Sports Baseball Club



2012 / 2013





2012 / 2013



U17 Diamondbacks Premiers









Presidents Report

Presidents report

They say time flies when you're having fun, well I must have been partying big time! It seems only yesterday that I was putting pen to paper (so Sue could type it) to complete this report. 2012-2013 season finished well for us this year with mixed emotions on grand final day. Any junior sporting club cannot run without the attage "many hands make light work". To all the volunteer coaches, assistant coaches, umpires, managers, scorers, canteen and grounds people – thank you for a job well done. I am not sure if you are aware that we have volunteers who do not even have children playing the sport. That is definitely dedication to us and our sport.

To the Bankstown Sports Club:

Thank you so much to the Bankstown Sports Club, its executive and its very active committee for all your assistance over the year both managerial and financial. If you are reading this and you are not a member, I suggest that as soon as you are finished here today, go to reception and join. You can reap many benefits and say thank you in your own way.

To Richard (Dick) Philips

As our baseball patron you go beyond the norm and exceed any expectations of your position. Thank you for your support and help throughout this season. I, personally thank you for you're never ending support to me as President.

To the parents

Parents, carers and family helpers – you're the best!!! Getting players to training and games is never easy, especially when more than one child is playing at different fields. You do it for them and if they don't thank you now – we do. On behalf of Bankstown Sports Baseball Club, I extend a big "thank you".

To the players on the teams

Bankstown Sports Baseball Club fielded a team in u7's; u8's; u9's; u10's; u12's; u14's and u17's. The u9's went all the way (Minor Premiers) to the grand final, then not finishing the season on a happy note. U17's got to the grand final and walked away grinners and winners. On grand final day our u12's got a chance to play in the final of the "Don Sohier Cup" and took out the title. Well done to them.

The sportsmanship on the day was fantastic all round by members of the Bankstown Sports Baseball Club and I felt very proud for a long time afterward.

We had players representing not just our Association; but our state as well.



Association representatives were from u17's; u14's and u12's. We also had representatives in the rookie and little league tournaments. So much talent!!

When surrounded by so many junior clubs struggling to survive, I feel very privileged to be in a club that is not only financially secure, thanks to our wonderful Bankstown Sport Club, but still remembers that we are all here today for our children and that is our only mandate.

Again, I could ramble forever but would like to advise that the Bankstown Sports Baseball Club will be holding its Annual General Meeting during the month of July (a date & time will be advised asap) and I ask everyone to consider going and having a say in the committee for 2013-2014. Fresh faces are always welcome.

Thank you all and I hope to see you all on the ballpark next year.

Yours in Baseball

Bruce Anderson
President BSBC



Secretaries, Treasurer & Canteen Report

Another great year, in last year's book I wrote "look out 2012-2013 here we come" and we did.

Fantastic results by all teams in the finals, with the U17s winning the Grand Final, U12s Don Sohier Premiers & U9s Minor Premiers. The commitment and dedication from every team and coaching staff was outstanding.

We would like to thank everyone who helped in the canteen, at the Bunnings BBQ's and around the field. Without you guys we would not be able to have players on the fields, and also to our committee who work tirelessly throughout the year never complaining. Thanks to Lynda Sexton for her continued support and for co-ordinating the weekly team results and to all the umpires, thank you for a great job by all.

Fundraising, what a great year and thanks to our team of helper's, words cannot say how much we all appreciate your dedication. To all our members, for choosing Bankstown Sports Baseball Club as your club a special thank you from us all.

Our thanks to the Bankstown District Sports Club and Directors for their ongoing support advice and help over the year. A special thank you to Betty Watson, for all your help again this year you are an inspiration to us all.

Finally we would like to wish you all our best for the upcoming year.

