



*Rutten*

Cheltenham  
Baseball  
Club

SUMMER SEASON 1996 - 1997

PRESENTATION NIGHT REPORT

# *Menu*

## *Entree*

*Lasagna*  
*Pork Sweet & Sour*

## *Main*

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*Roast Chicken Scaloppine*  
*Roast Lamb with Mint Sauce*

*Served with Roast Potatoes & Peas*

## *Sweets*

*Cheese Cake*  
*Apple Strudel*

## *President's Report*

Welcome to the Cheltenham Rustlers 1996/97 presentation night.

This year has seen yet again further improvement in both on and off field success for the players and committee of the Club. The on field performances of the first 9 have seen the club firmly placed into Division 1 and has allowed further development of junior players.

The gap between the under 16/18 age group and the senior players has now been firmly bridged with over 80% of these players participating in the senior matches. Off the field we have seen the efforts of Graeme Ainscough and the Board of Management obtain funds for the construction of the new home run fence. We are still awaiting final approval from the City of Kingston but I am very hopeful that it will be granted.

We have finally procured our first major club sponsor with Spaceline Homes and we thank Steve Harper for having the vision to see the way to make this happen.

Graham Lewis has spent a lot of time negotiating with council to have our back net replaced. Future works to top dress the main diamond have also been negotiated. The gravel area in front of the Club House is also to be replaced and the addition of seating around the back net with funding from the Reserve committee has also enhanced our facility. Materials for new pitching mound have been purchased, and this will be constructed as soon as its location is approved by the Reserve committee.

Jack Bourton has kept a close eye on the club's finances during the year and we are pleased to report that the Club will not finish in debt and we are hopeful of a surplus. The payment of player fees before Christmas has been an important issue this year and next year we are keen to have payments made much earlier than in the past.

Our junior program has continued with near success in most age groups. The committee recognises the importance of providing good quality coaching at all levels within our junior program and we are hopeful of appointing a club junior coach along with specialised coaching for the next season.

Canteen staff Pat and Barry Chochrane's efforts through out the entire season has been a marvelous effort that puts inter club relations and the bank balance at immeasurable proportions.

Although the committee this year lost 2 members during the year I am pleased to say that we finished with more members than was started with. This committee is a group of hard working enthusiastic people that have the Club's best interests in mind whenever there are decisions to be made.

Many good things have happened this year and 1997/98 promises to be even better with most members on the committee staying on for next season.

We hope you enjoy the evening.

**Lance Blackley.**

## *Club Coach Report*

The rewards of hard work by all those involved on the general, social and selection committees over the past 3 years were seen this year when our club had it's most successful year since my involvement in the club.

I would like to thank everybody involved for their assistance as it takes the work of a lot of people to achieve this result.

Even the resignation of our President mid season due to work commitments didn't seem to create a problem, such is the professionalism of our club in 1997.

Thankyou to all coaches for their assistance during the year, and special mention to Skippy Williams who as junior coordinator probably had the hardest job in the club and carried it out with professionalism.

I must mention the efforts of Ray Costelloe, who had his first year as coach of the 3rds never let some forgettable scores in the oppositions favour dampen his enthusiasm at selection each week.

In closing, congratulations to all players, coaches, scorers, supports, parents and everybody involved in our club on a great season.

The challenge for us now is to recognise how much work it took to get our club to this level and to maintain for the benefit of all in the future.

Regards,

**Terry Reid.**

## *First Nine Report*

For 3 years I have been telling the players that the grass is greener in Division 1 for those sides willing to do the extra work early in the season. This year we finally achieved this goal by winning six and a half games prior to the cut.

Our pitchers were asked to work harder to assist us in our goal and they did. Special mention must go to Mika Tossa who did everything that was asked of him including start the season opener for a victory.

After the cut we pressed on by beating Preston prior to Xmas and went to the break in good position. After Xmas we lost our way a little, but shook ourselves and finished out the year in a very competitive fashion by finishing 5th on the ladder.

