

The Third Man's Report

Check out our web site

Have a look at the Baulko web site. All the news about club events, fixtures, results, ladders etc are all available at the following web site – www.baulkocricicket.com.au To see your team's results, go to baulkocricicket.com.au, select 'Team Pages' then select your team. From there you can see the ladder by selecting 'Ladder'.

The site will be updated regularly, and the club history will be added during the season. Completing the club history and club records are the off season project.

To all Captains, Coaches and Managers End of Season Stuff Now Due

Don't forget that all the end of season requirements need to be completed as soon as possible. Team stats ("D" sheets) and annual reports need to be completed, kits (with old balls) need to be cleaned out and returned to Terry Webb. If you are unsure what is required, talk to Jason Currey (Seniors) or Ian Chatman (Juniors).

Team Performances:

A Res	Runners-up	14/3	Premiers
C	Runners-up	12/2	Runners-up
15/1	Runners-up	11/1A	Runners-up
14/1	Premiers (four successive seasons!)		

Social and Other Stuff

Senior Presentation Night – Saturday, May 27

The Senior Presentation will be held at the Baulkham Hills Sports Club as usual. Check the web site for details.

Junior Presentation Day – Sunday, May 28

The Junior Presentation will be held at the Baulkham Hills Sports Club as usual. Check the web site for details.

Annual General Meeting – Tuesday, June 26 (to be confirmed)

The club's AGM will be held at the Baulkham Hills Sports Club. All members are welcome.

Junior Player of the Round

In order to recognise some of the junior players, we have introduced the Junior Player of the Round Award. This is similar to the Senior Player of the Round Award we had last season, but unfortunately the juniors do not receive a free beverage at the Sporto on Saturday night.

The winner for this round is **Pavan Kasthuriarachchi** from 11/1A. "A fine spell of fast accurate bowling picking up three top order batsmen for the great figures of 3/22 off 8 overs. Pavan has bowled impressively all year but he saved his best for the game that mattered the most. Pavan has a great action and he is fast and accurate and he has a great cricketing future ahead." Congratulations Pavan.

Committee Vacancy – Are you interested?

There is a now vacancy on the committee, that will need to be filled at the AGM in June. If anyone is interested they can talk to any of the committee members about what is involved and how to join us in running **YOUR** cricket club. If you want to play a part, let us know.

Match Results and Reports

11/1A	10 for 113	Wenty Leagues	10 for 129	First innings loss
<p>Pavan 3/12 Mitch 2/11 George 2/22</p> <p>Nick 33 Blake 22 Cody 17 Mitch 14</p> <p>Wenty won the toss and batted first. Some great tight bowling restricted the Wenty batsmen and wickets fell at regular intervals. Mitch bowled well at the start of the innings and picked up a couple of wickets. Pavan bowled an outstanding spell and picked up 3/22. Pavan has bowled well all year and this was an outstanding display of pace and control.</p> <p>After drinks George gave the gloves to Jonathan and had a bowl. Off his 7 overs he picked up 2/22. Because of his wicket keeping duties, George has not bowled as much as the other boys but he has still managed to pick up 13 wickets at an impressive average of 6.3. Only one Wenty batter really made a dent with 49 not out after being dropped four times! In another great display of straight bowling there were 6 bowled and 2 LBWs with Wenty all out for 129.</p> <p>Cody and Jonathan faced three nerve racking overs at the end of day one picking up 6 valuable runs. On the second day Cody and Nick played beautifully and we looked to be cruising. Cody played the classic opener role and wore down the Wenty bowlers with his season top score of 17. He never looked like getting out until he was unlucky to be run out. Nick and Blake then took control and at 2/73 after 43 overs looked on track for a close win. The message went out that we needed to increase the run rate and Nick was out unselfishly trying to push the score along. His great 33 looked like the match winning innings. The outfield was slow and the Wenty bowling was very good and to score 33 was a fantastic effort. Shanan was sent in as a pinch hitter and did his job well before being run out. Mitch and Blake then came together and looked to push the quick singles. Blake was very unlucky to be run out from a direct hit with one stump to aim at. Joel was then also very unlucky to be run out from a direct hit from the deep. There were five run outs in the innings which really hurt in the end. Matty and Geoffrey were both unlucky to get out to some very good balls with their best bowler having his second spell. Mitch made a quick 14 but in the end we fell just 16 runs short.</p> <p>The teams were close all year with Baulko getting over the top of them in our first game and Wenty winning by 15 in our last encounter. This was two evenly matched teams and it could have gone either way. Next Year!</p>				

