

*75 and still
swinging!*



*Recollections from
South Perth Baseball Club*

Introduction

1947 – what a year!

Australia was rebuilding after the devastation of World War 2 under the leadership of Prime Minister Ben Chifley. In America, Jackie Robinson was making history as the first African American to play Major League Baseball. His team, the Brooklyn Dodgers was defeated by the New York Yankees 5-3 in the first televised World Series Baseball game.

So much has happened since then. Man walked on the moon, wars in Vietnam and Korea, Woodstock, the introduction of decimal currency, the invention mobile phones, Australia winning silver in baseball at the Olympics...

Throughout it all, South Perth Baseball Club was there. The achievement of our 75th anniversary is a fitting time to reflect, remember, recognise and celebrate.

These are the stories of our club, as told by members of our club, to be shared and enjoyed by everyone who was, is or will be a member of the South Perth Baseball Club family.

The information has been gathered from personal interviews, club memorabilia, baseball paraphernalia, newspaper articles and research. I have been privileged to spend time with some wonderful people who have generously shared their time, memories and stories. A huge thank you to Delores 'Dossie' Dore, Alf 'Alfie' Luetchford, Ted Lewis, Gwen Ettles, Colinette Orton, Nina Menner, John 'Pondo' Bennett, Tony Goadby, Ric Garner, Deb and Rob Chappell, Jason Hewitt, Larry Harder and Rick Gozzi. Special thanks to Ron 'Skeggsy' Skeggs – the best storyteller I ever met.

This collection is just the start- there is so much more of our story to tell. To all those people who have kindly offered to share their stories, but I have not yet had a chance to talk to, thank you for your patience. There is plenty of room for your contribution.

This compilation could not have happened without the support of Tony Goadby and Deb Chappell. Their knowledge, connections, feedback and endless patience has been amazing. My sincere thanks to both of you. Thank you also to Kantili Tiles sponsoring the cost to produce the hard copies of this compilation.

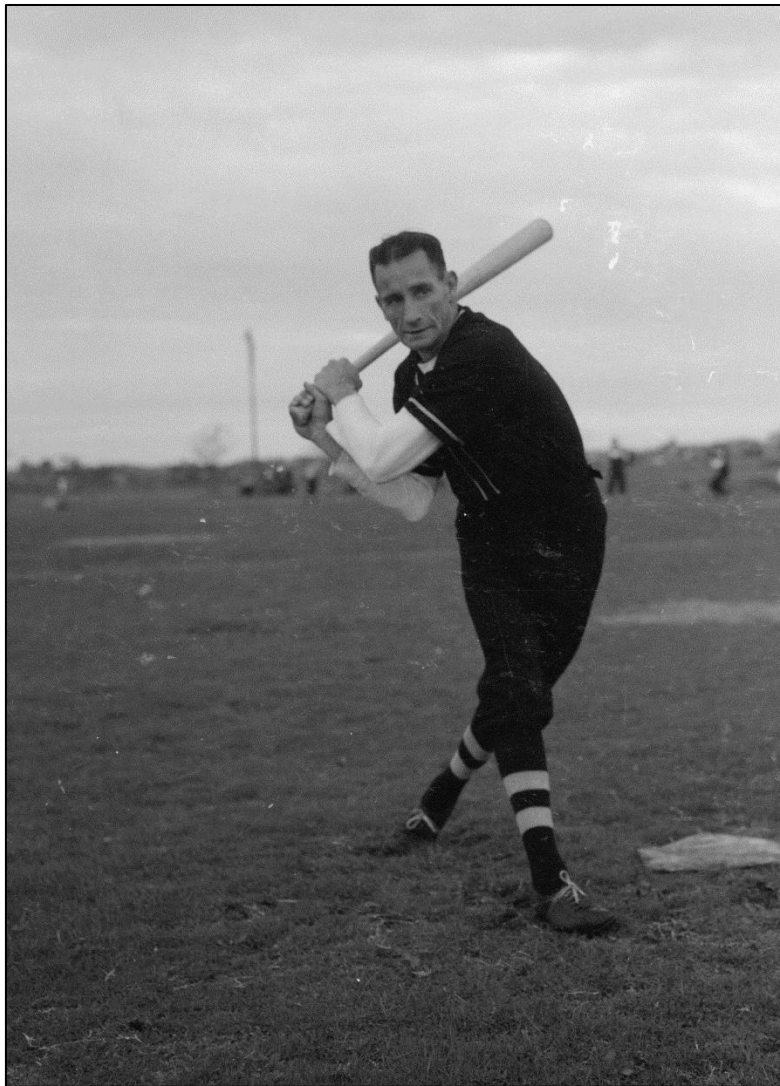
As you read these pages, I hope you smile, perhaps even laugh as you recall people, events and places. Remember that recollections and perspectives vary, and we welcome any additional information or views you would like to share.

Finally, I hope you feel as proud as I do to be a part of something as special as South Perth Baseball Club.

Go US!!

Jody Adams

12th February 2022



Jim Dore – Founder of South Perth Baseball Club

In the Beginning

Baseball began in WA in the mid 1930's and teams were largely sponsored by business houses such as West Australian Newspapers, The Daily News, Bristile clay and tile manufacturers and Chevrolet.

The WA Baseball League was founded in 1935 and the following year, a local resident, Mr A Wells, placed a notice in the West Australian newspaper inviting anyone interested in starting a baseball club at South Perth to attend a meeting, but it appears nothing came from this. (BASEBALL. (1936, November 17). The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), p. 10. Retrieved April 25, 2020, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article40978187>)

The Bristile team was captained by Jim Dore, who was assisted by Jim Gordon. Players included Alan Bell, P Wren, A 'Moggy' McGowan, J Martin, L Warneminde, H Hayes, Les Neck, M Campbell, Gill Eddington, Alf Luetchford and brothers Clarrie and K McDonald. Many of these men went on to become founding members and players at South Perth Baseball Club. The team manager was A Nelthorpe and his wife scored.

Bristile played at Wellington Square in Perth and Ozone Reserve at the bottom of Adelaide Terrace, conveniently behind the Ozone Hotel.

The Bristile B Grade team won the Grand Final in 1938 and it was reported in the West Australian as follows.

"The Grand Final of the West Australian Baseball League's 'B' grade competition was played yesterday on the Perth Esplanade between Bristile and Hawks in the presence of a large crowd. The game was won in a spectacular manner when J. Gordon of Bristile, hit a home run to give his side victory by seven runs to six. Bristile deserved credit for the manner in which it fought back after being five runs in arrears in the early stages of the game. Hawks, however, threw away a fine opportunity of winning the championship in the sixth innings when it made five errors and allowed Bristile to score five runs. Hawks took the lead in its second innings when it scored four runs. Pettit singled through the box. Fahey singles to centre-field and stole second, Pettit taking third on the play. Patterson hit to third base, Pettit just beating the throw home and Patterson taking second and Fahey third. Gibson hit a three-bagger, scoring Fahey and Patterson. Bass was struck out and Treen was out at first, Gibson scoring on the play. Fay was safe at first on the catcher's error and Yardley was out at first to complete the innings.

Both teams scored a single in the fourth innings and Hawks held what appeared to be a winning lead of five runs to one. In its half of the sixth innings Bristile took the lead when, due mainly to errors, it scored five runs. J. Dore beat a throw to first and stole second. Hayes was safe at first on fielder's choice and McGrisken singled to left-field, scoring Dore and Hayes and taking second on the throw-in. McGowan walked and McDonald hit to short stop, McGrisken scoring, while McGowan was out on second base. McDonald stole second and third and scored when the pitcher threw wildly to first base, allowing P. Bell to reach second on the play. Gordon was safe at first on second baseman's error and took second on P. Bell's out at the home plate. Neck reached second on centre-field's error, Gordon scoring. A. Bell was safe at first on fielder's choice, Neck taking third. Neck was out at home plate on Dore's hit to third base.

Hawks tied the score in its ninth innings and an extra innings had to be played. Both teams failed in the tenth and Hawks could not score in its half of the eleventh innings. With one man out, Gordon, for Bristile, hit a home run to centre-field to win the game.” (BASEBALL. (1938, October 10). The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), p. 10. Retrieved May 9, 2020, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article46482279>)

In November that year, the club held a social at the Stirling Club to present trophies and mark the wind up of the season. The event was reported in The West Australian newspaper, and one of the autographed bats mentioned still has pride of place in our clubrooms.

“During the evening the trophies were presented by Mr H. L. Brisbane. J. Dore received the president’s cup for the most consistent player in the ‘B’ grade premiership team and N. Anderson of the ‘C’ grade team was presented with a similar trophy. For ‘splendid team work’ C. McDonald and A. McGowan received cups donated by Mr B. Nelthorpe. J. Gordon was presented with a bat as a trophy donated by Mr Dore for hitting the winning home run and C. Puckett also received an autographed bat from members of the club for sterling work as coach during the season. Members of the club presented Mr B. Nelthorpe (manager) with the bat J. Gordon used to hit the winning home run. It was suitably autographed. Mrs Nelthorpe (scorer) also received a memento of the occasion”. (BASEBALL. (1938, November 10). The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), p. 17. Retrieved May 9, 2020, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article46491183>)

The team was depleted during the Second World War when many players, including Jim Dore, Jim Gordon and the McDonald brothers left to serve their country. These men endured horrific situations. Jim Dore was a POW (Prisoner of War) at the infamous Changi prison and tragically, one of the McDonald brothers was killed.

The Birth of South Perth Baseball Club

Baseball resumed in May 1946 after being in recess during the war. The WA Baseball League elected a new council and office bearers and decided to heavily promote the game through schools and youth organisations to attract new players to the various clubs.

In May 1947 district baseball came in to being. The management of the league determined that all clubs must have a district, and that any new players must play in the district in which they live. Bristile elected to take South Perth as their district. On the 18th April 1947, an inaugural meeting was held at the Mends St Hall to establish the South Perth Baseball Club. (1947 'SPORTS ORGANISATIONS.' , The West Australian (Perth, WA: 1879 - 1954), 16 April, p. 5. , viewed 05 Jan 2018, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article46276796>)

An Annual General Meeting was held on the 8th May, and in June an application was made to the South Perth Roads Board for the club to play at Windsor Park on Sunday afternoons. The Road Board committee recommended that the application be refused because *“all the board’s playing areas were sufficiently used on other days of the week”*. Some on the committee strongly opposed the idea of sport being played on a Sunday, however others believed that Sunday sport would provide opportunities for young people in the area, as it had in other parts of the metropolitan area, and that Windsor Park was the only suitable space in the district. The chairman of the committee was *“surprised, however, that the new club had been formed before it had been ascertained that there would be a ground available. He had been informed most of the players were not local residents but ‘men from north of the river’”*. (1947 'SUNDAY

SPORT', The West Australian (Perth, WA: 1879 - 1954), 27 June, p. 13. (SECOND EDITION.), viewed 05 Jan 2018, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article46321743>)

Jim Dore was integral in establishing the new club and brought many of the Bristile players with him including Alan Bell, Alf Luetchford, Moggy McGowan, Gill Eddington, Les Neck and Clarrie McDonald.

Jim took on the dual role of captain-coach of the new club and initially played second base. Alan Bell was a first baseman and Alf Luetchford became a second baseman after starting in A Reserves. Moggy McGowan was a left fielder. Ron Booth came to South Perth from Midland as a pitcher. Roy Gooch was a catcher for Booth, and they were an excellent combination. Gill Eddington was short stop and catcher.

There was a strong nucleus of experienced players, and the club won both premierships in their first two years of existence. Not only was this due to the capability of the players, but the strong leadership of Jim Dore, an exceptional coach and captain. He was incredibly knowledgeable, and his players would do anything for him. He had been captured by the Japanese and sustained serious injuries during the war but did not allow this experience to negatively affect him.

Their premiership win in their inaugural year was reported in the Western Mail newspaper.

"South Perth's Premiership

Continuing its remarkable run of successes South Perth finished in a blaze of glory when it defeated Perth in the grand final of the West Australian Baseball League's A grade competition at Langley Park on Sunday. In view of South Perth's splendid fight from fourth place it had the sympathy of the large crowd which watched the game and playing with confidence it went on to gain a well-deserved victory by four runs to two. Establishing an early lead, it gained confidence as the game progressed and though Perth tried hard to make up its leeway the South Perth infielders remained cool and steady in the pinch. It was a case of a good even team with every pulling his weight opposed to a team which relied on its champion to see it through. Perth's star players found their task a little beyond them and this coupled with the fact that it had several players very much below form was the explanation of its defeat.

In a very even combination South Perth was best served by Douglas, its American third baseman, who found his best form at the right time and was invaluable in the final matches. Jim Dore, although not as outstanding as usual, played an ideal captain's game and kept his team on the offensive throughout. Gill Eddington was in great form catching and his throwing to bases was one of the highlights of the game. Ron Booth did a splendid job pitching and Alan Bell and Richards, its young first baseman, completed a solid infield.

Perth must be considered an unlucky team because on the season's form it appeared to have the premiership in its keeping but once again went down in the grand final." (1947 'SPORTS DIARY', Western Mail (Perth, WA : 1885 - 1954), 2 October, p. 16. , viewed 09 May 2020, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article52177633>)

Bert Nelthorpe, who held the position of president at Bristile, became the first president of South Perth Baseball Club and was awarded inaugural life membership to the club in recognition of the work he had done at Bristile, including the transition to South Perth.

In 1948 Roy Gooch (senior) became President and Norm Anderson was elected as the inaugural club patron. He was the secretary in the first year and scored for the A grade. Norm

also taught Jim's brother-in-law Ted Lewis how to score. In 1948 Ted became the Honorary Secretary of the club. His role was to take minutes at meetings and "squeeze the membership fees out of the blokes" to pass on to Gill Eddington, the Treasurer. The committee was mainly made up of players. Apart from a few administrators, the club was held together and run by the players.

The club initially had an A grade and C grade team, but soon began to recruit juniors. Jim Dore and his young family moved into a war service home on Mill Point Road, near the corner of Douglas Avenue, in South Perth in 1947. Clydesdale Park was across the road from Jim's house and contained a swing, monkey bars and a cement cricket pitch. The Coode Street ferry would depart from the jetty down behind the park across the river to Barrack Street jetty. One day Jim brought a few bats, balls, bases and gloves to the park and encouraged the local kids to have a go. This was an extremely successful strategy as the kids flocked to him! This is how junior players such as Ron Skeggs became involved.

Eventually the club was permitted to train and play at Windsor Park. There were no clubrooms or facilities at that time. The team had to set up, pack away and transport equipment to and from the ground each week, including bases, catchers gear and back nets, which were primitive; just a flimsy net held down with some ropes. Each player had their own glove and bat. The rugby club played their games on Saturday, so the ground was often 'lumpy' by Sunday. On game day wives wheeling prams with toddlers in tow would come down to the ground and lay out a picnic rug to sit on and watch the game. They enjoyed the outing as much as the players did because it was a great opportunity to socialise. There was a real sense of community between the families.

Ted Lewis's wife Polly worked for Rossiter's Grocers in their shop on Mends St in South Perth. Mrs Rossiter lived in a house at the back of the shop, and when she passed away her son Harold invited Ted and Polly to move in as housing was difficult to find in those days. They accepted the offer, and every Sunday morning Ted would walk down to Windsor Park and help to mark out the diamonds. Jim and a young Ron Skeggs would ride their bikes down to Windsor Park to help mark the diamonds. Jim did not have the luxury of a car. Alf would also help with this. They had a string line which had all the measurements marked to show where the bases and pitcher's plate had to go. The plate was just a strip of canvas – 60 feet and 6 inches from home plate. The paint machine consisted of a small 'bath' filled with paint, three wheels and a handle. The first wheel went through the bath and picked up the paint, transferring it to an 'idler' wheel which transferred it to the wheel running on the ground. It usually took a couple of hours to mark the diamond, but if it was raining the lines did not stay down awfully long!

The team was sponsored by the Windsor Hotel and the players and coaches would often go there for drinks after training on a Friday night. Wives were discouraged from ringing the hotel to check if their husband was still there or had left....they would get a rather non-committal response from the publican who preferred the boys to stay and be good patrons rather than go home to their nearest and dearest.

In the early days, the 'after game' beers were often hosted by Polly and Ted as they had an undercover area at the back of their house and were close to Windsor Park. There was a butcher shop next door, and the butcher generously allowed the boys to store the kegs in his cool room until game day. Rossiter's shop had a gallon licence so Polly could purchase the kegs and hand them to the butcher to be chilled in his cool-room, ready for Sunday.

Ron's mum Gert, known fondly as 'Mrs Skeggs' would also host the team and their families on a Sunday night after the games, organising a keg and a BBQ. This was a great opportunity for the wives to catch up. Mrs Skeggs was very generous and hospitable and always the life of the party. Drinks would also happen at the home of the president Bob O'Rourke and secretary at the time, Bill Gaebler.

1950s

During a game against Perth in May 1950, A Grade player Ron Booth had a leg injury and was unable to pitch. Jim Dore took over and nearly pitched a 'shut out', and the team beat Perth 10 runs to 1. Jim also scored three safe hits, including a 'three-bagger'.

In April 1950, Hector Gibbons, the club secretary, built a device to help improve the skills of the players at the club. It was reported

"MACHINE AGE COMES TO BASEBALL

An ingenious young South Perth baseballer has hit on a plan for making better batters for his club.

He is club secretary Hector Gibbons. His club mates are enthusiastic about a batting machine he has designed and are busily preparing for the coming season. The machine is of simple design. A piece of motor car radiator hose is fitted to a metal base and inside this hose is a piece of smaller diameter which can be regulated like a telescope. The ball is placed in a cup on the top of the outside hose which is then moved up and down to suit the height of the batter. Cost: 15/-. The batter tries to swipe the ball out of the top of the cup. This sounds easy until you try it. Even some of the recognised good South Perth batters found themselves missing by as much as 1 ft. With the fixed ball, however, they can play the same stroke over and over until perfection is reached. This could not be done if they had to rely on a pitcher sending down a ball at the same height and pace several times. Gibbons is a regular reader of magazines on mechanics, and he delights in developing ideas they give him. His batting machine is the result of an idea he got from an American book, and he hopes to improve on this with a gadget which fires out balls like a trench mortar." (SPORT FOLIO (1950, April 19). The Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), p. 23 (HOME). Retrieved May 9, 2020, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article83055170>)

1952 Grand Final

By the end of the 1952 season, the South Perth A Grade team had won four premierships – and they had only been in the competition for six years! Their defeat of Nedlands in the 1952 grand final was reported in The West Australian newspaper.

"A Fielding Lapse By Nedlands

Taking advantage of a sudden fielding lapse by Nedlands, South Perth won the A grade baseball grand final at Langley Park yesterday by five runs to three. The game was watched by a large crowd. South Perth recovered from an almost hopeless position in the seventh innings and, scoring five runs, obtained a match winning lead. Only three batters faced the South Perth pitcher E. Goodwin, in the first innings by Nedlands. C. Puckett, for Nedlands, also started brilliantly striking out the first three South Perth batters. It became apparent early that the two State pitchers would dominate the game.

First Score

In the second frame Nedlands broke through and N. Pratt scored the first run of the game. Pratt hit safely to left field, stole second and advanced to third on R. Featherby's bunt. Bad play by the South Perth first baseman allowed Pratt to get home. Puckett easily held South Perth through to the seventh innings. Then there was a dramatic change in the game as a wild throw by the Nedlands short stop allowed the first batter, A. Luetchford, to reach second and start South Perth on its five run innings. Goodwin's infield hit sent Luetchford to third and the next batter, P. Turner, cleverly picked a walk.

Infield Rattled

A pitcher's baulk allowed Luetchford to score and the Nedlands infield became badly rattled. A. McGowan then reached first on a 'fielder's choice', stole second and scored on G. Eddington's safe hit. This put South Perth in the lead. Two more errors and a safe hit by A. Bell gave South Perth three more runs. Nedlands fought back strongly by scoring a run in each of its next two innings, but South Perth's lead was too great. The pitching of Goodwin and Puckett was of a particularly high standard but the former received better support from his infield."

1952 'A FIELDING LAPSE BY NEDLANDS', The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), 29 September, p. 20. , viewed 01 Jun 2020, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article49055232>

Interesting Characters

In addition to Ozone Reserve, games were played at Rafael Park, Midland and Henderson Park (Wembley), although the majority were at Langley Park. The pump house, which is still there today, was used as a toilet and change-room. There were always big crowds at Langley Park because in addition to supporters, many locals would come to watch the games. One particular character was known as 'Fish and Chips'. He was an elderly European gentleman who would always come to the game with a meal of fish and chips. He would yell out to the batter, 'Hard and low! Hard and low!'. He didn't follow any particular team but just enjoyed watching the games. Sometimes he would also come to Windsor Park.

There was fierce on-field rivalry between Perth and South Perth, and one Perth supporter, Ned Holts, would always yell out things to try to annoy the South Perth players. In one incident he and a South Perth player almost came to blows! At the time, all that protected the spectators from the field was a series of sticks in the ground and a rope. One day a fly ball was hit. The South Perth catcher ran towards the boundary to catch the ball but realised it would be a foul, and accidentally ran into Ned who was sitting near the boundary, knocking him over. The catcher apologised profusely, although a little insincerely!

Misinterpretation of Rules

The following article appeared in the West Australian newspaper on the 8th September 1953.

"Club Claims Ruling Was Unjustified"

South Perth officials will present their case for a replay of the first baseball semi-final when the executive of the W.A. Baseball League meets tonight. South Perth claims that the incorrect application of a rule by an umpire cost it the match against Swan Districts on August 29th, Swan Districts won, 3-1. In the ninth innings, South Perth's captain-coach, Jim Dore, was given out after he had overrun second base by several feet and had then continued to third base. The umpire (J Smith) gave Dore out under the rule which States that a base runner is out when he runs more than 3ft away from a direct line between bases to avoid being tagged. Dore, however, claims that the rule was misinterpreted in that he did not run off the line to avoid being tagged; instead his speed prevented him from stopping within the 3ft limit.

Misinterpretation

Dore said yesterday that, in his opinion, South Perth was not protesting against an umpire's decision (for which there is no redress) but against a misinterpretation of the rule. There was a ground for a protest if an umpire's decision was in violation of the rules he said. The South Perth club has been in touch with the secretary of the Australian Baseball Council (Mr Reg Darling) for advice on the matter. Mr Darling, expressing a private opinion, advised South Perth to go ahead with its protest."

(Club Claims Ruling Was Unjustified (1953, September 8). The West Australian (Perth, WA : 1879 - 1954), p. 12. Retrieved April 25, 2020, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article49231028>)

Amazing Triple Plays

The A Grade team at this time was very skilled, as indicated by a report in the Sunday Times newspaper in 1954. "Coach Jim Dore is sure he has the strongest outfield in the game in Mike Throssell, Alf Luetchford and Glen Orton. These three are all brilliant fielders and between them they cut off a lot of seemingly safe hits." A VISIT BY BASEBALLERS (1954, May 23). Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), p. 3 (COUNTRY EDITION : Sporting Section). Retrieved April 23, 2020, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article59689462>

During one game at Windsor Park an unforgettable triple play was made. Mick Throssell was pitching, and Ron Skeggs was catching. Peter Shaw was first baseman, Alf Luetchford second and Geoff Bennett third. The bases were loaded so runner on third took off as soon as the ball was hit. Mick caught the ball and Ron yelled 'third!' as the runner left the base. Mick was a very astute player and knew exactly what to do so he threw to third to get the runner out. Ron then yelled 'first!' so Geoff threw to Peter and the final out was made.

This brilliant play was repeated when the team played at Langley Park. Graeme Menner threw a pitch and he caught the ball when it was hit straight back to him. Menner threw to third and got the lead runner out. The third baseman threw to first and got the final out, finishing the triple play.

Every Sunday night the scorer rang the West Australian newspaper to give them the score. This was then published in the paper the next day.

Comer Reserve

In the mid- late 1950s the club moved to Comer Reserve on Melville Parade, opposite the Pagoda Ballroom in South Perth. Before the ground could be used, teams had to remove about six pine trees. When asked for ideas about how to fell these trees, resourceful 3rd baseman Peter Turner had an ingenious idea, “snap it off like a carrot!” he exclaimed. One end of a rope was tied near the top of the tree and the other end secured to the back of Eric Goodwin’s old Chevy Ute. Eric revved the engine and started to drive, but the Chevy was no match for the pine tree, in fact the Ute was almost flung into the tree! Eventually the boys had to dig large holes around the base of each tree, cut the roots and then dig out the trees. One narrowly avoided falling on to the croquet club!

Like Windsor Park, there were no change room facilities at the reserve, only toilets. The coach had to do his pre-game talk outside. There were no dug outs or chairs; players just stood on the side of the diamond, often in the rain! During one game against Wembley, it rained for the entire game! The uniforms at that time were made of a flannel type material so they just absorbed the water and became a dead weight for the players. Fielding was often difficult, but the umpires kept the game going. In those days, the local councils tended to provide better facilities for the more recognised sports such as cricket and football. Baseball was initially played in winter and was competing with football which was more popular. One positive aspect of the move to Comer Reserve was that the first permanent back net was installed and stayed up all year, not just during the baseball season.

South Perth and Swans Grand Finals

In 1954 the A reserves team played a grand final against Swans at Ozone Reserve. It was a close game and in the last innings Ron Skeggs got to second and was the tying run. Ted Ettles was up to bat. Keith ‘Spud’ Slater threw a beautiful pitch and Ted hit the ball so hard it went straight over the second baseman’s head but unfortunately landed directly in the glove of the centre fielder, Alfie Bryan. There were no fences, so if the ball had been a few degrees either way it would have been a home run. Ted and Ron would both have made it home and South Perth would have won the prize.

Softball not so soft!

The following article appeared in a South Australian newspaper in April 1954.

“Many sportsmen are inclined to laugh at women’s softball and dismiss it as being something of a ‘hit and giggle’ game. But you can’t include the members of the South Perth men’s baseball club in this category – and with good reason. During a recent season, the men played a game against another male team which was bolstered by the inclusion of State softball player Miss Rona Trotter. Although the South Perth team included A grade baseballers, as well as State and

Australian players, it was unable to score off the woman's pitching, and, in fact, could record only one safe hit. After the game, the players were inclined to agree that women's softball was not such a soft game after all." (SPORTSBRIEFS (1954, April 15). Southern Argus (Port Elliot, SA : 1866 - 1954), p. 3. Retrieved April 25, 2020, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article96909066>)

Night Baseball

In 1954 Oliver Drake-Brockman, secretary of the WA Baseball League, initiated a Night Baseball Competition in WA to provide an 'extra summer sporting diversion'. This had been done successfully in South Australia and Victoria and proved to be immensely popular as baseball had a quick result, and many cricketers could also participate.

After negotiations with the WACA, where the game would be played, it was agreed that six district teams would play a 20-week season on a Wednesday night, each week was a double header. These teams were Fremantle (The Braves), Wembley (The Magpies), West Perth (The Indians), Perth (The Tigers), Southern Districts (The Cubs) and Swan Districts (The Angels). Players from South Perth and Victoria Park formed the Southern Districts Cubs. The nick-name 'Cubbies' is still used at South Perth today. Light poles would be erected, and the game would be broadcast on local Perth radio by Oliver Drake-Brockman. In addition, a public-address system would be used to provide a running commentary of each play, helping spectators who were unfamiliar with the game.

At the time, South Australia and Victoria played night baseball for the Chrysler Cup. Western Australia was invited to join this competition. There was even a suggestion that the Claxton Shield could be abandoned, and all competitive baseball could be played at night! This did not come to fruition. (FLOODLIT BASEBALL AN EXTRA NIGHT SPORT IN SUMMER (1954, August 14). Mirror (Perth, WA : 1921 - 1956), p. 15. Retrieved April 25, 2020, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article75793290>)

The first game of night baseball was held in November 1954 and Jim Dore selected Errol Carter, a South Perth junior player and Snow McFarlane, from Wembley Baseball Club, to play in a curtain raiser game for the night league. Errol made a three-bag hit in this game.

In the 1955/56 season the Southern District Cubs made it through to the preliminary final. The Night Baseball News, produced by the West Australian Baseball League Inc, included the following article in the edition from Wednesday March 14th, 1956.

"Preliminary Final

'Cubs' now to meet 'Tigers'

The Southern District Cubs by their 14-8 defeat by the Fremantle 'Braves' now have the very hard task of beating the Perth 'Tigers' for another crack at the Plymouth Cup and 1955-56 Pennant.

Their defence last Wednesday was rather scratchy in the pitching department, from both Robinson and Goodwin. The latter warmed up somewhat but soon tired under the sultry conditions; he'll need to do better against the strong 'Tiger' batters.

'Cubs' shortstop Alex Finlayson got a couple of hits, but in defence he had a bad night, he'll need to be better for captain-coach Jim Dore tonight or he'll be seat warming.

Glen Orton caught rather well, even if he got hit by a pitched ball and struck by the bat. He should go into the number two spot.

Jack Braithwaite, again steady on first base and dangerous with his batting, is a certainty to be on first base for tonight.

Jim Dore on second base and Ron Reed on third base had a night out – and as they should complete the infield tonight great things are expected of them to notch a win.

Ted Ettles, Andy Meloncelli and Don Kidd as outfielders did extra well, and with the bat were of some result – they had best shine tonight when the ball will be whizzing down from McPherson.

The 'Cubs' nine have been on top to last week and may strike their straps tonight when their best will be the only thing against the 'Tigers'.

Bill Wells, captain-coach for the 'Tigers' is sure to use the same nine which devastated the 'Angels' in March 7th.

They are the one and only 'Bandy' McPherson on the mound and very very capable with the bat. Ron 'Freckles' Thornton with the mask caught McPherson's curved pitching remarkable well last Wednesday and he completes the formidable battery that Wells will use against the 'Cubs'.

Bill Nelligan, Fred Medlen, Gerry Connor at first, second and short stop are the main infielders that are sure with the glove and do get their share of hits.

The outfielders, Bruce Blamer and Kevin Parry, are both up with the batters in averages and move off for the catch at the crack of the ball on the bat.

Both 'Cubs' and 'Tigers' will be at full strength and some top line baseball will be witnessed as this game is the 'in' or 'out' for either side – victory gives them the right to challenge the 'Braves' but down is 'out' in this game tonight, the Preliminary Final for 1955-56."

The Cubs line up was; Don Kidd, Glen Orton, Ron Skeggs, Alf Luetchford, Les Delamotte, Alex Finlayson, N Sisson, Ted Ettles, Andy Meloncelli, E Robertson, Eric Goodwin, Ron Reed, Jim Dore (Capt.-Coach), R Sanderson and Ron Booth.

The following season, 1956-57, the Cubs beat Perth to win the premiership 3 runs to 2. The game was under lights at the WACA and about 8000 people came to watch. The team was;

Pitchers: Graeme Menner
 Bobby Meloncelli
Catcher: Ron Skeggs
First base: John Braithwaite
Second base: Alf Luetchford
Third base: Les Della Motte
Shortstop: Geoff Bennett
Left field: Mick Throssell
Centre field: Ted Ettles

Right field: Andy Melonceli
Bench: Glen Orton (pitcher, catcher and utility in the field)
Kevin Ellison (catcher)
Frank Scott (utility in the field)
Warwick Braithwaite (outfield)
Coach: Jim Dore

Bobby Melonceli, a 16 year old pitcher from Victoria Park, threw the first four innings, then South Perth's number one pitcher, Graeme Menner, also only 16, threw the next five innings to be the winning pitcher.

The coach often took chances during the game. Ron Skeggs came up to bat and got a hit off Bandy McPherson to be safe at first. The next batter allowed Ron to get safely to second. When the third batter came to the plate, Jim signalled Ron to steal so he did a hook slide in to third base, much to the disgust of 3rd baseman Ron 'Soapy' Reed who was a State player. John Braithwaite was next at the plate and hit a home run which won the game. He scored all three runs, two of which were home runs.

