

Coach

As coach of the club I have quite a few unpleasant tasks to perform. Fortunately, presenting this report for the second year in succession is not one of them. It was my great pleasure and privilege to accept the Luscombe Shield and premierships medallions at the EBKCA presentation night on behalf of the team. As our club was not overly represented at the dinner, many of you would be unaware of the tribute paid to our club by the Association's Executive. Moonee Valley was referred to as "undoubtedly the premier club in the competition, the yardstick for all other clubs; and that our performances on and off the field are always of the highest standards." High praise indeed from people who dish out compliments as frequently as Tex gave out free drinks! This pat on the back for our off the field endeavours will not be news to any of our members. My personal thanks to all of these people who do more than their share of load bearing and allow me to focus solely on the playing side of cricket.

Speaking of load bearing, it seems that it is not just premierships that a club is proficient at producing. I know that a club is always in need of new, young players but guys, this is getting above and beyond the call of duty. Keep it up? I think not!

We do have such a wonderful club and when you sit back to consider it is difficult to identify the specific qualities which make a club so good. What ever it is, we must dedicate ourselves to preserve it. Aspects of loyalty and dedication come to my mind. A loyalty to each other and a dedication to do a job and to do it well. I don't mean only on the field here either of course. To Ray and his committee I would like to offer my thanks and my acknowledgement for their endeavour and their pursuit of excellence as an administrative team. I would also like to thank the many wives and girlfriends (both?) who have become an important part of our club. Their contribution in both support and participation is appreciated by all the players.

Due to the continued success of the First Eleven, the EBKCA has nominated Moonee Valley CC as an entrant in this season's Puma Cup. This will be a series of one day games open to the ten strongest suburban competitions, country leagues, sub district and district clubs. The games are all knockout affairs and I look forward to our first encounter early in November.

Once again, this season has produced some fine individual performances. Jim McKenzie won the EBKCA Bowling Average again in the B Grade. He continues to demonstrate a capacity to force his way into our First Eleven and then perform consistently at the level, if alas, the chance was to present itself. The performances of Mick Harvey and Sandro Capocchi at the top of the order in the ones was really a great highlight for me, as was the emergence of one Robert Lamberti who is generally regarded by all as a little bit too good for this grade of cricket. Rumour has it that Rob may consider a move to the District scene and we wish him well if that is the route he chooses to take. A sincere good luck to you Rob and I hope that you think enough of us to find your way back to the Valley if and when you finish at Essendon. I thank Rob for his efforts as my Assistant Coach during the season.

As captain of a side I ponder what life would be like without Ian Denny. It is difficult to continually think of new plaudits for the man. Suffice to say, he turned it on again for us all last season. The consistency of the fellow is phenomenal. Not many people would describe Ian as a humble man but to all who were present when he accepted his Life Membership would have no doubt as to his opinion of his cricket club. I thank Ian for his role as Chairman of Selectors and I thank God that he plays for us and not against us. To each of the other members of our successful First Eleven I thank you for your support and your contribution to my success as a captain. Each of you has a special place in my heart. I will never forget what you have done for me. I guess that this is what happens when you win premierships? You share the glory and you appreciate what each of us had to go through before we achieved our goal.

To each of the other captains, Shane, Danny, Doug and Jeff, my personal thanks and congratulations on jobs so competently and conscientiously undertaken. The emergence of the Fifth Eleven has been an inspiration to us all and the team showed some real pride and character in their finals appearance. What about Doug McLaggan I hear you say? Well, as you probably know, Dougie has retired to Darwin. I know that talk is cheap, but mark my words. The full extent of the loss of Doug will soon become evident to us all. I wish to convey my own best wishes to Doug and Leonie in their futures. The doors of the Bastick Pavilion will always be open to you.

Finally, cricket by its very nature is a game of statistics. We remember them. We dwell on them. Sometimes we overlook other sources of input, and this is to the detriment of the team, the club and to our spirit. Let me take this opportunity to globally thank all those member who made a contribution to our club this year; to those who made my job, and your job easier; and all those who intend to make a significant contribution in the coming season. As our club forges from strength to strength, let's all strive with one single minded purpose to make certain that all our on-field performances, across all elevens, reflect this strength.

Greg Peters