



Season 2018/19

# Knights Newsletter

## Presidents Message

On the third Sunday of every month at 6.30pm the committee meet at Castle Glen to discuss, plan and execute the future of the Castle Hill Baseball Club.

No one person dominates the room with private agendas; no one person waves the flag of their own child. The first and foremost concern on these volunteer's minds is how the club can better prepare for the best interest of its players, the club and the game of baseball itself.

And this can also be said for all the coaches, managers, scorers, those that set up the diamonds, help on the BBQ and canteen... all the way to some of the dads that turn up to maintain the grounds when no one is looking. It's this sort of community spirit that makes not only the Castle Hill Knights attractive but the game of baseball attractive.

To all of you who give of yourselves to make this possible for your kids and other parent's kids—thank you.

One thing I notice about each committee member is they are not baby-sitting their role but are actively trying to improve the club with every idea, commitment and endeavour they make. I like it when someone comes in with fresh ideas, new perspectives, and zeal to fulfil their role.

I believe if you asked each committee member they would tell you they are not hamstrung by a “this is the way it's always been done” attitude. Each committee member adds their own character, style and belief to their role. Of course there have to be limitations because the club is bound by the rules of baseball, The Hills Baseball Association, and our belief in what we are trying to become and behave like as a baseball club.



We do at times make errors of judgment in grading individuals and teams. But we get it right more often than not. We have ideas that we think will improve Castle Hill junior players, Castle Hill teams and even whole age groups within a league. Sometimes our planning and efforts don't work out best for a team or an individual. However, yet again, most of the time they do work out.

We can only hope you, as parents, see what we are trying to do and support our efforts. At the end of the season, when we look back, it might not be, what have our children learned about the game and themselves; it might be, what have we learned about ourselves and what we can change to be a better sports parent and supporter of our child.

Our children learn more from us from the reactions they see in us and the attitude we convey when things are not quite going the

way we think they should be going. I know my attitude towards life is for my two kids to be an improvement on myself. I have fallen short many times but I'll never give up trying to be an excellent example for them. It's a bit like how we look at baseball: you can have a challenging week this week but there is always next week to improve and start again in a new game.

Thank you for being a part of the Castle Hill Knights family in 2018/19. I hope to see you all back next year wearing the kelly green and representing the Knights with honour and pride.

Mark Maguire

## Secretary Report Summer 18/19

What does a club secretary do? I must admit I don't know I fully understood before I took on the role. The first thing that comes to mind for most would be taking minutes at meetings and maintaining records. Beyond that I see it as my role to ensure communication is flowing smoothly in and out of the club, and also internal communication amongst the committee re: general club matters. I take the aspect of communication very seriously as if people aren't well informed, or feel heard then engagement drops

This was my second year as club secretary and the biggest difference I noticed this year in the role was a larger number of people on the committee, and an increased contribution from that wider group of people on the committee and those in their circles in the wider baseball club. I feel this has made us a more vibrant club, achieving more, and having a wider appeal with a wider range of insights and energy to get involved. I would like to take the opportunity to thank the committee for their engagement, energy and execution of plans. Specifically thank you to Mark (President), Matt (VP Juniors), Pat (VP Seniors) and Wayne (Treasurer) who with myself make up the executive. You have all dedicated a lot of time and energy to the club in the last year, and are always open to how we can do things even better, rather than always looking back



on what has been done.

What am I looking forward to in Winter 2019 and then Summer 2019/2020? I look forward to doing all I can to ensure the club continues to improve its facilities, culture and calibre of tee ball/baseball programs. But most of all it feels like there is the next generation of families coming through the club. I am keen to encourage and inspire some of them to get involved to take the club into the future even stronger than it is today. Whether it be on the committee, helping with the grounds, coaching, or offering to set up a diamond before a game, every bit makes a difference and the club a better place.

Lindsay Chappell

## Umpiring Report Summer 18/19

2018/19 was a big year for umpiring at Castle Hill Knights.

We had eight new umpires attend their first community level umpire seminar where they achieved their orientation to umpiring from the NSW Baseball Umpires Association (NSWBUA). Along with that we had a further one umpire achieve their Level 1 umpire qualification.

We supported tournaments through the year from Pittwater Cup, Greenies, Kevin Ryan, Coasties, Rookies Cup, Little League State, Junior League State and Nationals, Intermediate League Nationals, Senior League State and Nationals, Australian Womens and Youth Womens championships, Australian U16 and U18 National Championships, and NSW State League

Congratulations to our representative umpires from this year: Jonah Grey, Paul Jones, Andrew Clements, Mathew Clements, Aiden Ahmed, Jack Wolfe, Buddy Malkoun and Will Edwards.

At a local level we provided umpires to every Knights game except one and 60% of the games we were able to allocate two umpires.

I'm looking forward to another wonderful year coming up with national representative selections already received for three of our umpires. This year, whilst still developing our junior umpires, I would like to see more growth in our Adult umpires. It is important to understand the role that these umpires play not only in mentoring game/people management to our younger umpires, but also it is a reality that on Hills games Junior umpires can not be the plate umpire unless at least two years older than the players in the game. We need our adult umpires.

A special thank you to our umpires for this year: Mathew Clements, Jonah Grey, Will Edwards, Aiden Ahmed, Zaidyn Wallace, Seth Watson, Jack Wolfe, Nick Wolfe, Brendan Ahmed, Aaron Grey, Buddy Malkoun, Mark Maguire, Andrew Clements, Liam Padovan, Tim Noy, Mark Sinclair, Sean O'Brien, Luke Hobbs, Jerry Stein, Peter Browne, Bronwyn Wray, James Kirby, Fiona Crawford, Matt Shaw, Ben Davies, Sean Callum, Lochlan Trimboli, Scott Le Bas, Kevin Wells, Tyrone O'Neill, Paul Jones

Thank you to the committee for your support.

Regards

Andrew Clements

## **Juniors VP report.**

With another season in the bag the Knights were represented quite well across all age groups, both at club baseball and tournaments. We also have over 30 of our players wearing some form of Representative Uniform at either Association level (Hills), State level (NSW Blue Sox) or National level (Baseball Australia)

We had 11 Live ball team this year with 10 of those teams making the Semi Finals.

2 of our U10 Modball teams winning their title, and one finishing 2nd

U9's finishing 1, 2, 3

U8's Joint Premiers and another finishing 3rd

What an achievement huh!

Finals Results:

U17/3's – Runners up, 14U/1's – Premiers, 13U/1 Cavaliers - Premiers, 13U/1 Crusaders - Runners Up, 13U/2's - Runners Up, U11's – Premiers, U10/1 Cavaliers – Premiers, U110 Crusaders – Runners Up, U10/2 Archers – Premiers, U9's Crusaders – Premiers, U9 Jesters – Runners Up (our Cavaliers finished 3rd), U8's Bowman – Joint Premiers, U8 Squires – 3rd

The scoreboard certainly looks good doesn't it? We can all feel proud of where we stand as a club. Some would say we are the most successful club goin' round!

Success to some is defined by the scoreboard, but for me personally - success is defined most of the time within a smile.

This year as I strolled by each diamond I saw plenty of smiles, laughter and friendships being formed, (along with some tears). I saw my version of success.

