



The official
Newsletter of
the **Banyule**
Cricket Club

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HOWZAT

Pre-Season Edition

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Gannon return welcomed by BCC

With the departure of long-time captain-coach Greg Anderson from coaching responsibilities, the door was recently opened for former Banyule premierships batsman Ashleigh Gannon to return to the fold.

Gannon has stepped immediately and impressively into the position of captain/ coach, from where he will guide the club in it's quest for HDCA domination.

Gannon played a key role in the A-Grade success of the mid-90's, after trying his hand at District level. Sojourns into the dank, seaming wickets of England followed, where cricket and other facets of life were enjoyed to the full.

After an extended period of rehabilitation, Gannon has sounded a warning to rival HDCA clubs by declaring his fitness and hunger for the upcoming 99/00 season.



MCG - An example of "...something to aim for."

In his brief tenure at the top, Gannon has established a reputation for technical knowledge and disciplined application. Quizzed about his expectations for 99/00, Gannon responded by suggesting people "set personal goals" and "the club will benefit a whole." Believing that personal ambition relates to team and club success, he suggested that "everyone should be looking to improve. Everyone should have something to aim for."

BCC dynamic duo

In offering the position of captain/ coach to Gannon, the BCC Committee allowed itself the luxury of appointing an assistant coach for season 99/00. The second half of what is rapidly becoming known throughout Heidelberg as the "Dynamic Duo," is otherwise known as Brent O'Connor.

One of several new arrivals at The Club, O'Connor hopes to use his position to assist others at the club in furthering their cricket. Having spent much of his junior cricket career playing in representative teams, under the guidance of some knowledgeable coaches, O'Connor has a wealth of experience. Whether he is steaming in to bowl a rising delivery to tickle your ribs, or whether he has just driven you to the cover boundary, O'Connor will be a welcome asset to the club. As a pair of "playing coaches," Banyule certainly has snared the Dynamic Duo.

Season 99/00 almost upon us

The new season is rapidly approaching. Days are getting longer, skies are looking bluer, and the smell of freshly cut grass is just around the corner. All of this means one thing: footy finals. Or, if you're a Collingwood supporter, it means that the new cricket season is mercifully close.

For those of us forced to endure an horrific football season this year, respite is at hand.

Like Ricky Ponting at a nightclub, the next few weeks are sure to pass in a rushed blur of activity. Indoor training, practice sessions at Binnak Park, and Banyule outdoor training are all in full swing.

Looking back on the off-season, perhaps the greatest memory to come from this time was in fact related to cricket. Who could forget the outrageous Australian victory of cricket's World Cup in July?

By May 26th, Australia had been defeated by New Zealand in Cardiff, and Pakistan had just rolled us in Yorkshire. Shane Lee had played a match, while Tom Moody had not. Adam Dale was opening the bowling and Glenn McGrath was bowling first change. To reach the next phase of the tournament; the "super sixes" would now require two good wins and a slice of luck.

Despite this, Steve Waugh remained confident. His attitude in the face of adversity is something to consider when we next play this funny game:

"May 26. Despite our two defeats in the World Cup to date, the morale in the camp – contrary to one stray media report – remains high...I can never understand why some people just want to make our task more difficult.

“And difficult, we accept our task from here will be, given our losses to New Zealand and Pakistan. But it’s not hopeless, even though we realise that even if we win our last two games it will probably come down to tiebreakers as to who goes through. Our job is to try to win, hopefully decisively, and let the calculators of run-rates and the like look after our fate.

“One thing I do know is that if we do scrape into the super six, we’ll be a danger to any team we face. Sure, we were below our best against the New Zealanders – who are capable on their day of beating anyone – but we improved against the Pakistanis, who are, of course, one of the most dangerous sides in world cricket. In fact, I thought we were excellent for 85 overs against Wasim Akram’s men, it was only in their final 15 overs, when they smashed us at almost 10 an over and really got excited towards the end, that our performance fell away. And even then, perhaps it was a case of how well our opponent batted in the final 15 overs, rather than how we performed.



Australians go mad after tying the semi final with South Africa...

“We knew they batted right down to No. 8, where Moin Khan was lurking. His 31, scored from just 12 electrifying balls, was the difference in the end.

“Our batting was excellent – to get 265 against the Pakistan attack was a good effort, especially as it got very dark as the night time approached and the ball began swinging more than ever. Personally, I’m hitting the ball quite okay, though I was disappointed not to turn my hand at Headingley into a match-winning innings.

“We’ll take the criticism we’ve copped for our two defeats, and the fact we’ve already been written off in some quarters, as an added spur. Hopefully we’ll earn the chance to prove people wrong... I have a feeling, based on our display against Pakistan, that we are actually running into some form.

