



**SUMMER SEASON  
SENIOR PRESENTATION DINNER  
1993-94**



**PRESIDENT CHRIS REECE**

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**21<sup>st</sup> ANNIVERSARY DINNER**

***Rustlers***

## President's Report:-

What a season which has past, no doubt this club's most successful yet. Last year marked the return of Cheltenham to Division 1 ranks, an achievement many thought could not be bettered. But to the surprise of many, Cheltenham reached another significant goal making the grade and remaining in Division 1 for another 12 months. To come from Division 2, and compete successfully with experienced Division 1 clubs in our first year is an outstanding achievement. This also provides us with the opportunity to gain valuable experience, to play and compete at the best possible level in the Victorian Baseball League. Experience and knowledge we can use in securing the Club's position as a permanent Division 1 club.

The key to our success has noticeably been the improvement in our senior ranks. With a tally of 75 players, Cheltenham was able to register 5 senior teams, indicating the depth and strength of the club. With less emphasis on player recruitment this season, the club endeavoured to promote and develop existing player stock. The result was favourable, Cheltenham's performance early in the season was simply incredible. Players accepted the challenge and played beyond their capabilities. We notched up wins against formidable opponents, it was this early success that secured our most successful season on record. Post cut, the club struggled, the confidence and arrogance which nurtured our success alluded and moral fell. However, what many players began to realize was that it was a learning experience. We gained valuable experience and knowledge in the process, experience and knowledge we can use next season to improve.

Our junior ranks have once again demonstrated their strength in the VBA. Their success is now being felt at a senior level, including the first nine. The club has a strong pyramid base with over 250 juniors, this year fielding a total of 22 sides, including 8 Tee Ball sides. The strength of our juniors was best measured at All Star levels. Our Tee Ballers regained the T Ball championship this year, and have won the title 4 of the 5 times. The U12's after winning the Lightning Premiership early in the season, finished a disappointing 6th. The U14's won the Lightning Premiership early in the season, and now play off in the grand final this Sunday. Where the Club has failed, is converting these juniors to U16 and U18 levels. We have not enjoyed similar success at these levels. Next season the club will endeavour to address this problem with specialised coaching and direction. It requires our immediate attention and action, for the next step for these players, is senior baseball.

From a financial view the club has struggled to meet this years expenses. In an effort to make this club competitive, and provide you with the best facilities and equipment, our expenses have increased, at the same time revenue raised through Bingo and social events has decreased. To balance the deficit the club has relied on hosting carnivals. The result has been favourable, however, it is the same old story :Too Few People Doing All The Work. In an effort to stabilise the club's financial situation Cheltenham has invested in a Bingo centre. This investment will provide strong financial reward for the club in the long run. The end result will mean the club will be able to function comfortably, subsidising juniors and seniors expenses, whilst providing the best facilities and opportunities in the VBA.

Already plans are underway to secure the success of this club over a long term. A fore plan has been devised which will secure the success and status of this club. The committee's direction or goals have changed over the last 12 months. Immediate short term success will suffer with the implementation of long term strategies. With an emphasis on Youth and Junior development, it is the club's intention to cement this club's position as a strong and permanent Division 1 Club.

The club has strategies and policies already in place to ensure a successful season. However what is required is new, fresh and energetic faces to see these plans through. I urge

people to come forth and volunteer their services and time for the club's benefit and experience the reward and satisfaction one feels in being involved in a great club.

Regards.....Chris Reece.



### **First Nine Report:-**

For the first time in quite a few years the Cheltenham Baseball Club was to participate at the Division One level. We knew that there would be no easy games. With previous years the club could start slowly and work it's way through the easier teams building confidence for the second half of the season.

This year, there was no time for that. We had to hit the ground running. We had to be playing our best ball while other teams were getting into the swing of things. The loss of three of our first nine players did nothing to help our pre-season aspirations.

Our expectations were mixed. Everyone I talked to in baseball circles had us earmarked as a definite for relegation. Looking through the draw I thought we could possibly get four and a half wins out of the eleven games if we played well, that would put us about nine or ten. Realistically, we were looking at second division for the second half of the year.

The first few games of the season were crucial. With the system that currently operates for relegation and promotion, losing a couple of early games puts the club behind the eight ball and under increasing pressure. To the credit of the players, we played our best baseball of the season early on. Terrific form from Greg Brown led the way as he showed us that his role of starter and finisher wasn't a problem. The young brigade also came to the fore, Anthony Smith and Ben Wenke showed that they are going to be major contributors in the years ahead. Darren Smith put in an awesome year with the bat. What was incredible about Darren's year with the bat was not just how many many hits he had for the year but how he got them so often with men on base.

Congratulations were aplenty at making the cut to remain a Division One club for the whole season. It also has ensured that the club remains in Division One for the start of the next season.

The club has an abundance of young players who will make the grade. With them growing stronger each year and pushing through the seconds the future should see the club become entrenched as a Division One club.

Regards.....Mark Guy.

### **Second Nine Report:-**

After an impressive start to the season the first nine reserve team fell away as the season continued. As we blooded players from under 16 and under 18, leadership was required both on the field through performance, and off the field through hard practice set by example, from the more experienced players.

I'm sure these experienced players would agree both these areas were not up to the levels they expected of themselves, as in most games we had many chances to win if those chances had been taken. The lesson was hard learnt and must be the spur for next season.

I would like to thank Tony Dinnie for his assistance on the Sunday running of the team and Joy Lewis for her efficient and capable scoring.

Regards.....Kevin Williams.

