

***2016 4th Grade Report – Bob (Boxer) Russell***

Team of the Year with 44 players taking the field at some stage during this season – so surely this must be the Club Team of the Year. We started the season with 11 players and with stalwarts Jimmy Robertson and Kyle Sanders leaving at Christmas it made their spots hard to fill. Also within a couple of weeks we lost three up and coming juniors to higher grades and well deservedly so. However during the season we did get the services of Jordan Macey but we still had a lot of empty spaces to fill each week from 5th Grade and the Women’s Team. These fill-in players were greatly appreciated and we thank them for filling in at sometimes very short notice. It was also pleasing to blood a couple of the Under 17 players into the Senior Grades, and they acquitted themselves well.

Considering the large number of players fielded in 4th Grade we were able to put together a very competitive team each week and still had 6 wins for the year and throughout the season we pushed both the grand final teams to near wins, considering these other Club teams often fielded 2nd Grade players in their line-ups.

A huge thanks must go to Scott Hehir, Harley Valerius, Wez Makin, Lachlan Forder, Glen Forder and Denny Maloney who certainly were the core group of the team.

Scott “talk it up bears” Hehir had a cracker of a season and is a great team leader. Along with
Harley “jack rabbit” Valerius whose enthusiasm never ceased. Quiet ones Glen and Lachy Forder were solid throughout the year, although we did miss Glen who succumbed to injury for part of the season.

New to the Club this season were Denny Maloney, Alex Bennett and Jordan “I can play everywhere” Macey who were great finds and hope to see them suit up again next season. After the loss of Jimmy and Kyle at Christmas, a bulk of the pitching duties falling back on Wez “snipes” Makin & Denny “not Danny” Maloney. Alex and Jordan were our regular outfielders snaring many catches to bail us out, with Jordan earning a promotion to the infield and a successful (if not scary) learning experience to the mound in our last game.

During the season eight of the Women’s Team filled in for us, all of whom acquitted themselves very well and we couldn’t have got through the season without these ladies. Special commendations to Meredith Wells on three great outings on the hill and Eliza Russell who played 5 games batting .350 leading off our order.

A special thanks to CC and Amy for organising the umpiring each home game in our reciprocating umpiring assignments and also for finding us fill-ins when required. Umpiring is a tough and typically thankless job and it was very much appreciated and made my job as a coach that little bit easier knowing that one of the tasks was sorted for each home game.

Also thanks to Billy for arranging the rest of the Club fill-ins required throughout the season. I also must thank Billy for his ongoing work for the Club, both on and off the field.

Crutchie must also be applauded for producing excellent playing facilities each home game and I personally would also like to thank him for his assistance with uniforms and equipment throughout the year.

Most importantly thankyou to my scorer Louise “who must be obeyed” Russell for her sterling work each game and season stats (& other advice as needed).

Looking forward to seeing these players go around again next year and thanks guys for a great/fun season.

Bob “Boxer” Russell