

EAST TORRENS BASEBALL CLUB

HISTORY

1950's



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1950

Three teams were entered in the S.A.B.L Competition, two in the Major League and one in the Minor League.

District A

Peter Roberts and Jim Jacks were elected Captain and Vice-Captain respectively. Although the team finished near the bottom of the list again this year it showed a marked improvement in its play over the previous year.

The best performances over the whole year were given by Jim Jacks and Peter Roberts batting, Graham Hole pitching and Bob O'Connell catching.

Graeme Hole was congratulated for gaining a place in the Australian Test Cricket Team.

District B

Keith Schultz was elected captain of this team. This team was nominated for Metro A but the S.A.B.L. saw fit to promote it to the District B. To the Club's surprise, this team acquitted themselves quite well by winning 6 games and losing a number by very narrow margins. The Outstanding juniors of the team were Jim Cannon and Ian Henderson.

Metro D (Minor League)

Bob Hall was elected Captain and this team was the most successful of the three and it was unfortunate not to finish in the final four.

Social Activities

Only a few engagements were undertaken during the year. Mr. & Mrs. A. C. Roberts were thanked for allowing the Club to use their home for a social evening which was enjoyed by all who attended.

A large party from the Club attended the Annual Baseball League Ball, and occupied the Club Box which was decorated by members of the Committee for this occasion.

At the end of the season a Baseball Picnic was held in conjunction with the Kensington Club on the Morphet Vale Oval. Two games were played and although the scores have been lost, the outing was thoroughly enjoyable and completely successful.

As a send-off to our members of the State Team the President entertained them and their team mates at a Smoke Social.

The Club's Committee meeting was in favour of accepting the Police Diamonds and shed for a home ground this season. The secretary was also instructed to advise the League that we could guarantee to clean the shed and keep it in good order. As the idea of an afternoon attendant created considerable difficulty it was suggested that, if the Match and Grounds Committee of the S.A.B.L. would arrange for one of our teams to be present at this ground every week, then the Police Commissioner might accept the Captain of this team as the required attendant. The secretary was advised to ask the League to continue negotiations with the Police on this line.

Grounds

Around 1950, training was carried out at the newly built Norwood Velodrome, for only one or two seasons.



Uniform

Much satisfaction was expressed by Committeemen with regard to the new Club shirts which were displayed at the April meeting. After lengthy discussion it was decided that the Club monogram was to be the same as last year i.e. E over T.

Treasurer

The Treasurer reported at the May meeting that there was a credit balance of £22 in the bank, with liabilities of £19. The Chairman stresses the need for raising more funds.

1951

For the first time since the war four teams were entered in the League Competition by this Club, they were in the following grades: Major League A and B; Minor League C and F.

Major League A

Peter Roberts and Graeme Hole were elected Captain and Vice Captain respectively.

The standard of play of this team was consistently better than that of the previous year, due particularly perhaps to team meetings held on Friday nights, which helped to develop team work, and tactics. Another contributing factor to the team's success was Graeme Hole's pitching ability. The team finished in seventh place.

The most consistent batters over the whole season were John Ceruto, Peter Roberts and Graeme Hole.

Major League B

Pat Laragy and Graham Aplin were elected Captain and Vice Captain respectively.

Unfortunately, this team was disappointing from the start and finished the season in second to bottom position.

Minor League C

Bob Hall was elected Captain and this team was quite successful finishing in sixth position.

Minor League D

Lloyd Tamblyn and Jim Cakebread were elected Captain and Vice Captain respectively. This team's performance over the season was exceptional. Lloyd and Jim were the only members of this team with any previous experience in baseball.

Late in the season they were lying in second place. Unfortunately due to a weakened team and an untimely breach of the permit rules by your own and several other Club Secretaries, this team missed out of the final four by one point.

Management Committee

This committee conducted the affairs of the Club including the organization of the following Social functions:

1. Baseball Picnic with Kensington Baseball Club at Morphett Vale.
2. Two raffles.
3. Picture evening at West Theatre.
4. A party of approx. 30 attended the Baseball Ball and occupied the Club Box.
5. Two Sunday games against the American Club.
6. Club Trip to Pt. Augusta with a game against Pt. Augusta.

The outstanding success of the weekend trip away ensured that it will become an annual event.

Junior Baseball

During the season Norwood and East Adelaide Schools were coached by Norm Greet and Bill Sampson.

