

VETERAN'S REPORT

The 1994/95 and Seventh season of Veterans cricket proved to be our best.

The executive set out this year to provide a forum for many families to enjoy the game of cricket without undue aggression and for a short time, to forget the every day stresses. The feed back received indicates we achieved this goal.

We had 26 teams this year with over 440 people playing. Two new sides Mooroolbark and Boronia were welcomed.

Great support of the concept was demonstrated with a record number of 230 people attending our Veterans dinner in February, and having a wonderful time with generous donations from Max Brown Real estate, Bowens Timber, Callen Sports, Top Line Sports and Our & Out Hair Care of Arndale. We had to turn clubs away which will need to be rectified next year. This night is successful, mainly to the MC, Pat Arbuckle of Croydon North who relaxes every one with his wit and demeanour. Thanks Pat.

Our Inter-Association games against Ferntree Gully were again a success, and we thank Norwood for hosting both these games. The Over 50's game was tense and exciting and while Pat Arbuckle's team lost in the last over, every one enjoyed it. Jeff Luscombe as Team Manager must be thanked. In the over 40's Ross Macauley led an extremely talented team to a comfortable win to retain the Trophy. Bill Stafford as Team Manager and arranger of the games worked hard with great results.

Since the last Annual Report, we sent a team of cricketers and their wives to Birmingham, England to compete against and associate with 90 other sides from all around the world. Ted Griffett must be thanked, and all that went would agree with that. We hope many others can take advantage of these trips in the years to come.

In our last report we made the point about the need for veterans to provide the ultimate in sportsmanship as an example to our young people.

The prime aim was to arrest the slide of potential cricketers to other sports. I can report that we achieved the sportsmanship requirement, for which the executive are very grateful. In turn the amount of families and supporters from the clubs is increasing at our games and this can only go well to achieve the second part of the objective.

As an added push to achieve this result we have decided that we will assist our Junior Administration with sponsorships in the future. This is a sensible approach to take, as many veteran cricketers are in fact heavily involved in junior cricket.

On the playing field we had two undefeated teams contest Division 3 Trophy, with Bayswater Park overcoming Montrose in a high scoring game.

Both had excellent years. The Division 2, Ken Johnston Trophy, was played by two high profile teams, Warrandyte & Croydon North. While Warrandyte started favourite Croydon North won with both sides making 200+. The Division 1, Bill Dean Shield, was won for the 4th time by Croydon Hockeyers against last seasons Division 2 premiers, South Warrandyte. On the turf at Croydon oval, Hockeyers experience and depth won the day by only 10 runs. It is an excellent effort by Hockeyers to have played in 5 Grand final in a row, and against a different side each year. This record will be hard to beat in future, especially with the high quality players that are now playing Veterans cricket in the various sides.

It was in this match that true sportsmanship was demonstrated. Hockeyers had suffered a series of injuries to key players prior to the game which left them with only 10 eligible players, South Warrandyte allowed them to play an unqualified player. During the match South Warrandyte suffered an injury and Hockeyers allowed the 12th man to bat. A lot of credit must go to these two teams for allowing the veterans ideals to come to the fore.

Special thanks to all the committee, especially Jeff Luscombe, for their work over the year.

In summary we can look forward to further gains for cricket from this style of cricket. Provided we can retain the prevailing positive attitude of all participating cricketers and future committee members, next season is eagerly awaited.

Brian Gobbi
Secretary