

NEWSLETTER

1st XI So Close.....Yet So Far

A missed catch away from a premiership in the top division is a performance that is worthy of much credit.

In a fascinating grand final Bentleigh rarely was on top but ground its way to a sizeable total, and then clawed back from the dead to nearly steal an unlikely win.

That sounds an unusual comment when your team makes 299, but at 4/49 things were not looking so bright. Some solid middle and lower-order batting formed valuable partnerships with the captain Peter Roach (117no) to push the score towards 300, at the same time proving the team's mettle under pressure.

With Yarraville Club 3/230 in reply things again were looking bleak. But some inspired bowling from Adrian McInnes (4 wickets) and Chris Street (3) Yarraville collapsed to be 9/275. A remarkable last-wicket stand was all that stood between Bentleigh taking the flag in its first year after being promoted back to senior division. As always though the grand final is the climax, but the effort and work to get there is what allows it to happen.

At Christmas time a real focus for the team was our inability to take wickets early in the innings. A new strategy was adopted with incredible results. In the next five games leading into the grand final the opposition scores read at various times - all out 69, 8/54, all out 77, 7/83, 2/2 and all out 81.

Much credit should go to the tireless work of bowling trophy winner Adrian McInnes who perhaps enjoyed his finest season of a glittering career at Bentleigh. 32 wicket at 12.9 was just reward for his skill and efforts. He is a remarkable player.

He combined with PNG import Rarua Dikana to form a potent new-ball attack, backed by the Lazarus-like recovery from injury of Chris Street and Scott Dole. In a year dominated by the quicks these four were instrumental in positioning us well at season's end.

The batting was a battle, largely due to the inclement weather and the subsequent result of an endless stream of one-day games.

However some promising signs continued to emerge. Rob Ciccarella had his best season for the club, breaking open many a game with his clean hitting, and Alex Caravelis again showed signs he will be a consistent long-term opening batsman in this league. The race to be the first to make a senior division century is on in earnest.

Jeff Keyt will also challenge for that mantle. He also impressed until karma hit just before the semi-final when he announced "he has never been hit in the head". A couple of days later he was lying in hospital with a broken jaw after being hit by a Street-special in the nets. To return and play the grand final was a worthy performance.

James Robertson also made a good fist of his return from injury. He has enormous potential and he has the ability and desire to deliver much in the coming years.

The club will greatly miss the services of Chris Hill and Dole next season. The latter has been a constant for the club both on and off the field for many seasons, and made a real impact this year returning from injury. His passion for the club is unquestioned and his ability to make breakthroughs, and apply constant pressure in the field, will be sorely missed. We wish him and his growing family well in the future.

Hill has made a real impact in his two years at the club. The calendar year of 2010 was his year. It was highlighted with a dominating role in the grand final of 2009/10, and continued with a near flawless start to 2010/11. His top-order batting in the one-dayers and skilful leggies saw him leading the competition's best and fairest at Christmas time. His contribution can best be described as enormous to our success.

And now we look forward. As always some new faces will emerge and some old ones will return. The focus is on Bentleigh again being seen as a club to be feared, year after year, in the top division. There is no question the club has the players to do it. If the desire and unity continues as it has for the past two seasons then all supporters can look forward to another successful summer in 2011/2012.

Peter Roach

From The President

Firstly enjoy your break! Some seasons are longer than others (washouts etc), but with finals being a bigger part of our autumns in recent years, It can seem like one season rolls into another.

Importantly for our club, we need to now consolidate the gains we have made in recent seasons. These include staying in senior division and I think the appointment of Adam Ryan without delay on the back of Roachy's magnificent 2 years at the club is a real positive so that our club can focus on pre-season without the pressure of uncertain leadership to support Streey. Secondly after a tough season of washouts and lower revenues, we are still here and we all need to recharge our energy levels to support the functions and continue to do what so many people do to make this club tick. Thirdly, we have some retirements and these will be hard to replace on field. Please think about anyone you feel could play for or come back to Bentleigh at all skill levels, so that Russ and the captains have a solid 44 plus playing group to select from and we cover ourselves against injuries and absences!