12/2	10 for 83	Hills Barbarians	10 for 116	First innings loss
<p>Baulkham Hills won the toss and sent Hills Barbarians into bat. Hills Barbarians were dismissed in the final of their 55 overs for 116. Baulkham Hills bowling Jake Bailey 8 overs 2 maidens 3 for 14, John Coulter 8 overs 1 maiden 2 for 15. A wicket each to Ryan, Dineth, Jonathan and Nilot with the 10th wicket being a run out. This was a good all round bowling and fielding performance against a strong batting side. Restricting them to a score of just over 2 runs per over was a good effort.</p> <p>Baulkham Hills responded with all out for 83. We fell 33 runs short despite a magnificent innings of 36 from Sam Hubbard. This innings capped what has been a brilliant season with the bat for Sam and a total season aggregate of 314 runs. However, no other batsman was able to give him sufficient support, especially after Sam came to the wicket with the score at 2 for 5 runs.</p> <p>Despite the loss, the team should be congratulated on their efforts this season. They won 11 out of 14 matches, 2 of these outright. This was a fine performance especially considering that over half of this team were not playing cricket before the start of last season i.e. under 11s. The team also had to cope with having to play home games on 4 separate grounds this season due to problems with North Rocks Park, as well as losing Ben Graham, one of the team's leading bowlers, mid-season through an interstate transfer.</p> <p>Congratulations again team. It has been a pleasure to coach you.</p>				

