

# NEWSLETTER

## Three To Go - Then Finals

**F**inally a two-day game unaffected by weather has been played by the Bentleigh First XI.

The pre-Christmas period did not go entirely to plan, being beaten by local rival South Caulfield in a low-scoring two-day game, and being well on top when the rains came against last year's grand finalist Airport West St Christophers.

The New Year brought bright sunshine, and a superb bowling display by spearheads Adrian McInnes and Rarua Dikana saw Spotswood crumble to be all out for 69. A spanking innings of 79 by club-favourite Rob Ciccarella saw the home side well clear on day 1 with an outright on offer come day 2.

Heavy rain unfortunately saw day 2 abandoned.

Keilor was next on the radar and at 8/54, the Bentleigh bowlers were again well on top. A significant rear-guard action saw outright hopes subside, but the offering of 90 overs at the crease to chase 175 was perhaps equally appealing in the long-term.

Alex Caravelas made the most of the opportunity to eke out a solid 85, a quality return to form after a lean trot. Chris Street also returned to some form with a late innings half-century.

With a finals spot all but assured with three games to go the opportunity now presents to push for a home semi final. Two wins out of the three remaining games will probably get us there all things going well.

So how are the individuals in the team shaping up?

Seisun – Has proven time and again his ability to get through the new ball but has so far not taken his opportunity to forge a big score. When he does a win is almost certain as his scoring rate and command of the bowling ensure a large total. His medium pacers are proving more than handy, his accuracy having improved considerably on recent seasons.

Caravelas – A really steady influence at the top of the order when in form, Alex spent some valuable time in the middle versus Keilor which will hopefully kick-start a great second half of the year. Alex has also turned himself into that rare breed of bowler – the chinaman. Whilst still early days, they are not the worst and some future overs are on the horizon.

Keyt – Like Caravelis, has struggled with the interrupted nature of the season. Spent a long time at the crease versus Keilor, again proving his ability to bat for long periods. With every innings at three he is improving, and he will be a leading light at Bentleigh for many years. Finding the balance between defence and attack is the challenge all batsmen face, and Jeff is certainly no different in this regard.

Ciccarella – Perhaps in the middle of a break-out season. Has added much maturity to his batting and now appears destined for some significant achievements with the bat. The odd loose shot is still a concern but on the whole his shot selection has improved immeasurably.

Robertson – Showed his class against Spotswood with a fine 49 at a good rate. Exciting to watch, he has added considerable class to an already strong middle-order. The Club now requires him to bat for long periods if it is to push for the title in 2010/11.

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Bau – The younger of our PNG recruits Sese plays the game at 100 miles an hour like many youngsters. He has all the shots, is a beautiful mover in the field and bowls at a good clip. With time his technique will shine through and he will become a fine batsman.

Hill – Chris has been the year’s stand-out player. His one-day form has been extraordinary, playing a pivotal role with the bat at number 3 and taking key wickets at a miserly rate with the ball. His two-day form will be a disappointment to him at this point but as the wickets harden up he will again be a crucial player come finals time. Chris was also recently named in the All-Australian police team.

Street – Injuries have severely hampered the season of our reigning RJL Medallist. His bowling has been significantly restricted, and this has appeared to rub off on to his batting. The good news though was his re-emergence with an undefeated 50 versus Keilor, and the prospect of him returning to the bowling crease in coming weeks is exciting for all.

Dikana – Our PNG connection has delivered us a beauty in Rarua. He has bowled at a good pace and generally swung the ball. Always at the batsman he offers a different dimension to our attack. Ruji recently captained PNG back to Division 2 in the ICC ranking – a fine achievement.

McInnes – Adrian has been in delightful form throughout the season. He appears to have enjoyed Street’s absence from the wind-assisted end, and set about terrorising opponents with his uncanny accuracy and steep bounce. Most surprising though has been his re-emergence with the bat, never more evident than his 30-ball half century versus Airport West. His timing that day was something to behold.

Russell – Like a couple of our top-order batsmen, conditions have conspired against Ben to this point. One who thrives on lots of bowling and training, wet weather and one-day games have restricted his influence. With good weather and plenty of overs Ben may again play a crucial role in the run to the finals, and the finals themselves.