The AGM is our next important date and for the senior players, please give consideration as to whether you can offer assistance as either a committee member or junior coach. All executive members welcome your enquiry to discuss what you may be able to offer as we know many hands make light work and from time to time, some key figures need a spell. That said, signs are that we will again have a strong off field team in place.

I look forward to the coming season and feel extremely privileged that the club has bestowed me with life membership.

Brad Coppens

Two New Life Members

Two new Life Memberships were awarded at the Clubs Annual Dinner On April 19th.

Current President, Brad Coppens and current Vice-President, Paul Ciccarella, were both on hand to receive their Life Memberships and became the 65th and 66th Life Members of the Bentleigh Cricket Club, after both had given exceptional service to the Club over many years.

In his time at Bentleigh, Brad has served on both the general and executive committees for a total of eight seasons and has represented the Club in 171 games, including in several seasons as captain of the 3rd and 4th XI.

Paul has served on both the executive and general committees for a total of six seasons and has represented the Club in more than 85 games and has also been the recipient of the Cosley Trophy (Best Clubman Award).





102nd Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held on Tuesday July 19th 2011 at 7:30pm at the Bentleigh Cricket Club.

All members are invited and encouraged to attend and nominations are now sought for Executive and General Committee positions.

Nominations can be made in writing to the Secretary at secretary@bentleighcc.com.au.

Apologies can also be made to the Secretary.



Coach's Corner

I WOULD FIRSTLY LIKE TO THANK THE EXECUTIVE AND GENERAL COMMITTEE FOR YOUR SUPPORT DURING THE YEAR AND TO THE GENTLEMAN THAT HELPED ME ON AND OFF THE FIELD I THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

SECONDLY TO ALL THE AWARD WINNERS THIS YEAR CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ALL AS YOU ALL DESERVED THEM; WELL DONE .

TO ARE TWO RETIREES PETER ROACH AND SCOTTY DOLE YOU WILL BE SORLY MISSED BUT HAVE LEFT THE CLUB IN A GREAT POSITION THANKS TO YOUR WORK OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS . GOOD LUCK TO THE BOTH OF YOU FOR THE FUTURE .

THE 2010/11 SEASON WAS A SUCCESSFUL ONE EVEN THOUGH WE DIDNT BRING HOME A FLAG. OUR 1's, 2's AND 4's ALL MADE IT INTO THE GRAND FINAL BUT FELL SHORT ON ALL OF THEM . THE 1st XI STARS FOR THE YEAR PETER ROACH AND ADRIAN MCINNES HAD AN OUTSTANDING GRANDFINAL AND WITH ROB CICCARELLA ALSO HAVING A GREAT YEAR WE SHOULD BE IN GOOD HANDS NEXT SEASON .

THE 2's WERE WELL LEAD AGAIN BY TROY GILL AND WITH DANIEL CLARK, CLINT HENDRY & ARRON TODD

HAVING GREAT SEASONS THEY WILL BE PRESSING FOR 1st XI CONTENTION NEXT YEAR . MICHEAL KEYT AND JORDAN LIM ALSO HAD GOOD YEARS WITH GAMES UNDER THERE BELT IN THE 2's WILL BE A FORCE VERY SOON .

THE 3's HAD A UNSETTLING YEAR WITH ALOT OF PLAYERS IN AND OUT OF THE SIDE IT WAS HARD TO GET A RYTHEM TO THEIR PLAY . WELL DONE TO RIYAZ FOR HIS EFFORTS DURING THE YEAR - THANK YOU MATE .

TO THE 4's IT WAS A JOY TO COME DOWN AND WATCH THE GAMES I WAS ABLE TO. MARK DID AN AMAZING JOB EACH WEEK LEADING THE TEAM AND HAVING SO MANY YOUNG KIDS IN THE TEAM THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, IT IS A CREDIT TO THE TEAM ON WHAT THEY WERE ABLE TO ACHIEVE - A GRAND FINAL APPEARANCE AND ONLY JUST FALLING SHORT OF A FLAG.