14/3	3 for 81	Kellyville	10 for 80	First innings win
<p>After a solid semi final win against Norwest our guys were desperate to win their first grand final now having made their way there. Robert won a vital toss and sent Kellyville into bat on a damp wicket and slow outfield. Kellyville held off sending their big name batsman out to open the innings and were hopeful off seeing off our strike bowlers in an attempt to set up a big total. But things didn't quite go as Kellyville had planned with Kieran and Adam finding their line and length straight away. It was the last ball of the 3rd over when Kieran put on a very quick delivery to rattle the furniture of the opener. Two balls into Adam's next over and Ad had the other opener trapped plumb in front. Kellyville were suddenly 2/2.</p> <p>Kellyville settled down and slowly started to get the score moving with their strike batsman at the crease. This pair saw off Adam and Kieran and thought Robert and Luke would be their chance to get some runs. Well that was OK for 9 overs until Christian took a great catch in gully off Luke to have Kellyville on the back foot again at 3/23. Adam came straight back into the attack and disturbed the bails on Kellyville's middle order batsman to have them 4/36. Kellyville didn't lose another wicket up to the drinks break with the game evenly poised at 4/45.</p> <p>The team talk at the break made it perfectly clear that these guys were focused. They were quiet and knew what had to be done. The goal was to stay sharp in the field, keep up the talk and frustrate the batsmen. Well they did exactly that with Kellyville's strike batsman still at the crease the team tied him down and limited the amount of time he was on strike. It took 14 very patient overs and the score advanced to 4/74 when Luke delivered yet another frustrating deliveries to their strike batsman and he lost patience and went for the big shot. Kieran coming from deep mid wicket dived and took the catch which brought the house down! Great play guys!</p> <p>After being on a hat trick last week, Luke sends down the next ball and has the batsman trapped LBW and is on another hat trick! The breakthrough could not have come at a better time as it was Luke's last over of the innings. Robert comes back on and Kellyville only add another 3 runs to the board when Matt took another fantastic catch in covers to have Kellyville 8/77. Making sure that Kellyville didn't get away on us Rob chipped in with another wicket maiden with Paul taking a good running catch in gully. Kieran came back on and finished Kellyville off trapped their batsman in front of the stumps.</p> <p>Great bowling and exceptional field team. Your talk and walking in with the bowler kept the pressure on our opponent all day. Great to see the rewards come to you for sticking to the match plan. Special mention also goes to Tiarne and Christian who bowled superbly without luck. Also a special mention to Mason for the commitment that he showed to make it onto the field despite his injured ankle and to support his team. Well done mate!</p> <p>To have Kellyville 4/74 and then all out for 80 is the sign of a champion team. Every person in team lifted to another level today and gave the fans (of which there was plenty!) something to cheer about. Robert and Adam had the difficult job to open the innings with 15 minutes of play left in the day and they did a good job to get 9 runs on the board without losing a wicket.</p> <p>On the second day it was clear skies and the arrival of a team with nothing but victory in mind. Rob and Adam continued to play some positive cricket and put on a 21 run partnership before Adam was clean bowled to the only yorker bowled in the day! Robert and Cameron continued with the positive attitude and put on another 31 runs before Cam was bowled trying to keep the scoreboard ticking over. Cam's quickfire 22 runs broke the back of the opposition and quickly put the victory line in sight for the team. Kieran joined Rob at the crease and looked uncomfortable against the spinners but managed to put on another 15 run stand before being on the end of dubious decision to be given out caught behind. These things happen in cricket! At 3/67 we needed Rob and Tiarne to finish it off and they did exactly that putting on the remaining 14 runs to get us past the 80 run target. Kellyville then immediately conceded defeat and before we knew it we had won the Grand Final!</p> <p>A great captain's knock by Rob to see the whole innings through and finish 23 not out. Also well done to Tiarne who did an excellent job under pressure.</p> <p>Well team you did it! A fantastic job done to cap off a great year. This nucleus of this team has been together now for 3 years and we have improved each year to now grab the title.</p> <p>A special thanks to Chris our manager, Margaret and Joe our scorers, Pete the lifesaver when the coach was late for training and to all those grandparents, parents and family who made the grand final day something special for these kids. Without your continued support we wouldn't be where we are.</p> <p>Well that's it team. Let's make sure we all make the presentation day on 28th May to line up for our baggy caps!</p> <p>Match stat's -With the ball Luke 10-0-3-16, Kieran 10-4-2-7, Adam 10-4-2-10, Robert 10-4-2-17, Christian 5-1-0-13, Tiarne 3-0-0-6 and Paul 1-0-0-2. With the bat Robert 23 not out, Cameron 22 and Kieran 9, Adam 7 and Tiarne 4 not out.</p>				

