



BLACKBURN ORIOLES
BASEBALL CLUB EST. 1963

BLACKBURN ORIOLES

BASEBALL CLUB INC.

Annual Report: Season 2022/23

Registration No: A17259M

ABN: 74 955 786 584

Blackburn Orioles Baseball Club Inc.

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1. COMMITTEE AND STAFF

President	Brooke Tierney	
Secretary	Patrick White	
Treasurer	David Gow	
Senior Baseball Coordinator	David Dicker	
Junior Baseball Coordinators	Louise Godden Tanneale Marshall	
General Committee	Hamish Govenlock Sharon Govenlock Russell Hodgson Simeon Mann	Phil Nelson Terry Rowe Kim Tierney Grant Whiting
Senior Club Coach	Matthew Tayler	
Junior Club Coach	Ryan Berg	

2. LIFE MEMBERS

Geoff Agnew	Hamish Govenlock	Geoff Pearse
Chris Barrett	David Gow	Ross Shafto
Daryl Beary	Neil Hildebrand	Ben Stewart
Jacquie Bright	Russell Hodgson	Andrew Tierney
Ian Burgell	Ian Hubble	David Tierney
John Caffyn	Ross Hunter	Kim Tierney
Stuart Castle	Gary Johnstone Snr	Paul Tierney
Peter Coulthard	Carl Kingston	Lyn Troy
Gary Crump	Craig Layt	Bruce Venn
Bruce Dicker	John McBride	
David Dicker	Geoff Pearse	



3. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Whilst we all spend far too much time at baseball, this season felt like we had our groove back a little. We had forgotten about COVID, had got back the routine of life and were genuinely happy to be back at baseball. The return of Matthew Tayler and a number of key players to the club, the arrival of the loveliest import we have had and the Junior program pumping, made the club feel energised again.

We were energised despite the setback of being flooded up until Xmas. This made training extraordinarily difficult, made club functions a nightmare and don't remind me of the \$2k a week we lost across the canteen. But we still got on with it. Pat White needs to be congratulated for his proactivity with ground sourcing and fixture movements whilst the rest of us just complained about the rain. Our chief groundsman in Slugga and Grant made the most of the dam that became our ground to ensure we could try and get trainings and games in, also need a big thanks.

I will leave MT to talk more about the on-field performance of our Senior group but we bookended the year AGAIN, winning premierships in the U12's and the Masters. The season saw many young players step up into the Senior sides and whilst it may have been challenging at times, as a club we are 100% behind the development and support of these kids coming through. We had some core Senior players step away for the season and we missed that group. The maturity & leadership of the likes of Gerard Kingston, Ben Hayes and Mitch Upton were felt across the club.

I continue to be immensely proud of the way our Junior Club is taking shape. We set out a few years back to rebuild this and bring our Junior and Senior clubs together and the way our parents, players and committee have embraced this needs to be congratulated. To Lou, Tanneale and Ryan Berg, the drive you all have in making this a destination club is brilliant to watch. To all our Junior coaches, parents and kids, thank you! We love your energy, support and love you have for the burners!

As I write the presidents report today, I am seeing pictures of our Junior players heading off to compete as part of both the Belles and Athletics charter representative sides. The joy in the faces and knowing how proud their parents are, coupled with how excited we are for them as a club, is just fun. I have watched the gangs of kids get bigger and bigger over the past few years and seeing them all down on Sundays watching the Seniors reminds me of my childhood. The friendships they are building are wonderful, let alone the brilliant baseball they are playing. As a club, we all should be proud of the environment we have created.

As a club we had significant costs impact us this year which we hadn't seen across our P&L for a few years. No canteen for the first half of the season, no Neighbours, full cost for rent, utilities & BV costs post COVID and import costs. These are all part of running a baseball club and we will need to front into them again next season, making our social events even more important. Building on the AWESOME trivia night which resulted in over 100 people in the rooms, some who I have never seen before, our social events and calendar will need to be a driving force in both our club culture and revenue raising moving forward



And to the thankyou's...

Pat White. Just Pat White. I say this every week but thank you!! I don't know when you sleep, do actual paid work or see Annie, but you keep me and the club going. You have solved all the problems and managed to get the batting cage plans approved, which no one has been able to push through. You are a gem and honestly, don't ever leave because I will leave. With saying that, we have both fought the battle this year with the league and whilst we both fight because we care about our club, players and the wider baseball community, you need to let some others stick their noses out and fight the fight. We both add too much value to be stuck being the bad guys and doing things for everyone else.