That season Alf Luetchford won the league trophy for '2nd Baseman of the Year'. John Braithwaite, Andy Melonceli and Bandy McPherson scored equal most home runs of the season.

Earlier in the season there was an issue with John Braithwaite's clearance to play in the Southern Districts Cubs. For some reason it was determined that he was ineligible to play. As a punishment the league discounted two of the team's wins. In the bar after the game, after getting some motivation from a couple of cold beers, Ron confronted the president and secretary of the league and told them what he thought about their decision. He had a habit of saying what he thought, without considering the consequences! They did not take kindly to this and a little bit of pushing and shoving occurred. Eventually the clearance issue was sorted, and despite the wins being taken off, the Cubs made it through and won the grand final. After the big game, the president of the league approached Ron and said, "You happy now?" to which Ron sarcastically replied, "Very happy thank you!"

Unfortunately, the night league ended around 1962/63.

Night baseball was played again at Claremont Showgrounds in the early 1970s as part of the regular season. The Speedway lights were used to light the field so they were set to light the track rather than the diamond. If there was a hit to the outfield it was often difficult to see. Ric Garner was catching and not even able to see the pitch from Alan Cunningham due to low light. The home run fence was made of sheets of plywood. It wasn't a great field because the track separated the crowd from the field.

Junior Premiers

The South Perth juniors were undefeated in the 1956 season and won the premiership. They had a couple of mammoth wins during the season, defeating Northern Suburbs 36 – nil and beating another team by 40 runs. Some of the games were played at Beatty Park in North

Perth before the swimming pool was there. No-one in the team knew where Beatty Park was, so they all piled into a taxi; luckily, the taxi driver knew where it was! Jack Topham, father of Johnny, would often pile all the kids in the back of his Ute and take them to the game.

A Grade Entertainment

After games players would get changed in the toilets and then go back to someone's house and share a 5-gallon keg of beer. A core band of supporters, including Bill Howard, would come along, as would any opposition players who felt like a drink. The boys who were spearing the keg would often not put the spear right to the bottom, meaning there was always a little bit left. Peter Turner would often say 'right – the opposition's gone, you can put the spear down now'. After the keg they would all get around the radio and listen to 'Much-binding-in-the-marsh', an English comedy radio show that was on a Sunday night. Later in the evening they would all jump in the car and go to the drive-ins at Bentley. None of the boys had much money, so were always looking for ways to save. Being small had its advantages, and Alf used to lay down on the floor of the car, hidden from the view of the cashier collecting money at the ticket window. The cashier would count the number of heads he could see and charge for that number of tickets. One evening when the cashier told them the total cost, the boys were dismayed to realise they were short of money. Suddenly a hand reached up from the floor of the car clutching a quid – Alf made up the difference!

Going Bush

It was not uncommon for metropolitan clubs to travel to country towns to play exhibition games with local teams. In September 1951 South Perth sent a senior team to the Goldfields to play the Dodgers, one of the local teams in the Goldfields competition. There were several good players in this league, and some came down to Perth to further their opportunities. The teams had met in Perth previously on two occasions. As a curtain raiser to the main game on Sunday, the two respective junior teams played a game on the Saturday. A celebratory social and dance was held at the Parakeet Hall on Saturday night. Jim Dore captained the senior team that included A McGowan, R Booth, A Bell, E Goodwin, A Luetchford, M Yuille, D Andrews, L Cartwright, G Hill, K Carwardine, P Turner, R Osborn, O Ridgewell.

The junior team was captained by Glen Orton and included T Ettles, T Wishart, G Wilkinson, M Sampson, R McCracken, M Throssell, R Gleadell, P Shaw, N Thompson, K Allan, E Horsely. *Baseball* (1951, September 28). *Kalgoorlie Miner* (WA : 1895 - 1954), p. 11. Retrieved April 23, 2020, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article256834847>

The trip to the Goldfields became an annual event. Both juniors and seniors could attend, and sometimes a couple of players from Victoria Park would also tag along. The older guys would pile into the back of Eric Goodwin's semi-trailer for the trip. He threw straw down in the back of the truck and put a canvas cover over it for the boys to sleep on, although not a lot of sleeping happened! They also had a five-gallon keg in there for some of the trip. A few cars went up in a convoy, including Peter Turner in his Vanguard. They left Perth on Friday night. A few hours later everyone was getting hungry, so they stopped at Yellowdine, about 400

kilometres east of Perth for a roadside BBQ. Bill Howard, an avid supporter of the club, was also on the trip. He loved a drink and he loved baseball. Despite being blind, Bill always knew who was up to bat, what the pitch count was and what the score was. Once the boys had set up the fire for the BBQ, they realised they had left the beers in the truck. Bill offered to go back and get them. He left the group, walked back through the bush to the truck, opened the door, grabbed the drinks and walked back to the group. He was amazing! After a meal and a short sleep, they continued on their way and arrived at Kalgoorlie on Saturday morning. In between playing games there was an opportunity to see the sights and do a bit of socialising in Kalgoorlie. The team stayed at the Exchange Hotel on Saturday night.

Junior players were too young to stay in the hotel so were accommodated at the homes of Kalgoorlie juniors. The first time Ron Skeggs went to Kalgoorlie he stayed at the home of Ian Thorburn. Ian went on to become a State pitcher. He took Ron to watch the famous game of 2-up which was played just outside town. The two up ring was surrounded by tin walls. Ron asked Ian, "Do they have any problems with gambling out here?" "Nope – you'll see why when we get there." Ian laughed. It wasn't long before Ron realised what he meant. The two up was run by a couple of well-known Yugoslavian brothers who were built like the proverbial brick s...house. They were huge! Nobody would dare try and swindle them. After a successful weekend of baseball, the players headed back to Perth.

In May 1953 Gill Eddington, now the bank manager in Katanning, invited the club to come and play an exhibition game in the town. He organised accommodation and some players went down one weekend to show off the game of baseball. On Saturday night the town hosted a ball at the Buffalo Club. Alan Bell, the team's first baseman, was a bit of a wag and managed to convince the locals that a few of the boys could sing and did some singing around Perth. Three or four of these 'singers' were invited up on to the stage, so they performed a little ditty that Alan was well known for. It went like this.

*Passengers will please refrain
From passing water while the train
Is in the station darling I love you,
Tramps and hobos underneath
Will cop the lot in eyes and teeth
And they don't like it darling nor would you,
Please call the porter when passing water
He will pass a vessel in the vestibule,
We encourage constipation
While the train is in the station
Circus horses do it why can't you?*

The boys were laughing so much that it was hard to gauge the crowd's reaction, but it appeared to be taken in good fun.

The game was held on Sunday and Ron Skeggs was the coach. He fancied himself as a pitcher, so he put himself on the mound. One of the Katanning players was a superb batsman and walloped every ball Ron threw so the coach quickly put in a new pitcher!

The team also did a day trip to Wooroloo and played a social game.

Fundraising

Funds were always hard to procure for amateur clubs, so in the mid-1950s the club came up with the novel idea of hosting gambling nights – highly illegal but very lucrative! The secretary of the committee sent out flyers advertising the event at 261 Mill Point Road, the home of Ron Skeggs. A marquee was set up out the back behind the tennis court and chook yard, where punters could purchase beer tickets. The first keg was opened, and the laundry stored more. During the evening, a gentleman not connected with the club came wandering over to the member selling beer. Ron sensed that something was not right and quickly stuffed the proceeds of the night into his pockets. “What are you doing?” one of the others asked, to which Ron whispered, ‘Shut up’. Suddenly a shrill whistle blew. It was the police and they were busted! The unopened kegs were quickly hidden as selling beer in this way was illegal. How did the police find out? They saw a flyer!!! As he confiscated the open keg the police officer asked, “Any more beer here?” “No” answered Ron. “So, you’re the organiser?” the copper assumed. At that time Ron had just started work at the State Treasury, and any trouble with the police could have jeopardised his job. Before Ron could reply, another player stepped in and said, “I’m the organiser”, and took the rap for Ron. Luckily, the police didn’t search the laundry so after they left, the boys packed up, grabbed the hidden keg and continued the night at the president’s house down the road!

Raffles were held at games to raise funds and the results were published in the local paper.

No Hitter Shut Out

In the late 1950s South Perth played Perth at Langley Park in a game that would go down in club history. Although there had previously been no hit no run games, Glen Orton became the first South Perth pitcher to pitch a no-hit, no-run, no-error game. The first 8 innings were 3 up 3 down. In the 9th inning the first two batters were struck out. The third batter got walked but got picked off at first base.

1956 Olympics

Baseball was played as a demonstration sport at the 1956 Olympics. An Australian team played against a team of United States servicemen from around the globe. WA had three representatives in the team - Neville Pratt (utility), Max Puckett (3rd base) and Bob Teasdale (pitcher). Games were played at the MCG and the US won the first game 13 to 5 in front of a crowd of over 100 000 spectators. This is the biggest crowd to ever watch a baseball game anywhere in the world!

After the Olympics, the teams played three test matches in Adelaide. America won the first game; Australia won the second and America won the third. This series of international games showed that Australia had talent and could hold their own at this level. (Baseball '78 Q.B.A Inc Year Book TG July 2019)

Claxton Shield

The Claxton Shield was first presented in 1934 by the patron of the SA Baseball League Mr N A Claxton, himself a State representative in baseball. He donated a shield so that there was recognition for winning the Australian Baseball Championships. WA entered the series in 1937 or 1938 and the series was suspended from 1940-1945 due to the war.

The WA team won their first Claxton Shield in 1952. The winning team was Gill Eddington (manager), Charlie Puckett, Ron Forsaith, Geoff Forsaith, Eric Goodwin, Alex Barras (coach), George Dickinson, Andy Melonceli, Bruce Jeffrey, Basil Rigg, Alan Bell, Brian Crutchett, Ben Shom, Jim Dore, Roy Gooch, Don Callanan, Jack Warburton. WA did not participate in the 1953 series due to the cost of travel to the Eastern States by air but re-joined the competition in 1954.

<https://books.google.com.au/books?id=r1XGQra02mAC&pg=PA62&pg=PA62&dq=night+baseball+chrysler+cup&source=bl&ots=5oiTqGINv2&sig=ACfU3U0MZA4wvtLQmEk81wuGFHjZySh8w&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiRipuj4MDkAhWr6nMBHTQSDYQ6AEwAnoECAKQAQ#v=onepage&q=night%20baseball%20chrysler%20cup&f=false>
(accessed 8th Sept 2019)

WA hosted their first Claxton Shield series in 1957 during a notoriously wet summer. Games were usually held at the WACA, Leederville Oval or Subiaco Oval.

<https://books.google.com.au/books?id=r1XGQra02mAC&pg=PA62&pg=PA62&dq=night+baseball+chrysler+cup&source=bl&ots=5oiTqGINv2&sig=ACfU3U0MZA4wvtLQmEk81wuGFHjZySh8w&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiRipuj4MDkAhWr6nMBHTQSDYQ6AEwAnoECAKQAQ#v=onepage&q=night%20baseball%20chrysler%20cup&f=false>
(accessed 8th Sept 2019)

WA won the Claxton Shield in 1975, 1977, 1978, 1979 and 1985 and were runners up in 1980, 1981, 1982 and 1983.

Interestingly, the 1983 series (played in Perth) was known as the Camel Claxton Shield as it was sponsored by Camel cigarettes. A leading American umpire, Douglas Cossey, was the chief umpire for the game against Victoria and WA. Cossey had previously played for the Chicago White Sox and had been a sports administrator. His invitation to participate was intended to support the long-term upgrade to the game in Australia due to his experience in umpiring and administration, and he conducted courses for Australian umpires during the series. (Daily News 12th January 1983 TG Jan 2020).

1960s

In the 1960s the club moved to Ernest Johnston Reserve near the council buildings in South Perth.

Although summer baseball commenced in the mid-1960s, it wasn't until the early 1970s the Australian Baseball Council announced that baseball was officially a summer sport, meaning that Northern hemisphere players and teams had the opportunity to tour Australia in their off season. (13th Asian Baseball Championship Series Australia 1985 Souvenir Program TG Jan 2020)

In 1960s Les Della Motte was appointed coach of the A grade team. Les was originally from the Goldfields. At the last training session before the first game Les suddenly felt unwell and went to lay down in the back of his car. After a little while, Ron Skeggs went over to see if he was ok. When Ron saw Les's face he immediately became concerned; he had seen that vacant look before....

...Earlier that year Ron was at the cricket watching John Rutherford captain the WA team in a tour match against the West Indies. During the game John suffered a stroke. The local doctor, Dr Irvine, was also the doctor at the WACA and tended to the seriously ill batsman. Ron clearly remembered the look on John's face as he was assisted off the ground by Dr Irvine. "His eyes were open but not seeing anything" he explained.

Fearing the worst, Ron quickly drove Les to the local clinic. The doctors organised for him to be taken straight to Royal Perth Hospital where a stroke was diagnosed.

Ron returned to training and updated the team on what had happened. Wishing their coach well but realising he would be unavailable for the entire season, the team elected Ron as the substitute coach. Although the team finished fifth that season and missed the finals, the substitute coach did well in what would be his final season as a player. Ron decided to hang up the glove and retired from baseball to take up football.

Thankfully Les recovered and the following season he rang Ron, asking if he could play a game with the A reserves because they were short of players. Les was the coach of the A reserves and the game was against Floreat. Ron agreed. Although Ron was not a strong hitter, he had a good eye and could place the ball well. When he came up to bat, the Floreat players assumed the ball would be belted and quickly moved their outfield back while strategically positioning their infield. Realising what was going on, Ron laid a surprise bunt and his quick speed got him safely to first. The anticipated home run never eventuated. It was a great start to his last game of baseball.

1967 Epic Grand Final

The following is a play by play review of the 1967 grand final that South Perth won.

GRAND FINAL

The Grand Final turned out to be a fitting climax to what was the most closely fought season in W.A baseball history. It took 17 innings to decide who was to be the champion club of the 1966/67 season. The starting line-up, in fielding order, were as follows:

South Perth

P. Menner
C. Cunningham
1B. Byrne (Coach)
2B. Thompson
3B. Greenham
SS. Topham
LF. Bennett
CF. Manton
RF. Smith

Perth

P. Lean
C. Moyle, L.
1B. Solomon
2B. Colqhoun (Coach)
3B. Walker
SS. Preshaw
LF. Moyle, D.
CF. Parry
RF. Robertson

The line-ups were star-studded, with twelve of the eighteen players having represented the State .

Perth batted first, and after L. Moyle walked with 2 out and Lean hit safely to left field, they looked dangerous. However, D. Moyle ground out to 3rd to end the innings.

South Perth were retired in order, but Perth again threatened in the 2nd innings. With 2 out, Solomon hit safely to right field, Robertson then hit a long double, which bounced off the fence at left-centre field and Solomon took off with the hit, but South Perth fielder Bennett quickly retrieved the ball and threw to 3rd baseman Greenham. A beautiful relay throw by Greenham to catcher Cunningham caught Solomon just short of the plate as he tried to score from first.

Perth pitcher Terry Lean was really burning at this stage and he struck out all 3 South Perth batters who faced him in their 2nd innings.

L. Moyle was once again on base in Perth's 3rd innings with a safe hit to centrefield, but could not be forced around.

Bennett opened South Perth's 3rd innings with a walk and was bunted by Thompson to 2nd. A long hard fly ball by Cunningham to Parry at centrefield enabled Bennett to advance to 3rd, but the innings petered out when Perth 3rd baseman, Walker, made a good catch of a very high pop foul fly by leadoff batter Byrne.

Walker hit safely with one out in Perth's 4th and when Preshaw crashed one back at pitcher Menner, which he knocked down but could not make a play on, South looked in trouble. However Solomon hit back to the pitcher and Menner struck out Robertson to get himself out of a spot.

Leading off South Perth's 4th innings, Topham hit safely to left centrefield, but was thrown out attempting to steal 2nd. Lean finished off the innings by striking out the previous week's batting hero, Smith.

Parry started off Perth's 5th innings by hitting safely to centrefield. 2nd baseman Thompson threw himself at the ball, but could only deflect it. Parry stole 2nd safely, but on seeing that Cunningham's throw was wild, attempted to stretch it to 3rd. A powerful and accurate throw by centrefielder Manton cut him down, however, well short of the base. This proved very costly for Perth as L. Moyle followed with his second safe hit, this time to leftfield, and scored when Lean's powerful drive to right field was misfielded by Smith. D. Moyle flied out to centrefield to end the innings.

In their half of the 5th, South Perth's Bennett hit a high pop fly which 2nd baseman Colqhoun couldn't handle, but two more strike outs by Lean relieved the pressure.

At this stage Perth had been doing nearly all the attacking and with Lean well on top of the South Perth batters (7 strike outs and only 2 hits) it looked to be only a matter of time before they broke through again and increased their 1-0 lead.

Menner retired Perth in order in their 6th and it was significant that this was the first innings they had not been able to put a man on base.

Cunningham lead off for South Perth in their 6th and crashed a long hit high fly to left field, which was caught only 10 yards inside the fence. Byrne then hit safely along the ground between 2nd and 1st. Topham struck out but a sensation followed when Greenham batted. He hit a high foul fly which 1st baseman Solomon ran under to give him a life. Two pitches later he hit a similar ball high in the air between shortstop and 3rd. Shortstop Preshaw called for it but misjudged it completely and it landed yards behind him. Smith, after having struck out his first two times at bat, then calmly hit to rightfield to score Byrne from 2nd, and tie up the game, leaving Greenham on 3rd. The innings ended when L. Moyle took a brilliant catch off a pop foul fly by Menner.

Menner retired the Perth side in order in the 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th innings, with only one ball being hit and it looked at this stage as if the tide had turned and South Perth would break through at any minute. South had runners in the 7th, 8th and 9th innings and looked really dangerous in the 8th. Byrne again hit safely to rightfield and when Topham bunted Lean attempted to force Byrne at 2nd but was too late and both runners were safe. However, Lean retired the next 3 batters, although Menner's fly to centrefield was a long ball.

Menner continued to keep the Perth batters in check and only L. Moyle, in the 11th, and Solomon, in the 15th, reached 1st base. These were the only safe hits off Menner between the 6th and 15th innings and in that span of 10 innings he struck out 5 and allowed only 3 balls to be hit out of the infield – a truly fantastic performance.

South Perth forced a pitching change on Perth in the 11th after Menner hit safely to centrefield and Manton walked. A hard diving attempt to Parry to catch Menner's hit and allowed Menner to advance to 2nd when Parry could not quite reach the ball and it got by him. Robertson replaced Lean on the mound and surprised by walking Bennett, after having to strikes on him, to load the bases. Perth escaped through, when 16 year old Craig Thompson dribbled the ball back to Robertson. Perth made the force out at home and completed the double play through 1st.

After this innings Robertson quickly gained supremacy over the South Perth batters and, apart from a base hit to centrefield by Smith in the 13th, retired the side in order each innings from the 12th through the 16th.

The tide of fortune seemed to swing suddenly again in the 16th as Coach Colqhoun opened the innings for Perth by bouncing a triple over the fence between left and centrefield. L. Moyle followed with a hard flat drive to centre and it seemed Colqhoun must score. But Manton made a leaping catch and then fired a perfect throw to Cunningham to catch Colqhoun only inches from the plate. It was the most brilliant play in the game already studded with brilliance. Lean immediately notched his 3rd safe hit and would have batted in Colqhoun had caution prevailed in the Perth camp.

South Perth's 16th innings was uneventful, except that Robertson added two more strikeouts to his figures.

Walker led off Perth's 17th innings with a base hit to left field, but a fly to leftfield, a pop fly to 2nd and a strike out ended any likelihood of a rally.

Bennett hit safely to leftfield to start the 17th for South Perth. He stretched it into 2 bases when D. Moyle misfielded the ball and it got away from him. Pinch hitter Fishwick then laid down a beautiful bunt to advance Bennett to 3rd. With one out this brought Cunningham to bat. The crowd wondered what tactics Coach Byrne would employ. Cunningham had already hit several long fly balls to the outfield and with only one out, this was all that would be required to score the winning run and, if he failed, Byrne himself was batting next. Perth had to defend for the bunt, and with 3rd and 1st base fielding in very close it seemed extremely dangerous to attempt to squeeze the runner home, as the slightest error could lead to a double play. Cunningham took the first pitch, and it seemed he was being allowed to hit away. Bennett broke on the next pitch though, and Cunningham put down a precision bunt to 3rd baseman Walker's left hand side forcing him to spin around before throwing and allowing Bennett to slide safely under the catcher as the play was made at home.

The game, which had begun shortly after 3pm, had finally finished in victory for South Perth at 6.25pm. Graeme Menner had pitched almost two whole games to win this championship for his tam and he and centrefielder Manton, whose strong right arm had twice saved South Perth during the game, were rightfully chaired from the ground.

Statistics

South Perth

Name	Pos	AB	S	BB	H	K2	SB	PO	A	E
Byrne	3	7	-	-	2	-	-	22	-	-
Topham	6	6	1	-	1	3	-	4	3	-
Greenham	5	7	-	-	-	-	-	4	5	-
Smith	9	7	-	-	2	3	-	3	-	1
Menner	1	7	-	-	1	2	-	1	7	-
Manton	8	6	-	1	-	4	-	2	2	-
Bennett	7	5	-	2	2	-	-	2	-	-
Thompson	4	3	1	2	-	1	-	2	2	-
Fishwick (PH 17 th)	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cunningham	2	6	1	-	-	1	-	3	1	-
Total		63			8	14		33	20	1

Perth

Name	Pos	AB	S	BB	H	K2	SB	PO	A	E
Parry	9	7	-	-	1	-	1	4	-	1
Colqhoun	4	7	-	-	1	-	-	2	2	-
Moyle L	2	6	-	1	3	-	-	6	2	-
Lean	1/9	7	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	-
Moyle D	7	7	-	-	-	2	-	4	-	-
Walker	5	7	-	-	2	1	-	2	2	-
Preshaw	6	7	-	-	1	1	-	-	2	1
Solomon	3	7	-	-	2	1	-	13	-	1
Robertson	9/1	7	-	-	1	3	-	3	4	-
Total		63			14	8	1	34	13	3

Pos = Fielding position

BB= base on balls

SB= stolen bases

E= errors

AB= times at bat

H= safe hits

PO= put outs

S= sacrifice

K2= strikeouts

A= assists

Pitching

Name	Innings	Hits	K2	BB
Menner, G	17	14	8	1
Lean, T	10.5	6	9	4
Robertson, E	6.5	2	5	1

South Perth left 12 men on base and Perth left 9.

Wind-ups

In the early days, the club held their wind-ups at Chesterton Lodge in South Perth. Originally a dairy on Suburban Road (now Mill Point Road), the lodge was owned by Bob Chester, coach of the South Perth Rugby team. The baseball players and rugby players often mixed socially so the two clubs hosted joint socials at the lodge to make up numbers.

A member of the baseball club had connections with the Ron Jenkins Band and was able to secure them to play at one of the wind ups. They were one of the top bands at the time and well-loved in Perth. They often played at the Embassy Ballroom. The drummer was a bloke called Nutty Cooke. Ron Jenkins was the lead singer and played some instruments.

A few windups and functions were also held at the rowing club opposite the Raffles Hotel on Canning Highway.

Fundraising

During the late 60's/early70's club members and players volunteered to manually dig the hole for a swimming pool at the home of the late Max Kaye (entertainer). This was done over one weekend as there was no access for bobcats/diggers to do the job.

Another fundraiser during this time players worked weekends for a number of months at the Kwinana Nickel Refinery acid cleaning the brickwork prior to the refinery being commissioned. The club paid for the labour.

1970s

In the early 1970's South Perth was a strong club with a good reputation. Ray Cook coached South Perth for one year and Graeme Menner was appointed coach the following season.

Collier Reserve

In 1970 the club moved to Collier Reserve on Thelma Street in Como. The small original change room is still there today but has been extended. The club ran a small canteen and sold drinks out of an esky.

The field was right next to a large pine plantation and swamp (which is now the council depot and golf course). Before training some of the juniors would go and mess about in the swamp – attacking each other with reeds and chasing ducks to try and catch them. Sometimes they would be late for training because they got side-tracked. Trail bike riders in the pine plantation would occasionally chase the players too.

Grayden Reserve was still pine plantation and a road between Collier and Collins oval led to the South Perth tip. On hot days, the smell was putrid, and so were the flies!

There was a strip of bush that ran between the two grounds and baseballs were forever getting lost in there which was very frustrating for the club. One of the players, who was a fire fighter, decided that enough was enough and did a 'back burn'. Heaps of balls were found, but they were now in no condition to be used! Huge plumes of dust drifted across the diamond when cars drove through the bush in summer and this was another reason to remove it. Later, Wesley College acquired the lease for this land and cleared it.

The positioning of the diamond changed on a few occasions as too many cars were being damaged by foul balls. At one stage the council depot fence had to be used as a home run fence! The position of the diamond meant that you were hitting with the wind – by hitting west to east and could take advantage of the westerly winds. In one game 20 home runs were hit thanks to the westerly!

There was not enough space to have after game drinks inside because half the clubroom was opposition change rooms, separated only with a concertina curtain, so everyone would sit outside. This was fine if the weather was not too cold! Although there was only one diamond at Collier, the teams were very social so the lower grades would always stay around after their games to watch the A Grade play in the afternoon.

In those days pubs were not open on a Sunday so 'Plum Jam Higgins' (proprietor of the Hurlingham Hotel on Canning Hwy, also known as 'The Flying Pig') would take the kegs of beer, jugs and glasses to the cool room at Marciano's, the corner store across the road. Alf would drive his old station wagon up to the store to pick them up and bring them back to the club for drinks after the game.

Sometimes they would have drinks at Bob O'Rourke's house on Thelma Street, the President at the time, or Craig Thompsons's house on Dyson St in Kensington. It would be players,

opposition and supporters from both clubs – everyone stayed. This happened at the other clubs too.

In the 1970s the windups moved to the South Perth Civic Centre on South Terrace. These early events were like a cabaret style with entertainment and a meal and trophy presentation night. These were big events with up to 350 people and described as great fun. The whole club would be there, from A Grade to E Grade and there was great camaraderie between the teams. One year there was not enough chairs for everyone, so they had to 'borrow' them from a function downstairs, discretely sneaking a few chairs when people got up to dance. As the club secretary, Tony Goadby would organise the wind ups including the band Sasha with lead singer Basil Fedele. The committee would arrange refreshments and decorate the hall and ladies would prepare the supper.

There were pre-season car rallies held as a get together and everyone would catch up for a meal.

Imports

Imports started coming to WA in the early 1970s, players such as Don Knapp, Bob Ossey and Dennis Fitzgerald. Imports showed our local players what they could strive to become – they set a new standard with Bob and Don giving players something to aim for. Ossey even helped to design Parry Field! Bob Miller was an ex-catcher who came to South Perth.

25th Anniversary

In 1972 South Perth celebrated its 25th anniversary and the following article, written by Baden Pratt, appeared in the 'Around the BASES' section of a local newspaper.

"South Perth look back on proud record

Baseball in WA has not been the same since 1947. It was then that a troupe of die-hards from the recently defunct Bristle side formed the club which was to become one of the most powerful single forces in post-war baseball – South Perth. Led by the incomparable Jim Dore, who learned his baseball the hard way – as a prisoner of war under the Japanese – this handful of not-so-young enthusiasts soon made their presence felt.

They were in many ways an unprepossessing lot; far from young and not a real star among them.

But what they lacked in youth and brilliance they more than made up for in team spirit and determination.

Under Dore's astute leadership (he was reckoned by many to have one of the best baseball brains in the State) they won the A grade premiership in only their second year, and just to efface their critics, repeated the success the following year. They missed the hat-trick in 1950, but 1951 saw South Perth back as premiers, and in...(words missing from copy).. "heartbreak' year – they took the double again. Four premierships in six years; not bad for a team composed for the most part of veterans.

Individually, many of the South Perth players of that era did little to set the baseball world on fire, but as a team they were supreme.

Laconic

Laconic Ron Booth, the gum chewing pitcher who had no windup but amazing accuracy, was never rated one of the 'great' pitchers of his time, but he pitched South Perth to three of those pennants and against such immortals as George Dickinson and the mighty Charlie Puckett. Roy Gooch, who caught all four of those premierships (the fourth to corpulent Eric Goodwin) later joined the fledgling Swan Districts club and ...(words missing from copy)... into the greatest club WA has seen since World War II. Alan Bell played first base, Dore was at second, Peter Turner at third, moustachioed Gill Eddington at short stop and 'Moggy' (nobody seemed to know what his Christian name was) McGowan, Mal Yuille and Don Kidd in the outfield.

And of course there was Alf Luetchford, the diminutive 'spare part' without whom any South Perth team would be incomplete. This year, South Perth will celebrate their silver anniversary. They hope to do it with another premiership and at this stage they are odds on, but they'll also do it with a ball at the South Perth Civic Centre on March 25, to which all old hands are invited.

Favourite

The fact that they are the premierships favourites and leading the competition is in no small way a tribute to Jim Dore for his policy of fostering young players from those early formative years.

Many of South Perth's present players learned their baseball as juniors under Dore, and later Alf Luetchford. But there were many others who helped South Perth become a great club, men whose names are not exactly household words but who nevertheless played a part in building the club up, whether it was in the A grade team or with the lower grades – the Osborn brothers, Reg and Dennis, Bill Wells, the Shaw brothers, Bob and Peter, Glen Orton, Ted Ettles, Mike Throssell, Ron Skeggs, Frank Scott, the three Bennett brothers, Colin Patman, Colin Smith, the Buckingham's, Bob Brown, the Swans 'imports' Brian Crutchett and Kaye Greenham, and many more.

They'll all be at this ball (the club hopes) together with the stars of today's teams, so it should be a night to remember. After all, with 25 years of baseball to talk about, they won't lack conversation." (faxed copy of a newspaper article, title unknown, approx. Jan- March 1972 TG July 2019)

Battle of Forster Park

On the 21st December 1975 there was an incident during a game between South Perth and Victoria Park that ended with a forfeit and left two of our A grade players in hospital.

The match was hyped as being the 'game of the season', with both teams near the top of the ladder. The media reported "*The Southerners are big news in local baseball after a string of victories and they are playing top class baseball. Intelligent hitting, snappy fielding, solid pitching and confident base running has made them premierships contenders.*" (newspaper article title unknown 21st Dec 1975 TG July 2019)

South Perth was in control early on but let Vic Park back in. In one of the gutsiest plays of the day, right fielder Craig Thompson tried to take a diving catch but dislocated his shoulder.

Despite this, he crawled after the ball, threw it up to Tony Goadby who nudded the runner at home!

Despite home runs from Tony Goadby and Ric Garner, Victoria Park was leading by one run in the seventh inning and their batters were keen to increase the score. The atmosphere was pretty tense. With a runner on 3rd, Ric Garner threw a pitch and then prepared to back up home plate. Mick Gordon, our catcher, was about a metre behind the plate as there was no play at home. The Victoria Park runner, Ron De Boer, tagged home plate and then collided with Mick, forcing him to be removed from the game with a severely bruised thigh. Don Kyle ran from third base to retrieve the ball, which was still in play, and had a few choice words with De Boer who responded by punching Don in the face, resulting in concussion. John Kyle, watching from second base, ran in to assist his brother and was also punched squarely in the face by De Boer, shattering his jaw.

With Mick, Don and John joining Craig on the bench injured, South Perth no longer had enough fit players to continue, so had to forfeit the game which the chief umpire Maurie Reynolds awarded to Victoria Park 9-0.

