



Williamstown Imperials Cricket Club

"Keep your eye on the Gold and the Blue"

Premierships

First XI

1934/35
1941/42
1944/45
1945/46
1947/48
1948/49
1949/50
1954/55
1958/59
1959/60
1960/61
1961/62
1962/63
1963/64
1964/65
1968/69
1972/73
1979/80
1990/91
1992/93
2016/17

Second XI

2009/10

Third XI

1984/85

Williamstown Imperials Cricket Club Newsletter Premiership souvenir edition

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Presidents Welcome: Mick Skinner

Welcome to the 2017/18 season – it may seem a little early to be saying that but with the first few weeks of training out of the way, Saturday October 7 will certainly roll around pretty quickly.

What a season last year was...a premiership flag, a runner up medal, a semi-final and our first ever junior side making the finals...all without a permanent home ground, mediocre training facilities, an injury plagued season and many other personal challenges along the way!

That is now in the past and the focus of the club must turn to 2017/18 and beyond. With that brings excitement as we move up a grade, relocate back to the Fearon and embrace new practice facilities, a new outfield and a new cricket table to play on.

I would like to thank the outgoing committee from last year and congratulate the committee appointed at our AGM back in early July. We welcome Pete Herrick as a new representative to the group, as we also see a few role changes with Brett Pearce joining the executive as secretary and Daniel Slattery taking a role on the junior committee and as the conduit between juniors and seniors. All other positions remain the same with Luke Hudson stepping down and Pete assuming this portfolio – thanks to Luke for his efforts over the years and contribution both to the committee and to the club, particularly from a social and events perspective.

There have also been a couple of new faces on the junior committee which is pleasing, with Daniel Slattery and Natalie Hammond joining Justin Horsburgh, Simon Hobbs, Creagh deBrabander and Anthony O'Keefe. The guys have already had a number of meetings with a strong plan and foundations well laid for the coming season.

Congratulations to Lee Elmore and Peter Herrick who have both been reappointed to the club in the Captain Coach and Assistant Coach role for not only this season, but have recently been extended into next season. When appointing Lee two years ago and Pete last year, it was not just about finding the best cricketers or the best leaders, it was about finding guys who understood what the Imps were about, would fit into our culture and hopefully look to make the Imps their long term home. I can certainly say that Lee and Pete tick all of those boxes and are a big reason why we won our first senior flag in 23 years last season.



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Lee and Pete have been very active throughout winter working their networks and speaking with some quality people about making their future home, the Imps and we have already seen a few new faces at the function at the Albert a few weeks ago and at pre-season training. Pete and Lee also continue to speak with a few others about joining the Imps. To that end it is great to welcome both Greg Doyle and Dean Auciello to the club from Altona North – the guys are not only solid cricketers but come across as great guys who already fit in very well at the Imps. We look forward to getting to know the boys better as the season progresses.

Moving back to the Fearon this year, with brand new training and cricket facilities, the right people in charge of both our senior and junior cricket programs, I am very confident where we sit as a club and I believe that last season's success is just the start of where we can take our club to. I look forward to catching up with you all over the coming months and wish everyone the best in their preparation (both on and off field) for the season ahead.

I would like to leave you with a quote which I believe epitomises what local cricket is about and why: ***"personally I love the game and the club where I play it sportsmen relish sitting in the rooms as night falls across an empty ground, sipping beer, exchanging yarns. It is their secret place and it has its own rituals."***

I look forward too many more yarns, drinks and of course success in 2017/18.

Michael Skinner
President WICC



Lee Elmore, Mick Skinner and Peter Herrick enjoying the celebrations after the club's first premiership in the firsts in 23 years.



Grand Final Stats that matter:



Seabrook CC
10/231 of 133.2
overs

L. Fossett 3/36
M. McCullagh 2/33
L. Hudson 2/38
B. Butcher 2/53

Williamstown
Imperials CC 8/232
off 110.3 overs

G. Robson 68
L. Hudson 33*
R. Gibbins 31
P. Herrick 30

Williamstown
Imperials won the
West A1 Grand
Final by 2 wickets.

