



THE PITCH

Carlingford Baseball Club Newsletter

Important Dates

16th Mar – PCBL Grand Final
Murray Farm 1.30pm

17th Mar – Legends vs All-Stars

30th Mar – Senior Winter
Season starts

7th Apr – Junior Presentation
Day

1st May - AGM

4th May – Senior Presentation
Night – Carlingford Sports &
Recreation Club

Position Vacant

Groundsman to replace
Scott Butler who is retiring
from the role at the end of
the season



President's Welcome

The Winter seniors competition starts in a few weeks and we still have a few vacancies so drop me a line at president@carlingfordbaseball.com.au or give me a call on 0417 448 223 if you or your spouse want to know more.

Congratulations to Simon's 14/2s who won their grand final last weekend in a come-from-behind nail biter of a finish. Commiserations to Adam's 14/3s who lost on the day but still had a fantastic season winning the minor premiership.

Please come along to Murray Farm on Sunday 17th for our Legends vs All star day which starts with our Coaches vs Committee game at midday followed by the big game at 2pm. We will have the canteen open for sausage sandwiches and drinks.

Keen baseball fans will enjoy our A grade grand final at Murray Farm on Saturday 16th at 1.30pm for a 9 innings game!

Thank you to all our coaches, managers, other volunteers and committee members for all your work this season. For those of you that I don't see this weekend, I hope to see you all on the diamond next season. Thanks for being part of our Carlingford baseball family.

Cheers

Mark Highfield

SENIOR PRESENTATION NIGHT - 4TH MAY 2019



**344 PENNANT HILLS ROAD
CARLINGFORD**

6.30PM - LATE

\$45 PER HEAD

**PLAYERS, FORMER PLAYERS, PARTNERS AND FRIENDS – ALL
WELCOME**

**LET'S CELEBRATE OUR 2018-19 SEASON,
AND WHAT A SEASON IT WAS!!!**

**TO BOOK A TABLE CLICK HERE
OR
GO TO THE CLUB'S WEBSITE**

PACIFIC COAST BASEBALL LEAGUE
SUMMER SEASON 2018-19
SATURDAY 16th MARCH 2019



A GRADE DIVISION 2 - **GRAND FINAL**
Carlingford Cougars
v
Winston Hills Warriors
@ Murray Farm Reserve - 1:30pm



Coaches vs Committee
All Stars vs Legends

Sunday 17 March @ Murray Farm Reserve
from 12:00pm



Carlingford Baseball Club
Juniors Presentation

Sunday 7 April 2019
Murray Farm Reserve - 1pm



altis

Altis Consulting have jumped onboard as a Silver Sponsor for our Club.
Altis Consulting specialise in Data Analytics and Management
and are based in Sydney, NSW.

www.altis.com.au 

CLUB MERCHANDISE

Velcro Club Cap - \$20

Premium Flexifit Club Cap - \$25

Club Socks - \$12

Red Belt - \$12

Junior Playing Shirts (*Loaned to players as part of registration. Must be returned at end of season*)

Seniors Sublimated Playing Shirts - \$70 (*\$5 premium for late orders*)

Uniform Packs from Red Stitches Thornleigh

- **T-Ball/Mod-Ball \$50** (*includes black pants, belt, protector and socks*)

- **Liveball \$85** (*includes black pants, belt, protector and socks*)

Training T Shirts

- Kids/Junior sizes 10-16 \$15

- Senior sizes S-5XL \$20

Supporters Shirt - \$30

Club Supporters Jacket - \$70

These items are generally available at the Murray Farm Canteen on Saturday mornings during the summer season. Otherwise, simply email our Treasurer at treasurer@carlingfordbaseball.com.au advising which item you would like to purchase. You will receive an email with a link to pay the invoice shortly thereafter.

Uniform pick-ups can be arranged with our uniform officer at uniforms@carlingfordbaseball.com.au

EFTPOS facilities are being finalised and will be introduced in the near future.



Thank you Kamran from Aerial Surfer for donating images of Murray Farm Reserve obtained from Drone Photography. Aerial Surfer have joined our Sponsorship family for the 2018/19 Season.



Hours Mon-Fri 7-6:30pm & Sat 7-2pm

02 9871 2931

Thank you to Steve from Steve's Fine Meats for returning as a Sponsor for this Season. You can find Steve's Fine Meats at Shop 8/1Carmen Drive Carlingford.



MATCH REPORTS

14U/2

Carlingford vs Quakers Hill Pirates

Game 2 of a best of 3 finals series

Result: Win 6-5 (series won 2-0)

Some people don't get sport. They scoff at other people's obsession with it, bemoan the amount of attention and funding it gets, and can't understand the place it holds in the national psyche. The Melbourne Cup, the Boxing Day test, footy grand finals, the Olympics - to some it's all a tremendous and unfathomable waste.