Diane Richardson, Melinda Hoy, Maria De Sousa & Dianne Simpson

Our Committee 2011 - 2012

President	Bruce Anderson	Canteen Co-ordinators	Dianne Simpson
Vice-President	John Richardson		Diane Richardson
Jnr Vice-President	Greg Dixon		
Secretary	Diane Richardson	Grounds People	Bruce Anderson
Asst Secretary	Melinda Hoy		John Richardson
Treasurer	Maria De Sousa		
Registrar	Diane Richardson	Sports Club Delegates	Bruce Anderson
Recorder	Lynda Sexton		Diane Richardson
Child Protection	Lynda Sexton		
	Paris Richardson		
Equipment Officer	Jody Trostel		
Publicity	Melinda Hoy		
Assoc Delegates	Bruce Anderson		
_	Lynda Sexton		
	Dianne Simpson		



U12 State Cup

Alyssa Trostel
Patrick Pham
Ron Radford—Pitch Coach
Alex Richardson—A/Coach
Diane Richardson—Manager

U12 Development

Curtis Flemming
Jordan Reid
Paul Muir—Coach
David Muir—A/Coach
Jaiden Flemming—A/Coach
Melinda Hoy—Manager

Little League Team 2013

Patrick Pham
Ron Radford—Pitch Coach
Sue Anderson—Scorer

U14 State Cup Ismail Adra

U16 State Cup

Gavin Dixon
Jaiden Flemming
Alex Richardson
Melinda Hoy—Manager
Sue Anderson—Scorer

U10 Rookies

Brandon Tangaroa
Daniel Evensen
Bruce Anderson—Coach
John Richardson—A/Coach
Greg Dixon—A/Coach

JAG Girls Series

Alyssa Trostel
Paul Muir—Coach
David Muir—A/Coach
Jody Trostel—Manager

U14 NSW Team
Ismail Adra



Awards

Geof Sharpe Memorial Award

Grueninger Family

Watson Family Award

Barry Family

Scorer of the Year

Helen Evensen

Volunteer of the Year

Greg Dixon

Team Awards

U7 Coach Award Troy Reid
U7 Batting Award Aniken Petelo

U8 Coach Award AJ Touma
U8 Batting Award Ryley O'Neill

U9 Coach Award Liam Arraj U9 Batting Award Kye Jedrzajczyk

U10 Coach Award Anthony Arraj U10 Batting Award Brandon Tangaroa

U12 Coach Award Gianluca Messina U12 Batting Award Alyssa Trostel

U14 Coach Award Brandon Ah-Hen
U14 Batting Award Anthony Evensen &
Ismail Adra

U17 Coach Award Christopher Karpathakis

U17 Batting award Gavin Dixon



Awards

5Yr Award

Mathew Munro Maria De Sousa Sue Roper Ron Radford (7 yrs)