Club Members

Fifty-two members were registered in the name of the Club, including twenty-five new members.

Special Mention

A sincere thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Peter Roberts in appreciation of the vast amount of work they did for this Club. Committee meetings and A grade team meetings as well as a very successful pre-ball party were held at their home.

From the Treasurer's Report

This years' operations resulted in a net loss of £14-8-6 which reduced the Bank Balance from £16-7-0 to the present £1-18-6. This was mainly due to the committee deciding to spend all available cash on equipment and uniforms to beat the anticipated increase in prices.

Constitution

Geoff Draper, Mr. F. Draper and Peter Roberts were elected as a sub-committee to redraft the Club Constitution and to submit it to the Executive Committee for approval

Jubilee Day March (50 years since Federation)



The Secretary informed the meeting that nine players wearing Club Uniform are required to march in the Jubilee Day Cavalcade.

Police Ground and Shed

The Club delegate to the S.A.B.L., Peter Roberts, was instructed to accept any offer from the League to take over the Police Ground and Shed.

1950 – 1960 - Training and games were played at Police South and Police East. The Clubrooms, a galvanized shed situated on Police South, was shared with a local Amateur League Football Club.



Annual Field Games

The following members were nominated to represent the Club at the S.A.B.L. Field Games:

1. Long throw. Geoff Draper and Ian Henderson.
2. Base running. Graeme Hole and Graham Fenwick.
3. Fungo hit. Peter Roberts and Bob O'Connell.

Raffle

Pat Laragy and Graham Fenwick offered to manage a raffle for the purpose of raising funds for the Club. The following articles were decided upon as prizes:

1. 1 ton of mallee roots (delivered)
2. 1 dozen bottles of beer
3. 2 bottles of champagne
4. 1 rooster
5. 50 cigarettes

The Committee hoped to raise 20 pounds. It was reported at the next meeting that this objective was achieved.

1952

As for last season four teams were again entered in the League Competition by this Club, and in the same grades.

Major League A

John Ceruto and Dave Roberts were elected Captain and Vice Captain respectively.

In 1952 the A Team had its most successful season since the war, winning eleven out of eighteen games and finishing equal fourth but sixth on percentage.

The best batting average was turned in by Bob Brock, whilst Bob O'Connell proved to be one of the most effective pitchers in the League during 1952.

Dave Roberts, transferring from Kensington brought honour to himself and his Club by gaining his third All Australian cap.

Major League B

Geoff Draper and Col. Jones were elected Captain and Vice Captain respectively. This team, with an average age of 22, was one of the most improved teams in B grade finishing in 5th position. Lyall Kempster was the leading hitter and with Jim Cannon did the bulk of the pitching. George Fenwick is to be congratulated on his selection in the State and Australian Schoolboys Teams.

Minor League C

Bob Hall was again elected Captain with Keith Woodcock elected as Vice Captain. They won fourteen of their eighteen games to finish in top place and after losing the Semi Final, went on to win the pennant. The number one battery of K. Schultz to Frank Woods worked well throughout the season with John Kavanagh being the outstanding batter.

Minor League F

Don Smoult and Malcolm Donaldson were elected Captain and Vice Captain respectively. This team was probably the youngest ever fielded by this Club, with the average age of only sixteen. They won nine of their fourteen games and after losing the Semi Final they finished in fourth position. Bob Rutter was judged as the most outstanding player on the team.

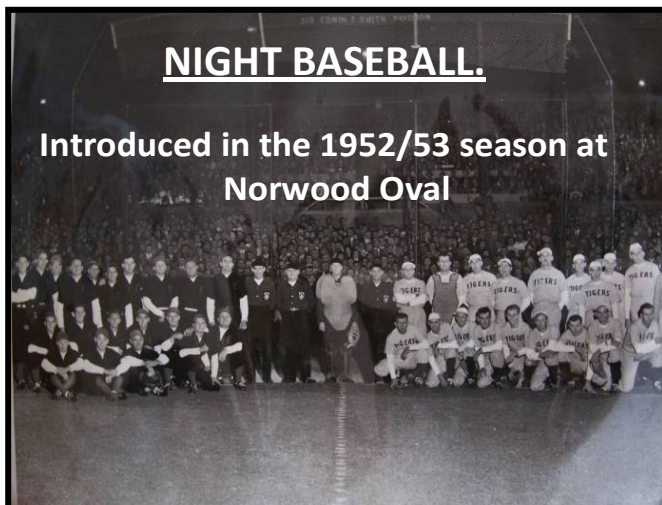
Management Committee

This committee conducted the affairs of the Club including the organization of the following Social functions:

