



# The Bear Pawse

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## Geriatric Pitchers' Duel Evolves Into Sweaty Bears Runfest At Northmead

Round 14 in the depths of a weird Sydney "winter" saw the A graders visit the lumpy Baulkham Hills Northmead field—how strange in July to see sweat-streaked faces daubed in splotchy sunscreen, soggy hats and batting gloves and fielders grabbing for the water bottle on return to the dugout. "Geez—now I remember why I stopped playing in Summer!" grumbled Dave Burns, who prefers the cool of the pool during the summer months.

With all hope of the finals gone, The A2s came to Northmead without our No. 1 pitcher, but ready for some fun against Baulkham Hills. The batters were shocked by the home team's tactic of starting a hamstrung pensioner on the mound—one so slow and innocuous that our first 2 batters dozed off at the plate. A run was eventually scrounged to restore lost dignity, but

the first dig was soon over, thanks to some decent fielding. Norths countered with the second laugh of the day, allowing the geriatric Tom Buckle to open the pitching into the breeze from the southern or Randwick end—the Bears outfielders stood tense and ready with their backs against the hot fence; the infielders just looked nervous.

The old gentlemen's pitchers' duel went 3 innings, with a few hits, a few walks, a lot more laughs and only a pair of runs to each team, before the pace was quickened with the introduction of real pitchers. Norths adapted immediately to the extra pace and piled on 10 runs in the top of the 4th, with doubles from Dave Burns and Mike Bromley showing the way. Baulkham Hills tried to respond, but Simon Letchford firmly put his foot down with his "Don't Argue!" mix of

pitching nastiness and the opposition soon crumbled.

With a steaming July sun sinking lower and a 12-2 scoreline to bolster thoughts of mixing it up out in the centre, Michael Bromley decided it was time to view the ball from the other end of the battery. He soon closed out the win for Norths with some energetic deliveries. Everyone repaired to the hill with a cold beer to watch the A1s go down to some devilish pitching from Baulkham Hills.

The A2s now head home to Flat Rock to end their season against likely grand finalists Castle Hill. And we wonder: will the coach be thinking this week: "Where can I find a REALLY slow pitcher—one who can bore a batter to sleep?"

## C2 Bears Looking To Final As Season Nears End



C1 Bears pitcher Daniel Badger came back strong after missing several weeks with an injury.

The C2 Bears showed the North Ryde RSL side that they are in for a fight in the upcoming final. In a match that meant a lot to both sides, a determined Bears side showed the title is certainly up for grabs.

Strong pitching from Barto, going perfect for the first 2 innings and a strong start from Coockey in the 4th saw the Bears leading the comp leaders 7-5 after 4 innings. Adding a further run in the 5th, the Bears were protecting a 3 run lead with time running out.

Some late hitting and a few errors in the field let the game slide away, and the Bears eventually were beaten 16-8. Despite the result there was a lot to like about the way the Bears played.

Stars with the bat were Spud (2-3 and 2 RBI), Coockey (2-3), Ichiro (1-3 and 2 RBI) and Jim (1-1 and another HBP).

The C1 Bears found themselves against a fired-up North Ryde side in the late game. For a team that has struggled all season, they saved their best for the Bears. With plenty of ill-feeling between the teams, the Bears took a 7-6 lead into the 4th inning. But the lead was soon chased down by the North Ryde team as they took the game 11-8.

Badger returned with a whole-hearted effort, pitching a complete game to take the loss. He also went 2-3 with 2 RBI. He was assisted by Smarty (2-3 and 1 RBI) and Doc (1-2 and 2 RBI).

This week the C2's play their opponent for week 1 of the finals, Castle Hill, while the C1's play Greenway, aiming to finish the season on a high note.

# F Troop Gets Ambushed In Run To Finals

In a game that was to decide who would progress to the finals in 2 weeks time, and who would have a headstart on Mad Monday, the Bears and Castle Hill knew what was at stake in the matchup of the season.

In a see-sawing battle, the Bears took an early lead, only to have Castle Hill come back each time. The game came down to who could stay composed. In the end, the game was decided by a couple of fielding errors, and Castle Hill got away with a 14-13 victory.

Once again, Jason Richardson pitched well and was unlucky to take the loss. Dan Pearson was strong with the bat going 3-3, and "Home Run" Holman pulled in 5 RBI for another great day in the sunshine. Tim Gould had a breakout day with 2 hits and a walk to add some valuable points to his batting average.

Despite the result, F Troop remain upbeat, and are looking forward to winding down the season with a win against the 5th placed Macquarie Saints on Sunday



C1 Bear Jason Smart scores an early run.



C2 2nd Baseman Kristian Cruz slides safely into 3rd during Sunday's early game at North Ryde.



**Sixty Seconds With...**

## Brett Gordon

**Nickname:** Gordo

**Position:** Something different every week

**Age:** 26

**Seasons with Bears:** 5

**Scouting Report:** Strong performer in latter stages of the season...top order batter with high BA and OBP...dangerous base runner averaging 2 steals per game

**Value to the Bears:** Consistent performer on and off the field who lives life like a true Bear.

**Most embarrassing Bears moment:** I am sure it would have happened on the Gold Coast pilgrimage last September... I just can't remember.



C-Grade Bear Brett Gordon is a workhorse on and off the field.

**Best Bears moment:** 2 Moments:

1. Gold Coast 2004....All the things I do remember like playing baseball the way it was meant to played, under the lights at Palm Meadow in a Major League Ball Park...and WINNING in the bottom of the 7th.

2. Coming together as a team in Summer 2003-2004 (winning the final 9 of 10 games).

**Favourite female celebrity:** Right now, Angelina Jolie.

**Dream Car:** No car, just cruising on a big fat Harley

**Biggest Regret:** No Regrets!



## Bears Family Grows By One

The North Sydney Bears congratulate Michael Hagarty and Angela Bourke on the birth of their first son, Baden James Hagarty. The wee bear cub came into the world at 8 lb 10 oz on Friday morning. Well done, Mate!

## In The Next Bear Pause:

Got some great pictures and stories about your Bears team? Put 'em in The 'Pause. Just drop us an email or give a call and we'll try to include them in the next issue. Please expect some editing to fit copy.

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# The Bear Pause

Special Supplement 4 Aug 2005

## **Please Be A Part Of A Bears "Try Baseball Day" Sunday 7 Aug Or 14 Aug At 9 am...Or Both!**

**Special Announcements by  
Michael Hagarty.**

As part of our commitment to developing baseball in our area we have taken on a Try Baseball Day for Juniors which will be held on Sunday August 7th and Sunday August 14th, between 9 am and noon at Flat Rock. As members of the seniors club we are asking you to come down and help run the

individual skill areas. In recognition for all players that come down on either day we are offering players a \$10 discount of the next seasons fees. Come down both weeks and we will knock off \$30. It is imperative to get as many of you to attend as possible as we expect to have approximately 80-100 kids in attendance. For those of you that are keen for a bit of game after,

please feel free to bring your gloves and we will get a game on. I would ask all players to be in uniform on the day. If you could get there at 8:30 am so we can delegate areas/skills to groups it would be greatly appreciated. If you intend coming could you please email me back your availability for these 2 dates so as we know who to expect.

## **AGM Date Set For Sunday, 7 August**

In other news, the AGM has been put down for the 17th of August in the Kamaraigal Room at Norths Leagues Club at 7:30pm. We would like as many of you

to attend as possible. For anyone interested in joining the executive committee there will be elections for the role of President, Vice President—Seniors,

Vice President—Juniors, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Secretary and 3 positions on the Social and Media Relations Committee. Please mark the date in your diaries.