



SUMMER
ANNUAL REPORT
1978-79



PRESIDENT GRAEME AINSCOUGH



President's Report

As far as results on the field are concerned 1978-79 Summer Season of VBA could hardly be called a successful season after finishing fourth the previous season.

First Nine

The First Nine finished 11th and were 6 games ahead of Fitzroy and only 2.5 games out of the Four. The Club scored an average of only 3.3 runs per game the lowest number in the Division 1 and clearly the loss of several top hitters from the previous season and restricted batting practice facilities impacted our offensive performance.

A number of young players were recruited to the Club and several tried in the Firsts. Of these Leigh Foster in the outfield and Robert Bell either pitching at shortstop and in the outfield, were the most impressive.

One area of impressive improvement was the team defence and the Club finished amongst the top three Clubs with the least number of runs scored against us.

Second Nine

The Team finished in 5th position. Alan Tanner as Team manager and Assistant to the Club Coach gave tremendous support to John Ferguson in all aspects

The Team performed credibly and many young players gained valuable experience under such an experienced and astute player as Alan and it was unfortunate that the team did not make the finals to gain the added experience that only finals can bring.

Division 1 Zone

This Team initially managed by Steve Bott got away to a good start but lost a number of close games to less talented sides. Despite an excellent string of victories towards the end of the season including giving Grand Finalists Newport a baseball lesson finished in 5th position.

From a Club viewpoint the most promising aspect of the Team's effort was the performance of three under 15 players who gradually won regular places as the season progressed. I refer to Neil LePage, Warren Kennedy and Dean Sinfield whose performances in open age competition possibly exceeded their efforts in the U15 Competition.



Junior Nines

Under 17

Michael Trevorah had the unenviable task of trying to mould a team out of inexperienced players and to his credit he stuck to the task to make the team competitive.

Under 15

Len LePage was a most dedicated coach putting in hours of work and effort with a large and talented group of boys. They earned their place in the Grand Final and against another talented Team in Moorabbin they were narrowly defeated in a game of an extremely high standard.

Under 13

The Team was generally undermanned with a preponderance of boys in the 8-10 years age bracket with a heavy load resting on Rob Stewart whose performances were again outstanding being rewarded with State selection.

Despite a young team the boys gave a good account of themselves and improved progressively won more games than expected often defeating older and better equipped sides on a number of occasions to finish the season in 5th position.

Thankyous

There are many people deserving of thanks for their efforts on behalf of the Club and these include:

Jim Upfill as Secretary, again carried out this burdensome position in an excellent manner and maintained close liaison between the players and team management,

Ralph Bailey as Treasurer was instrumental in placing the Club's finances in a proper and controlled accounting basis to the extent that the Club overhauled a deficiency from the previous season as well as meeting all of its current commitments and undertaking extensive equipment expenses during the season.

Brian Bertrand. Together with Ralph Bailey they conducted activities at the temporary clubrooms to the extent that the venue was a financial success.

Alan Burdett firstly for his assistance with the First Nine and also importantly in his capacity as fundraiser/function co-ordinator and it is to his credit that he was successful without the full support of the players who failed to attend the activities arranged.



Len and Gwen LePage for the use of their home for many functions as well as their property so the Club could erect a Batting Tunnel. Len also took responsibility for ground marking.

Elizabeth Landry as Club Scorer for Firsts and Statistician for senior teams.

Annette Le Page Scorer for Seconds and Zone Teams

Karen Russell Scorer for the Zone team

Leo Anderson and Ray Trevorah for general assistance for many and various activities.

Alan and Raelene Tanner for opening their home for Club social gatherings

Congratulations To:

Elizabeth Landry as Scorer for the Victorian State Claxton Shield Series.

Dean Sinfield: Victorian State U15 Team

Robert Stewart: Victorian State U13 team

John Ferguson:

- Victorian State Selector
- Assistant Coach for Victorian Claxton Shield /Japanese Honda Tour Games
- Selector Victorian U18 team
- Manager DBA U19 Team
- Member of Australian Coaching Panel US Tour MLB Spring Training Tour 1978.

Concluding Comments

The Club does not have a permanent home and our facilities remain among the worst in the league and although possibilities are being discussed with the Council our situation is unlikely to improve for several years.

The Club Coach and all the team coaches have worked tirelessly towards a rebuilding programme and have done an excellent job under difficult circumstances given our player numbers and the levels of skill and experience available. The Club is very fortunate to have coaches and leaders of this calibre. Success will come but it will require perseverance and sustained commitment by all members.

As Club President I thank all members for their confidence in me and express my sincere thanks for the strong support of the Committee, although few in number they gave tirelessly of their time and talents.

Rustlers

CHELTENHAM BASEBALL CLUB

SUMMER SEASON 1978/79 REPORT

COMPETITION

The Club has concluded a disappointing summer season on the field, in terms of success. Three senior teams and three junior teams were fielded, and only one team (Under 15) reached a final series.

The senior Division 1 team performed dismally to finish second-last (11th position) in its competition, the lowest standing for this team in the Club's history. It is now necessary for this team to be revitalised if it is to become a force in senior baseball in the future. The Division 1 Reserves and Zone teams finished in 6th. and 5th. positions respectively, and both performed creditably.