Breaking the Premiership Drought

It was 23 years in the making, our club's first 1st XI flag since the 1992/93 season. Lee Elmore led his chargers into the final as favorites against Seabrook CC in the West A1 Grand Final who were playing in their first Grand Final in over 30 years. The Grand Final was played over four days at Saltwater Reserve in Point Cook.

Our boys went into the game full of confidence after beating one of the flag favorites in the Semi Final, Melton Centrals.

Seabrook's captain, Leigh Edwards won the toss and elected to bat. The day almost got off to the best start possible, if not for a drop catch in the very first over of the day. Our bowlers toiled hard in the 133.2 overs they had to bowl which meant that the Imps were in the field for a day and a half. Had it not been for many dropped chances, the Imps may have been batting a lot sooner. Luke Fossett was the pick of our bowlers taking 3/36 off his 29 overs, which included 21 maidens. Luke Hudson, Ben Butcher and Michael McCullagh taking two each. The bowlers restricted Seabrook to 231 off their 133.2 overs in the heat over a day and a half.

It was over to the batters to get the job done, and the Imps got off to a flyer. Peter Herrick and Daniel Slattery put on 48 before Herrick was dismissed for 30 before drinks in the third session of day two. At the close of play day two, the Imperials were in a fight being 4/100 with Glenn Robson and Lee Elmore at the crease. Partnerships were the key for day three, and the skipper (Elmore) and club legend (Robson) were up for the challenge heading into the days play. Elmore fell when the score was on 104, which brought Rob Gibbins to the crease fresh from hitting the winning runs in the Semi Final. He and Robson added 56 for the 7th wicket before Robson fell on 68 with the score at 160. Gibbins fell when the score was on 185 which brought Hudson and Butcher to the crease together. Still needing 62 runs to win, Hudson and Butcher built a partnership and etched towards the total. At stumps on day three, the Imps had only five runs to make to win first innings points. Hudson and Butcher strode to the crease on day four full of confidence, knowing that the Seabrook bowlers would throw everything at them. Butcher fell early and McCullagh joined Hudson. McCullagh decided that he didn't want this to be drawn out any longer and tried to hit one out of the park for a dot ball. The next over Hudson got a single bringing McCullagh on strike with one to tie and two to win, he smashed the ball through mid wicket to get back for a second run. The scenes were of joy and jubilation on the sidelines with Seabrook not wanting to play a second innings to try and reverse the result, which left the Imperials crowned Premiers for season 2016/17.

Luke Hudson went on to win player of the match with his 2 wickets and 33 not out to guide the side to victory.

Unfortunately, the 2nd XI were not able to come up trumps in their Grand Final Clash against Gellibrand. Gellibrand batted first with our key wicket takers Brett Pearce with 4/52 off his 22.2 overs, Shiven Nayyar with 3/50 off 17 overs and Ciaran Hayes 2/50 off his 20 overs. The Imps restricted Gellibrand to 195. The Imps batters were not able to get this score, only managing 125 with Pearce top scoring with 37 not out and was supported by Brenton Fletcher with 32.

This result will no doubt drive our players to further success in 2017/18. We would like to congratulate all players that took part in the 2nd XI finals campaign.

Our 3rd XI competed well all season to be bundled out in the Semi Final to West Newport in a heart breaking game for our boys. They were 7 runs short at the end of the days play in the One Day competition. Matt Jones was the pick of our bowlers with 2/45 off 7 overs whilst Stuart Richardson top scored with 48 and was supported by Paul O'Keefe with 44 and Lee Hayes with 34. We also congratulate our third XI players for their season and finals campaign.

Three senior sides in finals, one premiership, one runner up and a semi final game demonstrates the success the club witnessed this year. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in our year, our sponsors, our committee, our supporters and families. We look forward to preseason for next season. Go Imps!



Our Premiership Hero

It's mid-way through day three of the Grand Final, and we lose our 6th wicket at 160. We need another 62 runs to win our first flag in 23 years. The nerves of Luke Hudson must have been through the roof at this point, understanding the enormity of what lay ahead. What more, Hudson's season runs tally was 17 and he was coming off 2 ducks in a row. However there was a resolve about Hudson when he strutted to the crease. He is a man that puts club before self, others before self, and the Imps felt that he could steer the ship home with a partnership with great mate and brother in-law, Rob Gibbins.