1. Lecture and pastie supper at the home of Coach John Ceruto.
2. Two Socials held at the Glen Osmond Institute. (18 gallon keg of beer purchased and sold for 7 pence per glass. Soft drinks sold for 6 pence per bottle).
3. Two Picture Evenings held at the St. Peters Town Hall. The 1946 World Series was the film shown at one of the Picture Evenings.
4. Picnic and Sports Day at Belair.
5. Annual Club Windup Social.
6. Windup Social for Junior Members.
7. A party of 50 Club Members attended the Annual Baseball Ball.
8. Club Trip to Port Augusta.

Night Baseball

After the Second World War, perhaps South Australia's biggest contribution to baseball was the introduction of night baseball in the 1952/53 season at Norwood Oval. The concept was exciting, with the 10 (and 11 after Woodville gained District status in 1953), teams amalgamating to form a strong six team league that played two games each Wednesday night.



The standard of play was the best in the country, and put South Australia on the baseball map, as it dominated Interstate clashes in this era. Not only were the best available players participating with several Interstate stars coming over to play in this summer competition but it attracted media attention like never before, with first radio and then the newly developed television industry hopping on the bandwagon.

All good things must come to an end, and with the changeover from winter baseball to summer in 1968, the successful night competition which ran for 16 seasons, was superseded by the division one competition, and baseball was never quite the same since in South Australia.



Club Members

Forty-eight members were registered in the name of the Club.

Subscriptions

1. Seniors (over 18 1st Jan) 35 shillings.
2. Juniors 20 shillings.
3. Schoolboys Nil.

Weekly ball fees – Seniors 3/-; Juniors 2/-; schoolboys 1/-.

Club Ground

The first Club Practice is to be held on Sunday 16th March at Victoria Park Racecourse at 10am.

At the July meeting the Secretary was instructed to obtain any locations of any vacant parks in the Eastern Suburbs re finding new home grounds for the Club.

It was decided to apply for the use of the Police Grounds for the 1953 season.

Clearances

The Committee decided to grant clearances to five former Club Members to the newly formed Victoria Park Club following the return of all E.T.B.C. equipment.

Jubilee Sports Arena

The Committee decided to share, to the extent of £15 if necessary, the cost of hiring the Jubilee Sports Arena for the 1952 season.

First Base Mitts

It was decided that where necessary the Club would provide a first base mitt for any of the teams.

Club Badges

Pat Laragy was elected to be responsible for the sale of Club lapel badges at the following rates:

1. Playing Members 3/6 ea.
2. Non-playing Members 4/- ea.

Visit to Patron

The Secretary was instructed to arrange a visit to the home of the Club's Patron, Mr. J. Wauchope, who has been sick for some time.

Club Emblem

The Committee unanimously decided to adopt "The Red Demon" as the official Club emblem. Don Roach offered to have the necessary designs made.

Collection Tin

Bob O'Connell offered to make up a collection tin for use at the A grade games.

Railways (S.A.R.) Baseball Club

The Secretary was asked to write a letter thanking the S.A.R. Baseball Club for the use of their bases and plates for the Club's trip away last season.

Batting Cage

Bob O'Connell and Pat Laragy offered to build a galvanized pipe frame for a batting cage.

Picture Evenings

The Treasurer reported at the August Committee Meeting that Club funds was the highest they have been since the War, mainly due to the success of the two Picture Evenings.

Norwood Night Baseball Club

The Committee approved a loan of £10 to the Norwood Night Baseball Club, to be repaid before the start of the 1953 winter season. Approval was also given to the Norwood Night Baseball Club to use the Club's uniforms.

