

CHELTENHAM BASEBALL CLUB INC
Summer Season
2011 - 2012



Rustlers

JUNIOR PRESENTATION
Sunday, 25 March 2012

2011-2012

SUMMER COMMITTEE

President:	John Carlile
Secretary:	Stell Michael
Treasurer:	Andrew Coppens
Members:	Peter Leslie
	David Holland
	John Ferguson
	Michael Trevorah
	Tony Preston
	Paul Cummings
	Mark Campbell

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Canteen	Tina Coen
Communications	Robyne Jones
Korean Teams Liaison	John Carlile
Umpires Coordinator	Peter Leslie
Under 18 / 16 Coordinator	Peter Leslie
Under 14 / LL Coordinators	Stell Michael / David Holland
T-Ball Coordinators	Mark & Jo Campbell
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Presidents Report

Presidents Report

TBALL

To Mark & Jo , fantastic year.

On behalf of the club, I would like to thank you for your outstanding contribution. This program continues to be a great introduction to the sport and provides the necessary building blocks for enjoying baseball.

The goal, as a club, is to build on this to ensure that we are able to provide a quality program into the future. The main aim of Tball is to have fun – I hope this has been achieved and everyone has had a good time.

To all the coaches, scorers, umpires and helpers, thank you for your efforts and hope to see you next year.

JUNIORS

To Peter / Stell / David

The club fielded 16 junior sides again this year. This is a lot of work. A lot of the time, effort and planning that goes into this is unnoticed but shows up in what happens during the year at training and on game days. Thank you for your efforts.

Overall the learning and development continues and we can only get better if everyone is part of the team. Thanks to John Ferguson and Daniel Williams for their efforts setting up the program for Wednesday night training.

Congratulations to all the players who represented the club in State representative sides and the South East Mariners Little League.

Again to all the coaches, scorers, umpires and helpers, thank you for your efforts – we cannot do it without you.

SENIORS

To Hayden / Matt / Michael

The club fielded 11 senior sides over 4 divisions this Summer. Along the way there were ups and downs with injuries, unavailable players, wins / losses and all the other usual things that make life interesting for coaches and selectors. At this level it is a team

Presidents Report cont.....

effort to get all the sides filled on a week by week basis and be competitive. So, to the “whole” team thank you for your efforts over the year.

Although we have been competitive in Division One this season, we have not made the finals. The committee has already discussed the reasons for this, had a presentation from Hayden and started to plan for next year to ensure that we are in the finals next year and have a shot at the Division One title.

Again to all the coaches, scorers, umpires and helpers, thank you for your efforts – we cannot do it without you.

CLUB LEVEL

Overall the club fielded 35 sides during the year which takes a lot of organization and effort - I hope everyone appreciates that it just does not happen!

This year has been a big challenge again with all the rain that we have had. Financially some weekends were reduced to 50% or less of what we budgeted for. Also there have been increases in costs from Baseball Victoria, Council, electricity etc which will necessitate a review of our fees for the 2012-13 season.

Where to now?.....

- New committee members are required – some jobs were not filled this year putting pressure on the members to pick up extra functions – this is not sustainable!!
- Try to continue to assist aspiring coaches,
- Continued to keep working on improving facilities.

How can you help:

- Make yourself aware of what is happening around the club – the club website – Cheltenham.baseball.com.au - is a great source of information,
- Assist the coaches where possible – let them coach,
- Keep us informed of changes to email addresses,
- If you are able to do little things, the committee can focus a few more big ticket items

Anyone who maybe able to help with sponsorship or fund raising, please contact Paul Cummings on 0408 303 529 or email paulc08@tpg.com.au

Yours Sincerely
John Carlile
Summer President

UNDER 12 WRAP UP

Summer 2011 - 2012

Another successful Little League season saw Cheltenham fielding 1 side in the Sunday Under 12 Major League Competition and 6 sides in the Friday Night competition.

Our Sunday side missed out on the finals but had a tremendous season under the expert coaching of John Carlile. They did extremely well to be placed in Major league competition after pre-season grading and were very competitive throughout. Well done to John and the boys!

We welcomed Ormond Under 12's into our Friday night competition which saw 6 Cheltenham sides fielded therefore allowing a bye each week. The bye allowed families a week off and if the players still wanted to come down they could fill in for any of the other teams who may have been short. This system worked very well.

Thank you to Sam Robertson from Ormond who organised the 2 young coaches and the team. We also sent the Braves over to Ormond late in the season giving the youngsters a real taste of playing at an away ground. Thanks to Craig Sexton for volunteering his side in this regard.

Thank you to all those who helped to make the Little League competition an enjoyable one. Thank you in particular to the wonderful coaches who put up their hand to look after a team for the summer. To Frank Mindum (Tigers), Alex Marshall and Tim Somoilov (White Sox), Craig Sexton (Braves), Alan Heyward (Astros), Graeme and Declan Chittenden (Rangers) and Anthony Bowley (Phillies) congratulations and thank you all and your assistants and scorers for helping to make a safe and enjoyable learning environment for the children.

To Anthony Bowley and the undefeated Phillies congratulations on taking out this year's Little League Premiership. The Phillies have been the standout team throughout the summer and Ant is to be congratulated on the work he has put into the team and developed upcoming youngsters such as Tyson and Yuki and encouraged them along the way.

A lot of people have contributed to the success of the Little League Friday night competition this Summer. I want to thank Dave Coppens who umpired nearly every Friday night and coordinated the volunteer umpires each week. To Tina and Kath in the canteen and Peter Leslie for looking after senior players to umpire each week, thank you once again.

Stell Michael has done a powerhouse of work throughout the whole season from the arduous role of Club Secretary, to U14A Assistant Coach, U14 Yankees Coach and also Mariners assistant coach. Thanks Stell on behalf of everyone for your assistance and support with the Little Leaguers this Summer.

Under 12 Wrap Up cont.....

Thank you to John Carlile and the rest of the Committee for the hard work that is put in all year in preparing for the Summer and then running all the teams we are very proud to field in Junior Competitions. Thanks John for all you have done for the Club over many years.

A big thank you to Steve Campitelli for the mighty job he does on our spectacular website. Over the last 2 years the website has become a virtual “first point of call” each morning for many people in order that we all keep up to date with results and news from the Club. Congrats Steve – an unsung hero in the behind-the-scenes running of the Club.

Once again, nothing would be possible for Under 12 Friday night baseball if not for the incredible efforts of John Ferguson. Ferg coordinated our Wednesday night training sessions from start to finish with excitement and enthusiasm. He was there every Friday afternoon setting up the diamonds in order that we were ready to go at starting time and in every little nook and cranny around the Club you would find John. He is a true legend of the Club and continues to prove his love of the game at every level every year. Thanks again for everything Ferg!

Thank you to all the parents for coming out each Friday night and supporting your children and their team. It is a terrific social atmosphere where parents can wind down at the end of the week and cheer the kids on. I hope you have all enjoyed it.

My biggest thanks goes to the players. 6 teams of boys and girls who have embraced the game of baseball and hopefully have enjoyed the season and made improvements to their game along the way. I am sure you have all made new friends and hope that these friendships continue through your baseball careers at Cheltenham.

Enjoy the winter everyone. See you next Summer!

David Holland
Under 12 Coordinator

U12 Major League

What a season it has been!!

Starting off with selections in September – 11 turn up - 11 selected – too easy.

Then down to business of training and the 5 weeks of games to see which teams will form the Major League competition. With aggression in the batting box, steady hands in the field and positive attitudes and were able to make it into the Majors.

From there we were able to win our fair share of games and be competitive in the games we lost. The boys were always positive and came to training each week to work on their skills.

By the end of the year we were in a position where we could make the top 4 but were unable to close out the last 2 games.

The effort of the team to be in this position was outstanding as we had a wide variance in ages which made it tough to compete against teams with mainly top age players.

It was a team effort which made it an enjoyable team to coach.

Thanks to the parents who were more than willing to assist with the various jobs to enable me to coach. Specials mentions to Michelle, Sara & Craig for their work as team manager, scorers & umpires. Thanks to Rob & Joe for helping out with coaching when I was away.

John Carlile

Under 12 Coach

Team

John Paul Callil

Sam Doree

Declan Hynes

Brodie Hopkins

Jake Harrowell

Cameron Zimmerman

Thomas Ogilvie

James Eadie

Oliver Bowley

Ben Sexton

Dante Caruso



Under 12 Phillies

2011-2012

Starting with 5 past players and 4 new faces the Phillies started the season with a win against the White Sox's.

That was the start of things to come. The boys dominated in both offence and defense finishing the year undefeated and winning the grand final.

Per Bellarts:

Per played with the Phillies last year and showed a fair bit of promise when asked to come in and pitch. This year was no different except his pitching only got better. A solid contributor with the bat and ball. Keep up the good work and tie up your shoelaces!

Oliver Bowley:

One of the original Phillies, Oliver had probably his best year so far in baseball. Racking up 16 hits including 2 doubles in comparison to last year only managing 8 hits showed that his batting has improved enormously. Oliver was asked to pitch on numerous occasions doing a good job each time he came in. Well done Ollie and remember have fun, after all it is only a game.

Jean-Paul Callil:

Another original Phillie Jean-Paul was as solid as ever. Batting in the number 3 position he managed to rack up 23 hits including 9 doubles and 1 triple. Jean-Paul will be missed next year as he goes up to under 14's. Well done Jean-Paul it has been a pleasure coaching you and good luck next year.

