

***2016 3rd Grade Report – Matt Conway***

2015-16 was a great year to be a part of the C Grade crew. The team was collection of great personalities – young and old, experienced and green. Regardless, every individual brought something unique to the diamond that contributed to making a competitive side who knew how to enjoy playing baseball.

The C grade competition was characterised by with two tiers – three teams battled to keep the score respectable while the other three teams engaged in a race to the finals right from the outset. Fortunately for us we were in the latter group. The Bears sandwiched a win between two losses against the Vikings while tying, losing and beating The Rebels in our matchups with the competition leaders. As it turned the Bears were the only to beat the Rebels all year. Unfortunately the form didn’t carry through to the grand final where we were soundly beaten.

While the come from behind win against the Rebels was the highlight of the season, it’s worth mentioning a few notable performances: Stu Peacock and Dan Conway lead the team in batting average, what a great sign to have the veteran and the rookie lead the way with the bats. Kate Russell worked hard for, and earned her spot as the go-to pitcher for us and capped off a great season with a commanding performance in the semi-final. Connor McGeechan ‘book-ended’ the season behind the dish, but he also showed us he likes to hit a target from 60.5 feet with some great performances on the mound. Reece McIntosh showed us how it is done with his ‘big shot’ over left field against the Bandits. Now that his unlocked the secret, I’m sure there are a few more home runs coming his way.

Making the transition to senior ball with Dan Conway this year were Lachy Forder and Tyler Passey. These boys demonstrated their ability, maturity and a willingness to learn and their commitment ensured we were able to field a full and competitive team every week. Of course their initiation was made all the more easier with sages in the line up like John Kerr, Craig Downing and our ‘One Throw Wonder’ Alex ‘Tubby’ Vickers.

To finish, I’d like to extend a big thank you to the following for their support and contributions throughout the season.

* Bench Coach: Graham ‘Bill’ Vickers
* Scorer: Louise Russell
* Resident Grounds and Facilities Manager: Peter ‘Crutchy’ Crutchfield and
* The Ainslie Bears committee.

While we have built up a great rivalry with our foes from the Rebels it would be good to be the ones to knock them off their perch. Bring on 2016-17! Enjoy the winter. I look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Best Regards,  
Matt Conway