LASTLY TO EVERYONE AT BENTLEIGH CRICKET CLUB, THE NEXT FEW YEARS AT THE CLUB WILL BE VERY EXCITING AND I HOPE THAT ALL PAST AND PRESENT PLAYERS COME AND ENJOY THE RIDE THAT WILL BRING MORE SUCESS FOR OUR GREAT CLUB .

THANKS.

CHRIS STREET

ROACH & McINNES NAMED IN VTCA TEAM OF THE YEAR

1st XI players Peter Roach and Adrian McInnes were named in the VTCA Senior Division Team of the Year at the VTCA Presentation Night.

Having finished the year with 498 runs at an average of 62.2 and having a hand in 28 dismissals behind the stumps, Roach was not only named as wicket-keeper for the team, but also as Captain.

McInnes completed his season with 32 wickets at 12.9 and was named as the opening quick.

The team was selected by all Senior Division 1st XI Captains, however captains were not allowed to name any player in their own team.

The Club congratulates both players on their selection and is extremely proud of the selection.

4th XI Fall Short of the Dream

Three Straight losses in February saw us fall from 1st to 4th on the ladder with two games remaining to decide our fate. With some grit and determination we climbed back with a win late February against McCabe Ajax in a low scoring affair thanks to some great bowling performances from Latin Bhatia (4/13) and Englishman James Wotton (3/10).

Then backed it up the week later at home when Steve McGinness showed his true class and played his innings of the season scoring an unbeaten 81. We chased down DLS Malvern's 152 only 7 wickets down. This win was pivotal to gain 2nd spot on the ladder and hold the advantage going into the finals.

The following week we hosted a home Semi-Final against McCabe Ajax. Winning the toss we decided to bat first in the heat and it proved a good move because the little Indian maestro Latin Bhatia was on absolute fire belting 95 runs before top edging to the keeper swinging for his ton. He was assisted by Damien Warner at the other end who took full advantage of Ajax's tired bowlers belting sixes onto Bolinda Road for a quick 33 and Carl Jansz finished with 23* to setup a massive total of 7/190 and a huge run chase for Ajax.

After the tea break the clouds rolled in and after 2 quick wickets from Captain Walsh with the new ball knocked Ajax onto the canvas early. A few balls later the clouds turned black and it poured like no tomorrow. Unfortunately again this season another game abandoned when we had the opposition on toast however this time we went straight through to the Grand Final after finishing second on the ladder.

The grand final was played at Fawkner Park No.2 against Burnley. Fairly confident going into the match that we could match it with our arch rivals we won the toss and sent them in on what appeared to be a sticky wicket early. Unfortunately Burnley rode their luck early and survived with wickets in hand. A fantastic diving catch from Brad Coppens at deep mid-on and Mattie Goodwin with

5 dismissals behind the stumps we fought back into the game. Some quality bowling from Marty Clements and Carl Jansz slowed the batsmen's pace late to hold them to 8/181.

On what was now a fast and small outfield 182 was not unreasonable since we had chanced down 2 of our last 3 victories and the batters were in form. Unfortunately for us the stars all aligned for Burnley's fielding. It was on absolute fire with a direct hit run-out from the boundary and a ripper catch in the outfield. All of a sudden we were on the ropes at 5/49.

Some late fight-back by Damian Warner (21) and Captain Walsh (25) saw us climb to within 63 runs and 8 over's remaining but in the desperate attempt to score boundaries a couple of catches and it was curtains for us. Falling short at 119.

Despite the disappointment losing the game was typical of Mercantile cricket with a great atmosphere and just enjoyable to be out there playing cricket against a quality opponent in Burnley.

In what can be described as a frustrating season with the weather we certainly made the most of our limited chances with every player at some point putting his head up to contribute for a win.

