



**CHELTENHAM BASEBALL
CLUB
SUMMER
2019-2020
YEAR BOOK**



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VALE MICHAEL TREVORAH

VALE TERESA CONNOR



PRESIDENT

To the Members
Cheltenham Baseball Club
Summer Season 2019-20

Upon reflection I look back at the 2019-20 summer season with an air of fondness and relief. My first at the helm, with the club poised at the start of the season to capitalise on the years of hard work put in by my predecessors. Setting our sights high with the goals of re-igniting our junior system, improving our facilities and retaining our position in Division 1. I am thankful to say that we achieved most of this, but with plenty of room for improvement.

Ultimately any community organisation must build on the foundations of inclusion, participation and enjoyment and our club does not disappoint in this regard. Our committee were tireless in their attention to ensuring that all of our members were provided the opportunities to play and enjoy the game. Whether it be organising functions or fundraisers, finding scorers or umpires, the dedication that these people show to the club is exemplary.

On field and having been promoted to Division 1, the club was relying on our emerging core of youth, heralding the new dawning era for the club. Up to the task was Bryan Kloppe, Simon Myles and the rest of our senior coaching staff. Bryan has led from the front and spent countless hours at the club this season, ensuring that every member has had the opportunity to benefit from his experience and knowledge. The Club owes him a great debt of gratitude for his tireless efforts and his best clubman award is certainly well earned and deserved.

Our import, Lars Liguori, was nothing short of spectacular in his performances on the field. Showing our younger players how to stand up when it counted and playing winning baseball. A big thankyou to Sara Cullen and her family for hosting Lars for the season and I know he enjoyed his stay with you and the club.

A special mention to our women's team for their outstanding season led by Michelle Ogilvie, making it to the grand final.



To our countless other coaches, scorers, team managers, umpires and general helpers, I say thankyou on behalf of the club and the players. It takes a lot of donated hours each season to make things tick and your time is both greatly appreciated and valued.

The biggest improvement to our facilities this year was the works carried out on the batting tunnel. Largely funded by the winter committee, we say thankyou to David Johnson, Stu Holding, Alan Gribbin, John Ferguson, Ian Curnow, David Johnson, Brent Dunkley and the countless others that helped out as well. Without a doubt this has made a big improvement to our ability to train and prepare for games offensively.

A big thankyou to Michael Moore and Pia Dunkley for master minding our two major functions this year, being the I-pod shuffle night and trivia night. Both were a resounding success, and I am looking forward to the next instalment as we build it bigger and better.

It goes without saying that sponsors are a key component of our club, and on behalf of the Cheltenham Community I would like to say thankyou to our sponsors: Bentleigh RSL, Buxton Real Estate Group, A1 Building Group, TerryWhite Chemist Cheltenham, and Inner Melbourne Landscapes. Without your support we do not exist.

And finally to our players and members, thankyou for being a part of our great club this season. I hope that it has been what you wanted it to be.

If it hasn't, come on board the committee and make a difference!

Yours in Baseball

Russell Ferguson – President



T-BALL

T-Ball Co-ordinator: Peter Leslie

Our budding young Rustlers look like they enjoyed the season by the smiles.



ROOKIE BALL



Heach Coach: Delia Robey

No Report submitted. Though I heard through the grape vine that the kids had a great year.

LITTLE LEAGUE MAJORS



Head Coach: Joey Tucker

Assistant Coach: John Carlile

This year was a year of development for the team. We had a few players returning from last year, but we also had players coming up from Minors and a few new players. So, John and I concentrated on teaching the fundamentals. We also tried to move players around as much as possible without putting someone in a position that would overwhelm them.

We pitched as many as we could in a game to the disappointment of some that wanted to stay in longer. We won some games we didn't expect to win and we lost some games we didn't expect to lose. Our team batting average ended up a solid .332 with the two top batters being Sam Walsh and Mitch Langworthy batting over .600 each. We had seven players pitch a total of 8 innings or more. The best of them being Sam Walsh and Mitch Langworthy. We ended the season with about an even record but managed to finish in second place guaranteeing a home final.

In the first final against Moorabbin/Bonbeach, we won 7 to 2. Miller Leach started pitching and went two innings with only one hit and no earned runs. Sam Walsh pitched three innings with only one hit and one earned run. Mitch Langworthy closed out the last inning striking out all three batters. Sam Walsh had three hits with singles to Riku Takano, Miller Leach, Ned Johnson and Elijah Lian.

In the Grand Final against Sandringham, a home run and one more run scored by Sandringham in the first inning was enough for Sandringham to win 3 to 1. They finished with four total hits and we had one hit. So, it was a pitching duel in a low scoring game. Miller had our only hit and drove in our only run. Sam pitched three innings with six strike outs. It was a close, hard fought game but Sandringham's pitching was too good on the day.