Night Baseball League South Australian Team



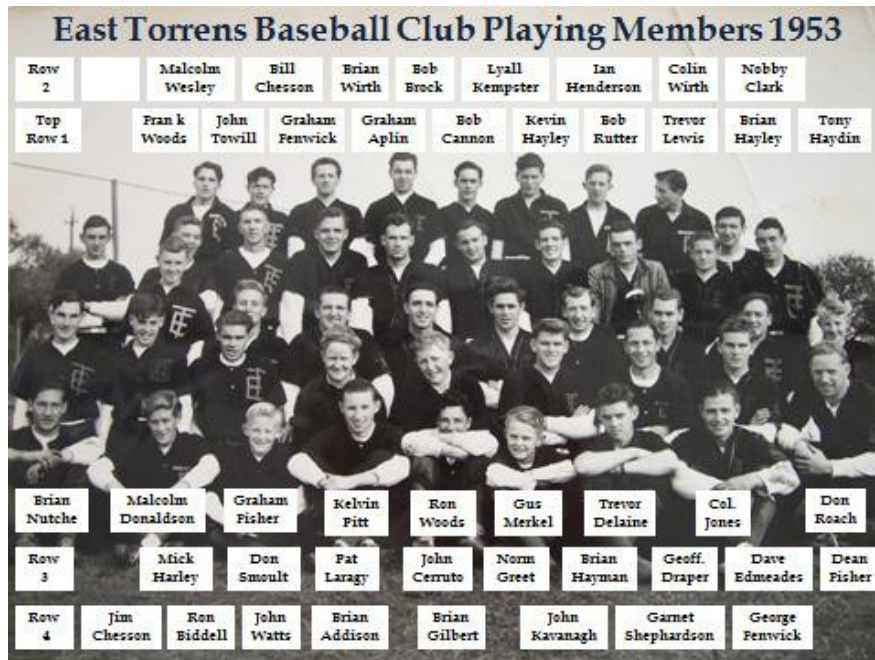
Played Victoria & NSW in Inaugural Season 1952-53

1953

At the recommendation of the 1952 Management Committee the following paragraph was adopted as rule 22 of the Club Constitution. "At the discretion of the Management Committee, members may buy their uniform from the Club or hire them yearly at a rental to be decided by the current Management Committee".

Junior Baseball

Gerry Roberts offered to arrange for junior coaches and umpires; to be available for duty on Saturday mornings.



Club Grounds

The Secretary was instructed to apply for the use of the Police Grounds and also the two new diamonds which are being graded in the Victoria Park Racecourse. Don Roach volunteered to organize the marking of diamonds on the Club grounds on Saturdays.

Minor F 1953



B. Nutche, K. Pitt, W. Chesson, M. Wesley.
 R. Woods, B. Hayman, T. Delaine.
 B. Gilbert, J. Merkel.

1954

Minor B



J. Chesson, T. Haydin, B. Hayley, Rutter
J. Towill, T. Lewis, N. Greet, G. Shepardson, F. Woods

1955

The membership of the Club has increased each year since the introduction of Night Baseball at Norwood Oval in November 1952. Sixty five players were registered with the Club to provide five teams.

Major League A

John Ceruto and Dave Roberts were elected Captain and Vice Captain respectively.

It was unfortunate not to have gone further than the preliminary final after finishing strongly in third position.

Major League B

After being in the top four for most of the season this team missed the finals on percentage.

Minor League B

This team was in second position in the early part of the season but fell to seventh position and therefore did not make the finals.

Ron Biddell was appointed captain with Mike Harley taking over later in the season.

Minor League C

This team finished in fifth position one point behind the fourth team and the Captain was Kevin Hayley.

Minor League D

This was a very young team and they did not win many games but showed much promise for the future.

Social Committee

This committee organized the following Social functions:

Two lecture and games evenings with pastie suppers.

Picnic at Nuriootpa Oval.

Windup and Presentation Evening.

Subscriptions.

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|---------------|----------|
| 1. Seniors | £6.10.0. |
| 2. Juniors | £5.0.0. |
| 3. Schoolboys | £1.10.0. |

No weekly ball fees or uniform levy were to be charged.

Club Ground

A letter from the Sturt Park Football Club requested that the Club use the outer fringes of the ground for Sunday practices as the playing surface was being dug up. The Committee expressed great dissatisfaction with the suggestion and it was resolved that the Chairman of the Club (Mr. W. Matthews) should clarify this Club's position with the Parks and Gardens Committee of the Adelaide City Corporation.

Annual Trip

It was decided to approach the Renmark Sub Branch of the R.S.L. enquiring about accommodation during the October Labour Day Holiday Weekend. It was also decided to investigate the possibility of a game under lights at Barmera. The Committee decided to invite the Port Adelaide Baseball Club to join us on the trip to Renmark.

1956

It was decided to nominate teams in the following grades:

Major A & B; Minor A, C & E; Junior Colts.

