

Masters Match Reports

January 31 Werribee v Fitzroy

Last Monday night the masters team travelled out to lovely Werribee (it was actually nice weather for a change) to take on the Giants.

It was great to see so many guys turn up ready to play, and for the first 3 innings we played well, James had their usually big hitters tied down and some good defence (a couple of nice double plays) saw the score at 0-1 at the bottom of the 3rd.

Unfortunately it went a bit pear shaped after that, some errors and a couple of big hits saw the opposition put 7 runs on in their half of the 4th, and then another 6 in the 5th innings. We managed to claw a few back at the end, but it was too late as we went down 14 -3. If we could minimize our error count and stop hitting the ball straight to their fielders we might push the teams above us.

Next week is a mini final for us as we take on Newport at home. A win will have us in the top 4 above Newport. So get down to Merri Park and support the old guys.

Cheers Brett

December 20 Fitzroy v Preston / Reservoir

The Fitzroy Masters played against Preston / Reservoir at La Trobe Uni on Monday night. As it was our home game we took to the field first with Darren pitching. We welcomed Storm Arnott back for his first game of the season and sent him straight to left field where he promptly took the first two catches of the match. A quick third out saw the Buccaneers scoreless in the first inning. Three hits in our first inning resulted in a one run lead and a shell-shocked Preston!

In the second inning Preston levelled the score and we failed to get anyone home, leaving three runners on base.

The third inning saw Preston take a one run lead. That innings ended with a rare (for us) double play by Peter Wilson playing at second, tagging and then throwing to first base. We had a quick, scoreless third inning.

Preston's fourth inning result in two runs after a couple of errors. We managed to score one run. So at the end of the fourth Preston had a 4 - 2 lead.

Jason Cleeve took over on the mound for us in the 5th inning. Jason's first pitch resulted in a catch to Tim Synnot at right field - his first catch for the season. Well done Tim! Although Jason threw hard and straight, his pitches were just a touch too high. Some walks and errors resulted in Preston scoring four runs. That put us six runs behind coming into our last innings. Unfortunately we had a 3 up 3 inning and so in the end lost 2 - 8.

The game was played in great spirits by both teams and we were competitive for most of the game. Considering when we last met the scoreline was 18 - 0 in Preston's favour, this was a much better result for us.

Thanks to Storm and Peter for helping out. You guys are most welcome to continue playing when we restart after the Christmas break. Also, thanks to Lesley for scoring, Tom & Connor for base coaching and Samuel for being bat boy. It was also great to see a few spectators for us - including the Fire Brigade.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all!

Eamon Clancy

December 13 Newport v Fitzroy

Last Monday night the Masters team again travelled out to Altona for the late game against Newport. We'd run Newport close last time we played them, only losing late in the game so we were motivated to come out on top this time.

We won the toss and decided to bat on a dry wicket. Our opening batsmen failed to make an impression and it was up to our number 3 (Jason) to get things started with a nice shot up the middle. Darren was next to hit and scored the run with a hit to short centre field. So we were on the board and looking good. James opened the bowling and with the help of the infield made short work of the 3 batters he faced, a nice double play by David at 2nd base was a sight to behold.

Our turn to bat again and the middle order got stuck in and came up with 3 runs off 5 hits to put us 4 runs up. James again had a 3 up 3 down innings and before we knew it we were up batting again.

Unfortunately we couldn't keep the pressure on and failed to score with only 1 hit for the dig, we also lost Cam in this innings with a back injury. Bottom of the 3rd and James was again able to hold them out after a nice double by their lead off and finished the innings off with 2 runners left on base.

Now it was our turn to leave runners on base and we failed to score again.

Second time round for their hitters and they were starting to work James out and managed to score 2 runs from 3 hits to close the gap to 2.

Our top order again failed to fire and although we got 2 hits we were unable to score, we did however score our second injury. Deano with a hammy and we were now down to a bare 9.

Bottom of the 5th and Darren takes the hill, after a few early hits we managed to hold them to 2 runs, SCORES TIED.

After last week's draw we were determined to finish well and get a win.

James led off and got on board with a nice hit. Cam was up next or he would have been, but the blank was there instead. The manager was up next and, with James stealing bases at will, put one up the third base line to score the run and then make it to second on a wild throw. Nev came up next and smashed it straight to shortstop. Some questionable base running by the manager had me out at home, but it did allow Nev to sprint (yes sprint) to third on another wild throw. Tim came up and got a hit to score Nev. David hit a nice double to put him and Tim in scoring position, and Chris finishing it off with a hit to score Tim. Unfortunately Jason, running for Dave, was called out at the plate.

