

BALLS N' ALL

ST. BERNARDS CRICKET CLUB NEWSLETTER

October 2007

Welcome to 2007/08

We welcome back all fellow Snowdogs to the Home of Cricket for our assault on multiple premierships in season 2007/08. The previous season finished on good notes for the club with the 1ST XI not losing a game after the X-mas break, including two UTT-right wins and narrowly missed on finals due to unfavourable final round results. The 2nd XI won 2 of their last 3, the 3rd's won 2 of 2 and the 4's finished the season winning 4 of the last 5 in an outstanding effort by all. However, finals and premierships is what it is all about and no senior side were able to do that. Since the season officially finished, Ossie became an unprecedented 6-time club champion, and received his 2nd best in Comp. Award. Being the best cricketer we have - Craig was rewarded with the appointment of Captain...congratulations all round to Ossie, let's hope his passion to see the club succeed can see him lead us to a 1st XI premiership! Another significant appointment was made in the off-season with Rex Bennett appointed Club Coach to assist Ossie in taking the entire club and all individuals to the next step! Rex's knowledge and experience of the game of cricket not to mention, life in general has seen him dubbed "The Fossil" Rex will be invaluable for the club, we welcome Rex with open arms and are fully behind him to get us to the premiership glory we all yearn for! In addition to the coaching appointments the club has secured the services of another Pom, by the name of Andrew Parkin-Coates or SOAP as he is to be known as. He has some resemblance to the star soccer player Wayne Rooney and is a 22year old from Yorkshire, a right handed top order bat and right arm medium pacer who has some impressive stats and representative cricket behind him in England as well as an impressive season at North Melbourne District club in Australia several years ago. We welcome the Pom to The Home of Cricket and sure he will fit in nicely at our club both on and off the field!



There have been numerous other new players train at the mighty Snowdogs and we welcome the services back of previous Snowdogs who have had stints away from the club for various reasons.

Away from the on-field appointments, other Snowdog news since last season saw the Pringle XI embark on sunny Coogee Bay for the cricket trip, which saw members of the Snowdogs get friendly with a Bulldog, join gamblers anonymous, lose in a drink-off against a female, new records of 12 sauces on a hot-dog get smashed, a sister club with Randwick CC be formed and some European nips even made an appearance in a fun filled weekend. The club has also decided to renovate the entire wicket table on Oval 1 and perform minor maintenance repairs on Oval 2 for the upcoming season, to produce better cricket wickets to go along side the #1 club facilities in the local area and we are sure the most beautiful man in the world, Fabio will look after them with detail as our new curator.

The number 1 selling newsletter in the galaxy is back and better than ever, with the Balls n All newsletter saddling up for another ground-breaking season at the Snakepit, with monthly issues updating all Snowdogs on the latest on and off-field news, player profiles, Snowdog trivia and Mr X columns; who is refreshed and willing to put Dylan Howard to shame this season!

Should any Snowdogs have any photos, gossip, rumours or need a cheap plug feel free to email us at daff_man@hotmail.com OR rowdy_43@hotmail.com to be part of this colossus!

Let's keep the 07 roll going

Yours in good health and good times...

Daff & Rowdy

From the PRESIDENT'S desk

Another season of cricket has kicked off for the Mighty Snowdogs and what a season it promises to be. All is in order for a great season ahead with the Snowdogs primed for success.

New Club Coach **Rex Bennett** and new 1st XI Captain & Assistant Coach **Craig Osborne** have been planning and working during the pre-season with the playing group on having us fully prepared and ready to tackle the season. We know how passionate Craig is about St Bernard's and his performances over many years justify his reputation as the best player in VTCA North A cricket. Rex brings much welcome experience & coaching expertise to the club.

The club has invested considerable funds in renovating the entire wicket table on Oval 1 with the laying of instant couch grass. This will provide a much better surface for our wickets, with a more grass coverage that will also be more resilient during football in the winter. The club has also undertaken a pre-season seeding and fertilizing of the Oval 2 wicket table for the first time in years to promote better grass growth on that wicket. With the appointment of a new experienced curator, **Fabio Bassi**, who has invested a lot of time with his upkeep of the wicket tables during the pre-season, you will see much better wickets this season which will benefit us all, with better quality cricket!

