

ROUND 1

Early October has come around again and baseball season is on the agenda. Heaps of work has been going on behind the scenes in the off six months, and the boys on the ground crew have once again provided us with the best facilities that the whole suburban area of Adelaide can provide, the ladies have put their best foot forward to give us a first class canteen service, both in quality and choice, and the Board has produced a roster that will ensure a highly competitive season from all grades. In turn, the coaches have left no stone unturned in giving the boys every opportunity to thrive this season by giving them all a comprehensive and gruelling pre-season schedule.

In senior ranks, we welcome to the Club Daniel Turner from the Sturt Baseball Club, Gary Owens ex Port Adelaide, and Vinnie Fayard from California. Josh Tols has made a welcome and long-awaited return from College, Jackson Lodge and Willie Lee along with Dylan Child have all decided to leave the Pittsburg Pirates in their wake and settle for the Senators as their home base. Fantastic to have all these boys on board, along with the rest of the squad.

DIVISION ONE - v Goodwood. WON 7-1

Jackson Lodge started and it was not very long before he produced one of his signature moves, a perfect pick-off at first that left the runner floundering and embarrassingly trudging off. Then we got down to business and plundered four runs in the first off a hapless Fidge. Hits came seemingly easily, and last year's runners up looked decidedly dodgy, and certainly didn't get any let off when Josh Tols took over from Jacko in the sixth and blew them away with some serious heat. Very solid team effort, offence proficient gathering thirteen hits, and defensively couldn't be faulted. Hits: Dylan Child, James Henty 3, Vinnie Fayard, Troy Weinert 2, Dan Turner, Ben Lodge & Craig Abbott 1.

DIVISION TWO - v Goodwood. WON 4-1

The boys, showcasing the Club's new uniforms, turned on a great display behind the solid pitching of TBU (Troy Harrison). We went to a one run lead early, and the game was stalemated for a while until Willie Lee put one into orbit with a three run bomb. I think it was the fourth inning - anyway the ball landed in the seventh. Hits: Jed Morgan 3, Willie Lee (HR), Nick Kuhn, Nathan Nicholson 1.

DIVISION THREE - v Goodwood WON 6-2

Carrying on from their last year's effort of runners-up, and capitalising on the good early form of Doggy on the mound, scored a pleasing win.

DIVISION FOUR - v Goodwood LOST 2-6

This team for this season is trying to blood some youngsters within the Club, combined with some of the more experienced guys, and really have a shot at producing some future champions, as we have done in the past - promoting within the Club.

Under 17 - v Goodwood WON 15-0

Once again, thanks to our terrific relationship with the Sunraysia district, we really turned on a display at Don Klaebe Field, and with Anthony Carroll dictating terms from the hill, we were never challenged. These boys are a potent mix of city and country, and look like they could go from strength to strength. Hits: Anthony Carroll 3, Will Kortekaas 2, Joe Papps, Lachlan McBain, Morgan Ruchel, Marcus Letamedia 1.

Under 15 - Lost in a good game to Sturt

Under 13 - Lost to Glenelg 8-15, But were right in the game and showed a lot of promise for later in the season.

Under 11 - Defeated Henley & Grange 14-9. Really put a smile on rookie coach Graham Newbound's face. Well done all.

ROUND 2

DIVISION ONE V NTH DISTRICTS WON 9-1

After playing in front of a bumper crowd last week in the opening round against one of last year's top teams - and defeating them - it was a bit of a change to play to a lesser audience today against a lowlier opponent. We went in with a plan, Wilson Lee to start on a limited pitch count of 45, due to his Australian U21 commitments in Taiwan next month, and then Josh Tols to do his bit, and then Jackson Lodge to close. All went according to plan, with the three left handers amassing 19 strike-outs between them. Willie had 7, Josh 9, and Jacko 3. A good day out by the defensive unit as a whole, but the batters made their mark also, and except for them going to sleep for a while mid-game, they looked the goods. Benny Lodge started proceedings by whacking a three run homer in the first, and we had four on the board to equal last week's start. Brodie Wyatt got into the act to open his home run account for the year also. So far, two games, two runs against and a good percentage. Must keep it going against Golden Grove away next week.

Hits: Gary Owens, Dylan Child, Troy Weinert (managed to get his bat stuck in the backstop -slipped) Brodie Wyatt (HR) 2, Dan Turner, Ben Lodge (HR) 1.

DIVISION TWO V NTH DISTRICTS WON 3-1

Brodie Hertel took the ball and performed admirably for four and was relieved by TBU Troy Harrison, and between them they had the other mob in check. Hits came sparingly however, but enough to keep our noses in front all day, and a solid win is in the bag. Hits: one each to Jesse Toepfer, Vic Bentvelzen, Nick Kuhn, Troy Nicholson, Wade Moore.

DIVISION THREE V NTH DISTRICTS WON 13-0

Good win out in the northern suburbs. Doggie did his bit and we a bit too good for the Northerners.

DIVISION FOUR V NTH DISTRICTS LOST 2-3

Our young guys battled manfully all game against their opponents who seemed more accomplished than their Div three side. It was left to a cruel bounce in the last to finally lose the game. Bad luck boys.

DIVISION SIX V STH DISTRICTS LOST 3-18

Long way to go to get beaten. Bad luck - keep hanging in there.

UNDER 17 V NTH DISTRICTS WON 4-3

Great base running got us off to a promising beginning, but by the third it was three all. Perseverance was the key and we ran out winners on the back of steady pitching from Joe Papps, relieved by AC. Hits: Joe Papps, Anthony Carroll, Morgan Ruchel, Marcus Letamendia.

UNDER 15 V WEST TORRENS LOST 1-12

Jack and Lee did well on the mound, there was some really good fielding in the infield, and Zack held a beauty at left field. Angus creamed one, so all looks good.

UNDER 13 - Lost by one run! Would you believe - so close. All three pitchers did really well - a good effort by all the boys in the field, and Cody took a blinder at home plate. Nicholas continues to impress with the bat.

UNDER 11 - Came up against a very strong opposition, and will learn heaps with good coaching from the king of the kids, Graham Newbound.

ROUND 3

Such a lot happening at our Club at the present time. Congratulations to Shannon and Stephan Welch on their wedding, and to Ben Lodge and Wilson Lee on their forthcoming trip to represent Australia in Taiwan. One day we will be lucky enough to have all the fabulous juniors that we have fostered over the years playing in the same team at the same time - hang on - there is only room for nine, and there is not enough room for them all. There is a few on the books at the moment in the juniors that will eventually push for selection in these teams. However, some of this weekend's game just completed need a bit of a full explanation, because they were fantastic.

DIVISION ONE V GGCD WIN 14-0

Two years ago we knocked this team out of the finals race at their home ground to continue on to a Grand Final. One side has progressed in giant strides since, and one side has gone backwards. We started today's game in real fair dinkum fashion with the first pitch of the game caught on the fence off the unlucky Vinnie, then Dan Turner aggressively got out, then a line drive by Benny, and finally Gary Owens caught on the fence. Josh Tols then pitched the perfect reply, but I must tell you about our second dig. Henty brought two home from a hit, then a Vinnie line drive got another, a sac fly from Dan made it 4-0, and a two bagger off the bat of Benny got one more. The celebrated Reed Brown was in real strife on the mound, but no one went near him. Gary Owens got Benny home for another, 6-0. In the meantime, Josh was quietly sneaking up on a no-hitter, and except for an error and a walk, would have achieved it. When Jacko relieved him late and closed them down, I'm told that they threw a perfect combination game. Anyway, a few quiet innings followed until everybody got into the act, including a three run bomb by Benny Lodge. The run fest then got into full gear, and an early halt was necessary. Hits: Benny Lodge (HR) (5RBI'S) 4, Vinnie Fayard 3, Dylan Child, Brodie Wyatt 2, Dan Turner, Troy Weinert, James Henty, Jed Morgan 1.

DIVISION TWO V GGCD WIN 8-0

Sensational game Wilson Lee. Pitched like a Champ, batted like a Champ, stole bases (4) like a dead set Demon. Three votes - Wilson Lee. However the game was not without its dramas as it took a while to get the runs on the board as we left five out there stranded in the first four innings. Two standout highlights - Jed Morgan stealing home while the catcher was dreamily chucking the ball back to the pitcher, and a sensational catch and throw out at home plate from left field by Liam Mullin. Hits: Jesse Toepfer, Jed Morgan 2, Wilson Lee, Liam Huppatz 1. W. Lee - 8 Strikeouts.