For me sport's always been about heroism, and people doing heroic things. Sure, context is important - and when held against the deeds of those who serve on the battlefield, or the amazing work done by the women and men in our society who look after and keep us safe, well sport *is* just sport.

But that doesn't mean we can't recognise and enjoy great deeds done on the sporting field, and partake in that exquisite, collective joy that sport occasionally bestows upon us. And the great thing about sport is that scale doesn't matter. Whether it's Australia II coming from behind on the last leg of the final Americas Cup race, or Steve Larkham kicking *that* field goal, or Leo Barry taking *that* mark, or John Aloisi converting *that* penalty...or something that happens at a suburban ground on the outskirts of Sydney in a junior baseball finals match. The sheer

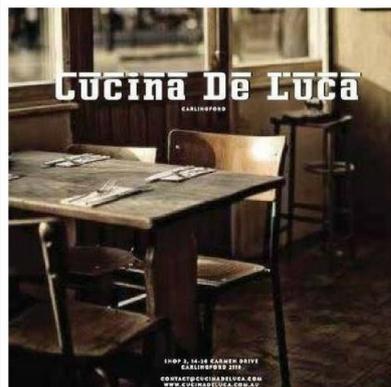
excitement and exhilaration that sport can deliver is the same. And heroic deeds can be done.

The Cardinals went into this match warm favourites after comprehensively outplaying their opponents a week earlier. Problems with the diamond delayed the start by 15 minutes, but the game eventually got under way under cloudy skies with the threat of rain hanging heavy in the air.

No change in tactics for the Cardinals, with Ben again starting in the mound. A great start saw two early strikeouts, before Quakers showed their fighting qualities with a couple of walks. Some early jitters in the field saw two runs scored before a further strikeout ended the innings.

Quakers Hill had their no. 1 pitcher back in action, and the Cardinals' first innings was strikingly similar to their opponents. Eve skied one back to the pitcher, before Jack and Ben walked. Great stealing saw them eventually cross the plate, both unusually coming home on the same passed ball. After Nathan and Jackson struck out, the scores were locked at 2-2 after an innings a piece.

The parallels continued with both teams failing to score in their second at bats. Good work by Jack at shorty to make an infield out to Jackson at 1st started things off and Ben, pitching beautifully, struck out the other two batters. When the Cardinals batted Jayden went down swinging (after just one of his



A very warm welcome to the team at Cucina De Luca, a local cafe in Carlingford! They signed up to be a sponsor for our club this season and did we mention we love their coffee?



www.cucinadeluca.com

Shop 2, 14-20 Carmen Drive, Carlingford

obligatory fouls). Tom earned a base on balls and stole around to 3rd. For the second week in a row he was unlucky to be tagged out when looking to come home, this time courtesy of a passed ball that bounced back off the umpire into a convenient position for the catcher. Oli walked before Aiden also struck out. Still 2-2 after two.

Jack came on to pitch as the Pirates tried to rally. A walk and a lucky hit to a hole behind 2nd saw runners on base. Jack struck out the next batter with a perfect off-speed pitch, but the Quakers base runners took advantage of some nervous fielding and a ridiculously large area behind catcher to find their way home.

Your correspondent is usually reluctant to comment about the onfield calls being made by the men in blue. Suffice to say however that at times in this match it seemed that the outer half of the home plate miraculously disappeared when the Cardinals were pitching, only to reappear (somewhat extended) when the Cardinals were batting. Jack was being made to work extremely hard, but he fought through to claim two more strikeouts to end the innings with just 3 runs conceded. Big effort in the context of the match.

Having slipped behind the Cardinals desperately needed to bat long. But River and Eve both struck out, with the mystery expanding home plate seeing Eve shaking her head as she made her way back to the dugout. Just as in the first innings, Jack and Ben both showed great patience and nerve to earn walks, and eventually stole home to score 2 vital runs. Nathan, after smashing a foul just wide of 1st, struck out and was followed a short time later by Jackson who was well caught off a fly at 1st.

Quakers were jubilant to hold a 5-4 lead after the completion 3 innings each. But there was enough time to start another dig, and 3 up 3

down was just what the doctor (and Simon) ordered. A dropped third strike was fired to Jackson at 1st by Nathan for the first out, and a cool throw to 1st from Ben at shorty accounted for the second. A clutch strike thrown by Jack on a full count pitch saw the innings ended.

A pre innings pep talk from Simon had the team primed, but things were quickly looking bleak with Jayden grounding out to 2nd, and Tom sitting down courtesy of a third strike that grazed his shoelaces. Enter Oli, who had been fighting as hard as anyone in the team to find form with the bat. A foul and a strike had Quakers Hill within a pitch of sending the series to a third and deciding match. But in an effort every bit as heroic as those mentioned at the start of this report, Oli swung hard at the next pitch and connected purely to send the ball safely out to left field. But his work was not done, and as the tying run it was crucial that he steal safely around to 3rd - which he duly did while Aiden took the pitcher to a full count. When the chance came, Oli grabbed it with both hands and stole home to tie the scores, to raucous applause from his team mates. Meanwhile Aiden hung tough to walk to 1st.