Each of our young players deserves a chance to be successful and in my book I believe we have achieved that.... and then some!

Coaches and Managers are instrumental to how many smiles (or tears) we see, so I would like to personally thank our coaches, managers and volunteers from each team. I also define success in retention of players and the attraction of new members to our club. We are on the path of high retention, and with Dave Martyn at the helm of TeeBall there is no stopping our recruitment of new players.

The Baseball season has finished for most, but for our valuable and dedicated committee members, it feels like it never ends. We work just as hard in the off season as we do in the on season!

We are always looking for new and better ways to create a more positive environment for our club members. I am looking forward to our Junior Development program, Spring Training and everything that is ahead for the rest of 2019 and into 2020!

See you on a diamond somewhere!

Matt Watson.

Vice President of Juniors

Castle Hill Baseball Club

## **Seniors VP Report**

Knights Baseball is known around the country as having one of the best Junior Baseball programs in Australia, and rightfully so. The attention to player development presents athletes with the opportunity to increase performance across the full spectrum of baseball disciplines, whilst ensuring their personal development as an individual, a reason why we are so highly regarded, we develop excellent little human beings. With many Juniors advancing into the Senior grades, it is the Junior development ethos that has provided Knights Baseball with the foundation for a proud and successful seniors baseball program. Competing in the Sydney Metro Baseball League, Knights Baseball enter seven teams in both Summer and Winter ball, with over 100 players suiting up in Kelly Green each week to represent the Knights family.

Our Division 1 baseball is an exceptional spectacle with some of the Hills finest athletes playing baseball with an enthusiasm that can be best described as watching an under 12's team vying for the rights for the biggest dinger of the day. Quite simply, big kids playing the children's game- and they love it. Tom Eaton, our Div. 1 Player/Manager is the essence of Knights Baseball, a life member with a long and proud club history has had the privilege of managing his team through four grand final wins over the past four years- an all class outfit who deserve the accolades as one of the most consistently successful baseball teams in the Sydney Metro competition.

Another honourable mention amongst our Senior ranks is our F grade Cavaliers. At the Helm is a fiery Wayne Edwards who leads from behind the plate with an intensely competitive passion, an easy leader to play for, that's for sure. If it wasn't for his heir to the throne Will Edwards, Wayne would sit atop of the ladder with a .513 average, also leading the table in RBI's, and second in on base percentage. Not bad for a guy who rides 100km on a Sunday morning after a big game Saturday afternoon.

Castle Hill Knights Baseball is like a family, always working together to build on an already exceptional club experience, always ready to dig in and help out when the call comes, especially on ground maintenance days. It is very much a sincere pleasure to represent a group of amazing players and I look forward to another great Winter Season of Knights Baseball.

Pat Whitton

VP Seniors



## T-Ball Report Summer 18/19

Time flies when you're having fun!!

Well what a season that was!! I hope all of you had as much fun as I did! It was great to see all the kids playing with a smile on their face.

This year started back in early August with our Try T-Ball days where we had record numbers (approx. 75 kids) come down and **"TRY T-BALL"**. This season 102 kids across U8's & U9's, with over 45 of them being new kids registered to play at Castle Hill this season. What an achievement!!!! I hope all 102 kids come back next year and bring a friend with them as well!!

It saw us field 6 teams in U8's (3 x Akers Division Teams & 3 Super T-Ball) & 3 teams in our U9's. I loved walking across Castle Glen most Saturday mornings seeing all the kids having a ball and learning the fundamentals of what is a great game. It is amazing to see the improvement in all the kids from the start of the season to when the season concluded.

Thanks to our great coaches that put their hands up this year to coach **(especially those coaches that were first timers, you know who you are!!)** I loved hearing all the highlights from your games each week from home runs, to tags and 2nd base to double and triple plays and you can't forget those GRAND SLAMS!!! Coaching is not a 1-man team, it also needs assistance from parents, so thank you to all those parents that gave up their time to assist in coaching, managing, scoring, organising the dugout and umpiring. This is a TEAM EFFORT so thank you.

Kids!!! Thank you for being part of a great club and a great game and can't wait to see you all again next season.

Dave Martyn

T-Ball Coordinator



## T-Ball Team reports

### Team Report U/8 Lancers

Well it has been a enjoyable year of T-Ball for the Lancers.

Too think of were there children started at the start of the year and too were they are now,with their skills and understanding of the game of T-Ball/Baseball, it's a credit to each and everyone of them for embracing the sport.

Would like to thanks all the parents for there help and support through out the year,a special mention to my Manger Marty for all his help.

Marcus-Full of energy every time.

Doesn't matter if it's training or game time,he is always ready to play.

Eve-always has a smile on her face,has improved a lot from she start of the season.

Jack-was a joy to coach,even though he spent most training sessions trying to eat his glove.

Juno- Knows how to hit a ball,always knows we're to go when instructed too,pleasure to coach.

Jackson-Youngest player in the side,did very well for his first season..

Jarlath-Had a good season improved a great deal from the start of the year..

Tom-Did very well in the field and batted well through out the season.

Harrison-Also did well as a batter, improved from the start of the season in the field.

Marcel- Late addition to the team but was full of energy in what ever he was told what to do bat/field.

Lucas-Quiet achiever didn't say much but had a good all round season,well done.

Brooklyn- Improved a lot through out the year,always keen to play.

Levi-Always had a go and never gave up which is a god trait to have,well done.

Coach

Patrick



### Castle Hill Knight - U/8 Pages Team Report



For every player (and Coaches), this was our first year playing T-Ball.

We started the season with everyone getting an at bat per inning then quickly changed to the 3 out format.

What a difference that made and the kids tried so hard not to get out from that point onwards.

By the end of the season, we showed a marked improvement for each player and the confidence grew with each swing.

Our Team highlight was the TRIPLE PLAY!

- Big thanks to **Coach Neil** as well as player dad's **Luke Hobbs, Sean O'Brien, Stuart Kennedy** and **Matt Watson** for their help throughout the year.
- **Harry** - Keep swing for the fences and I hope to see you in the Major League's One Day.
- **Oliver** - you never complained about doing the hardest job on the field week in, week out. Also, you pro actively challenged the team to strive for excellence
- **Jack** - Your fortnight dances when you got someone out are legendary.
- **Christian and Charlotte** - you always give 150%, thankyou
- **Max** - the quite achiever. Don't be disappointed in the 1%, be proud of the 99% where you where the perfect baseballer
- **Nicholaas** - for someone so humble, you always made the other team tumble with your skill
- **Chase** - a great year of pitching and fielding from you, thanks for stepping up to the mound for the team
- **William** - you make me proud every week and its great you think about how to improve your battling and fielding skills
- **Peter** - You did a great job in very every position you fielded - including the downward dog at second. Well done.
- **Poppy** - You never gave up and we all found your courage to keep trying very special/

A great team and a great year we had.



## T-Ball Team reports

### Under 8 - Heralds

The Under 8's Heralds kicked off the 2019 Tee Ball Season demonstrating Pride and Passion for the Castle Hill Baseball Club. Developing into a tightknit squad, these beginning ballplayers, most of the boys new to the game, displayed exceptional growth in all areas of fielding, batting and base running as the season progressed.

