

MALE SENIOR

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First XI Captain's Report

Pat Ashton

The 2019/20 season proved to be a rollercoaster affair for the First XI - where the gradient of the rise and fall was at times quite steep. At peak performance level, our team purred and it was a beautiful thing. We trounced quality sides. In turn, sides we believed we should have beaten outplayed us.

Though we rode the many ups and downs, the fact is that our results fell into line with the middling finishes of the past 4 seasons, leading to an unlikely lunge for the finals in the last round, which was eventually foiled by the weather gods.

For the team, our season was characterised by a struggle for a winning rhythm. On an individual basis however, our season was studded by wonderful individual performances.

Zak Evans' penetration with ball in hand was rewarded with selection for his debut outing in the BBL, performing admirably, with his genuine pace sparking the curiosity of the great R. T. Ponting in the commentary box. Not a bad person to get noticed by...

Tom Rogers reaped a career-best season, amassing 707 runs. Tom's zest for advancing his game at training resulted in steady improvement throughout the season. This was capped off in the penultimate round, with Tom's flamboyant stroke making leaving his teammates glued to the action, riding every run, on his way to a brilliant century. What an exciting player.

Finally, David King solidified himself as the greatest player to don a Ram's cap, topping off his already decorated career with a Ryder Medal. Dave's hallmark consistency with the bat was supplemented with both dependability and potency with the ball, finishing with a career best wicket tally. It is a privilege to walk out alongside David every weekend.

A year of change and unpredictability awaits us in 2020/21 season. Sometimes you have to go back to go forward. And we're all thrilled to have great Ringwood people Sean Flynn, Matt Gale and Paul Montgomery back in the fray. The First XI playing group has pledged to make no excuses going forward, to be honest and open with each other, and not allow ourselves to get comfortable. Though we fell well short of our expectations during this season, we've gleaned much from the experience and we're enthused as ever to make finals push in 2020/21.



Second XI Captain's Report

Michael Campbell

It was a fantastic opportunity and a great honour to have been offered the position of the 2nd XI captaincy for season 2019/20. After my year in the 3rd XI, it was an exciting time for me to move up the grades, knowing that there was some great young talent available in all grades. On completion of our pre-season block, it was great to see the progression of the players from the previous year, giving me an exciting energy boost for the one-day season opener against Melbourne.

Going into the first match with 4 debutants and against a generally tough opposition, it was a great opportunity for all players to showcase their skills and setup a really positive year. What a fantastic match round one was. As we batted our way to a competitive first innings total of

9/215 we played some very positive cricket and gave ourselves a total to defend. With a consistent message of being 'dependable with the ball', we battled hard to get early wickets, and, with the boys holding their nerve, we won the game in the final over keeping Melbourne to a final total of 7/209 at the end of play.

It was most definitely one of the toughest round 1 matches I had played in. I hoped that the win would provide the boys with great confidence going forward and that they would be able to harness and utilise the feeling of working hard to accomplish a win as a team.

Unfortunately, due to the nature of cricket and the strain it puts on the body, injuries and player movements meant the cohesion of the team suffered throughout the year.

During the season the 2nd XI had 24 players rotate through the team 7 of these making their debuts. With players of all calibre playing throughout the season, it was great to see the communication between the more experienced players and the recently promoted. Our more experienced players led the way with a willingness to showcase their skills, they were able to guide and develop the younger players game play.

With the continual changes to the team, it did make it hard for the 'young' side to gel and get over the hurdle of putting wins on the board. Before Christmas, and at times in the New Year, players struggled to find consistency with their skills/game play. This led to some poor performances. Losing two games outright was quite disappointing for the playing group. It led to some hard truths being told and a change of mind set in terms of applying ourselves at training and during matches. With some players finding form and gaining momentum at different times throughout the season there were some outstanding individual performances. It was great to see some fine individual performances well rewarded.

Sam Beer had come off a flying final few rounds in season 2018/19 and it was great to watch his quest to become a more consistent player and fight for a place in the 1st XI. Sam led from the front when given the ball, showing what it takes to push yourself to become a better cricketer and really earn that cap by consistently taking wickets and building pressure. Sam deserved the wickets when they came and this is highlighted by his 6 Wicket performance against Carlton.

