



GREG BROWN -LIFE MEMBERSHIP 2020

Greg Brown played 13 Summer seasons 1987 -2000 including 4 as the Club Coach and playing manager of our First Nine in both Summer and Winter seasons. He also served on Committees and was heavily involved in junior coaching throughout his time with the Club.

From the time Greg arrived September 1988 his performances on the mound exceeded the Clubs expectations. In his first season with the Club he won a record 19 senior Games. 10 wins in the Firsts and another 9 in the seconds for a 19 W 4L record over all. Playing conditions at the time precluded an International player pitching consecutive games in a Club Firsts.

His ability to impart his baseball knowledge to others and in particular to our juniors has been a bonus for the Club. Demonstrated by the senior teams regularly playing in the finals and he was instrumental in helping 2 juniors making the Victorian and Australian U17 teams.





Greg's on field leadership was outstanding during his time with the Club and as the mainstay of our pitching staff. The Club was seldom strong in hitting and wins were hard earned and often dependent on his pitching.

Ten wins in a season is the highwater mark for pitching excellence in baseball competitions in Victoria and Greg achieved this level of performance on at least 2 occasions

1988-89 10 Wins. (82 K's 116 innings)

1993-94 11 wins 2 saves (3.00 ERA 74 K's over 111 innings - 1828 pitches)

Greg won our Best Clubman Award in 1998-99 for his ability to lift his team mates and fellow players across the Club so much so that 3 of our senior teams made the finals for the first time in four years. Greg's commitment and competitive drive never wavered throughout his time with the Club in both our Summer and Winter seasons. It is estimated that Greg pitched over 1400 innings in our Firsts for the Club.

Greg's value to the club extended off the field, he coached and served on our Committees and actively promoted the development of players as well as the Game as the Club strove to develop the foundations needed to achieve and sustain a position in Division 1 at the top level of baseball in Victoria.

Over the 13 years he pitched for the Club Greg was the mainstay of the pitching staff, a workhorse of the highest calibre, averaging well over 100 innings a season as a starter who regularly went deep into every game he pitched. In a home game against Coburg, Greg threw 18 innings and 215 pitches for a 1-1 draw.

His performances each season were always amongst the best of the league and on several occasions Greg led the League including:

1992-93 **Div 2 Pitching Award**

1996 **DBA MVP**

1996-97 **BV Div 2 MVP**

1999-2000 **VBA Division 1 MVP**

Greg was the Club Coach and playing manager of our First Team for the 1990-91 and 1991-92 seasons and for the 1995 and 1996 Winter seasons managing relatively young and inexperienced players, always leading from the front with his consistently strong performances off the mound. A difficult and challenging task.





Additional Comments from Brad Lark

- Upon arriving in Australia, Greg undertook the role of Under 18 coach (which I played in), running a side that struggled for numbers, never missing a training or game and was instrumental in encouraging and integrating junior players into the senior program.
- When our American imports arrived, he was always willing to provide accommodation along with support to ensure that they became good club citizens.
- He drove social events and was inclusive in his approach. Whether you were the last player selected in the fifths, or the regular player in the firsts, he always had time to talk baseball, or just have a beer.

Additional comments by Chris Reece.

Greg has both long service and passion for the Cheltenham Baseball Club in both the Summer and Winter Clubs. Over the decades he has served the Club, he remains a “One Uniform Player”. Only when representing the Club at State level in the Claxton Shield in 1990 has Greg been out of colours.

Through his pitching dominance and baseball insight, the Club saw a coming of age. He was responsible for a cultural shift at the club. His pitching abilities made the club more competitive and inspired a winning culture. Players responded to his efforts, lifting their own rating and all ways giving their best.

In fact, in the 1993/4 season, Greg’s dominance on the mound saw the Club return to Division 1, make the cut and remain there for the season. Elevating the Club to the next level players had a taste of the big time and put them in good standing for seasons to come.

The criteria for Life Membership requires more than representing the club on the field. Greg has represented the club as a player, coach at both junior and senior levels including club coach and served on many committees. Greg will for ever be identified with Cheltenham as quality player and exceptional competitor.