So we finished the season on a high making another Grand Final but losing. We hope the kids enjoyed the season, had fun, and learned more about playing baseball.

See you at the ballpark next year.



Season 2019-20

INTERMEDIATE LEAGUE



Head Coach: Brent Dunkley
Assistant Coach: Adam Leech

The 2019/2020 Intermediate Summer Season brought everything to the spectators that you could ever hope for. We had two out of the park home runs, a grand slam and four games that were won or lost by just one run. The Intermediate program is a fantastic collection of Little League and first year Junior League players looking to play an extra game each week.

A big thankyou to Adam Leech for Assistant Coaching, Alex Koulaouzos for scoring, Val Langworthy and Joey Tucker for cameo coaching appearances and to Pia Dunkley for Team Managing.

All of my thirteen players contributed every time they pulled on the Rustlers top. They were all given the opportunity to pitch and play infield where possible. This was the ethos taken into the season "Develop players every week to improve their baseball and the score line will take care of itself." We finished the season with 8 wins and 5 losses.



The following players were a part of the team: Zach Dunkley, Tane' Graham, Ethan Joseph, Noah Koulaouzos, Mitchell Langworthy, Miller Leech, Kai Leitch, Elijah Lian, Patrick Lynch, Hughie Strom, Matt Temby, Lucas Tucker and Samuel Walsh. What an enjoyable season with a great bunch of boys and it was a pleasure to coach them. We had a big squad with a great mix of experience and newer players to the sport.



The opportunity to pitch in an extra game gave Noah and Patrick the chance to hone their skills during the season shouldering the majority of the workload with appearances by Tane', Ethan, Elijah and Miller.

Some of the Season's highlights included: Matt scoring several runs for the season; Hughie batting in 3 RBI's and scoring two runs in one game; Tane' hitting a grand slam; Zach and Noah hitting home runs and Elijah, Ethan and Kai building their confidence at the plate. It was great to see this group of young boys developing their skills and giving their best throughout the season.

Mitch, Tane' and Zach shared the catching duties with Sam and Patrick anchoring the outfield. Stealing once on base was a strength of our team with Lucas leading the team in stolen bases. Our season culminated with a convincing win in both the Semi-Finals and the Grand Final to finish Southern Mariners 2019/20 Premiers.

Yours in Baseball,

Brent Dunkley



JUNIOR LEAGUE

Head Coach: Darcy Trewarn

Assistant Coach: Ben Fierenzi

What a season it was. I have never coached before in my years of baseball so to take on a commitment like this was a big jump for myself, especially to a team of kids who I have never met before. But I couldn't have been handed a more go-getting and extraordinary team than I had imagined.

From the first training I could tell that we were going to have a good season. Round one really set the bar high where we won by about 20 runs. Same with round 2. Then we matched our wins with a couple of losses with second and third place-getters Sandringham and Bonbeach. So, I knew we had a tough season on our hands.

The way the fixture was set we were playing these teams every third week as well as Chelsea. So, it was a matter of getting better each week to try one up them each week we played them. As the season rolled on my assistant coach Ben Fierenzi and I could see the team really gel together as one, as both they and us started to figure out each other's strength and weaknesses. So, what did we do? We played our strengths on the field, whether it would be our great team hitting or our overpowering pitching and go to training and help build up those weaknesses to turn into strengths.

I really believe everyone over the course of the season really got better at one key element in their game and it really showed. So, when finals came around, we were definitely ready. We finished on top of the ladder after a spectacular home-and-away season going 8 wins, 2 losses and 2 draws.





The semi-final was against Chelsea. We had always played really well against Chelsea but I knew anything can happen in finals and boy did it live up to it. Going into the last we were a couple runs up. But with a couple of fielding errors it turned into a drawn game. Our turn to bat. With bases loaded (and a mini heart attack) we were able to walk it off.

So then to the grand final. After a solid start to the game we found ourselves down with a couple of innings to go. The solid pump up talk had to come into play to lift up the kid's heads and to their credit, they smashed the last two innings to win. After that valiant effort, I knew they deserved to be champions. Congrats to everyone on the team. Thank you to Ben, all the scorers, parents and especially Pia. The team wouldn't have been able to go ahead without your amazing help.

Yours in Baseball,

Darcy Trewarn



U16 STATE

Head Coach: Stell Michael

Assistant Coach: Sam Michael

I must have been nabbed at a weak moment. "Dad, interested in coaching an U16 team with me this season?" Sam Michael, current senior's centerfielder and full-time snake oil salesman asked me. "Why not" I thought, hadn't coached for probably over 5-6 years and now our children all drive themselves, what else was I going to do with my early Sunday mornings.... Little did I know what lay in store for me, Sam cleverly arranged for me to coach with him as assistant, although sometimes I wonder who was helping who.