10Yr Award

Jaiden Flemming Lachlan Anderson Sue Anderson Bruce Anderson Lynda Sexton

Umpire Medal Awards

Anthony Evensen Level 0
Morgan Sexton Level 0
Brendan Lyons Level 0

Coach Medal Awards

Alex Richardson Level 2
Jaiden Flemming Level 2

10 Service





Laurie Hubbert Deceased

Jim Kelly 1982/1983

Dave Callanan 1983/1984

Betty Watson 1990/1991

Graham Gardiner 1997/1998

Peter Hawkes 1997/1998

Steve Eurell 2004/2005

Anthony Luck 2004/5005

Paul Muir 2008/2009

Dick Phillips 2008/2009

Bruce Anderson 2009/2010

Dianne Simpson 2011/2012



The Watson Family Award

Eurell Family 1999/2000

Gauci Family 2000/2001

Luck Family 2001/2002

Field Family 2002/2003

Sloan Family 2003/2004

Sexton Family 2004/2005

Muir Family 2005/2006

Keen Family 2006/2007

Anderson Family 2007/2008

Westerweller Family 2008/2009

Richardson Family 2009/2010

Flemming-Hoy Family 2010/2011

Trostel Family 2011/2012

Barry Family 2012/2013



Geof Sharpe Memorial Award

Glenn Hubbert	1982/1983
Dianne Howard	1983/1984
Diane Blain	1984/1985
Betty Watson	1985/1986
Diane & Glenn Felkin	1986/1987
Margaret Callanan	1987/1988
Gordon Hollis	1988/1989
Ian Cummingham	1989/1990
Graham Gardiner	1990/1991
Shane King	1991/1992
Peter Hawkes	1982/1993
Geof Sharpe	1993/1994
Mark King	1994/1995
Margaret Gardiner	1995/1996
Anne McLaughlin	1996/1997
Alan Sinclair	1997/1998
Kyron Tari	1998/1999
Tony Luck	1999/2000
Steve Eurell	2000/2001
Shane Sloan	2002/2003
Graham Field	2003/2004
Paul Muir	2004/2005
Lynda Sexton	2005/2006
Graham Field	2006/2007
Dianne Simpson	2007/2008
Diane Richardson	2008/2009
Ron Radford	2009/2010
Bruce Anderson	2010/2011
Lauren Predic	2011/2012
Grueninger Family	2012/2013





Coach – Greg Dixon & John Richardson

Manager & Scorer - Claire and Anthony Dann

We started the season as new coaches to the under 7's with a team of enthusiastic children, eager to hit the ball and play, however there was much work needed to provide the skills and rules to the players. After targeting the skills we thought would benefit the most, Greg molded the players at training and passed on the basics the team needed to play the game, and as the weeks went by new skills were added. The children all listened and learnt at training with the results showing on game day as the season progressed.

Over the season we were proud to see that each of the children did their best on the day, we saw some great catches, good hitting, a couple of double plays and saw each of the children grow in knowledge and ability. However, most of all, we wanted to ensure everyone had fun, and that each player had the opportunity to play in each of the fielding positions.

Special thanks to Claire and Anthony who were always there each game to assist getting the players in the correct order and performing the scoring each week and looking after the team uniforms, you made our lives much easier on game day, thank you. Also thanks to the umpire, Gavin Dixon. Anthony Everson and Michael Barry also provided some assistance on game day warming up the players, thank you for your support.

Thanks to the parents for participating, and for getting your children to training and game day, we know at times it can be hard work. We look forward to seeing each of the players return next season to pick up where they left off.

The Under 7 Yankees are:

Jack Birran

Jack had a late start to the season, but picked up the basics very quickly. He has a passion for the ball, and has a great swing, hitting the ball to get on base most of the time.

Brianna Dann

Brianna has a great understanding and love for the game, she was enthusiastic on base and played well at pitch and first base. She enjoyed conversations with her sister in the field, and we soon discovered it was best to play them apart when fielding. Brianna hit the ball well and was a great runner around the bases.

Emilia Dann

Emilia **is a** happy and enthusiastic player, and was a pleasure to coach, she was always willing to play in any position asked, she learnt a great deal over the season, which will benefit her for next season. Always giving her all, Emilia fielded well and loved to play infield.

Mathew Evensen

Mathew has a good understanding of the game, worked hard in the outfield and infield, had a great season at bat and was a great base runner. Mathew has learnt many new skills and has an obvious talent, which has been developed no doubt with assistance from his older brothers (and Greg's coaching skills!!!).

Faith Falaniko

Faith started the season slowly and picked up in confidence with every game. She has given her all, was always willing to listen and learn, never quit at training, got onto base with some good hits, and always followed the coaches directions. Faith had a great first season.

Sean Gay

Sean was a strong player, knew what position he wanted to play, was great at catcher and his batting improved over the season, hitting some good balls to get on base and get players home. Well done.

Ethan Mosley

Ethan was a good all rounder, he has a great understanding for the game, was always solid in the field catching and stopping balls to try and make an out, and developed his throwing accuracy to get the ball to the base, great work. He was always quick around the bases, looking to get that extra base.