James Eadie:

I have coached James from Tee Ball to now and each year James keeps on improving. Getting selected in the Mariners this year is evidence of that. James collected 17 hits including 2 doubles and 3 triples.

James was asked to catch a lot this year and showed he has real potential behind the mask. Maybe something to think about for the future?

Yuki Fukusaku:

A real talent, hitting 16 singles and 3 doubles Yuki was a stand out lead off hitter. He also only allowed 1 run to be scored off him from all of the innings that he pitched. Look forward to seeing Yuki's progress over the next few years.

Tyson Kidd:

A first year player that showed plenty of ability, Tyson showed great enthusiasm whenever he was asked to do something and proved to be a very handy pitcher and had a good year with the bat. Well-done Tyson look forward to seeing your improvement next year.

Thomas Newton:

Thomas always seems to enjoy his baseball and is improving each year I see him play. Steady in the field and solid with the bat hitting 2 triples, 1 double and 10 base hits. A solid contributor and a well liked teammate. Good work Thomas

Quincy O'Connor:

Quincy improved over the course of the season with his batting and fielding. He showed plenty of enthusiasm at training and on a Friday night. Quincy, you were a pleasure to have on the team and I hope to see you next year. Remember don't take the game too seriously, have fun and things will start to go your way.

Fraser Parsons:

Fraser, another first year player had a go at every position. Having a go at pitching, he decided it wasn't for him but took a liking to catching. Fraser ended up being our second catcher for most of the year. In the second last game of the year, Fraser got hit on the nose before the start of the game. Bloodied and swollen, Fraser bravely played and played his best game of the year collecting 3 hits including 1 double. Well-done Fraser

Before I finish I would like to thank all of the parents that came and supported us and I would like to thank Andrew and Pedro for scoring and anyone who umpired this year

A big thanks to Paul Eadie for being my right hand man again!

To Dave Holland thank you for all the work you have done and to John Ferg thanks for everything you do at the club.

Well-done Phillies premiers 2012

See you next year

Anthony Bowley



Under 12 Rangers

At the beginning of the season Declan and I were not overly confident of our teams ability to play baseball at this level as the entire team had just came up from teeball. However as the season wore on we were both pleasantly surprised with both their willingness to learn and their constant improvement in the skills and understanding of how to play baseball. At the end of the season we had an 80% winning record and lost the final to a far superior outfit. However even though they lost the final they still maintained good spirits, they never gave up and had fun at the same time which is indicative of the team as a whole throughout the season. Both Declan and I would like to thank the parents of the boys who all came down and supported the team and the coaches at every game. Special mention to Kerry Williams for scoring, a task which she never attempted before and Ashley Kitts for undertaking the arduous task of managing the bench. We hope that all the boys enjoyed their season and that they will continue to play baseball for many years to come. A great season by the boys.

Deacon Kitts Played at first base. Improved markedly during the year with both his batting and play at first base. Always willing to try his best and be a great team player.

James Bright Played a third base. An impenetrable barrier at third base a powerful hit a great base stealer and very likeable young man.

Jake Stafford Pitcher and shortstop. A naturally talented athlete who was our starting pitcher, fielded and hit well and did not let us down in any situation. Always keen to learn new things.

Michael Downie-Lemon Centerfield and second base. Reliable fielder who's batting and base stealing improved as the season went on. Always keen to listen and learn and a delightful person to have in the team.

Aden Williams Catcher. Aden had never caught before but took to it like a duck to water. His batting got better and better as the season wore on. He was always keen and enthusiastic when it came to training and learning about the game and a joy to have on the team.

Sam Patterson Right field. Sam always was happy and enthusiastic. He listened to what both Declan and I had to say and tried to put this into play. At the end of the season his swing was progressing beautifully and he got a couple of crucial hits in important games. Both Declan and I enjoyed his company in the team.

Billy Peake Pitcher, short stop. Billy had a great season with the bat, pitching and in the field and was an invaluable member of the team, always willing to do what the coaches asked of him.

Guy Botera Played left and right field. A pleasure to have in the team with his infectious personality he improved in all aspects of the game as the season progressed and towards the end was getting some good hits and base steals

Jacob Mitchell Second base. We don't think that at any stage did we as coaches hear Jacob make any complaint about anything. A thoroughly all round player he made very few errors in the field and was solid all season with the bat, and when called upon to relieve on the mound did a great job there to.

Dakoda Evans Left field. Dakoda joined in with the team late but fitted in as if he was there from the start. Always keen to try anything our only lefty did a great job in the field and his batting improved thought out the season.

Graeme Chittenden

Awards

MVP : Billy Peake

Most improved: Deacon Kitts

Fielding award: Aden Williams



Under 12 Little League Astros

Ben Campbell	Brodie Hopkins
Dante Caruso	Lachlan Long
Sam Dimits	Kiran Pereira
Jackson Heyward	Josh Smith
Elliot Higgins	Cam Zimmerman

The Astros started the season with 6 second year players and 4 rookies, which made for a good mix for the team.

We had an up and down season, playing some great games of baseball, however we also had some not so great games. When we were good, I felt like we were unbeatable; the boys swung the bats early in the count, putting the ball in play and running the bases hard. We then had solid pitching and fielding – throwing plenty of strikes, and making the basic plays. In these games, the score line was relatively uneven, with the Astros running away easy winners in 4 of our 10 games.

Unfortunately, we couldn't always put all the pieces together, and we lost at least 2 games that we should have won, then there were 4 games that we were just outplayed – totalling 6 losses for the regular season.

We managed to switch it on, big time, in the finals game against the Braves, whom had beaten us comprehensively a couple of weeks prior. The boys were committed and played hard, fundamental baseball to take the game and third spot on the final ladder. I was very pleased to see the team come together and finish the season in such a strong way.

A few words about each of the boys:

Ben Campbell – very keen to play the key positions; has a nice swing and consistent in the field.

Dante Caruso – our best player through the year, making a strong contribution in any position he played, and a very strong and consistent hitter.

Sam Dimits – really nimble around the field and swings the bat well. A bit of a quiet achiever for the Astros.

Jackson Heyward – has more ability than he realises, and when he applies himself he can hit and field very well.

Elliot Higgins – played well in both the infield and outfield, and has a good swing.

Brodie Hopkins – plays with intensity every time he steps on the field. Can always rely on him to swing the bat hard and do what he can to make a play in the field.

Lachlan Long – joined us from Ormond this year, and really started to come along, with both glove and bat, as the season went on.

Kiran Pereira – one of our new players, started to find his feet half way through the year, highlighted by a line drive double to left field.

Josh Smith – brings a great attitude to the field every week. Good swing and fielding basics that will improve next year.

Cam Zimmerman – let's call him "Mr Hustle". Takes the extra base every chance he gets, and contributed well with bat and glove, wherever he plays.

Finally, there were a number of parents who helped out throughout the year. John Hopkins played the important role of Assistant Coach, while we had a number of parents fill the role of scorer – Joe Caruso, Lisa and Rob Zimmerman had a go, but Mark Campbell stepped up most weeks. Thanks to you all.

Coach – Alan Heyward

Asst Coach – John Hopkins

Scorer (more often than not) – Mark Campbell



Under 12 BRAVES

The Braves began the season as a balanced team of 6 returning players and 4 rookies which gave us a good base for a promising season.

After an opening win against the Astros we dropped a couple of games against teams that would finish 1 and 2 on the ladder. Despite the losses we were still quietly confident as we'd brought on 2 new pitchers in Jacob and Declan H to add to the bullpen and several of the boys were getting some good effective hits including Alem (v Phillies), Nicholas (v Astros) and Aiden (v Phillies and Rangers). This proved to be the case with the team finishing the season with comfortably more wins than losses and some great personal improvement in all of the players.

Whilst on the subject of personal achievements, the team was proud when **Sam Doree** was selected in the Mariners team to play in the Victorian Little league competition. In the second half of the season Sam got a regular gig filling in for the U14 Phillies on the Friday night.

The Braves player with the most noticeable improvement through out the season is undoubtedly rookie player **Jacob Watt** who by the end of the season was known by all the other teams for his fierce pitching and remarkable fielding feats. With continued coaching he'll be a name to look for in the future.

The coveted **MVP** award goes to **Ben Sexton** who played consistently well in all aspects of the game. He pitched a 2.33 strikeouts to base on balls, batted an impressive 0.500 for the season and assisted in a large number of put-outs including a clever double play.

Also with an impressive batting average is our slugger **Declan Hynes** with a 0.435 and an exciting 15 runs recorded for the season. Declan cemented his spot as first up batter due to his consistent hitting and quick, aggressive running taking the pressure off the following batters. He also pitched 4 games for the Braves with respectable results.

Close to the top of the valuable player list was our regular catcher **Declan Croker** who was fantastic all season with his catching and difficult to replace whilst pitching or out for a game. Declan also fielded with ease but struggled with his batting.

As mentioned it was proving difficult to come up with a relief catcher each week until young **Nicholas Gilchrist** hesitantly agreed to get kitted up one week. His eagerness to learn the role and sharp reactions added more depth to the team. Nicks enthusiasm through-out the season earned him this year's '**Coaches Award**'.

