



SUMMER
ANNUAL REPORT
1980/81



PRESIDENT LEN LE PAGE

Rustlers

Rustlers

CHELTENHAM BASEBALL CLUB

S U M M E R

A N N U A L R E P O R T

1980 - 1981

PRESIDENT - Len LePage.

SECRETARY - Trevor Martin

TREASURER - Ralph Bailey

VICE PRESIDENTS - John Ferguson and Alan Tanner

COMMITTEE - G. Ainscough

A. Burdett

P. Ferguson

I. Harris

R. Robertson

K. Williams

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Fellow Members,

I will start this report by thanking our coaching staff, both junior and senior, who gave their all in the positions they held. It would be remiss of me if I did not name them as there are members of this Club who do not know who filled these positions. First the juniors. Under 13's with John Ferguson and Graham Ainscough as coaches with Neil Le Page and Steve Babidge as assistants.

Under 15's Peter Burdett with help from Allan Burdett and John Ferguson.

Under 17's Michael Trevorah.

Division 3 South Ian Harris.

Division 2 Reserves Alan Tanner.

Division 2 and Club Coach John Ferguson.

Batting Coach and chairman of selectors Kevin Williams.

To all these members thank you for the time and the work that you gave so willingly. To the parents of the juniors who helped organise them and raise money for equipment, especially Mrs. M. Phillips (junior committee secretary), Mr. Mike Kennedy, Mr. Wawra, Mr. A. Stewart and the ladies who scored for these teams, the Committee thank you for all your efforts and sincerely appreciate your participation and involvement.

We had a fairly successful year with one U/13 team playing in the grand final, an U'17 premiership as well as runners up in the Coca-Cola Championship, Division 3 South premiers, Division 2 Reserves premiership, Division 2 runners up and the V.B.A. Division 2 Club Championship. Congratulations to the players in all the teams. I thank my committee for the work and time that they gave the Club during the year.

While not wishing to pick out individual members I must thank Allan Burdett for his money raising efforts in particular and his support at all times, also to Secretary Trevor (Rivet) Martin who has given this Club as much as anyone can give in time and effort. He is always there when needed and willing to do whatever is asked of him.

It has been a great pleasure to me to have him as Secretary and I thank him for his help.

What would we do without our Ladies Committee? They organise social functions, run the canteen, raise money and support the Club and we can't thank them enough for all their work and time given so willingly.

There are a great many others who help in many ways also and to them we record our thanks, particularly to the men who have helped umpire games in the juniors and seniors.

We are fast approaching another season and must ask ourselves whether we can do better than last year.

We must improve on our money raising efforts as costs have risen, V.B.A. expenses will be higher and our coaches must receive a better remuneration for their expenses.

We have in this Club some of the best coaches in Victoria and a lot of players just take it for granted that they will give their time and knowledge for nothing.

I've got news for the players who think like this. Our coaches each year receive offers from other Clubs far in excess of what they receive at Cheltenham, but they stay on to help you, but you do not always give them 100% effort. This must change or we will not get anywhere. At this stage I would envisage at least three training nights a week for senior teams and they would be compulsory, not one night as many put in last year.

You may be interested to know that only one player had 100% attendance at training last year. Next year we need everyone to train each training night or we are not going to make it.

Some players seem to think that it is not necessary to pay their fees as soon as possible as they will still get a game. You may be in for a shock.

The Committee has to meet its commitments so why don't you meet yours.

Fees will probably have to be increased, by how much we don't know at this time, but it could be substantial if we do not get better attendances at the social functions than we did last year. Many seem to forget that it is for your benefit that these functions are held and the more money raised the lower your fees will be. Think about it, and while doing this ask yourself how you can make Cheltenham Baseball Club better than it is.

LEN LE PAGE.

President.

I was very fortunate to have the support of a very experienced and dedicated panel of coaches in Alan Tanner, Ian Harris and Kevin Williams. These men did an outstanding job. No coach could ask for more support than I received from them and Len LePage's committee.

Home and Away Games

All three senior sides finished on the top of their respective ladders with exceptional percentages. The Club Championship was an appropriate reward to the players who have stuck with the club at a difficult time. Baseball history is littered with lesser clubs who have fallen apart under similar circumstances.

