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CHELTENHAM BASEBALL CLUB INC Summer Season 2006-2007



The Mighty 5th's

SENIOR PRESENTATION 31 March 2007

www.rustlers.org.au

**Congratulations to the following people who have been
nominated for the following awards:**

SENIOR CLUBPERSON

Sue and Tony Cevec
John Ferguson
Michael Gourlay
Peter Katz
Marcella Lapa
Peter Leslie
Colin Upfill
Kathy Whiteside

LIFE MEMBERS JUNIOR CLUBPERSON

Matthew Carlile
Ben Cooen
Will Felsenthal
Emily Fitzgerald
Thomas Fitzgerald
Michael, Peter & Andrew Rizzi
James Upfill
Trent Davidson
Lachlan Whiteside

BEST COACH OF THE JUNIORS

Brad Hennan & Kane Davidson
Dave Stenhouse & Brad Lark
Daniel Williams
Kevin Williams

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 to 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

- 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 feedback 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:

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Anyone who may be 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

5th Nine—Seniors

It would have been a tale of Biblical proportions if this team of hobbling heroes had been able to win the Grand Final, unfortunately the Blackburn Goliath showed no Christian spirit to the Cheltenham David.

We may not have won the GF, but I was extremely proud to be associated with this group of guys who played so well to get there and give it a shot. Battling injury, age and often the morning after the night before, this intrepid band staggered toward the finals. And it's worthy of note that many times the team played with the bare 9 at away games and these guys know who they are, they're the guys who won us enough games to finish in the four.

At full strength for the finals series the side looked awesome; if Ormond had planned for a victory in the 1st Semi they were soon to be disappointed, as the Chelt sluggers put the game beyond their reach. It was a comprehensive 15-5 win.

The preliminary saw us up against Doncaster A who we had not beaten all season, in a battle staged at the end of the earth, our team produced its best game of the season. Petie "Possums" Burnett pitched a complete game shutout and the defense led by Steve Campitelli at 3rd was outstanding.

I'm sure it would have been a highlight this season for both John and Glen to play in the same teams as their sons. Matty and Daniel gave the side some useful options and that previously absent tool "speed".

Thanks to Petie, Ian, Stevie C, and Glen who showed up week after week and were the cornerstones of the team; and to Ken, Noel and Stevie Smith, who trained their butts off every week (and to Tony for after training refreshments). Warren who was terrific anywhere so long as it was 1st base and I hope you gave Ian back his old uniform at the end of season. To Dave Stenhouse, Dave Jowett, and Mike Cook who added the pop in our batting line up; and Alan 'angry' Ogilvie and Peter (I'm an Urban Gardener Baby..) Leslie, who despite interruptions with injury were so important in getting the side to the finals.

Thanks also to Miffanwy Smith our scorer and to Steve Campitelli for getting the guys organized each week; also Brett (you know why), and all the wonderful support we received from the wives and kids who came each week.

It was almost a fairy tale, but I'm happy to settle for the great story that was our season.

Col Upfill
Fight The Sun

...4th Nine Seniors continued

Thank you to all the club members who made themselves available when needed, Peter Cooen and Dean Felsenthal who were constantly on standby, Colin Upfill after the fifth match, Brad Lark, Dave Stenhouse, Colin Trigellis-Smith and John Vanderheiden.

Thank you to all the parents for your support and making sure I had 9 players, my scorer Nicholas in his 5th Season of scoring, great effort for a 13 year old, all the thirds who umpired along with Dean Felsenthal, a fantastic effort for the club.

Bruce Fitzgerald

Under 16 Coordinator's Report

This summer season was a solid season for the under 16 teams.

The commitment of the players, coaches and parents has been the key to the success of these sides.

I will not deliberate over the teams performance or statistics as there are those better equipped to report on this issue.

I wish to recognise the additional effort put in by many players, the coaches and parents to the well being of the club.

Success can be measured in many ways and clearly from a club perspective, this was a successful season as significant personal contributions were made from this group.

Thank you all for the additional work.

The "back bone " of any club is a solid base and it is evident within this group that the future success of the club is in good hands.

I wish to thank all the players, coaches and parents for their contribution to an enjoyable season.