Major League A This team won seven games, lost twelve and drew one, finishing ninth.

Major League This team won nine games, lost nine and drew two, finishing seventh.

Minor League A This team won eight games, lost eight and drew one, finishing fifth.

Minor League C This team won nine games, lost nine, finishing seventh.

Minor League E This team won nine games, lost eight and drew one, finishing fourth.

Minor Colts This team won eight games, lost nine finishing sixth.

Uniforms

It was decided to recommend to the 1957 Annual General Meeting the following resolution:

"That all Club Uniforms to be made available for sale to members, and that from and including 1957 all players be required to purchase their own uniforms. Also the Club will purchase the uniform from any member when he leaves the Club. Preference shall be given to uniform holders to purchase the uniform they now have if required".

1957

The Secretary reported that the 1957 season was the most successful this Club has enjoyed since the war. Eighty players were registered by this Club, and six teams were entered in the Saturday afternoon's competition.

Major League A Graham Fenwick was the Coach with Dave Roberts elected as Vice Captain.
This team won seven games, lost twelve and drew one.

Major League B Frank Woods and Bob Rutter were elected Captain and Vice Captain respectively.
This team won eleven games, lost eight and drew one, finishing fifth.

Minor League A Bill Sampson was elected Captain and unfortunately they only won three games out of twenty two.

Minor League C Kelvin Pitt was elected captain of this side and although the Army (National Service) took some of the players during the season, this side performed quite well.

Minor League E Laurie Williams was in charge of this young team. Considering the older opposition they met, this team performed quite well and finished in fifth position.

Minor Colts Under the leadership of Graham Overall this team was the most successful team in the Club, finishing in Fourth position after losing the Semi Final.

Night Baseball

East Torrens players have contributed greatly to the present good position of the Norwood Redsox in the Night Baseball Competition.

Junior Baseball

A number of members were involved in umpiring and coaching the Primary School Teams. Rose Park, coached by Bob Edmeades won the Eastern Districts Primary School's Championship.

Home Ground

Thanks to Ron Woods for his efforts in marking out the diamonds on Saturday mornings, and to the men who put time into the new shed at the Police Grounds.

Grounds

The Secretary was instructed to write to the St. Peters Council re the use of the St. Peters Oval.

Social Committee

This committee organized the following Social functions: The Night for Grand Social.

A Barbecue Night at the home of Bob Edmeades. Graham Fenwick was instructed to purchase a race horse game and other forms of entertainment up to £2.

Windup Social at the Tranmere Bowling Club.

Clubrooms

It was estimated to cost £35 for timber and a concrete floor to make the shed on the corner of Hutt St. suitable to occupy. Club members worked on rebuilding the shed on Saturdays and Sundays when Major League teams did not play.

1958

This season has been even more successful than 1957 being able to record our first premiership since 1952 with the successful Colts Team.

Major League A Geoff Draper was the coach and this side finished in 5th place, winning 11, losing 8 and drawing 1 game. An indication of the team's strength is the fact that with the exception of Kensington, it beat all the teams which played in the finals and handed out to Port Adelaide, the premiers, the biggest drubbing of the season, 20 runs to 7.

Much credit must go to our young battery of Dean Fisher to Brian Gilbert.

Major League B Ian Henderson was elected Captain and this team was somewhat disappointing finishing 9th with winning 7, losing 11 and drawing 2 games.

Minor League B Frank Brennan was elected captain of this team which was successful in reaching the semi-finals and finished the season in 4th position.

Minor League C John Butterworth was elected captain of this team which finished in 7th position, winning only four of the eighteen games.

Minor League E Keith Hedger was elected captain of this team which finished in 6th position, only 3 points behind the fourth team.

Minor Colts Brian Hedger was elected captain and had an amazing season with a batting average of .543, pitching 4 no hit games and claiming 185 strikeouts.

This team finished Minor Premiers even though they played one less game than the second team. Their record at the end of the minor round was – won 15, lost 2, 238 runs for and 69 runs against. Although beaten in the semi-final, they avenged this defeat in the Grand Final in no uncertain manner, defeating Glenelg 19 runs to 0.

The team was as follows: Brian Hedger (pitcher), Ken Hall (catcher), Ron Kennealy (first base), Warren Weedon (2nd base), Rick Wheeler (3rd base), Alan Eldridge (short stop), Dennis Burke (left field), Bob Heath (centre field), and Alan Sands and Dean Hedger (right field).

