

## 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](http://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 is being added to as time permits.

There have been some changes to the committee this season. You can find a list of the committee members on the website

### Team Performances:

B8	Premiers	13/2A	Premiers
16/1	Premiers	11/1	Premiers

### Individual Achievements

Tony Senior	B8	83	Riley Astill	16/1	4/23
Ward Koski	B8	43	Taseen Rafi	16/1	3/24
R Wijesekera	B9	5/28 & 31	Praveen Samarasinghe	14/1A	58no
N Goradia	B9	5/33	Tanveer Mokha	13/2A	35
Michael Bennetts	16/1	78no	Daniel Leafe	13/2A	30

## The President's Roundup

As I write this report, the weather has turned and the rain is coming down. Luckily, we got through on the weekend with the finals not decided by the weather!

Well, there it goes. The 2008/2009 cricket season is over. Congratulations to our premiership winning teams – B8, U16/1, U13/2A & U11/1. Commiserations to our runners-up – B9, B11, B13, U14/1A & U12/1. Premierships were spread around the clubs in the PDCA, with the best being 5 by Kings Langley and our 4 being equal second best. So a pretty good result overall.

Over the weekend, I managed to get to all games at least once. I must say it was great to see all those Baulko teams out there giving their absolute best. Whilst some results appear to show easy victories, the teams had to fight hard to get control of the games. So below are my thoughts on the finals:

#### **B8: 2/150 def Guildford Leagues 149.**

Best performances: Tony Senior 83, Ward Koski 43. The team made it back to back premierships, with the wise old heads Tony & Ward showing the way with a magnificent 131 run opening partnership. This made the chase, which could have been hard, much easier and the team cruised home. The team is a mixture of younger and less young players and performed consistently all year. Another night of quiet celebration was planned by the team - well done guys.

#### **B9: 77 lost to Parramatta Crusaders 141.**

Best performances: These guys really love their cricket and when Parra was 5/40 on day 1, after some 40 overs, it looked like we were in control. But, as someone once said, "cricket is a funny game" and the opposition dug in to get to their total. When we batted, we suffered a similar fate, being 5/30 odd at one stage. Despite a good partnership, we fell short, with last year's result between the same two teams being reversed.

#### **B11: 113 & 11 lost to Pacific Oceans 67 & 3/58.**

This result was probably the most disappointing of all. Not for the fact that we lost or the effort of our guys, but the fact that opposition had a bowler leading the attack who would not be out of his depth in B1, not B11! Obviously, this was a case of mistaken identity – they thought he was someone else! Even the official umpire was stunned that Baulkham Hills Cricket Club

this guy was playing in this grade. Anyway, enough of that, Tim and his troops once again gave another great effort to make the final. Maybe next year their luck will change.

### **B13: 66 & 9/120 (dec) lost to Rouse Hill Rams 66 & 4/121**

At 8/55 by 3.00pm on day 1, it looked to me as if we were dead. I must say I was pleasantly surprised when I got the call on Saturday night to say we had made 66 & then bowled out Rouse Hill for the same score! So it came down to a one day game on Sunday, which we had to win, as we were the lower placed team. The guys gave themselves a chance, with around 2.5 hours to bowl them out for a victory. Unfortunately we were unable to do this, but it was a great effort against a team who had been pretty dominant all year.

### **U16/1: 7/177 def Kings Langley 101.**

Best performances: Michael Bennetts 76 no & Riley Astill 4/23. Now this was a very good victory, against a team who were undefeated for the season. The team had been starting to play to their ability and with Michael Bennetts leading the way with 76 no, following up from his 78 no in the semi, our total of 177 gave us something to defend. And key early wickets on day 2 saw us tighten the screws and win well. Geoff & Ian did a great job and when you consider that the team was a combination of last year's U15 Division 1 & 2 teams, this was a most satisfying result.