We found out for ourselves that this is the Division we want to play in and that only hard work will keep us there in the future.

I would like to thank Kevin Williams for all his support through the season.

Thank you to Barry for keeping our stomachs full and to Graham for his thirst quenching work.

Thank you to my family who without their support, I would not be writing this report.

Finally, congratulations to all trophy winners and all players who dedicate so much time to this great club.

**Terry Reid.**

## *Second Nine Report*

The seconds after winning Division 2 last year struggled early inconstant pitching and defence.

Although helped with excellent batting performances from Steve Lewis and Craig Ballantyne and good pitching later in the year from Ben Ward-Bourton, failed by one and a half games to make it into the finals.

Only going down to Preston by one run and drawing with Waverley in our last two games showed we were good enough to mix it with the top sides which gives us hope for next year.

Special thanks to Val Bailey for scoring the seconds and to Steve Lewis for assisting with the coaching.

Laurie Hall

## *Third Nine Report*

Firstly I would like to thank all the players, that played this season. Also a special thanks to all parents and everybody else that supported us. And a special thank you to our incapacitated scorer Nerida Fry for her rollerblading abilities, Rod Kavanagh and Barry Cochrane for umpiring a few home games.

Even though we didn't have a very successful season, Its was great to see all the players there to fill the side every week.

The few games we won, doesn't show the effort that each player put into every game we played.

For instance the players that pitched this season, Peter Burrell, David Wilson and the throwing effort of a few others.

We finally broke the ice against Sandringham, it was as if we had just won a grand final. The guys were quite happy to drink the slab I had bought for the first win.

Also, the holy glove of Chris Gunn. David Wilson who would attempt to pitch "THE WILLIE SPECIAL" when anybody asked to see it. Peter Burrell's chucking encounter at Altona and we can't forget Karl (scratch my ears) Cameron.

I'd like to say that my first season as a manager, was a learning experience, and I would like to see all players back for a more successful season.

Raymond Costolloe,

## *Fourth Nine Report*

Just a few words on the 1996/97 season as our illustrious leader James Stewart left Melbourne for the sunny slopes of Switzerland without making a report.

The side performed well for the season and finished second after the home and away rounds. We seemed to put in a "shocker" occasionally and unfortunately one of those games was the preliminary final. This was the low point of the season as I believe the side deserved and had the ability to play in the Grand Final. Loosing any final is a bitter pill to swallow.

Undoubtedly the highlight of the year was the performance of Eugene O'Niell on the mound and with the bat. His batting improved out of sight compered to his previous season with us.

The old adage of never question your manager was reinforced to me with John Carlile's come back. I couldn't understand why I was at centre field and John at right field, as in his youth John had range with strong a throwing arm. That adage was found correct with John attempting his first fly ball with his forehead. John got a splitting head ache and the laughter of a not so supporting centre fielder ringing in his ears for his troubles.

Another remarkable performance was executed by Peter Burnett who upon learning that he was .600 up until the Christmas break, cracked to 6 zero from three with a strike out in the first game back after the break.

Phil Manning showed commitment to step in as our catcher and was an improved player by the end of the season. It did seem to cause one side effect, as Phil's hair changed colour mid season.

A special thanks to Jamie Stewart for managing us for the season and the side certainly missed his playing ability during the later part of the season once he injured himself fishing.

**Burce Fitzgerald**  
for  
Jamie Stewart

## *Fifth Nine Report*

The Fifths have had a mixed year and yet we still managed to make the play offs.

Our start to the season saw many of the under 16 players start their senior baseball careers and so getting used to playing against the men take a little getting time before they start to feel comfortable.

We had many outings in the first 9 weeks where we played very up and down baseball. At times we played very good teams and yet other weeks there some very ordinary oppression.

The young kids took full advantage of this time to get some hits as well as get a lot more at bats.

After the cut we started to play our best baseball with Colin Upfill having several excellent outings on the mound with some good relief with Gerard, Rowan, Jarrod.