DIVISION THREE V GGCD WON 10-2

Nathan Nicholson to Liam Mullin was a really solid combination, and by the time Benny Murton got the ball, the game was a done deal. Telmo and Jye batted like they should, and the win puts the boys on top of the ladder (albeit early) as they should be. A big shout-out to the Cockroach, Darren Annear, everybody is right behind you.

DIVISION FOUR V GGCD WON 6-2

Jordy Grose pitched this side to a win and was ably assisted by big Kane Razis. Matt Muegge made a welcome return to the Club, and apparently by taking a great catch set the fielding standard which China ignored.

DIVISION SIX LOST 2-9

I'm sure a win must be around the corner, but Fitzy has got to stop turning triples into doubles. A bit of trouble with the wind Garth?

UNDER 17 V GGCD WON 14 2

Got early runs (always important) and maintained the pressure all game with Anthony Carroll (8 strikeouts) in control with Will Kortekaas outstanding behind the plate. Eight hits from the boys along with smart base running put paid to the oppositions' chances. Hits: Emmanuel Hirschausen2, Joe Papps, Lachlan McBain,

Marcus Letamendia, Morgan Ruchel, Anthony Carroll (a fence crusher) Will Kortekaas 1. Great momentum boys, keep it going.

UNDER 15 couldn't find a win today - next week.

UNDER 13 - Lots of noise, lots of fun ,and a win is coming soon.

ROUND 4

DIVISION ONE - Double header v West Torrens

Game 1 - Lost 2-3. The first of the double header got off to a vibrant start when leadoff batter Vinnie walked and came home on a Gary Owens triple. The opposition was not to be denied, and equalled in the second, and it was game on. A nice triple by Jed Morgan against his old club led to a run when Vinnie hit a long sac fly. But an error late in the game laid the foundation for them to hit a two-run homer and sneak the win. A controversial foul ball call at home plate cruelled any comeback plans. Gary Owens had a good one on the mound, and hits came from: Brodie Wyatt 2, Dylan Child, James Henty and Jed Morgan 1.

Game 2 - Lost 4-7. We again started like a house on fire, scoring two in the first off hits by Vinnie and Troy Weinert. Every game so far this season, we have scored in the first dig. The game was very entertaining, with big hits from both teams, some great defence and solid pitching. Scores were fluctuating all game, until the Eagles skipper belted a two run home run in the bottom of the fifth to make it hard. We responded with a late rally, but ran out of innings in the end. Jacko pitched well, replaced by Troy Harrison at the end. Hits: Vic Bentvelzen 2, Vinnie Fayard, Troy Weinert, James Henty, Damien Wall 1.

DIVISION TWO - v West Torrens - won 5-4.

Damien Wall belted an early three bagger to welcome his return from an undeserved suspension, and then poor old Jesse Toepfer copped a knee-capper from the second pitch he faced. With sensible stealing and base running generally, we shot out to a five zip lead, before a few errors let them back in. Nathan Nicholson sat down after five, and Benny Murton got his chance, and produced the goods. Hits: Vic Bentvelzen, Damien Wall, Rhys Owen 1.

DIVISION THREE - v West Torrens - won 3-2.

Jordy Grose pitching to Liam Mullins was the youthful way to go. The boys, backed up by the experienced wise old heads, did themselves proud, and won a tight one.

DIVISION FOUR - v West Torrens - won 9-4.

Great to see the guys have a well deserved win and climb up the ladder.

DIVISION SIX - Went down fighting.

UNDER 17 - Lost their first game for the season 4-10 to West Torrens, but these boys will fight back, make no mistake.

UNDER 15 - Lost 7-12 to Port Adelaide, but really showed a lot.

UNDER 13 & 11 - Both teams lost close games, but coaches are happier with the way they are playing.

ROUND 5

DIVISION ONE V EAST TORRENS WIN 13-7

With a depleted line-up (Jed Morgan - hammy, Dylan Child - wedding, Jessie T. - hobbling, and Willie and Ben off fighting the rest of the world in the under 21 World Champs in Taiwan), this game was a danger. Nobody told our players, and it was game on from the start. We pushed it from the beginning, and whilst the opposition was formidable at times, we were never headed. Simmo at third base for the Redsox, and with the bat, was a continuous worry, but we contained him eventually. Our pitching staff on the day: Jackson and Josh, were head and shoulders above their counterparts and contributed enormously to the very satisfying win. The bats weren't too bad either - just a few highlights - Vinnie and Weiny both doubled in the first to put us two up, then a two run homer by Gary O and another double from Weiny, scored by a Henty hit and a nice double by Vic, had us five up in the third. Vinnie then belted a homer to make his personal tally for the day four from four, but not to be outdone, Brodie Wyatt decided to stamp his name on the victory by shooting one over the fence for a Grand Slam. In all, we amassed seventeen hits for the afternoon, a solid performance. Callum Robinson made a very nice start to his Div One career behind the plate, and certainly made a fine contribution to the win. Hits : Vinnie (Man of the Match) Fayard (HR) 4, Dan Turner, Gary Owens (HR), Troy Weinert, James Henty, Vic Bentvelzen 2, Brodie Wyatt (GSHR), Jesse Toepfer, Nathan Nicholson 1.

DIVISION TWO V EAST TORRENS DRAW 7-7

Steady rain threatened to disrupt the start of play, but thanks to our Les Burdett trained ground-crew, the covers were on in a flash and we did not miss a beat. Rhys Owen was on man of the match pace when he tripled - yeah, real pace - and then doubled, to bring in a few runs and we headed them early. Big Troy got the stitch, and was replaced by Brodie Hertel, who gave way for Nathan Nicholson. We fell two behind in the last, but in a nail-biter, drew level at the death. Hits: Rhys Owen 2, Troy Nicholson, Wade Moore, and the evergreen Phil Hirschausen 1.

DIVISION THREE V EAST TORRENS. WIN 5-2

Lots of juniors making their mark at this level, but the effort from the mound by Doggie (alias Shane Brown) as the ultimate classy veteran cannot go un-noticed. Pitched the whole game to Liam Mullen, who copped one at home plate. Tuff nut this boy - you'll be OK.

DIV FOUR - Lost to East Torrens, but when some of the oldies get back from their shenanigans on the Gold Coast, it might be a different story.

DIV SIX had a bye- - relaxing weekend.

UNDER 17 - V HENLEY & GRANGE (Twilight)

On would you believe Melbourne Cup Day Twilight. We had no chance against a slick outfit, due to the fact that scraping a team together at that time-slot was nigh on impossible. Our Mildura friends had to give it a miss, and we went down easily. However, good sides bounce back, as evidenced by a terrific win against the Bays on the proper time-slot with our full contingent of players. An 8-4 win. Well done all.

The Under 15's, and both Little League sides did not meet with success this weekend, but they are all hanging in.

ROUND 6

It is getting to be slightly confusing, as it is round seven for the Div One competition, round six for the other grades, except for the Under 19's, where we have just completed round one. So, let us just call this WEEK 6.

We had a bye this weekend for the Div One, Div Two and the Under 17's, so the focus was squarely on the other grades, and results were mixed.

Division 6 - Defeated Glenelg 7-6.

This was the first game of the triple-header at home, and to mark the occasion of Coach Shane Lodge's 300th game, the boys put in a sterling performance to record a stirring come from behind victory. Down 1-6 at one stage, but with the fine pitching of Jake and the help of several Lodges, they prevailed, and are slowly creeping up the ladder.

Division 4 - Defeated Kensington 5-2.

Always a contest against these boys from the other side of town, and great to beat them. Kane Razis urged his dad to drive him down from Mildura so that he could pitch the team to victory, with his mate from the Riverland behind the plate. A welcome returnee, Joel Smith, finished the pitching duties. Well done all.

Division 3 - Drew Kensington 8-8.

