

ROYALS 2017

Blue Mtns
Baseball

NEWSLETTER #6

That's more like it – everyone plays ball!

So we are under way all proper like- you know how them Yankees do!

New coach – new era – how did the newbie debut?

Well the skies finally opened up long enough to allow us to play our first game. So off we travelled to Fairfield. Unfortunately, only seven of our eleven players could make it.

So massive thanks to Gerard BALKIN for playing two and travelling with the team to Fairfield to act as our 8th player.

Now to the game. The game started with a bang. A lead off no doubt home run to Angus JOHNSON. Possibly his first ever baseball home run. Unfortunately, that was the end of the scoring for that inning.

We end up scoring nine runs through the game. Everyone got at least one hit with Andrew Williams leading the way with three.

Pitching also went well with Andrew Williams and Angus Johnson pitching half a game each.

The one thing that let us down though was the errors and having two outfielders. Not having exact figures there were at least 10 made all around the field which led to many unearned runs. And so many hits dropped in between the two outfielders who did a great job patrolling a large area. Final score being them 14 and us 9. Less errors and one extra player and the game would have been ours.

But first game done. Hopefully a bit of rust shaken off. And only one win away from a 500 record.

Unfortunately, now another weekend off but when were back hopefully we can start with a full nine and out the first win on the board.

Editor's note – Andrew Williams is LJ – sounds like he's never been away.

G grade – as only they know how!

The one that got away, again!

The crew from G3 headed down the hill to sunny Saints territory for a 12:30 bat off. (keep it clean) There were still some absences with Phil "bongo" Sutton yet to make an appearance, Big O and B Murph were late starters and Gerard was putting in a 50 to head off to help out F grade mid-way through. Some season virgins had arrived though to lift the spirits with The Daz and The Beard making a welcomed appearance in the dug out where everyone was eager to get started except for Rhino who had turtle problems of his own with the Saints officials reluctant to open the latrine with any haste. Poor old Rhino was about to make the most of the long grass when the gates were opened and it was show time for all concerned.

Big Ezi was up first getting bat to ball punching it down the middle to be picked up at second and thrown out at first. Gerrard and a few others put a great batting performance on with some good hits getting 1 on the board to have us change ends. On the field a few changes had been made with the G3 officials doing the preseason experimentation still in round 2 due to all the wash outs and lack of training opportunities. The Man Ginge was on the mound, Coach extraordinaire Brodie was cumfy at catcher, Capa was at 1, The Beard was at 2, and Big Ezi at 3. G. Murph was short Gerrard was Left, The Daz was centre and Rhino was Right. It was like last week all over. Improvements had been made on some small errors, but the G3 boys had nothing two fancy, just solid play with basic b/ ball done well. Rhino had a few great hits at bat Kurt was throwing well on the mound, Brodie accompanied by The Beard was vocal and it felt like home. After a few innings we had hit the lead 4-2.

B Murph had come into the game at Short but was now taking his place on the mound. Big O had moved to Left field after mad dash down the mountain, G murph moved to one, Kurt was at 6. Brett was given the instructions to fire them in and we will catch three out for a quick turnaround. Unfortunately the saints came out and had a good stint at bat. They got hold of a few of the B Murph pitches and despite some great fielding again by Big O, a few little errors here and there had the green and white boys 5-4 up. There was 12 min to go and we needed a quick innings to stay in it. Rhino had another solid at bat performance, Big Ezi had a big boundary hit straight to the waiting arms of a Left Fielding Saints player and after a few more attempts from The Daz, G Murph and The Beard, we were out.

Solid effort boys, lots to be learnt, two games down, two games we have given away. We are still to be beaten by an opponent but twice beaten by ourselves.

The Rookie

*

H grade travel to sunny Chapman Gardens and oh the drama!

Ladies, Gentlemen, kids, blokes and others, 2017 is upon us, a year that has us all eating tubs of lard with a spoon as we watch field after field float by to end up on Mt Canobalas along with a large boat filled with animals and a really old guy in robes. ..but what is that ? Small babies weep and Scottish people burst into flame as we blink in wonder at this large glowing thing in the sky and wonder why has the mould on our shoulders died off?! Yes, folks, the Sun returns and so, Baseball returns and even the strange hairy guys

from the top of the mountains turn up for the team! Huzzah! About time too, as last week's game under lights was past their bed-time and no one goes out in Blackheath after dark .. (winter is coming!) In any case, the stupendously attractive Blue Mountains Royals H grade, squelched out onto Chapman Gardens to take on the Evil and devious Mackillop (Editor's note: umm, Mackillop are pretty nice bunch of folk you Grumpy old bastard!) and to teach these low living freaks a lesson! (editor's note: not everyone lives up in your creepy low oxygen villages either, weirdo).

Anyhoo, being the away team we gird our outstanding loins and since he was the most girded, we send the Moonboot to take point. The quite pleasant umpire pleased locally passing teenagers by redefining the strike zone as above the knees to "what-ever!?!? OMG" and we all tried to work out what the hell to swing at. We get some folk on bases and we get some runs in with our Commander-in-Chief leading from the front with some good hits and superb base running. Moonboot takes the mound and Clarkey is behind the plate ready to bite the ankles of the batters and we make a good fist of the next few digs. The Dude was back on first with a stunning new glove and Cannon-Boy Lochie was firing frozen rope from short stop while our magnificently hirsute and gleaming-thighed third baseman (where am I playing next week Stevie?) was all over the ball like a Panda on a marshmallow.