Aniken Petelo

Aniken has a passion for the game and was always eager and keen to play and get out on the field. He is a strong batter and runner, and fielded well in any position. He often placed himself under pressure trying to hit the ball out of the park, which he often did.

Troy Reid

Troy is a great player with a very good understanding of the game, he was always eager to please and always listened to instructions showing a great respect for the game. He was extremely fast on base and was always good at bat. A very reliable player.

ZayDe Sabha

Zayde shows a strong passion for the game and always wanted to be out on the field playing. He is a strong fielder, and loved fielding in any position, often covering multiple positions in a single play. He also loved to get to the ball and chase the runner, and after much coaching eventually was throwing to first base and getting the outs.

Jordan Tangaroa

Jordan is a strong player who improved in every game over the season. She loved to bat, always hit the ball, and was super fast around the bases. She demonstrated sound glove work in the field and will further develop next season. Her smile was always infectious.

Notable quotes:

Player to coach "Do we play in the grand final? Do we play at a big field with a big grandstand when were in the grand final"? "Will there be fireworks"?

Coach to player, "I want you to run home when the next player hits the ball". Response "I can't run home cos I live to far away"

Coach John & Coach Greg





Coach – Bruce Anderson **Manager** – Lynda Osborne

I feel coaching at this level is very important, so with this in mind, I would like to say to <u>Steve</u> <u>Touma</u> – thank you very much. For not only running the training sessions when I couldn't due to other commitments but also for coaching where the games for 8's and 14's overlapped.

Thank you to for showing your management skills in keeping the team well informed and in control.

Any sport dealing with children at this age can be very testing, so to all the parents: thank you for your assistance with not only getting the players to training and games but for helping out on the field in many ways including scoring; base coaching and even keeping the players bench under control.



SMALL IN STATURE - LARGE IN HEART

THE WONDERFUL UNDER 8 YANKEES INCLUDED:

LUKE ARRAJ

ZAKARIAH CHEIKHO

AUDREY CHU

RYLEY O'NEILL

BETHANY PHAM

ASAD TOUMA

JAYDEN TOUMA-LUKE

ZAC YEHIA

I really enjoyed coaching these future stars and hope to see you all in August.

Yours in baseball

BRUCE ANDERSON





Coach – Alexander Richardson & Jaiden Flemming

Manager – Joanne Mucenski

Scorer – Peta Jedrzejczk & Melanie Aropa

Firstly, congratulations on being the U9'S MINOR PREMIERS 2012/2013!!!

Well what a season we had. This was our first year in competitive baseball and even though we didn't take home the trophy we are very proud of each and everyone of you. You have all grown in talent this year and we are looking forward to leaving zooker behind and starting live pitch. This is where all the fun really starts!

As usual, we would like to thank all the parents of our players for all their support and getting the kids to the games and to training every week. We had a big team this year and it meant more time on the bench than normal but the boys took it in their stride and didn't complain too much.

We also welcomed a number of new players to our team this year as well as our returning stars.

Jaymin Tarei– First time player Jaymin progressed well throughout the season and he was starting to get a lot of hits off the zooker. His enthusiasm for the game was wonderful to see.

Jake Mosley – First time player Jake performed well all season and took a great catch in one game in particular, his batting is improving and will get better as his confidence grows.



Soroush Mussawell – As a first time player he was very shy on the field but was a great team player and gave his all. He will improve as his confidence grows also.

Adam Cheikho – First time player Adam always had a smile on his face, he continually showed support to his teammates and was a great player to have on the team.

Declan Dann – Declan joined us this year but has played previously. A great hitter and true all round player.

Jordan Sullivan –Jordan joined us this year but has played for another club previously. Right from the start Jordan showed great potential and quickly improved in all aspects of his game.

Zacharie McKelvie - Zac started the season strongly and developed into a great all round player. He was willing to take up the role as a catcher and showed great potential. He always made great contributions to the team.

Kye Jedrzejczyk—Kye returned once again for another fantastic season he dominated both on and off the field whilst constantly supporting his teammates.