Without having "Beery" in the team all the time it was great to have some younger boys grab their opportunity and really step up in the 2nd XI. Dylan Tibballs, after debuting in the 2nd XI at the start of the season, really showed improvement at this level. Many times, despite his great efforts, he went without the scalps he was working hard for. "Tibbs" was a great inclusion in the side this year and, I'm sure, with a few more consistent performances and games under his belt, he will be on his way up again.

It was great to see many players progress from my 3rd XI team the year earlier. Zac Hayes showed great improvement during the off-season. Gaining new skills with the ball, and continually trying to improve his game, Zac was in the wickets taking multiple 3 wicket hauls and a season best of 5/11 against Northcote.

Another player promoted to the 2nd XI who found the level to his liking and showed his really competitive nature was Angus Adamson. Slotting into the number 4 spot in the batting order, "Gus" played a pivotal role for us week in week out. Scoring two half centuries and his first 2nd XI century, Gus made his debut in the 1st XI after only a handful of games.

With the need for a 'game to game' performer it was great to be able to lean on Tyson Freeman. Whether it was with the ball in hand, consistently building pressure, taking important wickets at pivotal times or with the bat, Tyson applied his skills wherever required. He took the opportunity to bat at 3 in the side and made it his own. Whilst Tyson's top score for the season was 63, his consistency in putting runs on the board for us paved the way for him to not only be the **2nd XI Ram of the Year** but also, the **Ram of the Year** for the club. **A fantastic effort from Tyson.**

When we were able to put it together as a team on the same day and really focus on what we wanted to achieve, we showed signs of what we really could accomplish. As mentioned earlier we started well against Melbourne, we also came out of the Christmas break knocking off top side at the time, Melbourne Uni.

Although it wasn't the season we were looking for and we don't dwell on missed opportunities it was fantastic to see glimpses of the talent that is emerging through all Ringwood grades. I'm sure that the games played this year have provided new learning opportunities and an understanding of where we can improve our game. We will then be able to match it with the best in the 2nd XI next year.

I would like to on behalf of the 2nd XI, thank our scorer Jeff Beaumont for his tireless efforts and assistance during matches throughout the season. A fantastic club volunteer who makes

my game day mornings a lot easier to manage. Thank you for your help Jeff and we hope to see you again in season 20/21.

We are so lucky to have so many great volunteers around our club. I would like to thank all those volunteers for doing everything that they do. Not only for all the hours of work that we see, but for the numerous hours they put in behind the scenes to get us out on the ground week in week out.

We would also like to thank the coaching staff not only for this year, but also for the past few seasons. With the structural changes made following the recent season, it is vitally important to remember just how much time and effort the coaching staff devotes to improving our skill levels. We thank all coaches for the passion they bring in helping us to improve.

Finally, I would like to thank the club for allowing me the opportunity to lead this team. It is a great privilege to work with our leaders trying to put together match-winning teams each week. It is equally enjoyable working with the players as they make their way through the grades.

Best of luck to all returning players, coaches and volunteers for season 20/21.

Go Rams

Third X1 Captain's Report

Jordan Roberts

I would initially like to thank the club for the honour and opportunity of captaining this side during the 2019/2020 season. This is an opportunity that I'm very grateful for and enjoyed greatly.

With a new look pre-season and plenty of new and old faces at the club for the season the feeling in the group was one of real excitement about what we could achieve. In the 3rd XI during the season we had five new players to the club debut throughout the year. We welcomed Campbell Mole, Vishwa Ramkumar, Luke Perry, Callum Reid and Nathan Lester. In total we had 23 players go through the side and contribute to what was a fantastic season, every player involved contributing to the team success in some shape or form.

The season didn't start the way we had wished, losing to Melbourne in our first game of the season by 34 runs despite a knock of 66 from Angus Adamson. This was however be the only game the team lost for the remainder of the 2019 year. Going on to beat Northcote by 4 wickets, Fitzroy by 5 wickets, Greenvale outright, Carlton by 93 runs and Prahran by 53 runs. We also had draws due to rain against Essendon and Monash. There were many standout individual performances during these games. These performances included scores of 98 by Rohan Ervine and 63* by Angus Adamson against Essendon, 56 by Bailey Eustance against Greenvale, 52 by Tom Humphries against Carlton and the standout performance up until Christmas with the bat was a classy knock of 133 from Ethan Walker setting up a strong win against another top ranked side in Carlton.