Our youngest starting off the season with on the injured reserve list with a broken arm, Henry Johnson quickly made up for lost time on the field towards the end of the season demonstrating consistency in his batting and base running.

Edward Hanretty and Porter Bradey displayed great heart and a never-say-die attitude, remaining true to the Castle Hills spirit, never giving up and finishing strong with their batting. They nailed some solid contact on the ball to earn consistent RBI's for the team and continue to run hard whilst on base. With their gloves always down and ready, the boys grounded some challenging solidly hit balls, holding runners on base whilst looking for the next out.

As the team continued to develop their understanding of the fielding game, we witnessed Blair Milburn and Kevin Johnson demonstrating focus, taking fly balls at the pitcher's plate and committing to a variety of incredible tag outs around second base and short stop. Blair and Kevin both continue to show strength in their batting techniques hitting the ball solid and flat, always looking for the next opportunity whilst running bases.

With Cameron Kirby and Cruz Hauwai working on their strategic understanding of the game, they displayed versatility in being able to adapt to a variety of fielding positions. Supporting the team in the outfield with their incredible arms and accurate glove work, the The Herald's were provided with some of their first throw-outs at first base with the support of Blair Milburn. Their batting skills continuing to improve as they develop strength and focus behind the ball. Congratulations Cruz for ending the season with the perfect Grand Slam home run.

Charlie Roberts and Charlie LaBas remained consistent throughout the season in the batting box demonstrating focus, strength and commitment to putting solid contact on the ball. Congratulations Charlie Roberts for hitting your first home run in the final game. Both boys improved their running speed and technique whilst securing first base and were always on the lookout to grab second and third base to get home. In the field the boys displayed resilience and dedication to learning new positions, focusing on throwing hard and accurate to first base and playing first base as a position.

This season saw two new recruits to the game in Reid Guenther and Jun Willems. What an inspirational season both boys had with exceptional growth in their fielding, batting and knowledge of the game. Remaining focused, Reid finished the season strong with the bat getting some solid contact on the ball whilst consistently bringing in runs for the team. Jun always playing with a smile on his face, committed and passionate to attack the ball in the field, looking to stop any runners.

The Herald's 2019 Tee Ball season was an outstanding success and it's such an inspirational sight to witness some of these exceptionally young ball players developing such a vast variety of skills through the best game on the planet. On behalf of The Team, The Umpires and Scorers, The Coaches and Castle Hill Baseball Club, I would like to personally thank all parents, grandparents and the extended families for your support and flexibility in making this season such a success. It's truly wonderful to have such a proactive group of parents who were able to step into the rush and help the boys grab helmets, organise caps, mits, drink bottle and most importantly, the batting line-up. I hope to see you all continue to support these boys in developing their deep love of baseball.

Finally, I would like to shout out an enormous thank you to Scott LaBas for stepping in as the Assistant Coach whilst juggling his other team and his own family commitments during the 2019 Tee Ball Season. Your guidance, assistance and support was gratefully appreciated.

Much Appreciated,

Coach:

John B Roberts



### Under 8 Archers

Overall the kids had a great season and made some great friendships along the way as all the boys seem to get along a little too well at times.



As a team we managed to beat every team in the competition at least once which shows the kids tried really hard every week.

Considering some of our kids had never played the game before and only two

boys going up to 9's next year they did remarkably well, a big shout out for Lincoln Jones who played like he has known the game for some years.

Mason Barnes was our comedy relief during the year as he received the best DABBER award every game (which has something to do with FORTNIGHT)

Isaac Landsom was very impressive with the bat as hes our smallest kid but one of our BIGGEST hitters. Also Anton Jacovides was a highlight reel in the field most games and made 3 triple plays during the year.

It didn't seem to matter how loud we yelled at the kids, they always seemed to have a smiles on their faces win or lose.

Thank you to Sean Brennan for joint Coaching and all the parents who made this season much easier than it should have been.

Look forward to seeing these boys grow and get better in the future

### Under 8 Squires

What a great season for the Squires...

The boys came together as a mix of new and returning players. Everyone was keen from day one giving their all at training and games.

The team came together each week with enthusiasm to play, everyone learnt the importance of every position and played hard in all the rotations with no complaints.

At Bat everyone was supportive and it was great to see the progression through the year as each of the boys started to pick the gaps and hit the holes.

Our base running progressed as well as we stopped settling for 1 base and pushed our runs to gain the extras where we could.

Thanks to Doug for co-coaching, Damien on dugout duty and Kath and Erica for scoring.

It was a pleasure to coach the team and help progress their knowledge and skill in the game.

I look forward to see you all next season

### Under 8 Bowmen

It has been a great season for the U8 Bowmen. We had a lot of boys playing for the first time.

All the boys applied themselves at training and at the games each week. They all improved their skills greatly over the season and they all began to understand the game and think about how they should play. They even managed 4 double plays towards the end of the season. It was fantastic to watch.



The best thing to see during the season, was the boys learning sportsmanship and supporting and cheering each other on from the dugouts when at bat.

A big thanks to Kelly our manager, Lucas our assistant coach, Clare, Kevin and all the parents that helped at the games and training. It made the season enjoyable for all.





### Under 9 Cavaliers



What a wonderful season. This year saw the Cavaliers recruit some new players to blend in with the experience of those that have been there since U6's. As the season progressed, it became very rewarding to watch a young group of players further develop their skills, confidence and techniques.

The season was full of highlights, first time's and a wonderful team camaraderie.

Memorable moments: Jacob getting his first out on his first attempt at playing 1st base. Christian and James sniping between pitcher and first base. Josh's incredible reflex catch at pitcher. Charlie's work at second base. Hayden, Jack and Toby knocking it out of the park. Sydney making third base his own. Justin prowling at short stop and Ethan's outstanding running and the improvement in his batting over the last few games. A great bunch of kids made it a pleasure to be their coach.

A special thank you to Jo Shahho, who put her hand up to manage the team and did a fantastic job. Adam, Kyle and Dean for helping out at training and on game day. The ladies who volunteered to score and a general thank you to all the parents for making my job a whole lot easier.

Regards

Colin Leclere (Coach)

### U9 Wendy Vigerser League – Castle Hill Jesters

A new group at the start of the season that quickly jelled into a happy and supportive team. I am proud of the Jester's approach to the game, the way they interact with each other, the respect they afford their competition and their development, both in the understanding of the game and the uplift in skills shown through the season.

All of this was achieved against a background of constant discussion on a whole range of subjects that only 8-year olds know and understand. It didn't seem to matter how I grouped the team in training, those groups would rapidly become engaged in their own conversations, while keeping an eye on proceeding to ensure that they didn't miss their part in whatever drill was being undertaken. That said, the team didn't lack in energy and approached training enthusiastically and competitively. On the diamond the Jesters had a strong season, with consistency their trade-mark finishing second in the division.

My thanks go to my Manager Elisa McManus, my scorers Emma Trenwith and Petra Forgeson and an enthusiastic and supportive parent group, who I feel can be very proud of their child's behaviour, development and achievement over the course of the season. It was my privilege and pleasure to coach the Jesters and I look forward to seeing them all return to the Club next year and watching their continued growth in the game.





## T-Ball Team reports

Castle Hill **U9 Crusaders** Team report.

