

Baseball Newsletter



WINTER 2016 #3

WEEK ONE DONE AND DUSTED OFF.....

Or maybe rusted off for a few of us.

So who played who where and how did you go man?

Unfortunately my trusty cub reporters are as rusty as some of our arms from the off-season and haven't got their game reviews in. So....

In the newly created F2 division and in a rarity our top grade boys played an early home game and I believe they won 4-3. Angus pitched a screamer of a gamer and a star was born.

{Insert AT game review here}

Coming up to G2 this year Mr Brodies men though valiant in effort came away with a loss – to nasty say here.

{Insert Coops game review here}

Having also risen from H grade last year the now G3 West – Drew with Kemps Creek – over to the Master of the Blue Horizon....

With girded loins and windswept, glorious dreamy hair, the Blue Mountains G3 West Royals strode out onto their field of dreams for the opening game of 2016 Winter Metro Baseball Winter season ! Huzzah ! Kemps Creek welcomed our bronzed warriors with ... heat. Holy crap it was hot. As we waded through carpark tarmac we handed out helmets to the outfielders to protect them from dead birds dropping out of the sky while our first aider sent out for crowbars to prise 'protectors' out of jock-straps.

Even so we were ready ! .. and Kemps creek were about as ready as stoned hippy with a machine gun. Unfortunately they had forgotten to bring an umpire, a scorer and while they wandered around in circles trying to work out if their pants were on the right way around, we pointed out that we may need *bases* to play BASEBALL!!...

So, as we needed someone to umpire, the Eye of Sauron, our captain, pointed his crooked finger at our fiercely handsome and magnificently thighed catcher/pitcher/ outfielder (Yo' Steve, what am I doin' this year ?) to be ump.

Play Ball ! then with stunning surprise we suddenly find that the Kemps Creek Stoners have designated us as the home team .. at Kemps Creek, against Kemps Creek ...so while passing teen-ages gave a big 'What-ever', Gandalf the Grey takes the mound and weaves his magic. Even so, Jobbo gets a few knocked around and we do stuff but I can't remember because I was the fking umpire and spent and least two innings working out how the clicker worked. We bat and we don't.. The lone scorer asks 'that was it' ?! Gandalf keeps ripping them in but like the Wicked witch of the west , Clarkey melts in his awesome gear and is pulled by Sauron to be replaced Julie's Squeeze who took to the catching role like a Tasmanian with a tub of lard. Yet Kemps Creeks keep knocking out the runs and somewhere somehow we are 8-0 down.

Breaking from his chrysalis of Peace, the Dudist Lama steps up and cracks one and it is on! Julie cracks one, is off in a dust storm and takes on the infield and wins. Julie's Squeeze crushes everything and we start to claw back. Gandalf steps down and Lochie is up. With Lochie on the mound the game is on and Kemps are on the ropes. Julie and her Squeeze team up to with their progeny to get a double play on a strike and turns the game with both runners out ! The Squeeze plays with Kemps mind by calling 'side away' .. awesome, except it wasn't , but it worked and Kemps were never in it from then on. People hit stuff while the umpire was wondering if he needs to call for the crowbar .. Moonboot is on fire and does stuff to get home. Clarkey manages to peel off his gear to get wood .. and does he use it! Then he is around the bases faster than Clive Palmer can drink a pint of gravy.. ! Runs come in and Kemps are as happy as a dog being urinated on by a donkey. But they have nothing in reply,

Suddenly, through the haze, the Eye of Sauron appears, and then his face, and he points to his watch ; umpire calls time and .. it is a tie ! holy mother of manure! Baseball is the winner and we rush off to watch our 'higher' G grade team being pantsed! ! happy days and see you next week folks !
Get that into you !



For those who came in late.....

Scott Hansen, his name is whispered in some circles, is player who for eternity, it seemed, played both Base and Softball with us. Work forced him to relocate to Coffs but he is with us in spirit and as in last season filed his game report from the North coast.

Well I'm sure you all thought you had escaped my literal exploits but alas you have not.....

The baseball season has started here also, in gods country. (Coffs Harbour) Where buxom blondes are seen walking across the outside of the diamond and all games stop so as no one gets injured due to tripping on their tongues or similar.....

Our game, up here is "B" grade and the game started with a lot of promise, apparently because I wasn't at the start of the game due to work commitments. So half an hour into the game I arrive hot from work, with much fan fare, you know fire works and with wild thing playing loudly from the trusty car radio..... Unfortunately

no one took any interest in my arrival, other than the sea gull who shit on my bonnet when I parked! So I warmed up with a few throws to show the coach I was ready whenever he wanted to put me on. Fifteen minutes of warming up throwing, he yells from the mound let me know when your ready and you can come on to pitch. I'm ready I say haven't you seen me warming up. The Umpire intervenes to say where already into the dig so you can't have any warm ups. Fine I say, let me at em! Stroll to the mound, wild thing playing in my mind, thinking what should I throw? The catcher comes up to me what do you throw mate and I'll call it for you? Hard fast and hopefully straight is all I have..... Fine let it rip the catcher says? Loaded bases, batter in the box, no warm up off the mound I come to the set. Watching the runner on third, I throw, hard and straight straight down the middle. Umpire calls strike, batter is out, that's it we walk off..... We ended up losing the game 10 - 0. So that's enough of that.