After the game, the three injured players were taken to Royal Perth hospital with John requiring facial surgery.

Although agreeing that this type of incident was not good for baseball, both clubs defended their players. In February 1976, the WA Baseball League Protest and Disputes Committee found De Boer guilty of unduly rough play and striking, suspending him for the remainder of the current season and for the first round of qualifying fixtures in the next season – a total of six months. The Kyle brothers also fronted the committee, and each received a caution. (newspaper articles title unknown, no date, 22nd Dec 1975, 28th Dec 1975, 23rd Feb 1976, Sunday Independent 7th March 1976 TG July 2019)

The teams met again at the first semi-final on the 6th March 1976. This was a televised game at Bassendean Oval. where South Perth triumphed 6-3. 'The game had its moments of tension, and after Victoria Park pitcher Colin Alexander had thrown the first pitch of the game, his team gathered at second base in a five minute protest at the suspension of their player Ron De Boer. When the game ended the South Perth players made the customary gesture of going across the diamond to congratulate the losers. However led by their coach Alexander, the Victoria Park team refused to respond.' (Sunday Times 7th March 1976 TG July 2019)

Grand Finals

South Perth made it to the preliminary final in the 1975/76 season but were beaten by Perth 3-1.

South Perth made it to the Grand Final in the 1976/77 season but was beaten by Victoria Park 2-1. *"The Southerner's scored in the first inning when a bunt from Ric Garner allowed John Kyle to score. South Perth was leading 1-0 in the seventh innings until Victoria Park hit a two-run homer (Ron De Boer). Tensions rose when a Victoria Park batter (Neil Corker) was hit for the second time with a pitched ball, sending him sprawling. The first hit left him 'prone for several minutes in the batting box'. Team-mates had to restrain the first baseman (Mark Stipetich) who marched over to the mound to remonstrate with the South Perth pitcher (Ric Garner)."* (newspaper article title unknown 28th March 1977 TG July 2019)

In the 1977/78 season Souths beat rivals Victoria Park in the semis to make it to the preliminary finals but were then beaten by Wembley 3-0.

“The real South Perth strength is in the outfield with Russell Jarvis (lf), Tony Goadby (cf) and Robbie Chappell at right field. There is no better and more consistent outfield trio in the league.” (Sports Review 5th March 1976 TG July 2019)

Rotto

It all started with a planned trip to Port Hedland...

In the mid-1970s a few of the A Grade players planned a trip to Port Hedland to play an exhibition game. In order to raise money to subsidise the trip they started selling cans after training, so Thursday night became known as ‘Can Night’. Sometimes they would hold a raffle and the players also contributed money themselves. Can nights went from selling 2-3 cartons a week to 12-14 cartons a week after training and games. Lee Goodwin owned a liquor store so the club could access the beer cheaply. Ric Garner was Treasurer at the time and would run the can nights. They raised more than enough money to subsidise Port Hedland trip. The money was raised *by the players for the players*.

At the end of the 1975/76 season, the players decided to go to Rottneest for an end of season trip. About 30-35 players went in the first year. Tony Goadby booked the ferry tickets and Star Huts in Tent-land for the group. A carton of beer would be placed in each hut on Friday night and Saturday night, then the boys would go to the Sunday session at the Rottneest pub for free – all this was covered by the money raised at Can Nights.

A small group including Ric, Graeme Menner, Authur Rossiter, Ray Lee and Darryl O’Malley would sometimes fly across on a Friday morning to get an extra day on the island. They would go fishing and have a feed of herring ready for the boys who came across later that afternoon on the ferry.

The plane that flew to Rotto was quite small, as was the crew. One year as they were boarding, a lady was checking them in. They took their seats and she said, “I need one of you to come and sit up here”. The boys asked, “What do you mean? Where’s the pilot?”. She replied, “I’m the pilot but I need one of you to help me.” So Authur Rossiter went up and the pilot gave him a form – it was the pre-flight checklist that he had to complete with her!

When the players arrived on Friday evening they would go to the pub and when it closed, head back to the huts. Because the trip was after tourist season, the boys had the island pretty much to themselves. Graeme Menner, Authur Rossiter, Darryl O’Malley, Ray Lee, Tim Croswell and a few of the boys would gamble all night on the Friday. Others would come and go, but those boys were in for the long haul. They played cards, dice games and two up, (with two and 3 coins). Fortunes were won and lost on Friday nights at Rotto. One year, Larry Ragazzo ‘cleaned up’ and was shouting everyone to food and drinks. As the boys were sitting on the ferry ready to head home on Sunday, ‘Raggs’ yells “Oh shit!! The money!!”. He’d hidden his winnings under a mat in the hut and forgot to pack it. He sprinted off the ferry, and over the hill back to Tentland and retrieved his prize.

The players each provided food for everyone for one meal. One year Ric was responsible for Saturday dinner so packed a huge piece of steak. Inexplicably, the steak ended up in Leeman – it had been put in the wrong plane! All was ok though, as the luggage was packed in the nose cone of the plane and the air temperature was enough to keep it cold until they received it the next day.

One of the ‘Yogi Bear’ huts sustained a broken wall when one player was egging on another to punch a rolled up sleeping bag. Just as his fist was about to connect, the sleeping bag was whipped away and the wall copped the full force of the punch. Let’s just say that the welcome mat at the island was quickly removed!

The end of season trip to Rottneest Island is a tradition has continued for over 45 years. Those who attend are bound by the golden rule, ‘What happens on Rotto stays on Rotto!’ (‘Still keeping up the good work’ the oldies would say!)

Despite this veil of secrecy, painstaking research from several sources (including newsletters, folklore, police reports and inside information) provides a glimpse of what goes on at this sacred end of season ritual.

- Drinking, drinking and more drinking
- 101 ways to stop your pushbike without using brakes, usually accompanied by non-life-threatening injuries and/or damage to public and/or private property
- Mozzie bites
- Backyard cricket and cards
- MasterChef – culinary delights such as frozen polony

International Baseball

During the 1978 Claxton Shield series Ed Howell, a talent scout with the Cincinnati Reds, was a spectator. In addition to these games, he also watched an under 18s series in Melbourne. When interviewed Ed predicted, *“One day an Australian will be playing in the major league in the US of this I’m certain.”* (Sunday Times 15th Jan 1978 TG July 2019)

Many Japanese teams toured Australia in the 1970s and early 1980s. Amateur baseball in Japan includes a factory sponsored baseball team competition with teams such as Honda, Daishowa, Nippon and Sumitomo. Leading teams from this competition were selected to play in Australia as part of an international series. Games were played at Forster Park, Subiaco Oval and Parry Field. It was hoped that these series would cement Australia’s status as a key competitor offering world class facilities for baseball in the Asian region. (Baseball Bulletin Vol 1 No 3 February 1983 TG January 2020)

John Kyle, Don Kyle, Tony Goadby and Gary Scarterfield were members of the Australian teams to play these representative teams. In January 1979 they were part of the Japan-Australia Goodwill Series hosted at Forster Park, competing in an exhibition game against Honda.

In November that same year they competed against the Korean national team at Forster Park. The team was coached by Rod Byrne. The Korean team was the third best amateur baseball team in the world at the time, behind USA and Cuba. Australia won first game 5-2, despite a

brilliant triple play from Korea. The next day, before the second game was due to commence, Rod Byrne was taken to Royal Perth Hospital and admitted to the coronary care unit. Thankfully, his condition was stable. The assistant coach, Dr Kaye Greenham, took responsibility for coaching the second game but unfortunately Australia lost. (The West Australian 17th Nov 1979 TG) (Newspaper unknown 19th Nov 1979 TG) Rod recovered and was able to coach WA in the Claxton Shield competition in January 1980.

In 1981 an Australian team competed against Japanese team Nippon Kokan Steele at Forster Park and in 1983 they challenged Sumitomo Steel at Parry Field.

Perth was always the last stop of these Australian Tours WA would host a welcome dinner for players and delegates on arrival, and the Japanese contingent would reciprocate on the Sunday after the final game. These events were very formal – a suit and tie occasion, but greatly enjoyed by all who attended.

30th Anniversary

“SOUTH PERTH BASEBALL CLUB – A BRIEF HISTORY

Many of the original South Perth Baseball Club players first played with the Bristle Baseball Club before World War II, and many others learned their baseball in Japanese prison camps during the war. Jim Dore and Bert Nelthorpe were two men who after the war realised that baseball clubs would change to representing a district of the city rather than being company orientated. Because of their foresight and initial efforts, the South Perth Baseball Club came in to being in 1947.

South Perth has had several homes, each one being a little better than the last. From a very cramped start at Windsor Park, Souths were moved on because of the cascade of baseballs that landed on a neighbouring bowling green each Sunday. Club members then voluntarily cleared an area of land near Como Beach for their next home ground, which later became known as Como Reserve. This was an enormous task as the land was originally a small pine forest. The sudden appearance of a croquet green in one corner of the Reserve made the facility too small so after several years and much hard work, Souths had to leave Como Reserve. Ernest Johnson oval was home for a brief period before Souths became based at Collier Reserve in 1970.

After nearly thirty years of baseball South Perth has had the services of many recognised champion players including Jim Dore, Roy Gooch, Alan Bell, Ron Booth, Eric Goodwin, Brian Crutchett, Ray Cook, Colin Smith, Kaye Greenham, Graeme Menner, Rod Byrne and Alan Cunningham. Five A grade premierships have resulted from the services of such players. South Perth won the top grade premiership in 1947 and 1948, the first two years they were in the competition. Again in 1951 and 1952 Souths were the pennant winners. The most recent success for the A Grade was in 1967 when they won a seventeen inning marathon against Perth by 2-1.

Success on the field hasn't come without a lot of hard work and organisation. South Perth has been very lucky in this regard. People such as Bert Nelthorpe, Jim Dore, Alf Luetchford, Norm Anderson, Ron Booth, Bob O'Rourke, John Bennett and Jack and Peg Dearle have all put many hours into the club and had their efforts recognised with Life Membership.

Today the club is reaping the benefits of such unselfish people. Souths have fifty senior and fifty junior players making up three senior and four junior teams each week. Eight of the senior players were members of the training squad for this year's Claxton Shield team and of these, Don and John Kyle and Mick Gordon were successful in gaining selection.

Success for this season and the future looks to be well assured because of the depth of ability amongst the players and the enthusiasm of the administrators and organisers. Like most other club the members of South Perth look forward to the day when they have their own premises and playing facilities." (Baseball '77. W.A.B.L (Inc) Year Book. Claxton Shield Series produced by the WA Baseball League TG July 2019)

Fundraising

During the 1970's one of the Bennett brothers owned Jandakot Fields Nursery – players levelled the ground, laid out plastic and shovelled slag attained from the steel smelters and laid paving slabs as a fundraiser. The club provided the labour in the form of volunteers and received payment for the work.

1980s

Tee-ball started in WA in 1974 and by 1983 there were about 25 metropolitan tee ball clubs catering for over 7000 children, with clubs also operating in regional centres and some primary SCHOOLS. (Camel Australian Baseball Championships Claxton Shield 1983 Souvenir Programme. TG July 1983).

Tee-ball was immensely popular with kids, and as the Perth metropolitan area grew, so did the number to tee-ball teams. As the kids in these teams got older, the tee-ball clubs decided to transition them to their own baseball teams rather than have families travel to other existing baseball clubs. The WA baseball league allowed these 'satellite' teams to form as they became feeder teams for the State League clubs. This is the case with Willetton Baseball Club and South Perth.

Due to the increase in popularity, South Perth ended up with nine teams playing on a Sunday and had to use ovals at nearby Curtin University to cater for all the teams!

Although there were restrictions on how many State League clubs could exist, there was some flexibility to cater for the expansion, or reduction, in the local demographic of particular areas. With support from their local council, and meeting the minimum team requirements, Wanneroo Baseball Club submitted a successful application to become a State League club. The council invested in the grounds and facilities to cater for the growing population and number of players. Conversely, when numbers at Kelmscott fell, they amalgamated with Gosnells, which became a State League club.

In the 1980's, to be classed as an A grade (now State League) club, the minimum requirement was to field an A Grade, A Reserves 1 and A Reserves 2 team. It didn't matter how many junior teams a club had. In more recent times the criteria have changed. In addition to the three top teams' requirement, clubs also had to have a minimum number of junior players to support growth into the future.

This change allowed some minor league clubs such as Rockingham and Carine to become State League teams, however it created difficulties for clubs whose local demographic was aging or struggled to recruit players. To prevent having their State League status removed, clubs who were struggling to field three top teams had to demonstrate to BWA that they were attempting to recruit more players to their club. This involved marketing the club, forming relationships with local satellite and tee-ball clubs, visiting schools and inviting their kids to come and sit on the bench and watch some games or host 'have a go' days. Occasionally there would be resistance from the hierarchy at these satellite clubs to promote the transition to a State League club, preferring their players to stay and be 'the best' at the lower grades offered. Often clubs were close to each other so there were boundaries as to where clubs could source their players from.

In 1989/90 there were 10 'Major League' clubs, Gosnells, Melville, Morley, Perth, South Perth, Swan Districts, Victoria Park, Wanneroo, Wembley and West Stirling.

The 'Minor League' clubs were Balcatta, Carine, City Beach, Curtin University, Greenwood, Innaloo, Nedlands, Rockingham and University WA.

The West Australian Junior Baseball League consisted of Balcatta, Carine, Gosnells, Melville, Morley, Nedlands, Perth, Rockingham, Swan Districts, South Perth, Victoria Park, Wanneroo, Wembley, West Stirling and Willetton. (WABL Fixtures 1989-1990 Season TG January 2020)

In the 1970s and early 1980s Vic Park was the dominant club in the competition as they had players such as Don Knapp, Bob Ossey, Ron De Boer and Graeme Ward. They also had imports, which South Perth didn't have at the time. What we did have was highly skilled players such as Russell Jarvis, John and Don Kyle, Tony Goadby, Rob Chappell and Gary Scarterfield.

The following appeared in the West Australian newspaper in March 1980.

"South Perth have depth in their batting with Gary Scarterfield, Tony Goadby, Don and John Kyle, Russell and Graham Jarvis, Robbie Chappell, Mick Gordon and Garner or designated hitter Larry Ragazzo.

The big danger for Wembley will come if South Perth get their 'runners' on the bases for any length of time.

The Kyle brothers, Chappell, Graham Jarvis, Goadby, Gordon and Scarterfield could run riot for South Perth on the base paths...

The big advantage for South Perth is the quality of their fielders – particularly infielders Russell Jarvis (first base), John Kyle (second base), Don Kyle (third base) and Graham Jarvis (short stop).

The brilliant inner cordon is supported by a fast, sure and hard throwing outfield group in Scarterfield, Goadby and Chappell." (The West Australian 15th March 1980 TG January 2020)

The following reflections were included in the program for the finals of the 1981-82 season produced by the West Australian Baseball League (Incorporated). South Perth was fourth on the ladder.

"There is no doubt that South Perth have a lot of ability and their win-loss record is no indication of their true talent. South's have a potential hitting attack which is evidenced by their team statistics which include four .300 hitters. Gary Scarterfield's .400 average in the Claxton Shield shows that he is a "big match" performer and he is well supported by Don Kyle, Tony Goadby and Robbie Chappell. Dean Mitchell's .232 average is deceptively low as he has been plagued with injuries this season... South Perth has the best baserunning team in the league in speedsters Goadby, Chappell and Kyle." (TG July 2019)

The Wembley Gift

One Sunday afternoon after a few post games drinks at Collier, Wembley player 'Prickles' challenged a few South Perth members to a running race - for fun of course! Prickles, Ross 'Putty' Putland, Tony Goadby and Leanne Scarterfield assembled at the starting line, then raced for about 100 metres. Tony won, and Leanne beat 'Putty'. This event became a tradition each time South Perth and Wembley A Grade teams competed, and a mounted silver spray painted shoe, known as 'The Wembley Gift' was awarded as the trophy each year. Tony's winning streak continued for a few seasons until Heath Gillard, a State sprinter, began playing

for Wembley. The Wembley Gift trophy still takes pride of place in the trophy cabinet at South Perth Baseball Club.

Parry Field

An international baseball stadium was built in Belmont and finished in late 1982. It opened with a night game under lights between Victoria Park and Morley. Parry Stadium was the first international baseball facility in Australia. It was named after Mr Kevin Parry, the Patron of the WA Baseball League. He made significant contributions to the sport and the lease payments for use of the stadium. The stadium, costing almost one million dollars, was jointly funded by the State and federal government, and the City of Belmont. Contributions were also made by the Baseball League, Victoria Park Baseball Club and Kevin Parry. It had the only artificial infield in the country at the time, and eight 40 metre floodlights. (Newspaper and date unknown TG Jan 2020)

The facilities were first class with an internal bar and glass windows overlooking the ground and a scorer's box at the top. There were commentators and scoreboard operators. Spectators could sit around the whole field, with a hill directly behind the home run fence.

The WA Claxton Shield team played in the opening game against Victoria in the 1983 series – the first at Parry Field. There was a lack of space to train prior to the game so the team travelled by bus to Forster Park. When they returned to Parry Field there was no place to park and the roads were gridlocked as so many spectators had arrived to watch the opening game. The bus parked away from the stadium and the team had to walk back to Parry Field. It's estimated that about 9000 people were there that night. Tony Goadby hit a home run in this game and said *"It was an amazing feeling! Huge crowd.. .all around behind the home run fence...all down the bleachers...absolutely packed. I hit a home run and I don't think I touched the bases...I was floating!"* (TG December 2018)

The 1983 Claxton Shield and international games against Korea and Japan were hosted at this venue. Following the 1983 Claxton Shield, a team would be selected to represent Australia in a tournament in Tokyo. This tournament determined which country would represent Asia at the Olympic Games in 1984 in Los Angeles where baseball was played as a demonstration sport. (The West Australian Saturday October 16 1982 p137 TG July 2019)

Ironically, a tobacco company was the major Australian Baseball Federation sponsor for the Claxton Shield when it was held in Perth in 1983, and the Swan Brewery sponsored the WA State team!!

Parry Field really put baseball on the map. There were lots of international tournaments held there. Teams including Japan, Taipei and the Philippines would play against the Australian team and the popularity of the sport grew. On occasions the winner of the Japanese championship would tour Australia. A composite Australian team would play against Japan in each State. The team was made up of players from the State teams who had been selected for the Australian squad based on their performance in the Claxton Shield that year – the best of the best. South Perth often had representation on these teams.

Gwen Ettles was a member of the social committee for Parry Field. She would wash the Perth Heat players' pants, using a nail brush to get the red dirt out. The social committee would also organise fruit for the boys for double headers, and even provide hot meals.

During the interval between an A Reserves and A Grade game, Tony Ettles' wife Jo, who ran modelling classes, organised and presented a fashion parade for juniors. His sister Tayola, and some of her group from school did a dance routine and a gymnastics routine. Although the crowd was a little boisterous, it was a great way to pass the time between games.

Parry Field hosted a competition on Friday night called the Toyota Cup. It was held over two time slots, 6.30 and 8.45. Batters would go in with one ball and one strike already on them, to speed up the game. Often the team would go to Panchos for dinner in Vic Park if they had an early game.

In 1985 Perth hosted the 13th Asian Baseball Championship Series Australia at Parry Fields.

The venue continued to be the heart of WA baseball for about 15 years, but several political and financial circumstances began to impact. At the request of Kevin Parry, Tony Goadby and Gwen door knocked throughout the City of Belmont to collect signatures to keep Parry Fields open. Every person they spoke to signed to say to keep it. Despite this, the venue was forced to close in the late 1990s. It was the end of a short but glorious era for Western Australian sport.

Geriatric Jets

Retiring A-Grade players (and other club stalwarts) including Tony Goadby, Ric Garner, Rob Chappell, Russell Jarvis, Gary Scarterfield, Graeme Ward, Ross Putland, Trevor Dearle, Larry Ragazzo, Ken Angwin and Mick Gordon joined the A Reserve 2s, a mandatory team that was often short of players but required for the club to maintain its A-grade status. This division changed to B Grade when Colts were introduced.

This South Perth team was known as the 'Geriatric Jets' and won three consecutive premierships in the mid-1990s. Not a bad effort for a team that only trained for about a month or so before the season started and once a week on a Thursday for a hit and a throw - just so they didn't tear everything from the first week out.

The team had over 30 years of state experience between them – no wonder they were good! The pitchers threw strikes, the batters hit and they made the routine outs. They knew when to muck around and when to play. Each player took turns coaching.

They won three premierships and then had a year off. The next season they got beaten by University in the preliminary final. The victors were ecstatic to beat the team that 'was untouchable for years'. Ric's wife Irene was scoring the game and said, 'You know there's not a bloke in that side under 40'. What!?? Just a little bit of rain on their parade!

The team often held social events such as Golf Days. This involved forming teams of 4 (two pairs in each team), ensuring that your wife/husband/partner was in a different group. A round of 9 holes was played and each pair could choose the 'best ball' to follow after each swing or putt. The game was always followed by drinks at someone's house.

The Jets also had a fines system. If you had a good game you got fined, if you had a bad game you got fined, and all the money went to an end of season BBQ and function with wives and girlfriends. There was a Fines Master each year who determined who got fined, what the

offence was and how much would be paid. You could get fined for striking out, making an error, making a good play. The Fines Master made sure that the fines were evenly spaced so everyone contributed roughly the same amount.

Juniors

At this time there was the U13s Pee Wee State championships. Each club would make up a team of its best U13 players and they would participate in a State championship. The State winners would then go to Adelaide to play in the national competition.

About 1983/84 South Perth/Willetton Pee Wee team won the State championship and went to Adelaide with players including Rick Gozzi, Stuart Harben, Stuart Howe, Cam Vinicombe and others. In 1986 this achievement was repeated with Travis Baugh, David Coleman, Glen Collins, Rod Dalgrin, Gavin Hadwen, Craig Harben, Michael Hodge, Jason Hewitt, Andy Meiklem, Gerard Mitchell, Sam Rogalaski, Brett Walters, Luke Johnstone, Ben Connelly, Daniel Fick and Clayton Smith.

Many of these boys were the nucleus that went on to become the very successful State League teams of the 1990s and 2000s.

Players Review Nights

Player review nights were held at the end of the season with each team performing and act. They were fun nights and great fundraisers.

One team enacted a wedding with the players dressing up as the bride and bridesmaids.

One year the A Grade team did an item about giving birth using shadows. Behind a sheet. Ric played the part of the mother and Ross Putland was the baby. Russell Jarvis was the doctor who arrived on stage with a big tool belt and all sorts of tools hanging off him. The audience thought this was hilarious!

Typically, the ladies did not participate, but one year Gwen Ettles thought, 'why not'? She had a word to a few of the other wives and girlfriends, including Leanne Scarterfield, Kerry Goadby, Irene Garner, Chris Dodd and Robbie Angwin and they agreed it was time for the ladies to share the stage and it would be fun! Gwen spoke to her husband Ted, who was the President at the time, to 'get his permission' for the ladies to be involved and sensibly he agreed.

Gwen had recently watched the Rocky Horror Picture Show and thought this would be the perfect item to perform. She recorded the show and recruited her son Tony to show her how to do the sound effects on a cassette tape. The ladies choreographed their performance and rehearsed regularly in the lead up to the review.

On the night of the review the girls were immensely excited. 'Brad' and 'Janet' completed their part while the others waited behind the concertina door at the clubrooms. There was a pretend knock at the door, the doors swung open, and they strutted out in their blue jackets and black pants. The music started and the ladies executed a perfect 'Time Warp' whilst miming the words. They had a sheet of paper hanging up with the steps to the dance, just as in the movie and Robbie Angwin pointed to the steps. Gwen's daughter Taola sat on top of

the jukebox and performed the tap-dancing sequence. It was such a success that an encore was called for after interval!

From this time on the ladies were still involved, and in one of the first player reviews in the new clubrooms they performed a version of the song 'Simply Irresistible'. The ladies were dancing while Harry Mason 'aka Harry-O' played the part of Robert Palmer.

Round Robin at Vic Park

Gwen suggested to the committee that they liaise with Vic Park to host a round robin to give all the clubs in the district a chance for the teams to get to know their players prior to the season. There was not enough room at South Perth for three diamonds as the Pine Plantation was still there. Vic Park agreed so the diamonds were set up and South Perth ran the canteen. It happened on the Queen's birthday long weekend in October usually the weekend before Round 1. Although it was a remarkably successful weekend, it only ran once.

Team Camaraderie

Having after game drinks was still an important part of game day, and hosting duties varied depending on where the game was being played. When the team was at Gosnells, Kerry and Tony Goadby, living just around the corner, opened their doors. John and Nola Osborn did the same when the game was played at Perth or Morley. Often the umpires would join them. Maurie Reynolds would often pop in, for a cold beer and a chat, even if he were umpiring another game.

Another well patronised venue after south of the river games was a house shared by Gary Scarterfield, Mick Gordon and Wayne 'Horse' Condon. The house was known as 'Kangaroo-A-Go-Go' because it was on Onslow St in South Perth overlooking the kangaroo enclosure at the Perth Zoo.

When games were north of the river, everyone would go back to 'North Kangaroo-A-Go-Go', the home of Tony Johnson on Charles St North Perth.

Reunion - 1989/90

Over a casual off-season dinner and a few drinks between the Goadbys' and the Chappells' a list was made of past players and supporters who had been a part of SPBC. The list didn't take long to grow and formed the basis of a club reunion. During January 1990 with the help of many others the mailing list was formed and a date set for a whole of club reunion at Collier.

What an awesome day! Tents and umbrellas were set up around the club rooms and people came from far and wide with their folding chairs, picnics and most importantly their old photos. We hosted Morley and took out the win!

This was the start of our amazing memorabilia collection which to this day remains in our club house.

Fundraising

Tony Buhagiar, a well-known footballer who played for East Fremantle and Essendon, owned the Leopold Hotel and was a sponsor of the club. Over several years he called for tenders to run the bar at Rally Australia, held in Perth in 1988 and 1999. Chris Dodd submitted a tender, which was accepted. Members of the club volunteered their time and ran the bar, and the wages that would have been paid as part of the tender were contributed to fundraising. This was done again on two occasions when the American Navy ships came to Fremantle for shore leave. A function was hosted at the Fremantle Terminal and the club received fundraising income when volunteers again manned the bar.

Kerfuffle with West Stirling

During a game against West Stirling there was a 'kerfuffle' and the coach, Gary Scarterfield was thrown out of the game. Manager John Connell and player Mark Ettles rearranged the team and South Perth went on to win the game. Gwen Ettles approached the chief umpire after the game and said, 'Wasn't that a great game against West Stirling' to which he replied, 'You should never have won that game!'

1990s

New clubrooms

The new clubrooms were built in partnership between Wesley and South Perth, so the club then 'moved 'up the hill' to utilise these facilities. Peter Dodd successfully led South Perth through this transition.

The small space at Collier had the benefit of promoting camaraderie - everyone could sit together on the veranda and share a drink and a yarn after training or on can nights. All the teams would be there together. This intimacy was lost a little with the move to the beautiful new facilities at Grayden.

There were other factors that impacted on the social aspect of the club. Some of the A Grade players decided to go to the session at the Windsor Hotel rather than stay at the club after the game. Also, a generation of junior players coming through the ranks had their parents, who had taken on a lot of the responsibilities such as being on the committee and other jobs, therefore the players didn't develop the same sense of responsibility and ownership. The introduction of Perth Heat also meant that the commitment of players aspiring to play at this level was divided between the club and Perth Heat.

Although some of the intimacy may have been lost, there were also positives about the move to Grayden. An ex State League player and coach commented,

"We had our little dog box with poor change rooms, bad showers, you know, and the club was starting to really grow in numbers and success, and with that success bred interest where you'd get more people at games, more people would come and support functions, stay around after the games, Thursday nights were bigger, so moving into that facility just gave us some space - a place to really call home, an opportunity to make money, build the culture of the club because you could have events there and stay around. It was comfortable."

People would stay after training on Thursday nights and both teams would stay after the games on a Sunday to share a few beers and just talk baseball and listen to speeches. People wanted to stay and support the club and talk to people from other clubs.

In the early 1990s the junior the club was huge! There were about nine senior teams, a women's team and about eight junior teams, including six U13 teams. Some games had to be played at Penrhos and Curtin University as there wasn't enough room at the club!

Ken Walters was the State League coach in the 1990/91 season. The State League competition at this time was generally very strong with a lot more guys continuing to play into their late 20s and early 30s. This meant that many A Reserves players wouldn't get a game of State League until well into their 20s due to the depth of clubs.

The team was relatively young and still to reach their full potential, so scoring runs was sometimes difficult, and for a couple of years the team took a beating. It was almost like there was no expectation to win since the club had been down for so long. Although the junior teams had been very successful, the State League team had not won a premiership since 1967. Kevin Driscoll changed that.

Kevin became the State League coach in the 1991/92 season and really changed the culture and expectations of the club in terms of how the team trained, the professionalism, the standard and the expectation around winning. He was a pitcher and manager from Morley Eagles, a club that had been very successful in the 1980's, and full of star players. Kevin was a serious and super intense competitor always wanting to win. He knew the game of baseball and understood the benefits of working hard and playing a team brand of baseball. He was also very energetic, a great communicator and got people involved from a coaching point of view. Kevin had a major impact on Jason as a player and competitor and was well respected and loved as a coach by Jason and all the South Perth players.

Kevin set a structured training program which motivated the players to want to come to training and perform. It was seen as an advantage that he came from outside the club as he had no preconceived ideas or connections within the South Perth Baseball club. He kept the players working hard and focused and created opportunities for many players to earn a spot in the State League team. Most players had 10 year careers at the senior club after spending 6-8 years in the junior program.

During his five seasons as coach, he led the team to the finals in 1993/94, semi-finals in 1994/95 and the grand final in 1995/96. Unfortunately, they got beaten by Perth in the last game of the season.

Melville and Morley were really strong clubs in the 1980's and early 1990s and Perth had beaten SPBC in two out of three grand finals so there was some serious rivalry developing with those teams, but as the more skilled junior players started coming up to seniors the teams became stronger and were more of a threat to the other clubs. Perth and South Perth both had strong personalities in their teams and players who wanted to win. People loved to come and watch the State League play because they were always good games. There was sometimes heckling from the sidelines, but it was never personal and came from people who knew the game. There were strong personalities on the sidelines.

Atlanta Olympics

On New Years' Eve 1995, Australia qualified for the Atlanta Olympics by beating South Africa in an Olympic qualifier in Melbourne. Players were initially selected based on their performance in the ABL. Because it was an Olympic sport, more programs and funding were provided by the government so a squad of about 30 players was sent to Canberra to train.

After the win against South Africa, a squad was selected to go to America for two months prior to the Olympics, and from this the Olympic team was selected, including our own Jason Hewitt and Stuart Howell. The squad had a 2month training camp at the Florida Marlins spring Training Facility in Melbourne, Florida. The squad toured America, having numerous

exhibition games against Team USA. Games were played at Minor League fields and US College fields with, up to ten thousand people in attendance.

There were only 8 teams in the Olympics so games were played every 2 or 3 days. Each team played each other once with the top 4 going through to the semis. Unfortunately, Australia didn't make it into the top 4, but it was still an amazing experience. At the age of 21, Jason was the youngest in the team.

In the 1996/97 season the club recruited American import Brooke Knight to play and coach the State League team. Brooke left after one season to coach Wanneroo.

John Osborne picked up the reigns from 1997 to 1999 and continued to develop the players. The club was on the cusp on winning its first State League premiership in over 30 years.

2000s

Drought breaking Grand Final

South Perth was looking for a new State League coach for the 1999/2000 season so Lee Cahill, a player at Morley, was approached. In his first season as coach, Lee led the team to the grand final against Wanneroo to be played at West Stirling. Could this be the season that the drought was broken?

