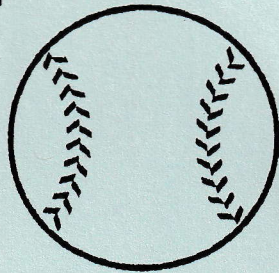


Cheltenham Baseball Club Inc
1998/99 Summer Season



Junior
Presentation Night
Reports

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Unforeseen circumstances have made this a slightly disappointing year.

In the domestic competition the VBA decided the U12 sides would play at 3 different venues and our U14 sides were often competing against teams short of players or who forfeit games.

With low numbers in the U16 and U18 teams, losing a few players through injuries, meant these sides struggled for numbers most of the season.

The Committee intends to reduce, if not prevent, the occurrence of these types of problems next summer season.

First, an active Junior Sub-Committee will ensure the junior section is run efficiently. For example, by operating our own U12 Centre next year all games will again be played at Cheltenham. This will also allow the Club to provide a program of training and competition that is best suited to our own players.

Secondly, in order to provide the juniors with the best facilities and coaching available, resources must be committed to recruitment, marketing and attracting sponsorship.

For the Junior Sub-Committee to operate effectively the Club needs the parents of junior players to contribute their ideas, time and skills. We encourage any parent who is interested in improving things for the juniors to contact either a committee member or a coach.

To all the coaches, team managers, umpires, scorers and parents, thank you for the time and effort you contributed to the junior section during the 1998/99 Summer Season.

Mick Manning
(Acting President)

JUNIOR CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

The position of Junior Co-ordinator became vacant and I took up the position after the Christmas break. As the season was already half way through, most of the hard work was done and the teams and coaches were well and truly settled.

We were fortunate to have Connie Upfill running our T-ball Centre again this year, and as usual Connie ran things smoothly and efficiently. Two T-ball All-Star teams were entered in the Victorian Championships, which was hosted at our club this year. The team coached by Michael Trevorah won the championship after a great battle in the final against Sandringham. Our other team, coached by Trevor Hogben, was also successful finishing 3rd.

The Friday night Under 12 Domestic competition was run by Robyn McLeod. Things have run quite smoothly with most games at Cheltenham, Bonbeach and Chelsea. Unfortunately we had several washouts and one week post-poned due to excessive heat.

Overall our under 12's did very well. We finished with 2 teams, the Cowboys and the Indians, in the finals with the Cowboys going into the Grand Final. Congratulations to Mick Manning and his Indians and John Ferguson's Cowboys. Unfortunately the Cowboys were unable to maintain their winning form and were runners-up to a very strong Moorabbin team.

We were fortunate enough to be able to field two Under 12 representative teams this 1998/99 season.

Mick Manning headed the Development Team and a very young and talented team they were. Although they only managed a couple of wins and a draw, they progressed steadily throughout the season with each child learning to play different positions.

The Under 12 All-Star team have also performed well this season finishing in third position. With a lot of skill and determination they were

able to overpower their opposition in the Preliminary finals and progress to the semi-finals. Good luck to Lance Blackley and his team.

The Under 14 Domestic Competition saw us fielding only two teams this year. Both teams were very strong and finished 1st. and 2nd. on the ladder. Both teams easily disposed of their opposition in the first round of finals and found themselves playing off against each other in a Grand Final. After a tight fought match Mark's Broncos were victorious over Kevin's Brumbies. Congratulations to the teams and their coaches, Kevin Russell and Mark Lesnik.

The Under 14 All-Stars have also had a great season and just managed to scrape into 2nd. position on percentage, which gave them a second chance to play off in the Grand-Final. They fought very hard to overcome their opposition but after a very controversial decision were unable to capitalize on their lead and went down in a very close match.

Our Under 16's had a mixed bag this year. Due to unforeseen problems they were unable to field a team of nine players every week which made it increasingly difficult to win. I would like to thank the boys and their coach, Colin Uphill, for hanging in there and giving it their best.

The Under 18 team also had a very disappointing season and struggled with numbers throughout the year. Thank-you to Ron Carothers and the boys who continually turned up and gave 100%.

In closing I would like to express my great appreciation to the following people:

To the Coaches of all of the Domestic Teams.

To the Scorers.

To the Umpires.

To the Canteen Staff and Volunteers.

To the line markers.

To the Centre Markers.

And especially to Jill Ward-Bourton for all that she does.

Jodie Williams

FRIDAY NIGHT (DOMESTIC) COMPETITION

UNDER 12 BRONCOS

This is easy an absolute pleasure to coach and be associated with this group of boys. The team motto of "having a good time by encouraging and supporting each other at all times and to help the team by helping and supporting each other" was certainly true of these lads.