We started with our youth battery - Jordy Grose to Liam Mullen (keep these names in your memory bank), but then the rains came, and luckily everyone pitched in to keep the diamond in good shape so that the game could continue. The other side wanted to call the game early, but the ump kept playing, and we scored two in the last dig to even the scores in a thrilling and raucous finale. Everyone went home a winner.

Under 19

Unknown territory, with the Comp being on and off over the past weeks. So we ventured to Golden Grove last Wednesday evening to record a good win 6-2. Next game is at home next Wednesday at 6.15, so get around the boys, as there is some serious talent amongst them.

U 15 - Lost to Golden Grove 7-21.

Watch these boys improve shortly.

U 13 - Lost 1-14.

Check out some of the fantastic shots on Facebook courtesy of the Conlan crew.

ROUND 7

Double Header Division One V Adelaide at Don Klaebe Field.

Game One - The top of the order produced a fantastic start once again and we had three runs on the board in a blink of an eye, as we continued to put runs on in the first inning. We then witnessed some really great defence behind Gary Owens, particularly from Dan Turner at the position he has made his own at shortstop, then a few classy double plays finished off a comprehensive victory. The stage was set for a clean sweep, but an awakening was in store. The win was 6-1, and hits : Gary Owens 2, Dylan Child, James Henty and Jed Morgan 1.

Game Two - Jacko strode to the mound and immediately the Angel boys threw their bats in gay abandon, and they got hits in a stark difference to their earlier outings. Two quick runs to them were always going to be hard to combat and although Gary did his bit we didn't make many inroads until Vinnie popped one over into the black smoke of the Skid Kids annual "jump thru' fire event". We were reinforced at the death by some returning Bite players, and although they bleed Green and Gold, and make huge efforts to represent the Senators at every opportunity, they couldn't get bat on ball enough to prevent us failing 2-3. Hits : Vinnie Fayard (HR), Dylan Child 2, Dan Turner, Brodie Wyatt, Gary Owens, Troy Weinert, James Henty 1. Golden opportunity lost - really should have taken the two games in this double header, we seem to do this too often.

Division Two - This contest was between two good top sides and we entrusted young Jordy Grose with the ball, and he did not let himself or his teammates down - in fact, he enhanced his reputation in a solid display with multiple strike-outs. We had a 5-0 win with only two hits (Nathan Nicholson and Rhys Owen) but were terrific in defence. Damien got hit in the batting box again, which prompted a fair bit of chirping from those at third base, but all good. We still stay ahead.

Division 3 - Really brave to get amongst the elements on this particularly thunderous and treacherous day. Funnily, the only casualty was Fanta, who once again aggravated his "pitching hammy", and put Doggy in for the big haul. Still, you take a 16-5 win anyway.

Div 4 - Ditto above - without the hammy - and a 19-0 win is not to be sneezed at.

Div 6 - Almost got one. Ahead most of the day but couldn't finish it - lost 3-8.

U 19 - We fronted on Wednesday evening - H&G couldn't - forfeit 9-0.

U17 - Lost to Adelaide 5-6. Good side unlucky.

U15 - Really starting to show signs - lost narrowly 3-5.

U 13 - You little ripper! Sean Conlon's (and associated parents') team had a resoundingly successful day and won 18-8.

ROUND 8

DIVISION ONE V. WEST TORRENS. WON 5-2.

This was a fantastic game of baseball which had a bit of everything, and was greatly enjoyed by a large crowd of past players, life members and sponsors, who took the opportunity to soak up the atmosphere of the day, and partake of the celebrations after the win. Jackson Lodge was given the task to pitch and went the nine inning distance for the first time in his career, in a masterful display that earned him man of the match. He was backed up with some terrific tight defence, both from the infield and outfield. Vinnie added another bomb to go to the top of the hit parade, but all players contributed in what turned out to be a true team effort. Hits: Dan Turner, Troy Weinert, Jed Morgan 2, Brodie Wyatt, Vinnie Fayard (HR), Dylan Child, James Henty 1.

DIVISION 2 V. WEST TORRENS. WON 7-6.

Looking the goods after three, being up 0-4, off the great hitting of, in particular, Craig Abbott - home run, double and a single -Damien Wall - triple, Rhys Owen - double. We went off the boil for a while and allowed them to tie up the game at 6-6 with our last dig to come. The gods smiled on us and their short-stop obliged by sailing one over home plate to allow the winning run. Hits: Craig Abbott (HR), Damien Wall 3, Nick Kuhn, Rhys Owen, Troy Nicholson, Wade Moore 1. Troy Harrison threw, with Brodie Hertel and Jordy Grose in relief.

DIVISION 3 V. WEST TORRENS. WON 6-1.

This is a really good combination of some old stagers with a healthy dash of youth to keep them honest. Whilst I haven't all the details, I do know that Jye Height, David Lodge and Nick Carroll got among the hits, and Doggy pitched along with Nathan Nicholson to Callum Robertson.

DIVISION 4 & 6 - lost 11-8 to West Torrens and DIV 6 had a nail biting victory in a run-fest against Kensington 17-16.

Under 19 - Won 8-4 against Port Adelaide in the twilight game at the Port

Under 17 - Went down 5-11 against a strong West Torrens. They put on the pressure with loaded bases, and we got out of jail a few times, but they prevailed at the end. Emmanuel Hirschausen got two hits as did Anthony Carroll, Abe Kortekaas one and Hayden Carroll one.

Under 15 - had a bye.

Under 13 - a great 13-7 win over Port.

Under 11 - were defeated by Henley & Grange.

One of the highlights of the week, however, was the parents v U11 & U13 on Friday evening. Noise level was off the Richter Scale, as was the enjoyment shown on everyone's face which was followed by a meal and some awards. A good time had by all.

ROUND 9

DIVISION ONE

Tuesday twilight game v Henley & Grange 2/12/14 WIN 9-3.

This was a show of strength, with our complete Div 1 & 2 contingent on the bench in opposition to a struggling combination with only a few reserves fronting up. This is how the first dig went - Vinnie smoked one down the third base line for a base hit, Dan walked, and Benny got hit by a pitch, and then Gary strode to the plate and muscled one over - 4-0. None Out. The plan of letting the pitchers have a few short bursts - namely Wilson Lee (2), Josh Tols (2) and then Nathan Nicholson to finish worked a treat, and with steady hitting, we were never in strife. Onlookers from both Clubs were on their feet in appreciation of one of the best sliding catches you will see by Greg Owen, almost in the car-park. Hits: Vinnie Fayard 2, Dan Turner, Gary Owen (HR), Dylan Child, Troy Weinert, James Henty, Brodie Wyatt, Craig Abbott 1.

SUN 7/12/14 v Sturt WIN 3-2.

This game was as tight as all afternoon and a pleasure to watch. Both pitchers were on top early with Jackson Lodge really on top of his game, and his counterpart no slouch either. Vinnie hit nicely to bring in our first run, and a typical JL pickoff at first helped our cause, but then Sturt found two runs, and we were behind the eightball. Harro came into the game and shut them up until the ninth, in the meantime, Willy, with fantastic speed between the bases, put us one up. The ultimate closer, Josh Tols, then knocked them over in the last. Gutsy win guys. Troy Harrison got the win - well done and hits: Dan Turner 2 - against his old team - top stuff - 2, Vinnie Fayard, Dylan Child, James Henty, Jed Morgan, Wilson Lee 1.

DIVISION TWO - v Sturt. Win 6-0.

The game began under leaden skies, but this certainly didn't dampen our enthusiasm for runs, and they came at a steady pace. We were able to sail along at a steady pace with brilliant base running, good defence and solid pitching from Nathan Nicholson. Jordy Grose closed to add to his resume. Hits : Adam Newbound (good to see you back from your travels) 2, Rhys Owen, Chris Doyle (good to see you back too), Wade Moore, and Troy Nicholson 1. (Like me, they have been nowhere)

DIV 3 Knocked over Sturt 8-5

DIV 4 Knocked over Sturt 12-7 (Spot the common denominator)

DIV 6 Beat Playford City 14-4.

Our juniors had a poor day, with the Under 17's losing narrowly 3-4 to Sturt, the Under 15's losing, the Under 13's getting pipped by 2, and the Under 11's losing.