Matt Tayler. I would hug you but I know you hate it. I love having you back at the club and your charming crankiness that comes with it. I love seeing how you interact with the team and the respect they have for you. I know the time, energy and brain capacity this takes on top of your already busy life, so I thank you for coming back. Thanks to Nicole and the boys too for letting you always be at the club.

To the BBC committee – we don't always do things as everyone wants and often the executive committee have decided things and forgotten to let everyone know, but knowing I have you guys there to help, listen, roll up your sleeves or give me a push when I need it, is something not all clubs have. I / we are very lucky to have a bunch of people who not only get shit done but care about people. Thank you to David Gow, David Dicker, Pat White, Slugger, Grant Whiting, Lou and Tanneale, Simeon, Kimbo, Phil & Tez. To Hambo and Sharon, you came onto the committee this season and we loved having you part of it.

To the wider committee, The Poo Patrol (Dad, Kimbo, Burge and Al), Carl and his chicken schnities, all the coaches, team managers, scorers, parents & families– what a bunch of awesome humans. We carry on most weeks about who knows what, but the love each of you have for the club and its members is something you should be proud of.

Season 23/24 will mark our 60th Year Celebration with key members of our very first side still being at the club in Paul Tierney and Ian Burgell. Even though the season will challenge us both on and off the field with various changes forced upon us by Baseball Victoria, we will all need to rally to ensure we continue to succeed for another 60 years. Changes to Summer Season will impact our playing group and our volunteer base so I ask everyone to dig in (again) and make the coming season as successful as the previous.

Get around us.

Brooke Tierney

President



4. TREASURER'S REPORT

It is with pleasure that I present the accounts for the Blackburn Orioles Baseball Club Inc. for the year ended 30th April, 2023.

David Gow

Treasurer

SUMMARY		
	2021-22	2022-23
Debtors		
Cash at Bank		
Assets		
	Uniform Stock on Hand*	
Net		

* 20% of Stock on Hand Allocated to 2021/22, 80% of Value to 2022/23.



PROFIT AND LOSS		
	2021-22	2022-23
Opening Balance		
Income		
Subscriptions - Seniors		
Subscriptions - Juniors		
Canteen and Bar		
Social and Fundraising		
Sponsorships		
Rental Income		
Government Grants		
Cost of Sales		
Team Affiliation Fees		
Umpiring Fees		
Fines		
Expenditure		
Net		
	Net	
Bank Balance		
	Bank Balance	



5. SENIOR BASEBALL REPORT

A season of what could have been for the 1's. A change of direction for our 2's and 3's, our 4's just keep winning and the 5's win games now as well.

My focus coming back to the role as Club Coach was around getting people back to the club and make training not just about on field and getting better but also building back the culture that was lost with two seasons that were hugely affected by Covid. Also attracting back some high-level players to help us drive the 1's and thus strengthen our on-field position.

Internally we were able to entice back Ben Leslie and Blake Hodgson to add an already strong batch of the returning group, and externally able to add Ben Aslett in a dual role of player and assistant coach as well as Chase Hodgkinson. After searching high and low with a strong commitment from the club we were also able to add an import pitcher with Mitch Lines agreeing to join the club. Our numbers were and still are thin at the middle to top end of the club, but we managed to put 5 teams on the park each week.

We started strong with a great preseason program run through August and September and I was happy with both attendance and buy in on what we wanted to achieve. I again want to thank the club for the commitment into allowing the group to train at Ausport.

HOWEVER – we ran into a hard stop with any momentum with the weather and condition of the ground. We rarely trained on the field and when we did it was extremely restricted. We didn't play a home game until late November and really couldn't train fully on the field until then.

These and some other factors meant numbers at training and preseason and Season launch were outstanding BUT dropped off significantly to what my hope was. There were genuine reasons early on for numbers to be down but post-Christmas the numbers did not return. The same guys were there week in and week out – 1's and 2's made up most of the training numbers (And social events) but we need a much better buy in from the whole of club. Thursday nights are important for our club both on and off field and is a real area we need to improve moving forward.