So 3 runs up and 3 outs to get for the game. Darren didn't let us down forcing three batters to hit it straight to the fielders who got the job done. The final score was 7 - 4 and a big win to the Lions. A surprisingly good game of Masters with lots of hits, good fielding, pitching and only one walk for the night. Well done both teams.

Thanks again to Wendy for scoring and the Hill boys for spectating.

See you all again next week at La Trobe to take on Preston (7pm start).

Cheers Brett

December 6 Fitzroy v Williamstown

The Fitzroy Masters were back at Altona on a humid Monday evening in what some were calling the match of the round against Williamstown. We welcomed Chris Wilson and Darren Hill back into the side. Darren - back from injury and straight onto the pitching mound put in a fantastic performance for four innings.

In the top of the first we struck early, removing the first two batters quickly. Unfortunately we didn't get the third out with Williamstown had scored four runs. We equalized with four runs in the first with the highlight being Steve Bride's double.

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More solid pitching from Darren held Williamstown to one run in the second. We, however, failed to score, leaving two runners on base.

Williamstown scored three runs in the third innings and we scored two. In the fourth innings the Wolves did not score as Darren finished his pitching with three quick outs. We plated two more runs to have the game tied up coming into the last.

James Hope pitched the last innings and held Williamstown to three runs. Our last turn at bat saw us come home strongly, getting three runs home with two out. With the winning run on third and a two out 2-2 count, the stand-in manager swung at a pitch that he still regrets swinging at!

The end result being an eleven all draw.

Thanks to Wendy and Lil for scoring and the spectators for turning up.

Brett will be back at the helm next Monday night when we take on Newport, who are just above us on the ladder, at Altona 8:30pm.

Eamon Clancy

November 29 Fitzroy v Werribee

On Monday the Masters played their first game for the season at Merri Park to take on Werribee. An overcast sky for most of the day cleared by game time to reveal a dazzling sun behind the pitcher's arm.

James Hope started on the mound for us and we managed to contain Werribee to three runs in the first innings. Our first innings saw us score one run with Jason Cleeve hitting the ball well into right field.

Werribee scored three runs in the second innings from one swing of the bat with the ball landing in right field somewhere near the playground. We fought back well to get the next three batters out on ground balls to the infield. Unfortunately Fitzroy failed to score in the second innings with only four batters coming up to the plate.

The third innings saw Werribee restricted to one run. We also scored one run with hits to Steve Bride, James and Eamon. Jason also showing us his fine form by getting his second hit for the game with a double to right field.

Werribee was contained to two runs in the 4th. With the sun setting dangerously low it was up to Fitzroy to score an improbable seven to tie the game. Unfortunately that did not eventuate and Werribee won 9 - 2. The sun having the final say resulting in an early finish to the game.

Next Monday we take on Williamstown in the late game at Altona in what should be a close game.

Eamon Clancy

November 22 Fitzroy v Geelong

Last Monday night the Masters travelled out to the jewel of the west, Altona to take on the Baycats. With a few players away it was good to see David Jones there for his first game of the year. After last week's shellacking we were hoping to get off to a good start - not to be as Geelong put on 4 runs with a good display of hitting. We lost Sheeds in that innings after a valiant attempt at a diving catch at left field. I guess we should have told him it was masters and trying that hard is frowned upon.

Our turn to bat and their slow ball pitcher had the top order popping up or grounding out and before we knew it we were back in the field without getting a runner anywhere near first base. We turned things around in their next dig and Cam got the 3 outs facing only 4 batters leaving a blob in the scorebook. James led off the second with a single and we were off and running, 7 hits and a walk later and we'd scored 6 and had hit the lead. After that point it was all a bit of a blur as I think we upset them and they scored 17 runs to our 4 over the next 3 innings. All the outfielders got a working over with Deano coping the brunt of it with 2 huge lefties targeting the space over his head.

So we ran out losers 10 - 21 but it was nice to at least score some runs. This Monday we take on Werribee at Fitzroy, so if you want to see some entertaining baseball and some really bad uniforms (Werribee's not ours) come on down for a 6:15pm start.

On a more serious note all the masters players would like to send their best wishes to Karl Leake who was diagnosed with cancer this week, we are thinking of you mate and hope you can fight your way through it.

Cheers Brett Bennell

November 15 Preston / Reservoir v Fitzroy

Last Monday night the masters team trekked out to Latrobe Uni to take on the new boys Of div 2 the Preston / Reservoir Buccaneers. This was like a home game for half our team as we play here in the winter. The night started well with 11 guys fit and raring to go. Darren limped down to give support. Karl and Chris were in the club house if needed at the Latrobe Uni AGM.

