered through the Fourths this year would, I imagine, share my disappointment in not reaching the finals. The team showed that at our best we were as good as any side in the competition, but unfortunately the performances were not in the end consistent enough to earn a spot in the playoffs.

What was encouraging was the overall contribution of the junior players with regulars, Jarrod Hall, Mike Rizzi, Jimbob Upfill, Trent Davidson and Nick Rossell giving some great performances to support the veterans who were weighed down with the burden of one more year on the resume.

It was great to see Lawrie once again on the mound and dominating opposition hitters, Petie had another great season and was forced to do most of the catching which also limited our pitching options. Bruce hit with his usual reliability (.467 & OBG .661).

I hope the guys will be able to pull it together for one more season, because we can't go out without winning the flag, and the younger guys will go on to bigger and brighter futures.

My thanks to the Fitzgerald family for managing the scoring.

Col Upfill

Dan and Dylan were solid through the middle, Lachlan at first base saved some crucial outs, lightening O'Neill with Trent Van ruled the outfield and Ben Mac was solid with the bat and in the utility role.

The club gratefully acknowledges the contributions of our scorers Lyn, Jackie, Chris, Sharnie and Di, and special mentions to the efforts of John Vanderheiden with his no frills, just go and do it attitude with ground assistance and fax reports.

The club could do with more people of his thinking.

Thankyou to other members of the selection committee.

Congratulations to all award winners.

Move another step forward.

Regards,

Michael Trevorah

Under 18 Coordinator's Report

The best way to begin this report is by going back in order to go forward. As previous whole club junior co-ordinator and president it appeared quite obvious that a cultural change was required in order for the club to move forward. By creating and supporting a policy of involvement, by being fair, reasonable and consistent in administering the club policies and by celebrating those who got involved both on and off the playing diamonds we were able to provide a sporting environment that would serve not only 'our' children but all current and future juniors at this club.

I and other committee members spoke to our players about being committed by 'doing things' like marking diamonds, coaching and helping younger players and team mates, by celebrating the involvement and gaining the rewards..... most importantly I spoke of never letting yourself down, never giving up and always being honest and positive.

This season has seen the fruits of that labour and most importantly the fruit was born through the commitment and effort of our young players and supporting staff.....this should always be our quest.

I cannot congratulate the Under 18 State and Metro players enough for their efforts this season. They have remained solid as teams and as individuals; they have supported their coaches and parent support staff and have stayed committed to the bare nine players per team for the entire 2004-5 season. This says volumes about the players fine characters and sense of commitment to each other. So...the U18 State team won a premiership flag against Geelong, and the U18 Metro side were Grand Finalists against Moorabbin-Bonbeach. Both teams earned the right to a grand final play off and both teams have done a splendid job. Many others would love to have been in their position. They played terrific baseball and had a very rewarding year....proof that perseverance does have its rewards. A magnificent season guys and we look forward to another solid and committed and fun year in 2005-6. Congratulations and thank you to all the committee, parents, players and coaching staff without whom this most certainly would not have happened.

To those players that have now completed their junior ball...please continue your good work thru to the senior ball game and build yourself and the club with the same integrity that you have displayed throughout your junior playing time.

Cheers to all.....
Alan Gribbin

Under 16 Rustlers

Premiers, it has a nice ring to it.

We basically played the whole season with only nine players. So it was a remarkable effort. We lost Shane Middleton before the season with an elbow injury, Kable Hogben missed the first 2 games with an elbow injury and Karl Mackay struggled with a back injury all season. Then we lost Colin Trigellis-Smith for the last game and the finals after he broke 2 bones in his hand whilst sliding into home plate against Blackburn, but courageously finished the game and got 2 walks and scored twice in a 4-3 ball game. Shane Middleton come back from injury to play for Colin.

We started the season slowly losing the first 2 games. We then won the next 9 games to be on top at the Christmas break. We finished the regular season in second spot and I thought we had a real shot at winning the flag because we had beaten every other team in the competition.