Welcome to the new players to the club, especially our international recruit, **Andrew Parkin-Coates**. I am sure Andrew will enjoy his time with us both on and off the field and show his cricket ability across the season. A summer of cricket in Australia is certainly preferable to a bleak northern English winter! Also welcome to our other new recruits **Nick Frayne** and **Toby Murphy**, and welcome back to the club after some time away to **Chris Spinella**, **Michael DiNatale**, **Matt Shannon** and **Daniel O'Neill**.

We have begun in fine style with 3 wins from the 3 grades that managed to play one day games in Round 1. Let's continue the good work as we move into 2 day cricket. I am looking forward to a number of occasions this season when we win 4 out of 4 grades...so that you can all get back to the club on Saturday night and enjoy the famous **PRESIDENT'S SHOUT!**

Anthony Jordan
President

CAPTAINS REPORT

It is with great honour and excitement to sit here and write to you as the captain of the St. Bernard's OCCC for season 2007/2008. It is a position that I have always wanted and I look forward to the challenges and good times that go with the job at hand. The year has started well with our pre-season campaign complete and time for the real action to begin. The numbers over the past six weeks have been pleasing with several new members joining the club. Newly club coach Rex Bennett has joined the snowdogs from Premier Cricket club North Melbourne and his influence and experience has already been a tremendous. I would also like to welcome our overseas player Andrew Parkin-Coates who joins us from England. Andrew is a quality player having gained so much experience at the highest level at such a young age. I look forward to seeing him in action this year along with all of the snowdogs this season.

This season will be a successful one as long as we are prepared to do the hard work. We have the talent and the burning desire, we now need to take the next step in our development and start being a consistent finals club in all grades going forward. The one aspect that will bring success to our club is to enjoy playing cricket and enjoy the company you are with. Great clubs create an atmosphere of success through hard work and enjoying the company they are with. This means getting to all training sessions, helping out whenever possible & getting to all social functions throughout the year and being positive in all aspects of the club. Geelong epitomised this when they took out the 2007 Grand Final. The enjoyment, closeness & the want to be successful become a reality with a thumping win in the Grand Final. Great clubs create their own destiny, it doesn't just come to them.

I am looking forward to the challenge ahead and to watch the development of all our players. I hope we all have a successful season and most of all enjoy your time at the 'Home of Cricket' and always remember, 'lets' keep the role going...'

Craig Osborne

Captain

St. Bernard's OCCC 2007/2008

Pre-Season happenings

With Round 1 of the 2007/08 fast approaching under the new double appointment of Craig '6-time' Osborne as captain and Rex 'Fossil' Bennett as the men to lead the Mighty Snowdogs forward, Rex has brought a new look pre-season schedule to the table. Although numbers were (Ian) fairly disappointing early on, the regular trainers relished the addition of a boxing circuit into the training at Fitafex gym. Combined with indoor net sessions at Brooklyn and Saturday morning sessions at the Home of Cricket nets we have had obtained a big head-start on our opposition clubs and those who trained regular deserve to reap the rewards with their performances and selection in the early part of the season.

The club has also had the luxury to have two solid practice games against decent opposition in the build up to the season proper. The first being a rare turf wicket match against ex-snowdog Kirk 'stains' Teasdale's club Moama on the states border. With a 2hr45min bus trip beckoning; Ossie and the convoy got an early start on the road at 8.30am on the morning of the game, with a few tired heads the trip up was long but was lightened by Paddle who categorically stated he wouldn't father the 12th child of a young lady with 11 children to 11 different men who was the subject of a (I feel like *Today Tonight* interview, identifying her Andy Cole would be too big. We had finally arrived to the home of the Moama Magpies to an absolute belter of a cricket wicket; however Cyclone Jaay would make it extremely difficult for those bowlers who would be unlucky enough to bowl into it. Chisel was that first unlucky man as we were sent into the field, with difficult bowling conditions and a road to bat on the bowlers despite inconsistent early on got into their rhythms and restricted the opposition to 121 off the 30 overs, with Paddle taking 2 wickets and the remaining wickets shared around. With just over 4 an over to win, this next session was deemed was extremely important to the side because of the batting woes the club has suffered in previous years. The old Two-Tone brigade partnered up and got us off to a good start with both reaching the mid-20's before retiring and giving Ossie and Mighty a decent hit in the middle. They two relished the time in the middle on turf and also made 20-odd runs each before Ossie burnt Mick the last ball before retiring. Lastly Klacks and Connor were sent in to get some time and guide us to a comfortable victory, with paddle looking very comfortable, although Connor was all at sea to a 2yr old superstar from Moama who bamboozled Connor with a turning ball that pitched on middle-off and collected leg stump as the Bulldog shouldered arms, as the boys let him know it for the rest of the trip. In the end Klacks and new recruit Frayney (LOG) saw the Snowdogs cruise to 137 and another 2007 victory. The trip home was very buoyant on the winning bus as a few cans were enjoyed as Cruiser-less Craig steered us home, as Garvs was tricked into ending his 6month alcohol ban, Rex was dubbed the Fossil and was duly greeted with a can of 'white death' from the lads and Paddle continued his poor form from the cricket trip, where he was drank under the table by a female...and decided to have Chris Mew after returning from Moama after 2 Bourbons, blaming the sausages and the bus ride as the primary cause! Obviously the Harden up the F#! Up Tour didn't have the desired results on Klacks!