Ryan Tyquin continued on from last year establishing himself as a reliable fielder, in particular 1st base with his ability to soak up what ever throws came his way (high, low and wide). He would probably agree things were a bit quiet on the batting front this year though.

Another experienced and probably under rated player is **Charlie Douglas** who with the left handed Declan C made for a very solid and error free short stop / second base combo. Charlie did pitch a couple of games late in the season with great results.

Rookie player **Aiden Muzur** had a great first season and I think surprised himself with some confident pitching, a 1 run per game average for the season and only a couple of strike outs at bat. Hopefully he will be able to build on this next year.

Younger brother to Aiden, **Alem Muzur** certainly enjoyed the season and is another enthusiastic player. Good running and stealing between bases resulted in a healthy contribution of runs by season's end.

A couple of particularly notable events during the season were when the team travelled to Ormond to play them at their home ground. The team enjoyed the experience and proudly represented Cheltenham (and brought home the win).

The other event was when Jacob, Nicholas and Ben filled in for the U14 Cheltenham Yankees when we didn't have a game. All 3 boys had a tremendous game getting hits and on base, playing against and with the best of that competition.

As coach I was fairly spoilt this year to have Declan's Grandad **Terry Anderson** as a Scorer and Assistant. He also came down early each week to setup and line mark the grounds. I also had help from Tony, Lisa, Nicole & Dale at different times thru the season for various roles. Thanks to you all.

Good luck to the boys next summer in particular the top age players who will be going up to U14's.

Craig Sexton – Coach.



Under 12 White Sox

We had an excellent season this year, finishing 5th unfortunately but the kids had lots of fun and so did we as coaches.

David McDonald started of the season playing mostly outfield but ended it as our main starting pitcher.

Max 'Pepsi' Philips also improved extraordinarily during the course of the season at only nine years old he has the potential to become one of the best outfielders Cheltenham has seen.

Matthew improved out of sight with his batting, even ending up with a massive triple in the last game.

Max was a massive power hitter throughout the season hitting at least 10 doubles.

Kaito was consistently by far the fastest under twelve pitcher I have ever seen.

Nosuke ended the season a completely different person and baseballer to the boy I met at the start of the season.

Cody was an amazing starting catcher and showed us that he was what it takes to be a very good baseballer.

Luca, joining the little league at just nine years old showed us amazing talent at short-stop and was definitely the most enthusiastic kid I've ever met.

Jake was the team's second catcher and showed the guts and talent to catch to **Kaito** every week and did it with amazing class and talent while doing it.

Last but definitely not least **Josh Pettigrew** showed us that even when you're having a bad day or you've hurt yourself at school, you can still have fun and play baseball better than anyone else on the day.

A very special mention to all the parents who helped us out throughout the weeks, thank you for keeping the kids in line sometimes when we couldn't and thank you for bringing them down every week.

Thanks to everyone for playing with us this season and I hope you all keep playing and become the best baseballers you can be.

Alex and Tim



UNDER 12 TIGERS

The Tigers – so named after the Major League team, the Detroit Tigers - had a very challenging season. We started off not only undermanned, but also with a wide range of skill levels. We had a few kids with several seasons of T-ball and or Baseball under their belt, Tom, Niamh, Luke and Matt, four who had effectively never picked up a baseball bat, James, Rod, Hannah and Ethan and a few in between - Ruby and Lachlan. On top of that, they had a well-intentioned, if inexperienced, coach. Needless to say this was always going to be a challenge for any coach, but particularly for a rookie. And so, we got off to the sort of start one would expect, failing to score in the first two games. Finally we met Ormond, and with both sides only scraping 6 players each, both teams hit the diamond with no outfield. Our luck changed and we scraped in our first (and only) win for the season. We met Ormond later in the season and we went down fairly convincingly. The Tigers were saved from extinction early into the season with just 7 players, and we finally secured a full complement of 10 players. The Tigers are lucky enough to have 3 girls on our team, Niamh, Ruby and my daughter Hannah (one of the first timers), and each one of them has shone this season at various times.

Each of these kids brings something unique to the team –

Tom has an amazing passion for the game, and in particular pitching. Gets good results when he keeps things simple, and similarly is a big hitter when he stays patient. Has a good knowledge of the game and will go a long way providing he keeps in mind that first and foremost it needs to be FUN, and hopefully he will keep listening to advice from coaches and other players, including big brother Jack.

Niamh is a gem! A consistent hitter, leading off nearly every game - she is confident and a quiet achiever. A real pleasure to coach as she always listens and then does what's asked, and happily played every position this season. (perhaps not so happy behind the catcher's gear...) Should be really proud of her season and I think has a really bright future in any sport – a natural athlete, but with the smarts as well!

Hannah came in as a first timer and amazingly was quick to establish herself as one of the most consistent batters, giving the coach confidence to put her in at second. Hannah's also improved enormously in the field, having played nearly all positions, and no longer stands under a fly yelling "I can't do it, I can't do it!" but not getting out of the way... A great leader on the field, and has had an amazing first season.

Matt Coe is the quietest of the bunch, and simply gets the job done, whether as a relief pitcher, catcher, any base or outfield. You can rely on Matt to concentrate and stay focused for the whole game. A very handy pitcher, and I would have ideally liked to have used him more in this role, but still did really well this season, always focused and involved in the field and getting on base, and beyond, when at bat.

Rod Warner is another one of our first timers and must be the most polite kid I've met. A real credit to his folks. Despite lacking previous experience, Rod started off well and despite a very stiff stance on the plate, has had a good share of hits. Rod also had his first go at pitching a few weeks back with reasonable success, and has a new found respect for the catching position, particularly in the heat. Played every position and never grumbled about where he is placed. Not the fastest runner between bases, but gets on due to his solid batting.

Luke came into the side late – I recall this small kid standing quietly on his own on the sidelines during training. When asked which team he was in he replied "this one" – What's it called. - "The Tigers" he replied.... Oky Doky, you're in! I very quickly understood that this one is a natural athlete with the bat, ball and glove. Can play any position, and runs like the clappers. Being young, can have a tendency to push the boundaries - Can I pitch Can I pitch Can I pitch (Just remember the Coach / player hierarchy...) Always the first to start cleaning up the diamond after practice - no questions! Huge future for Luke, but this could be in any sport.

Ruby rounds out the feminine aspect of the Tigers. Has amazing qualities and despite sometimes appearing gruff, will be the first one at the side of a player who's hurt - When James copped a ball to the scone during training, Ruby was there in a flash to make sure he was OK and give him a hug – which sorted James out very quickly ! Sometimes struggles to maintain focus, but when she is on her game can play any position. Very tough on herself, and needs to take the time to enjoy the game rather than always wanting to achieve the perfect throw or hit. Great all-rounder.

Lachlan came into the side keen as mustard having his dad as coach and sister as a team mate. He had a couple of seasons of TBall and played baseball last winter, so was one of the more experienced players. Lachlan tends to put too much pressure on himself to perform and not let the side down. Not the best season with the bat for Lachlan, but he has found a new skill in the catcher's position. Lachlan has excelled in this difficult role, and this has helped his knowledge of the game. Always encouraging his pitcher, quick off his feet to chase a wild pitch and always has his head in the game.

James is our final first timer and is another one who will typically listen and then do. A real thinker and asks lots of good questions, and always puts a great effort in. Played well on base and also in the outfield. Had a terrific go at pitching recently with good results. Remembers to the little things such as backing up his team mates if a ball goes past, applauding good play, and always comes with a great attitude. A great sense of humour, and a really endearing and positive nature.

Ethan came into the Tigers the same week as Luke and we finally had 10 players. A very shy kid, Ethan still plays Tball, but wanted to give Baseball a go with his mate Lachlan. Should be proud of a great first season. Did not have the chance to play all positions but developed into a reliable outfielder, involved in several plays getting the ball from the outfield to base for the out. Has grown in confidence with the bat and although has not yet made it all the way home, he's been on base and has also has shown real potential as a big hitter with his broad shoulders. Just needs to relax with the bat, loosen up and let it swing.

As very much a rookie coach with minimal experience in the game, I've really enjoyed having extremely supportive parents. I was ably assisted by Ruby's dad, Steve, Niamh's mum Jane as Bench Manager, who typically filled in with coach's pitch due to my appalling record of striking out my own team. Tom's mum, Michelle, not only took care of the Team Manager role sending out all the emails etc, but also took care of the scoresheet nearly every game (Having done this for a few seasons myself, I know this is a thankless task, and really detracts from a parent's ability to sit back and enjoy watching their kids play, so I am eternally grateful to Michelle for this.) Matt's mum Cathy helped with scoring on the occasions Michelle was not around, so thanks there also. I also must thank Jack, Tom's brother, for his assistance throughout the season, whether the occasional coach's pitch, offering advice to me, always encouraging and pushing Tom to make the best of things, helping out the team at training, and so on.

I've really enjoyed having all the other parents participating and offering assistance and encouragement. It's very humbling as a coach to have such great support. I also need to acknowledge the support of a few other comrades in Craig Sexton and Paul Cummings who are always willing to offer advice and try impart some of their wisdom. Should be more of it ! I wish the overall result this season was more favourable, regardless it's honestly been fun coaching the Tigers. Above all, I hope that the kids enjoyed the season, and continue to building their appreciation and knowledge of the game.