Young Players

From a coaching view point, attitude and improvement are the best rewards and the number of young players who were able to assume many roles this year augurs well for the future. These players gained visibly in confidence as the teams began to win regularly. This "winning feeling" was an important factor in our success as the pennant drives gained momentum.

Selection

Forty - four players were tried in the senior nines including seventeen in the firsts. The strong competition for places in the starting nines caused the "dead wood" to fade out of contention and drop by the wayside. This healthy competition is essential in a strong club and the selfish or faint hearted have no right to be there in the first place.

A special commendation to those players who often played in unfamiliar positions or in lower grades to allow balanced team selections or to permit promising younger players a chance to play at a high level. It is these players that constitute the backbone and spirit of the club.

It was also selection policy to qualify marginal players for as many teams as possible to cover injury and team balance problems. This worked successfully and will be followed again next year. The club is always greater than the individual.

Defence

In terms of the fewest runs scored against, the club lead in all grades indicating a general stiffening of our defences and

more effective batteries against the weaker opposition. There still remains a great deal of work to be done in this area and this will be the top priority next season.

Offence

A combination of more intensive hitting practice and the weaker opposition saw the club score nearly 800 runs and exceptional batting performances in all teams.

Disciplined situation hitting and more intelligent base running, however remain high on the list of priorities for next season.

Practice

Wednesday night attendances ranged between 24 - 31 players and were successful general practices.

Mondays were less successful with only 15 - 18 players appearing regularly.

The policy next season will be for two regular nights per week building to at least three leading up to the finals.

In conclusion

Our future is in our own hands, there is sufficient talent in the club around which a strong team can be built but it will require a great deal more effort and individual sacrifice than most players have been prepared to give in the past.

Complete mastery of the fundamentals should be every player's primary objective and this requires long hours of practice and the acceptance of constructive suggestions in conjunction with a realistic appraisal of one's own abilities.

With the prospect of a new ground and first class facilities just around the corner the club now has the opportunity to continue to improve its playing skills to a level where we are once again competitive with Division 1 clubs.

JOHN FERGUSON

Club Coach.

FIRST NINE REPORT 1980 - 81

MANAGER - J. Ferguson

ASSISTANT MANAGER - A. Tanner

SCORER - E. Landry

Played - 26

Won - 18

Drawn - 2

Lost - 6

The team finished the home and away games on top of the ladder and easily accounted for Bonbeach (9-0) and Port Melbourne (13-2) in the finals. Phil Bibby's pitching in those games over powered the opposition.

Moorabbin, on the other hand proved a different proposition altogether and the team suffered a 5-1 loss in the semi-final and a 27-13 humiliation in the grand final after leading 9-7 into the eighth innings. This grand final defeat should never be forgotten and should in itself be sufficient incentive to motivate all players to give a maximum effort next season. These games demonstrated the crucial team aspect of baseball. The physical discipline and mental toughness needed to execute fundamental plays were noticeably absent in many situations. Grand final wins only come to teams which play and train together until a co-ordinated reaction to any situation becomes automatic. Natural ability is not sufficient to overcome a determined and talented opposition under the pressures encountered in finals.

The statistics show that most players had successful years - some their best ever - but special mention must be made of the invaluable contribution the two new recruits, Ian Brown and David Corby made to the club.

Very special thanks also to our scorer and statistician, Elizabeth Landry for another top class job.

J. FERGUSON

Manager.

BATTING

* CLUB LEADER

	G	AB	R	H	2B	3B	HR	TB	BB	HBP	SAC	K	RSI	SB	CS	BA	SA
I. BROWN	26	79	17	19	2	-	-	21	9	-	4	18	9	6	1	.241	.266
K. WILLIAMS	17	65	13	26	6	-	-	29	6	2	1	7	13	10	-	.400	.446
J. FERGUSON	25	79	22	23	5	-	-	28	10	*	3	4	15	2	1	.291	.354
M. TREVORAH	26	82	24	32	4	3	1	43	30	-	5	6	28	3	1	.390	.514
T. NOBBEN	19	68	24	25	3	*	-	35	18	-	-	6	10	2	-	.367	.515
P. FERGUSON	26	97	35	33	7	2	1	47	15	4	1	5	18	20	3	.360	.446
D. CONBY	23	86	16	25	5	3	1	39	6	1	2	7	19	4	1	.291	.453
S. FOSTER	25	101	29	33	7	3	2	51	5	2	4	13	16	8	1	.327	.508
P. BURDETT	17	61	13	17	3	1	-	21	5	3	2	6	12	6	-	.277	.344
L. HALL	22	74	26	26	3	3	1	38	9	1	2	1	17	18	2	.351	.514
P. BIBBY	22	7	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	2	2	1	-	.143	.143
S. BOTT	11	36	4	12	3	-	-	15	1	-	2	4	9	-	-	.333	.477
G. SIDDEL	3	6	2	3	2	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	.500	.833
A. THANNER	4	3	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	.333	.333
L. BAILEY	3	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	.100	.100
K. RUSSEL	7	22	4	2	1	-	-	3	2	-	1	8	1	1	-	.091	.136
M. BUCKTHORPE	7	20	4	3	-	-	-	3	-	1	-	5	1	2	-	.150	.150
CLUB		887	234	282	51	19	6	381	117	25	29	92	172	84	11	.318	.430