The Under 17 team was undermanned, and had a poor season. The Under 15 team was narrowly defeated in the Grand Final, and their combination of talented players and hard work produced excellent results. The Under 13 team was extremely young and inexperienced, and was not disgraced.

Overall, the junior section of the Club showed little, if any, progress from last year, and the time has come to plan and organise for a larger representation at this level.

A healthy sign was the appearance this year of a greater number of young players in the Reserves and Zone teams.

DIVISION 1 TEAM

<u>PLAYED</u>	<u>WON</u>	<u>LOST</u>	<u>DREW</u>
27	9	15	3

A poor performance by a team from which much was expected after a successful season last year. The acquisition of recruits Rob. Bell and Leigh Foster, and the return of Rick. Parker counterbalanced the loss of Ted Wale (to Upwey) and Alan Middleton (to Melbourne). The team performed reasonably well in defence, despite inconsistent pitching. Our performance in the batting box, however, was always anaemic, and often inept, and our average of 3.3 runs scored per game was the lowest in the competition. We were frequently behind in the game scores and were forced to play "catch-up" baseball on these occasions, thus limiting the Manager's tactical options, and leaving no margin for defensive error. The team's performance should not be a reflection on the coaching abilities of the Manager, John Ferguson. His preparation, training and organisation of the team was an outstanding example of correct modern baseball coaching technique.

Rustlers

DIVISION 1 RESERVES

<u>PLAYED</u>	<u>WON</u>	<u>LOST</u>	<u>DREW</u>
21	11	7	3

A most creditable performance to finish in 6th. position, one game out of the final four. Manager Alan Tanner was an able, astute and experienced coach, and his team was always consistent. The team comprised mainly younger players with some ability, and their hardworking and enthusiastic approach to both practice and games deserves commendation. A competent defence (only 74 runs against) and good team spirit kept them in finals contention all year.

DIVISION 1 ZONE

<u>PLAYED</u>	<u>WON</u>	<u>LOST</u>	<u>DREW</u>
21	12	8	1

This team finished in 5th. position, only one game out of the final four, a most encouraging result. Young players made up the bulk of this team, which should be the Club's nursery team in future. After ¹⁹⁸⁸ some under 15 players were introduced, and they performed creditably in senior ranks and this policy will benefit the Club by accelerating the development of our junior talent. Team Managers were Steve Bott (before Xmas), Graeme Ainscough (after Xmas) Alex Kahn (1 game) and Len Le Page (1 game).

UNDER 17

<u>PLAYED</u>	<u>WON</u>	<u>LOST</u>	<u>DREW</u>
15	3	10	2

Although the replacement of this team from the previous year has been foreseen, the Club was unable to recruit effectively in this age-group. The new players had insufficient ability to be a force at this level, and they battled hard for little success. Manager Mick Trevorah worked hard and did his best with the material available to him.

UNDER 15

<u>PLAYED</u>	<u>WON</u>	<u>LOST</u>	<u>DREW</u>
19	14	4	1

This team had a group of talented players, a conscientious attitude towards practice and a Manager (Len Le Page) who worked hard for success. After completion of an excellent first round, the team won an exciting semi-final, to enter the grand final against Moorabbin. We were defeated in a close hard-fought and entertaining game to finish as runner-up. The manager and players are congratulated on their outstanding effort.

UNDER 13

<u>PLAYED</u>	<u>WON</u>	<u>LOST</u>	<u>DREW</u>
18	8	9	1

A more than satisfactory season by a very young and inexperienced team. The average age of the boys was 10 years, and the majority of the players will have another 2 years in this age group.

Graeme Ainscough coached and supervised this team with very little assistance, a situation which must be rectified next year.

STATE REPRESENTATION

V.B.A. UNDER 15 TEAM 6- - DEAN SIMFIELD

V.B.A. UNDER 13 TEAM - ROB. STEWART
(2nd. successive year)

The Club congratulates both these young players on their achievement.

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER AWARD

DIVISION 1 TEAM ----- PAUL FERGUSON

FINANCIAL POSITION

The Club has overcome its deficit of the previous season and should show a small surplus when accounts are finalised for the present season. A batting cage, protective screens and other practice equipment were procured this year at a cost in excess of \$800. The Club was fortunate to obtain the services of Ralph Bailey as Treasurer, and his expertise and efficiency was a valuable contribution. The efforts of Brian Bertrand, who managed the Clubroom during and after games with the assistance of Ralph Bailey and Ray Trevorah, was greatly appreciated.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES.

The Social Committee was active throughout the season and contributed substantially to the Club finances. The Club is indebted to the hardworking committee members, Alan and Nola Burdett, Ian and Gwen Le Page and Raelene Tanner.

A discordant note was the large number of players who absented themselves from our social functions without good reason. Their attitude is totally unacceptable, and in future a levy should be imposed on players who refuse to support the Club off the field.

BATTING CAGE

The Club thanks Len and Gwen Le Page who permitted the erection of the cage on their private property.

PREGORITLES FOR SEASON 1979/80

1. Installation of a separate junior administration to rectify weak areas, raise an additional junior team, and supervise and organise under age teams.
2. Recruitment of talented players in the 16-18 years age group, to provide additional resources within the Club for development to Division 1 standard.
3. To maximise the use of our batting tunnel equipment. Compulsory batting practice in the tunnel should be instituted for all players to assist to overcome our present batting ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ deficiency.