In the final game South Perth was up 2-1. There were two outs with runners on first and second. Kevin Wilson, the South Perth pitcher, struck out the next batter and it was game over – they won! '. The players ran into the middle of the diamond and piled on, Supporters ran down the hill onto the field -there were people everywhere, some crying with sheer joy and relief.

The celebrations after the game were amazing – unforgettable. This win meant so much for the players and the supporters. The hoodoo was finally broken. It brought a lot of joy to a lot of people who had been involved with the club for so long.

Larry Harder was the President at the time so was involved in interviewing and appointing Lee to the position. When reflecting on this decision he said, “what-ever magic he had, produced a premiership”. Larry’s wife Leanda wrote a poem and dedication in recognition of this victory.

This poem is not just written for the players in the 1999/2000 State League team, but for every player, in every grade, for every supporter who has watched a South Perth game in the past 33 seasons, for every scorer, for every canteen worker, for every Committee person, for anyone who was lucky enough to be born to play for South Perth and for everyone we’ve welcomed from outside with open arms. For every child who has grown up on the fields of Collier and Collins Reserves and for everyone who has come to be a Blue and White through luck and good fortune.

Leanda Harder March 27 2000

THE BOND

*For 33 years the names remained
From the legendary team that one a great game
17 innings of blood and guts
Menner stood tall at the end of the day*

*A bond was formed between all these great men
Which would stand 'til replaced in the shortness of time
By the newest champions – the wait couldn't be long
So we held our breathes as the decades rolled on*

*They came to support them, these hero's past
As year after year the dream slipped past
Ten years, then twenty, not thirty rolled by
As mighty men anguished and the women all cried*

*The supporters were true and never gave up
And they followed their dreams in their quest for the cup
Their own children tried to make it come true
This dream they all held for the white and the blue*

*President, committee and players all tried
They did what was needed to keep it alive
But year after year they came up just short
As they watched others enjoy the glory they sought*

*The millennium season was a season of hope
A new coach, new attitude, though the dream – still remote
Most weeks we shone like the medals we craved
The believers were hopeful, the players were brave*

*Minor premiers was stolen by a dubious call
Would we be determined with our backs to the wall?
A desperate effort – we thwarted the Hawks
We held on with courage, we fought to a walk*

*Grand Final Game 1 was decided by the bat of the Coach
Jelks was a star, Walters beyond reproach
The Giants could see the writing on the wall
They were playing a team of champions, one and all*

*If dreams do come true – they did that Sunday
An underrated pitcher had come to play
The teamwork was inspiring – they would not be denied*

As the supporters exploded and the women still cried!

*Now they have a bond that will unite them all
For the rest of their lives they will heed the call
They too will come back to support our team
As another group starts to dare to dream*

Everyone went back to the club that afternoon and Graeme 'Pop' Menner presented the Premiership Cup to Lee Cahill. This was a significant moment as Graeme was the player who pitched 17 innings to lead South Perth to their last grand final win in 1967. The celebrations continued through the night and into the next morning. At times the bar was 10 people deep! On Monday everyone went to the Leopold Hotel to continue the celebrations. The wind up that year was very special, ending the season on a high note.

Several players retired at the end of this season, so the teams became a little depleted, but that did not stop their winning streak. South Perth beat Wembley, two games to nil, to win another grand final the next season.

Amazing Grand Finals Run

True to form, South Perth faced off against their old rivals Perth for the grand final in 2001/02. South Perth went into the first game full of confidence but lost. To top it off, their coach, Jason Hewitt was thrown out of the game and received a one game suspension. Third base coach Rod Drew took over coaching duties for the second game on Sunday which ended up going for twelve innings. Dryw 'Lips' Edwards laid a bunt that scored the winning run. It was now one game all. With their coach back for the decider, South Perth put on a great show and won by six runs. The players, supporters and families headed back to the club to celebrate and it 'went off'!

South Perth earned their way to a fourth consecutive grand final appearance in the 2002/03 season, coming up against Wanneroo at West Stirling. South Perth won the first game, but Wanneroo evened the score in the second game.

As the afternoon progressed during the decider, the weather turned quite stormy and the game was halted due to lightning strikes – not very safe when metal bats are used! Eventually the game resumed. At the bottom of the eighth, South Perth were one run down and Rick Gozzi was the lead-off batter. Rick's walk to first ended up being the last play of the game as the plate umpire, Mark Richardson came over to Jason, the coach, and said that he'd been instructed by BWA to call off the game due to lack of light. Jason queried what would happen – would the game be replayed the following week? No such luck. Because 5 innings can constitute a game, they reverted back to the score at the end of the previous inning and awarded the game to Wanneroo.

The South Perth supporters erupted and many they felt they had been robbed of an opportunity to win the game. Jason was very vocal and threatened with suspension. Although Wanneroo was awarded the win, South Perth will always count it as a game 'not lost'. If the game had been allowed to continue and South Perth went on to win, they would have won six Premierships in a row – the current record stands at seven.

In the 2003/04 season the mighty South Perth made it to yet another grand final, this time against Melville at Swan Districts. South Perth lost the first game by one run and there was heaps of sledging from the opposition. This really fired up Jason who was coaching his third State League grand final series. The conduct of the opposition prompted him to deliver an inspirational and motivational speech to the team after their first game loss. The speech had its desired impact when South Perth won the second game by two runs and the players got their confidence back. South Perth clinched the series in the final game, scoring 14 runs, including two home runs from Brett Walters, and keeping Melville scoreless. Any advantage gained by Melville from the initial sledging was completely wiped out....and didn't we rub their noses in it!

In 2004/2005 South Perth was appearing in their sixth consecutive grand final series, this time against Perth at the newly constructed Baseball Park. South Perth won the first game but Perth evened the ledger in the second, forcing a decider. Once again Jason led his team to victory with a 5-2 win.

South Perth had won five premierships in six seasons, making them the one of the strongest and most successful clubs in the history of baseball in WA.

Mad Monday 2006

Mad Monday in 2006 had a special highlight, as explained by Anne Kyle, Club Secretary, in her regular newsletter below.

MAD MONDAY - Players and spectators enjoyed Mad Monday at the Club this year due to the Leopold Hotel no longer being available after a long and much appreciated tradition. I am sure everyone will cherish many memories associated with one of the most important events in our calendar. Hopefully we can now begin another era in Mad Monday's at the club. One of this year's highlights was the training session of the South African Rugby Union Club, the "Vodacom Stormers" as was described on their web site –

Vodacom Stormers get "hometown" welcome at training session

Posted on 28 March 2006 at 08:58

The Vodacom Stormers were given a taste of the kind "local" hospitality that they may expect at Subiaco Oval on Friday when they trained at a local school earlier this week. The Stormers face the Western Force in the opening match of their Vodacom Super 14 tour.

Wesley College, a private boy's school in South Perth, is hosting the Stormers' training and gym sessions this week. On Monday, however, the afternoon training session took place on a field adjacent to the clubhouse of the local baseball team, "Souths", whose members were enjoying the last hours of their traditional 24-hour end of season "boozathon"!

As the Stormers went through a tough 2 hour session, the jibes flew thick and fast as the baseballers, most of them obviously well on their way and clearly unfamiliar with Rugby Union watched with bemusement and an unstable gait.

"What's the latest cricket score, mate!", chirped one in reference to the State of play in the test between the Proteas and the Aussies.

Undaunted by the chirping, the Stormers completed the session and clearly impressed the onlookers with the intensity and dedication of the session, and the size of some of their squad members.

"Jeez, mate. How big is that guy!!!," said one as Andries Bekker walked by.

It was all in good "spirit" though and Stormers scrumhalf Bolla Conradie was made an honorary "member" of Souths. His picture will soon grace the walls of the clubhouse and a signed baseball will serve as reminders of the Stormers visit in years to come.

"We weren't bothered too much about it," said Manager Chippie Solomon. "It might actually serve as a bit of a dress rehearsal for Friday's Game". (newsletter Number 5 April 2006, written by Anne Kyle)

Players who have progressed to Major League Baseball

The South Perth Baseball Club continues to develop world class athletes with many junior players progressing to play baseball at State, National and International levels. Three of our juniors, Mark Ettles, Peter Moylan and Warwick Saupold, have played US-MLB (Major League Baseball) and many others have represented Australia at the Olympics and overseas tournaments. The current coach of WA's Perth Heat (Andrew Kyle) is a prodigy of South Perth.

A number of South Perth players have also played Triples in America, including Scott Mitchinson, Brett Walters and Mark Kelly.

The South Perth Baseball Club Family

Darren Alcott

Darren played right-field in A Grade during the 1985/86 season. That same year he was selected in U18s State team to play in Melbourne.

Norm Anderson

Norm 'Scotty' Anderson was a Private in the army in WWII. He served in the Middle East and was promoted to Officer. When he returned, he worked as a book-maker and with Wesfarmers.

Norm and his mate Rob Gordon would come and watch the baseball at Langley Park. He was the inaugural secretary and A grade scorer, a selector and was a great supporter who did whatever he could to assist. He was one of our original club patrons.

He was a lovely man and a great character. He lived with his brother, sister-in-law, and nephew near Lathlain Park. One wet, rainy Monday night Norm was leaving the Perth Football Club, still dressed in his work suit and holding an umbrella. The rain was coming from the north when he stepped out on to the road, was hit by a taxi and killed instantly. His nephew submitted a touching memory to the weekend paper for 'My favourite picture' and included a photo of Norm sitting with a glass of beer in front of him.

Darral Andrews

Darral played his first season in A Grade in 1953 in the position of short stop.

Ken Angwin

Ken Angwin was a long-time member of South Perth Baseball Club as a player, senior and junior coach and committee member. He played social grades and was a part of the premiership winning Geriatric Jets B-grade team in 1993/94.

He was Assistant Coach of A-Grade in 1989/90 season and volunteered at the club in many ways including line marking, setting up for tournaments and functions – you name it and Ken was there to get the job done.

'Ken is a long-time member of South Perth having progressed through both our junior and senior clubs. He has been a committee member and a coach for a number of years and is a

current member of our A-Reserves 2 team.’ (South Perth Baseball Club (Inc) 1990 Reunion Programme TG January 2020)

Ken’s wife Robbie was a long serving member on the committee throughout the 1980s and 1990s as Treasurer, fundraiser, social events, canteen and volunteer.

Ken has sadly passed away.

Barnes Family

Twins Clayton and Clinton Barnes both came up through our junior ranks and played A Grade/ State League during the 1990’s/2000’s and were part of the 2000’s dynasty of State League winning premiership teams.

Lyall Barwick

Lyall was a South Perth junior who represented WA and Australia in junior tournaments during the 1980’s. He was our A-Grade catcher during the mid-1980’s and a member of Perth Heat in the late 80’s/early 90’s.

‘Played junior baseball with Willetton and South Perth. Represented WA in State junior teams on 7 occasions. Selected in Australian Development Squad in ’87. A member of the bronze medal winning Australian under 19 AAA World Youth Team in 1989. Currently a member of Perth Heat.’ (South Perth Baseball Club (Inc) 1990 Reunion Programme TG January 2020)

Alan Bell

Alan worked at Bristile and was one of the original players to come across with Jim Dore to start South Perth Baseball Club. He was a lovely bloke but had a reputation as a bit of a devil.

Alan was a member of the premiership winning Bristile team in 1938. This success continued with South Perth premierships in 1947, 1948, 1951 and 1952. He was also a member of the winning 1952 WA Claxton Shield team.

The following article appeared in the ‘Know Your Sportsman’ section of the Sunday Times (Sunday 21 November 1954)

“Alan Bell – his uncanny anticipation at first base in baseball has won him the coveted green and gold all-Australian cap, not to mention five State ones. He will be seen on the first bag with the Southern Districts Cubs during the night baseball season. Alan started in 1936. Following year, he was introduced to first base play by Charlie Puckett. Since the war he has played with South Perth. He usually finishes in the first three on the South Perth averages. Alan rates the night game as faster than day baseball. This, he thinks, is largely due to the faster ground. At 35 he is one of the veterans of the game. He is married with four children – two of them potential baseball stars.”

1954 'Know Your Sportsmen', Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), 21 November, p. 15. (SPORTS SECTION), viewed 01 Jun 2020, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article59698090>

"Local man Wins State Selection Again

Among the men who will represent Western Australia at the Australian baseball carnival next week will be Alan Bell of Cannington, who has once again make the State team. The carnival will open at the WACA Ground on Saturday and will continue during the week. Alan Bell, formally a good soccer player for Queens Park, has been one of Was best baseballers for many years and has represented the State in practically every baseball side since the war. One of the most brilliant infield men in WA baseball, Alan Bell is also a sound man with the bat. He is always capable of strong, offensive play and his big hitting has highlighted many club games in the past. It will be nothing new for him to appear for the State against the best men the Eastern States can muster, and his ability to continue year after year, to show the form which wins State selection is sufficient evidence of this well-known and popular player's ability.

A commercial salesman, Bell is one of the best known Cannington sportsman, for he was a sports star long before he ever became known as one of the best baseballers. Before the war, he was one of Queen's Parks regulars in soccer, and forsook this game when the baseball 'bug' bit him. He has played baseball continually for the past few seasons and like Charlie Puckett and George Dickenson – men of inter State fame – is still turning on the type of play that appeals to the onlooker. He and his infield partners in Jim Dore, Ben Shom and Basil Ridge have been combining well in practice lately and looked top class when the State team had a hollow win over the rest at Langley Park last Sunday. Backed up by his fast moving outfield, Bell and his team-mates look likely to trouble all-comers and they could be strong challengers for the Claxton Shield."

1952 'Local Man Wins State Selection Again', South Western Advertiser (Perth, WA : 1910 - 1954), 31 July, p. 7. , viewed 01 Jun 2020, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article148937119>

Bennett Family

V.E Bennett owned a company called Western Glass and he was the patron and sponsor of the club for many years.

His oldest son Geoff played junior and senior baseball, progressing to A Grade and night baseball. Geoff Bennett often hosted 'Liar Dice' nights at his place with the A Grade players. Liar Dice was a strategy game that involved rolling a set of 5 dice, each with 9, 10, Jack, Queen, King and Ace on the faces, and trying to roll higher than the previous player.

Second son John, known as 'Pondo' started as a 15 year old junior and played B Grade, A Reserves and A Grade. Pondo was part of the legendary team that won the 1967 Grand Final and scored the winning run in this game. He volunteered on the committee for a number of years and held the position of was President. John's service to the club was recognised in 1970 when he was awarded Life Membership. John passed away in December 2021.

Neil 'Blue' Bennett also played junior and senior baseball and became an outfielder for the A reserves in the 1977/1978 season.

Bruce Bennett played A Grade.

Ron Booth

Ron was a pitcher at Midland and came across to South Perth in 1947. He was part of the successful A Grade team that won four Premierships in 1947, 1948, 1951 and 1952 and was the Vice-Captain in 1952.

He played for the winning WA in the 1952 Claxton Shield Series – the first for WA.

Ron was described by others as a lovely bloke.

Mike Borgatti

Mike was brought out from the US as an import player - a pitcher in the A Grade in 1989/90 season.

"An American from Louisiana. Tied to the Baltimore Orioles Single "A" Carolina League. He was promoted to Double "AA" late last season. Perth Heat's 89/90 American recruit." (South Perth Baseball Club (Inc) 1990 Reunion Programme TG January 2020)

Bowey/Donovan/Sunderland/Searle Family

Gavin Bowey played senior baseball at South Perth and has coached junior and senior teams. The 2020 Intermediate League team was predominantly made up of his own grandkids – Riley, Kayden, Ashton, Billy and Ben. His grand-daughter Avah was an inaugural member of the Challenger Division in 2017.

Gavin's wife Anne is a scorer and daughter Taylor has played in junior and women's teams. Talyor has also managed the club's social media.

Son's Brett and Jake played junior and senior baseball. Jake is a member of the State League team, plays for Perth Heat and played minor league baseball with the Houston Astros in America.

Gavin was instrumental in building our state of the art batting cages. From the moment the seed was planted Gavin was part of the design and planning process. With the help of Lucas Smith and his builders ticket the process started. Prior to the CSRFF grant being submitted in July 2017 Gavin spent many hours in consultation with the City of South Perth and the current committee getting this project off the ground. In January 2018 the club was notified the grant was successful. It was April 2018 when he and his team of volunteers started removing the old cages and in May 2018 the ground works for the new cages was completed.

The transformation that took place during the offseason was amazing and in September 2018 the new cages were completed.

A HUGE thank you to Gavin, Lucas Smith and their team for all their hard work

Bradley Family

John and Maureen Bradley have been a part of South Perth Baseball Club for many years.

John has been a committee member and volunteer over the years.

Maureen has filled many roles, committee member, canteen, volunteer, scorer and statistician at club, State and National competitions. For many years Maureen kept club records and co-ordinated trophies for each team – junior and senior. Maureen was awarded Life Membership in 2009.

Sons Paul and Shane played junior and senior baseball at South Perth. Paul has coached and been a part of our State League teams and also volunteered on the committee.

Paul's daughter Erin also volunteers at the club.

Martin 'Marty' Braine

Marty was an A Grade pitcher in the 1980/81 season. 'The clever out-curves of pitcher Martin Braine...The right-handed Braine was the man who upset the Victoria Park big hitters. He used a variety of slow out-curves to keep the batters off balance.' (newspaper article title unknown 2nd Feb 1981 TG July 2019)

Brisset Family

Darryl came to South Perth when his son Trent progressed from tee ball to baseball in the late 1990s, playing in junior and senior teams. He was the team manager for Trent's team for several years.

Darryl has provided sponsorship to the club for many years. He has held various roles on the committee including Secretary, Senior Vice President, canteen co-ordinator and stepped into the Presidents role in the late 2000's. Darryl joined the committee again in 2021/22 to help out and his current role is canteen purchasing and fundraising. His contribution to the club was recognised in 2019 when he was awarded Life Membership.

Trent played both junior and senior baseball with South Perth

Olivia (Darryl's grand-daughter) was an inaugural player in Challenger Division in 2017.

Rod Byrne

Rod was captain coach of Swans Districts in their back to back premierships of 1962 & 1963. He came across to coach South Perth during the mid-1960's and was coach of South Perth's winning 1966/67 grand final. He then moved across to coach of Nedlands in 1970 and Perth in 1975/76.

As coach of South Perth Rod was always experimenting with different techniques and plays. One was known as 'the smother play' and was designed to 'smother' the batter and make him panic. Every person was a crucial part of the game and every person had a role to play. The pitcher winds up and then suddenly leftfield, second baseman and first baseman all run in. Shortstop went to third, backed up by leftfield and centrefield came in to second base. This play was used only once, but it worked! The opposition, particularly the batter, had no idea what was going on!

Rod coached WA to Claxton Shield victory in 1975, 77, 78, 79. He also coached the 1980 team. He represented WA as a player for nine years and was selected in the All Australian team twice and was an excellent batter.

Rod started playing baseball in 1956 when he set up Bellevue Baseball Club with other interested players. He moved to Swan Districts three years later to play A grade, played for State and National teams and was shown interest from two American teams – New York Yankees and Cincinnati Reds. He was offered the possibility of a two year contract, which he declined, fearing that he wouldn't stand a chance against thousands of Americans competing to play at this level. Rod had numerous problems with his knees during the mid-1960s but was able to play until he retired in 1970. In 1979 he selected as coach of the Australia team. (Sunday Independent April 29, 1979 p77 TG July 2019)

Was the assistant coach of the Australia team that toured Korea and Japan in 1975.

Managed the Australian Team who played Japan's Honda team in the Goodwill Series in Jan-Feb 1979.

Named as manager in the Claxton Shield 75th Anniversary 2009 All-Star Team Western Australia. Each State or territory was asked to select a State team prior to the announcement of an All Time Australian Team. The selection panel was Bob Harris, Doug Corker and Neville Pratt. The WA Claxton Shield Club was surveyed as well.

- Was a Claxton Shield team member: 1960-1965, 1967,1970
- Claxton Shield Coach: 1973-1975, 1977-1980
- Best Player Claxton Shield Series Adelaide: 1961
- Claxton Shield Batting Trophy in Adelaide: 1961
- Claxton Shield winning coach: 1975, 1977, 1978, 1979
- First WA player to be offered a contract to play in the US: 1961
- Australian All Star Team member: 1961 & 1965
- Australian Assistant Coach: 1975 and 1977
- Australian Head Coach: 1979 (Japan and Korea)
- Australian Coach (in Australia): 1979 First ever wins against a visiting Japanese team in WA
- President ABL for many years
- Inaugural Inductee into Baseball Australia HALL OF FAME in 2005 (as manager)
- WA Baseball League Callanan Award winner: 1964, 1966, 1967
- WA Baseball League Life Member: 1979
- WA Record Holder Base Running 1st to home: 14.2 seconds
- WA Baseball League Vice President: 1974-1975, 1976-1977
- WA Baseball Certificate of Appreciation: 2000
- Australian Sports Medal Recipient: 2000
- Australian Baseball Federation Life Member: 2004

Sadly, Rod passed away in 2005 at the age of 65 from a brain tumour. 'Rod's contribution to our game has been outstanding by any measure and he will be sadly missed'. (Australian Baseball Federation death notice for Rod in The West Australian Wednesday May 11th 2005 TG July 2019)

Cant family

Ian Cant was a team manager, committee member and statistician. Sons Jamie and Leigh played junior and senior baseball at South Perth

Errol Carter

Errol was a member of the South Perth juniors from 1953-1956, including the successful 1956 premiership winning team. Jim Dore was his coach.

Errol was team-mates with Kevin Ellis, Graeme Menner, Des Payne, Jim Scahill and Mick Throssell.

When he started in juniors, they were training at Clydesdale Park, which was on Mill Point Road opposite Jim Dore's house.

He was at the WACA when the decision was made to call the night league team 'Southern Districts Cubs'. This was a combined South Perth and Victoria Park team. Jim Dore selected Errol and Snow McFarlane (from Wembley Baseball Club) to play in a curtain raiser game for the night league. Errol made a three-bag hit in this game.

Errol's older brother Gary also played for South Perth.

When Jim Dore opened a sports store, Errol purchased a 33-inch baseball bat from him and then progressed to a heavier 34 inch.

Errol was originally a house painter but then became a fire fighter.

Jeff Chandler

Played his junior baseball with Willetton and South Perth and was a senior player for both A-Grade and A-Reserves 1 during the late 1980's / early 1990's. (South Perth Baseball Club (Inc) 1990 Reunion Programme TG January 2020)

Chappell Family

Tom and Rhonda Chappell became involved with South Perth Baseball Club in 1964 when their 7 year old son Robert was invited by family friend Dennis Osborn to give baseball a go. Dennis would take son's Mick and John and Robbie to Claremont Showgrounds to watch night baseball.

Tom and Rhonda became supporters and volunteers and Tom was also a team manager.

During his nine years as a junior player, Robbie represented WA in the Under 13s, Under 15s and Under 17s National Competitions.

In recognition of his dedication, fast pace and exceptional skill in the outfield, Rob was promoted to A Grade at the age of 16 and played at the top club level for 14 years. He was a member of South Perth's renowned '3 Amigos' as a right fielder for many years alongside Tony Goadby and Gary Scarterfield. This combination was regarded as one of the best in the league at the time. He was also a regular third baseman described as a 'versatile baseballer' and 'sure-fielding' - exceptionally good at batting and in outfield.

After retiring from A Grade, Rob joined the A Reserve 2s, a mandatory team that was often short of players. Retiring A Grade players assisted the club to maintain its State League status by agreeing to play in this division which then changed to B Grade when Colts were introduced. Rob was a member of the South Perth B Grade team, known as the 'Geriatric Jets' for four years, and contributed to their Premiership wins in 1990/91, 1992/93 and 1993/94 seasons. He continued to be a regular relief player for lower grade senior teams in later years.

During his playing career, and beyond, Rob has taken on many coaching roles and has contributed to the success of many South Perth players who have gone on to represent WA and Australia at international and Olympic level. He was the first baseball coach of Mark Ettles who went on to play Major League Baseball in America.

Commencing in the late 1970s Rob coached the U13s, known as Pee-Wees, for two years and the U17s for three years. He was also the Assistant Coach for the WA U18s team.

When his own playing career finally finished, he continued coaching for about 5 years, mentoring junior teams from the U13s, Little League and 15/3s division.

During his time at South Perth, Rob has consistently and significantly given back to the club. He has been a general committee member on numerous occasions since the 1980s, most recently for three consecutive years from 2015-2018. He has also supported his wife, Deb, when she has undertaken executive roles on the committee.

Rob has always volunteered to help when South Perth has hosted State and national tournaments, completing whatever tasks were required. He was part of the planning group who organised the 1989/90 reunion, 70th anniversary events and multiple Past Player days.

For the last 5 years Rob has assisted Phil Kelly in the bar during home games, numerous functions and regular Thursday club nights.

Rob was awarded Life Membership in 2019.

"Robbie has probably the longest unbroken association with this club of all the current League players. Started his junior playing career at the ripe old age of 7 with South Perth Juniors, he now has 20 years of service with the club. His junior career over 9 years showed him to be a dedicated player. During this time, he represented W.A. in Under 15s National Competition twice and in Under 17s National Competition twice. Moved to the A grade at 17 years old he has currently 11 years of top service to this club. These 11 years have illustrated Robbie's ability, primarily as one of the best outfielders we have had in this State, with bat, glove and legs. A useful utility player always of great maturity he has never failed to perform on the left side of the infield.

He is also a great believer in putting back into the club – he has coached numerous junior teams over the years. You could even say he is more than partially responsible for the progress of current State player John Hearne and Mark Ettles. Currently in the #9 of the best outfield combination in the Competition he is also Number 10 in the pitching line-up indicating even further his versatility. If he stands on the mound go for cover." (Player of the Week in South Perth Baseball Club Inc newsletter series 1985/86 TG January 2020)

Deb has been a stalwart at the club for decades. She regularly organises major functions and fundraising events and is always on hand to volunteer at club events - Christmas celebrations, Ladies Days, Past Players and Presidents Day and reunions. Deb has held positions on the

committee over many years including Secretary and Junior Vice President. Currently she is assisting to collate the club's rich history.

Deb and Rob's 3 sons, Stephen, Nathan and Aaron all played junior baseball. Stephen continued in seniors, as did Nathan. Nathan has coached junior and senior teams, assistant coached Little League Charter teams and has been involved on the committee, including the position of Registrar.

It was a family affair for the Chappell's during the late 2010's when all five of the Chappell's participated in the same game – Rob, Stephen and Nathan took to the diamond, Deb scored and Aaron was bat boy – what a day to remember!

Chehab Family

Omar played senior social baseball with South Perth for a number of years and has served on the committee.

Connor came through our junior ranks and has progressed to play seniors through our SL1 /2 /3 teams in recent years.

Wife and mum Natalie has often scored for teams.

Steve Cocliff

Steve 'Pom' Cocliff was a senior player in our social teams and held numerous executive roles on the committee including Junior President and Senior Vice President. He was Club President of the club in the early 2000's taking over the role from Larry Harder.

Pom was always the teller of great stories. In 2013 then coach of AA's Rod Drew was short of players in his team so he recruited Steve to play first base. When he went up to bat he was hit by a pitched ball and while fielding, he was cleated on first base. He managed to survive – not bad at the ripe old age of 62!

Steve 'Pom' was awarded Life Membership in 2015.

Steve introduced the 'Wendy Song' to the club.

"Wendy Song"

(Tune of 'when the saints go marching in')

Intro: Knock, Knock
Players: Who's there
Intro: Wendy
Players: Wendy who
All: Ho Wendy Souths go marching in,
Ho Wendy Souths go marching in
Ho, I want to be in that number
Ho Wendy Souths go marching in

All: Repeat as many verses as you want
Steve's sons Ricki and Clint both played junior and senior baseball at South Perth.

Cole/Moncrieff Family

Dean Cole played juniors and seniors at South Perth including A Grade in the 1985/86 season. He has coached junior teams.

Dean's wife Lianne volunteers as a scorer at the club.

Sons Ben and Kane both played senior and junior baseball at South Perth.

Coleman Family

Rae and Brian became involved in South Perth Baseball Club when their sons Tom and David began playing as juniors in the late 1970s.

Rae was to become the 'Queen of Scorers' and scored at club, national and international competitions, including the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, and taught others how to score. She volunteered on the committee for many years and held the position of Registrar. She was awarded Life Membership in 1999.

Brian was a baseball umpire and general volunteer at the club.

The Rae and Brian Coleman Memorial Trophy for Best Club Member is named in honour of these two wonderful people who contributed so much to the club.

Their sons Tom and David both played junior and senior baseball at South Perth. Tom represented W.A. in juniors in U/18. He played A Reserve 1 and was an outfielder in A Grade in the 1989/90 season.

Ray Cook

Ray came to South Perth from Nedlands in the 1971/72 season with team mates Tony Goadby and Ric Garner and began coaching the South Perth A Grade team.

Ray was an allAustralian short stop and played third base in the team that toured the Philippines around 1967/68, the first team to tour internationally.

Cook Family

Bob Cook played senior baseball at South Perth, then began coaching. He has been a member of the committee and is an integral part of the Christmas celebrations at the club each year.

Bob's wife Jen has volunteered her time as a scorer and assisting in the canteen.

Their son Brad played junior and senior baseball.

Rebecca Crosby

Rebecca was a member of our successful women's teams and was selected in the 2006 State Women's Team played in Ipswich, QLD.

Bob Cullum

Bob was invited down to South Perth by close friend and mate John Osborn. He and his wife Neola soon became regular supporters with Bob playing senior social baseball. Bob was team manager to John Osborn during the mid-late 1980's.

"This is Bob's second year as manager of our A-Grade team. He was born in Florida and played little league baseball in Arcadia Florida." (South Perth Baseball Club (Inc) 1990 Reunion Programme TG January 2020)

Brian Davis

Brian was a member of the Geriatric Jets and played in the premiership winning team in 1993/94. He played in the WA Masters Games, despite having a wooden prosthetic limb, a result of losing his leg in a boating accident.

Davis Family

Steven and Alan Davis played junior baseball. Their parents, Tom and Ruth, volunteered their time on the committee and in the canteen.

Dearle/Caporn Family

Jack and Peg Dearle were great contributors to the club. Jack served on the committee and was a Junior President. He assisted with grounds, equipment and fundraising and was awarded Life Membership in 1976. Peg volunteered her time scoring, being on the committee and fundraising. She was also recognised with Life Membership in 1975

Their children Barry, Graeme, Trevor, Rodney and Mary-Anne played junior and senior baseball. Rodney and Mary-Anne also volunteered on the committee.

Jack and Peg's grandchildren, Kristy, Peta and Gavin, also represented South Perth.

Rod Dearle played in B grade in 1977/78 season.

Dodd Family

Peter and Chris Dodd are long standing supporters of South Perth Baseball Club. They were introduced to South Perth by long-time friend Gary Scarterfield during the 1980's. Peter was a senior player and coach and was part of the premiership winning Geriatric Jets South Perth 'B' Grade team in the early 1990s. Peter became President during the 1990's and was instrumental in the partnership with Wesley and the City of South Perth that saw the club

move from Collier Oval to Collins Reserve, including the construction of a new clubhouse and Grayden Reserve in the 1990's. He was awarded Life Membership in 2001.

Chris Dodd has volunteered her time and expertise in so many capacities including scorer, fundraising and sponsorship. She has served as Treasurer and Secretary as part of the executive committee and has been Club Patron for many years. Chris was awarded life membership in 2000.

Chris and Peter's son Bradley was a junior player at South Perth.

Jim Dore

Jim grew up in Belmont with his two brothers and seven sisters. He was a particularly good footballer but unfortunately injured his knee so could not play anymore. He was also a good tennis player. He really loved sport.