Graham Fisher

A tragic blow struck the Club on May 24th when one of our most popular and promising players, Graham Fisher was killed whilst playing Minor B grade baseball. Our deepest sympathy goes to his family. Wreaths were sent to the funeral by the Club and many Club members. Several Club members acted as pallbearers.

The Management Committee decided to establish the Graham Fisher Memorial Trophy for presentation annually to the most outstanding player of the season.

Many donations were received which covered the cost of the trophy which is a magnificent rose bowl.



George Hayman Shield

Club President George Hayman donated a shield for annual competition within the Club for the most successful team based on games played and won.

On January 31st 1959 came the tragic news of the death of our highly esteemed President Mr. George Hayman. He was a wonderful friend and worker for this Club. Floral tributes were sent to his funeral by the Club and several Club members and four of the Management Committee acted as pallbearers.

Social Committee

Unfortunately, the only Social Function arranged was the Wind-up Social which was an excellent function.

Shed

Timber for seating as well as paint and rubber matting were purchased for the shed (Clubhouse).

1959

Without doubt this has been the most successful season this Club has ever had. Four of the six teams participating in the finals and the Minor Colts Team repeated their success of 1958 in again winning the premiership.

Major League A Dave Roberts was the playing coach of this team. After finishing third at the end of the minor round, this team convincingly defeated West Torrens and Goodwood but lost the Grand Final to Kensington to complete the season in second position.

Major League B Ian Henderson was elected Captain and this team which finished Minor Premiers, however were unlucky to lose the preliminary final and therefore finished the season in third position.

Minor League B Brian Wirth was elected captain of this team which finished Minor Premiers, however they lost both the semi final and preliminary final to finish the season in third position.

Minor League C This team was unfortunately nominated in a grade too high and were in most games outclassed.

Minor League E This team also was unfortunately nominated in a grade too high and were in most games outclassed.

Minor Colts

This team finished second in the Minor Round and after losing their semi-final they fought back to win firstly the Preliminary Final, then the Grand Final of the Eastern Division and then defeated Glenelg, winners of the Western Division in the Grand Final.

The team was as follows: Peter Keelan (pitcher), Barry Duhne (catcher), Ron Kennealy (first base and Captain), Allan Sands (2nd base), Doug Williams (3rd base), Dean Hedger (short stop), Robin Shore (left field), Peter Roberts Jnr. (centre field), and Colin Kennealy (right field).

Graham Fisher

This year the S.A.B.L. introduced the Graham Fisher Memorial Medal for the best and fairest player in the Minor League B grade competition. This was the grade that Graham was playing in when he was tragically killed.

It was most fitting that this award was won by an East Torrens player in its first year. Laurie Williams won it with 35 votes and he also won the Club's Graham Fisher Memorial Trophy.

Claxton Shield

Dave Roberts and Don Roach were members of the South Australian Team which won the Claxton Shield at the Australian Championships in Melbourne. This was Dave's eleventh successive carnival, which is an Australian record. He has announced his retirement from Interstate baseball which includes six Australian caps.

Soft Drinks

The President reported that a Coca Cola Cooler has been rented for use in the Club Shed for practices and match days.

Batting Cages

It was reported that the Norwood Redsox Club had given the Club use of their batting cages for the winter season.

Social Committee

This committee organized the following Social functions:

1. By the May meeting two raffles had raised £7 and a further 3 raffles are underway
2. Picture Evening at the Masonic Hall St. Peters
3. Cabaret at the Norwood R.S.L. – approx. £40 profit
4. Cabaret at the Burnside Masonic Hall
5. Sales of drinks at the Clubhouse were raising approx. 10/- per week
6. A Miniature Tattersalls Competition expecting to raise £116
7. Picnic at National Park

Meeting of Clubs

The secretary reported that Bruce Harris (Kensington Baseball Club) was contacting all secretaries with a view to arranging a meeting to discuss the possible replacement of the present S.A.B.L. "top brass". The meeting decided that the secretary should attend and report back on the intentions of the group.

Club Grounds

Correspondence from the S.A.B.L. re playing grounds and Club House on site of reclaimed land in St. Peters where the River Torrens is being straightened.

The St. Peters Council had a 3 year building plan for the area and would cost approx. £150,000 and was interested to know how much support they could expect from the Club. The Committee was prepared to contribute at least £100 per year towards this project commencing from 1960.

References