David Maxwell
U16 Coordinator

Under 16 State Rustlers

This season saw the Cheltenham Baseball Club field two sides at the Under 16 age level. One team played in the state competition while the other played in metro. It was decided early on that we would train as a squad focusing mainly on players individual needs. Dave Stenhouse, Colin Upfill, Shayne Harvey and myself ran well structured sessions on Wednesday nights that were always very well attended. As coaches we would assist players from both squads giving the players a different voice than the one that they heard on Sunday mornings. Dave ran fitness boot camps at most trainings. The players initially struggled through the programme that he had set up, but as the year went on the boys embraced the extra work. Dave never really won the Felsenthal brothers over with the fitness programme, but never the less they persisted. The players worked extremely hard to improve their own games and fitness throughout the year and I often discussed with Colin the fact that although there may be a few shortcomings in some skill areas, the effort and commitment could never be questioned.

The state side played the highly fancied Haileybury in round one and it wasn't the start that we had hoped for. Myself and Dave set the diamond out incorrectly, Al Grierson saving the day using his metal detector to locate the base plugs. We dropped 8 flyballs, my dog got off her leash and got onto the diamond holding up the game for 5 minutes, (she's a fast little thing) and we eventually went down 12 - 8. At this point I thought that it was going to be a long season, how wrong I was. A combination of hard work, good hitting, satisfactory defense and injured players becoming available saw us string together a series of wins, not always text book, but a wins a win.

The most memorable game for the season in my mind came against Newport. We had two of our more accomplished players sitting on the sidelines due to injury and our starting pitcher phone up the morning of the game feeling ill. What transpired from there showed why we are a respected club. Two out, four runs down at the top of the last innings, the boys rallied to hit in five runs, we then shut Newport down to win 7-6. It was one of the great Cheltenham wins.

Being on the road most weeks, and generally on the other side of the West Gate Bridge, one couldn't be blamed for raising an eyebrow at the draw. At least we didn't have to play the top four 3 times like the metro side did. Anyway, back to the positives. A great win against eventual premier Essendon before Christmas left us in a good position, and despite effectively being punished by following the rules and not letting our players continue in 35 degree heat, we turned at the break on top of the ladder.

After Christmas we continued our good form and despite some really tight contests we were able to maintain our position at the top of the table. The players and coaches went into the finals believing that we could win the State Championship. Our first final against Essendon was a good game, however both sides let themselves down defensively. We had set ourselves a goal throughout the season of never conceding more than 5 runs a game, and always trying to score more than 5 ourselves

4th Nine—Seniors

The fourths finished 5th after losing the final game against Port Melbourne who threw their seconds pitcher against us. Although initially disappointed as I expect to play in finals each season I feel that each player had improved by the end of the season.

The last game was hopefully indicative of the future, even though I got a hit when I came into the game I felt that Andrew who I replaced would have got to a fly that I couldn't.

Being a young side we were undersized compared to the opposition, and as such the game plan was to score 10 runs using superior speed and then limiting the opposition with agility and better defensive skills. We might have been younger but we were not always the least experienced.

It was our defensive game that let us down when it counted, in 7 games against the top 3 sides we had 1 victory. For most of the season we operated with only 3 genuine infielders leaving 3 spots up for grabs, opportunities for players in the future to step up and make it their position.

A total of 22 players were used during the season with the highlights being:-

- James Brakes relief pitching.
- James Upfills sterling efforts as my catcher all season and his improving speed on base. James actually runs the bases well and this is why he spent the season batting in front of me so that if the circumstances dictated a run and hit would be on.
- Ben Cooen was a great boost to the side with his return from injury in round 5 and continue to develop as a pitcher.
- Thomas Fitzgerald batting a 1,000 in round 13 with 4 hits and his soft glove were invaluable, he and Elliot Macquire were going to be a formidable middle infield until Elliot disappeared after round 3 never to be sighted again, bloody Michael.
- Trent Davidson return to the side was a great assistance as it strengthen the infield, pitching and batting.
- Andrew & Peter Rizzi's use of their speed and increasing baseball smarts, it is speed that bring down slower more experienced older sides. Michael Rizzi played just 1 game but his hard running and intensity in a game which we dominated is what impresses managers.
- William Felsenthal and Adam Katz continued development and greater exposure to infield experience was pleasing. It was great to see Adam confidence grow as he began to swing the bat more.
- It was great to get Bryce Marshall and Patrick O'Neill later in the season as it gave us the power we missed for most of the season.