Dole – Absent through injury last year, Scott has been desperate to force his way back into the First XI from the moment his shoulder healed. Has resumed his happy knack of picking up key wickets and his all-round skills are bringing much to the table.

Clarke – Last year’s find with his off-spinners Daniel has so far spent the majority of the year developing his skills in the Second XI. He is a much improved bowler and cricketer for the increased opportunities and is just waiting for a chance to again show his skills in the Firsts.

Peter Roach

## Sponsors

Bentleigh Cricket Club welcomes Impressionable Kids as a new sponsor for the 2010/2011 season.

Impressionable Kids framed baby hand and feet sculptures are a truly magical way of capturing how cute and tiny your child's little hands and feet once were. They capture every detail of every wrinkle.

Patricia Frederic-Brown is the Impressionable Kids specialist for all Bentleigh Cricket Club members, their families and their friends. Contact Patricia on 0414 572 179 for an appointment.



# On Track For Another Finals Campaign

Some more rain and some close matches have seen a bit of an up and down middle part of season for the Bentleigh 2<sup>nd</sup> XI.

However sitting third on the ladder after eight home and away matches all the boys are very keen to finish off strong and push for another finals campaign.

## **BCC vs. Yarraville Club**

Match drawn. No play.

## **Sth Caulfield vs. BCC**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI had a hard fought game over arch rivals Sth Caulfield in Round 6 but couldn't quite get across the line. Playing away the demons battered first with only Amol Awati (21), Daniel Clarke (25) and youngster Michael Keyt (12 no) getting into double figures. With the fall of the final wicket the demons had posted a moderate 115 off 61 over's.

With a tough challenge ahead our bowlers were looking to make the most of tricky conditions. Sth Caulfield looked jittery from the get go with quicks Julian Roberts 2/32 and Lucas Jones 4/23 keeping the pressure on.

However it wasn't quite enough with Sth Caulfield being bowled out for 120 off 69 over's and taking first innings points.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> dig left the demons with 30 over's to face and a quick fire 71 no from James Robertson and 28 no from Daniel Clarke set the tone with Bentleigh ending the day at 2/117.

## **Spotswood vs. BCC**

Winning the toss and batting first on what looked like a ripper of a deck the Demons were

in big trouble with the bat in the Round 7 match against Spotswood. Extra bounce and good swinging conditions saw Spotswood roll the demons for a disappointing 80 off 34 over's. Only Sese Bau (28) could handle the conditions.

In reply Spotswood battled hard to be 5/84 with the best of the bowlers being Ben Russel 2/17 off 14 over's. Some more rain the following Saturday ensured no further play would take place in this match.

## **Keilor vs. BCC**

Round 8 saw a remarkable turn of events winning reverse outright against Keilor.

Keilor batted first and managed only 105. Unfortunately striker bowler Julian Roberts injured his ankle early but bowlers Aron Van Staden and Daniel Clarke filled the shoes well, with Van Staden taking 5/23 off 16 over's and Clarke with 4/53.

Bentleigh looked struggling at 5/53 at the start of day two and crumbled to be all-out for 77 and lose first innings points. The stern chat by the captain at the change of innings must have worked because spinner Daniel Clarke stood up to the challenge for an incredible spell of bowling of 8/9 off 18.2 over's to have Keilor all-out for a lowly 41 in their second innings.

Clarke's remarkable bowling performance is the club's 2<sup>nd</sup> best bowling figures of the past decade.

Bentleigh turned the batting woes around on a crumbling pitch to get the runs needed at 3/71 (Aaron Todd 29 and Robert Mott 20).

Troy Gill

## Still A Chance For The 3rd XI

Since Christmas the 3rd XI guys have certainly been challenged. We started the new year with two T20 matches against Power House. Most of us had never played T20 before and was an interesting experience. I thought we did particularly well considering the depth of our team, only narrowly being defeated in the first game and in the second match we bowled superbly well to have Powerhouse reeling at 77 to only fail with the bat dismally chasing the score down.

