

Veterans Report 2016-2017

The Committee in season 2016/2017 comprised:

President	Daryl Stephens
Secretary	Liz McLelland
Treasurer and Representative on RDCA Board	Chris Allan,
Results and MyCricket Manager	Ian Leach
VOSCA (O'60's) Representative	Chris Hartrup

A disappointing outcome of the season was that the number of Over 40 teams has again reduced. In the 2014/15 season, 26 teams participated in this age group and two seasons later it is down to 17. This is compared to a decade ago when there were around 32 teams, spread over four divisions.

The Veterans' committee challenge before next season is to encourage clubs, who are wanting to grow, to consider recruiting more 40+ Y.O's, who only want to play 7-9 games per season, against their own age group, with their mates every second Sunday.

Focusing on growth from outside the club provides some experienced cricketers who may bring extra juniors and themselves fulfill coaching, committee and sponsor/supporter roles. That is one reason 4 clubs have multiple veteran teams and that is the advertorial for next season.

This season, four clubs who had competed in the BHRDCA 40's competition the previous season returned to the RDCA and because of grading issues, Ainslie Park, Croydon, Mooroolbark and Warranwood were scheduled to comprise the top division, playing each other twice. Unfortunately there were a couple of forfeits, due to lack of players. At the end of the season, Ainslie Park stood undefeated and was clearly the best team and they went on prove that by convincingly defeating Mooroolbark in their final.

Division 2 comprised eight competitive teams. Re- formed Wonga Park was undefeated during the season, but most of their games were closely contested. The same could be said for Croydon North, who were promoted from Division 3 the previous year and played plenty of close games but unfortunately for them, only achieved one win. Every round there were "upset results" in a division where players enjoyed the friendly rivalry and social interaction after the game. Mt Evelyn won the right to challenge Wonga in the final where Wonga posted 225 which proved too many for Mt Evelyn against the Wonga attack that managed to dismiss them in 26 overs.

Division 3 started out with six teams but the withdrawal of a team early in the season created a bye and thereby reduced the games available for the remaining five teams. Wonga Park 2 were undefeated and went into the final as favourite against South Croydon who, batting first, had 3 batsmen reach retirement and set up a good score of 189. Unfortunately for Wonga they did not establish any early partnerships due to some excellent bowling, with three bowlers taking 2 wickets each, leaving Wonga disappointed with their innings and South Croydon easy winners.

In the BHRDCA Over 50's competition, our 6 teams continued to perform very well, with four playing in finals. In Legends A, Wonga Park lost one game, spoiling the trifecta of their veteran's teams of being undefeated across the season. They met Koonung Heights in the final, they having beaten East

Ringwood in the semi with less than two overs to play. Wonga batted first but didn't complete their 36 overs in posting a sub-par score (for them) of 153. Although fortunes fluctuated during the innings, a great performance in the field saw them restrict their opponents to 9/146 to win the premiership.

In Legends C, North Ringwood topped the ladder and met Forest Hill, who had beaten Yarra Valley in their semi, in the grand final. North batted well to post 5/144 and Forest Hill were in the chase for a long time but was finally dismissed in the 32nd over for 125.

Coincidentally all Premiers batted first in their finals.

Inter competition games were played on December 11th with the Over 40's playing at Chirnside Park, the Over 50's at Reservoir and the Over 60's also at Chirnside Park. In the 40's and 50's, teams representing BHRDCA, FTGCA, NMCA (North Metro) and RDCA played a 24 over innings knockout competition, whilst the 60's played a 36 over a side match against Box Hill Reporter.

Tim Rule captained the Over 40's team that had players from 7 clubs (2xDiv1, 2x Div2 and 3xDiv3) and the Over 50's were captained by Phil Hickleton, with 5 clubs represented, whilst the Over 60's, playing their annual game, were captained by Robin Court with players drawn from the RDCA and the Ringwood and Mt Evelyn "VOSCA" groups.

RDCA Over 40's played FTG in the first round and in high standard close game, they managed to win when FTG just fell short in the last over of their run chase. RDCA then played BHRDCA in the final, where batting second and chasing 136 they comfortably reached 4/139 with 2 overs to spare.

Meanwhile, at Reservoir, RDCA played well to defeat BHRDCA in a very close opening game and so they progressed to play the NMCA home team in the final, who batted well for a score of 142. The RDCA got away to a great start, not losing a wicket until they had reached 70 and completed the chase in the 22nd over for the loss of only 4 wickets.

Back at Chirnside Park, in the Over 60's, BHRDCA had posted a reasonable score but the RDCA middle order were restricted by good bowling and at the end came up 20 runs short.

Despite conceding the Over 60's, the wins by the Over 40's and Over 50's saw the RDCA win back the Colonel's cup. This along with the trophies for both Over 40's and Over 50's tournaments was an excellent result for the RDCA and a credit to the players who participated. I extend special thanks to the captains of the 3 teams for organising their day.

In concluding this report, I wish to thank the members of the Veteran's Committee, especially Ian Leach for preparing the draws and monitoring MyCricket, Chris Allan as delegate to the Board of Management and Paul Williams for publishing the newsletter.

The Veteran's Committee is also appreciative of the support from the Board, all club delegates, team captains and managers and the Umpires Association, who all contributed to the enjoyment of Veteran's Cricket in 2016-17. Daryl Stephens RDCA Veterans

Daryl Stephens,

RDCA Veteran's President