We played Essendon in the Semi Final and lost a close game 2-3. We then played Waverley in the Preliminary Final and beat them 4-3 in extra innings after trailing most of the day. We then played Essendon in the Grand Final on Waverley's 2nd diamond. An all out outcas diamond which is no place for the faint hearted.

After another great team effort, lead by Josh Mulherin who pitched 5 inns and collected 3 hits, we won 6-2.

Thankyou to Ross Mackay my assistant coach, Robyn Hogben my scorer, Nick D'Rozario my manager and all the parents who transported their kids to all the games and practice. And the parents and supporters who cheered them on during the games, especially the Grand Final.

Congratulations to all my players for a terrific season, to players who made the State & VPBL teams and to the players who played in the seniors at various levels. Your club, parents and coaches are very proud of you.

Trevor Hogben

Team Members

Josh Mulherin
Kable Hogben
John Blaskett
Shane Middleton

Blake Cunningham
Colin Trigellis-Smith
Karl Mackay
Jason Chhit

Lachlan Ford
Timothy O'Neill
Justin D'Rozario

Trevor Hogben—Coach
Robyn Hogben—Scorer
David Johnson—Umpire

Ross Mackay—Assistant Coach
Nick D'Rozario—Team Manager
Alan Trigellis-Smith—Line Umpire

3rd Nine—Seniors

The third nine commenced the season under the leadership of Steve Kavanagh for the games against Malvern and Essendon. Pat O'Neill took the away game against Geelong before both were promoted to higher grades plus combined with work commitments. I thank them for their contribution.

The nucleus of the side was an extension of our Under 16 and Under 18 program with assistance of some senior players depending upon availability.

Some 31 players were tried in the season but only 9 qualified for senior status.

"Challenge" was the operable word for all games as players completed morning duties at 11.00 am and arrived for the next game including travel, warm up and sneak in a bite to eat by 1.00 pm.

This was a contrasting difference to our opposition, who were in their 20s and 30s with a sleep in and playing one game.

The final wash up was a 5-13 win loss ratio and to those closely involved, was an extremely successful season.

Players at times were tried outside their "comfort" zone to experience different positions and all acquitted themselves well.

The scores in some games weren't over flattering, but by the time of the return match most games were in a winnable position.

At the Christmas break we were holding up the other nine clubs on the ladder, but our form really didn't warrant that dubious honour.

Competitive matches against finals contenders Geelong, 7-6 and 6-4 losses and after an initial shellacking by Essendon, a 6-5 loss at Kingston Heath there was light on the horizon in the New Year.

A 6-1 loss to start 2005 against Blackburn was a huge improvement from the previous encounter, and that started a four win sequence against Waverley 5-3, Melbourne 1-6, Sandringham 8-7 (after being 7 nil down) and Newport 3-2. Those last two games were won on the last hit of the day.

Justin, Josh, John B. and Russell Ferg, left their mark with the bat before being called up higher in the ranks, while Blake and Andrew A. were relishing their opportunity on the hill.

2nd Nine—Seniors

The aim for this team at the beginning of the season was to be a development squad to provide opportunities for younger players to make the transition to the next level. For me the most rewarding part of coaching was to see the improvement in those players. Justin D'Rozario, Karl Mackay and Josh Mulherin all came into this team and then got their opportunities in the firsts because of their good form. Kane Davidson and Brad Heenan went from being fringe players at the start of the season to being pillars that this team surrounded. It took the better half of the season to achieve the competitiveness that was sought all along and I'd like to think that those junior players learnt a little about what it takes to play senior baseball.

I must also thank Andrew Coppens, Steve Kavanagh and Adrian Fielden for their support all season. Having these three statesmen to rely on each week made my job a whole lot easier particularly in those close games.