Taiki Arita—Taiki is becoming an excellent player. His catching and fielding have improved a lot this season and he is on his way to great things.

Liam Arraj—This year Liam improved alot and it showed on the field and in his confidence. Liam's throwing, hitting and running all improved immensely this season. We can see the extra work you have been putting in. Well done buddy!

Tyrone Aropa— a strong fielder whose batting has improved. Always reliable wherever we place him in the field and a great team player.

Alexzander Mucenski— Coming back for another great season. He has developed numerous skills to use on the field and he took up any position willingly. Zander puts in 100% and is headed in the right direction.

Darren Lawson— Darren only played half a season with us but made an impression. We hope that he will continue to play baseball at his new home and wish him all the very best.

While our hitting may have let us down (at times) once we went to zooker. Remember that our hitting will improve, stay positive please. Zooker is tough but once we start live pitch you guys are going to rip it up! Trust us! Joanne, thank you so much for managing the team. We know it isn't always easy but your help was invaluable. To all the parents who helped score - Thanks heaps!

Lastly, a big thank you to OUR parents for all your support and help to us during the season.

Jaiden & Alex



Coach – Mathew Roper
Assistant Coach – Neil Roper & Ed Grueninger
Manager – Jacki Tangaroa
Scorer – Sue Roper

Firstly, I would like to congratulate the team on a fantastic season. We entered this season on the back of two 6th place seasons and were firmly fixed on improving to make a finals birth. At the completion of the regular season we finished in 3rd position with 7 wins, 1 draw and 7 losses, a truly fantastic effort. At one point we peaked as high as 2nd place and came within three runs of beating the undefeated premiers on two occasions.

The really promising efforts came in the field where we had the 2nd least amount of runs scored against us overall. This was an exceptional effort, keeping in mind that we were pitching for half of the year.

We had several highlights during the year that were just awesome to be a part of

- We came from six runs down in a final inning to nearly steal a victory against the eventual Premiers. No other team came within a run of them but us.
- Our last game before the Christmas break, where we were playing for outright second spot, against the team that were second and scoring 10 runs on them. This was another effort that no team achieved.
- Shutting out the 5th place team that needed to win to survive. Twice they had none out and the tying run on 3rd base yet we got out of the inning. Our best fielding display of the season.

Unfortunately we left our worst game until the finals where nothing went our way. We were beaten one game before the grand final by the better team, however we were far from shamed and we definitely achieved our goal of playing finals baseball, and playing good, solid, weekly baseball to get there.

I would like to congratulate Brandon Tangaroa and Daniel Evensen on their selection in the Bankstown Rookies team.

The team also represented the club at East Hills Zooka gala day and did the club very proud. We finished our pool with two wins and two losses to finish 6th from 15 teams. We actually finished three runs shy of a finals spot. The effort they put in that day made all the more rewarding as it was in 40+ degree weather. Thank you to the parents who supported us throughout the day and also put on a superb lunch.

Many thanks to the support staff that assisted throughout the year...

Ed – your first crack at coaching certainly opened your eyes to the stresses that coaching brings. I hope you learnt as much from me as I did from you. Apologies for not pre warning you about the grey hairs you get when you coach.

Neil – True commitment to the cause is when you were lying in a hospital bed awaiting surgery yet you were calling me during the game to find out the score. This may have been lost on the kids, but it certainly wasn't lost on me. The pitchers certainly benefited from your coaching experience and this showed a great deal in several of our good wins. Thank you for coming out of coaching retirement.

Jacki – Many thanks for once again donning the manager's hat. It is a truly thankless job that you do so very well, not only dealing with the kids but dealing with the coaching staff as well.

Sue – this was arguably the most difficult time for you to be scoring baseball when a lot of other things were taking your time. The efforts you have gone to for this team, to support not only your grandson but also your son will never be forgotten. I should thank you more often.