U9 Crusaders 2018/9;

Ethan Bradey

Matthew Graham

Jack Hanretty

Millie King

Mitchell Kirby

Jeremy Lee

Harrison LeBas

Lachlan Meehan

Finlay McCulloch

Brody Stewart



The team lost 3 key players at the end of last season and gained 2 new players Millie and Brody. The team spirit and friendly atmosphere in this group of players has always been one of the biggest assets and so the new players were quickly welcomed as teammates. That's not to say the new players didn't need to prove themselves a little, so Brody's enthusiasm with a strong throwing arm and Millie's consistent hitting and running speed showed the team they had competition.

The Crusaders have worked well as a team, in training and at games. When this team are switched on they are impressive to watch. I am very proud to say that at their best they hit, run, field and throw really well. We have some natural athletes who see the ball well, read plays and can lead. But I have had a lot of pleasure this season seeing the skills develop in the less naturally gifted players and watch them take chances, nail a play and gain the self- confidence. The smile and expression of complete surprise at their own skill is priceless.

Overall, whether they were in the infield or outfield they all worked hard, gained skills, build on strong friendships and danced a lot.... Lachy!

Undefeated back to back in 2017/8 and 2018/9 (which must be some sort of club record!) the Crusaders have gone from strength to strength and most importantly enjoyed the game.

I have to express huge gratitude to the support and commitment of the fantastic parent group. We never had to worry about who would coach, score, run the dugout, the parents helped make this team the winners they are with great warmth and friendship. Dave

Hanretty triumphed as team manager/riot squad coordinator without having to use a taser once!

Finally, as my first season coaching I relied very much on Scott Le Bas as the coaching rock who in the last 2 seasons has helped turn these teeballers into champions, thank you Scotty.

Cheers

Derek McCulloch

U9 Crusaders

# Mod-Ball Team reports

2019 **U10 Jesters** Season Report  
Matt Ferro, Coach

The U10 Jesters experienced massive growth as a team and as individual players. Though we chalked up just three wins, we held our own late into many other games, nearly winning a couple more, along with praise from many of our opponents' coaches for how far we've come since Day One! This is amazing, considering half our team had never played before, and we only had two training sessions before our first game!

Due to extended holidays, we didn't have enough players to man a full field until round 3, and weren't at our full strength of 10 players until round 4 — but we took those two games back-to-back and had enough momentum to secure three victories during the Teeball season, including a convincing 34-19 win over Carlingford. From the get-go, Connor Kirkland, Jett Rolles, Patrick Robertson and Bryce Chricton's bats were especially effective, helping propel us to those fantastic wins.

The first two games were hitting free-for-alls for everyone as each team we faced was rusty in the field. But by round 10 there was real ball playing happening on both sides. In a heartbreaker, we lost 36-37 in the last inning to Winston Hills, despite Andrew O'Brien hitting safely in every at-bat and scoring each time. Then came modball.

The transition to modball literally threw us a curve ball. But the change in dynamics meant it was time for players to shine in different ways, or for the first time. Jett Rolles donned the starting catcher's gear — half of it too big, half of it mis-matched or frayed, meaning balls hitting him in many unprotected places — but he took a licking and kept on ticking!

Soon Andrew O'Brien was in the mix at catcher too, sharing the load of bruising and bashing. Jett and Andrew caught pitches and defended the plate gallantly. Plays at home plate were close and exciting - and incredible throws from Ian at shortstop to Jett at catcher and Jack Martin in left field and Connor in center to Andrew at catcher just missed saving critical runs at home plate. But we were playing exciting baseball!

Although we didn't win a game at modball, we kept our spirits up and stayed within reach of wins until the last or second-to-last inning on several occasions. And we always looked like we were growing as players and a team!

Our final record belies just how many wonderful things happened to us in this season of growth. When I look back at it, I see the following highlights as things I will never forget.

## \*U10 JESTERS TOP 10 MOST MEMORABLE\*

### 1. HIGHEST SLUGGING PERCENTAGE, MOST FLY BALLS CAUGHT:

Patrick Robertson

Patrick's power hitting always made a difference and somehow he managed to snag line drives and pop flies out of the air at shortstop and second base across the whole season, twice resulting in double plays! Patrick's confidence inspired the whole team to play their best. Thanks for your service, Patrick!

### 2. MOST MEMORABLE INNING IN THE FIELD:

Bryce Chricton, pitcher and Daniel Ferro, first base

To me, there was no more exciting an inning in the field this season than the hat trick at first base by the one-two punch of Bryce to Daniel for the outs, leading to our second victory. On top of this hat trick, the power combo helped shut down the opposition in each of our three wins in a big, big way! At the plate, watching Bryce's steely-eyed stare gave me shivers, especially when he connected for multiple base hits. Daniel's confident swagger up to the plate as he slapped out RBI's and sacrifice singles helped us rack up our score time and again. Great work, guys!

### 3. MOST DEDICATED PLAYER and MOST IMPROVED BATTER: Zach Robinson

Zach came to each training and game day with enough focus and dedication for a whole team. From the beginning Zach was determined to learn and master baseball with a no-nonsense approach. His fielding skills kept growing from Day One and he found his swing in a big way, in the last games of the season, when he started hitting the long ball consistently, including stand up triples in back-to-back games, powering in multiple runs both times. Zach's true moment in the field was his solo hat trick at third base - three outs in a row down the line, executed perfectly and by himself each time, for our second hat trick of the season. Bravo Zach!

### HIGHEST TEE BALL SLUGGING PERCENTAGE: Jett Rolles

We won tee ball games. And Jett Rolles' bat was hot throughout this part of the season, helping us to three victories and several other almost-wins. At the end of the season, Jett found his modball swing at bat, returning to form and hitting hard in the last couple of games! Even though he faithfully and bravely caught for us behind the plate in every game of modball, seeing Jett knock hitting for multiple bases during tee ball, and regaining his confidence against pitched balls by the end of the season was most exciting for me! Well played all-around, Jett!

### MOST IMPROVED OUTFIELDER: Connor Kirkland

Connor's ability to get to the ball and get it back into the infield quickly and accurately grew tremendously over the course of the season. He minimised the damage done by opposing power hitters. With impressive outings at first base, too, as well as power hitting whenever he connected, Connor proved he's got what it takes!

### MOST IMPROVED INFIELDER: Ian Im

Ian proved his most intuitive position is short stop. He came alive there, including a stunning defence against the Carlo Black Sox, throwing outs at second to Patrick and to Jack at third. Exciting to see as well, was Ian finding his swing against pitched balls that reminded us of the first half of the season when his tee ball batting was deadly, including two tremendous slugs against the Archers resulting in all four of our runs that game!

### BEST ALL-ROUNDERS: Jack Martin, Andrew O'Brien

As two of our more experienced players, Jack and Andrew consistently batted multiple-base hits in modball season, most notably Andrew's solo home run vs. Baulkham Hills (providing our only run of the game) complimented by Jack's pair of stand-up doubles. In the field, they dutifully played wherever we needed them and shined no matter what the position, showing true ball sense and surety, with Jack settling in as a confident and effective 3rd baseman and Andrew as a catcher. It's not surprising, having upped their levels of concentration and focus steadily over the course of the season, that along with their experience they would end up making huge contributions to the team. Well done, boys!