### **Third Nine Report:-**

Played 18 Won 6 Drew 1

The policy of the club was to use the Thirds as a development team for players with the potential to move on to higher sides within one or two seasons. Consequently the team was relatively young and it sometimes struggled against the stronger and more experienced players of the other Division 1 clubs.

Of the 20 players used in the thirds, 16 also appeared in the seconds. This led to some disruption to the team balance but overall the players performed very well and showed major improvement over the course of the season to the point where they finished with 4 consecutive wins and comfortably defeated the Waverley and Malvern teams which occupied the top of the competition ladder.

Mika Tossavained and Dean Connor provided most of the effective pitching and Matthew Goldsmith caught intelligently and consistently behind the plate. The middle infield was anchored by Matthew Gourlay and Jon Ballintyne while Craig Ballintyne, Matthew Roberts and David Wilson provided good defence and offence in the outfield. Joe Weller and Scott Emmett played the infield corners as well as the outfield and both were major contributors at the plate. Joe's baserunning was top class.

The hitting was led by Mika and Craig ( 16 and 14 hits respectively). Both provided plenty of extra base power and each collected a home run. Joe Weller with 12 hits and David Wilson with 11 hits were the other players to record double figures in the offensive department.

After a shaky couple of outings Dean Connor found some form and took control of the mound finishing with 4-2 record. Behind Dean the team immediately started to and played winning baseball and finished the season as clearly the best side in the competition. The Club now has a number of very talented players and a solid foundation has been laid for the future.

Thanks to Nina Goldsmith and Michael Gourlay for scoring and for Ron Goldsmith for his general advice and assistance over the season.

Regards.....John Ferguson.

### **Forth Nine Report:-**

After last seasons success in Premiership Honors to our side, the team underwent dramatic changes in personnel. A couple of members sought out retirement and an unfortunate run of injuries together with work commitments saw the team not always playing at it's full potential.

The club was able to secure a couple of players from The Scotts Organisation in Bendigo, in Anthony Amsing and Daniel Nadart and together with Dean Toy made the trek down from the gold mining town each week. Excellent dedication fella's.

While our team started off in first division in a blaze of glory we sadly dropped games through the season that were certainly within reach. However wins against Geelong at their ground,



Preston at home before the Christmas break and the last round to defeat Malvern at the Kooyong ground to sneak into the four were highlights of an indifferent season.

We eventually went down to Preston in the first Semi final but, such was the transition of the side that under age group players filled four positions in the starting nine who all acquitted themselves with distinction throughout the year.

It's pleasing to see that with normal progression the juniors, together with the experience of Peter Burnett, Bruce Fitzgerald, James Stewart & Co., that the Rustlers will stay competitive in the oncoming years.

Thanks to all of those who combined to put the team on the ground through the year.

Yours in Baseball.....Michael Trevorah.  
Bruce Fitzgerald.

#### **Fifth Nine Report:-**

After a shaky start due to the lack of numbers, a 27 - 0 loss to Chelsea in round one looked like setting the scene. But the recruiting of some average players (Colin Upfill, Brad Lark, David Atkinson and Allen Middleton later in the season), we started to win. Wins against Waverley (14-7) St Kilda B (19-3) and Chelsea (8-2) showed we had improve.

Sitting first or second at the cut, we fell in a hole dropping to fourth after Christmas. Wins against Mulgrave(4-3) St Kilda A (5-3) Croydon (22-7) and a loss to Upwey/Ft. Gully B (11-6) at the last game, meant we finished 4th.

Up to Upwey, we played of sheer guts, some good hits from Dave (2 home runs & a red card), Lex, Graham and Allen. Strong pitching from Col and Allen gave us a win (14-11) the game and the verbal fight. Springvale B was our next outing, hitting by Tony Furzer, Col and David and again strong pitching by Col gave us the game (8-2). The Grand Final at Springvale didn't start well, with Allen injured in warm up. Good hits from Tony Furzer, double and triple from Graham, was not good enough to take the game. Three tough games in a row four well resulted in a 9-2 loss. Thanks to the team also including Burce Hankinson, Andrew Shead Tony Bailey(Rookie) Allen Jowett who all worked hard during the season. Thanks also to Linda Harrigan our scorer and to the supporters who came to Springvale, it showed what great pride you have in CHELTENHAM BASEBALL CLUB.

Regards.....The Fifths.

## **MENU**

### **SOUP**

Cream of Pumpkin  
Traditional Minestrone

### **MAIN COURSE**

Chicken Wellington with Chasseur Sauce  
Sirloin Steak with Green Peppercorn Sauce  
All served with Garden Vegetables and Potatoes

### **DESSERT**

Apple Strudel with Chantilly Cream  
Chocolate Mousse with Grandmarnier Sauce

# AGENDA

6:45 P.M.	Pre Dinner Drinks	
7:15 P.M.	Presidents Welcome	Chris Reece
	Mayoral Responce	
7:30 P.M.	.Soup	
7:45 P.M.	Vote Count (1st 6 Rounds)	
8:00 P.M.	Main Course	
8:30 P.M.	Batting Awards	
	*Division 5	L. Marshall
	*Division 1 Fourths	M. Trevorah
	*Division 1 Thirds	J. Ferguson
	*Division 1 Seconds	K. Williams
	*Division 1 Firsts	M. Guy
	Vote Count (2nd 6 Rounds)	
	Scorers & Special Presentations	C Reece
	Best Club Person	C Reece
	Golden Glove Award	J. Ferguson
	VBA Presidents Address	
	Dessert	
	Final Votes & Presentations	
	*Division 5	L. Marshall
	*Division 1 Fourths	M. Trevorah
	*Division 1 Thirds	J. Ferguson
	*Division 1 Seconds	K. Williams
	*Club Champion	M. Guy