Second game, A grade, I play first base in A grade. Again we start the season with much gusto and vigour and a new pitcher who hasn't pitched for fifteen years. He does fairly well for half the game and then we bring on our A grade wild thing. This young fella has a rocket arm, but as in the movie he is a bit like my pitching, all over the place..... The game again was lost 10 - 8, we do have players due back so we are optimistic that we won't lose every game this year as we did last year. There is a lot of potential talent in both teams that the coach and the brains trust of the team think we can harness to a reasonably good two teams this year. B grade has 6 brand new players who have never played before and they all seem to do fairly well today, so all is looking up for the Bellinghen Diggers.

Till next week boys play fair and just, but if you can't, find a way to cheat..... Have fun boys hope the season goes well for use orl, believe it or not I miss you all, and the ribbing we give each other. This team cops it from me though so that sort of makes up for it.

Scott (Wild Thing) Hansen

Can't you smell the baseball in the salty air?

**This week F2 and G2 at home againHmmm pattern developing!
G3 West are away to Monfartville in crime free St. Marys.**

Now team there are two serious matters we need to deal with in no particular order.

UMPIRING.

Unlike previous years Wil is now able to play so that means we have, collectively, take up the task of umpiring games from time to time.

In the next couple of weeks your coaches will talk to you all about it.

We shall run a "workshop", probably Sunday week, for those of you who can take up the challenge to give you some basic skills to start from. It isn't the beast most people are afraid of!

This doesn't mean that you will have to stop playing but rather in the case of a double header such as this weekend a player or players from F2 can do G2 and G2 can do F2. As Johnno and Paul found out at Kemps last week it is a great and rewarding feeling (true cliché').

As a result of much discussion we, the Exec Committee, have decided that the player who does home plate will be paid the \$25 a game that each team is required to pay Umpires generally, that is out of our own pockets. The visiting team won't be required to pay.

P.S. this only applies to games at Lomatia.

If you have any questions or opinions feel free to talk to your coach.

CANTEEN.

As is the story of life - things don't last forever.

Our lady of the Canteen, Holly, has gained full time employment. Now before you panic she is still on deck but only every second week. The dilemma is this - we need folk to man the canteen in all its aging glory on the off days.

Here's what the gurus of stuff have suggested.

Similar to Umpiring we would like to put in place a system (roster?) whereas each team provides a person or persons who are happy to (wo)man the post. So the coaches will again talk to you all about the possibilities.

Holly will continue to keep stock levels up so there will be no need to do any purchasing prior.

Please consider.

~~BUT WAIT~~ – A LAST MINUTE SUBSTITUTION?

COOPER IS OUT AND BISTRO IS IN -#29 COME ON IN!

What difference six months makes. G2 had the Grand Final replay from last year with the St Marys Cardinals travelling up to Lomatia for the first time. They arrived with sheer determination in their eyes after the humiliating defeat at the Grand Final after being undefeated all year. *Chilli* (Chris Liplyn) earned himself opening day duties on the mound after an outstanding year last year. The game started with its normal routine. Chilli held them at a couple of runs then we scored a couple. Seemed like all ways going well. However the recruitment drive of St Marys in the off season was very successful. Their new 3rd base was a magnet for the ball and had flat and fast through to 1st. I think he got a few scalps during the day of the mighty G2 Royals. Our recruitment drive was good as well. We had three new fellas join the team. Its always good to have that fresh enthusiasm injection and was great to see them getting into the action with a couple of hits and some good fielding out on the diamond. The heat of the day seemed to melt a few of us and the game stated to get away from us. Saints had a couple of 7 run innings which put a dent in our dreams of a grand final replay. Both *Murf* (Brett Murphy) and *Wild thing* (Owen Brest) had an innings on the mound to close out the game. Unfortunately we went down 21 to 7 however it's great to see a rivalry brewing with St Marys. They were pretty happy after their victory with a few of them hanging around after the game for a beer and even shared a few insights into the game with our new recruits.

Welcome to the team *New fella* (Matt New), *Mr Softball* (Trent Atkins), *insert nickname here* (Gerrard Balkin) and *TBA* (Ryan Miller). Hopefully we get to do the new team member initiation this week!

A COUPLE OF LAST MINUTE THINGS.....

Uniforms are on the way, but there has been a hiccup with the light blue material.

In case you are unaware all our uniforms are custom made and as such can have such hold ups.

We have a spreadsheet about who has bought what in regards to uniforms and will chase that when we have settled with BBNSW this year.

Wil has the Caps if you have not gotten yours next and they will be at Lomatia on Saturday.

Two more weekends to sign up and pay up.

That's it team –

Don't forget to Stretch and warm up prior

See you at the diamonds.

