



# VETERANS COMPETITION REPORT

Season 2005/2006 saw the Veterans Competition (both Masters and Legends) continue with the same format as in prior seasons.

At the 2005 AGM, we saw the appointment of Daryl Stephens as Chairperson and the addition of Nat Young and Marg Stafford to the Executive Committee. Unfortunately, due to work commitments in New Zealand, Stuart Minetti retired after one year on the Committee.

Major changes for the season saw Heathmont return to the Box Hill Reporter Veterans Competition after a number of years with the RDCA, including several premierships in their journey from Division 4 to Division 1. Eley Park also decided to return to their home competition in the Box Hill Reporter League after several successful seasons with the RDCA. Due to lack of numbers, Croydon North was unable to field a side and this late occurrence forced the introduction of a bye in Division 2.

The Legends Competition saw Chirnside Park withdraw, but Croydon and Croydon Ranges fielded separate teams for the first time and we welcomed Research CC back to the RDCA allowing the competition to continue with 8 teams.

The Four Masters' Divisions and the Legend's Division were thus made up by the following teams in 2005/06:

Masters - Division 1	Masters - Division 2	Masters - Division 3	Masters - Division 4	Legends
Ainslie Park	Boronia	Ainslie Park	Bayswater Park	Ainslie Park
Croydon	Chirnside Park	Bayswater Park	Boronia	Croydon
Croydon Ranges	Lilydale	Montrose	North Ringwood	Croydon Ranges
North Ringwood	South Warrandyte	Mt Evelyn	Templeton	Mt Evelyn
Warranwood	Warrandyte	North Ringwood	Wantirna	North Ringwood
Wonga Park		South Croydon	Warranwood	Research
				South Warrandyte
				Warrandyte

The season commenced in fine sunny conditions on 16<sup>th</sup> October with the first round of the Master's Competition. The Legends followed suit on 23<sup>rd</sup> October. For one of the few times in recent seasons we got through the year without losing a round to washouts, however the Legend's were forced to cancel round 4 on January 22<sup>nd</sup> due to the forecast temperature being in excess of 40 degrees.

As in past seasons, all Divisions in the Masters' were keenly contested and final ladder positions, particularly positions 3, 4, 5 & 6 were not decided until the final round and came down to percentages in all Divisions.

The Master's semi finals were played on 26<sup>th</sup> February with the major surprise being Division 1, where the top side Warranwood was defeated by Ainslie Park (4<sup>th</sup>). In all other divisions, the top team after the preliminary rounds made it through to the Grand Finals.

**Masters Grand Final Results played 5<sup>th</sup> March 2006.**

**Division 1 – Bill Dean Trophy – played at Wonga Park Reserve**

**Wonga Park 3/163 defeated Ainslie Park 10/158**

**Division 2 - Ken Johnston Trophy – played at Tormore Reserve**

**Boronia 7/171 defeated South Warrandyte Hawks 10/149**

**Division 3 – played at Guy Turner Reserve**

**South Croydon 8/167 defeated Bayswater Park 9/163**

**Division 4 – Max Brown Trophy – played at Templeton Reserve**

**Wantirna 6/197 defeated Templeton 7/186**

At the conclusion of each Grand Final, pennants were presented to the winning teams with the actual trophy presentations being made on the night of the Annual Dinner

**Legends “Grand Finale” played 19th February 2006**

Although there are no “finals” for the Legends Competition, as in the previous year there was the Grand Finale play off between teams one and two for the title of Premier with the winner receiving the inaugural Brian Gobbi Trophy and a premiership pennant.

**Result Croydon 4/160 defeated Ainslie Park 6/157**

**Inter Association Games**

As in previous years, four inter association games were scheduled to be played this year against the Ferntree Gully Cricket Association and the Box Hill Reporter Association.

**Box Hill Reporter Cricket Association played 11th December 2005**

**Masters Played at Croydon Oval**

**Box Hill Reporter 9/144 defeated RDCA 10/142**

**Bowling           A Smith 3/18**

**Batting            D Goldsmith 40 retired, G Chamberlain 29**

## **Legends Played at Fred Geale Oval**

**Box Hill Reporter 4/149 defeated RDCA 4/144**

**Bowling        A Thatcher 2/16 (6 overs), A Wild 1/14 (5 overs)  
Batting        A Thatcher 40 retired, R Ruffles 41 retired**

## **Ferntree Gully Cricket Association scheduled to be played 26<sup>th</sup> January 2006**

**Unfortunately these games were cancelled due to the excessive heat forecast for the Australia Day holiday. Because of conflicting dates, we were unable to reschedule these matches**

**Congratulations should go to those players who gave up their time to represent the RDCA in these representative games. As usual, all players thoroughly enjoyed the honour of playing representative cricket for the RDCA.**

**Special thanks should also go to the Selectors (Ken Johnston, Jim Dean and Nat Young) and team coordinators for ensuring that the RDCA fielded competitive sides in both completed games. Thanks also to Ray Dean & Harry Sandford for their scoring contributions.**

## **Veterans Annual Dinner Night 8<sup>th</sup> March 2006**

**The Presentation Dinner night was held at Bramleigh Receptions. Approximately 110 attended this evening, which although up on the previous year's attendance numbers, was still disappointing from the Executive and the Social sub-committee's perspective. Unfortunately the lack of, or the very late response by Club Coordinators, puts a lot of unnecessary stress and work on the organising sub-committee.**

**The people who did attend had a great evening, not only catching up with their own Club members and partners, but also the friends they have made over the many years of Veterans competition.**

**Club's who chose not to attend have been billed by the Association for the cost of 2 tickets.**

**Many thanks to Marg Stafford for her organisation of the Annual Dinner Night, in conjunction with Carl Duncan.**

## **Golden Oldies Tour to Sri Lanka & India in April/May 2006**

**In April/May a party of some 30 RDCA Veterans players, wives and supporters, together with 11 members of the Australian Cricket Society undertook an arduous, but nevertheless enjoyable tour to India and Sri Lanka. The Golden Oldies tournament was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 23<sup>rd</sup> -30<sup>th</sup> April.**

**All matches were played in very trying conditions; however for the first time ever (excluding trips to New Zealand) the RDCA Veterans aka "the Possums" were successful in all 3 games played.**

**A special thank you goes to Bill Stafford for all the work he put into the organising tour, with special mentions to his wife Marg and also Marg Simkin**

## Executive Committee Efforts

Finally it would be remiss of me not to thank our hardworking committee for all their efforts and commitment throughout the year:

Darryl Stephens (President), Ken Johnston (Patron), Bill Stafford, Jim Dean, Michael Gavin, Carl Duncan, Nat Young, Marg Stafford and Don Simkin (who unfortunately had to retire during the year).

Particular thanks should also go to Jim Dean for the continued enormous effort made during this year and prior years in keeping the results & ladders up to date. 2005/06 was a vast improvement over the previous year as far as Clubs submitting the results on time and in a complete format. There is still room for improvement, but at least we are making headway.

The Veterans Executive continues to look forward with great anticipation that all Veterans cricket continues to be played in a friendly and positive spirit, with the renewing of many old friendships made in our previous cricketing lives.

Good luck to all Clubs and players for the forthcoming 2006/07 season.

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