Jim and a group of mates, including the Elliot brothers and Jim Gilmour, who went on to become a famous runner, enlisted in the army to serve in the second World War. He was in the 2nd Fourth Machine Gunners. He was wounded – getting a piece of shrapnel in his leg, which bothered him for the rest of his life. He was captured in the fall on Singapore and spent three and a half years as a POW in the infamous Changi prison working on the wharves and in iron foundries in Japan. To get to work every day these brave men would go from the prison camp on a train. Baseball was extremely popular in Japan, and a statue of Babe Ruth had been erected. Jim would go past this each day on the train! His less fortunate colleagues ended up on the Burma railway. Amazingly he did not have any anger towards the Japanese people and felt that without their kindness he would not have survived. He was not bitter about his experiences. He maintained contact with man of the boys he had been in prison camp with, particularly Alfie Jones.

Jim was frequently described as a hero. Ron Skeggs would often bump into ex-POWs at other sporting events and while he was umpiring football. These guys knew that he played baseball with Jim and would always ask how Jim was going. They said that Jim was a hero at Changi – apparently one prisoner was about to be shot and Jim said, 'if you shoot him you'll bloody have to shoot me to'. Thankfully both men were spared.

Back in Perth, a lovely young lady named Doris Lewis was working in her dream job at a shoe store in Central Arcade, opposite Bairds in town. Dossie, as she was fondly known, had always wanted to serve people in a shop. The owner of the shoe store, Mr Saggars, was a major in the civilian army and had to leave to serve when war broke out. He left responsibility for the shop in the capable hands of his wife, his sister in law Gertie and Dossie and asked them to keep it going if they could. When he returned from the war, Major Saggars treated Dossie to a two week all expenses paid holiday to Yallingup to thank her for the work she had done while he was away. He joked, "When I send all my boys in for their civilian shoes you be kind to them."

Not long after, Jim and some of his army mates visited the store. Dossie took one look at Jim and fell 'head over heels' in love. Six months later they married and were blessed with three daughters and a son. They built a war service home on Mill Point Road. When they got older, they sold the home and moved to Como.

Described as a 'really nice fella' and extremely interested in sport, many players claimed he was the best leader they had ever played under. Although highly regarded and respected, he was incredibly humble. He never tried to be the centre of attention, but rather encouraged and supported those around him. When he was coaching a team, he would never chastise anyone for making a mistake, but rather chastise them for making a 'dumb play'. He was a tolerant person when human frailties were shown but would not put up with stupidity.

Not only was Jim captain/coach of A grade, but he also coached B grade. He was always thinking about tactics and strategies and would take risks. He would do the unusual things to fool the opposition and always took them by surprise such as stealing home. Another tactic was using Alf as a lead-off batter. When the pitcher was new to the mound or not properly warmed up it was difficult to hit Alf's strike zone. He was walked many times! Jim loved the game of baseball.

The following comments were made about Jim in a newspaper article in 1950.

"BASEBALL CAPTAIN SETS AN EXAMPLE

South Perth Baseball Club's captain-coach Jim Dore (30) has been one of the States outstanding players this season despite health disabilities that would keep many players out of the game.

A POW in Singapore for three and a half years during World War II Dore was wounded in the leg with a piece of shrapnel which still troubles him.

For the last few weeks he has been suffering from an outbreak of carbuncles for which he has been receiving regular penicillin injections.

Despite these setbacks, Dore, who usually plays second base, took over the pitcher's position against Perth last Sunday week – the regular pitcher Ron Booth was absent with a leg injury – and nearly pitched a shut-out. Perth were beaten 10-1.

Last Sunday against Victoria Park Dore was again one of South Perth's outstanding players, with three safe hits including one three bagger.

A member of the last three State teams, Dore has been captain and coach of South Perth for the past four years.

**When a pitcher operates right through a match and dismisses the opposing side without a run being scored it is called a shut-out.*" (SPORTFOLIO (1950, May 24). The Daily News (Perth, WA : 1882 - 1950), p. 16 (FINAL). Retrieved April 25, 2020, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article84365543>)*

Jim played representative baseball for his State and his country. He had exceptional skills in all aspects of the game, hitting, base running, fielding and pitching. He represented WA in the Claxton Shield in 1947 – 1950, 1954. Played in the winning 1952 WA Claxton Shield team.

Jim had a good job in printing at WA newspapers and also worked part time at Ted Taylor's sports shop in London Court in Perth learning to string tennis racquets, but really wanted to open a shop. An opportunity arose when a 12 month lease became available at a shop on

Douglas Ave in South Perth, near the corner of Canning Highway. Dossie was a little apprehensive as their children were still young, but a neighbour encouraged Jim to have a go. "If it doesn't work out, at least you have tried", the neighbour advised. Jim was encouraged by this and opened a sports goods and toys store. Jim was not a ruthless business man, and some took advantage of his kindness. On one occasion a man whom Jim knew came into the store wanting to buy a bicycle. "I can fix you up at the end of the week" the man proposed when asked for payment. Jim accepted this however the man did not pay at the end of the week, nor at all! Jim stuck it out for six months but unfortunately, this venture was unsuccessful. Luckily, he was able to find a lady who was happy to take on the remaining six months of the lease.

One evening the players and their wives attended an event at the Pagoda Ballroom. When it finished at midnight someone suggested 'let's go back to Dore's place'. Dossie quickly retorted 'Oh no you won't! My mum's minding the children and they will all be asleep.' The players were not impressed, but eventually, thanks to his kindness, they all ended up in the backyard of Jim and Dossie's house. Apparently, this nearly caused a divorce as Dossie felt it was so thoughtless that the kids were not considered.

Jim left South Perth Baseball Club in the early 1960s. He passed away in 2001.

Jim had an incredible impact on all those whose lives he touched. This was clear at his funeral in 2002. The pallbearers were fellow service men who had survived Changi.

<http://2nd4thmgb.com.au/soldier/wx8617/>

Doty Family

Mark (aka 'Doc') and John Doty.

These two brothers were recruited from Oregon and played in the 1987/88 season. Mark was a pitcher and John was short-stop.

"American recruits Mark and John Doty have played big parts in the South Perth enigma. With few credentials behind them, they paid their own way to Australia and started shakily. But Mark has turned into a pitcher-reliever and hasn't lost a game, while there hasn't been one game during their hot streak where one of the brothers has failed to produce at least two hits." (Western Mail 4th or 6th December 1987 TG January 2020)

When Mark and John first came to WA they needed a place to stay. Mark knew Mickey Riley, the coach of the Brewers who was from America, who organised for the boys to stay with the Gary and Leanne Scarterfield.

From 1988-1990 Mark went to Canberra and played for the Yaralumba Eagles. In 1990 he went back to America for three years then returned to Canberra. In 1994 Mark came back to Perth and was working for Murray Westphal at a software company. Murray was also involved in the baseball community.

Mark played his last season in A Reserves in 2003/04. He stepped back, joined the committee and helped with the juniors. To this day he still umpires our Little League home games.

Mark's wife Jen was Junior Vice-President in the 2010's

Morgan played both junior and senior baseball with South Perth and progressed to play women's baseball with Melville and Swan Districts as South Perth no longer had a women's team. Now living in Victoria Morgan has represented WA and Australia and an elite level.

Callum played junior and senior baseball with South Perth.

In a very special game a couple of years ago Mark, Morgan and Callum all played for South Perth in the same game – truly outstanding.

Rod Drew

Started his journey with South Perth in the late 1980's in the A Grade team as a utility player after coming across from Perth and Morley as a junior. He represented WA on 4 occasions at junior level.

Rod soon became entrenched in the South Perth culture, marking grounds, coaching juniors and seniors, joining the committee and volunteering in many ways. He stepped into the Club Presidents position in the early 2010's and State League/Club Coach in the mid-late 2010's.

Rod was awarded Life Membership in 2003.

Rod's wife Cath assisted in the canteen and with cleaning the club. Cath's son Anthony played juniors and seniors.

Grandchildren Kristian, Holden, Sebastian and Michael also played juniors at South Perth.

Kevin Driscoll

Kevin came out to Australia from the US as an import player for another club. He coached South Perth's State League for five seasons in the 1990s.

Gill Eddington

Gill played baseball at Bristle with Jim Dore and came across with Jim to be one of the inaugural members of South Perth Baseball Club. He played A Grade for a number of years.

He played and managed the 1952 WA Claxton Shield team who won the series that year.

Gill volunteered on the committee and held the position of Treasurer.

Gill and his wife April lived in flats right behind Langley Park. Gill had been a pilot in the air force in the UK. Gill's son Rodney, who was born in Katanning, became a very prominent and influential Australian and was knighted. When Gill was in Katanning, he facilitated a visit of the A Grade team to the town for an exhibition game.

Dryw Edwards

Dryw played juniors with South Perth and was a member of the State League in the 2001/02 premiership winning team. He has been a part of the committee during the 2010's.

The Ettles Family

Ted was born in South Perth and grew up next door to Glen Orton on Elizabeth Street. He joined South Perth Baseball Club as a junior in the early 1950s. He travelled to Kalgoorlie with the junior team in 1951 to play an exhibition game against a Goldfields junior team.

By 1954 Ted was playing A Reserves and competed in a grand final that same year.

He was a member of the Southern Districts Cubs in the Night Baseball competition in the 1955/56 season playing outfield. The following year he played centrefield for the Cubs and they won the grand final!

Ted met his future wife Gwen in Melbourne, and he was not playing baseball at the time. They came back to Perth to raise their young family. Gwen worked with Bob Teasdale, from Nedlands Baseball Club but Ted never mentioned that he and Bob had played State level baseball together previously.

Gwen was looking for a sport for her active boys Tony and Mark but did not want them playing cricket as she found it a little boring and they played it at school. One day she was down near the South Perth tip and could hear the repetitive thud of a ball landing in a glove. She investigated a little further and thought – this is it! In this sport everyone gets a bat, and everyone has a position. A baseball game will not be as long as cricket and we can still fit other things in to the day. Robbie Chappell, who became the boys first coach, suggested to get them each a glove and bring them down. She signed them up, bought the gloves and took them down to Collier. The rest, as they say, is history. *“I think it’s a magic sport...I love it.”* (Gwen Ettles 2021).

Both boys enjoyed baseball and stayed through juniors. Ted would practice throwing with the boys at home.

Ted was President of juniors and seniors for many years during the 1980’s and the President’s meetings were often hosted at the Ettles’ home.

Gwen worked tirelessly for the club through scoring, manning the canteen, fundraising and being on the committee. She was also on the social committee for Parry Field and is currently involved in archiving WA baseball memorabilia for the Baseball Museum.

Their daughter Tayola volunteered her time to assist in the canteen and with fundraising.

Tony went away to Hobart with Rob Chappell as part of the U13s team and played in a competition in Canberra where all the kids were billeted out. Unfortunately, once Tony started work, he could not get to training, so this made it difficult for him to play.

When he moved to Queensland, Tony continued his connection with baseball by coaching junior teams.

Mark was nicknamed ‘Astro’ as he always wore an Astros shirt. During his time in juniors, he represented WA in interstate championships for U13s, U15s and U17s teams.

He received many junior awards including The Dick Smith Trophy (Best All Round Junior), the G Osborn Memorial Trophy – Highest Association Votes (umpires) in the U17s and the J.A. Lee Trophy for Best Under 18 Championship Player.

In 1983 he was selected in an Australian squad to tour the USA and have 3 weeks of baseball coaching at Georgia Southern College, then tour other parts of the country playing a 'friendly series' against local teams. The tour also included a visit to Dodgers Stadium and Disneyland.

He represented Australia in the World Youth Friendship Series in Canada in 1984 and was successful in his tryout for the West Australian Institute of Sport Pitching Development Program.

"Ettles is one of the top three pitchers for his age in the country. He's also a very good all rounder who can play any position on the diamond." (Daily News Monday June 4th 1984 – GE Aug 2021)

He played A Reserves from 1982- 84 then progressed to A Grade. During this time, he was twice awarded the V.E Bennett Trophy for Fairest and Best and in 1985/86 he won the WA Baseball League Don Callanan Trophy (Batting Average .493)

Mark played his first Claxton Shield Series in 1985 and again in 1986. He pitched a one hit shut out to help the Brewers beat SA 19-0 during this series and won the WA Baseball League Don Callanan Award: Batting Champion 1986.

He won a scholarship to the South Alabama University in 1986 and then went to West Florida University where his photo hangs in the Hall of Fame for Baseball. He is also on the Dean's Honour List at Pensacola University.

Mark signed with the Detroit Tigers in 1989 and then moved to the San Diego Padres in 1991. He made his MLB debut with the Padres in 1993 and was the first WA pitcher to win a Major League Game. In his first game he struck out the first batter he faced, the second batter was caught at centre-field and third batter got out at second. When he left Major League, he returned to the Detroit Tigers as a pitching coach.

He played in the ABL in 1990, 1992-1998 and 2000.

Mark was a member of the Australian Team that competed in the International Cup in Barcelona in 1997, taking away a Bronze Medal.

In 1998 he was the first Australian pitcher to win a game in the Taiwanese Professional League.

In 1999 Mark was a member of the Australian team that competed against Japan in Sydney.

In 2000 Mark was selected to represent Australia at the Olympic Games in Sydney. He was in America at the time and was called home.

After his career in baseball, he did a lot of fishing, including crayfishing and skipper of boats all over the world.

Ted, Gwen and Taola did a trip to America and were able to see Mark play in San Antonio. They drove down to see Mark and he got called up to play and was leaving the next day, so the family said they would fly down to San Antonio. Ted became unwell and went to hospital but tragically passed away in 1994.

Famlonga Family

Craig played juniors and seniors and was an assistant coach to State League in the 2010's. He has been a committee member and continued his support of the club through sponsorship for many years.

Craig's wife Bianca has volunteered her time in scoring and assisting in the canteen.

Their sons Bevan and Kyle played juniors.

Craig, Bianca, Bevan and Kyle assisted hosting the Challenger Division at the club during the two years it ran.

Bill and Peg Gaebler

Bill Gaebler was Secretary in the 1950s & 1960s.

Peg Gaebler was a long serving committee member and volunteer who scored at club and national competitions. Peg was awarded Life Membership in 1978 and sadly passed away in 2000.

Ric Garner

Ric played junior baseball at Nedlands and was a pitcher through most of this time. He was a member of their 1968 Colts team and represented WA in the State U16s and U18s competitions.

As a 15 year old, Ric played two games for the Nedlands A Grade team. The second game was against South Perth and the pitcher he faced was Graeme Menner. Little did they know that within a few years they would be team mates! The following year, coaches told Ric that they wanted him to become a catcher, even though he had never caught before! They said 'we'll send you to A Reserves to catch and when we think you're up to it we'll bring you back. The following week Ric caught against South Perth at Ernest Johnson Reserve. He must have shown some aptitude as he returned to A Grade for the next game. He was a member of the squad that played against the first Japanese side that toured Perth in 1970.

In 1971 the Nedlands Baseball Club folded, so Ric came across to South Perth with team-mates Tony Goadby, Barry Kirk and Ray Cook. He was originally going to the Morley Eagles (then known as East Perth), but just before the season started he decided to come to South Perth. Because Nedlands had folded, the boundaries for that club dissolved so players could choose which team they played for and did not require clearances. Ray Cook was Ric's first coach, followed by Graeme Menner, then Les Murray who had also coached Ric in junior State teams.

In his first game, South Perth was playing Morley. Ric hit a home run at his first 'at bat'.

Ric was a catcher in A Grade but when Les Murray became coach, they were short of pitchers so he got Ric pitching again. Michael Osborn came up from juniors into A Grade about the same time and was also a pitcher and catcher so together they were a 'reversible battery'.

In Ric's early days at the club, Swans and South Perth played a pre-season exhibition game at Wyalkatchem. This was organised through Neil Bennett who had been a school teacher in Wyalkatchem. They also went to Bunbury one year when Les Murray was coach.

Ric played A Grade for 10 years from 1971/72 to 1980/81. Like most A Grade players he 'did time' on the committee, including the role of treasurer. He also coached the U15s for three years from 1972 -74.

The following appeared in a local paper when Ric had to fill in for regular pitcher Larry Ragazzo who was hospitalised with appendicitis.

"Garner is a strongly built right-hand pitcher and his accuracy and ability to curve the ball could trouble the Victoria Park batters because he can make the most of the wind conditions at his home ground.

Following a pre-season car accident when he suffered a serious knee injury, Garner has fought his way back to near fitness and will be a key player for South Perth in the next few matches."

(newspaper article, title and date unknown TG July 2019)

Ric represented the State in four Claxton Shield teams – 1971,1972, 1975, 1978 initially as a catcher and later as a pitcher.

When Ric retired from A Grade he coached A Reserves three years from the 1981 – 1984 season. His charges included Mark and Tony Ettles, Steve Maley, Jeff Maley and Gavin Faulkner.

Ric spent two seasons away from South Perth and coached the Morley Eagles A Grade, taking them to a Premiership in 1985/86.

In the late 1980s a group of players from the Australian Olympic hockey squad approached the club and asked if they could play baseball as a team. The boys trained at Curtin University and were looking for something fun and active to do on Sundays, which was their day off. So, they pulled on the blue and white and formed a lower grade team. They were superb athletes who had fantastic bat and ball skills and could run like the wind! The team needed an extra player and the club asked Ric to join them as an experienced player and help them learn the game. They picked up the rules quickly and everyone enjoyed themselves. It was great! This team went on to win a silver medal in hockey at the Barcelona Olympics in 1992.

In the early 1990's, an exhibition game of All Stars ex Claxton Shield players was held as a curtain raiser to an international game and Ric was invited to participate. It was during this game that he realised how much he missed playing. He was working in pubs at that time, which took up most weekends, so he negotiated to work each Saturday which freed him up to play with the Geriatric Jets. He stayed with this team for 5 years and helped them to win three premierships.

Ric returned to coaching briefly when his son Zane played juniors.

Ric was awarded Life Membership in 1987.

John Gleeson

"We would like to take this opportunity to thank John Gleeson. John is a retired South Perth player and has made our new Home Run Fence possible. He is actively supporting us and as one of the better Motor Trimmers around he deserves our support. Mention the club when you see him for an even better reception." (South Perth Baseball Club Inc newsletter series 1985/86 TG January 2020)

Goadby Family

Tony started his baseball career at Nedlands Baseball Club as a junior. After the Nedlands Baseball Club folded in 1971, the Nedlands short stop, Ray Cook, who was also an All Australian Shortstop, was appointed coach of South Perth and Tony and Ric Garner also transferred. Tony played State League as an outfielder for Nedlands in 1970-71. He played Centrefield for South Perth for 19 years from 1971-72 to 1988-89.

Tony represented the State in eight (8) Claxton Shield teams from 1978 to 1983, 1985 and 1986 and assisted them to championships in 1978, 1979 and 1985. In his debut year (1978) he won the Golden Bat Award (Series Batting Title) with an average of .429, the first WA born player to do so. (Newspaper article title unknown 16th Jan 1978 TG July 2019) and this was acknowledged with a congratulatory letter from the then Premier Sir Charles Court.

In the late 1970s, sports journalists were raving about Tony's skill on the diamond.

"South Perth's line up boasts the top batter in the league in Tony Goadby" (newspaper title unknown 17th Feb 1979 TG July 2019)

"Goadby's glove work, speed and his precise throwing into the diamond were a highlight of the game." (newspaper title unknown 19th Mar 1979 TG July 2019)

"...Tony Goadby stole the limelight in the second semi-final. His catching, positioning and throwing on the diamond was an object lesson to any young and budding outfielder. It was Goadby the great who snapped off an almost certain Norm Taylor double with a fine running catch at full strength." (Sunday Times 25th Mar 1979 TG July 2019)

Tony's incredible skills as one of the best outfielders in Australia was recognised when he received a State Representative Sports Award in 1983 from the Minister for Recreation, Robert Pike. *"Goadby...proved to be one of the top defensive outfielders in the tournament, as he consistently turned would be hits into outs through sheer speed in the outfield"* (The Sunday Independent January 23 1983 TG Jan 2020)

In January 1979 Tony was selected as an outfielder in the Australian team as part of the Australia-Japan Goodwill Series. The team played against Japan's representative team Honda in an exhibition match at Forster Park. He also played in these representative teams in November 1979 against Korea and in 1981 against Nippon Kokon Steel.

He was selected in the Australian Squad in 1983, and that same year he represented Australia in the International Test Series against Sumotomo Metal Industries played at Parry Field. (Baseball Bulletin Vol 1 No 3 February 1983 TG January 2020)

Tony was the Club Secretary and Committee member for many years from the 1970's to 1990's. He was Senior Vice President 1985-86. His wife Kerry was also Club Secretary for a number of years in the 1970's.

Tony was the inaugural winner of the Wembley Gift, and his success in this event continued for many seasons.

Tony was awarded the Ron Higgins trophy for the Best Club Worker in 1979, 1980 and 1989.

He was awarded Life Membership of South Perth Baseball Club in 1983.

After leaving A Grade, Tony became a member of the successful A2 Grade Premiership team in 1990/91 and then joined the Geriatric Jets who won premierships in 1992/93 and 1993/94.

“Tony is one of the premier outfielders in Australia. He has been a tremendous credit to this club over the years. Last season was no different. He was the club’s leading hitter (342) while also turning in another top performance in centrefield. We will certainly miss Tony’s services next year as you just don’t replace players of his calibre.” (1982-83 Review of Players - A Grade Coaches Report 27th April 1983 TG Feb 2020)

Tony continued his career as a player and inaugural coach of the Bears, a team made up of South Perth and Victoria Park players. The Bears played in the WA Masters competition for a number of years during the 1990s and took home the premiership in 1991/92, 1992/93, 1994/95 and 1996/97 seasons.

He was assistant coach for the Colts team who won the Minor Premiership in the 1996/97 season.

Tony’s sons Matthew and Christopher started their baseball journey playing tee ball for the Wirrabirra Bears, then transitioning to junior baseball at Gosnells but came to South Perth to play under 17’s. Although Tony was still playing at South Perth, Gosnells was close to the boys’ school and easier for them to get to training. At Tony’s urging, Matt’s team mate Lyndon Semmens and Chris’ team mate Dean Burton also transferred to South Perth from Gosnells. They both played seniors at South Perth.

Matthew was a member of the Premiership State League team during the early 2000’s and served on the committee. After baseball he went to 2000 Olympics as a volunteer, then went travelling overseas, including Canada and Europe.

Chris was a pitcher and played centrefield in two State League premiership teams in the 2000’s. He won the Max Lenegan Medal for Best Player in a Grand Final Series.

Tony and Kerry continue to be long serving supporters of the South Perth Baseball Club.

Roy Gooch

Coached 1960 State team (Claxton Shield). Played in the winning 1952 WA Claxton Shield team. Roy Gooch Jnr coached Swan Districts during their reign of 7 consecutive premierships in the 1950s.

Named as Assistant Coach in the Claxton Shield 75th Anniversary 2009 All-Star Team Western Australia. Each State or territory was asked to select a State team prior to the announcement of an All-Time Australian Team. The selection panel was Bob Harris, Doug Corker and Neville Pratt. The WA Claxton Shield Club was surveyed as well.

- Was a Claxton Shield team member: 1947, 1949- 1952, 1954, 1956, 1957
- WA Claxton Shield Coach: 1960
- Australian Team Member: 1954 (Australian All-Star team)
- Australian Team Executive Officer: 1960
- Coached Swan Districts State League Team for 9 years
- Won 7 consecutive premierships with Swans
- Won 4 Premierships in Night Baseball at the WACA

Goodin Family

The three Goodin brothers, Bob, Rodney and Russell were enticed to South Perth by Denis Osborn and played juniors and seniors. Parents John and Vera were diligent supporters and often taxied players to games.

Bob played in some state junior teams and progressed to play A-Grade in 1979.

Eric Goodwin

Eric played in the winning 1952 WA Claxton Shield team.

“Goodwin Sen., a left hander, teamed with another South Perth stalwart Ron Booth when the Southerners stormed to a hat trick of premierships in the 1940s and another two in the 1950s. A hefty left-handed long ball hitter, Eric Goodwin made his debut for WA in the 1952 Claxton Shield series. He clubbed a vital hit in the final game against South Australia to help the home State clinch their first ever national series.” (Sports Review 7th October 1977 TG July 2019)

Lee Goodwin

Lee is one of the few players in the State capable of hitting .400 for a full season. He was a regular member of the A Grade team during the early 1980's

Rob Gordon

Rob and his mate Norm Anderson would come and watch the baseball at Langley Park. Rob ended up playing a few games in the lower grades at South Perth and then went on to become President of the club. He became secretary of the league (BWA equivalent) when Nesbitt was President. This was about the time that night baseball started. He worked as a car salesman.

His son Michael played juniors and seniors at South Perth,

Rob was honoured as a life member of the WA Baseball League in 1960.

Michael Gordon

Son of Rob Gordon and started playing at South Perth at the age of nine. (The West Australian 17th Jan 1981 TG July 2019). He was a catcher in the A Grade team in 1979, 1980 and was a State player in the Claxton Shield team in 1977 and 1980. He was a very skilled catcher and batter.

Mick moved to West Stirling for a couple of years and then came back to South Perth. He won the WA Baseball Umpires Association trophy for best Under 21 League Player in the 1975-76 season and was catcher in the 1977 Claxton Shield team.

He won the WA Baseball Umpires Association trophy in the 1975/76 season.

“Mick’s defence and his professional approach make him one of the best catchers in the State. He is also capable of hitting much better than he did last season. Some extra work on his technique could turn Mick into a 300 hitter.” (1982-83 Review of Players - A Grade Coaches Report 27th April 1983 TG Feb 2020)

Gozzi family

Rick played tee-ball as a nine year old and transitioned to baseball at 11 playing U13s. His first coach was Alf Luetchford. He continued through U15s and U17s under the guidance of coaches such as Larry Harder and Rob Chappell. He represented WA at state junior level on five occasions and Australia in the 1989 U/19 AAA World Youth Team who won a bronze medal in Quebec, Canada. He was part of an elite group – the only players in WA to win a medal for Australia.

Rick progressed through seniors and colts, moving to A Reserves who were coached by Chris Vinicombe. His talent was recognised and in 1988 he played his first game of A Grade and stayed at this level for about 15 years. He was a part of the successful 1999/00 premiership winning team.

Rick has coached all levels of junior baseball Little League, Junior League, Senior League, Big League to premierships and Colts to a premiership. He was assistant coach for the State League team premierships in the 2000’s.

Rick served on the committee member for about 4 years and has always been available to help out as a volunteer around the club.

Sons Ethan and Luke played juniors and Ethan coached the ILs team.

Luke is a current member of our State League squads.

Both Ethan and Luke have represented Charter at nationals in Lismore.

Mandy Gozzi has been a committee member on many occasions and held executive positions and registrar. She has also scored and managed fundraising events.

Kaye Greenham

Kaye was the Assistant Manager for the WA Claxton Shield team in 1978. He was selected in three All-Australia teams.

He was named as third baseman in the Claxton Shield 75th Anniversary 2009 All-Star Team Western Australia. Each State or territory was asked to select a State team prior to the announcement of an All-Time Australian Team. The selection panel was Bob Harris, Doug Corker and Neville Pratt. The WA Claxton Shield Club was surveyed as well.

Kaye’s other achievements include

- Claxton Shield team member 1957, 1959 – 1962, 1971-1974.
- Claxton Shield Assistant Coach 1978-1980.
- WA Claxton Shield team doctor from 1973 and then Perth Heat 1991-1993.
- Australian Team Member 1960 and 1962.
- Australian Team Doctor 1978 for the World Championships in Italy.

- WA Baseball League Honorary Medical Officer 1967-1997 (Award)
- WA Baseball League Presidents Medal (Best & Fairest) winner 1957
- WA Baseball League Callanan Award (Batting) winner 1957, 1961, 1965, 1971
- Australian Sports Medal Recipient 2000

Harben Family

Stuart and Craig played junior and senior baseball with South Perth. Both represented WA at State junior levels. Stuart represented Australia at U/19 AAA World Youth Team in '89 winning a bronze medal and was an Australian player at the Olympics

Stuart (aka Harby) played A Grade in the late 1980's / early 1990's as a left handed pitcher.

Don, father of Stuart and Craig, served as junior president and Club President during the 1980's.

Mum Carol was always on hand as a volunteer and supporter of the club

Harder Family

Back in 1972, twelve year old Larry was at his sister's softball game. She was a pitcher, and he was warming her up before the game. Dennis Osborn happened to be at the same game because his daughter Sue played. Dennis wandered over to Larry and invited him to come and give baseball a go.

Larry started in the U12s under the watchful eye of coach Alf Luetchford. Alf taught his players a lot and Larry rates him as an excellent coach. Larry continued to progress through juniors, playing in U15s and U17s, mainly at third base.

Juniors competed against Morley, Vic Park, Wembley, West Stirling, Perth, Swans, University, a team down Mandurah way.

Some of his team-mates in juniors were John Osborn, Lance Brenton, Rod Lester-Smith, Bobby Goodin and Greg Jarvis.

One year the U18s made the grand final and Larry was asked by the coach to catch as the regular catcher had played too many senior games and was ineligible to play in the game. He'd never caught in his life but they had no-one else, so he agreed to give it a go. Greg Jarvis was pitching but unfortunately South Perth lost 2-1.

Larry played State 16 and 18's in teams that included Graeme Menner Jnr, Greg Jarvis, Dean Mitchell, Doug Mateljan, Steve Balgera, Paul and Ray Grigg.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s Larry continued as a catcher in AAA, coached by Tim Crosswell, Ric Garner and John Connell. One of the best coaches Larry had was Ric Garner, because he got the best out of Larry by making him work hard. Although he hated it at the time, he appreciated it later.

Larry then played A grade for about 10 years as a catcher, following on from Mick Gordon. His coaches were Gary Scarterfield, Bob Harris and Les Murray. He played with Mark and John Doty when they came across from America and Bob Paulsen who was brought out as an import pitcher. He was catcher for Mark Ettles when he first pitched in A Grade.

Eventually another young catcher, Lyall Barwick, was coming up through A Grade so Larry moved to AAA, then down to B Grade, joining the Geriatric Jets.

Larry was elected Club President in 1995 and held this position for five seasons. In his final season, the State League team won their first grand final in 33 years! He supported the use of imports to help strengthen the club and to develop our pitchers – the pitchers could make or break a game. When Larry was President, he brought out Brooke Knight as an import to coach the club

Larry started coaching as he wanted to pass on what he had learned. He has coached many teams over the years. Russell Jarvis coached the first Colts team and they made it to a grand final, but unfortunately didn't come away with the prize. Larry coached the second Colts team and won their grand final in 1993. In recognition of this we now have the Larry Harder/Russell Jarvis trophy for Big League.

When the Colts competition was first introduced, coaches were allowed to have two senior players on the team to make up numbers.

The colts team consisted of several players who went on to represent South Perth at State League and AAA level, these being Clinton and Clayton Barnes, Scott Hewitt, Adrian Versaico, Stuart Scott, Nathan and Travis Roost and Brad Cooke.

In a game against Perth, South Perth held a solid lead. Jason Cottier (pitcher) had thrown 17 or 18 strike outs and a few walks and was ready for a change of position, but Larry wanted the boys to keep playing in their positions. Jason called time and walked over to Larry and said, "nup- I'm coming off and you're going on".

As a senior player Larry was eligible so he moved a few players, went on and played third base. There was only one error for the whole game, and he made it! The players were rolling around the ground laughing!

In the 1989/90 season Larry was a playing coach and took the B Grade team to a grand final.

The team included players from the Thornlie Football Club, who Larry had recruited and had promised to play with.