The 2's and 3's both went through a rebuilding stage and wins were hard to come by. 2's had great stretches through games but continually let down by 1 bad inning costing them the game. Thanks Terry, for taking on the role and Cav and Skinny for your help with the 2's. Patty led the 3's in a season we all hope will pay huge dividends moving forward. With 2 x 14-year-olds, 2 x 16-year-olds and another few under 20 years old, we got a lot of games in our kids to expedite their growth. Thanks Patty – was massive effort.

The 4's do what the 4's do and made finals again being 1 of the top teams all year. Unfortunately, the finals didn't go our way and the 5ths now put a competitive team on the park each week winning more than their fair share.

Now for the 1's – We recruited well adding in talent, however with several players leaving or taking a season off we were always going to be thin. With several injuries and player unavailability's we never were able to put the same line-up on the park 2 games in a row. Put as simply as I can we pitched the best in the league, we hit well overall but struggled to produce in key moments and our defense was TERRIBLE.



With all that said and done we finished 0.5 games from the finals and only 1 GAME out of second spot. Mitch Lines won the League Pitching award, Sauce become a legitimate Ace, Bergy had the league lead in Home Runs for all bar 1 game of the season, after Christmas Les was the best player in the competition and Chase just doesn't get out right-handed. If at the start of the season if we said we will finish 1 game out of 2nd spot, have the League best pitcher, be 4.5 games above 500, from where we were, we would jump at it. Lets' go 1 game better next year.

Thanks to Brooke and Pat, your leadership, tireless work and help are massive for me, and I can't thank you enough. Shout out to all the committee (expect David Gow) and volunteers who make this such a fantastic club. And of course, David Dicker for everything you do.

Thanks to Carl, Aggers, Patty and Terry for taking on the Coaching roles.

To my assistants of Benny Aslett, Cav and Skinny thanks so much for everything you do. Skinny enjoy your time off, you are a Premiership Coach with our club, and we will miss you on the field.

Thanks to Leah and Karen for Scoring all year. Best in the business.

Thanks to Slugger for coming back, once I knew that you would come back if I did, it made it an easy decision. You are a major driver for our culture and on field success and love sharing the bench with you each week.

A double thanks to the Hodgson Family (Not Riley) for housing Mitch for the season.

Lastly thanks to my family, Nicole for encouraging me to get back involved and her support through the year, I am really proud that Declan is now a Senior Burner playing in the 3's and absolutely cherish the fact that Jacob is the Bat Boy and is a part of the team.

Go Burners.

Matthew Tayler

Club Coach



6. JUNIOR BASEBALL REPORT

Season 2022/23 was certainly an eventful one for the Junior Burners of Blackburn Baseball Club. There were ups, downs, premierships, floods and a lot of learning and developing as both players and people. It has been yet another amazing year, and we, as coordinators could not be prouder of all the achievements. A big thank you to Brooke and the current Committee for all their help and support as we continue to throw all sorts of crazy ideas at them. A special thank you also to Pat for all his help setting up diamonds, umpire and support us throughout the season.

Summer Season

While the weather at the start of the season was much more Winter-like than Summer, the juniors were able to host the first home game for the season and continued to improve and develop as the season progressed. A HUGE thank you to all our families for their flexibility and adaptability, especially at the start of the season.

Our Season comprised of 9 teams across the Juniors;

- A group of highly energetic T-Ballers;
- 1 x U12 Metro B Team
- 3 x U12 Metro A teams
- 1 x U12 State Team
- 1 x U14 Metro Team (who were promoted to the State league throughout the season)
- 1 x Combined U16 Metro Team with Doncaster
(and a further 1 player permitted to play in State League with Doncaster)
- 1 x Combined U18 Team with Upwey
- We also had several of our Junior Players playing in the Senior divisions.

Highlights of the season would have to be our U12 Metro Teams finishing 1st, 2nd and 3rd in their competition and our U12 State Team winning their second premiership in as many years.

A huge thanks to all the coaches in all the teams for all their dedication and help in developing our players.

Representation

As a club, we had 13 players represent the Athletics Charter at the end of season State Championships in their respective Age Groups. We congratulate all these players, and also recognise the 6 x U12 Blackburn players who attended the National Titles in Sydney in June. We have also had 2 players represent Blackburn as a part of the Japan touring teams. Congratulations boys!