I'd also like to make a special mention for one of the best individual performances I've ever seen. In our second win for the season, a thrilling encounter against Geelong, we had a stirring 1-0 victory. Tom Ellis pitched nine innings giving up just two hits for the entire game. He threw only 86 pitches or 9.6 pitches per inning and the game was over in just an hour and forty minutes!

I must admit that I was reluctant to take this coaching role, still feeling like a younger member of the senior baseball community. But times have changed a lot since I began playing senior ball for Cheltenham. A twenty-two year is considered veteran and players in their mid twenties talk of retirement after long and lusty careers.

This is why I must challenge our current crop of senior players and junior players who are finishing their junior careers to stay involved with this club. In the long term what we each can take away from this great organisation will be far greater than what we put in. If you choose to walk away now - then the vicious cycle of having fifteen-year old boys compete against men will continue to snowball as it has over the past five years. But to stop this from happening we need to change the culture of the senior playing group.

This is where I leave it up to **you** to enlighten us. Why have we lost an entire generation of players and what can be done to stop it from happening all over again?

Matthew Coppens

Under 16 Stallions

Firstly I would like to thank all the young men who played in the Under 16 Stallions. It's been an enjoyable season with some ups and downs. Also to the parents who supported and helped us with the team on Sunday I thank you. A very special thank you goes to Janine Rizzi for her dedication to scoring every week. It's hard to manage a team without someone to shoulder some of the load of umpiring and marking out the field – thanks goes to Peter Innes.

Our team this year consisted of some dedicated baseballers. To start with we had a very good batter in Elliot who also pitched exceptionally well during the season. Catching was well served by a very capable James Upfill – certainly has knowledge beyond his years (thanks for the tips James!) First base was shared by Masa and Sam and both did a wonderful job whether at first base or in the outfield. Tony had a great season as lead off batter and shared second base with Nathan. Nathan also had a good season at bat and excelled in the field. The one and only Michael at short stop had an effect on every game and was enjoyable to listen to with his never ceasing encouragement to the team. Trent made some great plays at third and also proved his worth when called in to pitch. James Brake proved a greatly improved fielder with a couple of exceptional rockets from the outfield to make the plays at first. Andrew started off filling in for us, but he soon became an important member of our team and was always ready to do what ever was asked of him.

Once again I would like to thank everyone for a most enjoyable season.

Simon McLean

Team Members

James Upfill	Michael Rizzi
Masafumi Kinukawa	Sam Innes
Nathan McLean	Trent Davidson
James Brake	Andrew Rizzi
Tony Cevac	Elliot Macquire

Simon McLean—Coach
Peter Innes—Assistant Coach
Janine Rizzi—Scorer

Under 16 Metro Broncos

Our team this season comprised of the basic nine and welcomed Jordan, Tristan, Brendan as first year players.

We played solid and consistent ball all year, with the one loss in the home and away season, 6-3 to Waverley with only seven players.

Our defence gave the least amount away in the Metro comp (37) in 15 games played due to the pitching roles of Nick Rossell and Dean Clements. Dylan T came in on a few occasions to put the "fire out".

Steady progress was made by all, however at times the team sat back and just did enough to collect points.

An untimely injury to Dean before the second semi, combined with some dubious calls by the umpire in chief saw us have an uncharacteristic 7-1 loss to the Cougars, with only five batters making first base and none with any base on balls??? The task was certainly made harder.

Our next challenge was Sandringham in the prelim and our emphasis was to be competitive for the whole match, especially from the bench, and everyone rose to the occasion winning 5-4 with a base hit from Jordan to score Michael.

An absolute superb effort.

Our return match against Waverley in the Grand at Kingston Heath saw a tense struggle with the boys batting through the line up in the top of the first scoring 3 and letting our intentions known. The second semi final was a distant memory.

Defensively, changes had to be made as Sean's arm had soreness and Brendan being unavailable, Trent Van took the role at first base, Wiggy played Centre, Dylan was behind the mask, and Sean filled in at second.

