



President's Report

Wow, I can't believe season 2004/05 is already under way. Welcome to our new members and welcome back to our old friends.

A big thank you to all coaches, managers, umpires and scorers who have taken on these roles, especially those that are new to the sport of baseball. I hope you all enjoy it!

Macquarie Saints will be fielding a record number of teams again this year, 30 Junior and 9 Senior teams. We have a record number of Under 7's, with 8 teams in total, all playing at ELS in our very own "in-house" competition. For all those parents and children involved in late Saturday morning games, why not come down for a little while and have a look at the "stars of the future". Their games begin at 8.30am.



Try Baseball

Once again 'Try Baseball' was a great success. Not even rain on the first weekend could dampen the spirits of 150 children who participated over the two weekends, having fun and experiencing what baseball is all about. A big thank you must go to all the parents and coaches who helped, as it would not have been possible without you.

Ryde Hawks Representatives

On behalf of Macquarie Saints Baseball Club, I would like to congratulate all the Saints players that made Ryde Hawks Representative teams for this coming summer season. To have 15 players (6 in Representative and 9 in Development) make it into Rep ball is a magnificent achievement. Never before has Macquarie Saints had so many players in the Hawks U14's and U12's - a reflection of the strength in our junior grades.

Well done to all!

The reps are:

Under 14 Representative

Ryan Falconer (NSW development squad), Matt Hollings

Under 14 Development

Ollie Bromley, Alex Latham, Jonathan Nicoll, Jake Stuart, Andrew Walkerden

Under 12 Representative

Jack Forbes, Ryan McLachlan, Chris Nicoll, Jake Wilkins

Under 12 Development

Ben Cambourn, Ivan Chen, Jordan Sorbello, Jack Young

Web-Site

Our very own Macquarie Saints web-site www.saints.asn.au still has the latest information, club news and links to draws, results and standings can be down-loaded to keep everyone informed on what's happening. Many thanks to Bruce Piper and his company **KEEP IN TOUCH** for putting it all together. For any personal internet or web page needs, you can email Bruce:

bruce@kit.net.au or visit his web-site www.kit.net.au



Pioneer Park

Some of you may be aware of concerns the club has had with the grounds at Pioneer Park. The Ryde City Council will be upgrading the grounds after the 31st October. Juggling games around the different grounds has not been easy, so everyone's patience with regards to this has been greatly appreciated.

"Baseballs the Size of Hail"

A friendly game of baseball between our F-grade and newly formed G-grade team was interrupted by the now famous hail-storm that swooped across parts of Sydney on the Father's Day Sunday. It took just a few moments for Pioneer Park to turn into a Winter Wonderland as the ground became covered in hailstones. A sight to have seen, to be believed.



Waterloo Park

At last, the shabby looking baseball fencing at Waterloo Park, that served its purpose as a 'Banner Holder' better than a "foul-ball" prevention screen, is gone. Thanks to our very successful ABBA night in February, it has been replaced with a larger and more comfortable structure for players as well as spectators and passing cars.



Australian Baseball Team

Congratulations to our Olympic champions, the Australian Men's Baseball Team. For the first time in Olympic history Australia made the semi-final, and then went on to play in the finals. Which ever way it went, our baseball team had won a medal and a place in our hearts. Let the 'Dream' live on!



School Holiday Coaching Clinics at Pioneer Park

Our very successful Spring school holiday coaching clinics will again be held at Pioneer Park September 29th & 30th. Baseball NSW Development Manager, Garry Everson, has again offered his services to players of Macquarie Saints Baseball Club, as has been the case for the last 3 years. This time, however, he will be joined by one of the **Australian Baseball Silver Medallists** from the **Athens Olympics**.

Canteen

After such an exciting and positive start to my report, sadly it is time to harp once more upon that 'little' subject that is dear to my heart. At the Coach & Manager's meeting prior to the start of the season, there was overwhelming support to implement a simple roster system, whereby one team is on Canteen Duty for the whole morning, ie 8.30am to 1.30pm at the latest. This was decided upon for a number of reasons.

1. To make life easier for our Canteen & Bar-B-Q Coordinators Jacqui and Geoff.
2. To eliminate the problem of people not taking their turn in the canteen when their 20 minute stint was up.
3. To simplify responsibility, especially at ELS Hall Park, at the request of the Ryde-Eastwood Leagues' Baseball Club's CEO.
4. The notion of one team having their turn in the canteen **once** in the whole season and then it's over, was very appealing to all. That's right - it's like having a needle, a short, sharp pain and then it's over. No more, for the rest of the year.

The club has spent literally tens of thousands of dollars on upgrading facilities and new equipment this year. The Canteen is our only source of revenue, and it is very disappointing that after only 3 rounds of Baseball, we have deficiencies in its support, when really, it should be embraced.

Senior Baseball

This season's draw has many of our lower grade senior baseballers playing under lights at ELS Hall Park. That's right, precisely where the Major League play. On a balmy Saturday evening, why not encourage the family down to watch many of our junior coaches in action. Entertainment Guaranteed!
In fact, this Saturday night the **2nd of October** at ELS Hall Park, E grade commence at 6.00pm.

Good luck to everyone for 2004/05.
Tony Sorbello, President.

Welcome to our new sponsors: Video Ezy Eastwood

This season's weekly player awards are brought to you by our very good friends at Video Ezy Eastwood. Video Ezy has kindly donated all our teams, numerous free weekly video rentals for the team's player of the match. For all the latest movie releases, and especially after a Saturday morning of sport, why not get on down and hire a DVD or Video for the evening.



Hamper Winner

Congratulations to Bruce Piper on winning the **Schibello** Coffee gourmet food hamper for this season's "early bird" registration draw.



Winter G/F Winners, Seniors D2's

We had a very determined team, which started horribly at 1-3 and finished the year at 10-5. We peaked at the right time, with great pitching and great defence, and had an undefeated last month of the year. I would personally like to thank all the members of the team, and again tell them what a pleasure and a privilege it was to lead them.

Kevin McCrohan
Coach D2's

Next Newsletter

The next newsletter will be distributed on the 1st week back from the school holidays. Would all managers and/or coaches could have their reports for the first three games of the season emailed to mooreclan@bigpond.com before Monday 11th October.
Thanks
Janelle Moore