So, we started our baseball adventure, getting back down to Chelt, eager to see who was still down there and what had changed over the last few years. To my surprise not much had moved. John Ferg still had a good handle on equipment and was still casting his watchful eye over the progressing juniors and seniors across the club. In my time away this thing called Charter had taken hold, and I have to admit, it's still taken me way too long to try to understand why you can play U16 but still go into an u14 charter or something like that. Club ball still exists, but there seem to be so many options and competitions that I quickly decided I'd not try to understand it and stick to my group of U16s.

So anyhow off to our first training session, eager to see who was who and what we had. I did pick the brain of LL baseball guru John Carlisle for some insight into the team, but JC in his inimitable way gave me the kind of feedback which left me more confused than before we spoke. He is a deep and unfortunately internal thinker, not too fond of providing his personal views, I think. Think the banjo player in Deliverance, for those of us who remember movies from the 70s.

So anyhow a bunch of balls, a couple of fungos, some bits and bobs, a few keen kids, and we were off. The team were young with most playing their first year of U16 and we weren't overly blessed with huge size but their potential and upside was there to see from the start. It's fair to say we were not blessed with being the most talented or mature team playing state league, but there was normally plenty of grunt with the guys and everyone having a dig all game.

We enlisted the aid of the great guru of pitch Al Tanner to help develop our arms. Fair to say that there was definitely improvement across the team, but this is a marathon, not a sprint, and is still a work in progress.

Taking a leaf out of the great Houston Rocket's Mike D'Antonio's philosophy of "twice the offence means half the defence" we had a real focus on the hitting side of the game. So regardless of the outcomes against the bigger stronger opposition we rated ourselves on how good our at bats were and who was going up there to swing with a purpose.



Our first game was a tight contest against old Chelt rivals Waverley. We were very competitive against their starter and after a series of runs against their closer were able to walk in the winning run. Giving us a one run win for our maiden game. From there we can honestly say that we were competitive for every game barring a couple where we were mentally switched off and really didn't show us at our best. But we'll focus on the highs (which there were many of). The season was quite challenging for a group who I felt were placed in the upper bottom half of the league. We did have some heart breaking losses at the end of games which we were competitive in. Biggest heartbreaker was a 12 all draw after giving up the max to St Kilda in the bottom of the last dig, which safe to say left us all wanting to go home and kick the cat (NB: any feline lovers can replace "cat" with "furniture").

So as with all great men there was a team of helpful women who kept things going. Thanks to Teresa Yong for coordinating and making sure we had a team and were ready to go day one. Val Langworthy was team manager made sure we had a schedule and scorers every game. Thanks to our scorers Tina Haimona, Jerry Yong and Brent Dunkley. Thanks also to Brent for stepping up and umpiring games with no notice when our umpires couldn't make it. Thanks to Rod Hind for his help at training and setting up the diamonds for games and training. Thanks to the senior guys who did come down early on a Sunday to umpire the games. And a big thanks to the complete parenting group. The support from everyone was there all year and they really helped in making this a cohesive and enjoyable year. I'd also like to give my thanks to Sam he juggled his senior commitments with training the group and to get a 21-year-old to Sunday morning games every week was pretty impressive. Having him with his contemporary insights and tips was a great benefit to the team. I know the boys all enjoyed his support and guidance.





The team consisted of the following boys:

Darcy Messenger – a steady catcher first baseman and hitter who was drawn to the wonders of Cologne in Germany for a school exchange program, so was lost to us from January. Was sorely missed.

Dylan Hind – intense competitor whose contagious energy kept everyone on their toes. Lead off batter with a high OBP and either caught or played outfield. Very versatile

Blake Dunkley – an excellent outfielder who also is a steady first baseman and improved hit hitting through the season. A deep thinker who studies baseball like he wants a doctorate in it. He is the Professor of Baseball, loves breaking it down and analysing everything.

Ryan Langworthy – natural athletic talent who was our centerfielder and a big hitter who did move around the line-up as needed. Did suffer a couple of injuries so rarely had a clean run at the season, but still performed very well when he was there.

Flynn Healey – when he wasn't riding his bike 500 kms a day or hiking through forests he was a lock at first base, and hitting in the 4-5 area. A big healthy swing that drove in runs and gained multiple bases.

Jett Handicott – was able to hold down either corner outfield position or second base. Hitting fielding and throwing all improved dramatically over the season, one who likes having many balls in the air at once. Jett was very challenging to keep up with mentally, a very quick thinker whose upbeat persona was great to have around.