### **U14/1A: 179 lost to Kings Langley 6/252.**

Best Performance: Praveen 58 no. This age group has a wide range of abilities, with Kings Langley having a number of Emerging Blues and being the standout team. . Whilst our guys are a very good team, it would take a lot of luck and good performances to challenge them. Early on we had our chances to dismiss their star batsman, but failure to take them let KL set us a big total. Our team never gave up and with KL at 1/220 odd, we pegged them back slightly to leave us with a chance. We batted very well and posted a very good score, albeit not enough for victory. Well done to the players, coach Peter Newman and Manager Jyrki, on a great effort. Maybe next year could be our turn?

### **U13/2A: 160 def Rouse Hills Rams 66**

What a pleasing result. The team has been first all year and remained undefeated. They played some great cricket and ably led by Coach Jo-Ann Cuneo & Nigel Bertus, they played the final as if it were just another game. Our bowling on day 1 really set the scene and by stumps we needed just 18 runs to win, with 7 wickets in hand. The team cruised home and everyone got to bat, so they all shared in the victory. The team has many players who can step up when required, with bat or ball, so our all round strength was a great help during the season.

### **U12/1: 42 lost to Hills Barbarians 9/43**

Now if you suffer from heart problems, this is the team not to watch. Last year they tied the final and this year it was almost the same result. Our batting on day 1 was not as coach Phil Waddups would have liked and with only 42 runs on the board, things looked a bit dicey. However, as Phil says, our bowling is great and by stumps we had them 5/13, to be right back in the match. Day 2 saw a great struggle and I must say the standard of cricket – bowling, fielding and batting was excellent. The Barbarian batsman played very well, keeping our bowlers out for a long time. When the break through came, our bowlers took wickets, but the total nudged along. Finally, with 9 wickets down and after some 69 overs (only a few left), they scored the winning run. We had managed to bowl something like 47 maiden overs. All bowlers were great, but spinner Michael McConnell with 8 overs 7 maidens 3 wickets for 1 run was superb. Back luck guys, but well done and I don't think I will ever be able to stand in the same place for 2.5 hours!

### **U11/1: 3/99 def Greystanes 98**

The tradition continues, with a third straight U11/1 premiership. Coach Ray Blinman and Manager Patrick French have done a great job with this group. Their cool and calm manner definitely assists the boys. The team played great cricket all year and chased down this sizeable total of 98 quite easily, with a very solid 3rd wicket partnership of around 50 giving us the platform to roll home. As with the U12's, this team shows great skills in all facets of the game. I look forward to the guys continuing with their skills improvement next year.

A very busy weekend indeed, but most enjoyable! Great to see lots of Baulko supporters around the grounds, including Life Member Albert White watching his grandson in the U16's.

A couple of wish list items from me for next season. Firstly, I hope we see many of our U16's moving through to seniors. And I would love to see all players decked out in the club shirts and caps. Let's see how we go next year!

The end of season celebration at the Sports Club was well attended, with all finals teams represented. All finals teams were recognised and then there was the meat raffle, with a number of people winning, and to top it off James Chatman of the B8's won the member's badge draw – a cool \$300. Thanks to our marvellous barbie boys – Phil Waddups and Jim Stafford. But, I think they don't want to see any sausages for a few weeks! Thanks as well to the social committee – Sally, Leigh, Jeremy, Rick and Phil who put in a lot of work to organise the function.

A few housekeeping matters and dates for your diary:

- Captains/coaches/managers meeting on Tuesday 7 April, at the Sports Club, commencing at 8.00pm.
- Senior Presentations – Friday 22 May at the Sports Club
- Junior Presentations – Sunday 24 May at the Sports Club.
- Kits back to Terry Webb ASAP – clean and tidy please
- Season stats to Rick Thomas by 10 April
- Keys to facilities back to us ASAP – at the Monthly Meeting.

Thanks to the committee for all their work this year, another great effort. As with all clubs, we rely on the dedicated workers to enable us to function. Running a club with 29 teams is a big job, so well done to all concerned. It is an honour to be President of this club and Baulko is the only place to play! I hope to see you at the Presentations, around the grounds during winter or if not, back at preseason training in August. Go the Kooka

Peter McLoughlin  
President

## Match Results and Reports

11/1	3 for 99	Greystanes	10 for 98	First innings win
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At last our day had come. It was the moment of truth. Was the last win against Greystanes just a lucky result? Could we do it again when it really mattered? I'm sure we all had our opinions, but if everyone else was like me, then I'm sure we all had plenty. So which one was going turn out right?