3rd Nine—Seniors

Further to our Grand Final appearance in 2006, our playing personal consisted of mainly juniors playing seniors with Andrew C and Jarrod H holding down the 'older' bracket. We welcome the Brookes family to the fold with Kyle having a terrific season. Congratulations are in order for those who played at state level including Kyle, Nathan A and Geoff H.

Traditionally, the 3rd's is the side for grooming our future stars, and no less than 22 players were used on the roster and of those 12 played in the 2nd's and 1st's gaining valuable experience.

Remarkably our offence was superb with 15 players batting over .300 and 9 of those .400 plus. Our defence stood tall all year playing against mature aged men who could generally hit the ball with power.

Our selection process required the pitching rotation to maximise their pitch count, and at the end of round 18, we finished on top 12 wins, 5 losses and 1 heat out.

Two good wins against last years premiers Moorabbin 18-2 and 10-2 showed we had come a step further in development.

As the finals approached and all players went to their qualified sides, the heat was on to test out our young pitching staff with Jarrod starting off in both finals, giving us terrific momentum. Previously against Mulgrave and Doncaster, we were towelled by the 10 run rule. Whilst going down in each final by 3 runs, our endeavour and attitude was superb as we had our chances in both games.

I'd like to thank Lawrie and Andy C for umpiring and coaching assistance along with Janette, Janine and Rae on scoring duties. Thanks girls. Also to our loyal band of supporters, its greatly appreciated. Special thanks to Tina in the canteen, especially on those hot days!!!

To the great bunch of guys in the side, you were sensational throughout the year and have terrific futures to look forward to.

Congrats to award winners

Michael Trevorah
Coach

..U16 State Rustlers continued

We saw this as playing well defensively and offensively. In most games we achieved this, unfortunately we faltered in the finals. We lost the Essendon game 9-7. A second chance against Upwey followed and unfortunately we again conceded too many runs going down 7-5. During both games we had opportunities to win, however we were unable to get the game breaking hit or turn a big play in the field.

Going out of the finals in straight sets is disappointing but in no way a reflection on our players. As I said to the boys after the Upwey game, they represented the club magnificently. They trained hard, conducted themselves well on the field and at no time gave up on the belief that we could win the State Championship. As individuals I would encourage our players to work on their deficiencies, it is easy to practice what we are good at. As a team I can only say that it has been an absolute pleasure to coach such a terrific group. It is reassuring from a club viewpoint that we have players like these ones coming through the ranks of the Rustlers. Many of our team took on junior coaching roles this year and I believe that not only is the club going to benefit from the playing talent in this group, but also with the commitment that these players have shown to the club as a whole, we will inevitably benefit off the field as well.

In closing I would like to thank Dave, Colin and Shayne for the support and advice that they have given throughout the season. To my scorer Janette, thank you for your help, enthusiasm and kind words throughout the season. Finally thanks to our umpire, Stuart Holland, whose reliability and skill in calling a game not only made my life a lot easier but also reflected well on the club.

Thank you

Brad Lark

Team Members

Geoffrey Holland
Ben Cooen
Matthew Carlile
Thomas Fitzgerald
William Felsenthal
Todd Grierson
Andrew Rizzi
Bradley Sheather
Patrick Liston
Nathan Aron
Kyle Brookes

Brad Lark—Coach
Dave Stenhouse—Coach

Under 16 Metro

When a team finishes a season with a record of 8 wins 1 draw and three losses you could be forgiven for expecting a finals berth. However the gods of baseball conspired to keep us out. Cheltenham played five of the twelve games against sides who ended in the four in which we were competitive in all but one game. By comparison two of the top teams had 3 games and two had only 2. I point this out not to show the good fortune of the teams above us, but rather to illustrate how well the team performed despite the hostile draw.

The twelve regulars of this team have worked as hard as any I have been associated with, trainings have been tough and exacting but the guys remained focused and determined and the results were excellent.

Adam Katz and Tom Cotter shared the pitching through the season, finishing with four wins each. Tom also had a one hit shut out against Ormond. Both guys also contributed impressively in the batting box to cap off fine seasons.

Matty Harvey spent most games behind the dish and was becoming stronger with each appearance his throw-overs were excellent. Matt baked up with solid offensive numbers as well.