Hudson admits he had a putrid season with the bat, however he was adamant that when the time for him to stand up in a big game, he would get it together and perform for his mates. Run rate, or score did not enter his mind whilst out at the crease, he just batted time, and believed that Seabrook would drop their heads quickly if a partnership grew.

This it did, and Gibbins and Hudson batted time to move the score onto 185 before Gibbins was out. Enter Ben Butcher. This was the partnership that was either going to sink Seabrook or give them confidence to take the last two wickets remaining had Hudson or Butcher gone.

Rewind a day and a bit, and it was Hudson that continued to lift the group on the field when Seabrook batted 133.2 overs in the heat. Hudson not only threw himself at everything in the field, but he bowled 16.2 overs with figures of 2/38, taking the last wicket of Seabrook's innings. His constant will to motivate other's, and chase balls to the fence, and then back up to bowl was inspiring to the team.

Hudson's innings was one of will, determination and mental toughness. He played in the moment, and this is what many players don't do. He was up for the challenge knowing that if he did the hard yards, he and his team would reap the ultimate rewards.

The partnership buried Seabrook, and at Stumps the pair had guided the Imps to within 5 runs of the win. Back the next morning, Hudson new he would have to start again and these would be the hardest 5 runs of his life, but he was there when Michael McCullagh hit the winning runs on 33 not out.

His efforts with bat, ball and in the field earned him Man of the Match honours, and took home two medals for his efforts. Hudson said he honestly didn't give it a thought (that he could be in contention of winning the medal for MOM) and expected Glen Robson would win it with his 68 runs. But winning it is the cherry on the cake to be honest, the medal you chase is the premiership medal that you share with the other 10 blokes on your team forever.

Future success is something that the club wants to promote and Hudson believes that if the group keeps pushing ahead with the values Lee Elmore is instilling in us, and we are honest with what we put in, we can continue to climb the grades and win flags. Congratulations to Luke on his Grand Final performance.

Luke Hudson Premiership Hero and Man of the Match



Nickname: Eyebrows, Two-Hump, Johnny Howard

Junior Cricket Club: Werribee CC

Favourite Junior moment: under 16A premiership against Laverton.

How would you like to be remembered when you retire: Committed team player with a drive for team success.

Who do you enjoy watching play in our team: I love watching Foss (Luke Fossett) bat

Childhood hero: TPH, Michael Long, Steve Waugh

Family members: Melissa, Indy, Frankie and there will be a third after print.

How would your wife describe you: Funniest bloke on earth, Amazingly good looking and best #8 ever.

Favourite Sporting hero: Rob Gibbins

Favourite Food: Sushi, Peanut Butter, Beer

Favourite Movie: Broke back mountain

What's your worst trait: Nose picker

How would you be described around the club: Laid back, vocal

One word to describe yourself: Committed

Most treasured possession: Family, its not a possession but it's the most important thing I have.



Luke Fossett Final Series Statistics 2016/17

Williamstown Imperials CC V Melton Centrals CC Semi Final

Overs: 22
Maidens: 7
Wickets: 3
Runs: 40

Williamstown Imperials CC V Seabrook CC

Overs: 29
Maidens: 21
Wickets: 3
Runs: 36

Finals Statistics:

Overs: 51
Maidens: 28
Wickets: 6
Runs: 76

Non-Finals Statistics

Overs: 114.3
Maidens: 34
Wickets: 18
Runs: 310

Old Foss, New Tricks



It's fair to say that Luke Fossett is a big game player. In his last three finals game's he has taken 12 wickets. He has taken some big wickets too, none other than Leigh Edwards from Seabrook in last year's Grand Final.

In last year's Semi Final, Fossett took wickets at vital moments when Melton Central's started to take the ascendancy throughout their innings.

He continued this form throughout the Grand Final. He had an uncanny knack of taking wickets when the Imps needed them most. During the Semi Final, he was able to take the wickets of set batsman through disciplined bowling and making them play. This was also the case in the Grand Final where he took the big scalp of Edwards, the leading runs scorer leading into the game. In both innings, he was able to bowl the Imperials back into a winning position just when the opposition started to take the game away from them.