ROUND 10

DIVISION ONE

Twilight v Glenelg Tue 9.12.14 WON 7-2

This was second versus third on the ladder, and the game was certainly played with the intensity it deserved. All quiet on the scoring front in the early stages, as the two teams eyed each other off and gave nothing away. Gary scored Dan with a nice line drive, and a sac fly got us another, and the lead was 2-1. Willie Lee was replaced on the mound by Gary Owens, and we got out to a 4-2 lead, and at this point the Bay pitcher was ejected from the game for a deliberate hit on the batter, and they seemed to lose their cool, after which Vinnie brought home a couple more runs, and we ran away with a much deserved win 7-2 after Josh Tols closed in his usual efficient manner. Hits: Vinnie Fayard 2, Ben Lodge, Gary Owens, Wilson Lee, James Henty 1.

UNDER 19 - Twilight v Kensington Wed 10.12.14 WON 9-6

The game was played in drizzling rain for most of the time, but our boys kept plugging away, and recorded a satisfying win to remain at the pointy end of the ladder. Hits: Grose, Nicholson, Toepfer, Owen. Jordy and Joe shared pitching duties.

Div One, Div Two and the Under 17's all had a bye on Sunday 14th, but don't miss out this Saturday (20th) when we take on Port Adelaide at home in a top of the table clash (1st v 2nd) in both Div One and Div Two. It is also Ladies Day in honour of Anne Weinert, and then the Christmas party with a lamb on the spit to round out the day.

DIV THREE and DIV FOUR both had convincing wins over Gawler 13-0 and 20-2 respectively, but Div Six ended their winning streak by going down to Northern Districts 8-14.

Under 15 lost to East Torrens, and no scores to date from the Little League teams.

ROUND 11

DIVISION ONE - v KENSINGTON LOST 2-3. The week of games kicked off with a twilight contest against a tough Kensington on a windswept diamond at Erindale. The game was remarkable for the fact that both pitchers were in total control and the game finished with not a walk thrown by either. Jacko was superb, and did not deserve to have an L alongside his name. We scored early through a Vinnie double and a Dan sac bunt and a Benny hit, then again in the sixth when a Dan hit brought in Jed to go two up, but the Kensi boys were not to be denied and two homers in a row with one on proved to be enough for them. Can't wait to get at 'em next time. Hits: Vinnie Fayard, Dan Turner & Ben Lodge one each.

DIVISION ONE - v Port Adelaide LOST 4-3. This was a great game of baseball, played in ideal conditions on a fantastic diamond at Don Klaebe field in front of one of the biggest crowds seen at our ground in years. It was Ladies Day in honour of Anne Weinert, and she was clearly in everybody's mind as the game began. I said last week that we were to have a lamb on a spit during our Christmas party, well, we knocked off three of them, such was the mob. Port started aggressively and went to a two nil lead, and we were getting bat on ball but not scoring. Jacko took the ball after four and put on the brakes, and we slowly started to peg them back, but fell short by one. Two games in a week against two top sides, and we go down by one in each of them. Bugga! Still, we are at the pointy end of the ladder, and good times ahead. Hits: Dylan Child 4, (top game - he is my top vote getter up to the Xmas break) Gary Owens, Wilson Lee, Jed Morgan 2, Dan Turner 1.

DIVISION TWO - Port Adelaide Lost 0-9. Bitterly disappointed with this one - undoubtedly their worst performance for the season. For an undefeated side to make so many fundamental errors was mind-boggling. Enough said. Hits: Adam Newbound, Jesse Toepfer & Nick Kuhn one each.

Div 3 - Took on the might of a stacked Port Adelaide and came home with the bikkies, thanks in no small measure to the performance of Doggy on the mound. Won 7-1.

Div 4 had a bye and **Div 6** looked the goods for a while but succumbed in the end 7-13.

Under 19 - travelled to Adelaide and did enough to win 9-6. Still on top.

Under 17 - Defeated Port Adelaide 9-4, in a topsy-turvey affair in which the lead changed hands a few times and we scored six in the last to prevail. Hits: Anthony Carroll 3, Joe Papps 2, Hayden Carroll & Manny Hirschausen one each.

Under 15 - Lost to East Torrens 9-15. Definite improvement being shown.

Under 13 lost to Sturt, and the **Under 11's** had a win against Gawler.

ROUND 12

Club baseball resumed today after the Christmas break, a break in which we saw the annual Goodwill Games played at our own Don Klaebe Field for the 16th year straight. What a huge success it proved to be once again for all concerned, and thanks must go to all our volunteers, who won the accolades of our American guests for the ground preparation and the general running of the tournament. It wasn't easy in the heat at times, but we all got through and now look forward to the back half of the season, a season in which we have been compromised at times by having a large contingent of our players absent on Bite duties. Rest assured Senator supporters, they are busting to be raring to go come finals time. We just have to make it first.

DIVISION ONE -- Defeated GGCD 4-0.

In view of the above, this game got under way in a disturbing manner with a couple of errors in the first not instilling confidence in the onlookers. However we got out of it and the game meandered until the fourth, when Gary put a long awaited swipe into orbit to bring home Vinnie to make it 2-0. The Golden Grove leftie from USA was proving to be a class act, and was giving nothing away until Dan Turner slugged a triple, and then had enough petrol in the tank to gasp his way home on a passed ball. The game was notable for a couple of reasons, the first being the precision pitching of Jackson Lodge, who got the Green and Gold fist award at the after-match presentations for eleven strikeouts with no walks (second time this year a no-walker), and the second - the appearance on the mound in the closing capacity by none other than CJ Doyle who has battled injury, and after a lengthy rehab, can hope for better times. Anyway, it is getting to be like old times, when all these Woodville boys were together as juniors. Hits : Troy Weinert 2, Vinnie Fayard, Gary Owens (HR), Dan Turner, James Henty, Damian Wall 1.

DIVISION TWO -- Defeated GGCD 10-0 (Mercy Rule)

The boys came out in a particularly aggressive mood and had six on the board in a flash on the back of some fine pitching from TBU Troy Harrison, the steady catching of Wade Moore and fine defence all round. The opposition wasn't all that flash until they put a promising junior on the mound who refused to allow us to bury them - at least for a while - and we eventually crushed them in short order. In fact the two games played today were as quick as I can remember. Hits : Chris Doyle 2, Rhys Owen, Damian Wall, Jesse Toepfer, Vic Bentvelzen, Troy Nicholson, Kane Razis 1. After TBU, Jordy Grose and Shane Brown helped out.

DIV THREE & DIV FOUR

These teams were scheduled to compete against Golden Grove on Saturday at the northern venue, but as we all know full well, there was an emergency situation at the time, and because some of the families involved in the games had far more important things on their minds, the games were deferred. We wish them well, and will continue to do so until this huge problem is resolved. Good luck guys and gals and families.

Juniors have not resumed as yet, but we give our best wishes to our State representatives in Sydney, Anthony Carroll, Jordy Grose, and Kane Razis.

PS - is no-walker really a word??

ROUND 13

Divisions One and Two travelled north to the Northern District's home ground, with their impressive new clubroom facility on display. We had a slight scare thrown through the camp when Gary Owens came down with a back complaint, and our pitching roster was thrown into disarray. However, we were able to overcome this inconvenience and came away with two mercy rule victories.

DIVISION ONE - Game one. Defeated Nth. Districts 12-0. Mercyed in five.

The pitching reshuffle saw Jackson Lodge take the mound for this game. We began with two in the first after solid hits from Weiny and Dylan. Jed got into the act next dig when he doubled for an RBI and Vinnie put one over for another two. Dylan doubled then Dan swapped places and Vinnie popped another over followed by one of equal length from d/h Wally. It is still in the fourth, and whilst Jacko is painting the edges, short stop is having a blinder picking up assist after assist. Weiny doubled in the next to bring in Jed and another Dylan double got one more. Game was called at 12-0, after Jacko had thrown 56 pitches for 46 strikes, 10 balls, no walks (again) and only two hits. Hits: Dylan Child 3, Jed Morgan, Troy Weinert, Vinnie Fayard (2HR), Chris Doyle 2, Dan Turner & Damian Wall (HR) 1.

DIVISION ONE - Game two. Defeated Nth. Districts 17-4. Mercyed in seven.