Nathan Yong – one of the stoic Yong lads, held down shortstop and did some relief pitching for us. His hitting progressed well and was able to improve his attack at the plate too. Never knew if he was happy or not, expression didn't change much. Although I did think I saw him crack a smile at one stage, maybe after his first triple....

Lachlan Stevens – another energetic upbeat lad who was our emotional leader. Hit exceptionally well all season and when introduced to catching this year took to it like a duck to water. Our sole representative on that Mariners Senior league team too.

Mason Haimona – our rock, lead the team in RBIs and was our most used pitcher. MVP season whose demeanour refused to be impacted by activities around him. Always stayed on task. Did have a standout year and that was recognised in his MVP award.



Thomas Carlin – started the year very quiet and reserved, but as his fielding and hitting improved so did his confidence. A very good OBP and thrilled us with his 360 degree assist at Preston. A severe foot injury did impact his season but the foundation has been set and his improvement was great to see.

Kyle Yong – Mr. Everywhere, Kyle was used as a relief pitcher most weeks, but was also pretty much the relief player at any position around the ground, when he wasn't starting at 3rd base. His hitting improved through the course of the season and his steady stoic demeanour could only be rivalled by his brother (refer above).

Yours in Baseball,

Stell and Sam Michael



U18 STATE

Head Coach: Michael Moore

When I was asked if I wanted to coach a junior side this year, my immediate thought was to coach the under 18's. The talent pool from the players was something that really got me excited and all the boys lived up to those expectations. We weren't a team of all-stars but we were a team where everyone could do a job.

My superstar pitches in Josh Ashen, Jed Woodger & Josh Tribe were an awesome asset to have and did damage with an average ERA of 4.41. From the batter's box, we had set of both acclaimed and breakout stars with the bat in Blake Holding, Michael Hill & Josh Ashen who combined for an average of .352. Rhys Fairweather, Kellan Hill, James Radford & Sean Dunne were my rock-solid defenders of the diamond both in the infield and outfield with all being able to play a variety of positions around the ground.

The season was a rollercoaster but I wouldn't have it any other way. Through the start of the year, we found form against some decent teams, opening the year with a 7-3-win vs. Waverly. Unfortunately, we fell off the pace against some lower teams and some losses against these teams that should have been wins cost us a very good shot of making finals. However, come the 2020 portion of the season, the boys rallied together to go 4-1-1 and really shake up the competition. The highlight of the season was most definitely a 14-0 win vs. Melbourne where Jed Woodger threw a no-hitter. Not only was this an incredible pitching performance from one man, but it was also an exceptional display of both offence and defence.

I had an absolute ball coaching every single player throughout the year and I hope the boys has a fun time as well. I hope the boys have gained something from this season and also had a fun two hours on their Sunday mornings.

Yours in Baseball,

Michael Moore





WOMENS

Head Coach: Michelle Ogilvie

Women's team 2019/20. New coach, new training night, new training coach how will this work.

Season got off to a great start. Fantastic turn out for training nights and a great win for the first game of the season. 17-7 win over Sandringham.

Second game another win 24-4 over Pakenham Black. I started thinking this looks like it could be our season. This continued until our first loss of the season against Bonbeach Blue by 2runs on 7th December.

Very early on I had high expectations for the season and the ladies did not let me down. I didn't let the team know my thoughts which was 'we are gonna make the grand final' but I just tried to gently push them along in the direction I knew they were more than capable of.

I'm not going to say that my expectations were exceeded, this team just reached the heights I knew they could. We finished the season sitting second with only 3 losses for the season, which is a brilliant achievement.

We lost the first final against Bonbeach Blue by one run but, as we finished second we had another chance. We came out of the blocks against Berwick betting them 23 -1 stamping our dominance over the game and yet again reaffirming our position as a final contender.

Grand final day. We were up against Bonbeach Blue again. We hit 5 in the first and Bonbeach were chasing us all day. Final innings we had two outs, still up in the run count but, they hit, runners came home and a draw. We went into extra innings.

Again 5 runs up, 2 out and one more out needed. The game didn't go our way and we lost the grand final by one run, playing close to an extra hour of game time. It was an amazing game and everyone should be very proud of themselves.

We had a few players help us out in the season, thanks to Sam Finney and Rachel Ogilvie for helping us to put a team on the field. A return cameo appearance by Barb Dooley when our pitching stocks were a little low and numbers were needed. Good to see Barb hasn't lost any of her pitching magic.



Our pitching duties this season were carried out by Delia Robey and Carolyn Allen with Tara Lian coming in as relief pitcher. Karen Witchell was our main catcher with Denise Healey, Jessica Jensen and Josie Hill backing her up. Sophie Sullivan mainly at first base, with Sue Leslie moving between 1st, 3rd and outfield. Players were rotated infield to outfield in most games. Pia Dunkley, Shanon Reid, Josie Hill at second with Jess Jensen occupying 3rd base and outfield.