The final play was memorable. Scores were tied, we had one out and Sean Jones was a runner at second. The ball was hit to outfield but caught, therefore the second out, however Sean made it to third base without being thrown out. Jeff Trevenan came up to bat. Jeff hit a groundball to shortstop who fielded the ball. The University shortstop (Ian Ross) couldn't throw over the top as he had a bad arm so had to throw sidearm. The ball ended up in the crowd down the right field line. Sean scored and South Perth won 3-2.

Larry coached women's team for the club that included players Sheridan Harder, Bec & Ashleigh Crosby, Morgan Doty (daughter of Mark 'Doc' Doty), Mel Kirkham, Demi Inglis, Brittany Hancock, Larissa Lively, Annie, Kristie and Peta Caporn, Sharon Rafferty, Steph Tassell, Tikki Calendar, Taylor Bowey and Claire Hepburn to name a few.

Larry took the 2011/12 team to a grand final against Vic Park, but some of the other coaches didn't agree with his approach. He recalled, "You gotta remember, it's a game of baseball played by women, not women's baseball. You win by playing the game of baseball. We bunted, hit and run and stole bases, we walked hitters when we had to walk hitters, because it was about winning a game of baseball and you win by playing a game of baseball."

Bec Crosby pitched all 10 innings in that game.

At the top of the 10th inning, Vic Park's Christine Kreppold came up to bat, arguably one of the best players in Australia at the time. Again, Larry called time, walked out to Bec and said, "you have one pitch or you have four". Bec threw 4 pitches and walked the batter and then struck the next batter out.

In the final inning South Perth had two out with Morgan Doty at second base as the winning run. Bec was up to bat and hit the ball to centre right, allowing Morgan to score the winning run.

Larry's contribution to the club was recognised with Life Membership in 2002.

Larry's wife Leanda has volunteered her time to score, fundraise, be on the committee as the Club Registrar and ran the canteen with Debbie Chappell.

Leanda also wrote 'The Bond', in recognition of the amazing 2000 State League grand final win.

Larry's son Ryan played junior, colts and senior baseball at South Perth before turning his attention to umpiring. He on to umpire at club, State, national and international competitions and is a regular ABL umpire nowadays. Ryan's skill as an umpire has been recognised with multiple Umpire of the Year Awards from BWA.

Ryan has also umpired at the U18 and U23 World Championships in Canada and Columbia.

Ryan's wife Sheridan played in the women's team and has volunteered on the committee, taking on the executive role of senior registrar.

Josh Harder also played junior and senior baseball at South Perth. He was a member of the U23s State team. He played AAAs and a couple of State League games.

Larry's grandson Toby is a current junior player at South Perth.

In the 2021/22 season, Larry came out of retirement to play a D Grade with his sons' Ryan and Josh and his grandson Toby.

Bob Harris

Bob was manager, coach and pitcher of A grade team in 1975/76, 1979. Played in 6 Claxton Shields – 1978, (to 1979). He was described as *"the finest relief pitcher produced in WA. Today, however, he should be seen in a starting role. Harris knows how to win big games. He won't be trying to throw the ball past the crack Park hitters like Ossey, Stipetich, Goodwin, Ward, Rod Corker, Grigg, Ficus. He'll be tormenting them with a spate of tormenizing outcurves."* (Don Callanan – 1978-79 Finals program. West Australian Baseball League (Incorporated) TG July 2019)

He was an incredibly good coach who managed to get the best out of his players.

He was named as the relief pitcher (also known as the 'fireman' role) for the Australian team to play in the Federation of Asia series in South Korea in 1978. Pitched for South Perth in 78/79 season.

Larry Harder recalled the following story. *"Bob was assistant coach of the Australian team during an international series against Japan at Parry Field. While coaching at first base he had*

a 'few choice words' with the Japanese first baseman 'about how good his wife was', thinking that the Japanese player would not understand. Shortly after, the player called out to one of his teammates....in English! Bit of a backfire in trying to put the player off his game!"

Bob became manager of West Stirling in October 1979. (newspaper unknown 6th October 1979 TG July 2019)

John Hearne

John started in juniors at South Perth at the age of 11 and played U13s, U15s and U18s.

He was a state junior representative on 6 occasions and selected as the captain of the Australian All-Stars side in 1981/82 that went on tour to Georgia Southern College.

John played his first season of A Grade in 1980/81 at the age of 15. His coach was Don Kyle and he played infield. He continued playing at this level until the late 1980s. During this time, he received two Fairest and Best awards and was the winner of the W.A.B.L U/21 Umpire's Medal in 1984/85 and the WA State League Best Under 21 Player Award.

John represented WA in the ABL/Claxton Shield as a member of the Perth Brewers between 1984 and 1991 and won two Championships.

He was selected in the Perth Heat Starting 9 in 1989 -the Inaugural Season of ABL. He continued to represent Perth Heat until 1993 and won their Play of the Year Award in the 1991/92 season.

John was selected as an All-Australian Team Representative 1993 – Asian Baseball Championship Parry Field and selected in ABL No.2 Australian All-Star Team 1993

John enjoys Masters Baseball and has been a member of the Eagles Masters Team from 2005/05 to 2020/21. He was a Championship Team Member in 2004,05, 2006/07 – 2020/21 and won the Batting Award in 2020/21.

John's dad Len was a committee member, team manager, volunteer and supporter. His mum Caroline was a volunteer and assisted in the canteen.

Trevor Helliard

Trevor relieved for Mick Gordon as catcher in Feb 1978 and at the time his batting average was .435 in the A grade. He was described as "the State 's most professional bench warmer" (Sunday Independent 9th Feb 1978 TG July 2019)

Hewitt Family

Jason Hewitt grew up in Wilson and started his baseball journey as a six year old playing tee-ball at Canning Tee Ball Club at Centenary Park, Wilson. His first coach was Brian Hodge whose son Michael was on the team and later transitioned to South Perth to play baseball with Jason all through juniors and seniors. Sue Gates, mother of Travis, was instrumental in teaching Jason the game of tee-ball in the early years.

As a kid, Jason spent a lot of time around Wilson, Como and South Perth where his dad grew up and would often come down to watch State League games. He started playing baseball in Little League (U13s) at South Perth in 1985. He played U13s for three years and during this

time the team won two premierships. The team was coached by Neville Smith, father of Shane, and Pete Lawrence, father of Damien.

He then played in the U15s for two years under coaches Peter Dodd and Ken Angwin. In both these years the team took out the premiership.

This success continued in U17s under coaches Tony Brannigan, Stuart Harben and Ken Walters. The team played in two consecutive grand finals and was successful in one. Throughout his 7 years in juniors, Jason played in 6 grand finals, taking the prize in all but one.

Jason was a part of many WA Junior State and Australian National teams. He was in the South Perth/Willetton squad for the Under 13s State Pee Wee Championships held in November 1985 at Forster Park. The team was successful in the competition and went on to represent WA in the National competition held in South Australia in January 1986.

He represented WA in the U16 State team in 1990 and they won the National tournament in Perth. As a result of this he was selected in the Australian Development squad for U16s to play a tournament in Adelaide. This squad was made up of the best players from the U16s National tournament.

In 1991 he played in the U18 State team that won the National championship in Adelaide. He was again selected in this team in 1992.

As a junior Jason mainly played infield – second base and short stop. He did a little bit of pitching but didn't rate himself that highly. He tried catching in U13s and sometimes played outfield in U15s but hated it! He much preferred the infield. Short stop was his favourite position, and this continued through seniors.

Jason played his first senior game at the age of 15. In 1989 he was in the A Reserves premiership team that won at Parry Field. By 1990 he was playing State League as well as juniors on a Saturday. His first State League coach was Ken Walters.

At the age of 17 he played in the Australian U19 team, and that same year played his first game for Perth Heat. At the start of the season South Perth won in a game against Morley, which had a lot of Heat players at the time. Mike Young, the Perth Heat coach was at the game and spoke to Jason, offering him an opportunity to attend the ABL pre-season tournament on the Gold Coast. The two second basemen were injured and couldn't go so he asked Jason if he was interested. He jumped at the opportunity and although he played well, resumed club ball on his return – both juniors and seniors.

On the Wednesday before a weekend series, he received a call from the Heat management explaining that they needed a backup infielder and wanted to put him on the roster that weekend against Melbourne. He got one at bat that series and played a couple of innings on defence. The next year, 1993, he was on the roster regularly and started getting more game time.

Jason worked incredibly hard and practiced at every opportunity to improve his baseball skills, strength and fitness. He would do an hour of batting practice at the club prior to going to Heat trainings on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This effort was rewarded by his selection in several National and overseas squads throughout the 1990's'

In 1994, at the age of 19, he made his debut on the Australian Senior team that toured Nicaragua in the Australian winter. He was also playing in the Independent League (semi-professional) in Deluth Minnesota, the first Australian to play in an American Independent league called the Northern League. He spent 5 months of the year in America then travelled to meet up with the Australian team in Millington, Tennessee before flying to Nicaragua then back to Deluth to finish the season then back to Australia in September. Over his 10 year International career Jason played in Cuba, Japan, Taiwan, Canada and of course all over Australia.

Jason was the youngest member of the Australian Olympic team that competed in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics at 21 years old. Although it was the 'greatest couple of weeks of my life', he recalled the event that changed the course of the games, the bombing at Centennial Olympic Park. This was an act of domestic terrorism that killed two people and injured over 100.

"I was where the bomb went off at Tent Land the night before, same time 1am only 50 metres away from where the bomb went off.

Tent Land was only one train stop down from the Olympic Village in Atlanta. I was in the Bud World tent that night with fellow Heaters and Aussie team mates Shane Tonkin, John Moore and Souths teammate Stuart Howell

I was still up the next night when the bomb went off, I could see outside my window from the Olympic village there was smoke down at the precinct, helicopters were in the air pretty quickly and I knew something bad had happened. After that night security was ramped up to the point where they would put dogs on our bus coming in and out of the village, check underneath with mirrors, from that point on everywhere we travelled security was ramped up."

One of the highlights on the Olympics for Jason was taking a friend, Erica Hodge, on a tour of the Olympic village when they noticed a group of people congregating near the exit of the food court. Visitors were not supposed to go into the food court, so Jason stuck his head in to see what was happening. Not 10 metres away was Mohammed Ali! The boxing legend had lit the cauldron at the opening ceremony at the Atlanta games. Jason and Erica joined the queue to meet and get a photo with him. Talk about being in the right place at the right time! Jason handed his camera to Ali's minder who took the photo. Jason won't ever forget the moment that Mohammed Ali grabbed his left bicep.

On his return he played infield in the Australian team and Perth Heat until the league folded in 1999. In 1999 he injured his shoulder for a 3rd time while fielding ground balls at South Perth pre-season training. He had already had two surgeries on his shoulder in 1997/98 so decided he didn't want to go through it again. From that point on he played in the outfield where he could brace and control things a little more and didn't have to dive as much. There was also some great young talent coming through in the infield. Unfortunately, his injury meant that he couldn't continue as part of the Olympic squad for the 2000 Olympics in Sydney and was cut in March 2000, some 3 months before the games were due to start.

Jason was the Centre Field for each of his State League premierships, achieving his first at the age of 26, after playing in the WA State League for 10 years.

Jason had signed to play with the Adelaide Giants for two years, but the ABL folded after year 1, so he came back to Perth.

He started coaching State League with South Perth in 2002, after playing in the previous two premiership winning seasons. He coached this team for six years and in that time, they played in four grand finals and won three. In 2005 when Baseball Park opened, he coached State League, AAA and both teams WON the premiership.

Jason spent six years coaching Australian junior teams in the U13s, U16s and U19s. As part of this he coached the best kids from Australia and took them to America to play in tournaments and use the major league academies as their training sites.

In more recent times Jason's focus has been being involved in coaching and mentoring the junior State and club teams where his son Jai plays.

In 2021 Jason was an inaugural inductee into the BWA Hall of Fame.

Jason's wife Kasey has supported the club through organisation and running of fundraising events over the journey and their daughter Kaitlin, who has grown up at South Perth, is the 'Best Supporter'.

His son Jai made his State League debut for South Perth this year 2021/22 at age 15, something Jason is very proud of and a highlight for the Hewitt family.

His brother Scott played junior and senior baseball at South Perth and has assisted with coaching seniors.

Jason's mum Robyn was on many committees, helped in the canteen and with the many fundraising events the club would run. His dad George was always on hand to assist with setting up and packing up diamonds.

He feels strongly about fostering the social aspects of the club and encouraging members to contribute.

In Jason's words,

"The two most important people at club-ball land are your State League coach for on the field and your president off the field. They're the ones....The coach is going to get the players interested, keep them around, give them opportunities, and that goes throughout the whole seniors, not just State League. Because your club is bigger than just your State League. From a social point of view, you're only as strong as your lower grades.

We've had strong presidents who have done their time....a long period of time....they haven't just come in for one of two years and gotten out. They've done maybe a junior presidency or been on junior committees, come through the seniors and probably spent the good part of ten years and it was almost the same for a lot of our parents. They held some sort of role whether it be on a committee, the coach, the canteen, helping set up, whatever. Everybody got involved, and that was the biggest difference. We were very lucky growing up – all our parents were involved and it was a good club atmosphere. They were always there supporting their kids. It was a different feel to what I see today...everyone got involved for the better of the club and did their bit, and it ran smoothly."

Hill/Shevlin Family

Scott was a player and junior coach.

Lyn volunteered her time on the committee.

Ray Hill

Ray played juniors in the 1970's and moved up through the ranks to play seniors. He was a short stop but then moved to Swans.

Stuart Howell

South Perth junior and senior player who represented WA at State junior level as a pitcher.

Stuart (known as Howelly as there were two Stuart's in the team) played second base for A Grade in the late 1980's / early 1990's. He progressed to play with Perth Heat in the 1990's and toured the USA with a WA team in 1988.

Stuart represented Australia at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta.

Jarvis family

The Jarvis family were a sporting family that lived across the road from the club at Collier in Thelma Street. Ron Jarvis played football for Subiaco and his son Russell played reserves for Subiaco. Russell, Graeme and Greg all played baseball at South Perth while sister Lyn was a top softball player.

Greg Jarvis was a left-handed pitcher for South Perth then moved to Kelmscott and Wembley then returned back to South Perth. Brothers Russell and Graham played for South Perth. Russell also moved to Kelmscott and was a playing manager there in 1983.

"Jarvis shines at short stop

South Perth appear certain to retain their brilliant infielder Graham Jarvis at short stop for their important league baseball clash with the strong Victoria Park side at Forster Park on Sunday.

Jarvis filled in at short stop for South Perth when John Kyle left for a trip to New Zealand. Kyle has returned and faces a challenge from Jarvis for his position in the infield. South Perth coach Bob Harris will be reluctant to change the line-up that has won five consecutive matches and put his side in fourth position on the premiership list. Jarvis, and elder brother Russell, who plays at left field have given outstanding displays of fielding and batting during the team's winning streak.

Another member of the Jarvis family, Greg, is one of the most promising pitchers in the State. He will leave early next year with an Australian junior team for a series of matches against American teams in Miami Florida.

The Jarvis family also have another State representative in the family in Lyn Kay, who last week was chosen in the State women's softball team to play in the Australian championships early next year in Canberra." (The West Australian Friday December 19 1975 TG July 2019)

"Australian junior pitching star Greg Jarvis has been included in the South Perth league team for the preliminary final against Perth at Bassendean Oval on Sunday.

Jarvis and Eagles player Doug Mateljan returned to Perth on Tuesday after touring Florida in the United States with the Australian Schoolboys team. They won 11 of their 17 matches. The 17-year-old Jarvis, a left hander, won two of the four games he pitched against American high school teams. He received special coaching from famous American pitching coach Bob Shaw in Florida....If Jarvis plays, he will join his brothers Graham (who will play as short stop) and Russell who will be at left field.

Russell Jarvis was the leading batter in the first semi-final when his three hit performance steered South Perth to a 6-3 victory over Victoria Park. He is equally strong against left or right-handed pitching.” (The West Australian 19th March 1976 TG July 2019)

Russell played in 1983 Claxton shield team. He was a utility player in the International Test Series against Sumitomo Metal Industries (or Japan Sumitomo Steel) team from Japan at Parry Fields in February 1983. (Baseball Bulletin Vol 1 No 3 February 1983 TG January 2020) – was at Kelmscott at this time.

“Russell started playing his baseball career with South Perth in 1964 at the age of 12 as a junior and within a few years was playing A Grade seniors as an outfielder/batter under the coaching of Rod Byrne. On many occasions Russell has won the clubs batting average award. Also, as a youngster he was selected in numerous State Junior sides. As a senior he was also selected in several State sides as an outfielder/batter in the Claxton Shield Series. The highlight of his career was to play in an Australian side against Japan when they toured Australia. After retiring for a season he decided to try the coaching aspect of Baseball and joined Kelmscott Baseball Club for 3 years and in the first year Russell won the W.A. Baseball Association Batting Average. (Fred and Norma Rae Slugging Average in 1981/82 season)

After another year of retirement he has returned to his old haunt (South Perth) to finish out his baseball career. His return has been welcomed by not only his immediate team mates but by the whole club. The fastest mouth in the south is welcome home.” (Player of the Week in South Perth Baseball Club Inc newsletter series 1985/86 TG January 2020)

Russell was part of the premiership winning South Perth ‘B’ Grade team in 1993/94 and was awarded Life Membership in 1994.

Greg Jelks

Greg arrived in Australia from the USA in 1992. In his home country he had played high school and college ball. He played Major League Baseball in 1987 with the Philadelphia Phillies.

Greg represented South Perth as a player from 1997 – 2004. He was a part of the State League premiership team in the 1999/00 and 2003/04 seasons and was awarded the Max Lenegan Medal in 2000. He coached State League in 2007/2008.

He played for Perth Heat during the 1990s and won a number of awards including

- Most valuable player 1993 & 1998
- Highest batting average 1993, 1994, 1997 & 1998
- Caltex Sports Star of the Year – Baseball 1993
- Town and Country Sports Star of the Year – Baseball 1997
- West Australian Sports Champion Awards – Baseball 1997

- National Champions 1997

Greg represented Australia at the Baseball World Championships in 1997 and was Assistant Coach of the Gold Medal winning side in 1999.

Greg played in the Australian Olympic Baseball Team from 1997-1999 and was the Assistant Coach from 1999 to 2006, including the Sydney 2000 Games.

Greg was a highly regarded and much-loved member of the South Perth and broader Perth and Australian baseball community. Tragically, in 2017 he passed away unexpectedly.

John Family

Shane is a senior player and coach. He volunteers his time on the committee, sponsorship, fundraising and maintaining the grounds.

Shane's wife Jo assists in the canteen.

Their sons David and Lucas have played juniors and seniors at South Perth Baseball Club. Lucas also assists with coaching junior teams.

Tony Johnston

Tony came across from Victoria in the early 1980's and joined South Perth. He pitched at Claxton Shield for the WA State team in January 1983 and at end of 1983.

Kelly Family

Phil has been a long serving committee member, treasurer, equipment & uniforms, canteen, chief of the BBQ, barman who was awarded Life Membership in 2014.

Wife and mum Shivaun volunteered in many roles from canteen, uniforms, fundraising and of course 'mum's taxi'.

Mark and Ryan played all their junior and senior baseball with South Perth.

Mark represented WA on numerous occasions as a junior and played 23 games of ABL with Perth Heat during 2004, 2005, 2006-2010. He represented Australian at the Olympic qualifiers in 2008.

Ryan also represented WA at junior level and played with Perth Heat. He is currently coaching his sons at tee-ball with Canning Cougars and machine pitch at South Perth.

Ari, Ezra and Theo are current junior players with South Perth and Canning Cougars.

Kenny Family

Brothers Michael and Nathan Kenney played most of their junior baseball with East Fremantle. Michael pitched for A Grade in the late 1980's.

Nathan was a regular A-Grade squad member playing A Reserve and A-Grade.

Parents John and Pat were regular supporters and games and club functions.

Don Kidd

Don was a catcher in the A Grade team during the mid-1950s.

Russell Kimber

Russell played some junior and senior baseball at South Perth. He played A Grade in the 1980's

Brooke Knight

Brooke was an American import player who came out with Jim Champion to play baseball in the 1996/97 season. He returned to coach our A-Grade team in the late 1990's. Brooke met and married Carly the sister of Clayton and Clinton Barnes. Brooke coached Perth Heat during the 2000's.

Kyle Family

In the 1970s Don Kyle and his brother John played winter baseball in Victoria and travelled across to WA to play summer baseball at South Perth. Don and John were often referred to as part of the best infield ever to play league baseball in Western Australia

Don Kyle

Don represented WA and Australia as a senior player and coach and is well respected as a high performance coach at all levels.

Accolades

CLUB:

Mickle Medal winner for South Perth in 1978/79 (WABL)

STATE SELECTION AS PLAYER:

U17 (1972)

WA State Senior team 10 years - Claxton Shield (1974 – 1984) Winning 4 National Championships

1978/79 ANZ Sports Star of the Year Award Finalist for Baseball

1979 winner Golden Glove Award (31 plays at third base without an error)

Member of WA's Claxton Shield teams 1980, 1981 and 1982, 1983

NATIONAL SELECTION AS PLAYER:

U17 team (1972)

Third baseman for the Australian team touring Holland and Italy in 1978

Member of the Australian team to play Korean national team in Perth November 1979

Senior Team (1980 + 1981)

Played infield in the International Test Series against Japan's Sumitomo Metal Industries at Parry Field February 1983

COACHING:

Assistant coach National Senior Team in preparation to Atlanta 1995

5 years assistant coach U19 National Team 1996, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2002

2 years assistant coach U17 National Team 1998, 2003

Head Coach U19 National Team 2004

Assistant coach WA Baseball Academy 1994

Assistant coach WA U18 State Team 1994-2003, 2004

Head Coach WA Baseball Academy 1994, 1995, 1996

Head Coach WA U18 State Team 1995-96-97-98-99

Head Coach WA U16 State Team 2005 (National Champions) 2006

Head Coach WA Institute of Sport Baseball Program 1997-1998-1999-2000-2001-2002-2003-2004-2005-2006

Assistant Coach Senior National Team 1999 (Taiwan - where won first ever International Tournament winning the Tri-Nations Series)

Attended Minnesota Twins extended spring training 1999

Attended Baltimore Orioles Spring Training – Big League Camp and Minor League 2001–2004–2005-2006

Assistant Coach Senior National Team in preparation for Intercontinental Cup 1999 (Australia beat Cuba to win Gold Medal)

Assistant Coach Senior National Team 2000

(Taiwan – 4 Nations International Tournament winning for second year in a row).

Assistant Coach WA Heelers 2001 – Winner Claxton Shield (Senior National IBLA competition).

Assistant Coach WA Heelers 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005

Assistant Coach Perth Heat 2006, 2011, 2017

Manager Perth Heat – 2008/2009 (National Champions); 2009/2010

2010 ANZ Sports Star of the Year Award Coach of the Year Finalist

Infield Instructor – MLB/AAP Camp – 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006

Head of WAIS Baseball (WA Institute of Sport)

Don was a qualifier for The West Australian – Caltex Sports Star of the Year in 1979. This award was decided by voting from the sports writers of the West Australian newspaper. The following was written regarding his qualifying.

“Superb

Kyle was selected for his superb displays for WA in the Australian baseball championship in Melbourne where he won the Golden Glove award for the outstanding fielder of the series. His immaculate performances at third base – ‘hot corner’- played a major part in helping WA to win the Claxton Shield for the third year in a row.

The 24 year old Kyle, who plays for South Perth in the local league competition, played in all eight matches of the championship and did not make an error.

Don Callanan, baseball writer for The West Australian, describes the stocky Kyle as the best third baseman he has seen in Australian baseball. And Callanan has seen them all, having played or written about the game since its introduction to WA in 1935.

‘Kyle is the most exciting defensive baseballer in Australia’, says Callanan. ‘His trademarks

are courage and the ability to retain perfect balance in almost any situation.’ Unerring ground fielding and accurate throwing across the diamond enabled Kyle to make 26 assists and five put outs – a fielding average of 0.1000 – during the Claxton Shield series.” (The West Australian 21st Feb 1979 TG July 2019)

Another article from the Sports Review leading in to the 1976/77 semi-finals Don Callanan wrote, “South Perth go into this final round with the best infield ever to play league baseball in West Australia. What makes them the best? The Kyle brothers! Third-baseman Don and second-baseman John Kyle demonstrate week after week how the basic fundamentals can be developed and applied to fielding and throwing a baseball correctly.’ (The Sports Review Friday March 11, 1977 TG July 2019)

Don has served as assistant coach of Perth Heat and was head of the WAIS Baseball (WA Institute of Sport) for many years. He was an inaugural inductee into the BWA Hall of Fame in 2021.

Don’s involvement is baseball at our club and in WA and Australia is second to none and his love of the game is unquestionable. For this we (and the many young baseballers he has helped along the way) thank him.

Anne Kyle

Wife of Don and mum to Jody and Andrew. Anne served on the committee over many years – secretary, treasurer, fundraising, social events, canteen, National tournaments hosted by SPBC to name a few. Anne was awarded Life Membership in 2013.

Andrew (Andy) Kyle

Andy played his junior and senior baseball at South Perth. He represented WA and Australia at junior level and played State League. He achieved success with Perth Heat and is the current Perth Heat Manager.

Andy coached South Perth State League in the 2010’s.

John Kyle

John travelled across from Victoria with his brother Don in the 1970’s to play baseball with South Perth. They played winter baseball in Victoria and summer in WA.

He and Don were described as the “*best double play combination in Australian baseball*” (Sunday Times 11th Feb 1979 TG July 2019)

John represented WA in the Claxton Shield tournament at second base from 1977-1980 then 1984 and 1985. He was named as second baseman in the Claxton Shield 75th Anniversary 2009 All-Star Team Western Australia. Each State or territory was asked to select a State team prior to the announcement of an All-Time Australian Team. The selection panel was Bob Harris, Doug Corker and Neville Pratt. The WA Claxton Shield Club was surveyed as well.

“Don Kyle’s 26 assists and five put outs was topped only by his brother – John – at second base, who handled 43 plays – 21 assists, and 22 put-outs in WA’s eight winning games in Melbourne” (The West Australian Sat 27th January 1979 – TG July 2019) (1979 Claxton Shield series).

John represented Australia in a number of tournaments. He played against Japan's representative team Honda in January 1979. The exhibition match was played in Belmont at Forster Park. He was in the Australian team to play the Korean National team in the International Baseball test in Perth November 1979 as a second baseman. He was also a second baseman for the Australian team touring Holland and Italy in 1978.

John and Don's brother Neil played in two Grand Finals with South Perth Baseball Club.

Sister Lynne is a long-time supporter and volunteer at the club.

Lange Family

Michael and Andrew played juniors at Willetton and then came to South Perth to play seniors.

Andrew played State League and coached juniors.

As a player Michael reached the AAA level and stopped playing after the 2009/10 season to turn his hand to coaching.

Michael has coached Little League for three years and coached Colts for three seasons, winning a premiership in the process. He then moved up to coach the AAA team for five years.

Since the 2013/14 season Michael has also been an assistant coach for our State League Team and continues to do so. He attends all trainings and games.

Off the field he has been a committee member for over ten seasons holding the executive roles of Junior Vice-President, Senior Vice-President & President during this time.

Michael helps out with just about everything at this club; from marking diamonds, working behind the bar & jumping in the canteen to help if needed. For two seasons he went around to schools holding baseball clinics trying to entice kids to our club and has helped organize numerous club functions as well as be the MC on many occasions.

Michael has been described as 'the ultimate Club Guy'.

Michael played seniors and continues to coach senior teams. He has been on the committee for a number of years and held the positions of Senior Vice President and President.

Parents, Donna and Keith have volunteered their time at the club. Donna as a scorer and Keith in helping out at events.

Ted Lewis

Ted worked at for Tomlinsons Engineering company and was Jim Dore's brother-in-law. Jim married Ted's sister Dossie. Jim managed to talk Ted in to going along to play at Bristle even though Ted didn't think he was that great at throwing a ball or swinging a bat!

Ted met Phyllis Parkins (known as Polly) in the post war celebrations, and they married in 1948. Ted gave her the nick name 'Polly' based on an old English song about 'Pretty Polly Perkins of Paddington Green'.

Polly worked for Rossiter's Grocers who had a shop on Mends St in South Perth. Mrs Rossiter lived in a house at the back of the shop, and when she passed away her son Harold invited Ted and his wife to move into the house as housing was difficult to find in those days. They accepted the offer, and every Sunday morning Ted would walk down to Windsor Park and mark out the diamonds.

In the early days of the club Ted took on the roles of Vice President and secretary. Norm Anderson taught Ted how to score, and Ted took over, scoring for A grade for several years.

Ted and Polly's family grew to include two children and by the early 1950s Ted was very busy with family life. His boys took a great interest in football and work took him to the country, so he was away from the club and baseball for several years.

Ted's son John carved out a successful football career as captain of Claremont Football Club and even played a few games with Hawthorn Football Club.

About 2008 Ron Skeggs rang Ted and asked if he was the Ted Lewis who was involved with South Perth Baseball Club. Ron had an old team photo with Ted in it. Ted said that it was him, and Ron explained that he and Alf met at the games each Sunday and invited Ted to come along. The three of them are once again regulars at each State League game.

Murray Lindau

Murray played A-grade during the early-mid 1980's. His glove work defensively at shortstop was consistently good and he was a valuable batter averaging .300. Murray retired from baseball to concentrate on training trotters.

Alf Luetchford

Alf worked at the Bristile factory in Subiaco. Jim Gordon, one of his colleagues who had returned from the war, played baseball for Bristile and encouraged 19-year-old Alf to come down and have a go. He tried it, liked it and stayed.

In 1947 Alf came with Jim Dore to be an inaugural player at South Perth. He initially started in the lower grade, but the club soon realised his potential and he was a part of the 1950/51 A Grade premiership team. He started in the outfield but then moved to the infield. When Jim Dore retired from playing, Alf became the second baseman, his preferred position.

Due to his size Alf was a great lead-off batter who could get run between bases quickly. He was also a great outfielder and second baseman – all in all a very handy player. He was very quick and agile so could leap up and catch the throw from the catcher then get down low to tag the runner before he could get close to second base.

Baseball was initially played in winter, so players were often extremely wet and cold, particularly when fielding. Many baseballers also played cricket as this was a summer sport. The year before baseball moved to summer Alf played a season of cricket and relished playing sport in the warmer weather. He almost quit baseball for cricket, but luckily, he chose to stay. The change in season had a big influence on his decision! Thankfully, the game didn't lose Alf.

Alf played A Grade for many years and was also a State Representative during this time. He was a member of the Southern Districts Cubs in the Night Baseball competition in the mid-1950s. He was the winner of the League Trophy in the 1956/57 season.

While he was still playing in A Grade Alf was tapped on the shoulder and asked to coach a junior team. First, he coached the U15s and then the U13s and he really enjoyed it. He would often pile all the kids in the back of his station wagon and drive them to the away game at Wanneroo, Fremantle or Midland.

There are many players and parents at South Perth today who were lucky enough to have Alf as a coach, and many of them went on to play A Grade such as Rob Chappell, Rick Gozzi and Mick Osborn. His teams won premierships numerous times. Alf modelled most of his coaching techniques on his own mentor Jim Dore, and later went on to do a course to support this role.

After playing A Grade for over a decade, Alf moved to A Reserves and then became a catcher in B Grade, catching for Graeme 'Pop' Menner. He played C grade in 1978 and coached the team to a Premiership! He then transitioned to the catcher and manager of D grade 1978/79.

Alf has held many administrative roles including Club Administrator (1970), Club Secretary (1975/76) and Liaison Officer for interstate Claxton Shield teams (1977).

