



PAT O'NEILL LIFE MEMBER 2015

Patrick O'Neill began his relationship with the Cheltenham Baseball Club as a T- Baller in 1995, progressing through the baseball junior age groups of the Under 12's and Under 14's where his ability as a catcher saw him selected as a state representative in 2000.

It was in this year that Patrick began coaching and was an assistant coach for the Clubs T-Ball All Star side until 2003. He then went onto to be the coach of this side in 2003/2004. During this time Patrick was also a Friday night under 14 coach from 2001-2003, all the while maintaining his own commitment to the sport, which saw him, selected in the Under 16 State team in 2002.

During this year he made his debut in the Club's Summer section firsts and played in this side until 2005. He also played in the winter section A-Grade from 2002-2004. He continued to serve the club at a junior level in all areas, even umpiring the T-Ball All Star tournaments from 2003-2005. In 2004 Patrick was an Under 18 provincial representative.

During the winter season of 2003 Patrick became the Under 14's coach and just 2 years later in 2005 he embarked on his first senior coaching role at the club, coaching the summer season 3rd's until 2007. His commitment to both sections of the club saw him contributing 12 months of the year coaching the A3 winter team in 2008 and 2012 along with the B1 team in 2011. All the while still maintaining his association with the junior section of the Club coaching the under 13 Winter side in 2011 and 2012 as well as a very successful tenure as the Under 18 summer season coach from 2011-2015 with State Premierships in 2013-14, 2014-15





In 2012 Patrick coached the 4th Summer season team, which saw him as a player and then a coach takeout an unprecedented 5 Premierships in a row. 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, , 2013-14, 2014-15.

Patrick’s representative baseball achievements are often overshadowed by his work off the field. His off field contributions began early and saw him awarded the Junior Life member trophy for Winter in 2001 and 2002. He received the same award for the Summer season of 2001/2002. He became Winter Vice President in 2012 and was Winter President in 2013 – 2017 during a period when the Winter Section enjoyed outstanding on field success.

Comments from Brad Lark

“Having known Patrick from the day he walked into the club I feel that I am in a good position to make this nomination. It is easy to sit down and list achievements and awards along with his overall service to the club. I feel however that this doesn’t really reflect the impact and influence that Patrick has had on many people at the Cheltenham Baseball Club.

He is a hands on participant, marking grounds, umpiring as well as working in the bar and canteen when required. His loyalty, endeavour and determination are a credit to him, always having the Clubs best interests at heart. The manner in which he managed the Summer Under 18’s was brilliant.