In a game that could have gone either way, the boys stood well under pressure making crucial outs and Nick on the mound taking some timely strikeouts. A five run innings put space between the two sides to lead 9-3 going into the last innings.

Nick and Michael combined to retire the batters in order and the flag was ours.

1st Nine—Seniors

It has been a long time goal of mine to be club coach of Cheltenham. I think we have the best crop of young players in the State coming through the ranks. From pitching and catching to the infield and outfield, we have them all covered with junior State representatives mixed with established players. It's going to be very exciting in the next few years.

We had 27 players get game time in the firsts this season with a majority of them under 17 years of age.

Shawn Miller once again proved how good and consistent his pitching is week in week out. Andrew Gribbin and Tom Ellis were just two of the juniors who show enormous potential on the mound.

Catching was led by Ben Ford until a shoulder injury forced Daniel Gribbin behind the dish. Kane Davidson, Karl Mackay and John Blaskett also got game time as catcher. We will be in good hands with these five guys leading our defence.

Fielding was led by Steve Gourlay with only one error in 136 chances (993 fielding average). Daniel Gribbin was solid wherever we needed support, especially as catcher and short stop.

Rick Wheeler - new to the summer rustlers led the batting, with a 333 batting average, having Daniel Williams and Russell Ferguson just behind.

Special thanks to-

Rob Krol- President and Chairman of Selectors

The Committee- behind the scenes

Players- for all their hard work and commitment

Parents- being supportive and driving your boys

Michael Gourlay and Vicki Middleton- scorers

Daniel Williams- Assistant Coach

Matt Coppens- 2nd's Coach

John Ferguson and Mick Trevorah- for their knowledge and experience

Once again thank you to everybody and congratulations to all the award winners.

We the Rustlers Family will continue to grow and improve until we dominate DIVISION ONE! Which we WILL!

Matty

Under 18 Metro Stallions

The Under 18's Metro side started the year against Port Melbourne with only 8 players, but with a good team effort, came out with a draw, giving us with a bit of hope for the rest of the year. We gained another player, Tom Oxley to complete team of nine.

With the exception of games against Melbourne with seven players, and Upwey with eight players, we had a full side.

With a good performance of pitching from Dale in every game, and a solid defence from Kyle catching, with Ben at third base, Daniel at short stop, Jarrod at second base and David at first, with the outfield made up of Tom, Paul and Mitch, saw us finish the home and away rounds in third position, with two loses, one draw and one washout.

We went into the first finals game against Werribee full of confidence after already beating them comfortably in our two previous encounters. Playing with only eight players and with Dale unable to pitch due to a damaged thumb, made it a challenge for the side. With a great performance of pitching from Ben to keep us within striking distance throughout the game, saw the batters rally in the sixth innings to take the lead and then hold them out in the seventh, to advance to the preliminary final against Melbourne.

With Dale back on the mound pitching well, and a great team effort with the bat, saw us win the game comfortably 11 to 2, to make it into the Grand Final. Playing Bonbeach/Moorabbin was always going to be a big ask for the players, but in a good game of Baseball, where we had our chances, but were unable to capitalise, saw us go down 7/3. I was very proud of the way the boys fought out the game, and the way they have played as a team throughout the season.

With many thanks to the parents for their support during the season, and a special thanks to Peter Ravesi for his assistance in umpiring.

Many thanks to Jenny Morrison for doing such a wonderful job of scoring.

Lawrie Hall

Team Members

Kyle McLean	Daniel McLean
Ben Maguire	Paul Morrison
Dale Ravesi	Tom Oxley
David Edgar	Mitch Jackson
Jarrod Hall	

Lawrie Hall—Coach
Peter Ravesi—Umpire
Jenny Morrison—Scorer

I would like to thank all the support staff

Steve Rossell – Assistant Coach
Brad Lark – Base Coach
Andrea Osborne – Team Manager
Alan Clements – Scorer
John Vanderheiden – Umpire/Ground Manager
Steve Osborne – Umpire

It was great to see many supporters throughout the year and a great roll up in the Grand Final.