Cheers,
Frank Mindum



UNDER 14 COORDINATOR REPORT

Season 2011 - 2012

Last year's crop of U14s was huge, over 60 registered players just in that age bracket alone. 3 Sunday teams and 5 Friday teams just from Cheltenham. This year's group whilst not as large were still one of the largest groups amongst clubs in Aus, and had no shortage of talent amongst the group. As with all things organising helpers and volunteers to fill the various roles needed took plenty of time and effort. Dave Holland was keen to expand his accountabilities from LL coordinator to U14s as well as coach a Friday team. Sunday coaches this season were going to be David Buckthorpe taking on the U14A team, and Paul Cummings looking after the U14B.

Both coaches did a great job with their teams, Paul's group filled with mostly bottom age players and early on very much a development team. However his hard work and energy paid off in marked improvement to the point that he was able to take his young team into finals. Whilst they did lose the sudden death semi their improvement and efforts over the course of the season were fantastic to see, and Paul deserves a great deal of credit for this.

Buck looked after the Major league team and once he had his squad began his season. His relaxed training sessions worked well as many of the team were training multiple times with the Vic Squad. So he concentrated on lifting their understanding and awareness of the game. His subtle lessons and idiosyncrasies slowly started coming out in the teams habits and play as the season wore on. His team was very successful taking out the U14 Major league title in a very dominating performance against perennial powerhouse Waverley. They managed to go through the season with only the one loss when they met Waverley during the season. A result which was reversed in both finals meetings against Waverley.

This year Cheltenham fielded three teams in the Friday night U14 SE region, Dave Holland had put his hand up early for one team. One coach down and three to go. After much chasing and plenty of failed requests Andy Holten generously agreed to step up and take a team. In the absence of any other coaches Peter Leslie and I agreed to share a team.

Training for the Friday teams was done using the station concept and was overseen by Daniel Williams. Dan was an ex-Chelt player who had come back to play and generously offered to donate his time and expertise in coaching that group. This worked very well as teams hadn't been formed yet so he was able to set up stations and with the assistance of parents and coaches run the group trainings. His tireless work setting up and running the sessions was appreciated by all. I'd like to personally thank Dan for all his help this year. To have an ex junior player come back and want to give back to the club that he played and learnt his baseball skills from was inspiring. Only his already planned trip to London interrupted his attendance. Overseas travel notwithstanding he was fantastic to have around.

The Friday Chelt teams again had great success and the grand final again was a Chelt/Chelt affair played between Phillies and Yankees after both teams had ended the finals runs of Springvale and Ormond. The

outcome of the first placed Yankees Vs the forth placed Ormond didn't surprise anyone. However second placed Springvale Vs 3rd placed Phillie Phanats was a fantastic game for the mostly bottom age Phillie Phanats. They pulled out all the stops, and not unlike David against Goliath, were able to end a very dominant Springvale's hopes of back to back Championships. In the GF Yankees prevailed in a game that was a great exhibition of what Friday night baseball should be. Team mates and friends pitted with and against each other, and both teams giving it their all. All played in great sportsmanship too. Well done both teams.

This season the U14s also provided quite a few players into the Victorian and SE LL representative teams. Max Barrett and Sam Michael both played in the Vic Blue side and performed very well. Max was very dominant in the final pitching against WA, only giving up two runs in three innings. As well hit extremely well all tournament. Sam also had an outstanding trip, recognised as one of the top batters for the tournament (.615 BA, 1.115 SLG) and managed the rare feat of hitting for a cycle against Queensland. Michael Leslie, Matt Stenhouse and Jack Daniels were named in the Vic White team and all were key members of that team in Perth. Matt and Michaels pitching and fielding and Jack's catching were key to the success of the White team. Logan Tuki-Jones was very unlucky to be named an emergency for the Vic squad as his performance at the tryouts was very strong.

As well we had bottom age U14s who qualified for the SE Mariners team which won the Vic Championship, and will be competing in the Gold Coast for the National Titles. Jack Dunn, Angus Octigan both were key contributors to the Mariner's success and are already packing their bags for the Gold Coast in May. They were ably coached by John Carlile who was assisted by Alan Tanner, Dan Williams and Stell Michael.

So I again have to thank all the people who made this season possible and as much fun as it was. The coaches and all the team managers who run around after the coaches, the scorers, parents who helped with set ups, write match reports, and those who manned (or womaned) the bar, canteen and BBQs, everything. All vital in making for a great season. I'd especially like to give thanks to Ferg for his ongoing help setting up diamonds on Fridays, helping coaches, overall ground and equipment maintenance, and also Dave Holland. Dave ended up the season as AAA team manager, Phillie Phanats Coach, U14/LL coordinator and also committee member.

Stell Michael



UNDER 14 A MAJOR LEAGUE - PREMIERS 2011-12

Tryouts for the U14 A team were a casual affair this season. David "Buck" Buckthorpe was coaching the side this year and had a group of approx 25 boys to choose from. The boys all looked good, and decisions could be made that would never be totally right or wrong. In the end Buck and 14B Coach Paul Cummings split the teams into what they believed to be two well balanced sides that would both be competitive in their relative divisions. Both teams ended up making the finals so I guess they must have got it pretty right.

Of the 11 lads in the team 6 were heavily involved in the state team trainings so the Chelt sessions had to be aimed at augmentation of what was being done at these sessions, rather than more of the same. The team coasted through the 5 week qualifying period. The biggest issue at times being how not to beat some of the lower teams too badly. In one case a washout saving Malvern from what looked like heading towards a 35 – 0 drubbing. No good for our kids, and definitely no good for the other team.

The team was made up of the following players:

- Max "The Beast" Barrett: not much needs to be said about Max. GF MVP, dominant hitter. Multiple home runs in the season. Lead team in BA and Slugging %, and a Grand Slam in the GF. At this stage of his playing career arguably the most intimidating player in U14 baseball.
- Luke "Lil' Buck" Buckthorpe: very athletic player who's steady fielding at second base and improving hitting was a great asset. Swung with great power and increased consistency as the season wore on.
- Jack "Workhorse" Daniels: had the arduous task of catching to either Max or Sam most weeks, then followed up with batting in the 5 spot. Great energy guy and competitor.
- Sam "The Gazelle" Hayes: Missed most of the season pre-Christmas with a broken wrist but returned without missing a beat into the leadoff spot and centre field.
- Michael "Professor" Leslie: very smart,skilled and versatile infielder. Hit and pitched well all season and able to deliver whatever was needed.
- Sam "The Man" Michael: powerhouse hitter and pitcher. Lead the team in RBIs and hit two Grand Slams for the season. Very flexible player defensively who is able to field well in all 9 positions.
- Jake "Rookie" Pocock: very skilled infielder or outfielder. Jake may have lead the team in HPBs and all season was a very courageous and determined player. Only bottom age

player in the side, looking forward to seeing him dominate U14 Major league next season.

- Matt "Stenny" Stenhouse: craft left hander who's pick off to first is a thing of beauty. A very very reliable hitter and lefty pitcher who recorded our only shut out of the season against Fitzroy.
- Ryan "The Rhymenoceros" Taranto: energizer bunny, Ryan's enthusiasm and boundless energy was the catalyst for the team. Always up, always listening and a great contributor who could play either infield or outfield.
- Logan "Babe" Tuki-Jones: another flexible player who can play infield or outfield and a very sweet striker of the ball either as a lead off hitter or in the heart of the order. Played in many positions during the season and performed well in all spots.
- Matt "Rowdy" Vorbach: a raw talent. Throws hard, swings hard and plays with great intensity. A great athlete who's ability to track down balls in the outfield was fantastic to watch.

During the season Buck was able to rotate pitching duties amongst many players. Sam, Michael and Matt Stenny did most of the early work due to Max having an injured arm pre Xmas. Whilst the pitching was stingy and very rarely allowed a winning score, the bats were always swinging and keeping the run rate ticking over. After Xmas and the state commitments had ended the team focused on the job at hand and were like a steam train heading into finals.

The team played Waverley twice in the finals series and it's hard to decide which was more enjoyable. The first semi was an upset in the eyes of many of the baseball community, but re-enforced the self belief the team had. Before that game they were underdogs and approached the game with trepidation. However a 7 run first inning changed all that and the team went on to demolish the league leaders 13 to 2. The grand final was a superb game by the whole team. The pitchers were at their best, and the team was focused. But what was impressive was the self belief and confidence every boy had during that game. It was Waverley who were nervously looking around as the game went on. And after posting 5 runs in the 3rd inning the realisation and sense of anticipation could be felt in all the team, and the crowd enthralled by the events unfolding before their eyes. Probably only Zen Master Buck was unmoved by what was playing out before his eyes. "all part of the plan..." was all he said.

In the end a successful season bringing the Championship to Chelt and ending the season on a fantastic note. Thanks to Buck for being there every Tuesday to train the team (I know I wasn't there every week), Gavin Daniels for umpiring, Peter Leslie for scoring, Pauline Stenhouse for also scoring on the occasions that Peter was away, Steve Pocock for his weekly match reports and Team Manager Robyne Jones for her organisational skills and of course those maps she would send out for the away games.

Stell Michael



Under 14B (AAA Minor League Competition)

Players:

Matt Holland:

Played his first season in the under 14s and was up to the higher level of Baseball. Matty was always strong in our outfield and will one day be a regular in an infield position. A highlight for the season was his Sac Bunt which resulted in us going from 0-6 to 5-6 in the semi final.