I am quite sure that the majority of these boys enjoyed a season full of learning and excitement. Learning baseball skills, assertiveness at bat and fielding techniques, are just the start of it. Being considerate and committed members of the team was their common forte.

To those who received an award, I congratulate you on your personal efforts, and at the same time remind everyone that it is team work that enables these awards to be received by individual team members.

One good gauge of development is to measure the improvement in the individuals and the team between the start and finish of the season. In this area the boys have done a magnificent job and have certainly improved immensely over the season. They have also improved their co-operative and human skills immensely.

I am very proud of the boys and wish them all the very best in future sport. (Hopefully with Cheltenham.) Thanks guys, it has been a pleasure to meet and know you.

Alan Gribbin
Coach.

TEAM LIST

Owen Alcorn
Colin Churchill
Andrew Gribbin
Benjamin Hallowell
Mathew McGrath

Robert Brearley
Harrison Gibbs
Daniel Gribbin
Cameron Lonsdale
James Parish

ASST. COACH

Rick McGrath

SCORERS

Mark Hallowell, Grant Lonsdale &
Brian Churchill

UNDER 12 BRUMBIES

The season did not begin so smoothly for me, so the help from Michael Lapa and Robert O'Neill kept the team in order.

Our players were very enthusiastic and enjoyed training and playing on Friday evenings. I gave every player a try at every position they wished to play; sometimes relishing it at other times overwhelmed by it. Luckily winning wasn't high on our priority list, as we only won one game.

Overall we did have a good season with the players really enjoying themselves.

Regards
Peter Ravesi

ASST. COACH

Michael Lapa

SCORER

Machella Lapa

TEAM LIST

James Bambery
Nicholas Beck
Scott Emmi
Chris Lapa
Dale Ravesi

Cameron Beck
Justin D'Rozario
James Hamilton
Chris Rankin
Jacob Sibenaler

UNDER 12 COWBOYS

The Cowboys won 8 of their 10 games, losing only to Moorabbin and Bonbeach during their regular season and finished in second place, primarily due to pitching depth. The pitching staff was headed by Russell Ferguson who consistently threw strikes in the crisis situations, striking out 17 batters out of 56 batters faced and giving up only 13 runs. Joel Gregory was the workhorse of the staff, facing 79 batters for 16 strike outs while holding the opposition to 22 runs. Sean Ulbrick (26 batters for 4 runs scored) and Shehan Khan (28 for 8) also made very useful contributions coming out of the bullpen.

The offense was lead by catcher Dane Kasperczyk who batted .625 (10 hits and 17 runs scored) and Shehan Khan who batted .533 (8 hits, 12 runs scored). Tim O'Neill had an outstanding year for a player who is still eligible to play Tee Ball. Tim hit .375 (9 hits 11 runs scored) and provided speed around the basepaths. Second baseman Cameron Dennis .416 (4 hits, 7 walks) and Russell Ferguson .368 (7 hits 10 runs scored) were also major contributors.

First year player David Brydon .363 (4 hits), Daniel Wells and Scott Gregory also registered their first hits in organised baseball and rounded out the roster with solid performances.

The highlight of the season was the Cowboys' fight back from a 0 - 4 deficit late in the semi against Bonbeach to win 11 - 8, behind an outstanding relief pitching performance by Sean Ulbrick, and reach the Grand Final against Moorabbin.

John Ferguson
Coach.

ASST. COACH

Geoff O'Neill

SCORER

Denise Kasperczyk

TEAM LIST

David Brydon
Russell Ferguson
Scott Gregory
Shehan Khan
Sean Ulbrick

Cameron Dennis
Joel Gregory
Dane Kasperczyk
Timothy O'Neill
Daniel Wells

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UNDER 12 INDIANS

This year we had a fine blend of players, all playing with varying degrees of ruthlessness, and set out to have a bit of fun playing Friday night baseball.

We managed to win a few and lose a few.

When Heath Davidson joined us early in the season we all learned that you get out of life what you put into it. You can sit back and do nothing or you can get out and have a go.

We made the finals playing against Moorabbin in a very good match before loosing a great game played in very good spirit.

To the players, thanks for a great year. To our supporters, I hope you enjoyed the season as much as I did.

Mick Manning
Coach.