A very big thank you to Peter Leslie for scoring every week and supplying great stats for me. Thanks to John Ferguson and Peter for setting up the diamond. Russell Ferguson for doing the bar and Kathy for opening up the canteen. Thanks also, to Russell Ashen, Steve and Zach for completing umpire duties when we needed.

We mixed it up this season moving to a new night for training and obtaining the services of the club coach Bryan Kloppe to run our training sessions. This worked really well this season with our training sessions having a great turn out. Bryan and I would discuss what I would like to cover at training and Bryan executed the training session. A big thank you to you Bryan as I truly appreciated all your help.

To my team, thank you ladies, for being a fantastic group of women to be involved with. Your patience, enthusiasm, cohesive team attitude made the season a great experience for all. We can take it one step further next session so put in the hard yards, same attitude and all will come your way.

Go Rustlers!!!





FIRST NINE

Head Coach: Bryan Kloppe
Assistant Coach: Simon Myles

The 2019-2020 summer season for the Rustlers firsts saw a return to Division One with a purpose! The guys proved where they belong and that they are hungry for a premiership in the near future. Although the season started out VERY slow, the Rustlers won more games than ANY club in the last 23 rounds.

Lets begin with a short discussion of the start to the season, the guys started out 0-4 and we scored a total of 2 runs in those first four games. I am not unfamiliar with bad starts and will go as far as to say it is a trend or a curse that I have come to live with in my coaching. Examples include having my championship team in Bakersfield start 1-6, a team that went to the finals in Roswell start 7-11 and the team I managed last summer in Michigan also went from 3-11 to the finals. Even though the vibe outside of the playing group was not overly optimistic, the team knew that we had the talent and desire to win ballgames. Because of this belief we started to turn trainings from pure physical baseball motions to placing a heavier weight on the mental side of things. The guys responded immediately and we took a series from Waverley followed by taking two out of three from defending premier Blackburn. This solidified our belief. During the regular season we did not lose another series.

Slowly moving up the ladder from 12th to 4th was rewarding, including the final stretch where we only lost one of the final ten games. This turnaround gave us our biggest reward on the last day of the regular season. With a Waverley win earlier in the day, we took the field against Berwick (in the first ever night game to be played at Dandenong and a large crowd in attendance) needing a win to make finals. It was that simple: after 26 games, we win and we are in or we lose and it is all over. The guys responded by pulling off a thrilling back and forth 8-7 win showing that "quit" is not in the Cheltenham vocabulary.

In the finals we ran into a fully firing Blackburn unit who ended up repeating as premiers. The age and experience of this group ended up prevailing but I would like to note that the Cheltenham side that gave them a run for their money included 9 of 10 starters that were home grown through the excellent junior programs of Cheltenham Baseball Club. This is something to continue to strive for and to be very proud of as a club.

Cheltenham Baseball Club is doing things the rights way, we have established a culture of acceptance and community and I know that we will be holding the Ross Straw Trophy in the near future!!



Individual performances:

Our club MVP for the season was Lars Liguori. Lars was our import from Scottsdale, Arizona. While playing for us he also helped the Aces win the Claxton Shield. Lars batted .310 with 3 home runs and threw 105.1 innings for a 2.48 ERA, 9 wins and 2 saves.

Our pitcher of the year award went to Jack Enciondo. Like Lars, Jack was tremendous on the mound throwing 73.1 innings for a 1.6 ERA, 7 wins and 2 saves. Both pitchers also notched two complete games shutouts during the campaign.

Rookie of the Year honors go to Mack Turley who playing his first complete season in the firsts led the team in batting average hitting .323 while collecting 31 hits.

In the outfield, Andrew Gribbin continued to be a leader of the side with an impressive .457 on base percentage. Sam Michael patrolled centerfield with ease and led off the lineup with confidence starting up most of our run scoring rallies. Conor Myles had a very strong second half of the season ending with a batting average of .302.

Dante Caruso was having a breakout season until sideline with a hand injury, ending with a final average of .296 while playing exceptional defense. Michael Leslie continue to be a versatile and consistent performer finishing second in on base percentage at .354. Dylan Trevorah also had a strong second half and played solid defense at second base.

Jack Daniels was our catcher for the majority of games and along with our pitchers made the great calls to lead us to victory.



Andrew Campbell pitched well for us throwing 20 innings and collecting two saves. Part time contributions from Jackson Hunkin, Blake Holding and Kane Davidson were also notable. Along with those named, a total of 22 players contributed in some way to the firsts this season showing the strong depth and future of the club. Opposing managers often note this "army" of players on the bench ready to help out and I would love to see this become a tradition and point of pride at Cheltenham for years to come.