Angus Octigan:-

Also in his first summer U14s held down second base all season and batted in our top 6. Angus always attacked his training like it was a game and will one day be fighting for a position in the Major League side.

Mackenzie Robins:

Wow what a hungry player! I just wish I knew Macca when I was coaching footy. Base stealing was something this speedster excelled at. It wasn't uncommon to see Macca flying horizontal in desperation to reach a catch (many of which were taken)

Jack Dunn (Dunny):

Dunny was the team relief pitcher who had a great season on the hill. He also hit well all season with 21 RBIs and 1 HR. His safe glove also took many catches at CF. Look out next year as Dunny will rock this competition.

Ashley Flynn :

Was our Catcher for the season and also was our cleanup hitter. Ash had a great year behind the dish and combined well with Jak. Ash hit 28 RBI with 5 HR for the season slugging at .907. Ash has become a BIG LEAGUE hitter.

Matthew McKenna:

Played out of 1st base all season and was always solid here and contributed well with the bat. Matty also filled in as a part time pitcher when Jak & Jack were out of action and assisted in a crucial win against Geelong.

Nicholas Mindum :

Was playing in his first Sunday team for Cheltenham and held his position well. Nicholas was a big hitter who took many sides by surprise with his distance hitting. Nick will be a better ball player by spending a season in the big league.

Jak Cummings (BOOFA):

Boof was our go-to pitcher each week and put in the position each week to hit with confidence. His ERA was 5.93 and Jak was also a leader with the bat and was our most consistent hitter batting at .481.

Max Thompson:

Solid at 3rd is the best way to describe Max. A smart ball player and will sure be better for the season. Also a very consistent hitter leading us off most weeks with success. Max was also one of our part time pitches and always did his job.

Luke Sexton:

Mr improvement plus. Early in the season Luke struggled with the bat only to have a run of three weeks and three HR. Luke was our hole-filler and finished the year taking us into the finals at 1st filling in for Matt McKenna.

Michael Moore:

Was one of the unlucky guys who missed the initial team cut only to get an invitation mid-season and excelled. He played LF and was a little speedster taking several great catches. With only a few games to play he was really starting to develop his confidence with the bat.

Under 14B (AAA Minor League Competition)...

At the beginning of our season I never expected this group of guys to achieve the great things that they have. These guys have been the most enjoyable group I have ever had as they absorbed all the info that was given to them and always give it their best. We began training for 1.5 hrs only to have them plead for a longer session so we extended it to 2hs15min, they soaked up every minute, even in the heat. This enthusiasm is the reason why we made finals and missed out on a Grand Final berth by only 1 run. If I was picking my team for next Summer this is the attitude I would be looking for. Our team wasn't the strongest team in our comp but we were without doubt the most determined.

Like all teams they don't run smoothly without great help and this year my Assistant was Emma Thompson. Hmmmmmmm let me think???? Oh yes, she always made us laugh. Seriously Emma was great. She always offered her advice, none of which I acted on as we wanted to win. (Sorry Emmmm). She filled in on two occasions and kept the boys playing the same way we had been training them. 100% coaching record 2 wins 0 losses! She was also able to run a few training sessions due to my injuries. Many Thanks Emma, you helped to keep it a fun season and kept me insane oops I mean sane.

Dave Holland - Team manager / King of stats Dave ran the team as a manager should and made my life very easy. Within 30 minutes of arriving home he would have uploaded all the stats online for me to stress over.

Many thanks to Roslyn McKenna who took on the always hated job of team scorer. Thanks Ros

A very special thanks to Dale Flynn who again for the third season in a row was our team umpire did a great job. Thanks mate much appreciated.

I would also like to thank all the parents for their help each week at home and getting the boys to training and game day each week on time. "I hope your boys enjoyed the year". Thanks to the Summer Committee again for their faith in me as a coach and allowing me to continue to do this very special job of Coach and mentor.

Cheers Paul Cummings (Cummo)

MVP: Jak Cummings
MVP: Ashley Flynn
Coach's Award: Angus Octigan





UNDER 14 YANKEES

PREMIERS SE DIVISION COMPETITION

The Friday competition was quite closed in this year. Six sides meant that teams would be meeting on a regular basis, in fact three meetings each for the season meant we'd see plenty of each other. As was the norm Chelt were heavily represented in number of teams, 3 of the 6 teams in the SE 14s being from Cheltenham. This meant that most weeks there were at least two games at home, and in many cases a Chelt/Chelt local battle.

Training nights were made easier by Dan William's offer to run the U14 group sessions. His efforts were fantastic, especially as coaches struggled to attend due to other commitments, and helpers seemed hard to come by. The absence of boys doing state training also on a Wed, and the number of boys who didn't, or couldn't play Friday night baseball meant that the numbers at training rarely got above 20. For three teams that's a pretty good turn out, and the station concept was able to provide consistent coaching across the age group. So the players were able to get out of the sessions as much as they wanted to.

But onto the Yankees. This was a mixture of mostly top age lads who over the last few years of Friday night baseball had played against and with each other. Teams had again been split with a combination of Major League, Minor League and Friday players across all three teams, so friendships and rivalries were able to be expanded and flourish across the teams. The Yankees focus for the season was offence, swing the bats and run the bases hard. In some games this became quite challenging due to the lack of strikes, but the lads were encouraged to get themselves on base and drive their team mates around with hitting. All the boys were able to make good contact consistently as their eagerness to hit rather than look for walks increased. This attitude was highlighted in the first game back from Xmas break where we were forced to field a hastily put together team which included 3 under 12 players. Even the LL guys were bitten by the hitting bug, and two of them were able to face the hard throwing Phillies pitcher and still manage to earn their first U14 RBIs. We approached the Friday competition with the attitude that the result was not important, the focus was on the process. For us was about the kids wanting to hit the ball hard, and make their plays in the field. And to a large extent that was achieved, we still had the odd fielding error and called third strike, but all still part of it. Every child was able to have a turn pitching and in many cases their initial trepidation was replaced by enjoyment and a sense of accomplishment.

The team was made up of the following boys:

Harry Bingham
Jak Cumming
Blake Cummings
Jesse Doree
Michael Leslie
Sam Michael
Nick Mindum
Jacob Morris
Luke Sexton
Max Thompson

There were many individual highlights during the season. Blake Cumming's effort coming on to close the game against Springvale with bases loaded and none out trying to save a two run lead was superb. He managed to get three outs and only gave up 1 run, giving Yankees a narrow one run win. Michael's huge hosing from centre field to home plate getting the greedy runner out. Jacob's improvement at second base each week, Jesse's seemingly half asleep yet surprisingly effective fielding and pitching, Nick's ability to run down flies in the outfield, Luke's crafty lead off hitting and base running, Harry's understated fielding and hitting, Jak's consistent fielding and hitting, Max transforming himself in to a clean up beast at the plate with his constant hitting, and Sam's power hitting every week.

Thanks to the parents who also helped every week. Peter Leslie who umpired every home game and scored every away game was fantastic. Emma Thompson's help all season with coaching and scoring was great. Sarah Galea, Max Thompson's aunt was also fantastic stepping up and scoring home games helped immensely, and saved Emma from the stress of "wrecking" the scorebook. Paul Cummings helping with coaching and Craig Sexton also helping out scoring once his LL commitments ended. Of course Ferg, Ian Curnow and Terry Anderson were superb in getting the grounds set up every week. A big thanks also to Dave Holland who found his feet as coordinator and kept the communications and game nights running in amongst coaching a team of his own.

Stell Michael





UNDER 14 PHILLIES

RUNNERS UP SE DIVISION COMPETITION

I was again blessed with an enthusiastic and talented group of boys for Friday night baseball, this season taking the step up to Under 14's and competing in the SE Baseball Victoria Competition. We had a good mix of players with two 2nd year Under 14's, 5 AAA first year 14's, 2 Friday Night only players and one Under 12 representing the Phillies during the season.

We had some good results during the summer most notably our brilliant, and highly unexpected (by most!) victory against Springvale in the Semi Final to give us a Grand Final spot. The performance of the whole team that night was something to behold and the large crowd of Phillies supporters certainly helped the boys bring home a memorable win. It proved to me, despite our loss in the following weeks Grand Final, that we had an excellent team with a lot of heart and a great attitude.

The Phillies were represented by:

Matt Vorbach

Matt had an outstanding season being our mainstay pitcher and high order bat. He is obviously a natural talent which showed in all facets of his game. Matt finished equal leader with the bat averaging .500 and boasted a 4.85 ERA to finish one of our 2 MVPs for the year. Great working with you for the first time Matt, keep smiling (even when you ground out!) and good luck in the Under 16's.

Jack Daniels

What a talent! And what a blessing to coach. Jack is a mature, knowledgeable baseball player who is a born leader and has capped another excellent year. Jack was the most powerful hitter in the team and we relied on him to clean up most weeks. He also has a super arm which was on display many times much to the shock of opposition base runners. Jack is the number 1 Under 14 catcher and his leadership helped bring us victory in the semi final. A pleasure to work with you Jack. Joint MVP winner.

Angus Octigan

Gus had a good year playing mostly as first baseman where he is a natural. He definitely batted better than his .261 average might suggest and he could be called upon to bat anywhere in the lineup, fill a spot in the field or pitch a couple of innings at any time. Gus was also part of the winning Under 12 Mariners rep team. Congratulations Gus.