James Murray proved important in the batting box picking 12 walks and finishing with an OBP of .483, James needs to hone his defensive skills and take the next step.

Jesse Casserly moved around the diamond, catching, 3rd base & outfield he also popped out some big hits, hopefully the hard work he has put in this season will provide the consistency needed for the future.

Peter Rizzi has turned in another fine season, solid in defense and useful at bat, Peter was an important member of the side, showing leadership and spirit all season.

Scott Maxwell is another of the guys who has worked extremely hard on his game, Scott needs a little polish on technique but his batting this season was terrific which saw him near the top of the averages until late in the season.

Rowan Payne provided some real pop in our batting line up, his numbers of .533 (3rd) for batting and .800 (2nd) slugging are top line, if Rowan can match his fielding skills to these offensive stats he will be on his way.

Kyosuke Nosaka added some versatility to the team balance; his professional approach to his game provided him with an excellent year in the field and made him a tough out at the plate.

2nd Nine—Seniors

2006-2007 will be long remembered by Rustlers fans as the year we propelled ourselves back into Div 1 – unfortunately there were few such memorable moments for the seconds. At times it was a long, hard and frustrating slog and they were the good times when there was at least some passion and emotion.

Baseball is a competitive sport. We should be excited to win and disappointed to lose. The window that we possess to play at our best is small and we should appreciate and look forward to wearing the Rustler uniform with pride and playing like there is no tomorrow. I'm glad to report that at least two players this season can say they did.

Kane Davidson had a great year behind the dish and emerged as a real leader around the club with his both his proactive approach within the selection committee and support on the bench. I grow tired of hearing my own voice and it's great to have that extra support.

Several players were given real opportunities to grab a spot in the team this season and it was pleasing to see Michael Rizzi stand up and be noticed. He doesn't take a backwards step for anybody and was a real standout at the plate late in the season.

Our pitching stocks were bolstered by emergence of Dale Ravesi. He was given a start for one week at the beginning of the season, just to see how he goes and twenty odd weeks later he had led us into a top 2 spot. Dale you should be proud of your improvement this year, but not rest and be satisfied - there is still much more development left in you.

But for me the real hero this season stood behind the scenes and showed more commitment than all of players, which was a sad but true indication of how we fared. Thank you and congratulations Robyn Hogben. Even when Kable was playing in the firsts I didn't have to ask or beg, you just showed up and scored every week. I can only hope that we have nine players prepared to make such sacrifices each and every week next season.

Matt Coppens
Coach

1st Nine—Seniors

MISSION: DIVISION "1"

I could not have been prouder of all the boys at 7pm on Saturday 24th March.

Time and game had been called at Altona and we fell short of Doncaster in the Grand final. But.... like most of the season, we never gave up and left everything on the field. A fighting quality that saw us come back in quite a few games this year, none more memorial than the 7 run comeback against Mulgrave in front of a magnificent home crowd. What a game!

For the third year in a row we had 30+ players get game time in the firsts. Something that can only benefit the club for the future. Our pitching staff consisted of 4 professionals, Tom Ellis, Adam Blackley, Andrew Gribbin and our latest signing Kable Hogben. Adam Iron, Stephen Gourlay and Blake Cunningham showed that you can never have enough good pitching and lets not forget Josh Mulherin. For a few years now Josh has had to step up and be counted on in the firsts. He has never let me down, as shown in the Grand final. And how about Kable's efforts in the finals with wins over Mulgrave and Upwey- apparently we shocked everybody by beating Upwey. Neither me nor my team were shocked, so I am not sure who the "everybody" they were talking about are.

And then there was our offence. 27 runs scored in our 3 finals games. Led by Stephen Gourlay, Daniel Williams and Daniel Gribbin we were never out of the game no matter what the score. Russell Ferguson showed once again what a consistent hitter he is with another good season. Adam Irons had a breakout year with the bat and an asset with his versatility with his glove. Ben 'The Sledge' Wenke was always a danger at the plate. He was a lot happier as the designated hitter than left fielder. Our young guns were great all year. Karl MacKay, John Blaskett and Justin D'Rozario all cemented spots in the firsts. Then there were the likes of Kane Davidson, Tim O'Neill, Matt Coppins, Ben Macquire and Michael Rizzi. Weather starting or coming off the bench they never looked out of place and always sat on the bench after the 2nd's game - Dedication.

