

Burwood Briars Cricket 2017

Chairman's Report
Gerard Price



Achievement Summary

1st Grade

Semi Finalists for the 7th Year in a row

2nd Grade

Grand Finalists for the 4th year in a row and PREMIERS

3rd Grade

Semi Finalists

4th Grade

Minor Premiers and PREMIERS for 3rd year in a row

5th Grade

Briars Maroon and Briars Brothers Semi finalists

Under 24's

3rd in their group

Club Championship WINNERS (5th Year in a row)

Presentation Night award winners

David Walker Trophy (Services to Cricket)
David Jamieson

Ted Watt Trophy (Best New Talent)
Harrison Green

Richard Tregeagle Trophy (1st Grade Players Player)

Max Squire

Gerard Price Trophy (2nd Grade Players Player)

Diren Reddy

Another season completed and another successful year for the mighty Burwood Briars.

As we have said many times it is very difficult to make semi-finals let alone win a Premiership but this season we won 2 more to add to the collection. Many Clubs have not even been able to play a semi in any grade and so our performances are incredibly outstanding and something every player is very proud of. To add to the Premiership success, we were also able to win the coveted Club Championship trophy for the 5th year in succession. That achievement is one that only one other Club has ever achieved, and we have now done it twice!!

Every year we are challenged by the other 13 Clubs who seem to have one goal, that being to beat us! This was a challenge for the Club every week and we are very pleased to say that challenge was met each time and the results were justified.

The season began well for us with plenty of early wins across the grades and a dominant lead in the Club Championship at Xmas. All sides were well placed at this stage but then we lost our way a little. The 1st grade only managed one win after Xmas and with a few losses in the lower grades the pressure started to build. But, we managed to hold on and make the semis in the top 4 grades as well as the semis for 2 of our 5th grade teams being the Maroon team and the Brothers team.

The 1st grade team again led the way for the Club to reach the semi-finals for the 7th year in succession.... outstanding. The 2nd grade team finished second before the semi-finals, the 3rd grade

were also second, the 4th grade were Minor Premiers, and the four 5th grade teams finished in the top 12 of a 22-team competition.

The Club suffered plenty of rounds when guys were unavailable for a variety of reasons but we somehow managed to put some competitive teams on the field each week. To this end we are grateful to the many former players who helped when needed to fill a gap somewhere and this is one major reason that we are successful. Those players know who they are, and I can assure you that as a selector it is reassuring to know that we have this group of guys to call upon. Thank you.

This season proved to be a very interesting season in that we fielded 4 x 5th grade teams for the second time. This consisted of our usual Maroon and Gold teams as well as teams called Briars Rivals and Briars Brothers. These guys had previously only played in 20/20 competitions and so the step up to 40 over/side cricket took a while to get used to. They are a great group of people who we hope will be with us for years to come.

Anthony Clarke Trophy (3rd Grade Players Player)

Ben Van Den Nienwenhof

Peter Mansford Trophy (4th Grade Players Player)

Elliot Ralph

Will Hood Trophy (5th Grade Players Player)

Michael Taberner

Paul Price Trophy (Under 24's Players Player)

Chris Iaquinto

Bill Hooker Trophy (Masters/Classics Players Player)

Charlie Degura

To all these award winners we congratulate you and thanks to Paul Price and Gareth Robson for their assistance with the evening.

We never take our success for granted as it is so difficult to win but we certainly crave that winning feeling as a Club.

We know all other Clubs try to match or copy us and they are all very determined to beat us. We take that as a compliment and a challenge that we are used to now and know that it will take a very strong and dedicated Club to beat us.

The 1st grade team played some fantastic cricket prior to Xmas but then seemed to lose momentum. Unfortunately, they could only win one game after Xmas prior to the semis and bowed out in a very game performance to the eventual Premiers.

The 2nd graders were outstanding. In the Qualifying Final they completely outplayed Lindfield by scoring 130 and dismissing them for only 108. We then scored 7/169 before the game was called. The semi-final against Epping was completely washed out as the big wet hit Sydney and no game was played anywhere.

The Grand Final proved to be an extraordinary game of cricket. Our bowlers continued their fine form to have Warringah 7-13! They recovered slightly to score 55 before

we batted and were 4-68 before losing our last 6 wickets for 6 runs. Warringah batted again to declare at 7-152 leaving us 58 overs to bat for a win. We managed to do this, just, finishing at 7-91 and the game being played till the last over of a 2-day game, simply incredible and a credit to both Clubs on the way the game was played. These 2 teams have contested the last 4 Second grade Grand Finals. On a personal achievement note Ben Van den Nienwenhof took 12 wickets for the game to grab the Man of the Match medal.

The 3rd grade team finished in 2nd position and were one of the dominant teams in the competition. Unfortunately, we lost the Qualifying Final and with the higher placed Auburn also losing this meant the end of our season.

The 4th grade team finished as Minor Premiers again and played some incredible Finals cricket to win their games including the Qualifying Final where they were sent in and went on to score 291! They easily dismissed Epping for only 74 to advance to the semi-final which unfortunately was washed out.