DIVISION 2 RESERVES

MANAGER - A. Tanner

SCORER - A. LePage

Played - 24

Won - 22

Lost - 2.

Premiers - due to the enthusiasm, ability and the willingness to learn caused 22 wins (the last 17 on end) and 2 losses.

Basically a very young side which moulded together to form a tight defence helped a lot by the designated pitching of Lawrie Hall and Ian Brown etc.

Later in the season, Kevin Russell came into his own and did the bulk of the pitching which included two excellent performances in the final series.

Each player contributed with the bat and thanks to Kevin Williams' hitting instructions, improved greatly as the season came to a climax.

It gave me tremendous satisfaction to be a part of such an excellent young side and due to the atmosphere created by the players, the job I had became very easy to do.

I hope that the young men who played in this team can now go on and force their way into the seniors in the very near future.

A. TANNER

Manager.

DIVISION 3 SOUTH

MANAGER - I. Harris

SCORER - K. Russell

Played - 24

Won - 22

Lost - 2

The third nine started the season with a goal of making the finals for the first time in any of the current players memory.

To not only have achieved that, but to have won the premiership is a credit to the players who formed the side during the year.

As they always play on opposite grounds to the first nine, the thirds have generally received little credit for their performances but, 1980 - 81 proved that given support from the selection table the sides level of dedication and desire to succeed was equal, if not stronger, than the senior teams.

Firstly the same training rules applied ie. no practice - no play, and the enforcement of this helped develop the right mental attitude to the game.

Secondly players also realized competition for places in the side encourages better performances.

At the end of the home and away games, Chelt had achieved their initial aim with 22 wins from 24 games, the last 12 in succession. The two defeats of the first round were avenged later in the year, and Chelt finished $4\frac{1}{2}$ games ahead of its nearest rival.

Three fighting wins with undermanned sides prior to the finals had instilled the belief in all players that a Chelt side had the ability and determination to end the season with the flag.

Obviously the new goal could only be a premiership. The finals could only be described as classics.

The semi-final found Chelt trailing 4-0 in the seventh against a confident Upwey. Chelt rallied and won 8-4.

It was again Upwey who suffered in the Grand Final but this time Chelt's comeback was nothing less than sensational. Cheltenham after trailing 1-10 were rewarded for all the hours of dedication at practice when they refused to accept defeat and over ran Upwey to win 21-11.

Perhaps the highest praise of Chelt came from the Upwey coach and players who in a fine sporting gesture praised the Chelt players

discipline and competitive spirit.

Apart from winning the flag, 1981 proved to 12 baseballers just what can be achieved through good hard effort and its discipline which can be followed on and off the baseball field.

It would be unfair to individualize outstanding performances as the flag was a complete team effort. The following is a list of best players in the Grand Final (not in order).

Steve Revere, Steve Babidge, Andrew Wills, Greg Talbett, Stewie Howe, Mark Woods, Rod Dowell, Ron Boles, Mick (home run king) Ducksbury, Steve Williams, Al (enzo) Bakera and The Penetrene Kid.

I. HARRIS

Manager.

The club increased the number of junior teams to four with an extra Under 13 side comprising boys from the Highett State School. Over 25 new players were introduced to the game and while this restricted the development of the more experienced players the increased numbers were essential and there is no doubt that the club is moving in the right direction.