14/1	9 for 134	Wenty Leagues	10 for 74	First innings win
<p>A great win with the team breaking a club record by winning four consecutive Grand Finals. Prior to this season the team had been undefeated since coming together in Under 11's in 2002. This season they had their first loss to Wenty Leagues in a tight game in round 2 losing on the last ball by just one run. We played Wenty Leagues two more times with a tie in round 7 and another loss in round 12. With these two teams in the Grand Final it was sure to be a good game.</p> <p>Daniel won the toss and elected to bat with Nick and Sean opening to tight and accurate bowling. Sean waited for the right ball and opened his score with a six. In the 5th over the bowler lost his line to Sean having been hit for 6 in his previous over only to be mauled by Sean who hit him for 19 runs from the over including another six. We were looking great at 0/31 after 5 overs. A change of bowlers slowed the runs with us only adding 12 runs from the next 14 overs. We lost Sean (32) in the 23rd over when caught with the score on 51. Brendan and Nick played with great patience taking the singles but with such tight bowling there was very little to punish. Nick (28) was caught in the 42nd over with the score on 85. With a sense of urgency to get runs, Ben came in next but unfortunately was bowled before he could do any damage. Teshan came in next and was also bowled with only 7 more added to the score taking us to 4/97 in the 46th over. Having lost about 15 minutes of play due to showers, scoring enough runs to defend was critical to our game plan. Daniel joined Brendan at the crease, with he and Brendan lifting the rate scoring at a run a ball until Daniel (5) was run out. Trent (2) was bowled with Aleem (1) caught soon after with our score looking sick at 7/119 in the 53rd over. Gabriel, who was due to bat much higher, went in next. He was being saved in case we needed to steady the ship and make sure we were not bowled out giving Wenty extra overs. Gabriel and Brendan added 8 to the score when a good ball got through bowling Gabriel (3) in the 55th over. Josh went in next but unfortunately with only 5 added to the score we lost Brendan (38), who had been the anchor for the last 2 hours, when he was bowled. With only one wicket left and enough time for two more overs Michael and Josh played very safely taking us to 9 for 134 at stumps from 58 overs.</p> <p>On Sunday the showers had gone and the boys looked as focused as I have ever seen them. Samira and Michael opened the bowling with the batsmen struggling to score runs. At the end of 10 overs Wenty had only posted 16 runs. Sean and Teshan came on next with Sean bowling very fast sending the bails halfway down the ground on his second ball. The new batsman looked very uncomfortable against Sean cutting the last ball of Sean's over onto the stumps to have Wenty 2/17. Teshan took a wicket with his first ball with a catch from Ben. Three overs later the batsman took on Teshan's arm running a third only to be caught short by a great throw from the boundary back to Nick who whipped off the bails. The new batsman did not last long with Sean knocking over his stumps 4 overs later. At the end of 20 overs Wenty were 5/36 but with Alex Graham at the crease the game was still open. Trent and Ben bowled next with our field set ready for the catch. It took 8 more overs and 32 runs, but it came with a great catch from Brendan from Trent's bowling with Alex (31) out with their score on 66 runs. Ben picked the new batsman soon after with a great catch from his brother Sean to have Wenty 7 for 70 at drinks. Samira and Sean came back on after drinks with Samira bowling the last three batsmen out with only 4 runs added to the score to have Wenty all out or 74. A great performance from all the team in the field and the bowlers and well done to Daniel with his captaincy and field placings. Bowling figures Samira 10-5-3-8, Ben 7-2-2-10, Sean 10-3-3-17, Teshan 5-2-1-5, Ben 5-0-1-19 and Michael 5-0-0-9. Once again it has been a great pleasure for Nigel and myself to be part of this team for the last 4 years.</p>				
15/1	10 for 98	Kings Langley	10 for 170	First innings loss

C	10 for 98	Kings Langley	10 for 120	First innings loss
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A Res	10 for 114	Wenty Leagues	7 for 116	First innings loss
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I wish I could swear in these reports. I can't believe we have lost.

The final game of the season was against the Wenty Leagues Wobblygong's at Charles Mac and this should have given us the home ground advantage. Inclement weather throughout the week left us with a damp turf pitch and of course we lost the toss and were sent in to bat.

J-Dub (28) and The Pitts (31) got us off to a great start putting on an opening stand of 40 in quick time. We lost a few quick wickets and the ship was steadied until drinks by The Pitts and Bag (18). The weather and pitch got the better of us as we lost a steady fall of wickets in perfect bowling conditions. Only Metro Blake (13) could manage double figures in the tail.

Our total of 115 was not what we would have hoped for but it gave us a shot at the premiership. Metro Blake (4/25) ripped in on Saturday arvo and gave us two early breakthroughs thanks to a one handed grad by the Bag in third slip. This left the game evenly poised with the Wobblygong's at 2 for 18 at the end of the days play.

Day two brought the sun and a flat dry pitch with no lateral movement. We got screwed by the weather...again. This was not to deter us from fighting our way into the box seat with Metro picking up where he left off and Bag (3-34) providing a helping hand. The premiership was ours with the Wobblygong's seven down for 46, but the eighth wicket partnership had other things in mind. They closed out the game with some quality batting mixed in with a lot of quality edges through and over slips.

I cannot leave out the fact that we should have been able to have a shot at the last two batsmen. The turning point in this game was the run-out that wasn't. The main batsman who won the match was run-out cold as a spud with 15 runs to go. The umpire was slow into position missing the point when the stumps were broken and the batsman was over a metre out of his crease with his bat in the air. We never recovered from that shocker and the game was over.

All is well that ends well, so all is not well. This team has unfinished business and we will return as a more determined squad next year. There is nothing like a close loss in a final to increase your desire and we will be back for another shot at the title.