

Nomination for Life Membership – Ron Carothers

Nominated by – Lance Blackley

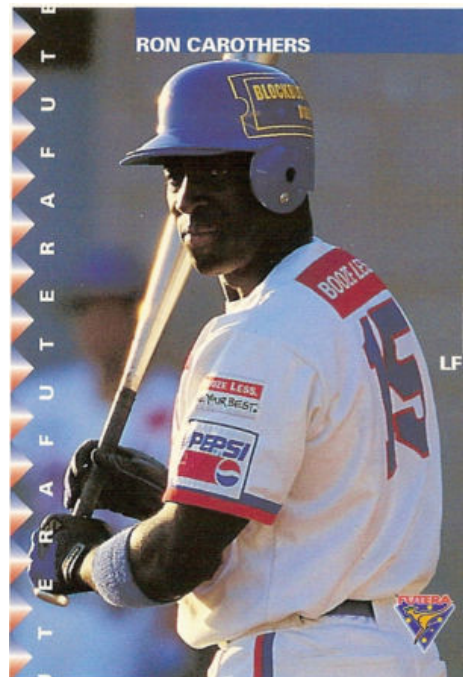
Seconded by – Brad Lark



Ron's journey in baseball was long and distinguished before he arrived at Cheltenham Baseball Club.

Ron hails from East St Louis and after winning the pennant in the esteemed Division 1 US College system. Ron was in a tryout camp with Milwaukee Brewers when he decided to accept an import position with Essendon Baseball Club. Ron went on to represent ABL and Claxton Shield for the Melbourne Monarchs and Waverley Reds, which is when I was introduced to Ron for the first time watching him play at Waverley Park.

Ron's time in the ABL produced some outstanding league leading statistics of 198 Games, 214 Hits, 3rd in Home runs of 28, 2nd with 147 RBI's, 3rd with 136 Runs Scores and a Batting Average of .307 coming 4th to Dave Nilsson (.338) and Jon Deeble (.325).



Ron joined Cheltenham whilst playing with the ABL in 1994 and would often arrive at the game in the 6th or 7th inning after wrapping up the ABL game and rushing back to Cheltenham for the final few innings.

From the very early beginnings, Ron was there to assist with the junior program and was called upon back in 1996 to coach our u16 State Team that had some very fine talented players with the likes of Matt Gourlay, Steve Gourlay, Rowan Brasher, Tim Fisher and Ben Paturzo. We all know Matt's history with signing a pro contract and Tim and Rowan went onto College in the USA system, which was a first for Cheltenham. Steve was an exceptional player with batting and pitching through our firsts and seconds teams in both summer and winter. Ron led the team to a State Championship victory as he has done so many times with various summer and winter teams throughout the journey. He has also had a few losses but the teams continue to make the finals under Ron's tutorage.

Ron continued with the juniors for many years and is the most technical coach the Club has had. Ron's work with the junior players behind the scenes has been there for many years and he has given up his time to provide additional coaching to many junior players in the batting cage or taking ground balls. Ron's ability to enthuse the young players is outstanding. I can speak from personal experience that saw Travis' disappointment for many seasons not making the State Team and Ron

would be on the phone, pumping his tyres, keeping his interest in the game and encouraging Travis to not give up and keep going.

Ron's presence at the Club has also lifted the profile of our junior coaching program and many players directly out of our geographical region continue to arrive at Cheltenham because of our junior coaching program excellence.

Ron's time with the club is not just limited with the juniors. I cannot recall exactly when Ron started back playing with the senior teams but I can recall playing C Grade in winter with Brad Lark and Ron back in 1998. He also played Winter D Grade with Steve Earl's Cricketers team during that time to help them out because they knew nothing about baseball and Ron just liked to play even with his hips in tatters.

Ron has played through various grades in both summer and winter but more recently filled a huge gap by coaching the summer 4th senior team that was full of young kids playing their first senior seasons. When the kids are taking too much punishment, Ron would step in and pitch.

Ron is always there ready to step in if needed and has helped with coaching the Women's teams at both training and managing the game when Ferg and myself have been unavailable. Ron has also joined with the Masters team during the regular season and at the Masters tournament in Ballarat.

Ron has left the Club a few times for short stints to coach other various Clubs however has always returned to Cheltenham and this is his home Club. Ron is one of those people who lives for baseball, whether it's playing or coaching he has spent the past 24 years filling various roles and not always with elite teams when called upon and I have always felt that our Club has been extremely lucky to have had Ron make our Club his own.

In my view, he is well and truly worthy of this nomination for life membership.