Harro was the pitcher in this one, and narrowly escaped injury when he had to hit the deck to avoid a Dylan Child thunderbolt when he successfully picked off a runner at second. In fact, the Reds' first three outs were pick offs. We got one run in the first, and in the second Henty homered and was followed the very next pitch by a Wally solo bomb. Doyley singled and came home on a Brodie hit, and we were given a let off after a fielding mix-up which got us one more. Then a bloke in a red top smoked one to give them two, but Brodie put one out for two more, Dylan doubled and so did Dan for another couple, a nice line drive by Doyley and a three bagger by Brodie and we were still scoring. When Dan hit his homer to bring Vinnie in, it was 17-2, so we relaxed in the bottom of the seventh by putting Jacko at centre-field, Newby left, Vic at third, Rhys at first. Good idea?? They got two. Never give a - well, you know the saying. Fantastic two wins - you can't do a lot more than that. Hits: James Henty (HR), Brodie Wyatt (HR) 3, Troy Weinert, Dylan Child, Chris Doyle, Dan Turner (HR) 2, Vinnie Fayard, Damian Wall (HR) 1.

DIVISION TWO. Drew Nth. Districts 7-7.

Strange game - Newby tripled on the second pitch of the game, but was left out there, and we did the same in the next inning. North got in front with a home run and were five up in the fifth, and our boys woke up and scored seven in the one dig and looked ready to take the bikkies, until the other mob got a home run in the last with one on to tie the ball game. Thanks to the two old stagers who did a great job on the mound, namely Benny Murton and Telmo Esperanto-Santo, who didn't get a break all day, no thanks to a perplexing performance from the middle.

ROUND 14

The week was supposed to kick off on Tuesday evening with a twilight game in Div Two to decide top spot between us and Port Adelaide. The rain put paid to that, and despite the best efforts of the ground crew - even to the extent of setting fire to first base - the game unfortunately could not go ahead. I thought Brodie Wyatt had scorched his way around first when I saw the flames. We had been looking forward to this one.

DIVISION ONE - V GLENELG WIN 4-1 Vinnie started the ball rolling, when true to recent form, he put one over the left field fence in the first dig off their import pitcher to start the scoring. Then in the 2nd, three hits from Gary, Dan and Brodie scored two more and we were on our way, with Jackson Lodge keeping them quiet, and also Dylan behind the plate, who threw out a sleepy base runner at second with a blinding throw. He just shook his head and sheepishly trudged off. In the end, it was a comprehensive victory, with the only run by the opposition the result of some contentious decisions towards the end. Vinnie popped another over just for good measure, and the game belonged to him and Jacko, who went the distance. No mean feat against quality opposition. Hits : Dan Turner, Brodie Wyatt 3, Vinnie Fayard (2H/R) 2, Gary Owen, James Henty 1. Next fixture is a home twilight against Henley & Grange this Tuesday 6.15pm 20/2/15.

DIVISION TWO - V GLENELG WIN 5-1

Good win against a finals contender, but there was a case of de ja vu when Newby stood on third in the first dig and was not advanced by the guys behind him. Two weeks in a row. We kept leaving runners on, until a Troy Nicholson double brought a couple home, and he floundered home himself from a Troy Harrison hit. Ate a bit of Glenelg turf I reckon. TBU Troy Harrison pitched a great nine innings, and when Wally got Kuhna home, we wrapped up a finals consolidating win. Hits : Nick Kuhn 3, (don't you just love these Riverland boys?) Damian Wall 2, Adam Newbound, Troy Nicholson, Troy Harrison 1.

DIVISION THREE - The guys are suffering from post Christmas blues, and have lost a couple in a row. The first is understandable, as they played a twilight against Henley & Grange, a Div Three team that would have absolutely no problem with mercying their Div One side. However, they played a poor game against Glenelg with errors creeping in to give them no chance. Plenty of time before finals to get their house in order.

Not sure of the result of the Div Four game, but I know that Div Six went down fighting, and I mean no reference to the Bite game on Friday night - our guys are much too placid for that kind of stuff.

ROUND 15

Only the one game for the Senators this week, that being a Division One twilight game at home on Tuesday evening against Henley and Grange. A scheduled "Super Saturday" round featuring games between last year's top six finalists meant that there was no other games played in any other grade or junior competition.

I say only one game was played, but it wasn't a game - it was a shame. We defeated the hapless Rams in short order 18-2 without breaking into a sweat. The guys ran so many doubles and triples that no-one could question their fitness, and Gary Owens tested out his back, and came through with flying colours on the mound. Our second inning seemed to last an eternity, as we piled on run after run. Nine to be precise. In the end, most of our bench got a run, and a couple of youngies got a taste. We never got under any pressure whatsoever, and a normal training night would have been of more benefit with finals looming.

Hits: Troy Weinert (two doubles and a single) 3, Vinnie Fayard, Dylan Child 2, Jed Morgan, Gary Owens, Dan Turner, Brodie Wyatt 1. Surprisingly, no home runs. I wrote in my notes during the game OMG. Says it all really.

This weekend we hit the road to Payneham to play East Torrens on Sunday at 3.00pm, and then on Tuesday at home at 6.15 we play host to Kensington, in what should be a humdinger .

ROUND 16

DIVISION ONE - Lost to East Torrens 4-5.

A great opportunity to further consolidate our top four position was lost today when we continually went the big ball route, and were beaten by the opposition who played the gusty conditions to a treat. Babe Ruth couldn't possibly put one over into the wind today, but we kept bashing away. We looked really good early when Weiny belted a nice double only to be caught stealing. Then in the second, Gary walked, stole second, stole third and came home on a Dan sac fly, and then Willy tripled, only to be left on. Fast forward to the fourth and Willy got Gary home with a sac fly that was caught by a bee's whisker on the fence - biggest hit of the day. The Redsox scored a couple to get their noses in front, and when Willie scored and a Vinnie triple scored another, it was 4-4. East Torrens got one more and we were unable to claw them back. Gary pitched a solid game for six innings, then Troy Harrison did his bit and Josh Tols closed. Hits: Wilson Lee 3, Troy Weinert, Brodie Wyatt 2, Vinnie Fayard, Dylan Child, Gary Owens, Dan Turner 1.

DIVISION TWO

Two games this week, firstly a twilight against Henley & Grange at home resulting in an 8-1 victory, in which some exceptional defence was seen, with Troy Nicholson and Chris Doyle featuring. Nathan Nicholson was in charge, only allowing a consolation run at the death. Hits: Jed Morgan, Rhys Owen, Chris Doyle, Vic Bentvelzen 2, Damian Wall, Wade Moore 1.

The second game was against East Torrens, and we came home winning 6-5, in a game that we really never looked like losing, but credit to the opposition, they never gave up. Early on, Whippet was hitting, Rhys was hitting, Doyley was hitting, they were all hitting, and Nathan was keeping them quiet. Then the bats dried up for a while, and after the Sox had a productive inning the scores were getting close. Jordy Gross popped onto the mound and finished them off in fine style to ensure that we remain on top of the table. Hits: Damian Wall 3, Jed Morgan, Wade Moore 2, Adam Newbound, Chris Doyle, Rhys Owen, Troy Nicholson 1.

DIV 3 - Magnificent victory over top team Henley & Grange 13-3 to almost make sure of second spot. Div four had a draw 4-4 against the same club- real good stuff. Div 1 fourth (at the moment), Div 2 first, Div 3 second, under 19 first. Sound good ??

Under 19 - Just going on about their business in their usual professional fashion, beating last years premiers 8-6. Hits : Jesse Toepfer, Rhys Owen, Liam Mullen, Brayden Marchioro 1.

ROUND 17

DIVISION ONE - Twilight v Kensington -- lost 0-2.

It's hard enough at the best of times to knock off powerhouse Kensington, but to give them an excuse to get out of a game early makes it harder again. A sprinkler at deep left field came on at an interesting time, with the Cards leading 2-0 with two out in the top of the sixth. A hastily positioned witches hat appeared to do the trick, but play was deemed too dangerous and the game was called. Earlier, Kensi got a run in each of their first two innings before Jacko held them in check, and the boys kept hitting but couldn't bring anyone home. At the moment, we boast the least runs scored against in the comp, combined with the second most runs for, giving us the best runs percentage. Hits in this game : Dylan Child 2, Troy Weinert, Vinnie Fayard, Dan Turner 1.