Desperately unlucky in our latest game against Monash. We had them 8/91 thanks to Captain Riyaz 4/43 off 15 overs and newbie Simon Butcher in support, only to see their tail wag and post 151. Our turn to bat was boosted with another newbie batsman Zafran Hameed scoring 23 but unfortunately had to retire hurt with an ankle sprain. It was then left up to Marty Clements (19no) and club stalwart James Raju on his return match after injury who took it to Monash scoring a smashing 53 to be caught out in the deep, just short of us reaching the total 17 runs short.

Sitting 7th on the ladder we basically need to win every game to have hope of finals. So far it has been a fairly frustrating season to say the least. With the way the weather has caused havoc we have definitely found it difficult to gain momentum with the bat in particular. Special thanks to Winnie (Jordy's Mum) for scoring. It's made life a lot easier for us. We all appreciate your support.

Looking forward, for the team I believe we must all endeavour to train hard for the final 6 weeks. Our bowling and fielding have been great but it's the batting where we need work. Continue to strive for partnerships when we bat and make the most of any opportunities aiming for personal highlights. It won't be long before now winter arrives and we will be wondering about where did the season go.....

## Coach's Corner

What a couple of months we have had on and off the field .

The thousand dollar draw was a outstanding success. Well done to all the people involved in the planning and executing of it .

On the field we have had some great performances by all elevens. The 1's , 2's and 4's are in contention for the top spot on the ladder and the 3's are giving us stronger performances every week .

We only have three weeks left before the finals begin and a stronger work ethic is expected by all. I would not be the only one saying this but we have a great opportunity at the club to stamp our authority on the respective leagues.

On training I understand that some people work office hours and I respect that but if we can make every effort to get to training on Thursday's ready to train by 6 oclock - that would be great .

Some outstanding achievements have been made lately in particular Alex's outstanding 85; his highest score for the 1s and then in the 2's Clarky's amazing 8 for 9 off 18 overs; amazing . Well done all

Cheers.

Chris Street - Senior Coach

## FINALS HERE WE COME

**T**he 4th XI have kept in contention for finals by winning 2 games from 3 after Christmas.

Currently sitting second on the ladder just shy on percentage from top spot, however only 1 game separates the top 5 teams as we head into the final weeks of the season.

Our bowling and fielding has been our strength in winning matches to date with some impressive performances with the ball.

Highlights were Captain Walshy's 5/18 against Parkville, Lucas Jones's life threatening thunderbolts bowled at TTS for 3/21 and a newcomer onto the scene is Marty Clements who has rapidly improved his accuracy to become a handy opening bowling contributor.

Some fantastic fielding efforts also from Damian Warner catching out deep, Carl Jansz direct hit run outs and Mick Foot slips fielding has kept the team competitive in the field.

A special mention of thanks to our 12th man specialists Max Turner and Sam Mousakis as they are very good team contributors as they learn the ropes of senior cricket.

The only downside so far is our batting has been fairly erratic and lacking big scores, which is

probably more or less contributed by the lack of cricket time in the middle, thanks to the rain.

However some notable performances have been the 'Prez' Brad Coppens gutsy lone stand of 44 (who broke his thumb first ball) slashing cut shots galore against Parkville, to get us over the line.

Mick Foot's bashing 47, Damian Warner's impressive 47 not out against TTS when we were in trouble early at 5/40 and Marty Clements and Michael Parbury's efforts at the tail.

Matty Goodwin's stone wall against TTS and we shall not forget "Starchef" Eddie Seisun's return to opening the batting with a very determined 31 against Burnley in 40 degree heat! Could of been the frozen helmet but is more likely to be his persistence of training hard since August and finally found his calling at the top of the order. With eyes now set on a 50! Go Eddie.

Now that summer has arrived along with the dry pitches, it is paramount that guys in the 4th XI get to training at least once a week, seek assistance in technique from the coach and visit the bowling machine as big scores with the bat will be what we need to keep us winning matches.

As captain my final words to the guys are "show the ticker, let's have fun and win this thing!

