

Junior President Report

The junior season was again delayed due to Covid 19 and this resulted in us having another season of one day games. Whilst this was not ideal, the clubs and our players embraced the move. We had another quality season of junior cricket with the numbers continuing to grow.

The former Yarra Valley Cricket Association teams have blended into our competition very smoothly. This has strengthened the competition but more importantly provided an opportunity for those clubs to grow. Our close working relationship with the BHRDCA ensures all our young players are being challenged every Saturday morning and playing games appropriate to their skill level.

The girls competition continues to grow we increased from 31 to 34 teams across 3 age groups and 5 divisions. It is fantastic to see girls now have a pathway into senior cricket via the senior girls competition. The stage 3 Mandy Dolman Shield saw an amazing Grand Final, with Templeton and Chirnside Park / Warranwood playing out a thrilling tie and sharing the premiership.

Overall there were 28 divisions of cricket playing for premierships and we had 18 different clubs win premierships. This is a fantastic result and shows how competitive our competition is. Norwood have worked incredibly hard over the last few seasons and they were very deserving winners of the Bill Stafford club championship trophy. Along with the club championship, they also collected 3 premierships. Congratulations to all the Vikings who helped their club win this award.

We are very lucky to have a hard working and enthusiastic junior committee who ensure we run a professional competition. Bill Stafford is our secretary but he fulfills many other roles and is always available to assist our clubs. Bill does all our fixturing and ground allocations early in the season. From there he focuses on the Representative Program and assembling coaches. Then it is trials and into the January carnival which so many of our young players enjoy

Doug Dowling looks after allocating our umpires and this is an area we are hoping to expand. Cam Darwall and Leah Parker are from the YVCA and provide us with a greater understanding of their clubs needs.

Jas Harrison continued to oversee the outstanding girls program. Growing to 34 teams is quite remarkable as in the ever increasing standard of play. Jas has so much passion for girls cricket and her enthusiasm is infectious.

The strength of the junior committee is having quality people from a range of junior clubs assisting and making good decisions. We thank Luke Henderson from South Croydon, Sean Meehan from Templeton and Steve Toohey from Warranwood who all provide wisdom, patience and their own vast array of experience to help the committee and our clubs.

The continued support of our major sponsor, Saxon Sports is invaluable. The ongoing support from Paul Attfield and Scott Brasher is much appreciated. Having access to their great indoor facility and the coaching they provide is so important for our young players.

We had 250 teams this summer – exactly the same as last season!!

Under 10	down 1	from 51 to 50
Under 12	down 3	from 71 to 78
Under 14	down 3	from 57 to 54
Under 16	up 4	from 40 to 44
Girls	up 3	from 31 to 34

These numbers are strong through a difficult couple of seasons due to Covid. We love working with our clubs to provide strong programs. Players being able to play in close and exciting games, where they all get the chance to contribute is a key to keeping these players involved in the sport as they transition to senior players.

I could not perform my role without the wonderful support I receive from my wife Maree. The summers are long but she is a great support and provides plenty of advice and a different perspective.

My final thank you is to our clubs and our young players. I love seeing young people enjoy the game and thrive in their club environments. We are producing loads of senior cricketers for the male and female senior teams which gives me a huge buzz.

Sean Flynn

Junior President