TEAM LIST

Stephanie Burgess	Brett Connell
Heath Davidson	Kane Davidson
Bradley Heenan	Sharna Mahoney
Owen Manning	Lauren Olsen
Ben Toull	Blake Willoughby

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UNDER 12 STEERS

We started the season well with a side that was strong on batting and pitching, but Kyle McClean decided to break his arm - not once but twice. So we were down one pitcher/batter and then our Coach lost his transport to the games.

Kyle came back after Christmas, Tony Jackson and John McCormick took over the coaching, the bats started to fire, the pitching started to hit the zone and we started to look good. THEN they decided to finish the season on us.

Still, we had a very supportive group watching us each week and had a bit of fun. Roll on next year.

Coaches
Phil Manning / Tony Jackson / John McCormack

TEAM LIST

Andrew Adams	Lachlan Beresford
Jesse Jackson	Masafumi Kinukawa
Thomas McCormick	Kyle McClean
Matt Spencer	Daniel Sproul
Dylan Stevens	Bradley Walker

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UNDER 12 STIRRUPS

The stirrups combined a good mix of experienced players and first year players. With good solid performances from Paul Morrison, Andrew Helgensen and Daniel McLean, helping the younger players settle in and enjoy the challenge of moving from Tee Ball to Baseball.

After an inconsistent start to the season the players showed a lot of improvement towards the end, winning their last two games, and were unlucky to miss the finals by percentage only.

I would like to thank my scorers, Vicki Middleton and Mandy McLean for all their help through the year and also the parents who helped on match nights and at practice.

Lawrie Hall
Coach

SCORERS

Vicki Middleton & Mandy McLean

TEAM LIST

Jarrold Hall	Andrew Helgensen
Marek Jarmusz	Kirsten McLean
Daniel McLean	Shane Middleton
Paul Morrison	Aaron O'Mara
Luke Warke	

UNDER 14 BRONCOS

This was a great year for the U14 Broncos. We had a very strong start to the year by tying our first game and then winning our next two. We began the year playing good defense and having excellent pitching. We were scoring enough runs to win, but were not putting up the number of runs that we were capable of.

As the year progressed we started to find a groove that we were comfortable in. Every aspect of the game started to come together and it was an absolute pleasure to watch these kids play. The kids seemed to start enjoying practices and games more than ever. By this time I was able to get to know all the kids on a personal level and I just enjoyed being around them. This team was full of characters which made it easy to come to practices and games.

The end of the year was topped off by winning the U14 Domestic Grand Final. I know to some this may not seem like a big deal, but the kids will remember it for the rest of their lives. My friends and I still talk about old school memories and I can not believe how much I remember.

When I first took the job as Coach I did not really know what to expect. Being from the US I did not know what type of talent I would be dealing with. So I decided that I would set three goals. First, we to teach them the correct way to play baseball. Second, I wanted to have fun and for the kids to have fun. Last, I wanted to win the Grand Final. I hope that I have achieved all of these goals over the season.

I would like to thank all of the parents who made my job easier and for supporting their children in baseball. I would also like to thank Laura Myles for doing the score-book.

It is hard to give end of season awards when you have so many talented kids in the team. I know I was blessed with a lot of outstanding players. I saw something special in all of the kids that will allow them to play baseball for a long time. I hope that they will all continue playing and if they do I would like love to see the Cheltenham Firsts in five or so years time. Others may also be able to make it to the US.

I would like everyone to remember that people mature at different times and just because you are not a star now does not mean that you won't be in the future. Remember Michael Jordan was cut from his high school basketball team but through hard work became one of the greatest NBA players of all time. For those of you who have already begun to mature as players, continue to work hard so that you do not waste the gift you have been given.

Mark Lesnik
Coach

SCORER

Laura Myles

TEAM LIST

Darren Barber
Aaron Ferruccio
Damien Laszlo
Patrick O'Neill
Peter Rees
Daniel Williams

Adam Blackley
Richard Lander
John Morrison
David Olsen
Amberlee Williams

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UNDER 14 BRUMBIES

The Brumbies enjoyed a successful season, eventually being runners-up in the Grand Final to the Cheltenham Broncos, losing the game 6-2.

Our season saw steady progress with some boys moving up from under 12 and some boys consolidating their skills in their second season at under 14 level. Unfortunately the way the season unfolded with games abandoned to rain and heat, combined with 3 walkovers saw the situation conspire against us - playing only 7 games for the season out of 12.