Thanks for a tremendous season!
Bryan Kloppe
Always a RUSTLER!



SECOND NINE

Head Coach: Michael Rizzi

Assistant Coach: Jarrod Hall

The Cheltenham Rustlers seconds finished the 2019/20 home & away season with a record of 16 wins and 3 losses. We entered finals half a game off top spot, finishing on an 11 game winning streak. Finals however didn't go quite as planned, as an impressive Upwey outfit knocked us off. Even though the result didn't go our way during the semi final, it was an impressive season overall.

The team consisted of a good mix of both junior and senior players. We were able to showcase some of this all over the field, there was a great showing of junior talent, which included pitching (Darcy Trewarn, Rhys Fairweather and Josh Tribe), infield (Blake Holding and Josh Ashen) and outfield (John-Paul Cahill). These players named are just some of the junior talent coming through who will be pushing for 1's selection in future years.

Senior players such as Jarrod Hall (3B) and Andrew Campbell (1B) kept standards extremely high in the infield, which seemed to filter through the entire side. Jackson Hunkin and Dean Cooper were two players who were able to fill positions on a week-to-week basis, they also lead our deep batting line-up. Behind the dish this season we had the clubs most senior catcher in Kane Davidson. His importance to the side was invaluable as he took control of an extremely young pitching roster. Our pitchers this year seemed to thrive throwing to him, as the trust was high with both pitch selection and knowledge of opposition hitters.

A few people I wish thank are Peter Leslie (scorer/team manager) who once again put his hand up to take up this role. He went above and beyond, weekly updating Game Changer, which gave myself access to player and team stats. I'd also like to thank Laurie Hall (1B Coach) who came every week and did both 1's and 2's.

On a personal note I'd like to say and massive thankyou to Bryan Kloppe who once again lead this great club. The standards he set were extremely high which resulted in team performances excelling throughout the entire club. The hours in which he put in would far exceed any other opposition club coach. As a club we are extremely happy to have you back for the 2020/21 season.

Yours in Baseball,

Michael Rizzi



THIRD NINE

Head Coach: Jack Ogilvie

The 3rds season started off a bit shaky, playing one of the top sides of the competition. With only 5 out of the final 10 players of 3s being in the team, it was a difficult first few rounds. Once the season started to settle in, the team started to mesh and start getting into a rhythm.

The pitching rotation was shared amongst nearly the whole roster. Josh Tribe was a fantastic addition as he shut down most sides we played against. Koki picked up the slack for a few games, whilst we had Thomas Ogilvie, Rhys Fairweather, Dan W.B and Craig Ballantyne to pick up what was left.

With the addition of Riki Preston into the side after round 4, the team started to form a winning mentality. Michael Hill carried most of the catching all year with some relief from Kellan Hill, Ben Sexton and Lachie Stevens towards the end of the year. Well done to all who caught and pitched through the year.

Sean Dunne started off the season a bit rocky at 3rd base, but towards the end of the year, really started to find his groove and becoming a very reliable infielder with much more growth to come.

The hitting lineup was complimented with the speed of some young guns such as Dylan Hind who stole a bag every time he made it on-base. Michael Moore complemented the middle order behind him by getting on base and going 2-3 bases every time an outfield ball was hit.

A big thank you to all who helped out this year. Adam Leech for picking up my slack as well having a reliable bat. Craig Sexton, Steve Hill and Tony Preston for scoring. Thanks to Leigh Heinrichs for umpiring every week when we didn't have an umpire and thanks to Michael Gourlay for letting us know if the 3s/4s have umpires.

Thanks to the 4s playing group for hanging around and filling in when we had bare 9 and umpiring when both playing groups had been let down with umpires.



The hardest part of coaching the grades below the 2s is getting an umpire, so thanks to everyone who I asked for assistance in finding one for coming through, really made my job much easier.

Yours in baseball,

Jack Ogilvie





FOURTH NINE

Head Coaches: Eddie Meadows & Paul Dunham

Overall, we have had an amazing season which has seen the regulars grow to work together better and the not so regulars enjoy the weeks they are part of the fourths.

Thanks to all the fourths players, parents/scorers/umpires! A huge thanks has to go out to Bryan and Smyles for running the training sessions and trying to give us the tools we needed to win, Russell and John Ferguson for their tireless efforts and a big thanks to the whole Cheltenham Rustlers family for their help and support throughout the season.

While we didn't quite make the finals, I am confident that next year we will. Go Rustlers!

Yours in baseball,

Eddie Meadows & Paul Dunham





FIFTH NINE

Head Coach: Russell Ferguson

Assistant Coach: John Ferguson

With 60 players looking for a game each week, the club took the decision to form a fifth team six weeks into the season.