In a season with plenty of highlights to remember and some rapid improvements from our younger guys like Marty Clements and Daniel Goldberg the season is still a success. Plenty of fun was had some fantastic efforts by all.

Thank-you to all the players who played a 4's game during the year whether you played one game or all, your contribution was appreciated and we hope to see you at the club next year. Hopefully we can go one better!!!

Mark Walsh

Juniors

The Junior Presentation Night was held at the Club on Friday March 25th and attended by more than 100 people, a great night was had by all.

Morgan Foot took out the Junior Club Champion ahead of Max Turner and Jason Standfield.

There was a raffle on the night for a \$100 voucher to the RSL which was won by Ross Deam (most deserved as he has five children at Bentleigh).

A big thank you to all the parents that helped their respective team and coaches during the year. Especially, Petra and Paul Barker, Dave Mullane, Peter Clifton and John Diamond. A big thank you to Joe Gregory who gave up his time to help with specialised training on Tuesday nights. Your contribution has been greatly appreciated.

It was a very successful night and I would like to thank all the Senior Players and officials who were not part of the junior coaching team who attended and helped with the night. Thanks to Christian Seisun, Chris Street, Alan Glenton, Brad Coppens, Paul Ciccarella and Roger Kellar.

Without enthusiastic and competent junior coaches, the junior program would not be where it is now. The time and effort that goes into organising and training the boys is significant, more so when you also play senior cricket later in the day. Well done to Michael Foot, Julian Roberts and Alex Caravelas. The club, the parents and the players really appreciated your efforts during the year.

Looking to next year, we hope to build on what we have achieved this season. I would encourage players and parents to promote our club and suggest to their friends that Bentleigh is the place to come and play cricket, promoting a friendly and welcoming environment with high class facilities, where boys and girls can have some fun and improve their cricket ability.

Finally, I would encourage the senior players to get more involved with the juniors, and perhaps nominate for a role, any type of role, as it strengthens the future of the club and is an extremely rewarding experience.

The Adrian McInnes award was presented on the 15th of April at the point restaurant. This award is for the outstanding U18 player for the season. It consisted of votes out of 5 for overall performance in a game. The votes were awarded by the captains of their respective sides.

This year there were a number of players eligible for the award including Michael Keyt, Zac Spencer, Jordan Lim, Martyn Clements and Daniel Goldberg. Ultimately it was won by Jordan Lim, with Martyn Clements a very close second.

Congratulations to Jordan and the other boys on a fantastic year and congratulations to all the Junior Award winners.

Stephen McGinness

Under 12 Modified

Batting: Julie Fearn

Bowling: Isaac Gear

Most Improved: Nicholas Taranto

Coach's Award: Harry Mouzakis

Under 12

Batting: Morgan Foot

Bowling: Nicholas Lawrence

Most Improved: Jake Haw

Coach's Award: Ryan Crook

Under 14

Batting: Sth Caulfield player

Bowling: Sth Caulfield player

Most Improved / Fielding: Declan Flood

Coach's Award: Sam Mouzakis

Under 16

Batting: Nick Diamons

Bowling: Jason Satndfield

Most Improved: Fraser Sommerville

Coach's Award: Nadav Alon

STAY UP TO DATE IN THE OFF SEASON

www.bentleighcc.com.au

A GREAT SEASON FOR THE UNDER 12's

I stated in the last newsletter that the U12's would give their best in the two remaining rounds of the season and they certainly did not disappoint.

After defeating Omega they went on to comprehensively defeat the eventual flag winner Dingley in a display of teamwork and confidence that was lacking in easier matches they lost. In the end the U12's finished 5th (just... outside a finals berth). Although they saved their best until too late, they will all mature and be aware of this next season.

I have had a great time coaching the U12's and want to sincerely thank the players for giving me their time and trust. Thanks also to our Team Manager Dave Mullane and scorer Darren Crook – who helped me in more than just “managing” and “scoring”. Further, the parents deserve our thanks as well; early starts, late training sessions and match attendance all take their toll on the family. The BCC community and myself really appreciate it.