A few nervous boys and the odd nervous moment in the semi-final gave rise to a few concerns, but then again, the boys trained really well on Thursday before the big one, much better than the week before. So how would they go? Were they sufficiently prepared for the game? Was there anything else that could be done to help? Had the coaches thought of everything? And with much satisfaction came the realisation that if they just played well, somewhere near their best and kept their concentration, they would not only control the game, but they would surely win ..... Wouldn't they?

The occasion arrived and so did 12 eager players, parents in tow, all on time, full of smiles and itching to play. Of course the usual questions were once again there too. Who's Captain? Who's batting first? Who's bowling first? Should we bat or bowl first? Thankfully, our Captain Luke McGuinness did the right thing and lost the toss, relieving us of the decision and the temptation to bowl first. Bowl first in a final? Are you mad? Get those runs on the board! Of course, this is exactly what Greystanes selected and into the field we went.

A lengthy chat to the team before play laid down the team plan. Never give up, make them earn their runs, no extras, take the catches, bowl at the stumps and back up in the field. Stay in your position, be patient and support your bowler at all times. Keep up the talk. Be positive. Be confident. And try to remember everything we just said.

Finally we were under way and as expected Greystanes opened their innings with their two gun bats who immediately set about getting a quick start. But we had a plan! Both are more vulnerable in defence than attack and the boys lived up to their duties and bowled stump to stump, keeping it tight. Thirteen overs later we had them both bowled and the score was 2/34. From here it had to get easier.

Fourteen overs in and we'd struck again to have Greystanes at 3/35 and a slowing run rate. Drinks followed and after a stern chat about loose fielding the boys went back into the field and doubled the pressure. Suddenly the runs slowed and wickets picked up pace. Nineteen overs in and it was 4/54. Twenty-one overs brought 5/55. Twenty-three overs saw 6/57. Twenty-five overs and they had slumped to 7/64. Another drinks break followed a little less than an hours play that returned four wickets for only 29 runs.

Back to the field for the third session and we needed only three more wickets to end their innings. However, by this time Greystanes had decided that 'careful-as-you-go' was not working for them and their lower order set about scoring off every ball they could. Although the runs started to leak all over the park, the boys continued with a patience rarely seen in adult games and applied non-stop pressure with every delivery. Watching from the sideline, you knew each wicket was just around the corner. Thankfully, wickets in the 28th, 31st and 34th overs resulted in Greystanes being all out for a moderate score of 98. On a fast field, we were confident this was within our 'gettable' range. But Greystanes had those runs on the board! And we had bowled first in a final!

Only six bowlers were required to dismiss Greystanes. Ramal Rajapakse, the biggest in-swinging bowler in the competition, bowled six overs and got 2 wickets for 18 runs. Ibteeda Masud, our quick out-swinging bowler who was given an extra yard of pace for Christmas, bowled seven overs and took 1 wicket for 19 runs. Jake Smith, our in-swinging lefty who returned to peak form in round twelve with a stunning triple wicket over, bowled six overs and took 2 wickets for 13 runs. Chris Blinman, the best genuine off-spinner in the competition who has caused many a batsmen to become confused, bowled six overs and picked up 2 wickets for 23 runs. Jason Luther, our leading wicket taker and most penetrating bowler, bowled five overs and took 1 wicket for 10 runs. Arsh Kapila, the most consistent and accurate of all bowlers, bowled four overs and grabbed 1 wicket for only 4 runs. The final wicket went to a direct hit run out by Ibteeda, who when fielding at mid-wicket casually bent down to pick a firmly hit ball and seemingly had all the time in the world to knock down the stumps from side on. Catches went to Nathan Hamilton, who after sluggish start in the field snatched a screamer at mid-off from a full-blooded drive that was nearing warp speed, and also to Arsh who yet again showed what a safe and reliable pair of hands he has. Testament to the bowling performance is that seven of the ten wickets were all bowled. Marvellous stuff that!