Skippy put in a good season behind the plate all year and I finally managed to take the field on first base.

First match after Christmas saw us struggling for numbers so Travorah and Williams helped out to beat the arch enemy Upwey.

We finished in 2nd spot on the ladder and were all playing solid baseball coming into the finals

The first week of the finals saw us play reasonable baseball against a good Springvale team and pitcher, we were unfortunate to loose a tight game but were hopeful against Malvern.

Cuppy put in a great 6 innings the next week but he was the only pitcher available for that game so we had little leff for the last 2 innings where it was the most important. Malvern pulled away at that point for a 9 run win which did not do us justice for the way we played the game that day.

Thanks must go out to all team members and special thanks to Jodi and Bev who filled in on a few occasions. We won those games, so well done girls.

Thank again to Bev who scored most of the season with occasional appearances by Jodi and Debbie helping out when needed.

It has been a most enjoyable season and terrific to see the improvement throughout the year by the younger team members who learnt how to bat for a team.

**Lance Blackley**



## *Womens Div 1 Report*

What expectations raised were about to be answered as the 1996/97 womendiv one team unfolded.

Commencing off last seasons performance of one win in the higher competition, it was seen to be imperative that our side commanded the respect of our opposition, forgoing anything more was pipe dream material. The season opener at St Kilda proved fruitless as the heavens opened and abandoned, leaving next weeks round at Greensborough at Kingston Heath a time to taste the waters and come away unscathed winning 9-2.

Practice attendance was at a healthy stage in early season but the demands of work schedules and other interests saw our team at the revised draw cut, in fourth place.

The Association in its wisdom to create an even competition deleted the bottom two teams and promoted the leaders of the other divisions (four) which proved a correct decision. Our season started again from scratch and solid performances enabled us to lead the competition at the end of the home and away series.

A major turn around in one season from last to first suggests that respect we were aiming for had been achieved along with consistency heading the ladder.

What was our strength in the minor season over defence, proved to be our downfall in the finals losing by odd run 17-16 and 12-11 to Malvern (9 innings) and St Kilda respectively.

Our performances suggests that we can mix it with the best, but for those wanting more some soul searching aims ambitions will have to be initiated to achieve the ultimate goal.

I greatly acknowledge and thank those who support womens baseball at Cheltenham this season. In particular, thanks to the assistance of Steve Williams, our scorer Dot Vallance and those who filled in during her absence, our tireless canteen operators Pat and Barry Cochrane together with umpiring duties and the loyal band of supporters including our bat girl tag team combination of Amberley Williams and Shannin Trevorah.

Congratulations to all trophy winners and to those selected on the fourth commencing tour of the U.S.A. a great achievement.

Yours in Baseball

**Michael J.P. Trevorah**

## *Junior Co Ordinator's Report*

It's been another big year and each year it gets bigger. Ten T-ball teams plus 2 Allstar teams who played in the T-ball Lightning Premiership, 5 Under 12, 4 Under 14, 1 Under 12, 14, 16, and 18 Allstar teams all competing in there relevant competitions.

As you can see there was over 250 players playing each week and this does not just happen all by its self. I would like to thank Jenny Rapley-Smith and Bev Blackley for the terrific job they did Co-ordinating this seasons T-ball competition and to all the coaches who gave up there time to coach the teams.

The Friday night Under 12 competition was once again held at our grounds. We hosted 2 teams from Chelsea, 3 from Moorabbin along with 5 of our own. The games were all played in good spirit and I have received complements from both visiting clubs for effort that was put in by all. A big part of those thanks goes to Shaun and Gordon for the job they done making sure the diamonds were marked each week. Of the 5 teams we fielded in the competition we had 2 in the finals of which 1 made the Grand Final but were unfortunately beaten. I would like to thank the coaches for the time and effort they put in during the season and to Billy Treller, Mick and Phil Manning, Kerrin Holden and Kevin Russell thank you.

