

Cricket Season Opens on October 14th

EIGHT "A," SIX "B" TEAMS IN YARRA VALLEY COMPETITION.

Yarra Valley Cricket Association delegates, at the annual meeting on Monday night, decided to commence the 1950-51 season on Saturday, October 14. The Association this season will consist of eight A Grade, and six B. Grade teams, affiliation fees for which have been raised from £1 to £3 per team. The idea of conducting one-day matches in the first round has been abolished this year in favor of a full program of two-day fixtures.

PRESIDENT RE-ELECTED.

The president, Mr. R. McGuire, welcomed a representative attendance of delegates at the outset, and voiced the hope that the ensuing season would be as successful, judged from all angles, as the 1949-50 season. Mr. McGuire was unanimously re-elected president, and in acknowledging his appointment, said he would do the best he could for the game.

Messrs. Lloyd (Gladysdale), Morrison (Woori Yallock), Matthews (Mt. Evelyn), D. Campbell (Wandin) and L. Buzza (Healesville) were elected vice-presidents.

SECRETARY'S SERVICES RECOGNISED.

Following the unanimous re-election of Mr. Bob Drummond as secretary and treasurer, Mr. E. Matthews (Mt. Evelyn) moved that a record of appreciation be placed in the Association's minutes, in acknowledgment of the secretary's services. Mr. Matthews said Bob had done a great job in administering the affairs of the Association since the war. The position of secretary was a thankless one, and very often a lot of good work was overlooked. The Association was deeply indebted to Bob, and certainly delegates were very fortunate to have so capable a man as he to carry on. Mr. Matthews' remarks were supported by Mr. McGuire, and the motion was carried by acclamation. Bob's response was brief and to the point. "Thank you, gentlemen," he said.

Other office-bearers elected were:— Auditor, Mr. D. Campbell; permit

committee, Messrs. Matthews, Campbell and Drummond; selection committee, Messrs. McGuire, Matthews and Drummond.

BOOSTING THE FINANCES.

When presenting the balance sheet which showed a credit balance of only £1/3/3, Mr. Drummond urged delegates to give consideration to ways and means of raising more money. Last season, he said, proceeds from the annual ball saved the Association from falling into debt, and this year the position was likely to re-occur unless steps were taken to meet increased costs of material, etc. Mr. Drummond mentioned the fact that cricket balls alone were listed at 16/- wholesale. In the 1949-50 final series, cricket balls cost the Association more than £11.

First step taken in support of Mr. Drummond's recommendation was a motion by Mr. R. Richards (Healesville R.S.L.) that affiliation fees be raised to £2 per team. This was carried unanimously.

The meeting also decided to introduce a registration fee of 1/- per player per club. The fee for any player must be lodged with the secretary not later than the Wednesday following the match in which he takes part. As a means of minimising expenditure it was also agreed that the Association issue a small booklet of rules and fixtures, in which advertisements would appear to cover cost of the printing. Each club was asked to obtain at least one advertisement at a cost of £1.

THE TEAMS.

The following clubs announced entry of one team in the A. Section:— Powelltown, Mt. Evelyn, Healesville, Healesville R.S.L., Gladysdale, Warburton, Wandin and Seville.

Cave Hill and Powelltown have dropped out of the B. Section, leaving six teams. They are Wandin East, Yarra Junction, Millgrove, Woori Yallock, Seville and Wandin.

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Arranging of the draw was left in the hands of the secretary. All games will be of two-days duration. All teams will meet in the first round, but in the second, A. teams will play only two 2-day matches, whilst in the B. division four 2-day engagements will be drawn. The season will close on April 7th, 1951. The decision to conduct all 2-day matches was reached after lengthy debate, in which a number of delegates spoke in favor of

one-day matches. Messrs. Matthews and McGuire contended that one-day contests last season had been a great success, particularly from the brighter cricket angle. The vote of the Association's vice-presidents decided the issue in favor of two-day meetings.

STANDARDISING OF PITCHES.

Another subject of lengthy debate was that of uniform pitches, a question which arose following notice of motion given by E. Adams, Yarra Junction, that the Association's ruling that all club's should have concrete wickets covered by malthoid before the commencement of 1950 season, be abolished in favor of concrete and matting wickets. Mr. Parkinson, of Gladysdale, maintained that malthoid pitches were subject to damage by cattle, which grazed on most grounds, and in addition, caused balls to wear out more quickly. "We get better cricket off matting—it helps the bowler more and is safer for batsmen," he added.

Delegates agreed generally that malthoid was just introduced in this Association because of difficulties in procuring matting. Messrs. Matthews and McGuire disagreed with Mr. Parkinson, each contending that well-laid malthoid pitches were more desirable than matting, which was just as dangerous as malthoid when wet. Mr. McGuire considered that malthoid was all in favor of the younger players

Seville delegates favored matting, Mr. Drummond adding that if all malthoid wickets were like Wandin's they could not be faulted. However, he added, Powelltown's was just the opposite — it was the worst wicket he had ever played on.

Messrs. Richards (H'ville, R.S.L.) and Parkinson asserted that the secret of success with malthoid was construction. They must be given a proper foundation.

A motion by Messrs. Adams (Yarra Junction) and E. Adams (Powell

Junction) and R. Adams (Powelltown) that concrete and matting be reverted to, was outvoted by an amendment from R. Richards and D. Campbell that every club endeavor to achieve a well-laid concrete wicket covered by malthoid by 1951-52 season.

NEW RULES.

Two new rules were added to the Association's constitution. The first, the provision of a new ball after 50 overs, or the scoring of 200 runs, in any match, was introduced by Mr. Matthews (Mt. Evelyn). The other new rule, which applies to 3-day matches only, prevents a side from following on if it is not more than 120 behind on the first innings.

In 2-day matches, a side which bats first and leads by 75 runs or more, will have the option of requiring the other team to follow on. An attempt to introduce a ruling that all batsmen who score less than 150 runs for the season, be not eligible for the Association's batting trophy, was defeated.

REGISTRATIONS.

All clubs will be required to forward to the secretary a complete list of players for registration. A fee of 1/- per player is to be charged. Defaulting clubs will be dealt with as the Association thinks fit.

The Association will again enter the Country Week this season. Inter-association matches will be arranged with Ringwood, Ferntree Gully and Mountain District Associations, the latter on a Saturday or a holiday.

All clubs are asked to install sand boxes at each end of the wicket to ensure easy and correct setting of stumps.

PUBLICITY.

An appeal was made to all clubs to co-operate with the local press by forwarding reports and results regularly and promptly. These should be received at the Express Office, Lilydale, before the TUESDAY following each Saturday's match.