Centralised around a youthful core, the goal for this team was to provide our younger players with some additional mentoring / coaching as they make the transition into senior baseball whilst also having some fun.

Our first game saw us post a commanding 10 run victory over St Kilda and we never looked back. Going through the season only dropping the one game and drawing one other, cruising our way to the championship.

The development in the young guys was awesome to behold, and by the end of the season I took particular pride in watching a flawless defensive performance in the grand final. A sign of how far they all had come.

A huge thankyou to Darren Hiddlestone, Rod Hind, Heath Dunkley, and John Ferguson for helping me out with the on field side. Adding a few senior bodies around the game adds so much to the enjoyment and I know the younger guys got a lot out of it.

Additionally to Michael Phillips for always being available to umpire and to Brent Dunkley for handling the majority of the scoring.

Thanks for the season and the flag that will last forever!

Yours in baseball,

Russell Ferguson





MASTERS

Head Coach: John Ferguson

(THE OLDER WE GET - THE BETTER WE WERE!)

Played 14 Won 6 Lost 7 Drew 1 Winning Percentage 46.4%

The primary objective of Masters baseball is participation and an opportunity for our players to push the sun back up in to the sky one more time as they recapture the fun of once again engaging in some serious competition. Modified rules that limit, sliding, stealing and bunting do not dampen the enthusiasm and willingness to compete once the white line fever kicks in.

There were 15 players on the Roster this season including 6 who were new to the team.

The team started slowly as players settled in and our batting took some time to warm up. The team finished in seventh place, a couple of games out of the four.



PITCHING

The bulk of the pitching load was carried by Craig Ballantyne and Gus Marr with assistance from Ben Hall, Joey Tucker who were both outstanding when available with "Old Reliable" Darren Hiddlestone filling in when required. Collectively the pitching staff held the opposition to a total of 54 runs for the season, fourth best in the competition.



DEFENCE

Outfielders Adam Leech, Tony Kouchadjian Heath Dunkley Peter Allen and Sam Dowdle ran down everything hit their way. Sam and Heath have the best arms in the competition and limited the extra base opportunities for opposition batters. Behind the plate, “Energiser Bunny” David Johnson and Tony Kouchadjian did most of the work and Damon Pettit filled in where necessary.

The infield tended to be a bit of a merry go round and there was a lot of movement between positions. Joey Tucker and Craig Ballantyne covered First and Darren Hiddlestone and David Johnson played Third, Gus Marr, Graeme Nicholson, Rod Hind and Steve Scotland played the middle infield.

“Super Sub”, Rod Hind continued to provide solid defence both in the infield and outfield.

OFFENCE

The team’s major strength in recent years has been in it’s batting but our offence dropped off somewhat this season and the team scored about 40 runs less than it has in recent years.

The leading hitters this season were: Adam Leech BA.595 (25 Hits) Darren Hiddlestone BA. 568 (21 Hits), Craig Ballantyne BA. 538 (21 Hits), Heath Dunkley BA.448 (13 Hits), Tony Kouchadjian BA. 406 (13 Hits), Gus Marr BA.355 (11 Hits) and David Johnson BA.333 (14 Hits).



Adam Leech produced yet another superbly consistent season at the plate to win the Batting Award.



MVP AWARD

Eight different players were judged Best On Ground at least once during the season and 11 players received votes.

Craig Ballantyne batted BA.538 and was the pitcher of record in most of the games. Craig recorded votes in 9 games for a total of 19 votes over the season to win the MVP Award

Adam Leech (12 Votes), Tony Kouchadjian (12), and Darren Hiddlestone (10) also polled well.

THANK YOU

My thanks to Lucas Tucker who scored for most of the games and also to Tony Preston who filled in on occasions and also to Darren Hiddlestone who is always ready to jump in and help with whatever needs to be done on the field or behind the bar.

Postgame meals are big part of the success of Masters Baseball and once again Katrina Johnson set a high standard in the feeding of the multitudes at our home games.



Our Masters players are great ambassadors for our Club, they play hard and usually well. it was a privilege to manage the team, thank you all for your support.