*****NEW LOOK SNOWDOG WEBSITE*****

The mighty Snowdog website has underwent a transformation over the off-season, thanks to Kev O'Connell, should you have any legal material to put on the site or are yet to complete your website player profile, please email to sboccc@optusnet.com.au The new site is full of all the club's premiership teams as well as the club greats who top the most games played, runs, wickets and partnerships of the 40-season history of the Snowdogs. You can also catch-up with all the latest information going on around the club with upcoming events, news, on-field senior and junior results, social functions, competition information, major sponsor details, team selections and much, much more, which will be updated regularly throughout the season...we suggest to add www.stbernardsoccc.com to your favourites NOW!

BALL'S N ALL AWARD

The Mark "Phaze" Davis memorial trophy is a distinguished award that the editors of the Balls n All vote on throughout the year on the best on field Snowdog player across all grades. A 3-2-1 vote system is given in each Snowdog XI team in every match played throughout the season and the MVP of the club is decided.

SOCIAL WRAP UP

The 2006/07 off-field social functions were down on previous years due to the younger group of players finishing VCE, which affected the social attendances and was disappointing from the committee level. However, with the new season upon us there doesn't seem to be any excuses why the same should happen again and all players are expected to make a HUGE effort to attend the majority of the club functions especially the major functions, of which there are only 2-3 for the entire season. After all, each player is part of the club and the CLUB can't exist with a diminishing social aspect. Besides the main functions that will be outlined later the Thursday Selection nights is a key area the club wish to improve on. Every player is expected to be at training fit or injured and the same goes for selection nights, while selection is going on, dinner is always on and numerous activities and raffles are on while we wait for the all important teams, don't assume you will be playing in a certain team this year as Rex has brought a fresh face to the club and the Thursday night selection environment must change accordingly! Even if you cant make it to training til late the bar will be open each Thursday so get down to catch up with your team-mates!

The main social functions for the cricket season of 2007-08 include the following:

1. Monday 5th November 2007 = Melbourne Cup Eve POKER TOURNAMENT!

- A new function to the club this season, with the public holiday the next day for the Cup, this is a must attend function for players who love poker and any mates who are keen for a game. A structured tournament will take place with strict rules to be followed and announced closer to the date. More details will come out via the website and email closer to the date but lock the date into your diary now and let all your mates know who may be interested!

2. Sunday 9th December 2007 - Annual Snowdog Golf Day

- After a season in the wilderness this cracker of a day is a must for all golfers and even golfing hacks for that matter. \$50 will get you the all inclusive package of the round of 18-holes at a course TBA, the bus ride there and back to the club, beers and BBQ. All players, supporters and friends are welcome to come along, stay tuned for more details.

ESSENDON MAZDA

169 Keilor Road Essendon Tel 93742222

www.essendonmazda.com.au

3. Saturday January 19th 2008 - St Bernard's CC Trivia Night

- The Trivia night is a blockbuster on the annual Snowdog Social calendar and is always a well attended function, this season we have shifted its date to the second half of the season due to the popularity of the night. The trivia will again be run by the kings, *Trivia Knights* who have successfully ran the evenings in the past. It promises to be full of fun so lock the date in now, get a table or two together and test your wits against the best of the Snowdog brains!

4. Sunday January 27th 2008 - Annual Cricket Club vs. Footy Club Twenty/20

- An absolute must attend day is the traditional Australia day weekend 20/20 match, which was a MASSIVE hit last season and is back and even bigger this time around with the Australia Day Public Holiday on the Monday in 2008. The match will start in the mid afternoon with entertainment and drinks to continue well into the night! This is a huge event for the club and would require full player support, attendance and promotion from now until that day!