At the break our top order were again briefed on the importance of seeing out the early overs with view to enjoying the latter overs where run scoring is easier. Also, with bowlers limited to only eight overs per innings, we knew that if we could keep their better two or three bowlers 'wicketless', at least during the first half of their overs, we would be well on our way to getting those 99 runs.

As per the last two games, Blake Peisley and Luke Jerome opened the batting and again showed great determination and bravery to knuckle down and face some pretty tough bowling. Blake looked promising from the start and soon set about picking up singles and rotating the strike. A loose shot though saw him fall victim to a good catch at backward point on a score of 9. Luke J found it a little tougher having to deal with a couple of hard blows that struck legs where pads did not exist. With courage beyond his years Luke J kept on fighting, seeing off the opening nine overs before being bowled by an absolute beauty of an in-swinging that started outside off and took leg stump.

With about 30 minutes left on the first day Michael French and Jake took over the batting, going in at numbers three and four respectively. Arguably, in what was perhaps the most important partnership of the season, Michael and Jake saw out the first day to see us 2/30 at stumps, with 58 overs up our sleeve to get the remaining 69 runs.

Day two came and brought with it much anticipation for what was an evenly poised game that was there for our taking if we only batted well and kept our wickets intact. Well that turned out to be an understatement, as in a repeat of day one Michael and Jake set about seeing out day two also, batting their way through two hours of excellent Greystanes bowling and taking our score to 2/96 before Jake holed out to mid-wicket with only three runs needed to win. This little hiccup aside, a third wicket partnership of 82 runs would be snatched up in any grade, in any game, let alone a grand final. To achieve this at 10 years of age whilst facing an attacking and accurate bowling line up that has lost only two games all season is more than remarkable. Although there were moments when run outs threatened from indecisive calls, when watching this innings it soon became apparent that the only way either batsman was getting out was if he got himself out. Although this is exactly what Jake did, it didn't matter one little bit as both boys more than accomplished their task and outshone all other batsmen in the game. A match winning performance from both indeed!

A couple of overs with Michael and Jason Luther at the crease saw us comfortably stride home with a seven wicket, first innings victory. The winning run coming from a wide!

So there you have it. A grand final victory for a bunch of boys who have toiled hard all season and who have played tough, competitive and fair cricket every week. There is no doubt that by season's end this team was the best in the competition, as evidenced by their batting and bowling depth waylaying their need to rely on one or two better players only. It is without question that this final win is testament to each players individual moments throughout the season whereby each and every team member has contributed to winning a game somewhere, somehow and usually on more than one occasion; the sum of which got them a minor premiership and the final trophy. Time and again these boys have mustered up the goods to get the job done even when the task seems a little too large. Any wonder they never lost another game after round one.

A special mention goes to Patrick Hassarati who not only in this game but for the entire season has kept wickets superbly, learning his role gradually and fighting through the hard knocks to the hands, feet, arms, legs, head and just about everywhere else. Patrick is to be commended on his season's performance and his determination to not give in even when suffering a painful blow. Unluckily for Patrick he took ill during the fielding innings and therefore another special mention also goes to Luke J who stepped up and took on the keeping role when Patrick succumbed to a stomach bug. Thankfully Patrick returned for the second day's play feeling much better and shared in the victory celebrations.

<b>12/1</b>	10 for 42	Hills Barbarians	9 for 43	First innings loss
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No report submitted.

<b>13/2A</b>	10 for 160	Rouse Hill Rams	10 for 66	First innings win
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We came into the grand final undefeated and I hoped and prayed that this was not going to be our 'off' game. We tried to calm all nerves by reiterating to the boys that this was just another game. I was confident that if the boys played to their abilities that everything would be fine (although inside I was so nervous).

Throughout the season I have tried to give each and every player an equal opportunity. To get where we were today was a result of everyone's efforts. Decisions are tough however coming into a grand final where you must play your strongest team as you see it on the day and according to recent form.

