



RDCA Inc. VETERANS CRICKET ASSOCIATION
2001/2002

ANNUAL REPORT 2001 / 2002

What a season it was, with weather being a major factor pre Christmas! Two rounds cancelled and other games not able to be played due to unplayable grounds!!!

Along with the appointment of Brian Gobbi to the role of President, **two major initiatives came from our August 2001 Annual General Meeting.**

- ❖ The first being the nomination and unanimous endorsement of Ken Johnston to fill the role of patron of the RDCA Veterans, previously held by the Late Bill Dean.
- ❖ The second initiative approved by Club Delegates was to expand the season to 9 rounds, in an endeavour to provide more cricket to all Veterans. To accommodate both the Masters and Legends competition, this meant starting early October and scheduling of games over traditional long weekend periods. The latter inconvenienced a number of clubs, with at least one forfeit.

The beginning of the season was a debacle due to inclement weather washing out the round or preventing a number of games from proceeding. Post Christmas necessitated the reorganisation of the draw to ensure in most Divisions, all teams got to play one another, at least once. The intention was to expand the season and have more cricket, but in the end the maximum number of games played by most teams was the same as previous seasons.

This season we saw our Association return to more of a locally based competition. This came about with the formation of the Diamond Valley Veterans Competition, with 10 teams. Representatives from the following Division 2 & 3 Clubs from last season – Lower Eltham, Research, Riversdale, Macleod were the key representatives in establishing a local based competition after a number of seasons in the RDCA.

We saw the return to the competition a side from South Croydon, however East Ringwood and Wantirna South failed to nominate sides. This brought the total of number of Clubs to 23, with 37 teams nominated across the Masters four Divisions and the Legends competition. 50% of the participating teams came from 11 Clubs - Four Clubs had three teams and another seven clubs had two sides.

The Legends competition continued to prove very successful for the second season, again with seven Clubs participating. The Clubs participating were Croydon/Croydon Ranges [composite], Mt. Evelyn, North Ringwood, South Warrandyte, Templeton, Warrandyte and Lower Eltham. It was great to see the continuation of many "Legends" players to playing Veterans cricket every weekend in both competitions, at times with a range of Legends Clubs. This enhanced the camaraderie amongst the Clubs and players overall.

The competition across all four Divisions continued to be very keen and even throughout the season, with many match results going down to the last over or two. Often the ladders did not project the evenness of the competition, as a number of Clubs failed on the points basis, however were often only beaten in the last over. Positions 3 and 4 in most divisions, were decided in the last round - percentages determining positions in the four in a number of Divisions. With the exception of "The Legends" competition, which did not have finals, the Semi-Finals were keenly played.



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Inter-Association Games: This year three away games were played by RDCA Veterans on the 3 February 2002. Two representative sides for 40s and 50s+ played games against Ferntree Gully District Veterans at Ferntree Gully. Another representative side journeyed to Doncaster East to Box Hill Reporter Association Veterans on a "soft / spicy" turf wicket. The hosts were successful in all three games, with two of these being very exciting finishes.

A big thank-you to Jim Dean, our chairman of selectors, for his efforts in successfully putting three sides together. The three that went on the park, bore no resemblance to the originally selected sides. I think it was version 4 or 5, with the sides being finalised on the Sunday morning of the game.

Congratulation to captains – 40s - Barry Jacquier [Croydon], 50s - Alan King [Warrandyte] and Ian Spencer [Croydon Ranges] and all players who represented the RDCA. Positive comment is always received on not only the spirit, but also the standard of cricket that is played in these games. I would like to congratulate the captains for their match summary at our Presentation night – most informative and entertaining, all be at very short notice!!!

I would like to publicly thank the host Clubs of Ferntree Gully and Doncaster East and their respective Associations for the games, facilities and after-match activity.

Veterans Presentation Night: Our Presentation Night was again held at the *Karralyka Centre – East Ringwood* in the week following the Grand Finals. A very popular evening was enjoyed by approximately 130 attendees.

MC - Daryl Stephens of Croydon Veterans, again did an excellent job.

The organising committee of Vair Gobbi, Marg Stafford and Graeme Seymour are to be congratulated on their excellent job again and continue to surpass previous years' memorable nights.

Our raffles at this night, has enabled us to improve our bank balance. This will allow us to continue our ongoing financial support of RDCA junior cricket development through sponsorship – this year with covering carnival uniforms, as well as to assist cricketers that represent our Veterans Association either at interstate or overseas carnivals.

RDCA Touring Veterans - "Ringwood Possums" - Veterans Carnival Cricket

Vancouver – Canada July 2002

Planning has been finalised with much interest, especially by wives, for this trip. The "Possums" touring party, at this stage, consisting of 24 [10 players & 14 partners / supporters]. As well as 4 games of cricket, touring modules have been developed for pre and post the cricket week. Activities include bus and rail travel through the Rockies Mountains, Ocean cruise from Vancouver to Alaska, plus stop-over at Hawaii on return flight home.



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Milestones – 100 Veteran Club Games.

With the competition now in its 14th season, we have our first player to achieve **100 veteran's Club game milestone**. Congratulations to our Association President – Brian Gobbi, for achieving this milestone.

There are a number of players who have achieved 90+ Veterans Club games, and will more than likely achieve this milestone in the 2002 – 2003 season.

Executive Committee Efforts: Finally it would be remiss of me not to thank our hardworking committee for their efforts and commitment throughout the year Brian Gobbi (Chairman), Bill Stafford (Treasurer), Jim Dean, Graeme Seymour, Allan Duffus, Ken Johnston and Jeff Luscombe.

Additionally many thanks to Marg Stafford and Vair Gobbi, our Social sub-committee experts, with assistance and guidance from Graeme Seymour.

The Executive continues to look forward with great anticipation, that veterans cricket continues to be played in a friendly and positive spirit, with the renewing of many old friendships.

Aspirations of the Veterans' Executive would be to receive nomination from RDCA clubs, currently not represented in the Veterans competition, for the coming season/s.

Mick Gavin
Secretary

RDCA Veterans Motto:
Strive to do our best, never give up,
and treat people with respect