Lastly, to all the members of the team, keep enjoying your baseball and keep learning.

Mathew Roper Head Coach

Under 12 Cardinals



Coach - Paul Muir A/Coach — Melinda Hoy, Frank Trostel Pitch Coach — Ron Radford Manager & Scorer – Jody Trostel

Don Sohier Trophy Premiers for 2012/2013 - Congratulations

What a season! What a team!

We had virtually a new team this year compared to last season, with only a few of the kids having played together before. We had new players and players that came up from U10s and one brand new player to the game. An excellent group of kids who tried their best every week.

I would like to say a very big thank you to our fantastic team. First up, Head Coach Paul your commitment to junior baseball at Bankstown is outstanding and we are very lucky to have you at this great club. Pitch Coach Ron, what can I say but your commitment is equally as strong as Paul's and your patience with the players is really appreciated, as anyone who pitches knows it isn't that easy to stand on the mound! Assist Coach Frank your help at training was always very much appreciated as you could always throw or hit the ball way further than me!



Jody, nothing more needs to be said than you are the best manager ever! The team was always aware of what was going on and on top of organizing all of us you also scored every week. This team couldn't have done it without your continued support and help through out the season. All of us Cardinals thank you very much.

To all the wonderful parents, grandparents, aunts & uncles, brothers & sisters in this great team your support has been fantastic.

During the season we had some highs and lows, we lost our way for a little while but with hard work and commitment to the team we fought back and just missed out on the finals! BUT as you know that meant we placed 1st in the Don Sohier group at the end of the regular season. A couple of washouts and a team not turning meant we went straight to grand final day not having played for three weeks! It didn't worry us at all and neither did the fact that our fearless leader was incapacitated and couldn't chase us around too much! On Grand Final day you all turned up to play and you all put in a super effort whether it be fielding or batting. All the coaches would like to thank you all for your cooperation, enthusiasm and the dedication that you showed us every week.

We would now like to introduce you to the Don Sohier Trophy Premiers

Samantha-Jane Tarei - is a first time player but you would never have known. Samantha put in a big effort every week and you could see the improvement.

Alyssa Trostel – Alyssa has great hands and is very reliable in whatever position you put her in. Her batting wasn't too bad either and she did a great job a pitching when rep commitments allowed.

Mathew Munro – great in the field and if he believes in himself his batting will improve tremendously. When needed his pitching always through off the batters! His knowledge and commitment of the game is excellent and his enthusiasm is infectious.

Curtis Flemming - He is an excellent and fast base runner and performs very well at 2^{nd} . Curtis batted consistently and when needed pitched well for his team.

Patrick Pham – a new member to the BSBC who fitted in nicely. Patrick batted strongly and held his ground at pitcher.

Jordan Reid – another great base runner and a valuable member of the team. Jordan pitched often and did a great job.

Christopher Predic - a big hitter who helped score runs throughout the season. Chris was very consistent and reliable on the field.



Gianluca Messina – fairly new to the game as he only played a handful of games last season. Gianluca has turned into a very capable catcher and his batting improved throughout the season as did his knowledge of the game. He is a true team player!

Barkhos Doueihi – another relatively new player and his team spirit and commitment shone through every week. A real delight to have on the team. His fielding, batting & knowledge of the game are improving every week.

Honielyn Lawson – Honielyn only played half a season with us but made an impression. We hope that she will continue to play baseball at her new home and wish her all the very best.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Bankstown Sports Club for all their support to our baseball club every year and another big thank you to our wonderful executive who work extremely hard every week to ensure we get out onto the field and play baseball. THANK YOU!

To the players going up to the U14s we wish you the best of luck and know that you will all do a great job in your new team. To all other players we hope to see you all next year!

Paul & Melinda

Under 14 Marlins



Coach - Bruce Anderson
Assistant Coach— Greg Morley & Sam Adra
Manager – Tim Barry
Scorer – Helen Evensen

The Under 14 Marlins had an indifferent season in 2012-2013. There were some extremely "ordinary" games at the start and this resulted in us missing out on the semis by a very small margin.