Matt Holland

Outstanding season at 2nd base from Matt highlighted by his BOG performance in the semi final where he also pulled off a brilliant non-sacrifice bunt to kick start our overhauling of Springvale. Matt's sharp tag out from the Jack Daniels torpedo sealed our victory. Batting at .381 Avge, Matt also led OBP with .649. Another great year buddy!

Jake Pocock

Jake is a super talent and a player I could always rely on to fill the tough roles. He is an exceptional shortstop who also can play at first, pitch a few innings and lead off or clean up in the batting roster. Jake was the only first year Under 14 player chosen in the Major League team and he will look forward to a dominant year next season. Jake batted .320 in another good season.

Under 14 Phillies Report.....



Jack Dunn

Jack was once again restricted on the mound due to Sunday pitching duties but was extremely reliable in the outfield and infield. With some refinement to his batting technique Dunny will be a top player in any competition with extreme power evident with the bat and a great talent on the mound. Jack finished 3rd in the batting with .440 average and has rattled my brain yet again with his own form of “question time”!

Michael Moore

For three years this lad has been a joy to coach. Once again marking himself hard, Michael continues to improve and after a slow start to the season in the batters box ran home to finish 4th with a .412 average. Michael is a very reliable outfielder and with strength in his arm will be a handy pitcher / infielder.

Nils Bellarts

The crowd favourite! Nilsy is quiet and unassuming and clearly the teams most improved player capping a great season with a 2 – 2 performance in the Grand Final. He also proved an unlikely 3rd baseman throwing out 2 runners in consecutive weeks with pin point accuracy to first from third. Outstanding summer Nils. Congratulations.

Mack Robins

Whilst Mack will be disappointed with his time in the batters box he has continued to improve beyond words as a catcher. Mack caught in most games this year and did an outstanding job being our best with a .974 average and only recording one error. Mack is also a gutsy infielder and reliable outfielder. Great job Macka!

Kyle Goodwin

Kyle has had an injury – plagued year but as each game passed his confidence grew as he made contact in the batters box on a more regular basis. Kyle loves being part of the team and has been a pleasure to coach once again. With some strength and speed, Kyle will become a handy left handed hitter.

Sam Doree

Sammy joined the team half way into the year after filling in for us when we were short. Sam is a clear talent and also made the Mariners Under 12 rep side, played in the Under 12 major League team and

represented the Under 12 Braves in the first part of the season. A great kid to have on the team as a powerful hitter, reliable baseman and an obvious pitching talent.

I have been blessed again with not only a great group of kids but I think I am the luckiest coach with the best group of parents possible. Stuart Dunn was a terrific help with warm ups and base coach, Gavin Daniels incredible as our umpire and also coached the boys when I was indisposed at my Xmas Party. Thank you to both of you! To Ruth Moore and Karen Dunn for their ever-improving scoring – thank you so much ladies! Thanks also to Rita Vorbach who braved the foul ball each week as our team photographer – just a wonderful job. To all the wonderful parents I say a huge thank you.

My thanks also to Andy Holten (Red Sox) and Stell Michael (Yankees) for the season I know you had a tough year Andy but I'm sure your exceptional knowledge and love of the game has rubbed off on your boys and they will be all the better for it. Congratulations again Stell on the flag and thank you for your support and words of wisdom. It's been a pleasure working with you. John Ferguson is a legend and his work on the diamonds every week is exceptional – thank you John and to Dan Williams for your work at training with the boys was a blessing.

I had another very enjoyable season. I love the game and this Club is a great place to call your second home.

David Holland





Cheltenham Under 14 Red Sox

Ashley Flynn
Jackson Hoult
Fred Holten
Gianni Caruso
Kaito Hennig
Logan Tuki-Jones

Matt McKenna
Matt Stenhouse
Peter Vacouftsis
Yoshi Mori
Mackenzie Lawrence

Our Friday night season had its' highs and lows in terms of results. The team consisted of many inexperienced players along with three newcomers to the game who all proved to be a real joy to advise and guide towards a love of the game.

The contingent of 4 Sunday team players bore the brunt of the pitching and catching work, which they did to the best of their abilities even though it may not have been their Sunday role. The loss of Matt McKenna in a base jumping event was a blow to the team and we wish him a speedy recovery. Thankyou to Logan, Matt S., Matt M and Ashley for all their work with a young team where things did not always go to plan, as it might on a Sunday.

Our three novices in Mac, Kaito and Jackson all showed a commitment to the team by regularly attending weekday training and with this attitude will improve their skills and level of enjoyment. They took their disappointments in the right spirit and we gladly celebrated with them when the wheel turned and they enjoyed success in the batting box or in the field. Well done boys!

The teams' middle order of players saw Gianni, Fred, Yoshi, Peter thrown into many different roles from catching, pitching, infield and outfield. The Red Sox team on a whole were the regular majority of the boys at training which was pleasing to see as it reflected their desire to improve in the game.

The Red Sox enjoyed three winning games for the season along with a three games where we actually lead into the bottom of the last inning. Inexperience is a curse but it is all in the learning curve and no doubt the boys will be on the other side of late inning victories as their careers roll on.

Every game was played in good spirit right to the end and I hope that attitude will be carried by these players through their many decades of baseball (& Life) ahead.

Thanks to the parents for their transport duties, Ros for scoring and Dale for umpiring.

Andrew Holten - Coach

MVP: Ashley Flynn
Encouragement: Kaito Hennig
Coach's Award: Gianni Caruso

"The other sports are just sports. Baseball is a love".



U16 & U18 Coordinators Report

I hope you all have had a enjoyable year at Cheltenham Baseball Club.

Under 18s have now finished and didn't make finals. So Its farewell to juniors for a number of players. Brett Curnow ,Tom Davidson, Yoshi Campiteli, Jack Olgive and Ben Leslie. So they can now sleep in on a Sunday morning.

Under 16's Major unfortunately lost their Grand Final 2 weeks ago and the 14's Major got up to win the premiership . Well done to both these sides.

Junior Presentation was a very successful day last Sunday with the Under 16's, 14's and 12's showing a great turn out.

Is was a great effort from AAA coaches getting their teams in finals. No other club did this, most graded their players and competed in AA but we think it's more important to develop kids, than win at this level. Hence we had two closely even teams, not perfect but close.

Thank you to those that umpired under 12's on Friday night. Most of you helped out, only a couple failed to turn up. It's great that you were willing to put back into the club.

Thanks to Ian Curnow, Koji Campitelli, Mitch holding, Sam and Brendon Trent-Beacon for your help in major works on the second diamond. We would like to have seen more families help out from 18's and 16's, seeing this diamond is mainly used by this age group for either games or training. But we had a great turn up from 14's and managed to raise the levels on home and third , with a little work on second. So hopefully this makes them a little less likely to get washed out. We will finish this off next season. Working Bees are not just physical work. Other jobs, like keeping workers hydrated or cooking the BBQ or sweeping out rooms and sheds; there are jobs for all.

Special thanks to coaches Pat O'Neil, Matt Carlile ,Dave Stenhouse and his left hand Daniel Ward- Burton, Rick Porter, Laurie Curry, Grahame Chittendon and Anthony Bowley. The amount of time given freely to coach is a magnificent effort from all. I hope team managers from each team have done a collection.

Thanks again for your support

Peter Leslie



UNDER 18's

Season 2011-2012 was an interesting season to say the least. We had our up and downs, tears and laughter. But mostly we enjoyed our time together.

The boys qualified to play in the major league competition after a season best game against Berwick which we won in a nail biter.

After qualifying we were right in the mix going into the Christmas. But unfortunately after Christmas we lost both our main pitchers in Ben due to him now being an outfielder and Yoshi pitching in the ones. This allowed Jordan to step up and get a lot of valuable innings into his young arm.

A big congratulations goes out to Brett playing for the Vic white team and Yoshi and Ben playing for the Vic blue team. Also a huge effort in Ben making the Australian team and being signed out of the tournament. I feel both Matt and myself pleased to take credit in all of your achievements.

Coaching these boys more often left me scratching my head in shock as to how they managed to get them self into the position. There are just way to many stories to even start to tell you. But I have really enjoyed the season meeting and hanging out with these young men.

Now to the thank you's. The hardest part of being a junior coach is finding volunteers to help out. A big thanks to the parents who helped with the setting up the diamonds, Johno for doing home umpire duties, and Pete for the one you did. Joe for doing the away umpire duties and Leonie for being a scorer and signing my score cards it almost looks like my signature. And most important thanks to Matt for being my assistant even though you choose to go to America. Not fair!!!

Thanks guys for the season hope you all enjoyed yourself and maybe have learnt a few things.

Just remember baseball is a great sport where you meet great people, so stick around at this great club for many years to come.

Cheers

Pat O'Neill and Matt Carlisle

UNDER 16A REPORT

Season 2011 - 2012

What is baseball? Well, Webster's dictionary defines it as "*A person born of low, common or illegitimate parents.*" Confused? Me too. But seriously, I just looked it up. "*In the middle ages a Baseball person simply had to accept his or her station in life.*"

Who knew baseball has been around since the middle ages? That's amazing!

(Wait a minute...Arrgh that damn predictive text made me look stupid again. Don't worry I can make this work)

Luckily for us, a lot has changed in baseball since the middle ages. No longer does a baseball wench have to toil away her entire life in some dingy tavern. He or she can rise to great heights and become a Knight or a Lord or a King or a Wizard.