What happened next was a blur. River was in the batting box showing a mixture of patience and desperation to connect with a winning hit. Aiden, to whom sliding looks as natural as walking, easily moved to second. Then suddenly it was all over; a passed ball, Aiden sliding into 3rd, an overthrow, Aiden sliding into home. Jubilation for the victors, sweet relief for coaches and spectators, utter disappointment for the the crestfallen Pirates.

A fitting climax to an interesting season, with mixed divisions and a fixture list that seemed to change every week. For a side that looked like struggling to field a full lineup at the start of the year, the joint team from Baulkham

Hills and Carlingford again proved the 'Cardinals' concept a winner.

Huge thanks to Simon, Tom and Bob for their excellent technical coaching and endless encouragement throughout, and to Team Manager Peter and scorer Bronwyn for their unstinting commitment. But biggest congratulations must go to all of the players for their focus and dedication each and every match - and for always playing the game in the right spirit. A victory well deserved.



14U/3 Grand Final Carlingford vs Rouse Hill

Today's 14/3 Grand Final between Carlingford and Rouse Hill should have been a cliff-hanger from the First Ball right through to the Final Out.

We batted first with Adam, Nick and Tyler striking out, leaving Sam stranded on Third. Sam then pitched the first Rouse Hill batter up to a Full Count followed by a ball that walked the batter to First Base. His attempt for a pick-off on First failed to find the baseman's glove and during the fumble their runner quickly advanced to Second. That runner continued to steal around the diamond until they crossed Home Plate. This was a pattern that would repeat itself a number of times over the following ninety minutes. Rouse Hill finished their innings with a two run lead.

Our second innings saw Max and James quickly striking out while Connor's strong hit was rapidly sent to First Base by the opposition's effective fielding putting Connor out and leaving our score still on zero. Their second innings added four runs through the same "Full Count" then "Walk to First" then "Sneak Home" process. Our fielders were prepared to do their share of the work but they rarely had the chance to be involved. The battle was between our Pitchers and the Batter's Strike Zone.

Our Third Innings saw LeAndre's hit fielded to First before he could get there himself to put us one down. Rohan then struck out, followed by Adam placing a solid hit near Second to get himself on First Base. Nick kept their Pitcher occupied while Adam's trademark base running easily snuck him around to Third, and then he launched himself Homeward on Nick's next strong hit. Adam crossed the plate but Nick was out on First leaving Adam with a moral victory but still no

run. Unfortunately this was the only time our team crossed the plate during the entire game.

The bottom of the Third saw our team lose some cohesion as perhaps the pressure of the Grand Final was weighing them down. Rouse Hill was lucky to get their batter to First after a dropped Third Strike but they happily took all the luck that fell their way. We fumbled another pick-off attempt on First and their runner moved to second. The next ball fell into Right Field and their batter passed through First and tried for Second. Unfortunately for him Adam was in Right Field and he skilfully collected the ball then raced to intercept the runner. The runner skidded to a halt midway between the bases and frantically backpedalled towards First but Adam caught him and tagged him out like a Falcon striking down its prey. That was a great scene to watch and I daresay gave our team some hope as the Rouse Hill production line continued to churn out runs. One batter popped the ball straight up over Max's head, but by the time Max had removed his helmet the chance for a catch was missed. However Max more than redeemed himself by quickly recovering the next batter's dropped Third Strike and sending it to First for the final out of the innings.

Sam, Tyler and Max struck out in short order to start and finish our fourth innings. More skilful eyes than mine watched the match and will have a better analysis of the game, but the simple fact remains that on the day we were not the better team.

Nick then took the mound with Connor behind the plate to play the Fourth innings. Darcy stopped a hit racing through Right Field to limit their batter to First Base but the Rouse Hill Run Factory was too strong for our team. Another four runs went up on their board before the clock ticked into the final minute. With the score sitting at 14-0

there was no doubt about the result, but our Team had one final surprise left. Their last batter stepped into the box and Adam was tossed the ball to throw down the final pitch. With a Run-down tag and a run (disallowed) plus some other snazzy fielding at Second Base to his credit perhaps Adam could give us a pitch to remember?

He did.

The ball flew off the bat straight into the glove of James at First Base who took the catch then stepped on his Base to leave their runner from First stranded between the bases. It was a great Double Play to end the innings.

Some days are Diamonds ... and then there was today. However getting to a Grand Final is a victory in itself and our team each took home a trophy as the 2018/19 Minor Premiers.

Well done guys.