Some of our early results ranged between 18/24 to 3/5 which gave us a very large for/against differential which was hard to swallow for both myself and the team.

We discussed at length the expectations in certain plays and what each player can do to achieve his/her best potential – to do the best they can.

What a turnaround! We finished the rest of the season winning 9 of our 10 final games and only lost to Chipping Norton (who won the grand final after being undefeated all season) by 1 run. Winning results were 12-3; 15-4 – how great is that.

I really need to thank some very significant people that helped along the way to achieve these great results.



Tim Barry very communicative managing of the team:

Sam Adra assistant coach
Greg Morley assistant coach
Helen Evensen head scorer
Sue Anderson assistant scorer

Of course our wonderful team:

Ismail Adra: great leader, pitcher, batter, talker and received rewards for his hard work with a place on the Bankstown rep side and more importantly – a NSW cap. Well done.

Brandon Ah-Hen: our player on the move. Brendon knows the game better than he thinks playing 3rd base with a move to 1st base at the end.

Michael Barry: versatile player who I moved to catcher mid season with great results. Good effort Michael!

Rebecca Barry: our lady of the team who worked hard to improve her skills with good success – particularly with the bat towards the end of the season.

Matthew Birmingham: a bit rusty at the start of the season but worked hard and turned it around with his batting and overall reading of the game.

Lucas Brown: worked hard to turn his game skills around especially batting achieving great results at the end of the season.

Anthony Evensen: an excellent all round player who can do it all. Would love to see him in reps this year!

Brendon Lyons (BJ): another player who knows the game better than he gives himself credit for. Used the bat solidly all season. I believe he matured well this year.

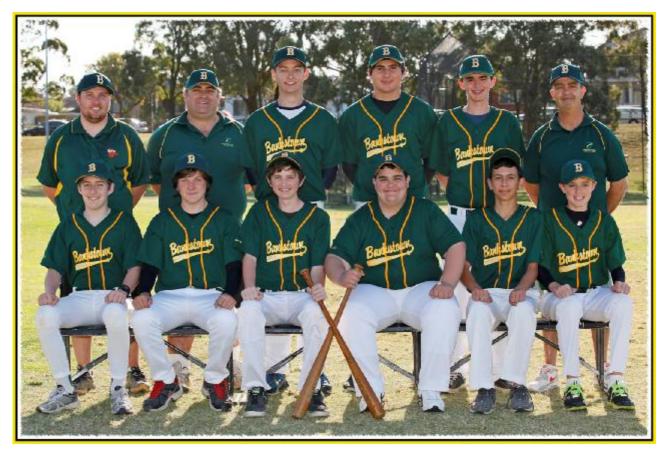
Luke Mariani: due to a serious hip injury he only played a handful of games but showed a lot of potential. Don't give up.

Dion Morley: Dion is a pleasure to coach as he is able to do great things on the paddock but he really needs to believe in himself.

I also have a big "thanks" to those players who came up a grade to help fill a void when needed. That is what a team player is all about.

YOURS IN BASEBALL

BRUCE ANDERSON



Coach - David Muir
Assistant Coach—Frank Trostel
Manager - Con Karpatharis
Scorer - Sue Anderson
Umpires—Liam Sexton, Jim Sexton, Bruce Anderson

Team: Lachlan Anderson, Zac Anderson, Gavin Dixon, Sarkis Doueihi, Jaiden Flemming, Josh Kaplun, Chris Karpatharis, Alex Richardson, Morgan Sexton, Frankie Trostel, Scott Westerweller

Well what a season it was, starting with 8 players, ending to win the premiership trophy. My congratulations to everyone involved with the team. I would like to thank the players, Con, Frank, Sue and our 3 umpires for their efforts this season. I would also like to thank the parents who supported the team throughout the year as well as Michael Barry and Anthony Evensen for filling in for us during the year

The season can be divided into 3 distinct time periods – the rep season, the end of year / new year season and the playoffs. With only 4 teams in the competition it was vital to get a top 2 finish leading into the playoffs. Here's how we went from 8 players to winning the premiership.