His calm and relaxed approach, tied in with his fiery battles with opposition batsman make him the man for the moment. Not a quick bowler, but a smart bowler, who moves the ball, he allows the batsman to feel comfortable and then pounces when they start to relax. 12 wickets in three finals is an amazing effort and there will be plenty more to come if Fossett has his way. Fossett stated that, "his finals series was down to the confidence that Elmore had in him to get the job done. He said that as a bowling unit we had all done the job at different times during the year, so this gave us confidence to get the job done during the finals series."

Leading the Runs

107 runs at an average 53.50 was well below Peter Herrick's season average of 74.63,

however he led the runs in the finals series. He topped scored with 77 in the Semi Final against Melton Central's, where he led the run chase whilst he made 30 in the Grand Final. Herrick stated he was disappointed with his out in the Semi Final as he wanted to see it through, and felt he let the boys down in the Grand Final. "I felt underdone as I was coming back from a hamstring which kept me out for a month. There is no better feeling than winning the Semi and then Grand Final with 10 of your best mates." Herrick led the competition's runs tally for the season with 597 runs.



Question and Answer with Premierships Coach, Lee Elmore

Question: What were your objectives of Season 2016/17:

Lee: The objective was to be competitive, right a few wrongs from the year before and play finals cricket. I think everyone was disappointed with how the season had finished across all three grades in 2015/16, so there was definitely a feeling of we can do better.

Questions: What was the highlight of last season:

Lee: Without a doubt, winning the premierships. You could see how much it meant to everyone around the club. Also to see the seconds make the granny was fantastic, as well as the thirds getting into the semis. Just shows the depth within the club starting to build.

Talk us through your thoughts on the last Sunday of the Grand Final in the firsts:

Lee: I had a massive knot in my stomach from stressing about different scenarios that might play out, but I had all the confidence in the boys to see it through, which they did!

Question: Luke Hudson was a wall with the bat in the GF, did you expect so much resilience from him and the tail?

Lee: Yeah I did. We'd seen the year before that we were lucky enough to bat down to 11. No other side in our grade could say that. Butch and Huddo had a couple of decent partnerships batting 9 and 10 so I knew once they were in the that battle mode, it was going to take something special to get them out and the longer they batted and dug in, the more despondent Seabrook were.

Question: What are the areas that need to be worked on in season 2017/18:

Lee: Everything! We can't afford to waste time patting ourselves on the back about last year. Yes there will be times we can sit down with a beer and reflect how great it was (last year's success), but I hope everyone has a bit more of that hunger after tasting finals cricket to want to do it again and to go one better.

Question: Moving up a league, what are you wanting out of the group this season?

Lee: To show we're here to win. That last year wasn't a fluke and we went back

Question: What are the new recruits like?

Lee: Very handy cricketers, but also great club people. One thing that I have been mindful of is our club culture and not to compromise it. So we targeted players who not only play to win but enjoy the social elements of club cricket.



Premierships Coach Lee Elmore unfurling the 2016/17 flag after the Grand Final win against Seabrook.



Lee Elmore's 2016/17 statistics

Runs: 280
Average: 21.54
Highest Score: 80

Overs:
Runs:
Wickets: 33
Average: 9.88
Strike Rate:

Team of the Year 2016/17 West A1

Peter Herrick -
Williamstown Imperials
Dean Comensoli - Grand
United
Leigh Edwards (wk) -
Seabrook
Daniel Lewis-Williams -
Williamstown Colts
Andrew Cristofaro -
Melton Centrals
Glen Robson -
Williamstown Imperials
Lee Elmore (C) -
Williamstown Imperials
Adam Hulett - Melton
Centrals
Milorad Konjevic -
Grand United
Wayne Donaldson -
Grand United
Hassan Muhammad -
Williamstown Colts

Inspirational Leader Lee takes home Competition Medal

Captain Coach Lee Elmore has taken out the West A1 competition medal, voted the best player in the league. Elmore took out the prized award with 28 votes, one ahead of Seabrook captain Leigh Edwards. Elmore had a fine season, not only being the first Captain or Coach to bring home a First XI flag to the Fearon, but also being named Captain of the West A1 team of the Year side also.