On to the Grand Final. With Sydney's big wet continuing and Rothwell still waterlogged we decided to be pro-active and request that the game be moved to Ron Routley Oval which was in a better condition to play. Many thanks to Canada Bay City Council and the groundsmen for their assistance in getting the game on (if we were washed out we were the Premiers!). The ground and wicket were prepared superbly well, and we batted first to score 197. The bowlers were yet again far too good and dismissed Strathfield for only 74 to clinch our 3rd Premiership in this grade in succession and with 3 different captains as well.

I will leave each of the skippers to report on the individuals in each team as there were plenty of sensational performances that enabled us to have such an incredible year.

The teams this year were very well led by the skippers being Jason Holley(1st), Rob Nandi(2nd), Gareth Robson(3rd), Paul Simpson(4th), Brett Howle/Anthony Clarke(Briars Maroon), Mark Smyck/Michael Taberner(Briars Gold) and Declan Kennedy(Under 24's). This can be a very difficult task with the teams usually not able to be selected until Wednesday at the earliest and many times being finalised late on a Friday however their patience was constantly tested and their goals were to ensure all grades were selected fairly. Well done guys for your time and effort throughout the season.

The club is fortunate to be able to play on some of the best turf wickets in Shires being Rothwell Park, Ron Routley Oval, and St Luke's Oval. The groundsmen do a wonderful job each week with James, Jeff and Fernando in charge at the respective grounds. Rothwell Park was once again voted in the top 2

grounds and was constantly praised by opposition teams who enjoyed playing on such a good ground and wicket. Well done and thanks guys.

Off the field there are many guys who assist in the cricket administration throughout the year and in no particular order I will mention them.

Anthony Clarke, who returned to playing this year serves on the Shires Rep Committee and assisted in many other odd jobs,

Brett Howle for his incredible efforts each week with covers and trolley repairs and whatever else was needed to ensure all teams got to play,

Gareth Robson for his invaluable help each week in organizing covers and keeping our website up to date as well as taking care of behind the scenes paperwork and sorting out any Mycricket issues, Paul Price for his regular 'advice' and feedback on all issues and regular updates each Saturday of the Briars Facebook page, Terry Murphy for his representation of the Club at the various SCA meetings in town each month and for providing any statistics on past players when requested on occasions, Ben Critchley, Paul Simpson and David Young for the organization of the Horse Tipping Competition which was not only fun but a Fund Raiser for cricket as well, Orry Kirkham for his efforts at our pre-season training sessions, and finally to Greg Long who also helped manage the Under 24's. A big thanks also goes to Rose Taberner who organized our afternoon tea every Saturday across the grades and ensured they were delivered on time each week. To anyone I have failed to mention I apologise but your efforts are much appreciated.

To be able to effectively operate a successful club you must also have your finances organised and managed efficiently. For the last decade or so we have been very fortunate to be associated with a wonderful company called **VENUS PACKAGING**, who have provided us with valuable financial support during this period. Their involvement with our Club has coincided with the incredible success our cricketers have enjoyed, and, I believe their association with us has helped us concentrate on our cricket and ensure sensational results. On behalf of all the cricketers I would like to thank IAN VENUS for his generous support and assure him we are very pleased and proud to have his company name emblazoned across our playing shirts.

This year we sought the support of some extra sponsors to assist offset the incredible costs associated with playing sport and we were very pleased to have the following new sponsors involved with our Club;

- Khalkho Financial Services
- Go Pro Automotive
- Grosvenor Management Consultants

We thank you for your support.

Throughout the season there seems to be plenty of occasions when we need a fill in player to assist us in 1 or more of the grades. To this end we are very fortunate that we have many former players who are prepared to help out from time to time, and, so we thank you all for this. There were plenty who helped throughout the season and will for seasons to come I am sure. Thanks guys, your assistance when needed is very much appreciated and a reason why Briars are the Club we are.

Each season the club competes with Epping for a trophy called the Turnbull/Richardson Trophy and is awarded to the club who receives the most Club Championship points in that round. For the first 21 years we had won this trophy and I know how much it meant to Peter Richardson to be honoured on the trophy in this way. We were very fortunate as well during this round to have Peters son Tim available to play for us in our 1st grade team. This year we completely dominated Epping yet again to retain the trophy.

On behalf of all the cricketers I would like to thank the staff and management of Briars at Greenlees for their assistance and service to all the cricketers during the season in particular Glen, Ben, Monique and Megan. We appreciate your ongoing support.

At the end of the season we held our Annual Presentation evening at the club and with over 100 past and present players including some partners and we had a very enjoyable evening. Amongst some of the ex-players were the sons of the late Ted Watt, David and Michael who we really appreciate their efforts to attend such an important evening and Elaine Walker, the wife of the late David Walker

We are very thankful that the 2 Briars legends in David Walker and Ted Watt have allowed their names to be used for the 2 main awards on this evening. There were also plenty of former players who were in attendance including John Crockart, David Blair, Warwick Giblin, Wayne Grimson, Peter Mansford, Terry Murphy, Jim Neale, Kevin Price and Richard Tregeagle to name a few. It was fantastic to catch up with them all and we hope to see them as regulars in future years.

It was also great to have Kate Jamieson there to represent her family to accept the David Walker Trophy on behalf of the late David Jamieson, and, also fantastic to see Elaine Walker in attendance as well.

If there is anyone else I have forgotten to thank, I apologise, but I thank you as well.