We also had two performances of note with the ball with Jake Carter taking 5/19 against Greenvale in his last game before going overseas and 5/36 from Tom Humphries against Carlton in what was a very even spread performance by all bowlers up to this part of the season.

At the break the team was in a very strong position sitting on top of the ladder 4 points clear of second with the momentum of 7 straight games without losing.

Unfortunately, we would lose our second game of the season in the first game back after the break to Melbourne Uni despite the performance of Jordan Ludgater 81. This would be the last game that the team would lose for the rest of the season. Bouncing back with an incredible win against Dandenong in the next round defending 179 and having Dandenong 0/102. The boys pulled one out with what was an amazing team performance with the ball to roll Dandenong for 174 in the last over winning the game by 5 runs. Young Ben Gibson scored his first 3rd XI 50, the standout individual performance.

With the momentum from this, the boys went on to beat Footscray by 4 wickets, Casey-South Melbourne by 8 wickets and Camberwell by 58 runs and a washout against Frankston.

Consistency was again the key of the team success with an even performance across the board. Campbell Mole's 58* against Casey and 57* from myself the only scores over 50 to note and no individual 5 wicket hauls. This demonstrated how strong the team was as we ended the season as Minor Premiers on top of the ladder ready to take on the finals campaign.

We played Northcote at home in the first final at Ringwood. We bowled Northcote out for 164 off 74.4 overs with a spread of wickets with 3 each to Corcoran and Henderson leading the way. With the bat it was again one of those games when it looked like we were down and out. We slumped to 6/73 still 94 runs behind with plenty of time left in the day. Masters (30) and Lester (21) managed to steady the innings putting together a 46-run partnership to give us a sniff. We then had another collapse losing 3 for 16 leaving us 9/135. Enter Zac Corcoran who partnered with Tom Humphries, the two boys showed amazing fight and managed to get us closer and closer. Until we got within 2 runs of the total and Corcoran hit a slog sweep for 4 to win the game by 1 wicket capping off a 10th wicket partnership of 32. (Humphries 20* and Corcoran 12*)

Due to the unforeseeable circumstances that came upon us with Covid-19, the season was ended after the first final. As the Minor Premiers and the highest ranked side still alive in the finals the **Ringwood Cricket Clubs 3rd XI was crowned Premiers for season 2019/20**. Definitely, a season that we will never forget!

Congratulations is in order to every player who was involved in the side throughout the season as each game everyone assisted in the performance of the team. A few special congratulations to Tom Humphries winning the 3rds-bowling award and Ethan Walker winning the batting. Lastly big congratulations to **Vishwa Ramkumar** for winning the Ram of the Year for the side at the age of **13!** This was a fantastic season by the young leggie who consistently performed for the team through the whole year and is a player to watch in the future.

Can't wait for next year to defend our title.
Go RAMS!

Fourth XI Captain's Report

Sam Wade

Throughout the 2019/20 season the 4th XI had 29 players play within the team. This obviously was exciting in itself, in that we got to have a look at a number of young promising players that are around, but at the same time, having that many players rotating within a team week in week out meant that that we had little stability in trying to gel as a unit. A few highlights of our team throughout the season included: Campbell Mole and Luke Perry both making a 100 against Greenvale in Round 6 with Perry making 109 not out and Mole making 100. Both displayed great application and dedication to their innings and it was really enjoyable for our team to witness such incredible individual performances. Another great individual performance this season was the 99 Austin Callow made against Melbourne University in round 9. His ability to maintain concentration for nearly the entire 45 overs ensured his innings set us up for a great win in the first round back after the Christmas break. On the bowling front, whilst we didn't have any bowlers taking more than 5 wickets in an innings, our bowling attack toiled really hard and was quite impressive with how they went about things. It was really pleasing to see the growth and development in guys like Jack Beer, Will Spencer, Braden Harvey and Flynn Smith as the season progressed, and I have no doubt with a full season of Premier Cricket under their belt, they now have a greater awareness of the work they need to do, to take their bowling to the next level.

All in all, whilst our season in the 4th XI was incredibly disappointing from a win/loss perspective and also some results that were dished up, I hope the boys that had the opportunity to play during the season, realise the challenge that Premier Cricket is, and can identify areas of their game that they need to work really hard on to make them better players in the future. I also want to take this opportunity to thank the Ringwood Cricket Club for the privilege of leading one of our teams, as I definitely don't take this role for granted, and it continues to be an honour to be able to fulfill this role.