



VETERANS' COMPETITION REPORT

Season 1991/2 was another successful one for the Veterans' (over 40's) Competition. Two new teams, East Ringwood and South Croydon, brought the number of teams to 14, a large leap forward from our humble beginnings of four teams in 1988. With the probable entry of another four new teams for 1992/93 the Competition will probably need to become two divisions.

The Season started as usual at the end of October when the grounds had dried out and with the advantage of Daylight Savings. It concluded on the last Sunday in February with the Premiership and the "Bill Dean Shield" being won for the first time by Wonga Park who went through the season undefeated and were worthy winners. Last years Premiers Croydon Hockeyers were Runners Up having just made the Final with a percentage advantage of only .003 over the Croydon team.

During the course of the season a total of 255 players participated, an average of 18 per club. East Ringwood and North Ringwood topped the list with 22 each.

The Annual Inter-Association match against Ferntree Gully was played on the turf at Bayswater with the RDCA going down in an even game but promising revenge next year.

A new function this year was the Veterans' Dinner, held at Bramleigh Receptions in Croydon with a capacity crowd of 150. It was a most successful and enjoyable night thanks to the organisers Bill Dean and Brian Gobbi and the compering of Pat Arbuckle. Prizes were donated by Bowens Timber and Hardware.

1992 also saw the first Ringwood District International Touring Team when 17 players accompanied by 12 of the wives, plus the Association Patron Bill Dean attended the International Golden Oldies Festival in Christchurch, New Zealand. Eighty six teams from around the world, totalling well over 2,000 people, descended on Christchurch for the fifth bi-annual Cricket Carnival. The RDCA team acquitted itself admirably, winning all three of its matches and participating fully in the Festival activities. Our thanks go to County Sports who donated a full kit of cricket gear to the team prior to its departure.

In summarising the 1991/92 Veterans season, congratulations to Wonga Park as Premiers, congratulations to all players for the manner in which they played the matches, thanks to Bill Dean for his continued support and my thanks to all Club Co-ordinators for their co-operation during the season. The Competition continued to thrive and with so much enthusiastic support I feel the RDCA Veterans future is ensured. It has been my pleasure to be involved in the Competitions' establishment and wish it well.

KEN JOHNSTON
CHAIRMAN/SECRETARY