In recognition of his service, Alf was awarded Life Membership of the South Perth Baseball Club – seniors in 1960 & juniors in 1976. Each year our club presents two perpetual trophies named in honour of Alf. The Alf Luetchford Best All Round U13 perpetual trophy is named in his honour and awarded to the Little League MVP each season. 'The Alfie' is awarded to the State League 1 MVP.

Team mates described Alf as a "genuine, good club-man, right from the moment I knew him". Alf is a genuine, good natured gentleman who has been a friend of baseball and South Perth for more than 70 years. He is not just one of our passed players he is our "Living Legend". There are so very many West Australian baseballers who are proud to have called "Alfie" their coach, mentor and friend.

Mann Family

Michelle has volunteered her time to be on the committee and assist with uniforms and in the canteen. She regularly contributes to fundraising events at the club.

Graeme ensures the scoreboard is up to date at State League games and supports fundraising events at the club.

Damien, Jason and Luke all played for South Perth. Luke is currently a member of the State League team and has been a committee member.

Jason Marsh

Jason played junior and senior baseball with Willetton and South Perth. He was State junior representative in U15's and U18's during the 1980's. He assisted with coaching junior teams when his sons Lachlan and Riley played at South Perth.

Jason's wife Jo, daughter of Kaye 'Doc' Greenham, scored junior games.

Terry "Moggy" McGeown & Mal McKay

These two blokes were great mates who worked together at one time and lived close by so shared lifts to training and games.

They played senior baseball during the late 1970's and early 1980's in the same social grade team – B grade mostly with the odd player promoted to A-Reserve for a game from time to time. Graeme 'Pop' Menner was the coach.

What a team of absolute legends - Les Murray, Ross 'Putty' Putland, Trevor Dearle, Mark Eccles, FA 'Fatty' Kyle, Neil 'Blue' Bennett, Lex Ranford and Graeme Menner junior.

Sadly, two of these players passed away this year – Pop Menner & Moggy McGeown – May they RIP

Albert 'Moggy' McGowan

Moggy played for Bristle in the late 1930s and was an inaugural player at South Perth Baseball Club in 1947.

In a game against Victoria Park, he *"played brilliantly at left-field, snaring no less than seven 'flies'. This was a great afternoon's work, and one which should put this youngster well on his feet."* (Sportin[?] [?]|IGHLIGHTS (1939, June 29). Western Mail (Perth, WA : 1885 - 1954), p. 17. Retrieved April 25, 2020, from <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article38403952>)

Albert became a State left fielder. He was known as a nice bloke with a lovely family.

Menner Family

Graeme Menner Snr (Pop Menner)

Graeme 'Pop' started playing baseball with South Perth aged 12 and played juniors for three years before joining the senior ranks as a 15 year old. He represented WA in Colts as a 16 year old while playing 'A' Grade with South Perth. During that season (mid 1950's) he was selected to play in a combined team from South Perth & Vic Park 'Southern Districts – The Cubs' who participated in the winter night baseball competition held at the WACA.

Pop went on to pitch state for WA at Claxton Shield and was the first pitcher in WA to be recorded a perfect game – November 1965 when he struck out ten East Perth batters - each batter failed to hit the ball out of the infield. Glen Orton was the catcher for this game, himself also a great pitcher.

His most revered outing for South Perth was winning pitcher in the 1966/67 'A' Grade grand final where he pitched the complete 17 innings to win South Perth the 'A' Grade premiership – truly outstanding!

Pop was an esteem leader for baseball on and off the diamond who played for the love of the game. He was South Perth's club coach, president, administrator, committee person, barman, groundsman, a player and much more during the 1950's-80's and was awarded Life Membership to South Perth Baseball in 1979.

Personal Accolades

- Represented WA in Colts – 1950's
- Represented WA in Claxton Shield - 1961, 1963-1969
- WA State Team MVP (Mickle Medal) 1964
- WA State League MVP (Neville Pratt) 1963/64, 1965/66
- South Perth 'A' Grade (now State League 1)
Player – 1950's, 1960's, 1970's
Coach - 1970's
- South Perth Baseball Club President 1970's & 1980's
- South Perth Baseball Club – awarded Life Membership in 1979

He was B Grade manager and pitcher in 1978/79 and 1979/80 seasons when he played alongside his son Graeme (Jnr).

Graeme was a plumber by trade and married Nina Malaski, a State softball player – the love of his life. Nina scored at club, State and National competitions.

Ric Garner remembers a game where he was catching for Pop *"I can remember catching Menner at a night game. I threw the ball to him, and he dropped it and he looked at the ball and he walked away, waited for someone to come in and pick the ball up and give it to him. I said, 'you f...n arrogant bastard, why didn't you pick the ball up?' He said, 'I can't. My back's f...d, I can't bend!"* Despite this, he pitched a winning game.

Graeme 'Pop' Menner sadly passed away in 2021.

Scott Metcalf

Scott played his junior baseball with Willetton and South Perth. He represented WA at state junior level on five occasions and was a member of the State Schoolboys team. He was selected in the Development Squad in 1988 and was a member of the bronze medal winning Australian U19's AAA World Youth team.

Scott progressed to play A-grade in the late 1980's/early 1990's and was a member of Perth Heat during the 1990's.

Mitchell Family

Dean and brother Rory played baseball with South Perth in the 1980's.

Dean was one of the most feared hitters in the State – a regular homerun hitter. Rory played left field for A-grade in the early 1980's.

Scott Mitchinson

Scott played junior and senior baseball at South Perth. His skill as a pitcher was recognised, and he played 116 games for Perth Heat.

He was a member of the Australian Team that played an Olympic Qualifier in 2008. The following year he played with the Australian Team in the World Baseball Cup.

Trevor Morrison

Trevor 'Mad Max' Morrison played social grade senior baseball in the 1990's. He was a member of the Geriatric Jets grand final winning B-grade team.

Moylan Family

Tom was a regular committee member during the 1980's and stepped up from Senior Vice-President to Club president in the mid-late 1980's. Tom played senior social grade baseball.

His son Peter played junior and senior baseball with South Perth. He progressed to State League as a pitcher and played with Perth Heat in the 1990's.

Peter travelled to the US in the late 1990's and played in MLB for the Atlanta Braves, Los Angeles Dodgers and Kansas City Royals and in the Chinese Professional Baseball League for the Macoto Gida.

Peter joined ABL team the Melbourne Aces as a pitching coach in 2017 for the winter season

Nelthorpe Family

Bert was the manager of the Bristile team and assisted the transition to South Perth. He was the inaugural Life Member at South Perth. His son played for the 1947 C Grade premiership team. Bert worked at Bristile before the war and his wife was scorer at Bristile.

Glen Orton

Glen lived next door to Ted Ettles in South Perth and started baseball as a junior around 1949. He was very sporty and played cricket and football as well as sailing.

He was part of a junior team that travelled to Kalgoorlie to play against a Goldfields junior team in the early 1950s.

In 1953 he was promoted from A Reserves to A Grade. He was a State pitcher and a member of the Southern Districts Cubs in the Night Baseball competition, including the premiership winning team of 1956/57.

"By beating Perth 1-0, Orton became the first South Perth pitcher in the club's history to pitch a no-hits, no-run, no-error game.

Playing in his first season as a full time pitcher – he has been South Perth's catcher for the past two seasons – Orton has played in only five games this season and won them all. Orton was butchering at Wyndham for the first round when the club won only three of their eight games.

Since he returned at the start of the second round and took over the pitching South Perth have not been beaten.

Though former A grade pitchers Ron Booth and Eric Goodwin have pitched no-hits, no-run games for South Perth in previous seasons, it is the first time that the team have not made an error in a 'no-hitter shut out'.

At present, South Perth are battling to maintain another record – they have not been out of the final four since the club was formed in 1947.” (newspaper article, paper and date unknown – accessed 8th July 2019 TG)

Interestingly, Glen met his future wife Colinette through night baseball. Colinette was a softball player and she and her team mates started to take an interest in baseball. When night baseball started in 1954, they decided to go along and watch a game. Colinette told her girlfriends she was going to get the autograph of the catcher, who happened to be Glen, so she boldly went and knocked on the change room doors after the game. Glen answered and agreed to sign her program. Feeling embarrassed, and not wanting to let her true intentions be known, she then asked if the rest of the team could sign it too, and they did! This happened for three or four games and then Glen and Colinette started going out. They were married in 1957.

Glen played for South Perth for about 16 years and was catcher when Graeme Menner pitched the first perfect game. As his young family grew to include five children, fitting baseball in became a little more difficult. Eventually he had to retire from the sport.

Osborn Family

Reg Osborn was a left-hand pitcher in A Grade during the 1960's.

His younger brother Denis coached and umpired juniors. He also umpired at State and National competitions. Denis won the Peter Solomon Best Umpire Award in the 1978/79 season.

Denis and wife Glenys were stalwarts of the junior division in the 1960's and 1970's. Denis was instrumental in recruiting young players to come down to South Perth and give baseball ago.

Sons Michael and John played juniors and seniors for South Perth.

Michael (Mick) became one of the youngest players to pitch A-grade in January 1978 when many of the regular players were away in the Claxton Shield series. He also pitched against Japan at Subiaco Oval. He was also a strong left hand batter.

John also pitched A-grade in the 1978/79 team and represented WA in junior teams several times. Some of his senior baseball was played in Port Headland and Wembley before he returned to South Perth. John was A-grade coach in the mid-late 1980's.

John's wife Nola was a regular member of the committee and assisted in the canteen, at social functions and fundraising.

Matthew and Trent Osborne

Matt and Trent Osborne played their junior baseball with Willetton and South Perth.

Trent represented WA twice and was a member of the Development Squad in '88. He was selected in the squad for the 90 Australian Team.' (South Perth Baseball Club (Inc) 1990 Reunion Programme TG January 2020)

John Parker

John, aka 'Woozie', played A Reserve in the 1950s with Ron Skeggs and progressed to play A Grade in 1954. He was a third baseman.

Bob Paulsen

Bob came out to WA from the US in the mid 1980's as an import player who pitched.

Ross Putland

Ross 'Putty' played footy with Brentwood Amateurs during the winter and was looking for something to do over the summer. Some of his mates played baseball with South Perth so he came down to the club to give it a go.

He played A Reserve 2 and A-grade and in the latter years was part of the Geriatric Jets social teams. He was part of the premiership winning South Perth 'B' Grade team in 1993/94.

Always good a spinning a yard Putty fitted South Perth like a glove and made firm friendships.

Larry Ragazzo

Larry 'Rags' came over from South Australia and was working in the Jeans West company so was always interested in clothing. One day Ric Garner walked into the store at Garden City. He was wearing a t-shirt that Kenny Harris's wife had made for each of the players. Using Hobbytex she had written SPBC and drawn a picture of Snoopy from the famous Charlie Brown comic series. Rags was interested in playing baseball and he and Ric got talking. Ric managed to convince him to come to South Perth.

He was an A-grade pitcher from 1979/80 – 82/83 - 83/84 and again in 1985/86 - 88/89

He was a hard -throwing right hander who relished the work-load under Coach John Cole.

During 1983/84 Rags had a fine season and was unlucky not to be selected on the State side. With 10 wins, 6 losses and 2 draws he posted a 2.56 ERA over 137 innings. This was a very gutsy performance.

Rags returned to play social baseball with his mates and was part of the Geriatric Jets winning premiership teams for A2's and B grade in the 1990's.

Saupold Family

The Saupold boys Craig and Warwick started their tee ball career in the Belmont area and came across to South Perth to play their junior baseball.

Their father Tony was president of the junior division for a number of years and as the boys transitioned to seniors Tony took on the role of Senior Vice President. For many years Tony marked diamonds, fixed equipment and help out around the club in many ways. Mum Dea was their constant taxi ferrying them to and from trainings and games. Dea also served on the committee and ran the canteen with daughter Rainee.

Craig went on and played social grade seniors.

Warwick represented WA and Australia at junior levels, played with Perth Heat and travelled to the US where he played professional MLB baseball for the Detroit Tigers. He also played in the KBO League for the Hanwha Eagles.

Gary Scarterfield

Gary 'Scarters' started his baseball career as a junior with the Applecross Baseball Club under the leadership of the late Ollie Drake-Brockman. Applecross was later absorbed by the East Fremantle Baseball Club and with this club Gary was selected for National competition in the WA U/15's and later U/17's. He continued as a senior player with the East Fremantle league side playing in their 1973/74 premiership win.

As a member of the Claxton Shield team, he had many South Perth team mates and was convinced by Bob Harris and the Kyle brothers to come to South Perth at the start of the 1978/79 season and was still playing in the late 1980's.

The transfer to South Perth began the outfield partnership with Tony Goadby & Robbie Chappell (the Three Amigos) which was to last for many years. Team mates have told how Gary would sing songs in the outfield, usually his favourite song at the time or one he had heard in a movie such as Monty Python's The Life of Brian. One favourite was 'My Sharona' by The Knack.

Many years ago, South Perth played East Fremantle at Fremantle Oval and Ian Butcher from East Fremantle joined the Guinness Book of World Records by hitting 5 consecutive home runs off South Perth pitchers Larry Ragazzo and Don Kyle. Scarters considered the most important & successful baseball decision he ever made was to decline the offer from coach of the day (Don Kyle) to relieve on the mound. It is rumoured that the coach and his players all successfully recovered from their whiplash injuries.

In recent years South Perth and Braves play a memorial game in Gary's honour for the 'Gary Scarterfield Memorial Cup' a testament to the respect Gary's has from both clubs.

Scarters was South Perth's "A" Grade (State League) coach for two seasons in 1987 & 1988. Gary would accept nothing less than a Premiership. He won the Peter Solomon RBI Award for the 1979/80 season.

Gary played in almost 100 Claxton Shield games representing WA on 10 occasions between 1975 & 1985 and played for Australia in 1982 both at home and overseas. His career highlights were his National and International selections and his participation in the WA Brewers Claxton Shield victory in 1985.

He played in Claxton Shield teams in 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980, 1982, 1983 and 1985 as outfielder and was selected in the Australian All-Star squad to play in the 27th World Amateur Championships in Seoul, Korea in Sept 1982.

During the 1980's Perth's Parry Field in Belmont hosted many international tournaments. Gary played outfield in the International Test Series against a Sumitomo Metal Industries team from Japan in February 1983. He was one of three coaches in the 1985/86 North-South All Stars game.

Gary was WA's Assistant State Coach in 1987 & 1988 and State Coach in 1989.

After playing baseball at an elite level Scarters decided to again play ball alongside his mates and was part of South Perth's premiership winning South Perth Geriatric Jets teams with A2's and 'B' Grade during the 1990's.

Scarters sadly passed away in 2011.

Gary's wife Leanne was a great softballer and scored A-grade. She served on the committee for many years during the 1980's / 1990's / 2000's as registrar, committee, uniforms, and merchandise.

Leanne was awarded Life Membership in 2011.

Ron Skeggs

Affectionately known as 'Skeggsy', Ron was one of the first juniors at South Perth Baseball Club. He and his mum and dad lived just a few houses down from Jim Dore on Mill Point Road. Ron's parents were in their forties when he was born, and his dad was in hospital when Ron started playing baseball, so many people mistakenly assumed they were his grandparents. Living just down the road, Jim and Dossie Dore took Ron under their wing. Ron planned to just go with a few mates down to the Windsor Hotel to celebrate his 21st birthday, but Jim and Dossie organised a surprise birthday party for him – well it was a surprise until Ron's mum let the cat out of the bag! Jim and Dossie were truly kind to Ron, and he felt like they were his second family. Even though Jim had passed away, Ron kept in contact with Dossie.

His first experience with baseball was when Jim brought all his gear to the park across the road to encourage local kids to give the game a try. Baseball had not really been heard of in South Perth prior to this – football and cricket were the main sports played.

After his introduction, Ron started to listen to American baseball on his shortwave radio. His favourite team was the Chicago Cubs. He admired players such as Yankees catcher Yogi Berra and Jackie Robinson from the Dodgers. When Ron visited America to see his sister, he went to Wrigley Field and saw the Cubs play the Houston Astros. He also visited Bush Stadium in New Orleans. The World Series was on during his visit, and he was lucky enough to be offered tickets to one of the games, but fearing it was a scam he declined the tickets. *"I didn't want to get off the train, go and get told I couldn't go in or get put in jail or something!"*

Ron played juniors for South Perth and then progressed to A Reserves in the early – mid 1950s and was coached by Jim Dore. His main position was catcher.

He was the catcher in the premiership winning Southern District Cubs in the Night Baseball competition in 1956/57.

In his first game of A grade Ron played short-stop. Keith Denham hit a ball straight to Ron who picked it up cleanly and threw it to first base, but the runner beat the throw! Ron was pretty upset with himself.

Ron got his licence in Norm Anderson's car. Norm owned a Fiat station wagon because Wesfarmers had the agency for Fiat. Norm and Ron went to the police station and, ironically,

the police constable at the traffic examiner's office was Milton Bandy, an A grade baseball player for Victoria Park and Wembley clubs. Ron drove Norm and Milton to the Red Lion hotel in North Perth, they all had three beers, drove back and then Ron was given his licence!

After getting married and moving north of the river, Ron retired from baseball at the age of 25. His only regret was not playing at State level. Despite being shortlisted for selection as a State catcher, he was pipped at the post by a country boy who went on to become an All-Australian player. Had he continued another couple of seasons he would have certainly played for WA in the Claxton Shield.

In the mid-1990s Ron was living in Scarborough and realised the South Perth was playing in a Grand Final against West Stirling at a ground close to his home. He went down to take a look and bumped into Alf and Graeme Menner. This was the start of his reconnection with South Perth Baseball Club. He came to some games at South Perth and was pleased to see that it was still the same happy family club. It helped that he was treated like royalty on his return!

Ron spent many Sunday afternoons on the hill with Alf and Ted, enjoying watching the current crop of State Leaguers play. Sadly, Ron passed away in 2020.

Gordon Smith and Family

Gordon and Andy Smith, and their cousins David and Robert Smith, lived on Ryrie Ave Como, just down the road from the club. The boys began playing baseball in little league in the late 1970's. David and Robert's mum Julie ran the canteen for a few years which was set up in the clubhouse on Collier Reserve. Alf was Gordon's first coach and is noted as being honest and fair. If you got hold of a few balls during batting practice at training it would bring a smile to his face. Alf would pile all the kids into his station wagon to drive them to games all over the metro area.

In under 15s his coach was a young guy named Joel who drove an old AP5 or AP6 Valiant. He was a 'good bloke' but training a bunch of teenagers was a steep learning curve for him!

Gordon has served on the committee and assisted with ground marking, equipment and other Ad hoc duties around the club in recent years.

Jody, Gordon's partner in crime, and mum to Alex and Cameron has served on the committee as secretary, canteen and fundraising, scored when required and in recent years been our club historian.

Gordon and Jody's sons Alex and Cameron started playing at South Perth in Machine Pitch and Little league in the early 2010's.

Lucas Smith and Family

Lucas is a senior player and also coaches junior teams. He has volunteered on the committee and taken on the role of Junior Vice President and President.

Lucas's wife Meagan manages the club's social media, doing a wonderful job of keeping everyone updated.

Their son Jasper is a junior player at South Perth Baseball Club.

Steve Sullivan

Steve's junior baseball started with East Fremantle in the mid-late 1960's before moving to WAIT (Curtin) as a foundation member in 1974 and then University in 1977/78.

When Steve Olsen came across from East Fremantle to coach South Perth for four years in the early-mid 1980's Sully moved as well. He played A-grade from 1983 to 1986.

Brooke Sweet

Brook was an American import brought out to play during 1984/85 season. He was a third baseman.

Taylor Family

Jake and Josh Taylor started their baseball in Port Hedland, but a move to Perth saw them become a part of the South Perth Baseball Club family. Josh played juniors and Jake played juniors and seniors. Mum Dawn was a volunteer at the club and used her hospitality and cooking expertise in the canteen, providing many amazing Thursday night dinners after training.

Temby Family

Jeremy is a senior player and coach. He has been on the committee for a number of years and held the position of President in 2019-2021. Jeremy also assists with fundraising, scoring, canteen and Game Changer.

Sandy Temby assists in many capacities at the club. She has spent many years on the committee including the role of Treasurer. She volunteers with scoring, fundraising, canteen, uniforms, merchandise and Game Changer. She has also coached a junior team.

Jeremy and Sandy's son Patrick played junior baseball at South Perth and is currently playing seniors, including State League.

Jeremy's brother Ben, and his sons Isaac and Oliver, play seniors. Isaac also played juniors and has assisted with coaching junior teams.

Craig Thompson

Craig 'Thomo' Thompson played juniors and seniors with South Perth from the 1950's to 1970's.

He played second base in South Perth's epic 1966/67 Grand Final win and played on until the 1975/76 season.

Craig was part of the Claxton Shield team for WA from 1970-73 as a second baseman.

Mr Thompson, Craig's father, was President of the club and many meetings and social events were held at his home in Dyson Street, Kensington.

Mick Throssell

Mick was a South Perth player in the 1950's. He worked at the Daily News newspaper. He and his wife Zara lived in Hong Kong for a while when Mick was sub editor for The Sun paper. After Hong Kong he came back to Perth for a little while and then moved to Sydney and worked at a newspaper. He became a junior reporter and progressed to sports reporting. Following this he became a political reporter for Sir Shane Partridge a WA Senator.

Mick was an incredibly good athlete and was a member of the State U18s team for football. He was also a particularly good hitter and outfielder.

Mick had a great sense of humour. He appeared in the 'Know Your Sportsmen' section of the Sunday Times in 1954.

"Mick Throssell – cadet newspaper sports writer will be one of the stars playing with South Perth 'Cubs' in the new night baseball competition.

Selected as a member of the State baseball squad this year, he plays with South Perth in the day baseball competition, was a member of the State juniors team in 1951. This year he also played State football with the Temps side which met the combined Police Boys as a curtain raiser to the Richmond v WA game.

Mick is 20 years old, single and 6ft 1in 12 ½ st. He confesses that he is 'mad' about any sport, still has to be convinced there's one he wouldn't like to play. Best baseballer he has seen is that great cricketer Charlie Puckett.

In summer, Mick sails his own Vee-Ess with the South Perth Yacht Club."
1954 'Know Your Sportsmen', Sunday Times (Perth, WA : 1902 - 1954), 5 September, p. 3. (MAGAZINE : The Sunday Times Sporting Section), viewed 01 Jun 2020, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article59694559>

Timms Family

Tim was a senior player and took on the role of Junior President. He was very involved in Tee Ball at South Perth. His wife Kaye volunteered as a scorer.

Their children Alex and Josette both played juniors.

Alf & Helen Tovey

Parents of Glen who played junior and some senior baseball with South Perth during the 1980's and 1990's.

Alf was a constant face on the committee for many years and served as treasurer for at least ten years. His wife Helen was a great supporter always on hand to help with the canteen and fundraising events.

Geoff Trevenen

Geoff was a South Perth junior and senior player who was a regular A Reserve and B-grade player in the late 1980's/early 1990's.

Peter Turner

Played with South Perth in the 1950's and was exceptional on first base. His wife Christine was a champion netballer.

Vinicombe Family

Chris (Vini) was instrumental in establishing tee ball in the district at South Perth/Canning Cougars. They started playing tee-ball at Collier and when the club outgrew the space moved to Centenary Reserve in Wilson.

Chris coached son Cameron as a junior and filled the Junior President role for a number of years before becoming the Club President.

Vini coached the A Reserves team during the late 1980's/early 1990's. He would coach the boys at lunch time then go and run the bar – originally selling drinks out of an ice bucket down at Collier. He's been immortalised at 'Vinnie's Bar'.

Chris was awarded Life Membership in 1997.

Cameron played all his junior and senior baseball with South Perth. As a junior player he was the A-grade bat boy for a number of years and represented South Perth in the Inaugural State Pee-Wee championships and then WA in the Australian Pee-Wee Championships, which W.A. won. He progressed to be a regular player in State League and was a team member in the dynasty of premiership wins during the 2000's.

Walters Family

Ken Walters coached South Perth's A grade team during the early 1990's. Ken played baseball in the Northwest of WA with John Osborn and on his return to Perth, Ossie coaxed him into coming down to South Perth.

Son Brett played juniors and seniors becoming a member of the State League team.

He was part of the South Perth/Willetton squad for the Under 13s State Pee Wee Championships held in November 1985 at Forster Park. The team was successful in the competition and went on to represent WA in the national competition held in South Australia in January 1986.

Brett was a Claxton Shield player and represented both WA and Australia at junior level. He played 64 games for Perth Heat and was a player in the ABL from 1993-1998, 2000, 2002, 2003 and 2005. Brett also travelled to the US and played baseball.

He coached the South Perth State League 1 team from 2018 – 2021 and is a keen advocate of giving back to the game by coaching junior teams and is currently the SL3 team player/coach.

Brett has served on the committee as a registrar, general committee and is our current treasurer.

Wife Carly has served on the committee, assisted Brett as registrar and has co-ordinated merchandise and uniforms. She is always a willing volunteer at club events and helped out at the canteen, the bar and as a scorer.

Brett's daughter Denae played junior baseball with South Perth.

Graham Ward

Graham was one of the best players of his era playing across multiple clubs from 1975-1985. He came across to South Perth and played social baseball with the B-grade geriatric jets with some of his Claxton Shield teammates towards the end of his playing career.

Bill Wells

Bill played at South Perth in the A Reserve as a first baseman in the 1950's. He coached WA's State women's softball team in 1954 and 1955 and winning the title in 1954 at the Brisbane Carnival.

Bill was assistant coach of Southern Districts Cubs in night baseball in 1955.

He was a freelance journalist.

Kevin Wilson

Kevin Wilson was an American import player who came out to pitch with South Perth in the mid-late 1990's.

He met a lady and stayed in WA for a few years. He was an outstanding pitcher who played with State League for a number of years and was part of the 2000 winning GF team.

Murray Wilson

Was a pitcher for A grade in January 1984. Also played A grade Dec 1984. American import.

Coaches Report (Steve Olsen 1984ish)

'After arriving half way through the season, Murray established himself as one of the league's most deceptive pitchers. He has won six games in a row on the mound. Murray is also a very dangerous hitter and should prove to be one of the league's best all round players this coming season.'

Murray lost the sight in one eye due to being hit by a pitched ball in an MLB game.

Wheeler Family

Paul has been a great supporter of South Perth Baseball Club through his involvement with the committee. He has held the role of Senior Vice President and has been President for 5 years.

Paul's wife Linda volunteers and assists with fundraising and events. Their sons Max and Elliot have both played juniors. Max continued with seniors and is currently a State League player. Max has been a coach and a committee member, including the role of Senior Vice President.

Paul's sister Jill is dedicated supporter of South Perth Baseball Club and attends most State League games.

Zelones Family

Julian is a senior player and coach. He has been a committee member for a number of years and taken responsibility for fundraising.

Julian's wife Alana volunteers her time to help with scoring, canteen and fundraising.

Their son Spencer is a junior player.

John Zuideveld

John Zuideveld played senior social baseball in the 1980's and was club president during the mid-1980's. John's building company was a major club sponsor.

Life Members, A Grade/SL Coaches and Presidents

The names and years listed below may not be accurate and there are some gaps. Please help us to confirm this information if you can.			
Year	Life Member	President	A Grade/SL Coach
1947	Bert Nelthorpe (dec)	Bert Nelthorpe	Jim Dore
1948	Norm Anderson (dec)	Roy Gooch	
1949	Norm Anderson	Rob Gordon	
1950			
1951	Jim Dore (dec 2000)		
1952			
1953			
1954			
1955			

1956			
1957			
1958			
1959			
1960	S – Alf Luetchford		
1961			
1962			
1963			
1964			
1965	S- Bob O'Rourke (dec) J – Alf Luetchford		
1966			
1967			Rod Byrne Ray Cook Graeme Menner Bob Harris
1968			
1969			
1970	S – John Bennett (dec 2021)		
1971			
1972			
1973			
1974	J – Peg Dearle		
1975	J – Jack Dearle (dec) S – Peg Dearle		
1976	S – Jack Dearle		
1977		Ted Ettles Tom Moylan	Les Murray Don Kyle Steve Olsen Gary Scarterfield
1978	S – Peg Gaebler (dec 2000)		
1979	S – Graeme Menner (dec 2021)		
1980			
1981			
1982			
1983	S – Tony Goadby		
1984	Russel Jarvis		
1985			
1986			
1987	S – Ric Garner	Ted Ettles Peter Dodd Chris Vinicombe Larry Harder Don Harben	Gary Scarterfield Ken Walters Kevin Driscoll Brooke Knight
1988			
1989			
1990			
1991			
1992			
1993			
1994	S – Russell Jarvis		
1995			
1996			
1997	S – Chris Vinicombe	Larry Harder Steve Cocliff Darryl Brissett	John Osborn Lee Cahill Jason Hewitt
1998			
1999	S - Rae Coleman (dec 2014)		

2000	S – Christina Dodd		
2001	S – Peter Dodd		
2002	S – Larry Harder		
2003	S – Rod Drew		
2004			
2005			
2006			
2007		Darryl Brissett	M Bratton
2008		Paul Wheeler	Andrew Kyle
2009	Maureen Bradley	Rod Drew	Joe Evans
2010		Julian Rawlinson &	Lee Hogan
2011	Leanne Scarterfield	Michael Lange	Rod Drew
2012			
2013	Anne Kyle		
2014	Phil Kelly		
2015	Steve Cocliff (dec 2021)		
2016			
2017		Paul Wheeler	Rod Drew
2018		Stuart Scott	Brett Walters
2019	Darryl Brissett	Jeremy Temby	Brett Walters
2020	Rob Chappell	Jeremy Temby	Brett Walters
2021	No award issued	Lucas Smith	Kent Fitzgibbons
2022			
2023			
2024			
2025			

SPBC ROTTNEST TOURISTS FROM 1976 to 2021

ANGWIN, Ken "Pengy" (Deceased 2013)

APOSTOLOU, Alex

BARBARICH, Adam (Rookie 2016)

BARNES, Clinton "Sticha"

BARNES, Clayton "Claydo"

BARRIE, Grant "Slowie"

BARRIE, "Moondog"

BARWICK, Lyle

BASIRE, John "Zacca" (Dec'd)

BENNELL, Kyrell (Rookie 2017)

BENNETT, Peter

BENNETT, Neil "Blue"

BEVELAQUA, Michael

BIFFIN, Peter "Biff"

BOSSON, Kevin (Rookie 2014)

BOWEN, Jim

BOWEY, Jake (Rookie 2017)

BRADLEY, Daniel "Kiwi" (Rookie 2013)

BRADLEY, Paul "Bradders"

BRENDAN, Tim (Rookie 2007)

BRENDAN, Dean (Rookie 2014)

BRISSET, Darryl "Cash" (Rookie 2006)

BURTON, Dean "Deano"

BURTON, Martin

BURTON, Neil

BUCKMAN, Paul

BYRNE, Marty

CAHILL, Lee

CAMONS, Russell
CANT, Ian
CANT, Jamie
CANT, Lee
CAMPANA, Paul
CASH, Marty
CHAPPELL, Rob "Snappy"
CHAPPELL, Nathan (Rookie 2017)
CHONG Frankie "Chonga" (Rookie 2006)
COBALT, Shaun "Tick"
COCLIFF, Steve "Pom" (Deceased 2021)
COCLIFF, Ric
COLE, Dean
COLEMAN, David
COLEMAN, Tom
CONDON, Wayne "Horse" (Rookie 1976)
CONNELL, John "JC" (Rookie 1976)
CONNELL, Jarren
COOKE, Brad
COOKE, Bob "Cookie"
COPELAND, Mike (Rookie 2008)
COURCHA, Adam (Rookie 2012)
CORLEY, Jake (Rookie 2010)
COVID 2020
CROSSWELL, Tim (Rookie 1976)
CROWE, Alex
CULLEN, Dudley
CULLEN ??
DAVIS, Brian
DAVIS, Steve
DAWES, Cody (Rookie 2011)
DAY, Rob "Toffy apple" (Rookie 1976)
DEARLE, Trevor "Shortstraw" (Rookie 1976)
DEARLE, Barry