We normally advise the boys to bat first when winning the toss, but in this game they really wanted to field first, so we let them have it their way. We also thought that they may be little nervous batting first. This paid off for us big time. Our first breakthrough came when Pavan bowled the opening batter in the sixth over. We then took a succession of quick wickets and by the 11th over we had Rouse Hill 5 for 18. Rouse Hill then started to form a good partnership that Tanveer finally broke in the 24th over with Rouse Hill 6 for 48. A somewhat controversial run out followed which took out Rouse Hills in-form batsman. From then on it was only a matter of time before we cleaned up the remaining batsman. With much delight the last wicket fell in the 38th over with Rouse Hill on 66. Wickets were taken by Luke 2 for 10, Pavan 2 for 11, Jackson 2 for 11, Tanveer 1 for 6 and Daniel 2 for 3. Catches were taken by Devin, Jayden (2) and Michael. Fielding award for the match went to Daniel.



So, at just after 11am on day one we went in to bat. Daniel and Blaine started well. Blaine hit two impressive four's before being caught for 9 in the 5th over with the score 1 for 19. Jackson came in and was also looking good before he was caught on 2. The boys didn't panic however. Jayden came to the crease bringing his good form. Together he and Daniel were looking strong. They put on a partnership of 17 before Jayden hit a ball that hit his pad then unluckily rolled back onto the stumps, out for 10. We are very privileged however that we have good batsman right down to the end of the order.

Day two. Sean followed, looking good before falling for 10. By this stage we had already passed Rouse Hill's total by 9 runs. We had secured the win, but we didn't want to give Rouse Hill any opportunity at all to get back into the game, so we kept a low profile and planned to keep batting for as long as needed to be absolutely sure.

Opener Daniel was still at the crease. It's always a pleasure to watch Daniel with his good technique, footwork and shot selection. He managed to last until the 31st over before he was out for 30 runs. Great effort Daniel. Devin and Tanveer then paired up. Devin was playing well, placing some nice shots before being given LBW on 14. Together he and Tanveer put on a partnership of 44 runs. Well done boys. We knew that we had pretty much won the game, however Rouse Hill wanted to keep going to try and get us all out, and we thought it would be nice if everyone had an opportunity to occupy the crease.

Pavan and Luke were very unlucky to be out for no score, however this provided an opportunity for our remaining two batsman to participate in the game. Tanveer was looking much more relaxed this game. He was really placing the ball well and stayed at the crease for two hours before falling on 35 runs, his highest score. Well done Tanveer. This brought Shubh to the crease with Michael. The cheers were up for Shubh. We all wanted him to try and score a few runs, but Michael was doing a good job at the other end. At the end of the day, Shubh was out for 0 leaving Michael not out on 13. Our final score was 160. We had secured the first innings and grand final win by 94 runs.

What a fantastic effort you all have put in this game and all the games throughout the season. You have managed to be undefeated minor premiers and grand final winners! As I have said before, I am so very proud of you all. You deserved it! Enjoy your premiership. Look forward to seeing you all in the baggy cap.

Jo-Ann Cuneo  
Coach

14/1A	10 for 179	Kings Langley	6 for 252	First innings loss
It was a repeat of last year's Grand Final. Kings won the toss and asked us to bowl. We were looking for early wickets to create some pressure and our openers Anoop and Brent bowled a tight 10 overs creating a couple of half chances which unfortunately we were unable to take. Blake and James, bowling first change, also put in tight spells and James got the first wicket in the 18th over when the score was on 61. This brought together two of the best batsmen in the comp. Alex and Jordan. All of our bowlers toiled away manfully sticking to their tasks but without luck and it was not until the 53rd over that the second wicket (Alex for 152) fell. We picked up another four quick wickets (Blake & James 2 each) in the remaining four overs, but the damage had been done, Kings Langley 6/252 at the end of day one.				

Despite the score, it was one of our better bowling and fielding efforts this season. Everyone bowled well and fielded with commitment supporting the bowlers, the opposition was just too good on the day.