Mark Walsh

## Where Are They Now?

I defected to Bentleigh from Brighton Union, primarily because most of my mates at the time played at Bentleigh. Through the junior ranks and then into moving my way through the senior teams I was lucky enough to play with some great players and characters, and under some influential coaches. Apart from the 4th XI I was lucky enough to be part of 3rd, 2nd and 1st XI premierships until I decided to move on to play at St.Kilda. I moved to St.Kilda for the same reason



I moved to Bentleigh, mostly to play with my mates, and to see just how far I could go. Luck and a bit of hard work gave me the opportunity to have a few reasonable years with the Saints, mostly spent behind the stumps. I don't think I was ever focused enough to have a long career at that level and gave it all away when I started to move back down the ranks.

9 years ago I moved up to Sydney for work. You wouldn't be surprised at how often I get asked which I prefer, Sydney or Melbourne? It's almost a question I answer daily. The answer is that I can't answer that question. I feel like I've got 2 home towns. Melbourne will always be home, it's where my family is, and where my closest mates are. (When are you coming to Sydney Razz and Jake?) But Sydney has a lot to offer too. Apart from the climate and the beaches Sydney is a bit like New York. It has a transient population and if you've got the guts to have a go at something new, Sydney will let you do that.

I live in the East in Sydney and spend most of my time at the beach. My sport of choice is ocean swimming these days and I'm either training for races, or travelling around Sydney's beaches racing. Distances vary from a 1km dash up to 10kms. Often I'll race a 1km race to warm up and then race the 2km after that. In 3 weeks time a team of 4 of us head to W.A to compete in the 20km Rottnest Island swim. Then I'm in heavy training for the South Head 10km swim and in August am competing in a 20km solo race in Fiji. There's a lot you can think about in 6-7 hours of blowing bubbles.

Thanks to Thorpie for his great work keeping the past players up to date with the goings on at Bentleigh. I really enjoy the match reports and getting the invitations to premierships lunches and past player events. Unfortunately he's getting used to me declining but it really is the thought that counts. As the season gets close to finals time I'll be anxious to hear how all the teams end up. And with a bit of luck and planning, might make it down for a quiet beer at the bar.

Damien Scales

### Did You Know?

That former 1st XI Premiership Player and Life Member, Russell Keyt, has returned to the Club and is the current Chairman of Selectors.



# Juniors

The U12's have had a rough time lately with many players away (at different times) over the break.

Although pressed, they managed wins over Moorabbin and Beaumaris, however they were defeated by a bottom-of-the ladder Brighton in round 8. This latest defeat will unfortunately likely find them short of points to qualify for the finals. The players have certainly done it tough this season with injury and the inevitable Xmas break, but they should be back to full strength by the last two rounds against Omega and Dingley. I know that the entire team will give their best in these games, win, lose or draw. There has been a vast improvement (and number of lessons learned) with both the 'older' 12's and first year players. Just a few of them are:

- Mo Kaewpoy's bowling has improved - in finding bowling short just doesn't work (up Moe, up!);
- Stephan Djurovic has discovered that he is quite a handy medium-pace bowler (although he considers himself a spinner - only second to Warnie);
- Jake Haw has discovered that he 'can' in fact, bowl, and actually does it very well (keep it up Jake) - not to mention keep a straight bat;
- Tim Mullane has found that he can actually play shots, hit runs, and keeping is hot, damn hard work, and
- Morgan Foot has been enlightened that thumping the ball in the air is not a great idea when a boundary fielder exists, and can actually catch (down Morgan, down!).

Meanwhile all the side have learned that:

- Slippery cricket balls can mean beam balls that are no-balled,
- "Up" means pitch it up, but not at the batters head,
- Over the stumps means over the 'top' of the stumps - just so the wicky doesn't need a new helmet every match, and
- Cricket balls can hurt, but in the end it's worth it...

With just two home/away games left this is the time for the team to re-join and give it their best shot. I'm confident they will.

**Michael Foot**  
**Under 12 Coach**

The U14's who have combined with South Caulfield for the year have had a fairly good hit out so far. They are in line to play in the finals (currently sitting fourth).

Max Turner has had a good year with the bat opening the innings on most occasions and Sam Mouzakis has also got a few runs batting at various spots in the order.

Matt Clifton Roberts hasn't had the best of years with the bat but has take a few valuable wickets with his bowling. Both Declan Flood and Alex Pupko have improved their bowling and ad valuable contributions to the side.

Hopefully they will be playing in the finals in a few week time.