However, it is time for me to move on to another challenge and take on the U14 coaching role next season. While this might sound like a ‘new’ role, it is actually an old challenge revisited as many of the players I coached after John Abbot (now back in the UK) in the 2009/10 season. The U14 players this season shared the pitch with South Caulfield and BCC are committed to have them play under the BCC banner in 2011/12. I look forward to this challenge as many players have been in, and lost, two finals series in a row. Let's make it third time lucky.

I welcome Dave Mullane as the U12 coach in season 2011/12. While Dave is relatively new to cricket he has shown all the aptitude and passion for the game that is required to be a great coach. Dave is a level 2 qualified First Aider and a Level 1 Sports Trainer. Dave will also complete a Level 1 cricket coaching course with Cricket Victoria a little later in the year. Although the U12's will lose a few players to the U14's I am confident the U12's (yes, you can quote me on this...) will make the finals next season. I know that Dave will help develop these players into a team that is very difficult to beat. I wish Dave and the U12's the very best for next season and will be keeping a keen eye on this team – full of expectation, no pressure Dave!

Lastly, I'd like to pay a special mention to our Junior Coordinator Steve McGinness for all the time he has given to the BCC juniors this season. Steve loves cricket, but the coordinator role is time consuming, and often frustrating. There is an enormous amount of work that goes into managing the BCC junior club; pre, during, and post season, and Steve does not even have a child playing competitive cricket (that doesn't mean there won't be...). While Steve does a fantastic job in junior coordination, he also coaches the U12 modified side on a Sunday morning. I know Steve is already planning bigger and better things for the junior club next season. Seriously, you will not get a more committed and competent coordinator. I certainly look forward to helping him take the junior club to new and exciting levels in the years to come.

I wish all the BCC junior families the best for the off season, and may your footy team perform its best.

Michael Foot



Awards-A-Plenty At The Annual Dinner

The Clubs 2010/2011 Annual Dinner was held at the Point Albert Park which saw more than 70 people, made of players, their partners and members, attend to see who were the Award Winners for season 2010/2011.

1st XI

Batting: Peter Roach
Bowling: Adrian McInnes
RG Laird Award: Peter Roach

2nd XI

Batting: James Robertson
Bowling: Ben Russell
Ron McLeod Award: Daniel Clarke

3rd XI

Bowling: Riyaz Yoosuf
John Rogers Award: Sajad Sayeed

4th XI

Batting: Jatin Bhatia
Bowling: Mark Walsh
Roger Kellar Award: Mark Walsh



Club Champion

Peter Roach

The night also through up a few surprises with the Cosley Trophy awarded to two members in Roger Kellar and Russell Keyt. It was Roger's fourth time in receiving the award and Russell's first.

It was also the first "official" presentation of the Adrian McInnes Award. This is an award recognising the best Under 18 player in a Senior XI and was awarded to Jordan Lim, who was on hand to receive it from Adrian himself.

Walsh Takes Mercantile Honors

4th XI Captain Mark Walsh was named in the Mercantile Team of The Year at the Mercantile Cricket Association Presentation Night.

Walsh was named at number nine in the team, which is comprised of players from all grades that make up the Association.

He was also awarded the Best Player Award in C Sunday Division as well as receiving the Mercantile C Sunday Division bowling award, having taken 30 wickets for the season at 8.23.

Thank You From The Editor

Thank You to everyone who has contributed to the publication of the Bentleigh Cricket Club newsletter.

Thank You to the Captains, the Committee Members, the Senior and Junior Coaches and the Past Players, who have given up their time to contribute an article.

Thank You to the Sponsors who have supported the newsletter with the approval of their logos in its publication.

I have thoroughly enjoyed compiling the newsletter and hope the readers have enjoyed reading it.

It will be back again next season for all to enjoy with a Pre-Season edition due for release in August.

Matt Thorp