“I just hope we haven’t left our run too late.”

Of course, the lads certainly hit their straps after this. Playing positively and with confidence, the canary yellows did not lose again for the whole tournament – and we all know now that Steve Waugh certainly was “hitting the ball quite okay.”

Juniors Registration

How many of Banyule’s current crop of senior stars forged their way through a junior career at the Club? Answer: Most. With this in mind, the Club recognises the extreme importance of junior cricket, and is holding a gala "Junior Registration Day," to be held on Sunday 19th September. This is a great opportunity for young guys to come along, have a hit, and enjoy a BBQ lunch, and sign up to play for the maroon & blue.

Registration runs from 11:00am to 1pm.

Scuttlebut and innuendo

The off-season has been particularly eventful for a number of Banyule cricketers. In no particular order, the following snippets have been assumed true, on the basis that no-one denied them:

- ⇒ Former Treasurer David Rumble broke hearts throughout south-east Asia by announcing his engagement.
- ⇒ Current Treasurer Martin Phillips sent shock-waves through CityLink project headquarters by announcing his engagement. Also the announcement of a future opening batsman for the club: yes, Kylie is now also pregnant. (Good to see Marty is a true Old Paradian boy)
- ⇒ Scott Butler broke the world record for most hours of sleep on a weekend, with 43.5.
- ⇒ The whole club is preparing to send Martin Phillips Christmas cards for the 25th of September this year.
- ⇒ The Banyule boys having been keeping our hospital system busy over the winter with two players going under the knife. Chris Carroll having the previously operated Hernia re-done. Anyone who saw the puss coming out of his guts understands why. And Darren Butterworth having his second shoulder reconstruction in 3 and a half years. Some say he is injury prone but this editor says he’s just damn unlucky!

MISSING

- Pineapple doughnuts & several petrol price numbers from the 7-eleven in Heidelberg.
If anyone knows the whereabouts of these items please call crimestoppers on 9457-4753.
- Steve Waugh’s nose.



- Footscray (a.k.a. Western Bully-boys) from the AFL finals series. Please forward any choking remedies to the Whitten Oval.

Sponsorship

All players are reminded that they need to find a sponsor for the upcoming season. For as little as \$50, your sponsor will receive a plaque, an advertisement in the BCC rooms, regular copies of the Howzat, and more. See Wayne Gibson & Martin Phillips for more information. The sooner the better.

Feedback

Your feedback concerning this publication, or any other issue of concern is welcomed at The Bar. Letters to the Editors may be published in future editions...

Down & Dirty #1

In the first of a series of in-depth interviews to be run in the Howzat, we talk candidly with young Banyule player Matthew "The Moshpit" Lower...

- H: *Matthew, we believe you may be the first A Grade player at Banyule to ever shave your under-arms. What have you got to say for yourself?*
- ML: That's none of your business.
- H: *Is that a Manchester United top you're wearing?*
- ML: Yes.
- H: *What are your impressions of A Grade cricket, having recently established yourself in the team?*
- ML: It's OK. But I can't understand the hype about it, really. I mean - it's pretty good, and everyone takes it seriously. But it's different to what I thought.
- H: *How so?*
- ML: Phil doesn't stop whinging about the fielders. It's really frustrating. And the slips never say anything to encourage the other players. That Dasha hogs the bowling all day, and they make me bat last.
- H: *Really? Tell us more Moshpit.*
- ML: Is that a tape-recorder in your bag?
- H: ... *yep.*
- ML: Are you taping this?
- H: *yep.*
- ML: ... Are you going to print this, or something?
- H: *No way.**
- ML: Give me that tape.
- H: *Settle down Moshy. We wouldn't do that.***
- ML: O.K
- H: *What do you do in your spare time?*
- ML: Nothing.
- H: *No, really...*
- ML: Sit at home and play on my computer, watch soccer on tv...
- H: *Do you have any hobbies outside of cricket?*
- ML: Play my computer, watch soccer...
- H: *Any love interests?*
- ML: Ryan Giggs.
- H: *Who do you plan to support in the upcoming election?*
- ML: What election?
- H: *The state election!*
- ML: Oh, Pauline Hanson.
- H: *She's not in it!*
- ML: Oh, Angus Kennett then.
- H: *You mean Jeff?*
- ML: Jeff who?
- H: *Jeff Kennett!*
- ML: Oh, yeah him.
- H: *Matthew, thank-you very much for your time.*
- ML: No worries, do you want a hash cookie?
- H: *Hang on, let me push stop before I answer that.*

* we lied.

** we lied again.