Juniors Report Continued Page 8 & 10

The Under 12 modified team have slowly and steadily been improving their cricketing skills over the previous games.

The first game after Christmas was time to get the cobwebs out after a break.

Last game was a magnificent victory, made all the better with only 8 players. There were some sensational performances, with the captain for the day Nicholas Taranto making his best score including the first 6 for the team and year. Liam Arnold-Levy also made his highest score for the year including 3 fours. The team managed to chase down 98 runs to win.

We have also has our second girl the club Julie Fearn for the last two matches who has made a significant impact. The first game she made 3 direct hit runouts and the second game she made 42 runs including 3 sixes. Michael is now wanting to poach her for the u12's.

The other new player since Christmas is the son of a club legend Rob Mott. Although only 7, Luke has shown some of the technique that has been so successful for his father already.

The biggest improvement overall is our bowling. We are bowling less and less no balls and wides each game, which in some instances gives the other teams more opportunity to hit runs.

We are looking forward to have a few more wins before the season is over.

Stephen McGinness  
Under 12 Modified Coach

## Who Am I?

My first game for Bentleigh Cricket Club was in Tony Austin's 4th XI.

I played in the seconds the next game, not sure when but 76 /77 rings a bell.

I retired completely from cricket about 15 years later. Not sure when I left the club.

I live in Vermont, and follow the Vermont South lads, they are in the Box Hill Reporter Cricket Association, where I was on the board for some 5 years.

The last 4 years I have been President of the Vermont Football Club. Now at 61, it's time to have a spell.

I have 2 great memories of the Bentleigh Cricket Club:

1. the number of good blokes that go back so many years that still remain good mates. You don't have to live in each other's pockets but when we catch up we have a great time
2. I played in a number of finals, but the 77/78 Grand Final was a particularly good one. 150 odd wasn't enough against South Caulfield but we got them out well below the required amount.

I am.....

See page 11 for the answer.

# Where Are They Now?

Since leaving Bentleigh Cricket Club, I moved with family to Perth in 1970, to continue a career as a construction engineer and project manager in the building construction industry. It has been a great experience over 40 yrs. Still working on projects in specialist roles. Wife Marilyn (now ex wife) and daughter Kara with her own family are still in Perth.

After arriving in Perth, I played cricket in Suburban competition, with City Beach. I taught them how to play the Victorian way! They enjoyed the success and the premiership.

I continued to play cricket for another 15 yrs, finishing in the WACA Veterans comp with Subiaco – Floreat. Also played years of indoor cricket. Loved the contest.

When footy came around, I joined the great East Fremantle Footy Club, which later led to the Dockers, which have been a passion of mine from day one.

I have been a member of Lake Karrinyup Golf Club for 30 plus years. Lucky enough to have won a few trophies, made a lot of friends, but don't play much now.

Still a member of the Melbourne Cricket Club and enjoy the easy access to the AFL grand final. Hope I get to see the Dockers do it before I depart!!!

I now live on my small farming property at Bindoon, 100 km north of Perth, running cattle and trying to grow Macadamias, in addition to construction activities and an active role as chairman of two local committees pursuing development and infrastructure for our community.

As most of us do, I have some medical challenges but I still play cricket and kick the footy with my grandson and pommy son-in-law (really good bloke).

I have had a great life in WA.

**Ian Watson**



## Past Players Lunch and Premiership Reunions

Don't forget that on Saturday February 26th 2011 we will be welcoming back the past players as well as reuniting several premiership teams - including the 1975/76 Premiership Team - 35 years on!

The cost is \$20 per person and includes a carvery lunch and the days kicks off at 2pm.

If you are yet to do so, please RSVP to Matt Thorp at [mthorp@bigpond.net.au](mailto:mthorp@bigpond.net.au)

## Around The Grounds

Congratulations to Dave Bartholomew on his recent marriage.

Congratulations to Scott Dole and his wife Brooke on the news they are expecting twins!

Best Wishes to Alex Caravelas on his forthcoming wedding to fiancée Cass.

Congratulations to past player Ryan Foots and his fiancée Claire, on the recent birth of their first child, Shane Max.