### MOST IMPROVED PLAYER: David Schache

Quietly waiting it out in right field as he learned the game for the first time, it all came together for David in a big way. By the end of the season, he was getting on base game after game and threatening with his impressive running speed. Trying a wider variety of fielding positions near the end of the season, David proved he's moved up to the next level with some amazingly smart ball playing in multiple field positions and an arm that's strong and accurate, too. Way to go, David!

Of course, we'd have never won a single game - nor looked so good when we didn't - had it not been for the extraordinary help on each training and game day from our assistant coach Gary Kirkland and our pitcher-in-residence/spiritual 2nd assistant coach, Andrew Rolles. A big dose of extra juice came from Kevin Martin, the one actual grown-up player on our team, who brought a new level to our pre-game warm-ups and extra practical tips on technique to our players throughout the season, on training and game days.

Getting the kids organised in the dugout and through the batting order is no short order. Luckily we had Graham and Kate Robertson holding down the fort as our dugout managers in the first several games until we got our sea legs. Jolanta Chricton came on board after that and got cheering squads going too. Our three managers over the season made a huge, positive impact on our gameplay and taught the kids that their part of the game is still ON, even when they're in the dugout!

There's huge potential for the Jesters to move up the ladder next season and I was so proud of who they are, how hard they worked and how much they grew. So here's to next season: go get'em boys!!!!





## Mod-Ball Team reports

Congratulations **U10's Crusaders** for a phenomenal season of modball! Our number one objective was to 'have fun' and we absolutely smashed it! I'm so proud of all of the team and the way in which they were attentive, cooperative and enthusiastic. Every individual worked hard all season and the improvement by all was truly exceptional. This team has a huge heart and a 'never give up' attitude that was rewarded with some phenomenal results.

In total, the Crusaders made 456 hits from 743 at bats for a league topping total of 223 runs scored. The combined team batting average was a staggering 0.614. In defense, the team made an incredible 223 outs and 118 assists whilst conceding only 64 runs (again the best in the competition).

This truly was a team effort with every player contributing in every position on the diamond throughout the season.

**Julian Ahmed** – Worked tirelessly all season and saw some great power develop in his hitting. A pleasure to coach and was rewarded with a huge improvement in all skills. POs:7 Hits:18 RBIs:10 Avg:310 SLG:328

**Ashton Crawford** – Mr Consistency both at the plate and in defense. Ashton made some plays that any MLB player would be proud of. Had an exceptional season. POs: 22 Hits:51 RBIs:32 Avg:750 SLG:956

**Rhys Edwards** – despite missing a chunk of the season through injury Rhys performed beautifully with both bat and ball. He worked hard and was a real asset to the team. POs:12 Hits:25 RBIs:11 Avg:625 SLG:725

**Matthew Holt** – Matt's skills improved immensely this year picking up a number of extra base hits and combining for some valuable outs in the field. Matt worked hard, listened well and was a pleasure to coach. POs:9 Hits:35 RBIs:12 Avg:515 SLG:588

**Dylan Ireland** – was a huge contributor to the team and has the skill set to do it all. He accepts nothing but perfection in his game and always delivered. Another excellent season. POs:38 Hits:42 RBIs:26 Avg:600 SLG:686

**Levi Macri** – improved out of sight this year. He made some outstanding defensive plays and became a huge threat with the bat as his swing developed beautifully. Congratulations on a stellar season. POs: 18 Hits:47 RBIs:25 Avg:653 SLG:736

**Zachary Martyn** – Wears his heart on his sleeve and gives 110% at all times. Zach was outstanding in both hitting and defense – posting some huge numbers in both. Congratulations on a season to remember. POs:35 Hits: 61 RBIs:13 Avg:753 SLG:827

**Finn McDonald** – The Metronome! Finn's performance was super consistent all year and he gave it everything at all times. At the plate he did his best work when the pressure was on and there were runs to score. His best season by far. POs: 7 Hits:31 RBIs:13 Avg:534 SLG:534

**Tristan McGregor** – a natural baseballer with speed to burn! Tristan's hitting was tremendous and he can play any position on the park with ease. He is the quiet achiever who lets his results do the talking (and didn't they have a story to tell!). Well done this year. POs: 19 Hits:50 RBIs:15 Avg:667 SLG:760

**Daniel Price** – Has a work ethic that is the envy of all. Dan is a well-rounded player that shined with both the bat and in defense. Showed some particularly exceptional skills as catcher and will be one to watch in seasons to come. A super year. POs: 25 Hits:50 RBIs:20 Avg:658 SLG:684

**Beau Stockdale** – Had an incredible season and was a superstar in the team. Our most powerful hitter and a brilliant asset in the field. In addition to his huge talent, Beau's humility and attitude set the standard on how to contribute to the team. POs:35 Hits:46 RBIs:37 Avg:597 SLG:844

A huge thank you to Dave for his enormous contribution in assisting coaching. Finally thank you to all of the parents for the managing, base coaching, scoring, barbecuing, canteening and everything in between.

It has been a wonderfully successful season and I'm sure next season won't come around fast enough!

Go Crusaders!

Coach Alex



## Mod-Ball Team reports

### U10 Archers

A wonderful and successful season for the U10 Archers, with only one loss during the season, resulting in the team winning the Col Daisley North Division. The team started off with T-ball and transitioned well to Mod-ball during the season. The kids improved their batting skills as they progressed through games of mod-ball. Fielding was a highlight with the entire team making excellent plays at critical stages during each game. This resulted with the team having the best defensive record in the division. The team also got the opportunity to participate in zooka and live pitch tournaments. Tournament play was a great experience for the team which will help them to transition to live pitch games next season.

We are very proud of the Archers team. Special thanks to everyone involved, including the parents. Thanks to Pete for managing the team. A wonderful team effort, bring on the next season!!

Ash Singh & Tanya Freeman



### U10 Cavaliers

What a season and certainly well deserved one with all odds getting stacked against us we dug in deep focussed on the job we prepared and become relentless and more determent then ever!!

The added bonus and reward was winning the competition in the last game against an outstanding Crusaders we battled all year!!

Let's not forget tournaments the boys played and won throughout the year majority of them going through undefeated we couldn't be more proud and happier to see them put it all together.

We set out at the start of the season as a GOAL to improve from week to week as individuals and team players. And didn't they just do that and some - Our boys certainly put the hard work in at training and in there own time to become the best version of them selves. Trusting in this process was the key. Massive credit to every single player in the team cause they couldn't of done it without each other.

To coach this super amazing team was truly a privilege and pleasure and we couldn't of done it without the help of Joel Brown and Matt Tebbet super coaches indeed and also Natalie Farrugia for all her behind scene managerial managing skills thanks very much . I would also like to say special thanks to scorers , parents that helped out at training and brothers !! Those who helped out bbq duties- and last but not least our tower of strength from the parents the crowd and all support from family and friends thanks very much.

Quick some up I could write forever about each player so I'll try keep in brief here goes :



Ryan - what a great year certainly stood up for the team with he's great at bats fielding and super amazing attitude Ryan's batting was very consistent and improved .Always producing when he's team needed him great stuff champ !!

