

VETERANS REPORT 1997/98

The tenth season has been completed very successfully . Only one forfeit occurred from the 111 games played , and that was due to a mix up of grounds . Thanks to all the coordinators for meeting their commitment to the Veterans competition .

We have been free of unsociable conduct for ten years , unfortunately Bayswater Park Vets were involved in a dissappointing situation in their Grand Final , which we are assured will not occur again.

The 30 sides (an increase from 24) enjoyed wonderful weather all year and no games were lost from weather . We welcomed new clubs LowerEltham & Panton Hills this year and they fitted in very well . Previous clubs , Croydon North , Norwood and WongaPark all returned .

The Inter-association game is the highlight of the year and many new faces played this year . The results in both the over 40,s and over 50,s were good wins to RDCA . The games were played at Silcock ,and we thank Croydon Hockeyers for hosting the games ,at very short notice, when wet weather caused the Bayswater pitches to be unplayable . Captains Ian Spencer & AvianWilliams led two good sides with both teams playing to a very high standard . Thanks to Bill Stafford , Jeff Luscombe, Steve Pascoe and Alan Duffus for their efforts as managers and selectors.

We again had great sponsorship support from Daryl Stevens from Max Brown Real Estate Croydon ,and our new Division 4 Trophy now carries this name in recognition .We encourage all people to use his services when buying, selling or renting .

Veterans Dinner was at the Lilydale International . We had 200 people this year which was again terrific support from our cricketers, although dissappointly 8 clubs were not represented and over 20 people did not turn up which is a large cost to us if we do not recoup these entrance charges . Bill Dean and his committee were excellent . Thanks for their efforts.

It is this night and a bat raffle, again kindly donated by Callen Sports, that has allowed us to make a profit.. This profit will continue to financially support the core of cricket , (our junior cricketers) at every opportunity, and assist the cricketers that represent our Association either Interstate or Overseas.

Sixteen people represented us in South Africa ,at theGolden Oldies festival . Over 50 teams attended from all around the world. We thank these people for representing RDCA on their three week trip.

The competition standard continued to improve with all the best of the districts over 40's participating in our teams.

In Division 4 , our new division . North Ringwood , the underdogs managed to beat Ely Park at Ely Park , well done .They are the winner of the Max Brown trophy.

In Division 3 , we saw Wonga Park finish on top, undefeated , but lose to a very good team in Norwood. Both very good strong clubs returning to Vets , well done to both teams .

In Division 2, Bayswater Park won the Ken Johnston trophy from undefeated Warrandyte, which was a fine effort .

Our patrons trophy in Division 1 was won Croydon Hockeyers who finished on top . A high standard of cricket was played during the year which was generally dominated by bowlers , the reverse of the previous year . The final was the same, and it was an outstanding effort by Croydon Hockeyers to play in their 8th straight Grand Final and win their 6th Grand Final They defeated North Ringwood winners two years ago . It is hard to see why they are successfull , but this club also is one of the leading clubs socially,thanks to their ladies , and the writer believes firmly that if Veterans is played in a good social atmosphere it helps cricket .

Most clubs are now providing after match dinner which is very satisfying for players and their families, and meeting our aim to build friendships.

Whilst the year went very well , there are now many signs that we will need to look at our structure to ensure that we provide a facility that continues to be attractive to mature age cricketers. We also need to find "new blood", "new ideas" for the committee. This was written in last years report and is becoming more important each year. We will look at an Over 50's competition during the winter .

In summary, all the committee have to be thanked , narnely , Bill Dean , Ken Johnston, Bill & Marg Stafford ,Harry Sandford for his news letters, Michael Gavin , Graeme Seymour and David Stickle . We started presentations to all players that obtain a milestone of 50 games .We believe that eight years of veterans cricket deserves recognition for the support these cricketers have given veterans. We look forward to next year with hope of a further improving the competition played in a great spirit .

Our moto could be :

Strive to do our best , Never give up, and treat people with respect.

Brian Gobbi - Secretary

"OUT OF AFRICA"

Cricket in Capetown

A Ringwood District Cricket Association Veterans Team has recently returned from 22 days in Africa. The main purpose of their tour was to attend the World Golden Oldies (over 40) Cricket Festival in Capetown, South Africa from March 8th-15th.

Ken Johnston President of the R.D.C.A. Veterans, was Tour Manager and Steve Pascoe Captain of the Team.

The eight day Festival attracted entries from 69 participating teams representing the following countries:- South Africa, New Zealand, Bermuda, Botswana, Canada, England, USA, Zimbabwe, Argentina, Namibia and of course Australia and in particular Victoria which was represented by two teams. The other team being The Australian Cricket Society who had as a member Phillip Opas QC who is 81 years old. Phil played for Ringwood District by invitation in Game 3 at Hermanus.

All matches were played on excellent turf pitches which resulted in three very close and exciting finishes followed by wonderful hospitality from the hosts, Western Province, Wynberg and Hermanus Cricket Clubs. The match against Western Province was scheduled for the Newlands Stadium but overnight rain and a nervous curator (the Test at Newlands was the next week) transferred the game to their No.2 ground, Impala Park, which had excellent facilities and would compare with our District grounds. The after match festivities were at Newlands where team photos were taken on the oval and the Museum visited prior to partaking of their Braai (BBQ) The RDCA inscribed Boomerang was presented to the Chairman of the Western Province Cricket Club with a request that it be displayed in a prominent position in the Museum.

Both Impala Park and the Wynberg Public High School Ground had the famous Table Mountain backdrop while the third match was played at the picturesque seaside resort of Hermanus, 130 kms south east of Capetown. Also included in the Festival week were an impressive "Opening Ceremony and Marchpast" at Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens, a Picnic Day at the Spier Estate Winery and the Finale Dinner for 1000 people at the Capetown Civic Centre.

Spare time was used in visiting the Cape of Good Hope, sailing on Table Bay, visiting Robben Island or taking the Cable Car to the top of the mountain. Seven Ringwood players arranged a visit to the black settlement of Langa, where they presented cricket equipment to the Junior Teams coach. They visited the village homes as well and were made most welcome.

Prior to the Cricket Festival, the group (16 in total) visited Zimbabwe, home of the famous Victoria Falls (flown over by helicopter). They cruised the Zambezi River and stayed 3 days at Safari Lodge in the Hwange Game Park where many exciting hours were spent in **very, very** close company with lions & elephants. These as well as the graceful giraffes, kudus, zebras, antelopes and numerous other wildlife were photographed from an open safari vehicle.

The week after the festival was spent travelling the Garden Route from Capetown to Port Alfred via Wilderness and Port Elizabeth. They visited the Ostrich and Cheetah breeding farms, the Cango Caves, took spectacular photos of mountain passes and enjoyed the Eastern Cape beaches before finally arriving in Durban.

Durban is a 24hour city with a holiday atmosphere and a mix of Zulu, Indian and Western cultures. Their hotel was right on the Beachfront amongst the rickshaws and the craft markets. Their final venture was a day trip to Shakaland, a Zulu village created for the filming of "Shaka, King of the Zulus", where the history and culture of the Zulu people was explained and demonstrated.

They returned home exhausted but pleased at the success of "The Tour of a Lifetime".

The next Golden Oldies World Cricket Festival will be held at Rotorua New Zealand in March of the year 2000. There will be an Interstate Carnival at Albury/Wodonga from March 21st -27th 1999.

For further information on Veterans Cricket or the Tours contact the Secretary of the Ringwood District Cricket Association Veterans Competition Mr Brian Gobbi on telephone number 9723 3131.

RDCA VETS (THE POSSUMS) STH AFRICAN TOUR 1998

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