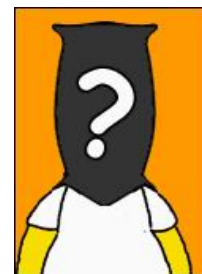
5. Saturday February 23rd 2008 - Inaugural Cricket Club Players Ball

- The social committee has introduced a new social function for the 2007/08 season and again will require the full support of all players, parents, partners, supporters etc of the club to make it a successful night. The night will be held on the Saturday night of the last home and away game of the season at an external reception venue, with a sit down dinner and drinks package to be included. The function will incorporate all parts of the St Bernard's Cricket Club including the junior, Senior, Past Players, supporters and friends. Again lock this date in to your calendar for 2008, plenty of time has been given to book this date in and start getting the word around to all interested!

EDITORIAL by MR X

As this is my first editorial for 07/08 I'll be short and focus my attention on 2 points effecting the broader Snowdog community:

a) That the Committee has turned to 'Diamond' Joe Quimby like tactics by bringing in Rex Banner to try and catch me. **Three words for you - 'No you won't!! hehehehe'**



b) The tremendous start to the season - about time we stood up Snowdogs, take no prisoners in 07/08 and it appears some players have taken my advice and grabbed that slab of the 'Harden the F*&K Up' in the off season. Keep listening to me kids and you'll be ok!!

JUNIOR REPORT

The senior and junior sections of the club have been somewhat segregated in the past, however this will now be history as a closer link between the two areas of the cricket club will work more closely and support each other on an ongoing basis for this season and many more to come, in order to make the St Bernard's Cricket Club as a whole, a powerhouse in local cricket!

2006/07 Best Clubman - Duncan Hefter has been appointed as the man to run the junior section of the club to liaise and bridge the association between the senior and junior players and supporters. Duncan will have the assistance of Tony Isaacs, Tony Di Paolo and Mick Overman in the organisation of the 7 junior teams, which features 1x Under 16's, 2x Under 14's, 2x Under 12's and 2 Under 10's team for season 07/08. All senior players will be involved in attending junior training and matches throughout the season to provide education and support for the rising stars and future senior cricketers of our club. The arrival of Club coach Rex Bennett and International

Player Andrew Parkin-Coates will also have regular contact in coaching the junior players for the upcoming season. This requires the full support and co-operation of all members of the club in becoming as one and a powerhouse Cricket club in the future.

NEW SNOWDOG SOCIAL MEMBERSHIP

New to the St Bernard's Cricket Club in 2007/08 will be the introduction of the Snowdog social membership for all non-players of the club including supporters, family, partners and friends of players as well as the past players of the club. Start spreading the word to family, friends, partners etc of this great opportunity in an attempt to grow the supporter base of the mighty Snowdogs on our path to multiple Premiership glory. The \$50 social membership fee gets the social member the following:

- Club Polo top and hat
- Social Membership card
- Discounted alcoholic drinks for the season upon showing social member card

A Membership package will be mailed out to past players, supporters, family and friends highlighting all the functions and fixtures for the season as well as more detailed social membership package information closer to the season. Please mention the package to all family members, non-playing friends, partners etc and email their contact and postal address details to sboccc@optusnet.com.au ASAP to make the most of the season's membership and jump on the Snowdog Bandwagon in 07/08!

COMPETITION UPDATES

Punters Club

Continuing on from previous seasons the horse racing punters club will make its return for the 2007/08 cricket season in a new look format recently unveiled by Dina. This year's competition has been something like 63 participants so some very handy cash prizes for the winner and weekly prizes on offer. Be sure to review your position at www.stbernardsoccc.com/puntersclub.htm

Ashes Dream Team

Nick Serrano (nickserrano83@hotmail.com) will also continue with the cricket dream-team competition that was a big hit last season, which saw 35 people enter with more than half of the entries external people from the club. Let's attempt to beat those numbers again by getting more players involved to give the outsiders a run for their money! This summer promises to be a cracker with the new look Aussie Test team post Warne, McGrath and Langer to take on Sri Lanka and India in the Test series...more information on the scoring, registration and selection of teams will be updated via the website again in the near future, so STAY TUNED and started spreading the word!



ST BERNARDS
Cricket Club
Home of Cricket



Established 1895

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