

VETERANS COMPETITION REPORT 2013/14

The Committee in season 2013/14 comprised:

President	Daryl Stephens
Secretary	Liz McLelland
Treasurer and Representative on RDCA Board	Chris Allan
Registration, Results and MyCricket Manager	Ian Leach
VOSCA (O'60's) Representative	Chris Hartrup
Newsletter	Paul Williams
Committee Members	John Rees
Nick Papadopoulos	

In the past season there were some significant changes and improvements to our competition.

Due to a reduced number of teams in the RDCA Legends Competition (5), it was agreed with relative clubs that they enter those teams in the Box Hill Reporter Veterans (O. 50's) competition. This proved a successful initiative on all fronts with the Box Hill teams benefitting in having two divisions of eight and the added interest of playing against some new opponents. Our players similarly enjoyed the new challenge and at the end of season, three of these teams made the finals with Ainslie Park and Warrandyte going on to win the premiership in their respective divisions. Congratulations to both these teams and you may be assured that next season the Box Hill teams will be keen to knock you off.

Without the Legends, the RDCA Veterans reverted to its original over forties competition. There were 30 teams entered, with Divisions 1, 2 and 4 comprising eight teams and Division 3 having six teams.

These teams represented 18 RDCA clubs and Yarra Junction, Croydon and Mt Evelyn entered teams. Both Mooroolbark and Mt Evelyn entered second teams, Norwood returned to the competition and Heathmont Baptists entered for their first season.

Unfortunately North Ringwood (Div.1) and Templeton (Div.3) withdrew teams during the season, due to lack of numbers, causing a bye in both divisions. Despite this setback, each division was keenly contested and success was well shared when fourteen clubs qualified to fill the 16 finalist places.

In Division 1, there were changes at the top of the ladder with perennial grand finalists and premiers Wonga Park and Croydon not making it this time around. Most other teams had new younger players and it was a competitive finals series. Warranwood and Ainslie Park, who had been near the top of the ladder all season, played a quality final with Warranwood running out the winners.

Division 2 saw Mt Evelyn and Mooroolbark, which had both recently been promoted, join East Ringwood and a revitalised South Croydon in a closely contested finals series, with South winning the premiership and returning to the top division.

In Division 3, Olinda and Warrandyte joined previous finalists, Bayswater Park and Montrose, who after two very close semi wins went on to play the Grand Final, where Bayswater Park ran out winners in another close game.

New team Heathmont Baptists played in the Division 4 grand final in their first season. They defeated Wonga Park in their semi final and Croydon Ranges had beaten South Warrandyte to be their opponents. Both teams boasted quality opening attacks evidenced by them bowling out their opponents in the semis for 60 and 61. After good early partnerships, Heathmont struggled for runs late in the innings and, in reply, Ranges were able to comfortably run down the target to win the premiership.

During the season, RDCA played host to Box Hill in the inter association competition games for over 40's, 50's and 60's. Our 60's again won their game but this time Box Hill won the other two games and in doing so won "The Colonel's Cup" (The Ken Johnston Trophy).

On Australia Day RDCA Over 40's and 50's teams played against the Ferntree Gully Veterans, at Ferntree Gully, wherein both our teams had a win.

The Veterans committee appreciates the efforts of the players who represented our association in all of these matches, just as I know the players enjoy the honour of playing at this representative level.

Since there is no longer an annual presentation night, which used to provide the forum to acknowledge the various contributions made, I wish to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Committee who have successfully completed their duties to enable the smooth functioning of our competition. Most of their work goes unnoticed and their conscientious contributions are appreciated.

Likewise each club and team has people who make sure that everything is prepared for each game and their contribution to the success of "Vet's Cricket" is greatly appreciated.

In completing this report, I wish to acknowledge the Senior Executive of the RDCA, whose officers provide advice, assistance and support whenever it is sought.

I know that RDCA Veterans Cricket is in an excellent position, as it approaches its 27th season, to continue to offer the opportunity for those over forty years of age to play and enjoy the game they love.

Daryl Stephens
President
veterans@rdca.com

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