

Coach

By and large the season of 1991/92 was an extremely satisfying and historical one for the club. Once again some of the individual performances highlighted our year and these, coupled with the First Eleven premiership, capped off a fine year. A fantastic effort was also recorded by our Third Eleven who were worthy grand finalists after a very gutsy semi-final win. My congratulations to the Fourth Eleven for their semi-final appearance and to the Second Eleven who had really peaked at the right time of the year only to just miss out. Our club is also very proud of the new Fifth XI and its captain. With some wonderful behind the scenes work, Peter Bevis managed to field a side under extraordinary conditions each week while still remaining reasonably competitive. We look forward to the continued improvement of this eleven next season and a growth in its sense of belonging.

As the club captain I would like to officially record my thanks and my appreciation of the vision that Ray Storey and his committee showed last year in building our new centre wicket. It is the best surface that I have ever played on and one where we suburban cricketers can enjoy the highest standard of facilities. I would also like to thank Doug McLaggan for his part in the construction. It is a credit to all those involved. Every opposition captain and each umpire who visited the Moonee Valley ground during the season commented on the improvement.

A coach's report without mention of the departure and triumphant return of Ian Denny would be a very shallow one indeed. The fact that Ian once again took out the Luscombe Shield's Player of the Year Award is testimony to his ability and his character. He achieved this feat in spite of missing four games after Christmas. This makes his win even more meritorious. The selection panel, coach and all the members of the club placed Ian under enormous pressure when he was selected to play for the finals. His performances in both games were nothing short of sensational.

Speaking of incredible performances, the list of century makers during the season was nothing short of amazing. Sixteen centuries in any one season certainly entitles Moonee Valley to become known as "century-city". The record-breaking four century season by our Second Eleven captain Sandro Capocchi is certainly worthy of comment and proves to many that this young cricketer will have a great deal to offer the club for many years to come.

My very special congratulations to Gary Irons on his winning of our Lindsay Jones Memorial Trophy. The Big Gee has been a stalwart of our club and his win was an extremely popular one. Well done. Congratulations also to Ian Denny, Robert Lamberti and Darren Nagle who represented our club with distinction in the EBKCA association matches.

The individual awards recognised by the EBKCA were once again dominated by the Moonee Valley Cricket Club. As I have already mentioned, Ian Denny was the competition's best player. Added to this, Robert Lamberti continued to demonstrate his outstanding batting potential by adding the Luscombe Shield Batting Trophy to his collection. The Second and Third Grade Batting Awards were also won by Valley boys and I also offer my sincere congratulations to Sandro Capocchi and Shane Williams. To complete the Moonee Valley domination, eventual First Eleven premiership player Jude Perera began his meteoric rise from the Thirds and dominated with the ball to such an extent that he won the competition's Third XI Bowling Award. Well done, Jude.

I suppose coaches must be the most selfish and hard to please group of people on this earth. I certainly am! Many could be excused for thinking that the list of club and individual successes should allow for at least a modicum of satisfaction. I would be lying to say that I wasn't terribly proud of our club's performances this season. However, as they say, pride comes before a fall and I want all members to be conscious of this and to train, act and maintain the single minded determination shown so emphatically by our senior team.

It is interesting to examine the feelings of a premiership player and to take note of the fact that one premiership is never enough. We are even hungrier for our First Eleven to achieve back-to-back flags. Consecutive premierships is a feat that has never been achieved in the entire history of the Luscombe Shield. This desire is one that can quite easily transfer itself from player to player throughout a club and should be the aim of our club during 1992/93. In the immortal words of our little mate Jude...."Ray, I want another!!"

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to publicly thank all members and supporters of the club for their loyalty and support during the year, with special thanks to Ray and his committee. I would also like to thank the four other captains, Sandro, Shane, Doug and Peter for their efforts. All deserve our congratulations and recognition, in particular Shane Williams, who in his first year as captain led the Third Eleven into the Grand Final. Finally, I would like to thank Ian Denny and Warwick Nolan for sharing the responsibility as Chairman of Selectors, to Darren Nagle for accepting the role as my vice-captain and to all of the First Eleven players who helped make this the most memorable year (to date!) of my sporting career.

Greg Peters