An attempt was made to establish a four team Tuesday night competition prior to Christmas but the limitation of space and the general inexperience of the boys themselves saw the competition suspended and the efforts directed to more fundamental coaching. There is now a strong nucleus of talented and experienced players who now require preferential treatment in the form of advanced coaching and it will be necessary to expand the junior coaching panel to accelerate their improvement.

Overall the juniors performed exceptionally well and for the first time in many years the club has at least 10 players with the ability to go onto Division 1 and possibly State Baseball.

The premiership to the Under 17's led by Mick Trevorah was particularly satisfying because they defeated the strong Waverley side which has dominated that age group for the past five years and even though they lost to Waverley in the Coca-Cola Championship in post-season play, they proved they were marginally superior by defeating them three out of five over the whole season.

The Under 13 Rustlers also played Waverley in the Grand Final but lost to a very strong side in spite of a 4 hitter thrown by Anthony Kennedy.

Thanks to all the parents who provided assistance and especially Maureen Phillips, Gerry Wawra and of course Graeme Ainscough who had the very difficult job of managing the inexperienced and very young Steers.

Peter Burdett in his first year as manager of Under 15's did a fine job and his team was a credit to the club, although it found the opposition pretty tough (and big) at times.

Thanks to Steve Bott, Greg Talbett, Kel Roberts, Charlie Siddel and the other umpires and to Kevin Williams for the diamond marking.

With the move to the new ground now imminent, the club now needs to gear up to further expansion to a scale comparable to other major clubs.

JOHN FERGUSON.

UNDER 17 REPORT 1980 - 81

MANAGER - M. Trevorah

ASSISTANT MANAGER - L. LePage

SCORER - A. LePage

This team under coach M. Trevorah proved to be the best in section 3, winning 15 games out of 17 including the finals and being premiers.

Probably because they won most games by a big margin, some of them became lazy and did not attend as many practices as they could have. More than half these players have played together in Under 13's and Under 15's and now have finished their junior years in the Under 17's.

Next season the Under 17's will not have as much experience as most are coming up from Under 15 and it is a big step up and takes a season to adjust, but they will improve as the season progresses. More players are required in this section of the club to keep up a steady stream of senior players coming on.

Congratulations on a great premiership.

LEN LE PAGE

Assistant Manager.

UNDER 15 REPORT 1980 - 81

MANAGER - P. Burdett

UJPIRE - G. Talhett

SCORER - W. Siddel

Most of the players were playing in the age group for the first time and found the increased size of the diamond a little beyond them at first. By the end of the season however the team was playing well and improving steadily. Lance Styles lead the hitting with a robust .500 average. Robert Stewart also played a leading role batting .394 and playing in all key positions, thoroughly deserving his Best Player Award.

Geoff Siddel won the Most Improved Award narrowly over a number of other players.

This team will be the one to watch next season.

PETER BURDETT

Manager

UNDER 13 REPORT

RUSTLERS - MANAGER - J. Ferguson ASSISTANT MANAGER - N. Le Page
GENERAL MANAGER - M. Kennedy
SCORERS - J. Roberts and G. Le Page
STEERS - MANAGER - G. Ainscough ASSISTANT MANAGER - S. Babidge
GENERAL MANAGER - G. Wawra
SCORER - P. Wawra

Faced with an exceptionally strong Waverley side which included five state representatives the Club decided to field the Rustlers as the strongest possible side.

Consequently the Steers were left with very few experienced players. The Rustlers annihilated the opposition with the exception of Waverley while the Steers battled hard to win their few games. The boys played well and enjoyed their sport but the unevenness of the competition warrants a great deal of further consideration. Congratulations to Anthony Kennedy on his selection in the state side.

Over 30 boys played for either the Steers or the Rustlers and in some cases, both, under the rules of the competition.

RUSTLERS

D. Connor	A. Guayatt	J. Harding
C. Sinfield (Captain)	M. Roberts	A. Kennedy
P. Thornhill	A. Stewart	M. Campagna
D. Wawra	L. Harris	N. Colyvas
D. Reid	P. Campagna	S. Broughton
G. Roberts		

STEERS

R. Ainscough	K. Whitefield	M. Lyons
M. Phillips	R. Mance	S. Read
G. Le Boueff	B. Gray	A. Wawra
D. Johnstone	K. Gledhill	D. Le Boueff
D. Whitfield	M. Johns	

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The contents of this report are evidence of a very successful year. Although the club played in Division 2 for the first time in its history perhaps we deserved to be there on the previous year's performances. The concept of the opposition being "weaker" I don't consider to be entirely true. The renewed endeavour on the field brought success of the magnitude enjoyed this season. Throughout the year it was commented to me by players that they had never before experienced the atmosphere our club had in the summer, I can only echo that sentiment.

