

THE RAMPAGE

Welcome Back for 2012!!!

Welcome back everyone to yet another season of Croydon Rams Baseball. As always it's good to see most of you back from another year as well as plenty of new faces this year. If you see someone around the club that you don't know, say G'day and make everyone feel welcome. Like last year we are entering 4 senior teams into the 2012 competition and 3 junior teams made up of 1 x U15 team and 2 U13 teams. There are plenty of social functions throughout the year including the always popular Ambrose Golf Tournament and Major Raffle. Also, if you have anything you would like to see added to the newsletter or have any comments, email me on d_ward2727@hotmail.com and if you would like to receive the Rampage via email as well as other club news and updates, join our mailing list by emailing Julian Powell on j.powell71@bigpond.com



What's Goin' On

Fees for 2012

Start thinking about paying your fees for the season. The earlier we receive them, the better we can organise improvements to the club and ground and also improve our social functions. And don't forget your \$50 for helping out at a junior game.

Ground Improvements

A big thanks goes out to everyone who helped with the ground improvements recently. The league recently completed a review of all playing grounds and identified problems that needed attention. Our fields required quite a bit of work including work on the base paths and pitching mounds which was carried out over the last few weeks. We even extended the dugout on the main diamond. So thanks again to all those involved.

Club Clothing & Uniforms

See Julian or Stephen in the canteen if you require any club clothing or uniforms. Things on offer include: T-Shirts, Beanies, Junior & Senior caps, Hoodies (zip or no zip), Warm up jacket, Lined waist high jacket, Waterproof lined jacket and of course Senior Playing tops (order only).

Sponsors for 2012

Major Sponsor - Platinum Restaurant

We're also please to announce that Platinum Restaurant has agreed to sponsor the club once again. They supply dinner at most of our functions including pasta for each training night. So if you're looking for somewhere to head out for dinner, give Platinum a try and make sure you let them know that you're a member of Croydon Baseball Club.

KFC Mooroolbark / Lilydale

KFC have also sponsored the juniors this year providing them with new uniform tops with the same design as our senior's team uniform. They are also chipping in the odd voucher for good play just to give our guys a little extra motivation to try their best on game day.

The Professionals, Mooroolbark

The Professionals Real Estate Group in Mooroolbark are continuing their support from last season by giving the club \$500 for any property purchased or sold through them for Croydon Baseball Club members. So if you're looking to buy or sell, might be worth having a look at the Professionals, Mooroolbark and again, don't forget to tell them you're from the Croydon Baseball Club.

Coaching Staff for 2012

Coaches have been appointed for all senior and junior coaching positions for 2012. Some are returning to duty while some are taking on roles for the first time.

Senior Coaches

Club coach – Daryn Cassidy

Our Club Coach and 1st's manager for the 2012 season is Daryn Cassidy. Daryn (aka Cass) played with us last year and if you've been around the club lately, he should be a familiar face to most of you by now. He has a ton of knowledge and experience from his time playing on many great teams both here in Australia and overseas and I'm sure he'll be more than happy to pass on anything he's learnt over the years to help us improve. Along with assistant coach Sam Mather they bring a lot of energy and a positive attitude that I'm sure everyone around the club will enjoy.

2nd's Coach – Tony Hickey

Tony Hickey has moved from the 3rds to the 2nds as he takes on the 2nds coaching job this season. Tony coached the 3rds in a challenging season last year as they played in C Grade for the first time in quite a while and he looks to keep that fighting spirit alive in the 2nds this year. He has a lot to offer as I'm pretty sure I've seen him play every position on the field at some stage, maybe even in the same game.

3rd's Coach – Adam Friend

Taking on his first coaching role at Croydon is Adam Friend. Adam has played with us for a while now and was an important part of the 3rds team that played finals a few years ago. He has also played several other quality teams while playing for Springvale during summer. He also has the added bonus of being able to discuss game plans over dinner as most of you should know his partner Ella who was an Australian player herself.

4th's Coach – Mick Ward

After taking a break from coaching for a number of years, Mick Ward is returning to coaching to take the 4ths this year. Mick has many years of coaching and playing experience, coaching all levels of juniors including assistant coaching representative teams on several occasions. He has also coached numerous senior teams at Croydon during both winter and summer. He has a lot to offer the team and I'm sure will help new players find their feet improve throughout the year.