DEARLE, Rod
DICKINSON, Joel
DICKINSON, Barry
DIX, Geoff "Dixie"
DODD, Peter "Doddy"
DONOVAN, Brett (Rookie 2013)
DOTY, Mark "Doc"
DOTY, John
DREW, Rod "Drewey"
DRISCOLL, Kevin
DUFFIELD, Glen
DUNSIRE, Joe (Rookie 2009)
DUNSIRE, Dave (Rookie 2010)
DYER, Geoff "Yoda"
EDWARDS, Dryw
EISSENS, Simon (Rookie 2006)
ELEPHESON, Geoff
ETTLES, Mark "Astro"
ETTLES, Tony
FAMLONGA, Craig "Fammy"
FAULKNER, Gavin
FERRIDGE, Todd "Toodles"
FISCUS, Troy
FITZGIBBONS, Kent (Rookie 2015)
FORTH, Kevin "Kev" (Rookie 2007)
FOXTON, Glen "Foxy"
GARNER, Ric (Rookie 1976)
GARRANT, Barry
GEE, Bob
GEE, Phillip
GEE, Ryan
GENDAL, Adam (Rookie 2007)
GENDAL, Steve (Rookie 2016)
GERRATY, Matt (Rookie 2014)

GIANCOLA, Jamie
GLEESON, Gavin
GLEESON, Nathan
GRIFFITHS, Peter "Griffo" (from Tasmania)
GOADBY, Tony "Goabs" (Rookie1976)
GOADBY, Matthew "Goabs"
GOADBY, Christopher "Goabs"
GOODIN, Rob
GOODIN, Rodney "Butch"
GORDON, Michael (Rookie 1976)
GOZZI, Rick "Goz"
GREEN Noah (Rookie 2008)
HALL, Greg "Skin"
HALL, Grant
HARBEN, Stuart
HARBEN, Craig
HARDER, Larry
HARRIS, Bob (Rookie 1976)
HEARNE, John
HEARNE, Len "Silver Fox" (Deceased 2009)
HELLIER, Trevor "Horseshack" (Rookie 1976)
HEWITT, Jason
HEWITT, Scott
HEWSON, Scott
HILL, Ray
HOCKLEY, Glen "Steelo"
HODGE, Michael
HOGAN, Lee (Rookie 2014)
HOLL, Anthony
HOPKINSON, Liam (Rookie 201
HOWARD Matt (Rookie 2010)
HOWELL, Stuart
HOWELL, Ken
HUGHES, Ric

HUNT, Laurie
JACKSON, Neil "Jacko" (Rookie 1976)
JARVIS, Russell "Jarvo" (Rookie 1976)
JARVIS, Greg
JARVIS, Graeme (Rookie 1976)
JAMES, Peter "PJ"
JELKS, Greg "Jelksie" (Rookie 2011-Deceased 2017)
JOHNSON, Tony
JONES, Sean
JONES, Michael
KELLY, Ryan "Ned"
KELLY, Phil "Ned"
KELLY, Mark "Kelsa"
KENNY, Michael "Gadget"
KENNY, John
KENNY, Nathan
KIMBER, Russell
KIRKHAM, Sean "Kirkie"
KIRKHAM, Steve "Kirkie"
KYLE, Don "Tosca" (Rookie 1976)
KYLE, John "Johnno" (Rookie 1976)
KYLE, Neil "FA"
KYLE, Andrew "AK"
LANGE, Michael "Lange" (Rookie 2007)
LANGE, Andrew (Rookie 2018)
LAWRENCE, Glen (Deceased 2010)
LAWRENCE, Damian "Lawro"
LAWLER, Declan "Dec" (Rookie 2007)
LEE, Jamie (Rookie 2007)
LEUTCHFORD, Alf (Rookie 1976)
LIDDICOAT, Damien
MANN, Graeme (Rookie 2014)
MANN, Jason (Rookie 2012)
MANN, Luke (Rookie 2013)

MARSH, Jason
MASON, Harry
MATHEISON Darbie "Darbie" (Dec'd May 2009)
MATSON, John
MATSON, Cameron (Deceased)
MATSON, Aaron
MALEY, Geoff
MALEY, Steve (Dec'd 2015)
MARTIN, Leon
McCARTHY, Joe
MACDONALD, Aaron "Amac" (Rookie 2013)
MACDONALD, Colin (Rookie 2013)
MACDONALD, Jarrod "Jmac" (Rookie 2011)
McCARN Tanner (Rookie 2021)
MCGILL, Tony
McGOWAN, Michael "Quokka"
McGOWAN, Ken "Bub"
McGEOWN, Terry "Moggy" (Rookie 1976) (Deceased 2022)
McKAY, Mal (Rookie 1976)
McKENZIE, Aaron "Shirty"
MCKINNON Lauchlan (Rookie 2021)
McCONACHIE, Sean
McNALLY, Aaron
McNALLY, Brian
MENNER Jnr, Graham
MENNER Snr, Graham "Pop" (Rookie 1976) (Deceased 2021)
MITCHELL, Dean
MITCHENSON, Scott
MOON, David
MORRISON, Trevor "Max" (Rookie 1976)
MOYLAN, Tom
MURPHY, Donal, (Rookie 2014)
MURRAY, Les (Rookie 1976)
NEEDHAM, Anthony (Rookie 2014)

NITTIM, Toyvo "Caruba"
NORTHOVER, "Nobby"
O'MALLEY, Darryl
OLSEN, Steve
OSBORN, John
PARKER, Kane (Rookie 2010)
PAUL Tyler (Rookie 2021)
PERKIN, Mike (Rookie 2009)
PROMNITZ, Peter
PROMNITZ, Lance
PUTLAND, Ross "Putty" (Rookie 1976)
RAGAZZO, Larry "Rags" (Rookie 1976)
RANFORD, Lex
RANFORD, Glen
RAVEN, Dave
RAWLE, Troy
REED, Brett "Goose"
RICHARDSON, David (Rookie 2012)
RICHARDSON, Matthew "Big Rig"
RICARDSON, Trevor "Richo" (Rookie 2007)
ROGALASKY, Sam
ROGALASKY, Beau
ROOST, Travis (Rookie 2005)
ROSSITER, Arthur "Rosie" (rookie 1976)
RUKSENAS, Bryce (Rookie 2013)
RUKSENAS, Paul (Rookie2014)
RUSIN, Dave
SAUNDERS, Dean
SAUNDERS, Jamie
SAUPOLD Craig (Rookie 2010)
SCARTERFIELD, Gary "Scarters" (Rookie 1976) (Deceased 2011)
SCILIPOTI, Sam "Skittles" (Rookie 2007)
SCOTT, Drew
SCOTT, Stuart "Stu"

SEKI, Yuuhi "Seki" (Rookie 2007)
SEMMENS, Lynden "Red"
SHARPE, Graeme "Sharpie"
SHEFFIELD, Andy (Rookie 2011)
SILVI, Josh (Rookie 2013)
SMALES, Trevor
SMITH, Shane
SNOW, David "Snowy" (Rookie 2013)
SOLOMON, Glen
SPRY, Shane
STANBURY, Ben (Rookie 2017)
STEWART, Craig
TAYLOR, Jake (Rookie 2017)
TEMBY, Issac (Rookie 2017)
THEW, Mick
THORLEY, Matt
TIMMS, Tim
TREVENEN, Jeff
TROY, Terry "Trog"
TUTHILL, Gary
TUTHILL, Phil
VERNON, Wayne "The Waiter"
VERSAICO, Adrian
VERSAICO, Mark "Vas"
VINICOMBE, Chris "Vinni"
VINICOMBE, Cameron
WALTERS, Brett "Wal"
WARD, Graham "Pop"
WARD, Scott
WATSON James (Rookie 2021)
WESCOMBE, Chris (Rookie 2018)
WESTON, Mark
WHEELER, Elliott (Rookie 2012)
WHEELER, Max "Wheels" (Rookie 2007)

WHEELER, Paul (Rookie 2007)
WHITE, Rod
WIGHT, Geoff
WILLIAMSON, Brad
WILLIAMSON, Todd
WILSON, Kevin
WILSON, MacLain (Rookie 2017)
WILSON, Rob "Willow" (Deceased 2012)
WILSON, Cy
WUNDERLICH, Jeff
WYATT, Geoff
ZUIDEVELD, John

277 as at 2021

WOMEN

ABBOTT DAVIES, Vicki
ALAVAKIS, Annie
BEARD, Linda
CAPORN, Annie
CAPORN, Kristie
DREW, Cheryl
DRISCOLL, Sarah
HURST, Georgina
HIRST, Jodie
MIAZGA, Georgina
RAFFERTY, Sharon
TASSELL, Stephanie
WATKINS, Leigh

13 as at 2014

The Family Album

**BRISTILE BASEBALL TEAM
1940**



Back Row. A. Bell, P. Wren, A. McGowan.
 Middle Row. J. Martin, L. Warronide, H. Hayes, L. Neek, C. McDonald.
 Front Row. K. McDonald, J. Gordon (Vice Capt.), A. Nelborpe (Manager), J. Dore (Capt.),
 Mrs. Nelborpe (Singer), M. Campbell.

Barclay Studio

**SOUTH PERTH BASEBALL CLUB
PREMIERS, "C" GRADE, 1947**



R. S. Ewen, J. S. Housley, L. Cooper, T. W. Cooper (V. Capt.), T. Cooper, L. Nelharpe,
 A. E. Nelharpe (Life Member), P. Mulgrue, J. L. Forbes, H. Lawrence (Capt.), A. Olsen, J. J. Dore (Coach).

VENICE STUDIO, Perth

SOUTH PERTH BASEBALL CLUB
 "A" RESERVE GRADE - 1948



Front Row : H. Lawrence, S. Dawson, (Capt.) Mr. B. Good, (Pres.) A. Leitchford, (Vice-Capt.) A. Chas.
 Back Row : J. Calow, B. Haggerty, E. Lewis, (Hon. Sec.) J. Forbes, J. Dore, (Coach) J. Jeffery, W. Williams.
 VICTOR PENROSE. PERTH

"A" GRADE PREMIERS - 1947 - 1948



Front Row : R. Gooch, J. Dore, (Capt.) Mr. R. Gooch, (Pres.) A. Bell, (Vice-Capt.) C. Douglas.
 Back Row : C. Lee, J. Richards, E. Lewis, (Hon. Sec.) G. Eddington, E. Haggerty, R. Booth, A. McGowan.
 VICTOR PENROSE. PERTH

SOUTH PERTH BASEBALL CLUB
"A" GRADE PREMIERS - 1947, 1948, 1951, 1952.



Standing : A. LEUTCHFORD, D. ANDREWS, A. BELL, D. KIDD, G. EDDINGTON, E. GOODWIN
 A. MCGOWAN, M. YULL, P. TURNER
 Sitting - R. OSBORN, J. DORÉ (Captain), E. LEWIS (Scorer), R. BOOTH (Vice-Captain), M. THROSSELL

Photo by Webb & Webb, Perth

SOUTH PERTH BASEBALL CLUB
"A" GRADE PREMIERS 1951.



Front Row - A. Leutchford, E. Lewis (V. President), J. Dore (Capt.), R. Booth (Patron), E. Booth (V. Capt.), R. Good (Pres.), J. Good.
 Centre Row - M. Yull, A. McGowan, N. Anderson (Life Member), E. Goodwin, C. McCread.
 Back Row - G. Eddington, W. Webb.
 Absent - A. Bell.

Photo by Webb & Webb, Perth

SOUTH PERTH BASEBALL CLUB
JUNIOR PREMIERS - 1953



Standing - J. DORÉ (Coach) K. DANSEY K. ELLIS F. BARRETT D. HORSLEY L. CLEMESHA K. WEIR R. GORDON (President)
 Sitting - B. BURROWS D. ROBERTS F. SCOTT (Captain) L. ROGERS (Vice-Captain) J. BUGGINS

SOUTH PERTH BASEBALL CLUB
"A" GRADE, 1954



Back Row (Left to Right): A. BELL, M. THROSELL, D. KIDD, G. EDDINGTON, E. GOODWIN, G. ORTON.
 Front Row (Left to Right): P. TURNER, J. DORÉ (Captain), R. GORDON (President), B. BOOTH (Vice-Captain), A. LEITCH, GORDON

SOUTH PERTH BASEBALL CLUB

"A" RESERVE — RUNNERS-UP, 1954



Back Row (Left to Right): J. PARKER, A. MCGOWAN, G. HILL, W. WELLS, S. COOK, E. ETTLES, B. ALLEN (Score)
Front Row (Left to Right): F. BROWN, B. GORDON (Vice-Captain), M. YUILL (Captain), B. SKEGGS, K. ALLEN



Back Row L-R: Alan Bell, Mick Throssell, Gill Eddington, Don Kidd, Ron Booth, Glen Orton
Front Row L-R: Peter Turner, Alf Luetchord, Eric Goodwin (with bats), Jim Dore - Taken at Langley Park in the mid 1950s

SOUTH PERTH BASEBALL CLUB

"B" GRADE PREMIERS, 1954



Back Row (Left to Right): D. FISHWICK, M. ROGERS, D. ROBERTS, G. GLEADELL, R. BROWN.
 Front Row (Left to Right): K. ELLIS, J. BUGGINS (Vice-Captain), F. SCOTT (Captain), G. BENNETT, K. WEIR.

SOUTH PERTH BASEBALL CLUB 1956 "A" GRADE

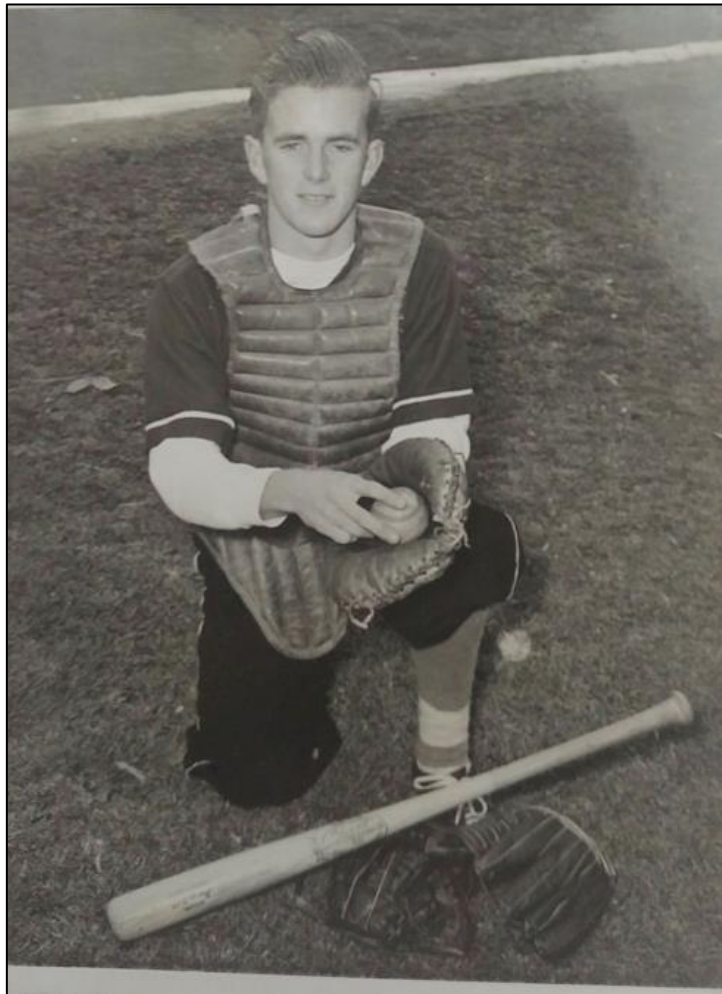


ALAN BELL, TED ETTLES, DON KIDD, ERIC GOODWIN, MICK THROSSELL, JOHN PARKER,
 PETER SHAW, GLEN ORTON, TED LEWIS, ALF LUETCHFORD, RON SKEGGS, JIM DORE.
 [scorer] [coach]

bat boy ?



Ron Skeggs sliding into third base. Night baseball at the WACA. Mid 1950s



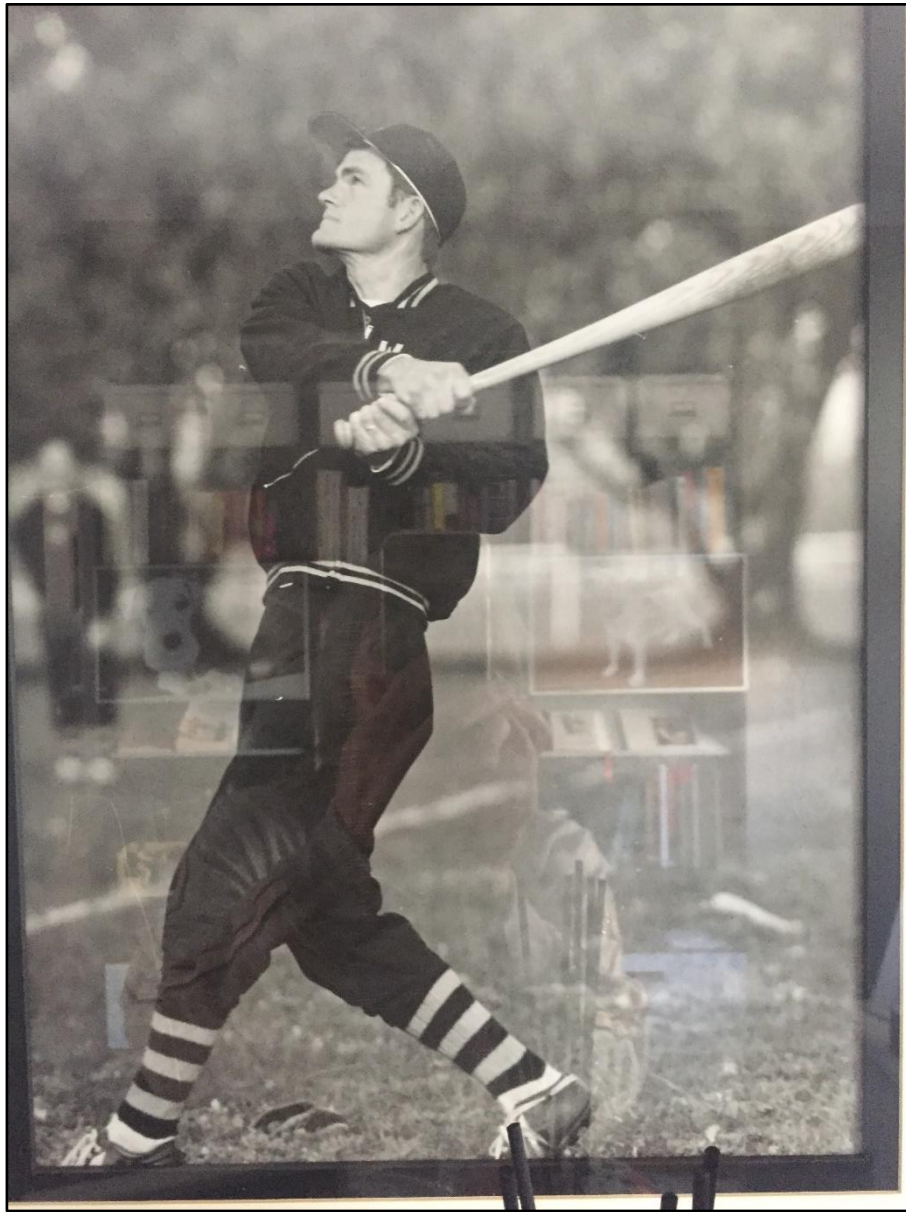
Ron Skeggs – mid 1950s



Alf Luetchford and Ron Skeggs at a wind up – mid-late 1950s



L-R: Ted Ettles, Gill Eddington, unknown, unknown, unknown, unknown, Ron Skeggs, F Scott (?) – late 1950s



Graeme 'Pop' Menner



SOUTH PERTH
Baseball Club
WA BASEBALL LEAGUE

South Perth	2
PERTH	1
INNINGS	E 17



PREMIERS
1966-67

John Bennett
Left field



Don Manton
Centre field



Phil Giblett
Manager

Glen Orton
Utility player



Rodney Byrne
1st base



Craig Thompson
2nd base



CAPTAIN - COACH



Adrian Fishwick
Utility player



John Topham
Short stop

Alan Cunningham
Catcher



Kaye Greenham
3rd base

Colin Smith
Right field



Graeme Menner
Pitcher





TONY GOADBY 1980



Tony Goadby, Robbie Chappell and Gary Scarterfield, March 1980



Back Row: T. Crosswell A. Goadby D. Mitchell G. Scarterfield R. Chappell L. Ragazzo T. Dearle
 Front Row: D. Kyle R. Putland G. Sharpe J. Hearne
 Bat Boy: C. Harben

SOUTH PERTH BASEBALL CLUB INC.
 "A" GRADE 1981 - 82



SOUTH PERTH - WILLETTON PEE WEE ALL STARS
 STATE AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONS UNDER 13 BASEBALL - 1983/84

Front Row: Kurt Cooper, Ashley Shifres, Stuart Howell, Stuart Harben, Craig Harben (Bat Boy), Rodney Wayne, Cameron Vinicombe.
 Centre Row: Trevor Barwick (Asst. Coach), Don Harben (Manager), Dean Morey, Gavin Gleeson, Trenton Osborne, Chris Vinicombe (Coach),
 Anne Vinicombe (Scorer).
 Back Row: Nicholas James, Glen Tovey, David Raven, Lyall Barwick, Richard Gozzi, Paul Simeone.
 Inset: Scott Metcalf.



L-R: Lyall Barwick, Scott Metcalf, Stuart Harben, Rick Gozzi

SOUTH PERTH BASEBALL CLUB (INC.)

STATE LEAGUE GRAND FINALISTS — 1993/94



BACK ROW: Brent Walters, Clinton Barnes, Stuart Howell, Michael Hodge, Clayton Barnes, Adrian Versaico.
MIDDLE ROW: Graham Ward (Asst. Coach), Jamie Cant, Scott Metcalf, Paul Bradley, Joe McCarthy, Stuart Harben, Kevin Driscoll (Coach).
FRONT ROW: Damien Lawrence, Cameron Vincombe, Jason Hewitt, Richard Gozzi (Captain), Geoff Dyer, Mark Versaico, Shane Smith.
ABSENT: Ryan Harder (Bat Boy).

PHOTO HENDRICKS

SOUTH PERTH BASEBALL CLUB INC.

STATE LEAGUE MINOR PREMIERS - 1995



BACK ROW: Jason Hewitt, Cameron Vincombe, Stuart Harben, Dave Rusin, Paul Bradley, Jamie Cant, Joe McCarthy, Sam Rogalasky.
MIDDLE ROW: Kevin Driscoll (Coach), Rod Drew, Trevor Smales, Richard Gozzi, Michael Hodge, Mark Doty, Don Kyle (Assistant Coach), Dean Saunders (Manager)
FRONT ROW: Adrian Versaico, Clinton Barnes, Geoff Dyer, Stuart Scott, Scott Hewitt, Clayton Barnes, Mark Versaico.
IN FRONT: Ryan Harder (Bat Boy).
ABSENT: Craig Harben.

Photo Hendricks 261 5206

SOUTH PERTH BASEBALL CLUB
SOUTH PERTH WOMENS BASEBALL TEAM - PREMIERS - 1995/96



BACK ROW: Tony Magill (Manager), Sally Krajinovic, Maryanne Caporn, Cheryl-Lee Drew, Georgina Miazga, Stephanie Tassell, Kirk Spencer (Coach).
FRONT ROW: Trina MacKenzie, Vicki Abbott, Taryn Wilson, Esma Pollock, Sharon Rafferty, Kristi Caporn.

Photo Hendriks 161 3206

SOUTH PERTH BASEBALL CLUB
AAA - PREMIERS - 1995/96



BACK ROW: Ian Martin, Craig Harben, Jamie Cant, Paul Bradley, Todd Williamson, Travis McQuilkin, Trevor Smales.
FRONT ROW: Brad Cook, Nathan Jones, Stuart Scott, Joe McCarthy, John Osborn (Coach), Michael Hodge, Rod Drew, Scott Hewitt.
ABSENT: Graham Pascoe (Manager), Bevan Osborn (Bat Boy).

Photo Hendriks 161 1206



SOUTH PERTH JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB

U/15's DIVISION 3B - 1998/99

CHAMPIONS (V CARINE (W) 7-2) AND MINOR PREMIERS

SPONSORED BY FREEDOM POOLS



BACK ROW: Troy Rawle (Coach), Blake Bevilaqua, Kohei Azuma, Lynden Semmens (Coach), Ben Carrol, Trent Brisset, Michael Bevilaqua.
FRONT ROW: Dean Burton, Robert Madden, David Fielding, Chris Arnold, Jayden Cooke, Daniel Atkinson.

Photo Hendriks Pty Ltd 361.3206

SOUTH PERTH JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB

W.A.J.B.L. STATE UNDER 13 CHAMPIONSHIP - 1999

DON THURLEY CHAMPIONSHIP CUP

SPONSORED BY BYERS CONTRACTING



BACK ROW: Matt Nichols, Clifton Bedford, Adam Beatts-Rattray, Travis Grigg, Kieran McDonald, Sam Hedgecock.
MIDDLE ROW: Peter Gialombardo (Assistant Coach), Peter Fitzpatrick (Team Manager), Thomas Nelligan, Robbie Colegate, Nathan Jenkins, Daniel King, Trent Brisset, Sue Fitzpatrick (Team Co-ordinator), Darryl Brisset (Team Manager).
FRONT ROW: Robert Gialombardo, Robert Andrews, Kevin Ross, Rod Drew (Coach), Corey Fitzpatrick, Bradley Bedford, Tim Stobart.
ABSENT: Cameron Lindley, Paul Grigg (Assistant Coach).

PLAYING RECORD: QUALIFYING ROUNDS: V PERTH (W5-3); V MORLEY (W5-1); V BALCATTIA (W10-6); V GOSNELLS B (W7-5)
QUALIFIED FIRST: SEMI FINAL: V WANNEROO (L15-6)

Photo Hendriks 9361.3206

**SOUTH PERTH BASEBALL CLUB
STATE LEAGUE SQUAD - 1999-2000 SEASON**



BACK ROW: Lynden Semmens, Jamie Cant, Aaron MacKenzie, Ryan Kelly, Paul Bradley, Leigh Cant, Clint Baker, Matthew Goadby, Cameron Vinicombe, Ricki Cocliff, Travis Roost, Mark Doty, Michael McGowan, Trevor Smales, Dryw Edwards, Michael Hodge, Stuart Scott, Damien Lawrence, Andrew Kyle.
MIDDLE ROW: Scott Hewitt, Clifton Barnes, Brett Walters, Lee Cahill (State League Coach), Stuart Harben (AAA Coach), Jason Hewitt, Kevin Wilson, Adrian Versaico, Richard Gozzi.

Photo Hendriks 9361.3206



SOUTH PERTH BASEBALL CLUB - "A" GRADE PREMIERS 1999/2000

Coach - Bob Cullum

Neil Burton, Matthew Burton, Jim Bowen, Travis Gates, Anthony Holl Nola Cullum - Scorer, Samantha Cullum, Aaron McNally, Brad Cook Stuart McGowan, Craig Famlonga, Ricki Cocliff, Rod Drew, Scott Ward



State League Premiers 1999/2000 season – first premiership since the epic win in 1967!



State League Premiers (again) 2000/2001 season



Three in a row! State League Premiers 2001/2002



State League Premiers 2003/2004 season.



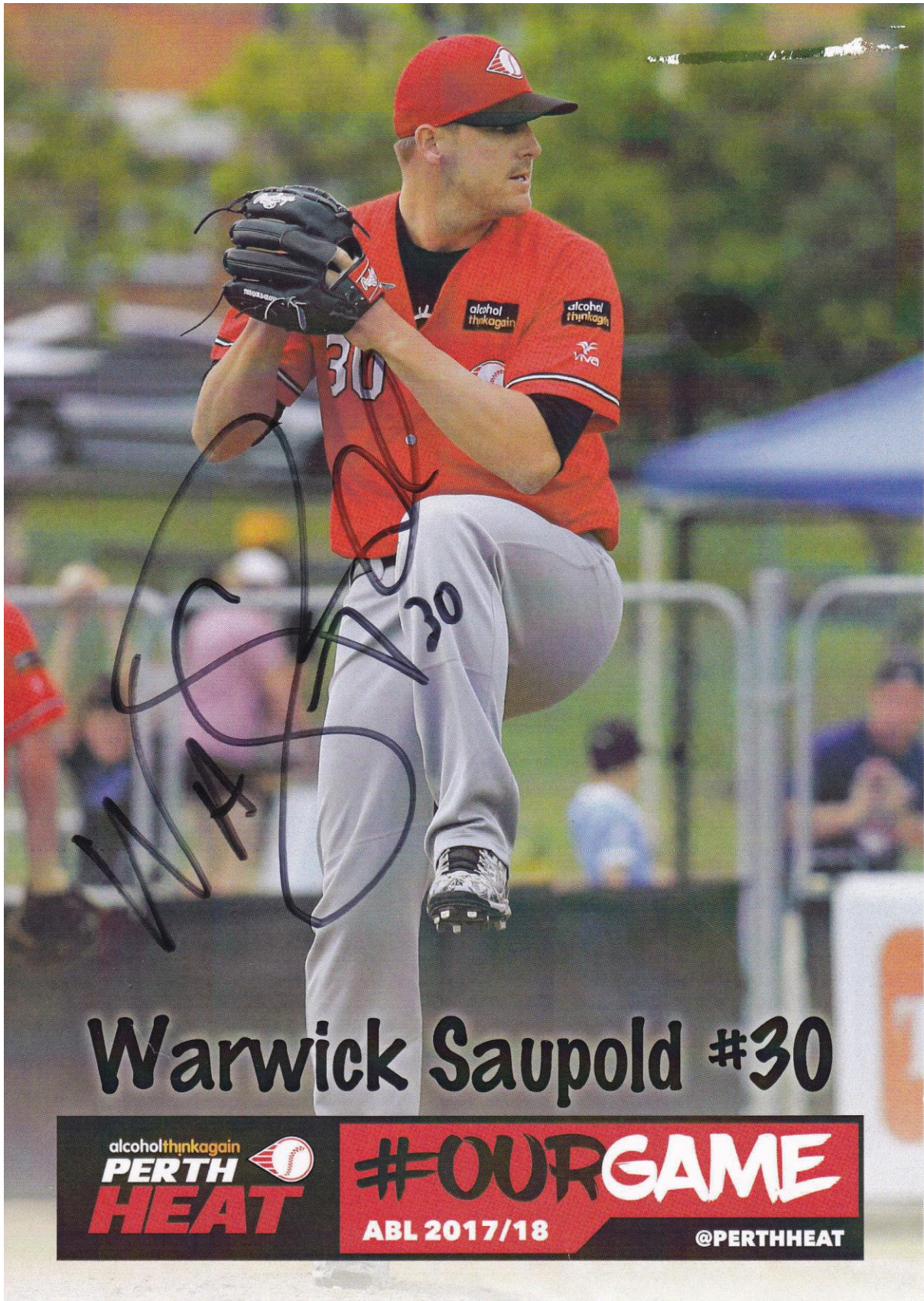
5 Premierships in 6 years! State League Premiers 2004/2005.



Mark Ettles and Greg Jelks – Olympic Games Sydney 2000



Pete Moylan with a loyal fan





40th Anniversary of end of season trip to Rottneest 2016