Yours in Baseball,

John Ferguson



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Season 2019-20



AWARDS

1 st Nine	Most Valuable Player Pitcher of the Year Rookie of the Year	Lars Liguori Jack Enciondo Mack Turley (.323 avg)
2 nd Nine	Most Valuable Player & Batting Most Valuable Player Coaches Award Grand Slam – 27/10/2019 vs Waverley	Darcy Trewarn (0.429 avg) Kane Davidson Blake Holding John Paul Callil
3 rd Nine	Most Valuable Player Batting Award Best Defensive Player	Riki Preston Michael Hill (0.290 avg) Adam Leech
4 th Nine	Most Valuable Player Batting Award Coaches Award	Daniel McLean Eddie Meadows Fraser Parsons
5 th Nine	Batting Award Best Team Member Most Improved	Darren Hiddlestone Dylan Hind Lachlan Stevens
Masters	Most Valuable Player Batting Award	Craig Ballantyne Adam Leech (0.595 avg)
Womens	Most Valuable Player Batting Award Best on Base Percentage	Delia Robey Sophie Sullivan (0.593 avg) Pia Dunkley (0.704 obp)
U18 State	Most Valuable Player Batting Award Coaches Award	Blake Holding Blake Holding Josh Tribe
U16 State	Most Valuable Player Batting Award Coaches Award	Mason Haimona Lachlan Stevens (0.578 avg) Dylan Hind
Jnr League	Most Valuable Player Batting Award Batting Award	Zach Dunkley Hayden Finney Jeremy Hess
Intermediate	Most Valuable Player Batting Award Most Improved Grand Slam – 06/12/19 Vs Chelsea	Zach Dunkley Mitch Langworthy (0.833 avg) Patrick Lynch Tane Graham
Little League	Batting Award Batting Award Coaches Award Grand Slam – 08/12/19 Vs Sandringham Grand Slam – 29/01/20 Vs Moor/Bonb	Mitch Langworthy Sam Walsh Miller Leech Mitch Langworthy Sam Walsh



Rookie Ball	Batting Award	Campbell Evans
	Coaches Award	Finn Slattery
	Most Improved Player	Ben Gurnett
Club Awards	Junior Club Champion	Dante Caruso
	Best Senior Clubman	Bryan Kloppe
	Best Junior Clubman	Blake Dunkley
	Best Junior Coach	Ben Fierenzi & Darcy Trewarn
Representative Players	Victorian Aces	Jack Enciondo
		Lars Liguori
	U18 Blue	Josh Ashen
		Dante Caruso
		Blake Holding
	U18 White	Rhys Fairweather
		Joshua Tribe



COMMITTEE MEMBERS (And other positions)

Patron	John Ferguson
President	Russell Ferguson
Vice-President	Kane Davidson
Treasurer	Judy Williams
Committee Members	John Ferguson Denise Healy Damon Petit Michelle Ogilvie Val Langworthy Joey Tucker Kathy Daniels Alan Gribbin Josie Hill
Junior Development Co-ordinator	Joey Tucker
U18 Co-ordinator	Josie Hill
U16 Co-ordinator	Teresa Yong
Junior League Co-ordinator	Pia Dunkley
Little League Co-ordinator	Val Langworthy
T-Ball Co-ordinator	Peter Leslie
Women's Co-ordinator	Michelle Ogilvie
Canteen	Kathy Daniels Connie Upfill
BBQ	Gordon Tribe
Ball Park Music	Alan Gribbin
Grounds Manager	John Ferguson
Equipment Manager	Damon Petit
Club Coach	Bryan Kloppe
Chairman of Selectors	Kane Davidson



VALE MICHAEL TREVORAH



It is with much sadness that the Club records the passing of one of our Club Legends.

Michael played in our Firsts as a catcher between 1973 and 1985. Solid behind the plate with an arm that kept the base runners honest. Michael was one of the best bunters the Club has ever had and he hit for high averages. In 1975 Mick batted .411 and set a Club record by recording 6 hits in a game against Footscray, a record that remains to this day.

Michael was recognised as one of the Club's finest 50 players at our Century Celebrations in 2014.

Michael coached many senior and junior teams for both the Summer and Winter sections as well as DBA junior representative sides. Always competitive and with a lot of success. Many of the pennants hanging from the walls are down to Michael and his teams.

Off the field Michael was a major contributor over many decades. He served very effectively as President of the Board and Summer President and also as the Chairman of Selectors

Michael was elected as a Life Member of the Club in 1985.



VALE TERESA CONNOR



It is with much sadness that we record the passing of Teresa Connor on the 21 March 2020, aged 72.

During the 1980's and 1990's Teresa gave her unwavering commitment and support for her son's Andrew and Dean from the time they joined the Club as juniors in the 1980's through to their participation as leading players in our senior side in the 1990's.

Teresa served on our committees and always the scored for the teams on which her sons played. As a scorer her judgements on the in-game plays were excellent. She was meticulous in her recording of the games as well as in the compilation of the end of year statistics, making it easy for her coaches who always considered themselves very fortunate to have her assistance. Teresa would have scored more than 300 games for the Club including 5 seasons as the Club's Senior Scorer from 1988 to 1994.

Teresa was a highly respected member of our Club who provided outstanding service as a scorer and on our committees. Her service was formally recognised with a special Service Award at our Centenary Celebrations in 2014.

Our deepest sympathy to her husband John, and to Andrew, Dean, Susan and Melissa and their families.