Facing a big total to chase our object was not to lose early wickets and keep the score ticking over. Openers Jack M and Jonathan survived the first seven over before Jonathan was bowled for 1. Mitchell coming in at number 3 steadied the ship and put on a good partnership of almost 40 runs before he too was bowled for 22. At morning tea we were 2/70 and looking to play cautiously until 11 o'clock before mounting a challenge on the target. Unfortunately there was a clutter of wickets with Jack M. falling for 24 after his best innings of the season, followed by Blake (13) and James (duck). Jack D. provided some hope, hitting a quick fire 31 (three 6s & two 4s) before being caught from a full toss. Brent batted with his usual intent scoring 13 with one 4. Jack F (duck), Taseen (1) and Joel watched from the other end while Praveen compiled a dashing 58 not out with six 6s and four 4s, scoring his second successive 50 in a week.

It was good batting performance against the best bowling attack we have come up against. With a touch more luck we could have gotten closer to the target, unfortunately it was not to be.

A great season by the whole team, hope to see you all back next season.

16/1	7 for 177	Kings Langley	10 for 101	First innings win
This year the Kookaburra has finally ruled the nest in under 16 PDCA cricket.				

After 10 years of Kings Langley dominance in the U16 age division, this group of U16 Baulko cricketers have finally brought the pennant home to Baulkham Hills, by defeating a very strong Kings Langley outfit. Kings Langley were undefeated all season, and went into the game as raging favourites, but it must be said we never feared our opponent at any stage this year.

We knew we had the talent base to match them, and we had matched up well against them all season. While we respected them, we knew they were a tad complacent and we firmly believed if we worked harder than they did, then as a team unit we could climb the summit.

The match was a cracker and it got off to a great start with our innings of 7- 177. Nick Webber again stood up under pressure and scoring an invaluable 26 in a good 2nd wicket partnership with Taseen Rafi (9). Our middle order fired yet again, with Omal Fernando (26) and Michael Bennetts (78) pouring pressure onto the opposition. Michael's innings was match defining, as were most of his knocks this season. Rob Tatko (15) also finished off a fine season batting with Michael at the end of the innings.

Our bowling innings was immaculate. 1 wide, 1 no ball, 6 byes, 1 leg bye, 10 wickets and many sharp catches proved statistically to be our best 'team' effort all season. Our fielding all season had been our weakness but when it counted most the boys lifted their intensity to the level required to win finals. Riley Astill (4-23 off 12) was superb yesterday and capped off a fine club and representative season. Taseen Rafi (3-24 off 9) finished off the season in style with both bat and ball. Taseen also took a screamer diving to his left at a crucial stage of the innings. Ben Abbott was incredible with an injured hip, courtesy of a rugby league trial game the day before, and bowling off 2 steps he claimed 1-9 off 9. Michael Bennetts again locked down the opposition with his off spinners, claiming 1-19 off 12. Daniel Chatman 0 for 7 off 6, and Ben Delaney 1 for 12 off 6 also bowled tight at crucial stages of the match, with Ben taking the final wicket to seal the deal!

I must say as their coach that building the team unit was tremendously pleasing, and it took until Xmas for us to start showing signs of the team work ethic and self belief required for success. However, when it came the momentum was infectious and it carried the boys through to both the SCG Twenty 20 final and the ultimate PDCA Grand Final victory yesterday.

Special thanks go to Daniel Chatman for Captaining the team, Ian Chatman for Managing and assisting in coaching, Riley Astill for Vice Captaining the team, Correne Astill for scoring, and Brad Astill for compiling the statistics every week. Also thanks to Brad, Jeff Foskett and Mark Firth for helping out match days and with training from time to time.

Winning the premiership was a great way for the players and parents to finish their junior cricket at Baulko and I would like to thank everyone associated with the team and the broader club for their support throughout mine and Matthew's 6 year journey. Good luck to all the boys with their senior cricket next season and beyond.

Kooka's rule in 2009!

Geoff Newson (Coach)

<b>B13</b>	10 for 66, 9 dec 120	Rouse Hill Rams	10 for 66, 4 for 121	Outright loss
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No report submitted.

<b>B11</b>	10 for 113, 10 for 11	Pacific Oceans	10 for 67, 3 for 58	Outright loss
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No report submitted.

<b>B9</b>	10 for 77	Parramatta Crusaders	10 for 141	First innings loss
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No report submitted.

<b>B8</b>	2 for 150	Guildford Leagues	10 for 149	First innings win
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No report submitted.