Social

One of the most satisfying things for us as Coordinators to see has been the coming together of the Junior and Senior Clubs (a goal of ours) at social events and during home games. We had a very successful Trivia Night, which saw over 100 people across both the Junior and Senior Clubs battle it out for the glory!

We have also seen the development of our "FIRST PITCH" program, which has seen Junior players selected to throw the first pitch at Div 1 Home games. It was great to see so many team mates come down to cheer on the pitch thrower (and stay to watch a good game of baseball!)

On a weekly game front, the Friday night cheese platters were still a common occurrence and whilst the inclement weather in the first half of the season put a dampener (excuse the pun) on some of our parental catch ups, there was still plenty of talking, laughing, and Sunday morning coffees enjoyed.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who helped to make the season the success it was. From Team Managers to scorers, Social Media content producers to coaches, social event coordinators to photographers, we could not have had the season we did without all the families donating time, prizes and expertise to make the season so successful. A huge thank you and we look forward to even more teamwork next season!

Vale Stephen Greene

In May, we were devastated to learn of the passing of Stephen 'Greeney' Greene. 'Greeney' was one of our scorers for the Metro A Grey team and also helped out at trainings and on game day. His smile was infectious, and he was always ready for a chat around the clubrooms. On behalf of the club, we would like to send our deepest sympathies to our Junior Burner, Tom as well as Briony, Amy and Adam.

Looking Forward

We are already in planning for the 2023/24 season. We have plans for some new opportunities to develop our players and are looking forward to being able to develop and announce them as we approach the start of the season. We again will be looking for support from both the Senior club and our Junior families as we implement these plans and cannot wait to start again for 2023/24.

Louise Godden and Tanneale Marshall

Junior Baseball Coordinators



7. SEASON 2022/23 AWARD WINNERS

PERPETUAL AWARDS

Robyn Tierney Club Person of the Year	Carl Dicker
Junior Club Person of the Year	Govenlock Family (Hamish, Isabella and Sharon)
Rising Star	Aiden Patterson
Peter Moylan Pitcher of the Year	Blake 'Sauce' Hodgson

SENIOR AWARDS

Division 1 Firsts	Most Valuable Player	Mitch Lines
	Batting Award	Chase Hodgkinson (0.328)
	Home Run Award	Ryan Berg (4)
Division 1 Seconds	Most Valuable Player	Jorey Hubble
	Batting Award	Jorey Hubble (0.325)
	Burner Pride Award	Riley Hodgson
Division 1 Thirds	Most Valuable Player	Justin Woolard
	Batting Award	Patrick White (0.359)
	Burner Pride Award	Arnaldo Araujo Declan Marshall
Division 1 Fourths	Most Valuable Player	Hamish Govenlock
	Most Valuable Player	John McBride
	Batting Award	Damian Westcott (0.556)
Division 4 East	Most Valuable Player	Luke Painter
	Batting Award	Rick Bower (0.600)
	Burner Pride Award	Peter Godden



JUNIOR AWARDS

U18 State	Mr Consistent	Evan Maury
	Mr Utility	Lucas Mosbey
	Mr Quiet Achiever	Joshua Kellock
U16 Metro East	Mr Quiet Achiever	Cooper Liggins
	Mr Never Gives Up	Josiah Reichmann
	Mr Gentle Giant	Caelen Shanks
	Mr Eddie Everywhere	Lincoln Dauparas
U14 State East	Most Valuable Player	Declan Tayler
	Batting Award	Declan Tayler (0.321)
	Burner Pride Award	Ben Wilkinson
U12 State East	Most Valuable Player	Cooper Box
	Burner Pride Award	Jacob Tayler
	Burner Pride Award	Leo Moulton



U12 Metro A Black	Most Valuable Player	Leo Moulton
	Batting Award	Jack Downs (0.604)
	Burner Pride Award	Tom Liggins
U12 Metro A Grey	Offensive Most Valuable Player	Bailey Westcott
	Defensive Most Valuable Player	Hayden Painter
	Burner Pride Award	Oliver Lowe
U12 Metro A White	Most Valuable Player	Archer Nicholas
	Most Improved	Ernest Hansen
	Burner Pride Award	Clay Matthews
U12 Metro B	Most Valuable Player	Phelix Ma
	Most Improved	Perce Smith
	Burner Pride Award	Patrick Burke