

VETERANS REPORT

The eighth season has now been completed and we managed to consolidate our position.

The executive can now confidently say that veterans is here to stay.

This is because all our teams and players have accepted and adhered to the principle that we are out there to enjoy ourselves and play and enjoy each others company. The executive thank all the co-ordinators and the captains for making it happen.

The 24 sides enjoyed wonderful weather all year, only our association game against Ferntree Gully Association was needed to be postponed.

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 went against us. Played at The Basin reserve, John Salvado's over 50's had a high scoring game but we fell short by approximately 20 runs. Ian Spencer's 40's lost in the last over which ensured a good game. The results are 5/6 against Ferntree Gully therefore next year we will be out to get in front. Thanks to Bill Stafford, Jeff Luscombe and Alan Duffus for their efforts as managers.

We again had great sponsorship support from Daryl Stevens from Max Brown Real Estate and Bowens Timber in Croydon. We encourage all people to use their services.

Another highlight of the year was our Veterans Dinner at the Bird and Bottle. We had 260 people to enjoy Pat Arbuckles repertoire and a comedy act that everyone enjoyed. Bill Dean and Alan Duffus worked very hard to make it an excellent night. Thanks for their efforts is a must. It is comforting that this night continues to get our players and their wives support.

It is this night and a bat raffle, again kindly donated by Callen Sports that has allowed us to make a profit. We have then been able to assist junior competition with caps for all players in their Inter-Association games. We will continue to financially support the core of cricket (our junior cricketers) at every opportunity.

The competition was again good and strong with no ill will between teams.

In Division 3 we saw Eastfield go through the year undefeated and deservedly win a tight Grand Final against neighbours, South Croydon.

In Division 2, Parkwood won the Ken Johnston trophy from South Warrandyte. They finished on top and deserved to win their first Veterans flag.

Our patrons trophy in Division 1 was again won by the top team, North Ringwood. They defeated perennial grand finalists, Croydon Hockeyers who were competing in their sixth straight final. Congratulations go out to the North Ringwood club who set themselves a goal and achieved their aim to win the Bill Dean Trophy.

VETERANS REPORT cont.

The most enjoyable feature of the year was the increased numbers of clubs that have realised that the provision of food and drink for all players and their families after the game is helping to build up friendships and increase the enjoyment. This ensures that in the coming years we can look forward to playing again with those sides. Keep up the good work and hopefully all clubs will take notice.

Whilst the year went very well, there are some 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" and "new ideas" for the committee.

In summary, all the committee have been mentioned above, but further thanks are passed on, as their efforts allow us the enjoyment of this competition. We look forward to next year with hope of a further improved competition played in great spirit.

Brian Gobbi
Secretary