Well done guys, a very memorable year.

Michael Trevorah

Team Members

Dean Clements
Tristan Kay
Will Osborne
Nick Russell
Trent Vanderheiden

Sean Gabb
Brendan Mulherin
Jordan Penpraze
Dylan Trevorah

Michael Trevorah
Steve Rossell
Alan Clements
Andrea Osborne
John Vanderheiden

Coach
Asst Coach
Scorer
Team Manager
Ground Manager



Under 18 State Rustlers

Played: 18
Won: 15
Lost: 2
Drawn: 1 (Washout)

Victorian Under 18 Champions for 2004-5. The Team could not do any better than that! Baseball at the Under 18 state level in Victoria is a very tough and high standard competition. All the teams have representative players and many are well-established senior players.

To win consistently against strong competition is the hallmark of a very good team and this was demonstrated on numerous occasions as the team always managed to find a way to win from whatever position it found itself in. Every player contributed and our ability to play as a team and for the Club was the key to our success.

The Club gave priority to the Under 18 state team so I was able to have first choice of our pitchers and catchers and this was a major factor in our consistency. Andrew Gribbin and Tom Ellis carried the pitching, with Russell Ferguson filling in where needed giving the team great pitching depth and this was our major strength. Ben Ford, Dan Gribbin and Kane Davidson covered the catching duties with Kane emerging as our top receiver by the seasons end..

The infield of Andrew Adams (1B) Russell Ferguson (2B) Dan Gribbin (SS) and Ben Ford and Andrew Gribbin (3B) was probably the best balanced and tightest in the competition. Dan's work at shortstop was outstanding in the latter part of the season. Our outfield, Brad Heenan, Scott Grierson, Tom Ellis was considerably strengthened when Chris Law returned from Japan after Christmas and overall was solid and reliable.

Our ability to win the key games was remarkable. For instance Tom Ellis pitched brilliantly and Andrew Gribbin belted to doubles to beat Geelong 2-1 to take us to the top of the ladder in Round 13. Andrew Gribbin struckout 10 and Russell Ferguson batted in 3 runs in a 4-1 win over Doncaster to ensure we finished on top of the ladder. In the Preliminary Final, behind 0-1 in the bottom of sixth innings, with the tail end of our line up to bat, Tom Ellis walked, Kane scratched an infield hit, Scottie forced a passball and drew a walk to set the table for Dan Gribbin to drive in the winning run with a line shot to rightfield.

The Grand Final against Geelong was an outstanding game of baseball that went extra innings. Behind 3-1 after 3 innings, Tom Ellis levelled the score with a 2 run homer. Andrew Gribbin took over the pitching and controlled the game until Tom in a "Ruthian" like performance hit his second 2 run homer to put Cheltenham ahead 5-3. After an anxious moment where Geelong clawed back to within one run, Cheddar took control of the game and struckout the last batter for the flag. With 3 strikeouts in the last innings and a lively fast ball Cheddar certainly "brought the cheese".

...U18 State Rustlers continued

Thanks to Al Gribbin for his support as umpire and team manager. Nothing is ever too much trouble for Al and as most would understand, plate umpiring with pitchers throwing 85mph is no picnic. Thanks also to Matt Gourlay who provided most of the weeknight coaching, Di Adams for a great job as scorer and to the parents who made sure the players made the practices and the games.

Team Members

Daniel Gribbin (Captain)
Andrew Adams
Tom Ellis
Brad Heenan
Russell Ferguson
Scott Grierson

Kane Davidson
Ben Ford
Andrew Gribbin
Shane Valenti
Chris Law

John Ferguson—Coach
Alan Gribbin—Team Manager/Umpire
Matt Gourlay—Assistant Coach
Dianne Adams—Scorer