AJ - there's not much he can't do in fact he held it down for the team with he's outstanding fielding on 3rd base he's batting and never say die attitude. Always smiling and willing to learn and train hard. Big future for him in Baseball and pleasure to coach !!

Tyler - when we needed him most he produced with batting and great first baseman skills landing a crucial double play in last game to seal he's teams win TB was always there for he's team and the boys knew it , great attitude also all year !!

Kai - here's a kid if you told him to jump he would say how high . But what was truly amazing about him was he's sheer will and persistence to be the best he could .

Outstanding batter fielder all rounder and boy can he run but what stood out the most was he's attitude The boys could always rely on Kai- great stuff champ !!

Alex - this kid something else - he's batting came along way he put the work in and

it certainly showed us what he's about .great work - fielding and most definitely attitude for he's team always talking and backing everyone up great work champ !!

Issac - this kid could play baseball all day if ya let him super proud of how far he has come . Catcher of the year no doubt diving catches - throwing out runners off bunts and super amazing tags and he's attitude was on point most of the year great work champ !!

Cooper - not much he can't do what a great lead off batter and clean up hitter and outstanding out fielder and if you where lucky enough to watch him out there you would swear he's a ring in.! Cooper did more then required for he's team and he's attitude was always on point !! Well done champ !!

Michael - what a player certainly showed us what he's made of, he was in a batting slum start of the year and finished on top where he belongs . Micheal hit auto HR this year for he's team so you tell me and he's attitude was perfect all year and he's fielding always ready to make outs even if it ment catch a fly ball drop it and celebrate it !! Love ya work all year champ !!

Christian - went above and beyond for he's team with he's great at bats all year and super amazing first baseman skills and out field plays and always had a great attitude!! Kid can bat no doubt proud of him well done champ !!

Hobbs - Our heart of the team and he's willingness and determination was next to none . He was always prepared to do what it takes for he's team such a great talent at that - Hobbs could rock up late to a game and still play amazing we love hobbs well done champ !!

Jhy - when he's on he's on and can do just about anything on the field . Hungry is an understatement !! The only kid I've seen do the splits on first base and make it look easy!! Certainly can bat and field and cheeky base runner and I know if he can tweak he's attitude sky will be the limit for him no doubt Jhy certainly done he's job for he's team and some but there's always room for improvement well done Champ !!

We Look forward to another great season 2019-2020 can't wait !!

By coach Warren Wessell



## Live Ball Team reports

This year our U11's team had an outstanding season and managed to win the competition undefeated which is an outstanding achievement on its own right.

It wasn't easy and without some ups and downs as we were challenged (or challenged ourselves) in some games, but the players always showed their resilience, big heart and found the way to bring out their best to win games.

Luke and Wez thanks for your time and assistance all year during training and at the games. Its great having that kind of support which makes my job a lot easier and it is greatly appreciated by the players.

Thanks to our very efficient Team Manager Nat Farrugia and our fantastic Scorers Amber and Tanya.

To the parents your commitment to bring the players to training and games is greatly appreciated, without your support the players will not have these opportunities and experiences. Your children will remember and appreciate your efforts for the rest of their lives.

It was a great year for the U11's team and the coaches could not be happier and more proud with the way the players performed and conducted themselves all season.

Aaron – Quiet achiever that made some of the best plays of the year at second base and found great form with the bat in the Grand Final.

Benjamin – Our only left batter, a great year with the bat especially working the opposite field when the opposition was shifting towards the right side of the field. Also, a great year with the glove.

Elliot – Great Job for the team on the mound and in the outfield. Elliot's bat was a standout in the Grand Final. Well Done Kirbs.

Isaak – Great job as our catcher in the last 2 and most important games of the year. Never complains about the hard work and gets the job done every time.

Lachlan – Pretty much played every position on the field and always willing to take on a new challenge. Reliable with the glove and the bat.

Lucas F – Fuggi was our dependable pitcher that we could bring into challenging situations to get us out of trouble. Also, a great year with the bat and field. Well Done

Lucas S – Started the year slowly but finished the year in great form when it counted. A great effort in the Grand Final over several positions and with the bat.

Mawson – Utility player that managed to play most positions on the field. A very valuable player to have in the team with his versatility and willingness to learn new positions. Great Year Maws!

Ryley – Always intimidating to the opposition when coming up to the plate or on the mound. What an outstanding catch for the last out of the Grand Final (Worthy of ESPN highlights)

Shaun – Very consistent player defensively that got our pitchers and team out of trouble most times and at crucial times. Also, a very productive year on the mound.

An outstanding team of U11 champions



## U12/1

The 2018/19 draft selected a truly exceptional group personalities to represent Castle Hill in the under 12 1st division competition this season. An all class affair showcased the highest level of talent across the Hills in the age bracket and the baseball was pure across all disciplines.

I was fortunate to be placed in charge of this roster and was in awe of the skill development, personal growth and ambitious confidence displayed by each player in the face adversity. Whilst advancing to a post season first round elimination, this season exemplified the Knights unwritten rule, "It's about playing the game- Not winning the game."

Sharing the hot spot behind the plate was Harry Piper and Jack Cummins, great little guys who's confidence and game knowledge grew throughout the season- as did their leadership of the team during the tough digs. Our little Strong men, Benny "the Jet" Hope and Tim Kelly were awesome utility assets, both Jet and Timmy's aggressive base running and excellent outfield plays kept us in the hunt and supporters on their feet. The Pivot was a Cooper Crawford and Riley Hayhow affair most weeks because they controlled the infield, knew the plays and dominated on all quick and precise ground outs turning over the offensive with military precision. Corners were occupied by Ivan Song and Fletch Whitton at first. Ivan's is a baseball purest in every aspect of his game, athletic, great arm, cool under pressure, sweet swing but more importantly a great positive attitude. Fletcher, well my boy is



amazing- his tenacious at developing his skill set which found him taking lead role at first in many games because of his solid glove work and positive outlook at the game of baseball in general. Third base rotated with Jackson Ireland and Cam Walker providing efficient and highly effective defense, both boys handled their jobs like a boss.

A special mention to Tim Kelly and Jackson Ireland, my precision pitchers who impressed me week in and week out with their ability to deliver on point performances from the mound, no matter the score line. Thank you for leading the team this year guys.

I know I speak for many coaches out there, it's a pleasure to play a small part in the development and confidence of our young Knights and this season, I am proud to say that I did my job.

A quick thank you to Brett "Pip" Piper for the outstanding investment in the team throughout the season, and all the wonderful, supportive parents who made this season one of my best.

## Castle Hill U12/2 - Bowmen

A fun and enjoyable season for all the boys which encouraged them to develop their abilities and learn new skills whilst creating new friendships. All enjoyed the chance to experience various fielding positions throughout the season which made them better players and more confident on the field.

The boys all proved that they had the capabilities in the batting box at various times which allowed us to be very competitive throughout the season in what was a close fought competition.

Big thanks to Amos for assisting in coaching and also to Joanna our manager and to Adam, Christy and Jenny for volunteering to score throughout the season.

Lucas and Oscar – Your time spent behind the plate in all that gear was invaluable, especially on those hot summer days!

Marley – Your positive attitude and ability to play almost every position on the field was greatly appreciated! An asset to any team.