I'm sure all the players will agree that if extra dedication means winning, it is well worth it. Our Junior and Senior representatives have had a taste of success and must now build their club life on that.

The club committee have, during the long nights of discussion, attempted to produce a progressive direction of guidance. This is essential. We must do the ground work now on and off the field for the future competitiveness of Cheltenham.

I must thank all the committee members for the assistance they gave me, in particular, in my first year as secretary, and Mr. Jim Upfill for his guidance during my "apprenticeship".

All the people mentioned in the previous pages deserve all the plaudits given them. Duties such as Junior Management, Diamond Marking and Canteen and Social Organisation etc. were all performed admirably, however the same names seem to appear each year.

With the clubs "winning look of the 80's" it would be refreshing to see the enthusiasm of the younger members channelled into sub-administration positions.

The prospect of the new diamond after years of being the bridesmaid is exciting for Cheltenham and should be regarded as a reward to the past and present members of the club who have worked hard to see it to fruition. Don't take it for granted. The pessimism has now gone, lets get rid of the apathy.

In Conclusion

I congratulate every member who staunchly supported the club when only 12 months ago we had our backs to the wall. The effort this year was worth it.

REMEMBER A MAN'S CAPABILITIES ARE CONTROLLED BY HIS DESIRE.

TREVOR MARTIN

Secretary

**CHELTENHAM BASEBALL CLUB
DIVISION 2 FIRSTS 1980-81 - RUNNERS UP**



**Standing L-R: Ian brown, Stuart Foster, Kevin Williams, Phil Bibby, Alan Tanner, Laurie Hall, Trevor Hogben, Steve Bott.
Kneeling L-R: Ian Harris, Paul Ferguson, Michael Trevorah, John Ferguson (Coach), Peter Burdett, Charlie Siddle, David Corby**

CHELTENHAM BASEBALL CLUB
DIVISION 2 SECONDS 1980-81- PREMIERS



DIVISION 2 - SECONDS - PREMIERS 1980/81

G. TALBETT, S. WILLIAMS, K. RUSSEL, S. BOTT, I. HUNTER, A. TANNER (COACH)
G. SIDDEL, D. SINFIELD, W. BAILEY, R. STEWART, L. BAILEY, N. LEPAGE, L. HALL

**CHELTENHAM BASEBALL CLUB
DIVISION 2 THIRDS 1980-81-PREMIERS**



VBA-DIV2 - THIRDS - PREMIERS 1980/81

M. WOODS, A. BAKER, R. BOLES, G. TALBETT, A. WILLS, S. WILLIAMS
M. DUCKSBURY, S. REVERE, I. HARRIS (MANAGER), R. DOWELL, S. HOWE, L. BAILEY

**CHELTENHAM BASEBALL CLUB
VBA UNDER 17'S 1980-81 PREMIERS**



VBA UNDER 17'S - PREMIERS 1980/81

A. LEPAGE (SCORER) W. BROOKS, A. WILLS, M. GUY, M. DIAMOND, D. SINFIELD, L. LEPAGE (MANAGER)
W. KENNEDY, P. KENNEDY, R. STEWART, M. TREVORAH (COACH), A. SIDDEL, N. LEPAGE

CLUB CHAMPIONS - VBA DIVISION 2 1980/81 - 1981/82



A. BAKER S. REVERE M. DUCKSBURY I. BROWN S. FOSTER G. TALBET A. WILLS G. SIDDEL K. WILLIAMS P. BIBBY
S. WILLIAMS M. TREVORAH M. WOODS D. CORBY D. SINFIELD N. LEPAGE T. HOGBEN I. HUNTER A. TANNER
J. FERGUSON (CLUB COACH) W. BAILEY R. DOWELL K. RUSSELL L. LEPAGE (PRESIDENT) L. HALL S. BOTT R. BOLES
S. HOWE A. SIDDEL P. FERGUSON R. STEWART P. BURDETT I. HARRIS W. KENNEDY L. BAILEY