The crowd pauses in eating his kebab to push his eyeballs back in place as it appears Batman's Grand-Dad has taken the field! What new horror is this we cry until we realise 'tis Gandalf-the-Jobbo taking the field with his new heart starter armour! Batman immediately makes his presence felt by using his head instead of his bat and Moonboot follows suite by ignoring using his bat and we spend the next five minutes digging the ball out of his spine. New player Joel swings so hard the pitcher threw the ball into the dugout to avoid being hit into next week, while the base-stealer, Stevie Heil kept the scorers busy!

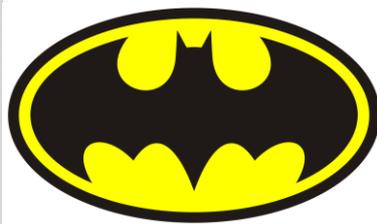
Things are tense as we are neck and neck with the magnificent Royals holding back the rising stench of Mackillop (Editor: consider yourself warned!) and then ... 2nd Base-lady Cate has had enough of digging balls out of her husband (passing Fruedians, stop sniggering you pervs!) and she stares down the pitcher to be walked to first. Then against a good pitch, She-who-knows-no-fear, Cate steels second, steels third and things are tense. Our newest player, Loz is at bat and she puts the look on the pitcher, he fires! Catcher misses and the She-Who-Knows-No Fear is off! Crowd goes mental as She WKNF STEALS HOME! The poncy

J graders next to us to change their gum, take notes and keep rubbing liniment into each other's buttocks and, yes folks that is how it is done! Things are looking good! Except not as good as we thought, as we back up to She-Who-Knows-No-Fear with batting that has more misses' than Henry the Eighth.

Change of pitcher sees women of a certain age being hosed down by the local RFS as our smoking hot left fielder takes the mound (can I play right field next week Steve?) to try to stem the change in the game, but to no avail. The crowd tries rubbing raw onion into his eyeballs to see if it was less painful than watching our fielding and suddenly the umpire's guide dog calls '7 away!' ...From being in the lead, we have now been trousered and the Lady of the Lake, well, Missus jobbo-Gandalf-Batman, looks up from her score-book with her .. 'we're stuffed' look. And, we were with a final score of 14bastards (editor: right! that is it you are out of here!) to the Golden-ones 7 But, Baseball was the winner and the teams both enjoyed a good game. We have the next week or so off, so let's get practicing and Go the Royals!

PS. Thanks very much to the Moonboot clan who joined the Blackheathens at the Kingswood Sports Club to watch the Dragons Monster Manly.

PS2. Consistent with post-game comments from team-members Miguel will be bringing an esky of post-game refreshments to the next away game.]



*

Beware of fake Editors!

*

So – it's Easter and Wil will be climbing into his bunny suit as usual taking over from Bistros Olaf at Softball and all the children will be joyous and happy –

But we must play again and soon – where oh guru where?

F2 go on another road trip to the oldest of foes KELLYVILLE at 2.45!

Good luck with that.

H Westerns and G3 Westies are christening the newly unsodden confines of Royal Lomatia Stadium at 12.30 and 2.45 sequentially.

Does this mean Holly is back – Lordy I hope so.

BTW these games are the week after Easter on the 22nd of April.

*

Training is back on, as of tonight! And next week the 19th as well.

*

UMPIRING MONEY!

Whether we like it or not we need to pay APPOINTED UNPIRES their \$25 fee.

That is per team, so do a quick division of the batting line up and there's your per person amount – simples.

*

FEES!

Thank all you lovely Clubsters who paid their fees up to now. BUT!

Firstly, some of you haven't and really need to as we have covered you in regard to the BBNSW and insurances blah blah blah. You know who you are.

Secondly, there is a couple of players who paid by Direct Debit but didn't put who they were on the transaction. I think I know who you are but could you by return email let me know it was you. The dates the payment were made were on the 8th and 5th of April.

*



By the home games we will have our new winter clothing range available.

Sizes for the littlies are coming! (it's a trap for the grandparents I tell ya)

I know it's the same but the response has been moderate.

Thought Kesha might be a better seller than Stevie Heil and myself last year!

*



Lismore is bouncing back very quickly for those who were worried or for their wives hoping it wasn't – we are still going!

*

BIG BIG well wishes going out to Kesha and Tanya who are off to the World Masters in Auckland later in April. We wish you every success and a safe return.

Wil and I are still cranky at all you blokes who wooed out on a men's team.

Au revoir ladies -may the victories be yours.

*

April 22nd is back to the Royal night! Said Cate.

After the first home games let's all head back to our sponsors hut for a cold beer and a fab Dinner!

The last one was fun so let's do it all again.



AGM

Is coming!

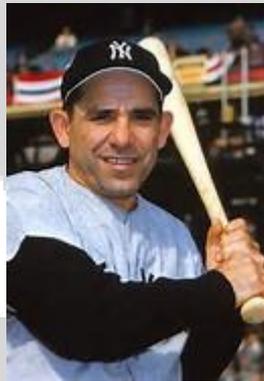
May the 9th is the date -

Springwood Sports Club is the venue – 7.30 the time.

Please come it looks silly if no one turns up.

*

I know you want it so it's the Yogi Berra quote of the week!



“You should always go to other people’s funerals, otherwise they won’t come to yours”

*

Happy Easter, drive slow (DD) and see you at the park!