### Under 16's by Julian Roberts

In what appears to be the most unusual season we have experienced, the weather has impacted significantly upon our ability to play and train. As well as being inconvenient and frustrating, bad weather also has an effect upon the ability of the boys to train and gain some consistency with their cricket. I am sure that all clubs are experiencing this difficulty.

When we have managed to get on the park, our results have left us with much hard work to do. With a relatively young team, it can sometimes take a while to adapt to playing U/16's cricket, where the boys bowl faster, throw harder and hit harder. We have several first year U/16 players in the side that are working hard to adapt to the changed conditions. Although we have not managed to notch a win, the potential that this group provides to the future of the Bentleigh Cricket Club is very exciting. With the addition of some of our U/14 players from last year, the team has certainly taken on a new dynamic to complement the second year U/16 players. Of notable exception this season:

**Nadav Alon:** Nadav has worked extremely hard to establish himself as a reliable no.5-6 batsmen. Consistent hard work on his defence and has enabled him to build confidence and will ensure he develops his game further. A regular at senior training, Nadav has also played a few senior games and will definitely be a player of the future.

**Fraser Somerville:** Fraser came to Bentleigh this year and immediately made an impression as a hard working and diligent player who strives to improve more and more. With great hand-eye coordination, and a technique that is developing more and more each week, Fraser throws himself into the fray and loves the competition. It must be noted that Fraser has not taken a backward step as a first time opener with the bat. A quality that is very commendable.

**Jason Standfield:** A young man with talent to burn. Jason has had his opponents baffled by his ability to swing the ball both ways and also to generate reverse swing at good pace. It is not uncommon to see an opposition batsmen trudge off the park with his stumps uprooted. As well as providing a lethal new ball option, Jason shows immense poise, control and has all the time in the world when he is batting. These talents coupled with a technique that would impress anyone makes for a very exciting cricketer of the future.

**Luke Johnstone:** Luke joined Bentleigh this season and it is important to note that this young fella could still be playing U/14's. Luke has enthusiasm, determination and a genuine love of cricket that has seen him become a valued member of the playing group. Luke's bowling is improving each week, and he will certainly become a more than capable medium to fast option once he grows up.

All the boys this year have been excellent, and although the season has not turned out the way we would like with results and the weather, the morale within the team has been exceptional. With several games to go, and with senior finals approaching, I would encourage the boys to get down and support the red and blue in the afternoon as well!

# Presidents Report

Dear Members,

The season has moved from a slow start into ongoing washouts, but the club continues to hold a strong position. As I write this our One's sit on top of the ladder, Our Two's are 3<sup>rd</sup> and our Fourths are 2<sup>nd</sup>. All three teams will need to keep winning as top 2 spots will go through in the (likely) event of wet weather. Our Thirds will need an outright to regain any chance of playing finals, but with reverse results occurring as per the 2's last game, anything is possible!

Off field, despite the washouts robbing us of patronage on several Thursday and Saturday nights again, the weather held off long enough for our \$1000 draw to be a big success and for a game to proceed on that Sunday. Well done to all those who bought and sold tickets, helped conduct and draw the event and congratulations to the Ciccarella Family (Rob) for successfully managing to grab the cash with the last ticket standing.

February looks set to remain wet now the Cyclones have disrupted our relatively dry and hot January, so we will need to make the most of our opportunities to play cricket. Make sure we bat and bowl sensibly to keep winning or saving games and keep our ladder positions intact for finals!

Please remember the following things :

**Training** – There is no substitute for it. Please come often and early.

**Juniors** – Be sure to make it to your shift or lock in a trade. We may be washed out but don't assume they have been.

**Support your mates** – Strong clubs aren't always measured by ladder positions or bank balances. Sticking together, helping out fellow players and caring about the group and the team rather than just yourself, is the way that clubs become stronger – let's make sure Bentleigh's culture is first class.

Go Demons!

**Brad Coppens**



## Who Am I answer

I am David Dressing aka "Salad"

## Social Events To Come

Sunday February 20th:

Twenty/20 vs Sth Caulfield

Saturday February 26th:

Past Players Lunch / Premiership Reunion & RGL Award

Friday April 15th:

Annual Dinner - Cocktail Style