In the Under 14 competition we fielded 4 teams. They played at Sandringham, Moorabbin and Cheltenham on Friday nights. Even with the fact that on more occasions than not the teams all played with players short, 3 of the teams finished in the finals with the 4<sup>th</sup>. team finishing 5<sup>th</sup>. But just like the Under 12 competition we finished 1 team in the Grand Final who went down to Moorabbin. To the coaches Jon Ballantyne, Brett Anderson, Les Beattie and Stan Williamson thank you for the effort you put in during the year.

Now to the Allstar teams. I won't steal the Coaches thunder but I will say that all 4 teams qualified in the Coca Cola division with both the Under 12 and 18 team going down in the Grand Finals by the narrowest of margins. To the Coaches Colin Basham and Lance Blackley, Under 12's; Mark Anderton, Under 14's; Colin Anderson, Under 16's and Alex Porecca and Andrew Coppins, Under 18's once again thank you for all the time, effort and sleepless nights through the season.

Finally I would like to thank all the people behind the scenes, scorers, team managers, umpires and helpers, without their assistance this season would have happened. To next season as you can see the junior section of the club is growing at a great rate and we the club, and the players need your assistance in making this club one of the biggest and strongest clubs in Australia.

**Steve Williams**

## *Under 18 Report*

The 1996/97 under 18 season has been one of up and downs. We had some frustrating losses and some memorable wins culminating in a finals berth with a chance of winning it all. The grading games saw us a perfect 5 and 0 start in a place in Cocca Cola division. The highlight coming in a hard fought win at Waverley.

Early season form continued with the team winning three of the first four and having a draw with Essendon. In the three wins, two were extremely close hard fought wins that went to the wire. With some solid pitching coming from the Ben's (Paturzo and Ward-Bourton) we beat Bonbeach and Upwey in two one run games. Two tough losses entering the Christmas break let some of the early season work slip away but the boys were still in the four with a 3-2-1- loss record.

The break seemed to have taken it's toll with a error filled loss to Blackburn, not the start we were after. After a win against Moorabbin it was another showdown with Bonbeach. With some great hitting we were able to keep in touch and take out a win in another close game.

The following week saw a spirited performance (only eight players) but ended in a tough loss. The last four games of the season saw some great performances when the pressure was on to make the finals.

Wins over Geelong and Upwey in close games saw us cement a spot in the finals. Another exciting game against Doncaster but too many mistakes costing us in the end.

The final game was a chance at revenge against Blackburn. The team got a kick from Karls Grand Slam leading to a seven run first inning and a big victory leading to the finals. The team finished fourth with a record 8-5-1.

In closing we would like to thank Mrs Ballantyne for scoring week in and week out and to Mr Collville and Mr Kavanagh for helping us out by umpiring.

**Alex Porecca** (Coach)

**Andrew Coppens** (Assistant Coach)

## *Under 16 Report*

The season commenced with 14 players in the team and there were a number of enquires about further players which resulted in discussions with V.B.A. and a number of local clubs regarding the entry on a composite side once the Cocca Cola gradings had been made.

Unfortunately this never eventuated and the balance of the season has seen 13 players making up the team which obviously creates obvious difficulties in getting all players maximum playing time. To each of the boys who fell into this category, I extend my thanks for their understanding.

The side was graded into Cocca Cola division and up until the Christmas break were clearly holding down third position and looking to gain a higher place in the new year.

An excellent win against fourth placed Doncaster strengthened our hold on third place, but then the wheels fell off with a close loss to second place Waverley, a draw with sixth placed Malvern and a one run defeat by bottom side Sunshine before suffering at the hands of undefeated Upwey and in a battle for the vacant fourth spot saw us out gunned by rivals Essendon.

A fifth placed finish was disappointing when looking at our pre Christmas results, but if you had have said this would have been our finishing spot at the commencement of the year then one would have been satisfied.

The team definitely lacked in batting strength when only four players battered over .250 for the season and this coupled with fielding and base running errors that we always seemed to make at crucial stages, definitely hindered out attempts to clinch vital games.