Jack – Your attitude and determination was second to none! Always reliable and positive. Be confident and you will progress in leaps and bounds (and I'll always remember that triple!)

Oliver – Those big swings in the batting box often resulted in moving the base runners around! Just remember, step in....

Austin – The quiet achiever! Always reliable on first base and to make contact in the batting box. You are a true gentleman and great teammate!

Lachlan and Lynton – You always gave 100% every game and there were sparks of inspiration and talent at various stages throughout the season! Be confident and listen and you will grow!

Amos and Josh – Your pitching proved invaluable throughout the season as did your time in the batting box. Keep practicing and you will go far!

Well done to all the boys, we definitely saw improvement from everyone! I hope you all enjoyed it and will be back for another season later this year. Great team and great season, well done!

Cheers,  
Greg



Baseball 2018/9 newsletter – Castle Hill 12U Leonard South League

As the 2018/19 baseball season wraps up it's a good time to look back and reflect. From my perspective it was very successful for a number of reasons. Most importantly I think the boys enjoyed themselves and had a chance to develop without too much pressure. They had fun while doing their best to get the win. The win under lights at Knights Field on Kyran's birthday is one to remember, that's for sure!

Additionally, we saw all of our players develop their games throughout the season. We worked a lot on the basis skills such as groundfielding, throwing, catching, hitting and sliding; with good improvements made by all players. For mine, the most improved overall were Will Schenko, Thomas Watson, Zane Stolee and Blake Holohan.

We tried where possible to give everyone a go at different positions, which seemed to work pretty well. Most of the team had a go at pitching, numerous players tried catching and everyone shared time between the infield and outfield. During this process we had some interesting finds including Luca Talarico (our little rocket man who threw as fast as any pitcher in the competition); Cayden Barnes who was as cool as a cucumber on the mound and threw us to a number of great wins, Cameron James who was arguably the best short stop in our competition; and Alex Ellison who did a great job of catching whenever he was asked. We also saw Kyran Lopez go from strength to strength in both his pitching and hitting until a broken arm interrupted his season.

A couple of season highlights would have to include the home runs hit by William Aguilar and Jack Loveridge, the boys all worshipping Cayden in the dugout with his three up three down performance to win the game, and Jack's throw to first base in the opening game which was perfectly weighted to remove Blake's hat without him even feeling it - as he watched the base runner cross home plate. Without doubt the funniest thing I have ever seen in baseball!

I would like to thank Mel Watson for scoring every week and Paul Schenko for helping coach the boys. To the rest of the parents a big thank you for supporting the boys every week and making it an enjoyable experience for everyone involved. I hope the boys are looking forward to next season as much as I am.

Cheers

Andy Loveridge

### Under 13 Crusaders

I could say what a great bunch of kids, but am going to say what a great bunch of blokes. That is one thing that really stood out to me this season. Whilst there was a range of ages in the team, they all behaved more like young men than boys. For the younger boys in the team, Brady, Josh, Logan, Mason and Ryan you really impressed me with how strong you are and your confidence - your parents should be very proud! To the older boys in the team, Ian, Lachlan, Luke, Nick, and Hayden, you were great role models, did not become complacent in your own abilities, and I think you learnt how you play hard but love the game and the experience. Collectively all the boys connected as a strong team despite the range of ages.

It was the fact that they played well as a team, with all players contributing rather than it resting on just a few players shoulders that saw them have such a great season finishing minor premiers. It was a delight to watch all the boys play some great baseball and contribute with the bat and ball. They played the game in a competitive and hungry manner, yet conducted themselves in a sportsmanlike manner. It is clear they not only want to do their best now, but grow into stronger baseballers for the future! The boys did not get the result they wanted on grand final day. Beaten by a better team on the day, and maybe some decisions by myself as a coach did not help. But we talked all year about playing good baseball, and thriving on tough and tight competition. I am confident they will be stronger for the experience.

Finally, some people to thank. Thank you to Buddy for umpiring our home games, and also volunteering to umpire others games - I am so grateful for all your time and positive energy around the boys. Thanks to Les who was always there to help, answer questions and tolerate watching me make mistakes and learn more about coaching - I know the kids and myself benefited from and appreciate your expertise. To my son Nick, who really loves to coach the boys and I think will make an excellent coach. We butted heads at times early in the season but can honestly say by the end I think we made a pretty good team and missed you when you weren't there. Also Darren, Tim, Glenn and Buddy helped me coach which made a big difference. Kristyn, Renee, Laurie and Glenn were wonderful scorers - not only scoring in our games but also at their other kids games - thank you. Finally, to all the parents thank you for always getting your kids to training and games, and helping create a positive atmosphere around the team. All the best for the future for the boys - I hope they continue to play and love the game and achieve great things.

Lindsay



What a sensational finish to the 2018/19 season for our **13u Cavaliers – Jeff Catt Intermediate League West Champions!**

We made the decision after trials to mix the top talent from our Little League and Intermediate League player pools, forming 2 x 13u div. 1 teams. It proved a successful experiment, with both Castle Hill teams battling it out for the championship. Having beaten the Crusaders (for the first time all season) by 1 run in the Major Semi Final, it was only fitting we got to face them again in the Grand Final where we once again triumphed by 1 run in a back-and-forth affair.....both teams put on a spectacular display of baseball, in front of a strong and raucous, green & white crowd at Castle Glen.

It was an honour being given the opportunity to coach this team and I couldn't be more proud of both the leadership shown by the older players and the way the younger ones stepped up to compete at a higher level. With all of these boys having dominated their competitions in previous years, we wanted to challenge them this season and have them 'fight' for their wins. In what proved to be a well balanced competition, they certainly did just that. It also proved highly beneficial from a coaching perspective and I thank the club for providing me with such a unique opportunity.

To; Adam, Caleb, Chase, Ed, Jack, Jett, Liam, Nick, Oscar, Phoenix and Riley – thank you for a special season, it's one I'll never forget....your hard work and dedication is inspiring and you deserve all the success coming your way....CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Matt Taylor



## Live Ball Team reports

U13/2

Wow, what a season for the 13/2 Castle Hill Bowman.

We finished the regular season as Premiers, 3 games clear at the top of the table!

This was on the back of the most hits, most runs and most consistent pitching in the league.

While we went down fighting on Grand Final day, I was extremely proud of all players for holding their heads high and represented our Club with humility, dignity and respect.

I'm sure all parents are rightfully just as proud of their athletes for their teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the season.

We achieved many things as a team this year and also as individuals.

Aaron grew and grew into his role at 3rd with his ability to attack the ball and make key outs a standout feature along with his excellent all round batting and base running.

Andy showed his team commitment and adaptability by performing strongly in critical positions across both the infield and outfield whenever called upon.



Brendan demonstrated great growth in his game behind the plate, executing numerous critical pickoffs that lifted the whole team towards victory.

Harry nailed down 2nd base this season and continued to grow as a lead-off batter with his smooth as silk swing and smarts on the base paths.

Jayden always stepped up to the challenges of the season with an outstanding willingness to learn and apply himself which showed in his stellar glove work and role model base running.

Kemani lead from the mound this season with courage, persistence and a never say die attitude that ensured team and personal success - what a champion!