Junior Coaches

Under 15's – Dennis Ward

That's right, I'm giving coaching a go for the first time as I take on the role of U15's coach this year. I thought it was about time I started giving something back after all those years people volunteered their time to coach, umpire, work in the canteen and score for all those junior games I played. So hopefully I can continue what Sam and Andy started with these guys last year and can help the U15's have a great year.

Under 13's – Andy Balkin

Andy is continuing his work with the U13's this year as they hope to have another strong season. The improvements in all the players from last year is incredible and hopefully the new players can also learn from his many years of experience and improve their game throughout the year.



~~Ram~~Funpage

On This Day 28th April

1901 - At Chicago's South Side Park, the Cleveland Blues (Indians) collect 23 hits, all of them singles, as the team coasts to 13-1 victory over the White Sox. Pitcher Bock Baker gives up all of the one-base hits, a major league record.



1934 - Goose Goslin grounds into four consecutive double plays. The Tiger outfielder's lack of offense doesn't matter as Detroit beats the visiting Indians, 4-1.

1961 - Five days past his 40th birthday, Warren Spahn becomes the second oldest pitcher (Cy Young -41 years, three months) to throw a no-hitter. Henry Aaron knocks in

the game's only run as the Braves beat the Giants at County Stadium, 1-0.



1988 - The Orioles establishes a new American League record with their 21st consecutive loss bowing to the Twins, 4-2. The Zero-O's are off to the worst start in baseball history.

1995 - Showing their displeasure at the recent baseball strike, three fans jump a Shea Stadium fence in the 4th inning, and begin scattering dollar bills at the feet of the Mets' players on the field. As a finale to their defiant act, the trio stand on second base with arms raised showing the Opening

Day crowd T-shirts that are stenciled with the word Greed.

2010 - Luke Hughes becomes the fifth player in Twins' history to homer in his first at-bat in the major leagues when he goes deep off Detroit's Max Scherzer in Minnesota's 11-6 loss at Comerica Park. The Australian-born rookie third baseman joins Rick Renick (1968), Dave McKay (1975), Gary Gaetti (1981) and Andre David (1984) in accomplishing the feat.



2010 - Phillies slugger Ryan Howard agrees to a \$125 million, five-year contract extension that could keep the infielder with the team until 2017. The 30-year-old first baseman's \$25 million guaranteed average salary during the new deal is the second-highest amount in the major leagues, trailing only behind Alex Rodriguez's ten-year contract with the Yankees that averaged

\$27.5 million per season.

2010 - David Wright surpasses Ed Kranepool to become the Mets all-time leader in doubles. The 27-year old third baseman, who collected his 1,000th career hit yesterday, strokes his 226th two-bagger in the second inning of the Mets 7-3 victory over L.A. at Citi Field.

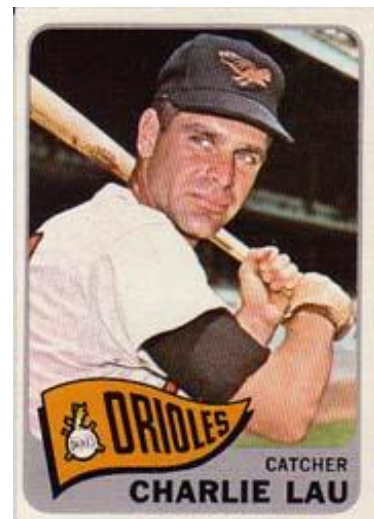


Famous Quotes



"Baseball can teach you a thing about life, you're born with two strikes against you, so don't take a third one on your own." Connie Mack

"There are two theories on hitting the knuckleball. Unfortunately, neither one of them works." Charlie Lau



"I saw a lot of good hitters but I never saw a better one than Paul Waner. I mean, I once threw a side arm splitter right at his belly and he hit it into the upper deck." - Burleigh Grimes

Rampage Trivia

A couple of easy ones to start the year.



Q1) Who won the 2011 American League Most Valuable Player Award and what was significant about it?

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| a. Miguel Cabrera | b. Justin Verlander | c. Jose Bautista |
| d. Jacoby Ellsbury | e. Robinson Cano | |

Q2) Who hit the first home run for the Miami Marlins earlier this year?