The rep season - if we were to achieve our goal of qualifying for the top 2 this was the important stretch of the season as 2 of our pitchers were restricted each week. For us to stay in reach of the top 2 we needed players to step up and none stepped up more than Zac. Zac during the rep season was the starting pitcher and he did a fantastic job of keeping us close in games by shutting down opposing hitters, Lachlan was also a big contributor in this period of the season as well, at the start of a season it is hard to find form with the bat but Lachlan from the leadoff spot had a hot bat during this stretch and was also getting on base to allow the big hitters behind him the opportunity to drive in runs. In Game 3 of the season we gained our 9th player Sarkis and in his first ever game of baseball he had 2 hits, not bad for someone who was brand new to the game of baseball. Another player who was in fine form during this period was Morgan, his bat was crushing the ball and he did a great job catching when our regular catcher wanted a break, during this period we had a record of 4 wins 3 losses sitting in 2nd place.

Then we caught a break, Alex was cleared to resume pitching after an off-season knee injury taking our total to 10 players, in his 1st and 2nd outing since his injury it was like he was pitching regularly. He kept us close vs Mustangs and he dominated Chipping Norton the first time he faced them, only problem was he couldn't run and in his first game back vs Mustangs he crushed a ball to left field and walked the entire way to first. We also gained another player during this period. Josh joined us in December and become an important part of our team, his defence; hitting and relief pitching played a big part on our way to the championship. During this period we also had our most dominate performance and this was against Mustangs after losing every game to them we turned the tables on them with a dominate pitching performance from our reliable ace Jaiden, he was painting corners and breaking bats like he had all year. We ended up winning this game 6-0, but in the end we slipped to 3rd thanks to mother nature who decided to flood Kearns one Saturday morning. At the end of the regular season we finished with a record of 8 wins 7 losses and sat at 3rd.

And then came the playoffs, the first round of the playoffs was a washout and this set up a match between us and our rival Chipping Norton with the winners to face Mustangs in the grand final. We took a 4-0 lead from the first inning but Chippo replied with 4 of there own. The team didn't lower their heads instead they got back in the fight and it was Chris who started the rally, his 2 RBI single set the tone for the rest of the game. Chris had been on a hot streak in the back end of the season crushing the ball to all parts of the field and he gave us a 2 run lead. Our catcher Scott, continued to pile on the runs with his own 2 RBI double, all year Scott had been in a slump with the bat (not unexpected given he had been exceptional as our catcher all year baking under a hot sun) but when it mattered he delivered. To put the icing on the cake Gavin, like he had all year, bombed a ball for a home run (his 3rd of the year), this put us out to a 14-5 lead and then Josh shut them down sending us to the grand final, this was by the far the best team performance all year. Everyone hit the ball and covered each others back, this was the sign that this team had reached their full potential at the right time of the year. Also Alex hit a ball to right-centre and he was 'jogging' but I held him at 3rd robbing him of a potential home run, sorry Alex, but your health always comes first.



In the grand final it was important to get off to a flying start and that's just what we did, we got out to a lead through our ever reliable top order and Jaiden shut down the Mustangs bats. Our defence was on song in this game and that was exemplified by Frankie and his catch in the outfield, it was a beautiful catch and was great way to cap off a solid season by Frankie, Mustangs did sneak 2 runs in, but Josh put the finishing touches on the game delivering the team a well deserved premiership with an 8-2 victory in another solid display of team baseball.

And that's the story of how we went from a team of 8 to premiers, for those who are eligible next season come back and lets have a red hot crack at winning the 3rd straight U17s title for Bankstown Sports, I had a heap of fun this year and I hope everyone involved in this team did as well.

Til next year Dave