And that is just what these kids have done. These Kings of Under 16 have risen from humble beginnings and dragged themselves up from the doldrums to a place in the upper echelon of baseball society through stubborn determination and sheer force of will. They have claimed much glory in battle put down many a rebellion and now find themselves ruling from up on high in the great citadel, overlooking the rabble and spitting down on those they used to call kin.

The point of all that nonsense is really just to say we had ourselves a helluva team this year. A group of 11 guys who were all basically built in specialists at the positions we chose them for, but could almost all play multiple positions effectively if needed. A batting line up that hit all the way down the order (Team Batting Ave.400+) that was capable of doing serious and consistent damage to go along with a duo of Victorian representative pitchers on the mound on a weekly basis. You really can't ask for more than that...on paper. But as we all know, baseball games aren't played on paper. They are played on TV screens.

The annual Stenhouse recruitment drive yielded some positive results, we welcomed Lachlan Madden and Brad Kmet over from Berwick. Lach established himself quickly as our ace on the hill and Brad was rock solid as his catcher of choice. We also welcomed Josh Lean from Waverley. We were more than willing to turn over a few secrets of national security just for the pleasure of his company.

We had 6 of our guys represent us at the Nationals this year in total, and I gotta tell you, I thought we'd have more. Some of our major contributors this year missed out. But a big congrats to those that were there. So for all of these reasons and more, you can see why our expectations were so sky high.

Now, it would have been outrageously arrogant of us to expect to win the grand final before the season. That's probably why we did. But the more sensible people just expected us to play off in one (and as of this writing, that's just what we will be doing) as it became somewhat obvious that this was a two dog race between ourselves and Waverley who ended up on top after issuing us with our only defeat in the regular season. But we did get a huge scare in the semi from Blackburn who we scraped by with a desperate 1 run walk off win in the semi-final that we escaped with by the skin of our teeth after summoning the hand of God on more than one occasion to get us over the line.

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So, after all the drama, after all the tantrums, all the sooky la la's and high-fives. All the good cop/bad cop, bad cop/bad cop and good cop/good...no we didn't do that. Its all just down to the big one, and it come down to us just not swinging a hard bat which ended up us loosing the game, which was a big disappointment because the kids close up shop, and yes we did train for this but on the day we didn't come through with the bat... "It's That Simple"

Dave and I would like to send out a big cheers to all the parents for their great support throughout the year. My steak of never once setting up a baseball diamond before a game continues into its 20th year and its because of some of you guys.

But not only for those that did the physical work. For all the kids and their folks who are expected to make a major (4 day a week, approx 10 hours) commitment to Club Stenhouse. It's a big ask, we know and we thank you.

A massive thank you to Sue Palmer for her fabulous scoring all season and doing those bloody stats, and lets not forget Pete Burdett for umpiring all our home games from behind the dish.

That's all we have to say. So, finally to TB, Beiber, Turkey, Leany, Lovey, Lock, Jimmy, Mitchy-Mitch, Special-K, Georgy-boy and the Frog. Thanks for the year boys.

U16B Season report

Season 2011 – 2012

After having an outstanding season losing only one game and finishing on top of the ladder Chelt B were unable to get the job done in the semi final due to some injury concerns and probably not playing at their best on the day. This was not probably a just reward for the dedication and effort that the boys put in at both games and training during the season. A fantastic bunch of young men who were both enthusiastic and hard working they where a pleasure to be around all season long. Both Anthony and I would like to thank the parents for their endeavours to get the boys to training and games and their assistance with setting up the ground and their support during games. Special thanks to Tony Preston for scoring and providing statistics for both Anthony and I.

Darcy Bowley

First base. Originally in the team as a pitcher injuries didn't allow this and he became a solid first baseman and hit well during the season. A very pleasant young man he was a great asset to the team.

Declan Chittenden

Catcher. An outstanding year behind the plate with some great calling of games and a batting average of .492 made him a strong contributor to the overall team performance.

Jack Enciondo

Pitcher. As starting pitcher Jack was one of the main reasons that the team performed so well during the season. Batting at three he had some outstanding hits during the year and towards the end showed the dedication required to get the next level.

Naoki Liu

Left Field. Naoki came to the team a little late from the Cheltenham C team when we were short of players. He fitted in beautifully and was as hard working and enthusiastic as any member of the team. A solid left field if Naoki ever reaches his full potential with the bat he will become an outstanding baseballer

Henry Bevan

Right field. Henry also came late to the team but like Naoki was keen and dedicated working very hard to improve his skills. An awesome potential with the bat he was a good contributor to the team throughout the season.

Murad Mohamed

Centre field. A naturally gifted athlete he owned centre field and took some great catches in important games with the bat a solid contributor his ability to laugh at himself was often a cause for great mirth with in the group

U16B Season report.....

Michael Natoli

Right field, short stop. The mullet as he was affectionally known was a great right field defender and when called upon to play short stop never made an error. Very quick between the bases he often put pressure on opposition teams by stealing. A solid contributor with the bat he was a joy to have team.

Riki Preston

Pitcher, Third base. The king had an outstanding season on both the mound and with the bat where he batted over .700. An immensely likeable young man he was a pleasure to coach and have in the team and contributed greatly to the results that were garnered by the team.

Timothy Samoilov

Short stop. Tim made very few errors in the field and was really enthusiastic when around the group. Probably not batting as well as his huge potential he was still able to get some very important hits in games. A very likeable young man.

Stefan Taranto

Second base. Only made arguable one error in the field the entire season and with a batting average at first bat of above five hundred he scored many runs for the team with his cleaver base stealing. Always happy and enthusiastic despite some family set backs. He was a pleasure to coach.

Awards

MVP:	Riki Preston
Pitching Award:	Jack Enciondo
Coaches Award:	Stefan Tartanto

Finally both Anthony and I would like wish all the boys the best in their future endeavours in the field of baseball.

Graeme Chittenden

UNDER 16C REPORT

Season 2011 - 2012

We began the season with 12 boys being selected for our Round 1 clash against Waverley and with a bit of luck may have got over the line but the boys showed me that a successful year was ahead. Unfortunately in the next 2 Rounds we lost Matthew (for the whole of the season) and Zach (returned the final 2 games) who both suffered severe ankle injuries.

Our early season form was patchy but we achieved our goal of qualifying for the AAA Major League. At this stage a team reshuffle saw Naoki and Henry transfer to Graeme's team . We welcomed Josh and new player Denton Schragger who moved from Sandringham.

Some highlights of earlier games was the power hitting from James and a magnificent Grand Slam by Andrew against Sandringham. As the season progressed the boys were continuing to show improvement and by the Christmas break we were in third place on the ladder.

Significant improvement had been shown by all in particular Jack F whose batting and infield work was proof that committed training efforts will make a difference.

Jarrod played more permanently at 1st Base and made several wonderful plays to save a number of passed balls.

Our winning form was due to the pitchers Josh, backed up by Andrew and Luke who had most teams struggling with all their variations of speed and off speed pitching.

Connor, whose willingness to play where the team needed him, was much appreciated by me and a couple of his efforts in the outfield were outstanding.

Heading towards the finals Jack V. was unable to play due to a back injury and his talents shown throughout the season were greatly missed during the finals.

Alex's catching was ever reliable and his consistent batting scored many valuable runs.

After playing several positions, Denton showed exceptional improvement at 2nd Base in the latter part of the season.

Zach returned for the last 2 rounds and considering his long lay off performed magnificently.

At the conclusion of the regular season we had finished 3rd and I was extremely happy with the boys continued improvement with their attitude, commitment and effort and we were keen to take on Melbourne in a knockout final. We had beaten them earlier in the season but had been soundly defeated by them in the final round 12-0 so the boys seemed very determined to improve upon that. Early indications were showing that everyone of the boys were not only talking about it but doing it. The discipline, will and concentration in the batting box of ALL players was superb and with Josh doing a fantastic job pitching and great backup in the field we were placed in the final innings to surprise all and maybe sneak a win. Unfortunately we were unable to get the 3 Outs and were defeated by 1 run. As expected the boys were extremely disappointed but as their coach I could not have

UNDER 16C REPORT.....

been prouder of the performance and effort as I am sure all who attended were. The boys should hold their heads high because it was a shining example of what can occur when they all unite for a common goal.

Further, the season should not be judged on one game but on the season overall and looking back every one of the players showed vast improvement and made important contributions to the team.

I sincerely hope that all enjoyed the season and return to play next season.

I would also like to thank all who assisted throughout the year in the usual ground preparation and my particular thanks to the assistant coach Laurie Curry, Gordon Peake for helping at training, Darren Vandenhoven for umpiring and Fiona Curry for providing yet another faultless scorebook.

Rick Porter.



Firsts

16 wins-10 losses -4 draws

All in all a battling year where we fell short with injuries but in turn found a few hidden gems within our ranks.

It took us until Christmas but we finally reached .500. A pretty rough start some might say after finishing 3rd last season. With Blake Cunningham injuring himself the night before the first game, no import and Josh Mulherin not playing it was never going to be easy.