DIVISION ONE - v Southern Districts -- WON 11-1. (Mercy)

The Hawks got a quickie in the first with a solo home run, and our batters took a couple of innings to find their form, but when they did, using the short game to perfection, they were unstoppable. After Brodie got three home with a hit to right field and then came home himself it was suddenly 7-1. The score moved on to 10-1, and Gary Owen was given a breather from the mound by Troy Harrison, who closed out nicely. A Dan Turner hit made it 11-1, and the Ump said that's enough. Hits : Dan Turner, Vinnie Fayard 4, Jed Morgan, Dylan Child 3, and one each to Troy Weinert, James Henty, Chris Doyle, Brodie Wyatt and Troy Harrison.

DIVISION TWO - v Southern Districts -- WON 3-0.

Nice win to keep top spot, with Jordy Grose going six and looking in commanding form. The defence was slick, with nice double plays featuring Jesse Toepfer and Troy Nicholson, and offensively the bats were good, Wally and Wade posting doubles. Hits : Jesse Toepfer, Damian Wall, Wade Moore 2, Jed Morgan, Craig Abbott, Rhys Owen 1.

DIV THREE - Defeated Southern Districts 3-2 after leading all day and giving themselves a scare at the end.

DIV FOUR - Defeated Southern Districts 7-3 and DIV SIX got up in Garth Lodge's 700th game for the Club over Glenelg 8-3.

Under 19 - Defeated Glenelg 10-2 to maintain their unbeaten run and further consolidate top spot. Jordy Grose and Joe Papps shared the pitching, and hits came from : Rhys Owen, Liam Mullen 2, Jesse Toepfer, Brayden Marchioro, Manny Hirschausen and Joe Papps 1.

Under 17 - Lost to Southern Districts 5-15 In a game that was far more competitive than the scores indicated, against a top four side. A fine bunch of kids and parents (and Coaches)

Under 15 - Lost to West Torrens 0-13. Bad luck guys.

Under 13 and Under 11 - Lost to Southern Districts and Henley & Grange respectively.

ROUND 18

Division One and Division Two were the only teams to compete this weekend, in shortened games, due to the extreme heat forecast for the weekend. All junior games and lower grades were cancelled, and will not be made up. However, there was a contest played on Tuesday evening at Port Adelaide involving our Div One side.

DIVISION ONE V Port Adelaide 10.2.15 Draw 3-3.

This game got off at a good clip, and we scored in the second when Willy hit to get Vinnie home and then Vinnie put one over the left-field corner to make it 2-0 in the third. A couple of nice bunts by Dan was helping to put runners on base, and we kept the lead for a while, until Jacko uncharacteristically gave up a few walks, but he steadied. Big Dushan took to the mound for the Magpies - they were certainly going all out - and he put the quieteners on for a while. Port managed to get their noses in front 3-2 in the sixth, but another Vinnie hit got us the equaliser, and big Troy Harrison and then Willie Lee put the lid on it as we wound up with a 3-3 draw, the game called after seven due to the light. Hits : Vinnie Fayard, Troy Weinert, Dylan Child 2, Wilson Lee, Gary Owens, Jed Morgan 1.

DIVISION ONE V Adelaide 15.2.15 WIN 3-2.

The win keeps us locked in fourth spot on the ladder, and with a twilight to come against Henley & Grange on Tuesday evening at home, followed by a double header also at home next Sunday against Sturt, we are confidently just going about our business. However, Adelaide didn't read the script today, and played well enough to give us a scare. Eleven strike-outs by our batters was poor and if it wasn't for two telling hits by Vinnie and a Benny bomb, we could have been looking ordinary. Vinnie reached second off the first pitch of the day, but was not advanced, and after Gary had a 2rbi hit in the second, nothing much happened until Benny woke us up by putting one onto the trotting track in the fifth to put us up 3-1. In the bottom of the last, the Angels got one and it took the control of Willie to snuff them out. Josh Tols was terrific in the blustery conditions, and then Gary and Willy finished them off. Phew - a win. Hits : Vinnie Fayard 2, Ben Lodge (HR), Dan Turner, Gary Owens.1.

DIVISION TWO V Adelaide 15.2.15 Loss 2-4.

What a disappointment from a top of the table outfit. Lots of talk about what happened last night at the Ramsgate on the bench - leave it till after the game. Nathan Nicholson got the ball rolling with a triple which brought in a run, and then came home on a Wade hit. Then we witnessed some very ordinary base running and error after error in the field. This team practices with precision, but left it on the track today. They will bounce back, however, they are a quality unit. Dropped to second on the ladder now, and have to fight even harder for a home final. Hits : Wade Moore 2, Adam Newbound, Damian Wall, James Henty, Nathan Nicholson, Troy Nicholson 1. Troy Harrison pitched, relieved by Jordy Grose - not your fault guys.

UNDER 19 - Lost to a very good Southern Districts outfit on Wednesday evening, but still maintain top spot. A trip to East Torrens next Wednesday evening, and we are hoping that they will bring home the bikkies.

ROUND 19

With the weather mob telling us it was going to be 40 degrees over the weekend, the powers that be, in conjunction with the Heat Policy, cancelled all junior games and grades below Division One. The proposed Division One double header was sensibly changed to a seven innings game played at 11.00am, and the second game put back to a twilight game on Tuesday evening 24th Feb at 6.15. A great initiative, as the game was played in reasonable conditions, and everyone remained safe and well. I missed out on my regular golf game on the Saturday, because of the heat, but that will make me even more determined to fleece a couple of bucks off my playing partners next week. I wanted to play, but the others caved in. (my story)

Division One - Twilight v Henley & Grange Tuesday Feb 17 - WON 6-1.

A couple of last minute niggles to Dylan Child and Jed Morgan made us shuffle the line-up a bit, but we still had a pretty good looking side to take on the Rams. Willy strode to the mound, and in an impressive display with fourteen strike-outs (7 innings), did not give them a sniff until a late consolation run spoiled his great game to a certain extent. In the batting box we looked pretty good with most of the boys putting bat on ball, and in a productive second innings we piled on four. Hits : Vinnie Fayard, Gary Owen 2, Troy Weinert, Wilson Lee, James Henty, Chris Doyle, Brodie Wyatt 1.

Division One - V Sturt Sunday Feb 22 - WON 2-0.

This was the "heat" game, and it was good to see that everybody was hydrated well, and "slip, slop, slap" was the order of the day. Seven innings games can be a bit of a risky affair and absolutely nothing happened batting wise in both batting boxes for the first four digs. Jacko was in supreme command from our point of view, and his counterpart was playing his part as well. Then in the fifth, Vinnie hit to score Gary, and Dylan smashed one to bring Jed home. These games are risky, as I said, because two runs is not comfortable, and it was still anyone's game until the last. We prevailed however, as we should at this time of the season, trying to consolidate for finals. We take on Sturt again on Tuesday, hopefully a win, but with a sterner test next Sunday away against Goodwood. The win slid us up to third, ahead of Port Adelaide, and just below Kensington and West Torrens. The boys still maintain the record of the least runs against for the season, and the second most runs scored. Hits : Gary Owens 2, Vinnie Fayard, Dan Turner, Dylan Child 1. Jackson Lodge, deservedly, was given MVP in the after game presentations.

Under 19 - v East Torrens Wednesday Feb 18 - WON 5-0.

Because the boys can only pitch a couple of innings each in this competition, we are fortunate enough to have a few beauties. Jordy Grose had had commitments in higher grades on the weekend prior, so was not in contention, but Jo Papps, Liam Mullen and Troy Nicholson stepped up and got the job done in fine style.

Hits : Jesse Toepfer, Jordy Grose, Troy Nicholson, Manny Hirschausen. Joe Papps, Jesse Loechel 1. Poor old Jesse Toepfer will not be able to grip a bat, or anything else for that matter, for a few weeks after a miss timed prank at the Croquet Club. Stick to baseball, croquet seems much more dangerous.