I look forward to leading Cheltenham's firsts into Division 1 next season with the goal of cementing ourselves up there. The hard work has just begun, but, what we showed this year is that we are up for any challenge.

Well done boys.

Special thanks to Michael Gourlay, Trevor Hogben, Kevin Williams, Lachlan Whiteside, Jack Warner, John Ferguson, John Carlile and the Committee.

Matthew Gourlay
Club Coach 06/07

...Under 16 Metro continued

Oliver Oxley had a great season, probably under used as a pitcher but solid in the field and putting up some great numbers with the bat, Ollie finished 4th overall at .417 and was 3rd in On Base Percentage.

Dale King is another very important player in this team, filling key positions in the field and leading the team in all offensive categories. I'm hoping my ambition for his future in baseball will one day collide with his realization that he was born for this.

Matty Felsenthal has had an outstanding season, solid as a rock in defense and putting up fantastic offensive numbers. Another key member of this team Matty finished second in the batting averages.

My thanks to Shayne Harvey (assistant manager); Brad Lark and Dave Stenhouse at training; Peter and Greg and the guys on game days; Dean Felsenthal (umpire); the delightful Karen Cotter (scorer) and the warm and supportive parents and family.

It has been my pleasure to manage this group of young men and I wish for their future that all their fixtures be fair.

Col Upfill
Fight The Sun

Team Members

Tom Cotter
Scott Maxwell
Kyosuke Nosaka
Rowan Payne
Matthew Felsenthal
Adam Katz
James Murray
Dale King
Jesse Casserly
Peter Rizzi
Oliver Oxley
Matthew Harvey

Colin Upfill—Coach
Shayne Harvey—Assistant Manager

Under 18 Coordinator's Report

As we farewell the top age U 18s from junior baseball and prepare to welcome the new bottom age U18's for next season I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in the U18 age group teams this year. Many hours of training, scoring, umpiring, coaching and not to mention driving around all go into the makings of a good spirited outfit. I am delighted to report that this years crop of helpers, parents etc at Cheltenham baseball Club has made the job of being U18 coordinator a comfortable and enjoyable experience.

Firstly my thanks to the coach of the state side **Kevin Williams**, an experienced hand at Baseball himself and highly respected around Cheltenham Baseball Club and the baseball community in general. Any parent would be happy to have their son's baseball coaching left in Kevin's capable care. Kevin has taken the State U18 side to two consecutive grand finals, sadly not successful this year, none the less a high achievement in an extremely tight competition.

My personal thanks to **Kane Davidson** and **Brad Heenan** for coaching the metro side. Here are two young gentlemen whose parents should be very proud of the manor in which they conducted themselves with their team, their teams parents and at all times in the coaches box. Their dedication to coaching the metro side did not falter (and there may have been times when it could have). They managed the metro side with great enthusiasm, while maintaining their own passion to play seniors. A job well done to take the team to the grand final. Congratulations.

Each side needs a scorer and my thanks to **Robyn Hogben** (scorer state side) and to **Janine Rizzi** and **Sue Cevac** (scorers metro side).

A very special thank you to **Michael Gourlay** for his special appearance and scoring expertise for the metro grand final.

Each team also provides umpires and to that end I thank all those who volunteered the position of umpiring for both sides, including Michael Trevorah, Matt Coppens, and the many other parents who pitched in to help with plate and line umpiring when duty called.

Also on the list of thanks are all the parents who drag themselves around the suburbs of Melbourne supporting their sons and ultimately the Cheltenham baseball club. You have all been very obliging this year I thank you for your continued presence at the club.

As you all know a club is not functional without a committee so I would like to thank the Summer committee for their support this season and my compliments on a job well done to all committee members especially to our president **John Carlile**. (Does he look younger than when he started??? or is it just my imagination)

As I stated at the beginning of the year, baseball players are like water, we all find our own level eventually and even if a selection panel gets its horribly wrong, excellent performance by an individual quickly makes any panel oversight obvious to all and promotion (or demotion) quickly follows. It is important to understand that it is sustainable performance that is the benchmark and it often does not help young players to be promoted too quickly. To become a top club places in a team must be highly valued and contested on a regular basis. Success in a competitive environment comes when players are encouraged and pushed hard to improve.