Highlights for the year were that we only lost one game (to the eventual premiers) and solid batting performances from Lee Hearnden, Luke Kasperczyk, Simon Middleton (all hitting 2 home runs), Anthony Haverfield and Stuart Simpson - who all hit over .400. Pitching duties

were shared by Simon, Stuart and Andrew Russell who all performed credibly, allowing an average of 3.5 hits and 4.5 runs per game. Thanks to Judy Simpson for her excellent scoring throughout the year and to Carole Jones for her assistance with scoring (for the other team !).

Kevin Russell
Coach

SCORER

Judy Simpson

TEAM LIST

Matt Blazejewski
Anthony Gargano
Lee Hearnden
Luke Kasperczyk
Simon Middleton
Stuart Simpson

Elliot Connell
Anthony Haverfield
Craig Jones
Bryce Marshall
Andrew Russell

UNDER 12 RUSTLERS (COCA COLA DIV.)

We had an exciting start to the year winning all 5 games of the Round Robin qualifying and gained entry into the Coca Cola division which was our goal during the pre season training.

The pitching was looking good, catching wasn't too bad and hitting so early in the year was also looking good.

As the year has progressed, we have been able to develop most of the players in more than one position whilst still maintaining the best possible defence when pitching changes are made.

Our set plays have also developed and we are now to the point where only age and physical development of the team is stopping improvement and therefore I feel we have reached our potential for the year.

In reaching the play offs the team has shown it has what it takes to play good baseball and I have seen many players grow in skill and baseball knowledge.

I would like to thank all of the parents for their full support throughout the season and for their assistance in setting up diamonds and putting the equipment away at the end of the game.

Special thanks go to our plate umpire Alan Gribbin, line umpire Tony Jackson, Scorer Mandy McLean, part time Scorer Jenny Heenan, statistician John McCormack and assistant coach John Ferguson for all your support and efforts throughout the season.

A most enjoyable season with plenty of rewards seeing the players improve throughout the season.

Lance Blackley
Coach

ASST. COACH

John Ferguson

SCORER

Mandy McLean

TEAM LIST

Tom McCormick	Russell Ferguson	Joel Gregory
Andrew Gribbin	Daniel Gribbin	Brad Heenan
Andrew Helgensen	Jesse Jackson	Dane Kasperczyk
Owen Manning	Daniel McLean	Lauren Olsen

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UNDER 12 STALLIONS (SOUTH DIV.)

We had only 2 players, Kane Davidson and Andrew Adams, from last year's group. (Andrew is still eligible for U12 next year.) Twelve other players were used in the squad with all players benefiting from all the extra games against strong opposition each week. At this stage it looks as if we will lose only one of these players for next season. Although we finished at the bottom of our division I feel sure many of these players will be successful playing in the Coca Cola Division next year.

To Lawrie Hall and Geoff O'Neill, thank you for all your hard work this year. Thank you to those parents for turning up and supporting our players each week.

Mick Manning
Coach

ASST. COACH

Lawrie Hall

SCORER

Geoff O'Neill

TEAM LIST

Andrew Adams	Kane Davidson	Cameron Dennis
Jarrold Hall	Marek Jarmusz	Tim O'Neill
Sharna Mahoney	Dale Ravesi	Jake Sibenaler
Ben Toull	Luke Warke	Kyle McLean
Shane Middleton		

UNDER 14 RUSTLERS (COCA COLA DIV.)

Wrestlemania!!!!!!

The year started off well with us winning 3 out of the 5 games in the round robin qualifying competition, so the team made Coca Cola.

After coming off a loss in the first round against Sandringham, the next game was at Ballarat. The cries, of "How early do we have to get up?", "That's too far away!" and "Do we have to play there?" were not only from the kids but also from the parents - whose voices were even louder. To avoid the early morning rise the team went in convoy the afternoon before. Once in Ballarat, we unpacked and then jumped back in the car to all you can eat at Pizza Hut. Both the kids and their parents had a ball. The team was the first U14 VBA team to play at Ballarat and so we have now become part of Ballarat's baseball history. It was a great win, a lot of fun and a very exhausting trip. (Who says we don't have road trips!!)

We had a good win against Upwey, so we came into the game against Waverley with high spirits - but were convincingly beaten. This game also showed how two young players (from Waverley) in an unsportsmanlike manner did not shake a player's hand (from Cheltenham) because she is a female player. Very disappointing!

The season continued without any further failure, as the team was able to win every game for the rest of the season except for two draws against Waverley and Doncaster. What a record! The team finished second on the ladder. A terrific result.

We would like to congratulate Daniel Williams, Adam Blackley and Lee Hearnden for making the Victorian State Team and David Olsen for making the Victorian Provincial Team.