Starting so slow was due to our search for people to fill innings competitively, Daniel Mack Daniel Gribben Steve Gourlay and then later in the year Yoshi Campetelli, Kable Hogben and even some cameo appearances from Travis Blackley. I have to tell you we went from myself throwing against Melbourne in the first game with a blown up arm, saving Steve for the midweeker to the last few games of the season having the luxury of Stevey Gourly starting with Yoshi Campetelli, Blake Cunningham, Kable Hogben and Travis Blackley all available to pitch in relief. I think Cheltenham should be quite proud at the fact all those 5 guys being home grown talents.

Steve Gourlay of 4ths fame last season wanted the ball on every occasion he could, be it on 3 days rest back to back to back, it didn't bother him and he performed brilliantly. Backed up by Daniel Mack, Daniel Gribben and Yoshii Campetelli who also were brilliant in keeping the club not only in division one but able to beat top teams.

With constant development of the group Cheltenham will continue to hold their own in division one. To compete at the finals end of the season we do need to improve our pitching depth and continue to find hitters as we did this year. It was a ever changing lineup from start to finish with Daniel Gribben relieving then heading overseas, Andrew Gribben breaking his arm, Blake Cunningham stitches in his hand. Brett Curnow, Dylan Trevorah, Nick Rossell and Jarrod Hall all had breakout years and asserted themselves as consistent ones players.

We also had a heavy involvement in the state under 18 level with Ben Leslie playing well enough to earn a pro contract and Yoshi Campetelli throwing brilliantly in pressure situations and Daniel Mack who committed his time as a coach as well as playing for Cheltenham.

My huge thanks to assistant coaches Matthew Tayler and Laurie Hall who committed a hell of a lot of time, passion and frustration in their time this season. Their time commitment is an integral part of the development of the playing group.

Also a huge thankyou to the time committed by Mick Trevorah who proudly wears his heart on his sleeve and takes his job as chairman of selectors with the passion it deserves.

A big thankyou also to Robyn Hogben for her time on driving all over Melbourne to score for the ones.

Hayden Dingle

Seconds – Matt Tayler

No Report



Thirds – James Upfill

For the Rustlers this year it seemed three was the loneliest number. The thirds season started promisingly with a group of youngsters full of ability mixed in with some more senior guys who had a proclivity for putting wins on the board. Unfortunately a combination of player movement, injuries, weddings, the rollback of communist culture in Vietnam, unseasonal weather patterns and the technology which allows salt water to be made drinkable meant that we could never put anything close to our best team on the park when it really counted. This led to several key losses to middle of the road teams effectively ending our tilt at a finals campaign; despite good showings against several of the better teams in the competition, including a memorable round one walk-off win over Malvern and victory in a gripping defensive duel against Doncaster to put us into the four at the mid-way point of the season. The guys who stuck it out through what became a long and tough season are to be most highly commended. It is one thing to be focused and driven when the game is on the line and it is easy to perform at your best when you feel like everyone is behind you; but the fact that we were still charging hard and taking it right up to the opposition even when there wasn't much hope left speaks volumes about the professionalism and determination of these young men, many of whom have a big future at this baseball club.

Without the wonderful help of many great club members; this season, like most seasons I coach, would have ended with me curled up in a foetal position having a mental breakdown in a puddle on the back diamond. First off a special thanks has to go to all the guys who helped us out and filled in when we were short of players. This was a regular occurrence and I am sure that you are all devastated that you don't get to hear my awesome voice on the end of the phone saying 'so! What are you doing Sunday afternoon?' On that note I also have to thank those who helped me get a team on the park each week especially Mick Trevorah but also Patty O'Neill and Dave Stenhouse. A huge thanks to Col Upfill for umpiring our home games, John Ferg for doing the grounds and equipment, JC for doing the president thing and to our two amazing scorers Michelle Ogilvie and Sue Palmer. Finally, as always, thanks to Tina for making my life easier by tenfold by choosing what colour powerade I should have each week.

Cheers - Jimbob

MVP: Elliot Macquire

Runner up MVP: Adam Love

Coach's Award: Zac Palmer



Fourths – Dave Stenhouse

No Report

Fifths – Fabian Fiore

Division 6 Cheltenham MC won two games with many new players who hadn't played the game before (special mention to Craig Sexton and Matt Seward). Really only had one pitcher (Yasu) so we struggled when Yasu had to come off. We won two games (one was a forfeit), but played very competitive ball in a few games.

MVP-

Alex Marshall

Best International Player

Yasu Muragahmi

Most Improved and Best Team Player

Michael Fiore

(Michael was asked to go up to the 3rd Division, but said he'd rather play with his Division 6 teammates – he played catcher, 2nd base, 3rd base, and shortstop at different times and batted extremely well)

CHELTENHAM RUSTLERS STATE REPRESENTATIVES 2011 – 2012

UNDER 12 SE MARINERS

Jack Dunn
James Eadie
Angus Octigan
Sam Doree

UNDER 14 BLUE

Max Barrett
Sam Michael

U14 WHITE

Michael Leslie
Matt Stenhouse
Jack Daniels
Logan Tuki-Jones (Emergency)

UNDER 16

Brandon Stenhouse
Zack Palmer
Mitch Holding
Koji Campitilli
Lachlan Madden
Jack Enciondo

2011/2012 AWARD WINNERS

UNDER 12 MAJOR LEAGUE	Batting Award JOHN PAUL CALLIL	Pitching Award SAM DOREE	Most Improved BRODIE HOPKINS
LL PHILLIES	Most Improved OLIVER BOWLEY	Best First Year TYSON KIDD	Coach's Award FRASER PARSONS
LL RANGERS	MVP Award BILLY PEAKE	Fielding Award ADEN WILLIAMS	Most Improved DEAKIN KITTS
LL BRAVES	MVP Award BEN SEXTON	Most Improved JACOB WATT	Coach's Award NICHOLAS GILCHRIST
LL ASTROS	MVP Award DANTE CARUSO	Coach's Award BRODIE HOPKINS	Encouragement Award SAM DIMITS
LL WHITE SOX	MVP Award KAITO AONO	Most Improved DAVID McDONALD	Coach's Award LUCA & JAKE HARROWELL
LL TIGERS	MVP Award HANNAH MINDUM	Batting Award NIAMH CARMODY	Coach's Award MATTHEW COE

UNDER 14 MAJOR LEAGUE	MVP Award MAX BARRETT	Most Improved JACK DANIELS	Best Team Player SAM MICHAEL
UNDER 14 AAA MINOR LEAGUE	MVP Award ASHLEY FLYNN	MVP Award JAK CUMMINGS	Coach's Award ANGUS OCTIGAN
UNDER 14 YANKEES	MVP Award SAM MICHAEL	Most Improved MAX THOMPSON	Golden Glove MICHAEL LESLIE
UNDER 14 PHILLIES	MVP Award JACK DANIELS	MVP Award MATT VORBACH	Most Improved NILS BELLARTS
UNDER 14 RED SOX	MVP Award ASHLEY FLYNN	Encouragement Award KAITO HENNIG	Coach's Award GIANNI CARUSO

UNDER 16 A	MVP Award LACHY MADDEN	MVP Award BRANDON STENHOUSE	Batting Award SAM TREND-BEACOM
	Coach's Award SAM TREND-BEACOM		
Under 16 B	MVP Award RIKI PRESTON	Pitching Award JACK ENCIONDO	Coach's Award STEFAN TARANTO
Under 16 C	MVP Award ANDREW CURRY	Most Improved JACK FILAMU	Golden Glove LUKE PORTER

GRAND SLAMS	U16 C	ANDREW CURRY vs Sandringham
	U14 A	SAM MICHAEL vs Melbourne
		SAM MICHAEL vs Geelong
		MAX BARRETT vs Waverley (GF)
SHUTOUPS	U14 A	MATT STENHOUSE vs Newport

2011 / 2012 AWARD WINNERS

UNDER 18 MAJOR LEAGUE	Kevin Williams Memorial MVP BEN LESLIE	MVP Runner Up JORDAN OSBORNE	Coach's Award WILL MASON
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DIVISION 6	MVP Award ALEX MARSHALL	Best International Player YASU MURAGAHMI	Most Improved & Best Team Player MICHAEL FIORE
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DIVISION 1 - 4TH NINE	Batting Award ADAM LEECH	Coach's Award OZZIE OSBORNE	
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DIVISION 1 - 3RD NINE	MVP Award ELLIOT MACQUIRE	Runner Up MVP ADAM LOVE	Coach's Award ZAC PALMER
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DIVISION 1 - 2ND NINE	MVP Award MICHAEL RIZZI	Batting Award MICHAEL RIZZI .391	Pitching Award DANIEL GRIBBIN
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DIVISION 1 - 1ST NINE	Gwen & Len LePage MVP / Club Champion STEVE GOURLAY	Batting Award BEN LESLIE	Rookie of the Year JARROD HALL
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JUNIOR CHAMPION AWARD	BEN LESLIE
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GOLDEN GLOVE AWARD	DYLAN TREVORAH
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GRAND SLAM	NICHOLAS COY vs Essendon 6.11.2011
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JUNIOR COACH	ANTHONY BOWLEY	
Nominations	John Ferguson David Buckthorpe	John Carlile David Stenhouse

JUNIOR CLUB PERSON	MICHAEL NATOLI	
Nominations	Josh Goschnick Tim Samilov	Alex Marshall

SENIOR CLUB PERSON	PETER LESLIE	
Nominations	John Ferguson Tina Cooen	PAUL CUMMINGS John Carlile Stell Michael