Looking forward to the 2007/08 season, the immediate priority will be to build the upper body strength to improve our hitting as well as the running speed of all players. A major effort will be expected in the off season for those who aspire to be a regular member of our first team next season.

The Club's next 27 games will be against opposition at least as tough as Doncaster and we will need to win at least 12 of these games (about 45%) to retain our Division 1 standing. Our other teams will be considered to be successful if they win between 40 to 50% of their games (This means about 7-9 wins from the 18 games each team plays). By way of comparison in the 2006/07 season : Bonbeach Firsts won 35.2%, Newport 38.9%, Sunshine 38.9% and Melbourne 42.6%. Sandringham struggled and was never competitive at 11.1%.

Special thanks to the members of the Selection Panel, Matt Gourlay, Matt Coppens, Mick Trevorah, Kevin Williams, Trevor Hogben and Kane Davidson. Regular meetings were held on a Tuesday evening and all player and manager performances were reviewed closely. Frank and open debate occurred around selections and decisions of the managers in the games to ensure issues were tabled and future options considered and I am pleased to be able to say that what was said at the table stayed at the table and this made my role as Chairman much easier. Thanks to Michael Gourlay for his always timely and accurate statistics.

Congratulations to the players, managers and especially the parents for the logistical and emotional support that kept our teams filled and our players on the field this season.

John Ferguson
Chairman of Selectors

Chairman of Selectors Report

...Under 18 Coordinator's Report

All objectives achieved - an excellent result. At the beginning of the year we agreed that the 2006/07 season would be one where we would strive to achieve a return to Division 1 using our own players and by building a strong and competitive Club across our 4 senior grades. This required a relentless focus on development as well as winning enough games to ensure we could be successful in the finals and ready for the much stronger competition we will encounter at Division 1 level. The objective of fielding the Fifths was to provide an opportunity for "late starters" and the super veterans to have some fun with out impacting the opportunity for junior players to start their transition to senior ranks.

For the record our key performance statistics and our results have been summarised in the following table:

Team	Games	Won	Lost	Draw	Win %	Win % Target	Result %	Runs For	Runs Agst
Firsts	21	14	7		64	Div1	100	157	101
Seconds	18	10	4	4	67	50	100	118	57
Thirds	18	12	5	1	69	50	100	206	91
Fourths	18	7	8	3	47	40	100	142	157
Fifths	18	10	7	1	58	Fun	100	205	169
Totals	93	53	31	9	62	60	100	828	575

Table 1 – Home and Away Games Season 2006/07

Given many of our players were required to play two games a day and give away many years of experience to their opponents this was an outstanding achievement by all the players and the managers as well as the parents who drove them across Melbourne to get them to the various and often distant locations. As the winnings percentage shows, performances exceeded expectations with the Firsts and the Fifths both making their respective grand finals. The Seconds and Thirds made the finals but were constrained by our policy of giving priority to junior pitching options. The Fourths did exceptionally well given their age and limited experience.

Emphasis was always on the development of playing depth and flexibility across the Club and any temptation towards a temporary quick fix was rejected. Players were promoted where there was sustained good performance and some players were placed where they could build their skills and experience in designated positions for future seasons. There were surprisingly few "concerns raised" and although I am sure our selection panel make some errors, I feel confident that overall players were given sufficient opportunities to demonstrate their credentials at their preferred level and position.

I would like to thank the boys for being part of their respective teams. They have so much going on in life at the ages they are and it is great to see such dedication to their chosen sport. Knowing many of them and having been involved in their baseball lives in some form or other at some stage or other of their junior playing years I have to say that you are a great bunch of boys and urge you to continue to enjoy your lives and your baseball.

As mentioned at the start of my report it is time to farewell quite a few of our young men, the top age players, but only from junior playing and I wish you all the best in your senior playing years and take this opportunity to urge to become involved with the juniors in what ever capacity you can manage. I am sure you will find it very rewarding, not to mention it will give you a great opportunity to share your experience as a junior and pass on your knowledge of the sport.

As for me, I have participated in my last junior game with a child of my own involved. You know what that means??? No more Sunday mornings hauling myself out of bed at the crack of dawn. Yipeee. (I am sure my son will find a way to get me involved somehow next year). Have a great winter season whatever you sport is.