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| a. Jose Reyes | b. Hanley Ramirez | c. Mike Stanton |
| d. Gaby Sanchez | e. Omar Infante | |

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Game Results Round 1 – 21/04/12

Croydon 1st's lost to Knox 9 – 1

The Croydon firsts played good baseball, as a new group starting a new season we will only strengthen with each game. Our bats were hot from the get go and we applied pressure to a tough Knox side. With our Defence sharpened and more runs on the board we will be a tough Rams team this year.

Well done for our first game!!!

Daryn Cassidy

Other Games

GMBC	10
Greensborough	2

Croydon	1
Knox	9

Melbourne Uni	2
Watsonia	3

Ringwood	12
Heathmont	5

North Balwyn	7
Research	12

	Team	P	W	L	D	PTS	FOR	AG	%
1	Knox	1	1	0	0	2	9	1	900
2	GMBC	1	1	0	0	2	10	2	833
3	Ringwood	1	1	0	0	2	12	5	706
4	Research	1	1	0	0	2	12	7	632
5	Watsonia	1	1	0	0	2	3	2	600
6	Melbourne University	1	0	1	0	0	2	3	400
7	North Balwyn	1	0	1	0	0	7	12	368
8	Heathmont	1	0	1	0	0	5	12	294
9	Greensborough	1	0	1	0	0	2	10	167
10	Croydon	1	0	1	0	0	1	9	100

Q 2) (e) Omar Infante

Q1) (b) Justin Verlander. He is the only player to win an MVP award as well as a rookie of the year award and a Cy Young award.

Trivia answers

Croydon 2nd's lost to Knox 5-3

We started well with a run in the first thanks to a two out hit from Colly (he ended up 3 from 3 for the day!!) the whole team had just 5 hits for the day). Rhys pitched really well all day except for one change up that got hit a long way. He kept us right in it till the end, unfortunately we didn't score any runs in the middle of the game especially since we got 2 runs in the last innings, and had the go ahead run at the plate with one out, Matty G smashed a line drive to short stop who doubled off uncle Gary at second to end the game. A nice tight contest and a good start to the season, something to build on and hopefully we can improve from here and be competitive all year.

Tony Hickey.

Other Games

GMBC	16
Greensborough	6

Ringwood	18
Heathmont	6

Melbourne University	5
Watsonia	11

Croydon	3
Knox	5

North Balwyn	4
Research	7

	Team	P	W	L	D	PTS	FOR	AG	%
1	Ringwood	1	1	0	0	2	18	6	750
2	GMBC	1	1	0	0	2	16	6	727
3	Watsonia	1	1	0	0	2	11	5	688
4	Research	1	1	0	0	2	7	4	636
5	Knox	1	1	0	0	2	5	3	625
6	Croydon	1	0	1	0	0	3	5	375
7	North Balwyn	1	0	1	0	0	4	7	364
8	Melbourne University	1	0	1	0	0	5	11	313
9	Greensborough	1	0	1	0	0	6	16	273
10	Heathmont	1	0	1	0	0	6	18	250

Upcoming Games For the 1st's and 2nd's

TODAY – Croydon Vs Watsonia (HOME)

05/05/12 – Croydon Vs Melbourne Uni (HOME)

12/05/2012 – Croydon Vs Ringwood (AWAY)

Croydon 3rd's lost to Westgarth 15– 1

First week back and it was not the start we wanted. Knowing Westgarth are a very good batting team, we did not take advantage of some good pitching by Steve Griffen, who kept them scoreless for 2-3 inns. Our batting and fielding on the day was bit rough, not picking the ball cleanly and letting our opponents get on base with ease when they were easy outs. Rushing with our bats did not help with our cause either, yes our batting let us down, again, especially when their pitching isn't any better than ours. I think after the 3rd/ 4th inns blowout by them with the help of our ball fumbling on the field, the game was gone. Steve griffen and Keith Hodgson pitched well, very well, but we as a team did not do it wth the bat. Phu Trinh