Elmore throughout the season, had an ability to change a game when needed either with the bat or the ball. He made 280 runs at 21.54 with the bat, and 33 wickets at an impressive 9.88 average with the ball with best figures of 6/20 against County West.

Elmore struggled throughout the season with underlying injuries with his shoulder, but stood up when needed, bowling through the pain to put his side in winning positions. Elmore demonstrated time and time and again his leadership and experience through taking wickets at times of need. His best performance no doubt came against Williamstown Colts where he took 5/8 in 10 overs. He also showed his dominance on a flat track against Bellbridge early in the season taking 4/19 off 17 overs.

Elmore was joined in the team of the year by two other Williamstown Imperials players. Peter Herrick and Glen Robson. Both players finished in the top 10 for the competition medal also. Herrick finished the season with a tally of 597 runs at an average of 74.63 in 11 games with two hundreds to his name. Whilst Robson amassed 407 runs at an average with 45.22 with one hundred to his name. Robson also took 24 wickets at an average of 8.88 from his 115 overs bowled throughout the season.

Both undoubtedly had great years to support Elmore.

We would like to congratulate all three players on their year.





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Williamstown Imperials Award Winners from Season 2016/17



First XI Awards:

Batting Average:
Peter Herrick – 74.63

Bowling Average:
Glen Robson 8.88

Eddie Marr Medallist:
Peter Herrick

Second XI Awards:

Batting Average:
Rob Gibbins – 52.00

Bowling Average:
Brenton Fletcher –
17.65

**Kellett Family
Medallist:**
Brenton Fletcher

Third XI Awards:

Batting Average:
Gavan Flower – 66.33

Bowling Average:
Tristan Pearce – 17.05

Alan Bunnett Award:
Tristan Pearce

**Best Clubman
Award:**
Brett Pearce



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Preseason Camp - Torquay

The first Preseason Camp took place at Torquay with 11 of our players heading down to be challenged by our fitness coach, Gav Forrest. Some fitness work with team building activities saw the boys work really hard, with a bit of team bonding after the session. We hope that this can be the first of many of these camps moving forward.





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Meet our
new
recruits

Greg Doyle



Name: Greg Doyle
Nickname:
Batting Style: Average
Bowling Style: Right Arm quick!
Highest Score: 163
Preferred batting spot: Opening
Favourite Food: Lasagne
Favourite Beer: Carlton Draught
Most embarrassing moment on the cricket field: Lee can fill you in.. involved me falling for a sledge.
Funniest at the club: Deano
Your greatest fear: heights
What movie would you watch before a game: Scarface
Pre cricket meal: Subway
You are stranded on an island and can only have 3 items: a boat, petrol and a compass
3 people to invite for dinner: Pablo Escobar, Elon Musk and Warren Buffet.
Tell me one thing we should know about Dean Auciello?
 Dean is the most competitive person I have ever met.

I once saw him walk a young, wirey fella put of a night club and sent him home to change because he was wearing the same shirt as him.

Dean Auciello



Name: Dean James Auciello
Nickname: The Roo
Batting Style: Right Hand - Enthusiastic
Bowling Style: Left Hand - Eccentric
Best bowling: 6 / 40
Favourite Food: Pizza
Favourite Beer: Melb Bitter
Most embarrassing moment on the cricket field: Dropping a catch at First Slip and compound fracturing my thumb in the process
Funniest at the club: Leeroy Elmore always has a ridiculous story to tell
Your greatest fear: Moths and Mould
What movie would you watch before a game: Anything Tarantino
Pre cricket meal: Subway
Stranded on an island and can only have 3 items: Sunscreen, Zinc and Aloe Vera Gel
3 people to invite for dinner: Benny Butcher, Greg Doyle and Peter Herrick, I'd be more than happy to adjudicate the bout
One thing we should know about Greg Doyle: He is the most enthusiastic showerer in cricket
Favourite part of your trip to Europe: FC Barcelona vs Real Madrid at Camp Nou



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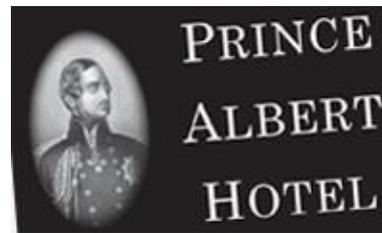
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Stags Head Hotel