Kieran displayed his full array of skills this season with speed on the bases, power with the bat and a bullet arm that secured a magnificent triple play from centre field!

Lorena showed a new level of aggression and confidence with her batting and was always a dependable glove in the field and a regular on 1st base.

Lucas found his calling at 1st base this year on the back of his quick and reliable glove work and a love of securing outs for the team.

Nicholas added great depth to our batting with some absolutely key hits in clutch moments throughout the season, he also showed excellent speed to steal many important bases.

Ryan worked hard for the team often leading the way with plenty of positive communication when we needed it most and was rewarded for his efforts with a spectacular mid-season grand-slam!

Thomas went from strength to strength this season and was rightfully the most feared pitcher in the league, shutting out games with power, precision and reliability - what a gun!

Of course a big thank you and callout for our manager, scorers, coaches and umpire - Janelle, Leonie, Elizabeth, Steve and Peter.

All of these special parents put themselves out there, gave up their time and learnt new skills so that our young athletes could enjoy the great game of baseball. It quite simply would not have happen without each and every one of them.

Well done team Bowman on a fabulous season.

14 U Summary:

We had a great season despite plenty of hurdles to jump. The team were a fantastic bunch to coach, we had a load of fun and played some great baseball. We were able to pitch every player and despite having 8 for the 1st half of the season and 7 for the second we managed to challenge our opposition week in week out only dropping one game for the season. At this point I definitely would like to shout out a big thanks to all the loan players who helped us throughout the season, every one of them came ready to get stuck in and did. Now team introduction time:

Brock (Peter) Foeken – absolutely owned the lead off role, he took on the responsibility of getting off us to a great start and set the tone every week. Highly consistent line drives the order of the day, add to the whenever he was called to pitch always did what was need and worked hard at his fielding that was highlighted in the grand final games making the important plays.

Jacob Morige – Loads of power saw Jacob push turn outfielders around and our runners over home plate most weeks, add to that easy velocity on the mound saw him close out scoreless innings regularly. Oh an who says lefties can play shortstop!

Liam Padovan – LP did everything, hit consistently, ensured our infield was rock solid and every time he was called up to throw was very close to perfect. To end a great season LP threw a no hitter in the grand final to completely close out Winston Hills, with an amazing 9 “up – 9 down” display.

Olivia Bonello – Our clean-up hitter, Liv turned a lot of outfields around and into chase mode with plenty of extra base hits and RBI's she was rock solid every week. Liv's hard work saw her selected in the NSW state side, an amazing effort!

Harrison Wheeldon – Haz had a ball playing in a top team, being able to play in positions that he hasn't for a long time was a great change. Plenty of hits and laughs were the order of Sat mornings.

Matt Ruff – Ruffy did everything asked, safe as a house at 1st base, unlimited power with the bat and great velo on the mound. Matt loves his baseball and was an important part of the team contributing every week.

Marcus Lawson – “Henry” pitched for the 1st time in a game, in the 1st game and never looked back. Plenty of speed, great hands in the field made my job a breeze. Marcus is a true utility player, he was able to do and exceed whatever was asked of him. We lost Marcus to representative soccer post xmas however were able to negotiate a short term loan agreement which saw him back for our 2 Grand Finals.

Hayden Purchase – “H”P was outstanding behind the plate however was equally awesome pitching, in the infield or outfield, it didn't matter what or where he was on the field it was always 100%. His hit was extremely consistent, a player that knows his strike zone makes him very difficult to pitch too.

Special Mention – Thomas Aguilar – Thomas came to fill in from the Div 3 U14s for our Grand Final series and what a great job he did. You will not find a more enthusiastic player, the team welcomed him and he slotted in like he had been there all year, absolute pleasure to have him as part of the team.

To close out I'd once again like to thank the club - Mark, Lindsay, Matt for the huge support all year, the countless hours you all put in is amazing and great clubs such as ours wouldn't exist without you. And of course Ben and Chiara Foeken, my wife Belinda and all the parents for simply cheering the team on.

Cheers,

Brett



## Live Ball Team reports

### END OF SEASON REPORT – U/17`S (CASHMORE LEAGUE - SOUTH)

COACH: Brad McManus

At the start of the season I was a bit optimistic of the team I acquired, this team that has played together already and won the Grand Final in the summer season previous.

If you would have told me at the Xmas break that we would make the Grand Final for Summer 2018 – 19, I would have told you that's CRAZY!

But as Knights do we NEVER say die, when we were backed into the corner and the end of the season was approaching we played every game as our last and we prevailed as the teams above crumbled.

My Knights showed real enthusiasm and heart as we overcame all obstacles and finished the competition Runners Up.

As a team the stats and players below speak for themselves.

Aiden Ahmed – Great work with the glove and great control in the box finishing the season with the 2nd highest walks and 1st in most times crossing the plate.

Sean Ede – One of my power hitters with an average over 0.360, Sean finished the season with most hits in the team, RBI`s and the only Home Run in the season. I could also count on him in the field where ever I put him.

Tiana Erskine – Struggled a little bit on the mound and with the bat but towards the end with some confidence started to produce results with both, finishing the season 3rd in Hits, Walks and Runs scored.

Andrew Holt – Outstanding work with the glove at Short stop or whatever position I had him and also the loudest voice on the team, he really kept the team moving forwards.

Liam Kerr – One of my 'Get something started` players, whether it was in the field on the mound or with the bat, Liam could always be counted on that, finishing the season 2nd in Hits and Runs scored.

Mitchell Stein – Putting his hand up to take the role of catcher, showed a lot of heart, with training provided Mitchell became a great catcher and took one of the greatest catches I`ve seen in a game against Winston hills, he was the 1st player to be at the game and training and showed tremendous dedication.

Alex Weddell – Struggled most of the season with the bat but with a keen eye when he did get on base he was able to produce results, glove work was good and became a very strong asset at 2nd base.

Jack Wolfe – The quiet one, but not when it came to the bat, finishing the season tied 1st in RBI`s and 2nd in walks and runs scored. Good work in the field as well.

Zac D`Amicis – My go to Right Fielder and a speed demon on the bases. Zac finished the season 1st in Walks and had an On Base % over 0.850. Even though he struggled with getting a hit the opposition would regret every time they walked him.

Ryan Eadie – was restricted so he could not play his prime position as a catcher so he became the next best thing a pretty good 1st Baseman and with his long throw did pretty good in the Outfield and at 3rd Base, also finished the season off with the only Triple of the season.

Lucy Wallace – Started out as a pivot but in the middle of the season and towards the end showed real great work on the mound where she led the team in Innings pitched and in Strike Outs. Good work in the box as well.

Joel MacBeth – Started off the season slowly due to an injury in the offseason but came around to be a big help on the mound once he found his control and with the bat getting on base nearly every time he came up to the plate.

As a team we played together and finished the season strong with 116 Walks, 97 runs scored had a batting Average close to 0.250 and an Onbase% over 0.580 so maybe it's NOT so CRAZY that we finished Runner`s Up

A massive thanks to Leonie for scoring nearly every game and Vikki for helping out when Leonie couldn`t make it, also Elizabeth for Managing and looking after stuff outside of my control and to Andrew helping me with the team at training and on game day.

Brad McManus - Runners Up Coach 2018 -19

Castle Hill Knights