The pitching of the side was well led by Stephen Gourlay who received admiral back up from Gerrard Kelly and occasional relief from Rowan Ball, Jarrod Hansford and Troy Harper. The younger members of the side will benefit from their exposure to this level for next season and these boys hold the key to teams performance in 1997-98.

Thanks must go to Dave Coppens and Matt Gourlay for their coaching assistance on Sundays and to Kevin Williams for his efforts on Wednesday nights. Our scoring was capably handled by both Michael Gourlay and Jill Ward-Bourton. To them, also a big thanks.

One big disappointment in the season was the non attendance of rostered senior players to carry out the umpiring responsibilities. Daryl Trellar was on hand to perform this task when necessary and we are indebted to him for this.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the season and do hope that the boys playing in the team have done so, and learnt a number of things that will assist them in development as baseballers.

**Colin Anderson.**

## *Tee Ball Report*

This season we had 10 teams competing each Saturday morning. As the weeks progressed so did the skills of our young tee ballers. At the end of the season, the Cannonballs were the successful winners being undefeated all season. Congratulations to coach Sue Doherty and her team on a fantastic season.

In February the state teeball Allstar Championship was held at our club. We entered 2 teams which were coached by John Ferguson and Kerin Holden. Our 'A' team were again runners-up to Sandringham and our 'B' team came a very credible 6th. Well done to both coaches and players on a fine performance.

We had a twilight game in February which was very successful. Our teams played their normal round of matches on a Saturday evening which followed by a exhibition match between our two All Star teams. This was very well supported by parents and friends and looks like becoming a annual event.

Thankyou to all coaches, scorers and parents who supported both Jenny Rapley-Smith and myself during the season. It was indeed a great season.

**Bev Blackley**

## 1st Nine Vote Count

[illegible]

## 1

[illegible]

# 3rd Nine Vote Count

	Newp	Prest	Malv	Sand	Wavl	Melb	Essen	Geel	Donc	Wavl	Prest	Malv	U/Ftg	Geel	Sand	Melb	Prest	Wavl	
Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Total
Callanan Nick																			0
Burrell Peter			2				2			1					2	1		1	9
Callanan Tim																			0
Cameron Karl			1		2			2											5
Colville Luke																			0
Coppens Andrew					1				2		2	2						2	9
Costelloe Ray		W				W													0
Gunn Chris		A				A			1										1
Harrison David		S				S						1	1	1	1				4
Kavanagh Rod		H				H													0
Kavanagh Steven								1		2	1		2	2					8
Knight Gavin				1															1
Lewis Mark		O				O													0
May Beau		U				U											2		2
Michaelis Simon		T				T											1		1
Morgan Jamie																			0
Phillips Shane	2			2															4
Roe Jamie	1																		1
Vallance Delia																			0
Ward-Bourton Ben																			0
Wilson David							1									2			3



## 1

O'Neil Eugene

## 5th Nine Vote Count

[illegible]

# Women 1st Nine Vote Count

	StKilda	Greens	Sunsh	Maiv	Mon U	Will	Bon	Greens	StKil	Maiv	Black	Greens	Bon	St Kil	Moor	P Melb	Croy	Mon U	Total
Name	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
Baxevanis Fanya			1	2	1					1		2					2		9
Blackley Bev														1	1				2
Costelloe Toni																			0
Fry Nerida	W																		0
Gosstray Narelle	A	2						1							2		1		6
Jacob Jacki	S					1		2											3
Langley Alison	H																		0
Marr Dee																			0
Pym Belinda																			0
Ross Shandelle	O			1		2								2					5
Russell Lauren	U																		0
Smith Karen	T		2																2
Townley Rebecca											1		2						3
Trucchio Julie																			0
Vallance Delia					2				1			1	1					1	6
Williams Jodie		1					1									2			4
Williams Karla							2		2										4
Witchell Karen										2	2					1		2	7