A big thank you to Steve Williams who scored and Jeff Lander who umpired. Also a big thank you to all the parents for their support and encouragement. (Thanks for the home-made goodies!!)

We have really enjoyed coaching this season and have seen great improvement in all the players. We wish them continued success in all their baseball futures.

Mika Tossavainen & Karen Smith
Coaches

SCORER

Steve Williams

TEAM LIST

Darren Barber	Adam Blackley
Anthony Haverfield	Lee Hearnden
Richard Lander	Bryce Marshall
Simon Middleton	David Olsen
Patrick O'Neill	Stuart Simpson
Amberlee Williams	Daniel Williams

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UNDER 16 RUSTLERS (DIVISION 1)

Though the U16 season's results might indicate that we had a side that was not competitive (won 3, lost 10, draw 1 and wash-out 1) this was not in reality the case. The team was in a good position to win 3 of the games lost and single inning lapses accounted for many of the remaining defeats.

Unfortunately lack of players was a factor in the results of this year's competition. In most games we could only field eight players and our LOB Ave. was .462, i.e., nearly half the batters reaching base safely failed to score.

I would like to thank Derya and Deniz Horasan for coming across to Cheltenham Baseball Club which meant we were able to form a team and also the eight players who filled in though the season. Especially Erin Finch who courageously put herself forward in the Werribee game.

There are considerable pressures in this age group including school, competing sports and work. At times this resulted in poor attendance for

practice. I believe there is no substitute for hard work to achieve success in baseball and I think the handful of dedicated players who applied themselves for the entire season proved this to be true.

My thanks also to Jillian Sanders and Peter Finch who shared the scoring for our side, and also to all the parents who were supportive and good natured throughout a difficult summer.

In closing I would like to congratulate the eight regular players of the Under 16 team this year. It is not easy to compete at a disadvantage but the spirit and composure of these young players, in the face of the obstacles this season has presented, indicate that they are capable of very good things in baseball in the future.

Brett Kavanagh come back soon.

Col Uphill
Coach

SCORERS

Jillian Sanders & Peter Finch

TEAM LIST

Ryan Fehily	Derek Finch
Derya Horasan	Deniz Horasan
Matthew Keen	Michael Lapa
Michael Paragreen	Glen Sanders

UNDER 18 RUSTLERS (COCA COLA DIV.)

The Cheltenham rustlers Under 18 Coca Cola Baseball team finished the 1998-99 season with 1 win, 9 losses and drew 4 games. Player participation has declined dramatically over several years with this season being most affected. This season we struggled to field at least 9 players from as early as round 1.

After winning the Coca Cola Championship last season and losing half that team to seniors, this 1999 season was envisaged as a re-building year. This year's team consisted of 5 second year U18 players, 2 U16 players and 2 new players.

My objective this season was to improve the skill levels and accelerate the mental part of the game during practice sessions through a series of game situations to prepare and be competitive on game days.

The objective was only partly achieved because of lack of numbers at practice for the year. Travis Blackley, Shane Phillips, Matthew Coppens, Gerard Kelly and Charles Baneth attended most practice sessions for the season.

Stephen Gourlay and Billy Treller's season was shortened due to injuries.

This overall scenario made it difficult to achieve any level of success/competitiveness on game day. We played a total of 14 games this season which resulted in 3 games played with 8 players, 4 games with 7 players, 3 games with 6 players and 5 times we had taken players from the U16 's to make a team. Several times we had to borrow as many as 3 players from the opposition to give players a chance to play.

We must attempt to improve the skill level, mechanics and fitness at Cheltenham as well as resolving the drop off rate issue of players to ensure the success of the Club's future senior teams.

I would like to thank the players who formed the nucleus of the team this season; Stephen Gourlay, Travis Blackley, Gerard Kelly, Shane Phillips, and Matthew Coppens..

Special thanks to David Coppens for base umpiring and most importantly getting Matthew to practices and also for David's general knowledge of the game. I think David would be very valuable at Cheltenham's junior level. Also thanks to Bev Blackley for scoring and Darryl Treller for umpiring behind the plate.

I would also like to congratulate the award winners this season; these players displayed total dedication, enthusiasm and commitment in their approach to the games and practice.

I look forward to a challenging 1999-2000 baseball season at Cheltenham at all levels.

Ron Carothers
Under 18 Coach

SCORER

Bev Blackley

TEAM LIST

Charles Baneth
Matthew Coppens
Troy Harper
Gerard Kelly
Billy Treller

Travis Blackley
Stephen Gourlay
Nicholas Ikin
Shane Phillips