From there it all went downhill, outhit 21 - 4 and on the end of an 18 - 0 score line no more needs to be said.

One thing that does need addressing though is a disturbing trend in Masters baseball. I'm laying most of the blame on Werribee. As I think they started it, and that is the new uniforms teams are wearing, most of us have seen the outlandish uniforms Werribee wear. Well the Buccaneers uniform was not nearly as bad but if they go for the matching red and yellow striped pants they will be setting a new low. Come on guys I know we are out there having fun, but we don't want to scare the kids away.

Cheers Brett Bennell

October 25 Newport v Fitzroy

Monday night the masters travelled out to Altona to take on the Rams. Again there was a big turn out with 14 players finding their way out to the western suburbs. We welcomed another rookie Ian and - better late than never - it was nice to see Chris there too.

Cam took to the hill in the first throwing heaps of strikes. Unfortunately most of them were being hit back over his head or through gaps in the field, and the boys from Newport had plated 5 by the time we got the third out. We managed to get back 2 in our half of the innings thanks to a big double by Darren, and no thanks to the manager trying to get a third run over by stopping then sending James who got tagged at the plate. (The manager was removed from 3rd base duties for the rest of the night).

Top of the second and Cam came back hard and with good support only allowed 1 run. Our turn at bat started badly losing the first 2 batters, but a 2 out rally by the bottom half of the order scored 4 runs on 5 hits. Both Ian and Karl hitting nice doubles. Sadly the rally ended when Chris who had just turned up struck out.

Top of the third and it was nice to see a blob in the scorebook, oh did I mention we had a scorer, thanks Wendy. Our turn to bat and with a nice double by James we got the go ahead run.

the first 2 batters, but a 2 out rally by the bottom half of the order scored 4 runs on 3 hits. Both ran and ran hitting nice doubles. Sadly the rally ended when Chris who had just turned up struck out.

Top of the third and it was nice to see a blob in the scorebook, oh did I mention we had a scorer, thanks Wendy. Our turn to bat and with a nice double by James we got the go ahead run.

Top of the 4th and with James taking over from Cam a couple of missed opportunities let the opposition plate the tying run. Batting in the bottom of the 4th and with it all to play for we came up short, Ian lining into a double play after Eamon had got on with a good shot into left.

So to the last innings with scores tied, an error let their first runner on and after that it was the first innings all over again, 4 hits and 3 walks saw them score 5. So with time running out we had to score 6 to win, time beat us, also the fact we went 3 up 3 down to end the match.

Overall a good effort, just out hit by a very good hitting team. Thanks to everyone who turned up, to our scorer Wendy and to all the kids who came - it was nice to have spectators for a change.

With 2 hard games down we now have 2 weeks off to rest our weary bones. We take on Preston at Latrobe in our next game, hoping to see a few more supporters there to cheer on the old guys.

Cheers Brett Bennell

October 18 Williamstown v Fitzroy

On a cold, wet and windy night under the shadow of the Newport power station. The Fitzroy old boys gathered for the opening game of the 2010/11 masters season. Rumors of the teams demise were quickly quashed when 13 brave souls appeared to tackle the wolves. We welcomed our new "rookies" Tim, Jason and Gary and were pleased to see Nev back after a year away.

After a brief warm up we launched into the new season with some power hitting and put on 7 runs in the first innings. A nice triple by Jamie being the highlight. Darren took to the hill and with good support from the defense shut the opposition down to maintain our 7 run lead.

Top of the second and we managed another 2 runs, the new manager taking one in the head after he couldn't decide whether to duck or weave. The wolves came out growling and put on 5 runs in what could only be described as arctic conditions. Highlight was Jasons slick double play at short, lucky they weren't running too fast.

Top of the 3rd and it was our turn to be shut down, James was struggling from both sides of the plate especially with their pitchers fast ball which was clocking close to 20 mph. James took to the mound and held them to 3, which meant game on and we were under pressure. Nev taking a couple of nice fly's in the outfield.

The team responded magnificently and came up with 6 runs in the next, that dayglo ball sure helped out in the fading light. Good pitching and fielding kept the opposition to 0 again and with time drawing near we needed 1 run in the last to ensure a win.

We got the 1 run needed and with darkness approaching and the strike zone shrinking James pitched out the last to give us a well deserved 16 - 12 win.

Overall a great team performance, nearly everyone got a hit or on base, some good fielding and no injuries which is always a bonus.

Thanks to everyone who turned up, see you all next week at Altona to take on Newport.

Cheers Brett Bennell