ROUND 20

DIVISION ONE - Twilight v Sturt Feb 24. WON 10-0 (Mercy rule)

As is his habit, Vinnie doubled in the first and came home on a Dan hit, and scored again an innings or two later, brought home by Lodgy. Josh was really looking the goods on the mound and not allowing the Sturt boys any leeway at all. So it was 4-0 up going in to the bottom of the fifth when the floodgates opened with hit after hit and six runs resulted. The ump called time which gave us a nice win. Hits : Vinnie Fayard, Dan Turner, Gary Owens 2, Dylan Child, Ben Lodge, Wilson Lee, Jed Morgan 1.

DIVISION ONE v Goodwood May 1. Lost 0-1.

Fantastic pitchers duel, with the young colt, Jacko, taking on the experience and guile of the veteran Fidge. Honours even. No runs for the first six digs, with both sides retiring in quick succession, highlighted by a couple of trademark pick-offs by Jacko - brilliant. Eight hits for the day (four for each team) shows how much the defences were on top. Vinnie excelled with great put-outs, as did big Steph for the Indians. The game was so tight, that it took a rare wild pitch to break the deadlock, with Goodwood having a runner on third for the first time in the game. Jacko had departed by this stage, the seventh, to a nice ovation from an appreciative crowd. We'll get 'em next time. Hits : Dan Turner 2, Vinnie Fayard, Wilson Lee 1. Great game - glad I saw it.

DIVISION TWO v Goodwood May 1. WON 11-3.

Damian Wall scored in the first, then Nathan Nicholson did the same followed by Doyley on a passed ball and it was 3-0 in the blink of an eye. We picked up another four in the second, helped by a Wallie double, and added one more in the third. Troy Harrison replaced NN in the fourth without any problems, and we cruised to a nice 11-3 victory. Now for finals, which kick off next Saturday. Hits : Adam Newbound 4, Chris Doyle 3, Damian Wall, Troy Nicholson 2, Nathan Nicholson, Craig Abbott, Wade Moore 1.

DIVISION THREE - Defeated a very chirpy Goodwood 7-6. Finals next week - go get 'em.

DIVISION FOUR - Lost to Goodwood 7-12 and out of the finals race. Good season though. Congratulations Jack Spruzen - 400 games.

DIVISION SIX - Won on a forfeit. No finals here either, next year boys.

UNDER 19 - Lost to West Torrens 4-7 but retained top spot and a home final on Wednesday evening. Come along and support the fellows, and have a meal at the same time. Hits in this game ; Jordy Grose 2, Troy Nicholson, Wade Moore, Jesse Loechel 1. Jordy Grose and Troy Nicholson shared the pitching.

UNDER 17 - Lost to Goodwood 7-8 in a real nail-biter. It went down to the final run-down. Bad luck not to be participating in finals, as this team, thanks in no small part to our Mildura friends, have a bundle of talent, and are well coached.

UNDER 15 - Lost their last game, but are showing definite improvement.

UNDER 13 & UNDER 11 - Both lost their season ending games, but had a ball during the season.

ROUND 21

UNDER 19 Elimination Final v GGCD 4.3.15. Lost 0-5.

The boys from the northern suburbs really came to play, and included some of their Div 1 up and comers. They smashed their way to a five run lead after two, but to their credit, our guys never gave up and fought it out to the end, but failed to get a run on the board. A good year in hindsight, capably coached by Gary Owens.

DIVISION THREE - Qualifying Final v H & Grange, WON 10-9.

In a hostile environment at West Lakes Shore, this gutsy team ground out a particularly satisfying win against the favourites, and now get to keep going deeper into the finals.

DIVISION TWO - Semi v Port Adelaide. WON 3-2.

Big Troy Harrison was on track from the get-go, and not giving the home team a sniff. We scored early when Newby crossed after a dropped outfield catch, and then hit to score Troy Nicholson, who then posted a double to enable Wally to score. Port were in strife and brought Dushan Ruzic to the mound, and they managed to score a couple near the death. Nathan Nicholson took over from TBU, and closed efficiently. Rhys Owen pinged his hammy in the sixth, and will be lucky to front for the rest of the season. Hits : Rhys Owen, Troy Nicholson 2, Adam Newbound, Nathan Nicholson, Damian Wall, James Henty 1.

DIVISION ONE - Double Header v Southern Districts - last Minor Round games.

Game one - WON 10-0 (mercy rule)

We shot to an early lead when Weiny hit to score Benny, and after Dan homered, a little Dylan chopper got Jed home to make it 3-0. Benny got a RBI when he scored Vinnie, and then after a change of pitcher, Willy obviously liked what he saw and put the young guy's first pitch over the fence. Some sloppy D got us a couple more, and when Dylan was dropped on the fence, another two got home. That was all she wrote, with a special mention to a great pitching effort from Willy Lee. Hits : Benny Lodge 4, Dylan Child, Willy Lee (HR) 2, Vinnie Fayard, Dan Turner (HR), Gary Owens, Troy Weinert 1.

Game Two - WON 7-1.

Early runs are good runs, and we scored in both of the first two innings, and with Josh Tols proving to be a handful for the Hawks batters, we were never challenged. They did, however, score their first (and only) run for the day in the fourth, and after a lengthy delay while the finer points of umpiring were discussed by the Blues and the opposition Coach, we powered away to win convincingly. Willy hit one over in exactly the same spot as the earlier game - some would say a one trick pony. Gary Owens got some pitching action when he relieved Josh, and looked the goods. Hits : Jed Morgan 3, Benny Lodge 2, Vinnie Fayard, Dan Turner, Dylan Child, Gary Owens, Troy Weinert, Willy Lee (HR) 1.

Next Saturday (14th) is looming as a day not to be missed at Don Klæbe Field. At 9.00, the Div Three boys attempt to go even further into the finals by taking on Glenelg, then at about noon, Div Two go up against Southern Districts to be followed at 3.00pm by Game one of the Div One Qualifying Final against Glenelg. Games Two and Three (if required) will be held on Sunday. With plenty to eat and drink available, why not make a day of it?

ROUND 22 – FINALS

DIVISION ONE - GAME ONE V Glenelg Lost 3-5.

Off Bite champ Matt Williams, we plundered three runs in the first by virtue of good hits from Dan, Ben and Willie. He tightened up, and not much happened until the fourth when the Bays got a couple, which could have been more except for great D, smart D by Ben, Troy and others. Tolsy relieved Willy, and in a rare event, got whacked for two home runs in an instant and the Bays shot to a two run lead. Just goes to show that two swings of the bat can take a game. Hits : Dan Turner, Dylan Child, Ben Lodge 2, Chris Doyle 1. The loss left a bitter taste in the mouth, so bring on tomorrow and games two and three.

DIVISION ONE - GAME TWO V Glenelg. WON 8-3.

We wanted revenge badly, and after a quiet four innings, we let them in for a couple after a dropped outfield catch, but got our mojo back when Gary homered with a monster to tie it up at 2-2, and then got ahead when Jed kept them busy running up and down the first/second base line and Willy took the opportunity to sneak home. Jacko was his usual unflappable self, going nine, and drying up their hitting, in a fine display. Our bats woke up big time, and Gary got home on a sac bunt and then, in the eighth, skied one over again and we won in a canter. Hits : Dylan Child 3, Vinnie Fayard, Gary Owens (2HR), Wilson Lee, Jed Morgan 2, Dan Turner 1.

DIVISION ONE - GAME THREE V Glenelg. WON 6-4.

And so we come to the decider, to see if we are good enough to advance deeper into the finals. The good sized crowd was in for a treat, as they saw a nail-biting contest, punctuated with one of the most brilliant catches seen on a diamond for years by a super athletic Gary Owens. It was a pearler. And just to get onto the highlights reel, Dylan Child made a great play when he threw out a sleepy base runner at second in a flash of green and gold. We stood at 2-0 when Troy popped one way over the right field fence with two on to make it five. Breathing space. Dan added to his RBI tally by getting Brodie home, but then the same Bay batter as yesterday, off Josh's same curve ball, belted a three run bomb. Game back on. Josh was magnificent however, with eleven strikeouts, and didn't give up anything after that. Doyley relieved but only lasted a couple of batters before the old elbow problem reared its head, and Gary came on for the last two digs, which he handled with aplomb. We were witness to a petulant display by a few Bay boys when they realised their finals chances were kaput, one being ejected. Not our problem. So we now turn our attention to West Torrens next weekend - GO NATS. Hits : Dan Turner 2, Vinnie Fayard, Dylan Child, Ben Lodge, Gary Speckie Owens , Troy Weinert (HR) 1.