Connie Upfill
U18 Coordinator

Under 18 State

What a great year these guys had and what a pleasure they were to coach! To play off in the GF for the 3rd year in a row and to only miss the “Threepeat” of State Championships by 1 run is a credit them and their parents, not to mention the fantastic job their previous coaches have done.

They did the club proud and as well as only losing 1 ½ games for the year, scoring 90 runs and only 18 against, and played many many games in the senior ranks. Their contribution was outstanding. The roles they played in the 1st 9 in helping the club return to it's rightful Div 1 status will never be underestimated. I don't know of any U18 group that has contributed so much in these areas.

The team practiced hard every Tuesday and Thursday and it was rare for any session was missed. They did what they were asked. Highlight of the year was the Prelim Final where twice the boys came back from 2 runs down to defeat Geelong 5-4. It showed what courage and never say die spirit they have. Kable Hogben's pitching and hitting in this game reflected why he was MVP.

The GF loss 1-0 where the Waverley pitcher proved too strong in the end restricting us to one hit. Josh Mulherin's effort was outstanding considering he pitched 30 the previous day in the 1st 9's Semi win over Mulgrave. Whatever the outcome, we will never know if that game took the sting out of the boys. The effort was certainly recognized by the Waverley manager who gratefully mentioned the same in his acceptance speech. Whatever the outcome there is no doubt that this team gained enormous respect for the club in this game.

The team consisted off Kable Hogben, Blake Cunningham, Josh Mulherin, Pitcher/Infield, Justin D'Rozario Relief Pitching/Infield, John Blaskett ,Karl Mackay Outfield/Catching, Colin Tregallis Smith , Infield, Dylan Trevorah, Infield/Outfield, Tim O'Neill, Mick Rizzi Outfield.

Thanks to Matt Gourlay for being my 1st Base Coach in the finals and for his fantastic support thru the year. My umpires Mick Trevorah who was main umpire for all the home games (despite doing his back every time) Ross Mackay and Geoff O'Neill for doing the lines. Trevor Hogben for helping with the Diamond marking, and my Scorer Robyn Hogben who is a true professional. Connie Upfill and Sue Felsenthal for your roles in the difficult and time consuming Junior admin roles.

Also like to thank all the parents the support you gave your kids in transporting them all over Melbourne and Geelong and getting the boys there on time for the U18 games and then doing the same for whatever games they had to get to in the arvo. Not to mention those that had VIS and State commitments on Saturday.

Kevin Williams—Coach

John Blaskett	Colin Tregallis-Smith	Justin D'Rozario
Karl Mackay	Michael Rizzi	Dylan Trevorah
Josh Mulherin	Kable Hogben	Blake Cunningham
Tim O'Neill		
Kevin Williams—Coach		

Under 18 Metro

The boys were very consistent throughout the year losing only 2 games before finals and finishing 3rd in the normal season.

We played Doncaster in the semi finals and defeated them 9 – 1. We moved onto the preliminary finals to face Waverley where we defeated them in a nervous 6 – 4 game.

Sadly though, in the grand final we were defeated by Blackburn. Nick Rossell started and pitched 4 strong innings with Elliot Macquire in relief for 1. But nothing really went our way with the bats.

We would like to thank the parents for pulling themselves out of bed every Sunday morning and driving there kids to the grounds and our two scorers Connie and Sue.

Brad and I would also like to congratulate the team for putting in a great season and never giving in during any game. We hope you enjoyed it as much as we did, and we will be back next year, but this time we will win the grand final!

Kane & Brad

Team Members

Tony Cevac	Max Palmer
James Brake	Trent Vanderheiden
James Upfill	Trent Davidson
Nick Rossell	Will Osborne
Elliot Macquire	Sean Gabb

Kane Davidson—Coach
Brad Hennen—Coach

THE FIRST'S



Kable Hogben

Congratulations on signing with the Diamondbacks



STATE & VPBL PLAYERS 2006-07

State
U14 Angus Macquire
U16 Nathan Aron
U18 John Blaskett
U18 Kable Hogben
U18 Josh Mulherin

VPBL
U14 Brett Curnow
U16 Kyle Brookes
U16 Geoffrey Holland
U18 Justin D'Rozario

Thank you...

Andrew Gribbin for organising Cheltenham Baseball Club to receive 10 dozen baseballs from the Padres this season as part of his Contract. We will have this arrangement for the next three years. This covers about 50 % of our requirements for senior match balls.