

# The Badgered Scarecrow

22<sup>nd</sup> September 2009



Preseason Roundup

## 2009/2010 Season Preview

Once again Spring is in the air and the Cricket season is upon us. After the thrill of bringing Dave home in back to back seasons we look forward to the challenge ahead of threepeat. Our main challengers this year will be the Briars after a down season 2 years ago they bounced back last year and finished in a strong position. Georges River has been the big improvers over the last couple of seasons and they may push for higher honours this year. The likes of Strathfield and NWS if they can get the playing strength across the board may be dangers as well.

With back to back Club Championships one thing has been lacking, that being a premiership or 2. It was probably one of the major disappointments last year with 5 out of the 6 teams making the finals and 2 making grand finals. However, this is a new season and brings with it new hope.

### **Badger's bit:**

*Badger believes that the infectious debilitating disease, commonly known as 'March Madness', that has so ravenously destroyed the Eagles premiership hopes over the last two seasons has been identified and studied by one of the greatest minds to ever call themselves an Eagle. Our very own Professor Peter Eugene Albert Abboud believes he has successfully discovered an antidote to this hideous and cruel ailment. It comes in the form of a new pie oven, with a vision enhancing light! Those blessed enough to lay eye on this engineering masterpiece have been dumb-struck with awe... And to think this invaluable enhancement to the Royal Mona facilities will only come at a modest increase in the cost of a pie to the consumer! Professor Pete has so much faith in his latest innovation that he has gone on the official Badger record as saying, 'Devouring pies at the optimal temperature and consistency is scientifically proven to amplify cricket performance during autumn'.*

Below is a brief glance at how the season looks and who maybe the players to watch for each grade.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Grade**

Jason "Keeno" Coleman will once again be leading the boys this season. A slow start to the season cost the boys last year but a great run through the middle of the year saw them on the precipice of the semi's. A tough run home where they played the top 3 sides saw them narrowly miss the semi's. This year we have strengthened our batting with the addition of Anjum from Lindfield and Murphy after a year layoff. The big Kiwi Marcus Lewis will lead from the front with the ball and should be ably assisted by The Badger Kirwan, the skipper and Icey Cowan. DJ will look to keep the middle order together and will provide plenty of support with the ball bowling his wily offies. Ash Vella also returns to the fold after a successful season with Blacktown last year.

The player for mine to watch will be young Nathan Ross. Nath had a bumper season in 2s last year. The major hurdle Nath has to overcome himself and if he does this he can be hugely successful in the top grade.

### **Badger's bit:**

*Due to last season's first round debacle Badger can reveal that the Auburn Committee sent a secret convoy to Cambridge last week to ensure that when 1's revered leader, Bumper Coleman, stepped in to First Class aboard flight QF2207, his infamous 'English Length'*

remained securely and patiently on Ol' Dart soil. Uncle Pete Philipson has been said to have used all necessary measures at his disposal to make certain that Bumper's 'English Length' is never again seen in the antipodes.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade**

With the eagles out of finals Growler Barbon can turn his attention to the preparation of last years Grand finalists 2's. In a disappointing end to the season rain prevented any sort of a decent grand final and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade could only play out a draw. With a very similar playing roster to last season 2's will look to push for the to prize once again. Spin bowling appears to be this teams strength with 4 spinners likely to line up most weeks. Emmy, Max Labrooy and Time bomb Tom Wood all leading the way as front line spin bowlers plus throw in the part time spin of Dave Wood and the most underrated off spinner in the club of JNo, I think the club could save plenty of money on not supplying new balls to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade. However, the pace stocks do look good with seasoned campaigner Rana, the captain, party boy Wakeford and the return of the enigma and Hussy Perera from injury.

My player to watch this season in 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade is the ever green Max Labrooy. Like a fine wine he just gets better with age and a 30 wicket season from him could see 2s go one step further this year.

### ***Badger's bit:***

*Many of you may know that The Flying Dutchman will be spending the first round receiving sponge baths following his appendix operation. Badger can reveal that it won't just be scantily clad nurses delivering these luxurious necessities however it will be no other than the Growler rolling up his sleeves and ensuring his idol's every need and want is tended too.*

## **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade**

The self pro-claim party grade will be at it again under the leadership of Club Veteran Dan Burton. With an almost unhangd side from last years narrow semi loss to eventual premiers, Georges River, Burto's Boys will be looking to go 2 further this season. The attack will once again be lead by George Parry Player of the year and the real Benjamin Button Pete Bastow. Looking to step out from his shadow will be the likes of Moose and Pete Ananananin with the ball. With the willow look for the Skipper to plunder a ton 1<sup>st</sup> game then achieve mediocrity. The brothers Starkey will look to hold the middle order together. Shane Cook returning from his 27<sup>th</sup> hamstring injury will also provide good support with both bat and ball.

Player to watch in 3's has to be the excitement machine Peter Ananin. He will look to score runs in the middle order and if his back holds up probably open the bowling with some venomous pace.

### ***Badger's bit:***

*Badger does pride himself with being the very first with all the scoops, although Badger does applaud Scarecrow with the inside mail on the secret of Sneaky Pete's audacity towards Father Time. Even Badger couldn't understand how Sneaky seams younger and more virile every season, until now...*

## **4<sup>th</sup> Grade**

Chris Novosel will lead 4<sup>th</sup> grade for the 1<sup>st</sup> time for the season after stepping into fill the breach when Jewy was away last season. 4<sup>th</sup> grade looks a balanced side with young boys Bray and Xavier, old heads of Jewiss and Patel and those that look old namely this writer. The middle order looks rock solid with Norm Haddad, CNo and Gitte. Bowling wise the forever Young Jewy and the quiet assassin Kevin Barthomeusz should lead the way. Jay Patel will be a welcome addition to this squad to give CNo some more options with the ball and along with the explosive pace of Xavier should see if the opening 2 don't strike then these 2 will.

Player to watch is hard one in this grade so I will go with Bray and Gitte. Early season runs should see them put plenty of pressure on the batsmen in 3's.

**Badger's bit:**

*Badger has heard from the most reliable or sources, even by Badger's standards, that the newly appointed skipper Funny Man plans to make retribution for what he describes as '12 years of under-bowling'. Badger's tip is that despite some more illustrious name in leather flinging, if you want to have a tippie on 4s leading wicket taker, look no further than the man with the © beside his name... Well for most overs bowled at least.*

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade**

JA is back for another season to lead from the front in 5s. Boods is there again and will probably open the batting and bowling to great effect as he did last season. Up the other end of the bowling will be the leading wicket taker in 5s last season Wayne Moore who will keep knocking on the door of 4s by taking early crucial wickets. In 5s it also sees a welcome return to the club of one of our favourite sons Greg Ryan. Big Mick Alvarez looks handy with the bat and can certainly bomb the ball a long way. The most improved player in the off season Big Red will look to build on this as he tries to maintain control of the ball. Mohammed Hedayat keeps getting better every time he bowls in the nets and it won't be long before he has this writer under pressure in 4s.

The player to watch in 5s for mind will be Wayne Moore. Bowls tight lines and can move the ball in both directions and can tee off with the best of them when he gets his eye in.

**Badger's bit:**

*While Badger whole heartily agrees with Scarecrow's summation of On-The-Spot Moore, Badger believes it will be hard to look past Professor Pete for the early doors pace setter especially while he is still riding a high wave of emotion following aforementioned pie oven exploits.*