Other Games

Westgarth	15
Croydon	1

Research	5
Mitchell Majors	21

Bundoora	3
Forest Hill	7

Monash University	5
Upwey FTG	21

	Team	P	W	L	D	PTS	FOR	AG	%
1	Westgarth	1	1	0	0	2	15	1	938
2	Upwey FTG	1	1	0	0	2	21	5	808
3	Mitchell Majors	1	1	0	0	2	21	5	808
4	Forest Hill	1	1	0	0	2	7	3	700
5	Bundoora	1	0	1	0	0	3	7	300
6	Research	1	0	1	0	0	5	21	192
7	Monash University	1	0	1	0	0	5	21	192
8	Croydon	1	0	1	0	0	1	15	63

Upcoming Games For the 3rd's

TODAY – Croydon Vs Mitchell Majors (HOME)

05/05/12 – Croydon Vs Research (HOME)

12/05/12 – Croydon Vs Upwey FTG (AWAY)

Croydon 4th's lost to Westgarth 15 – 1

When we saw who was playing for Westgarth's 4th's we knew they would be a hard team to beat. The final score was 15 to 1 but we gave it our best and I know we will have better results in games to come. We had some highlights in the game starting with a good fly ball taken by John Hansen to get the first out of the game and Adam Robinson getting 2 outs in his first game playing short stop. Another first game player James Stark had a great hit to left field and Andy hitting a solo home run. A big thanks to Phu for scoring and Sam Batten for umpiring. Mick Ward

Other Games

Westgarth	15
Croydon	1

Research	24
Mitchell Majors	4

Bundoora	18
Forest Hill	12

Ringwood	8
Upwey	6

	Team	P	W	L	D	Bye	Pts	For	Ag	Pct
1	Westgarth	1	1	0	0	0	2	15	1	938
2	Research	1	1	0	0	0	2	24	4	857
3	Bundoora	1	1	0	0	0	2	18	12	600
4	Ringwood	1	1	0	0	0	2	8	6	571
5	Upwey	1	0	1	0	0	0	6	8	429
6	Forest Hill	1	0	1	0	0	0	12	18	400
7	Mitchell Majors	1	0	1	0	0	0	4	24	143
8	Croydon	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	15	63

Upcoming Games For the 4th's

TODAY – Croydon Vs Mitchell Majors (HOME)

05/05/12 – Croydon Vs Research (HOME)

12/05/12 – Croydon Vs Upwey FTG (AWAY)

Junior Game Results 21/04/12

Croydon U15's lost to Ringwood 23 – 13

Considering 3 of our experienced players were unavailable, 3 guys were playing their first game and 1 guy filled in, I thought we had a really good game. Matt took the mound to start the game who hadn't pitched much before but he threw plenty of strikes and made Ringwood earn their runs. He was followed by Jack who found some rhythm and made some good pitches too. Our batters did a good job too with a lot of positive signs throughout the game. We didn't chase bad pitches (too often) and hit a few balls really hard. A special mention goes to Dylan who filled in for us and also got a couple of hits. Although we didn't win it was still a solid start to the season and we may have things to work on throughout the year but there were definitely a lot of positive signs to take away from the game. Dennis Ward

Other Games

Ringwood	0
Croydon	0

North Balwyn	0
Forest Hill	0

Knox	0
Heathmont	0

	Team	P	W	L	D	Bye	PTS	FOR	AG	%
1	Croydon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Forest Hill	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Heathmont	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Knox	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	North Balwyn	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Ringwood	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Upcoming Games For the U15's

TODAY – Croydon Vs Knox (AWAY)

05/05/12 – Croydon Vs North Balwyn (HOME)

12/05/12 – Croydon Vs Forest Hill (HOME)

Croydon U13's Major defeated Heathmont 16 – 9

I was good to see everyone back and it was a good start to the season winning 16-9 over Heathmont. The Heathmont side only had 7 players and our boys rotated through so they could field 9. The game was played with a very positive attitude although a few of us were a bit rusty, all is looking good for the rest of the year.
Andy Balkin

Other Games - Information Unavailable

	Team	P	W	L	D	PTS	FOR	AG	%	Win
1										
2										
3										
4										
5										
6										

Upcoming Games For the Under 13's**Croydon Major****Croydon Minor**

TODAY Vs Ringwood (HOME)

TODAY Vs Heathmont (HOME)

05/05/12 Vs North Balwyn (AWAY)

05/05/12 Vs Waverley (AWAY)

12/05/12 Vs North Balwyn (HOME)

12/05/12 Vs Knox (HOME)