DIVISION TWO - V Southern Districts. WON 4-2.

Wow, first inning home run Chris Doyle, a ripper. Must have been the swinging lessons I gave him on the golf course the day before. We got out to a nice lead with their young pitcher struggling, but the old stager, Widdo, took over and applied the brakes. Troy Harro came off in the seventh, and Nathan took over - no problem. Craig Abbott just continued to hit away, but we still had only a two run buffer. This proved to be enough, but it was tight at the end. A fine win, and we secured a home Grand Final next week against Kensington. Hits : Craig Abbott 3, Adam Newbound, Chris Doyle (HR) 1.

DIVISION THREE - V Goodwood. WON 10-3.

Straight to the home Grand Final next week against Glenelg. This game was an absolute beauty, with only six hits coming from our bats, but all at the right time. With the scores close after seven, we exploded and put on seven runs to demoralise Goodwood. The outstanding effort of the day however, was the fantastic pitching of Jordy Grose, fresh from picking up the Tony Harris award the previous evening for most promising junior. He delivered a great game with 93 pitches, 9 strikeouts and no walks. Hits : Nick Kuhn 2, Darren Annear, Phil Hirschausen, Telmo Esprito-Santo, Jye Height 1.

ROUND 23 – FINALS

FINALS FEVER

Saturday, and what a treat we had in store. Div 2 Grand final at home at 10.00 followed immediately by the Div 3 Grand Final and then down the road at West Torrens, the Div 1 preliminary final, game one of three. Well quickly - more to come - we mercied Kensington 14-4 in the first game, knocked off Glenelg 15-5 in another mercy rule in the next and killed off West Torrens 8-1 at Lockleys. An epic day. On the Sunday, Div 1 played West Torrens in game two of our series and came home 12-2 winners in another mercy rule result. Can't do much better than that. The two's and three's celebrated magnificently, as well they might, back at the Club on the Saturday night, but the Div 1 boys have a job to do and played it cool.

DIV ONE - V West Torrens - *Game one* - *WON 8-1.*

Two pitchers - one good, the other great on the day. Willie, with the aid of a superior catcher, took the prize easily, as our bats knocked the Eagles guy out early. We got away to our usual quick start, with Vinnie on, Dylan on and Gary on equalling two runs. We were always threatening, and Vinnie put his first over the top to put us 3-1 up, just as news reached us of our second flag for the day at headquarters. A typical Weiny double made it 4-1, and the runs started flowing, culminating in another two run bomb from Vinnie to close the game at 8-1. Hits: Vinnie Fayard (2HR), Troy Weinert, Brodie Wyatt 2, Dylan Child, Gary Owens 1. Wilson Lee - Three Brownlow votes.

DIV ONE - V West Torrens - *Game two* - *WON 12-2 (Mercy)*

Once again, as in game one, we thought we were going to be in for a fight with two pitchers of note. Well, one anyway, as Jacko proved to be a cut above, and went on to be man of the match, whilst the other fellow just waddled off early. And this was because of sensible, controlled batting, as evidenced by a series of well constructed bunts and a sac fly to put us in the lead followed by a passed ball and a long ball by Benny. They had a different catcher from the day prior, but no difference. Willy hit to score a single, and Dan a huge hit that fell a whisker short made it 5-0. A Roly Fingers double by Dylan, and then Ben, and then Troy, and then Gary saw the runs piling on. West Torrens finally got bat to ball and scored two. Whoa, put the brakes on - and we did. Josh Tols came to the hill after seven superb innings by a not even puffing Jacko, and just didn't even raise a sweat in shutting them down. Another passed ball and a sac fly and a double by Newby which brought in two and it was enough to call a halt to proceedings. Hits: Ben Lodge 3, Gary Owens, Wilson Lee (HR), Jed Morgan 2, Vinnie Fayard, Dan Turner, Dylan Child, Troy Weinert, Brodie Wyatt, Adam Newbound 1. Grand Final next weekend - good luck to all concerned. There is a huge contingent of Senator people that have waited a long time for this. GO NATS!!!

DIV TWO - V Kensington - *WON 14-4 (Mercy)*

We haven't won this one for a while, so it was sweet. We had a great first dig to set the pattern when the Skip got two home with a fine two bagger, and then Wally got Doyley home. We knew the big fella (Harro) was on when he swivelled like a ballerina and picked off at 2nd. Hot move. Kensi's were not to be denied and got four back, but not a lot of hits. Their bench was on fire, but you have to walk the walk, and popping off is just cheap junk. Ask the shortstop. Nat Nicho hit a double and Wade just kept hitting and a walked in run helped as well. Well deserved victory. Congratulations. Every team member got bat to ball. Hits: Chris Doyle, Wade Moore 3, Nathan Nicholson, Vic Bentvelzen, Adam Newbound, Damian Wall, James Henty, Craig Abbott, Troy Nicholson 1.

DIV THREE V Glenelg - *WON 15-5 (Mercy)*

Bang the gongs, stop the traffic, have a Public Holiday ! This is the best news ever. We can all rejoice in the fact that a Div 3 team from the Nats have won a Grand Final for the first time in yonks. Led by those champions Darren Annear and Phil Hirschhausen, ably backed up by Doggy, Benny, Telmo, Dave, and newcomers, Nick, Nick, Jobby, Liam, Jordy, and others. Absolutely fantastic to see such commitment over the years rewarded in the best possible way - a premiership. They started badly in the most important game of the year and got a bit behind, but were pulled out of their problem by the youngster Jordy Grose,

in a match winning performance. Hits: Nick Carroll 4, Nick Kuhn 3, David Lodge, Jobby 2, Darren Annear, Liam Mullen, Telmo Espirito-Santo 1.

GO NATS !!

Round 24 – Division One Grand Final

GAME ONE V Kensington Lost 3-5.

A great game of finals baseball, in which both teams played well. A few things went against us at critical times, but Willy just kept plugging away, recording twelve strike-outs from six and a third innings - a great effort. Nothing much happened for the first three digs, and then we were first on the board when Dylan doubled and Gary hit to bring him home. Two dinky shots over the ridiculously short left-field fence got the Cards in front. Would have been two outs on a normal field, not two runs. Dan Turner hit a real homer, then Benny hit a double to score Dylan, and we were up 3-2 in a tight one. Dylan was denied a RBI when his cracking line drive was brilliantly stopped at third by the Capps medallist, who then popped a legitimate homer over with two on. We had played well enough to win the game, so the thoughts were - bring on tomorrow. Hits : Troy Weinert 3, Dylan Child, Ben Lodge 2, Vinnie Fayard, Dan Turner (HR), Brodie Wyatt 1.

GAME TWO V Kensington Lost 2-3.

Both pitchers were on top early, being Jackson Lodge and Talbot. They scored first with a home run, which was almost caught by a valiant Gary Owens that just about brought down their temporary home run fence. Gary made it to third but to no avail, and shortly after took a blinder in front of the short right-field fence. Troy then smashed a home run and we were 1-2 down top nine, with a good line-up to bat, and we squared it away to go into extra innings. Jacko finally went eleven, a top performance, throwing no walks along the way. Nerves were tingling, and Troy was caught by a guy hanging over the fence, which may have sealed it for us, but next dig, bottom eleven, big Tom Brice came good for the first time in the game and hit a solo home run to take the game and the premiership. Good try fellas, but no cigar this time. Their efforts were appreciated by the large crowd in attendance, who gave them a standing ovation at the end. Hits : Troy Weinert (HR) 2, Vinnie Fayard, Ben Lodge, Wilson Lee 1.

NATS GO GLOBAL - After season moves will see some of our boys spreading themselves around the world. Dooley, Weiny and Willy are off to play in Germany, where Willy will be pitching on Sunday against another ex Senator in Jason Daniels. Brodie will be in Europe holidaying, Vinnie and Gary are going home to the US, and Benny will be playing in an Independent league in America. Every one of them have committed to be back to suit up for the Senators next season.