



RDCA Inc. VETERANS CRICKET ASSOCIATION

Season 2004/2005 saw a number of changes to the Veterans Cricket format, particularly in the Legends (over 50's) Competition.

At the 2004 AGM we saw the retirement of some long serving executive members, in particular Brian Gobbi, Alan Duffus and Jeff Luscombe. Special thanks must go to these people for their unstinting service to the Veterans' cricket concept over the previous 16 years. With these retirements came some new appointments and we welcomed Daryl Stephens, Stuart Minetti and Don Simkin to the Executive Committee

Major changes for the season saw the Masters Competition expand back to 4 Divisions with the return to the competition of Wonga Park, after a number of years in recess. In addition to Wonga Park's return, the number of teams entered in the Masters Competition increased to 28. This forced a re-jig of the competition resulting in the expansion back to 4 divisions.

The Legends Competition continued with seven teams on alternate weeks. Although Templeton withdrew from the Competition, Chirnside Park fielded a side for the first time leaving the team numbers the same as 2004.

Changes to the Legend's Competition saw the introduction of a "Grand Finale" round at the conclusion of the season where all teams played another round depending on ladder position, (1 v 2, 3 v 4, 5 v 6). The game between teams 1 & 2 was played for a pennant, thus introducing "finals" into the Legend's Competition for the first time. In addition to the Grand Finale round, the Legends introduced a modified 20/20 format whereby 2 rounds were played on the same day on December 12th. This was necessary to allow the competition to provide 7 games of cricket for the Legends, which was the desired format agreed to at the AGM.

The Four Masters' Divisions and the Legend's Division were as follows:

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



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The season commenced in glorious weather on 17th October with the first round of the Legend's Competition. The Masters followed on 24th October and then the weather conspired against us to wash out round 2 for both the Masters and Legends. After that the remainder of the season was played out with no weather interruptions.

As in past seasons, all Divisions in the Masters' were keenly contested and ladder positions, particularly positions 3, 4, 5 & 6 were not decided until the final round and came down to percentages in Divisions 2 and 4.

The Master's semi finals were played on 20th February with the major surprise being Division 1, where the 2 top sides were beaten in their respective semi's and teams 3 & 4 went through to the Grand Final. In all other divisions, teams 1 & 2 made it through to the Grand Finals.

Masters Grand Final Results played 27th February 2005.

Division 1 – Bill Dean Trophy – played at Quambee Reserve No.1
Warranwood 7/148 defeated Ainslie Park 10/147

Division 2 – Ken Johnston Trophy – played at Wonga Park
Wonga Park 8/191 defeated South Warrandyte Hawks 10/143. Wonga Park went through the season undefeated – a terrific effort in their first year back in the Competition.

Division 3 – played at Warrandyte
Warrandyte 5/128 defeated North Ringwood 5/126

Division 4 – Max Brown Trophy – played at Quambee Reserve No. 2
Ainslie Park 5/179 defeated Warranwood 8/174

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 20th February 2005

Although there are no finals for the Legends Competition it was agreed that the Grand Finale play off between teams one and two would be for the title of Premier and the winner would be awarded a premiership pennant.

Result **Mt Evelyn** 5/156 defeated South Warrandyte Hawks 10/105



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Inter association Games

Four inter association games were played this year against the Ferntree Gully Cricket Association and the Box Hill Reporter Association.

Box Hill Reporter Cricket Association played 19th December 2004

Masters Played at Surrey Park: **RDCA** 4/79 defeated BHRDC 10/78
Bowling M Algie 3/16, N Foden 3/5 Batting N Mitchell 40 retired

Legends Played at Mont Albert Reserve: **BHRDC** 5/139 defeated RDCA 6/137
Bowling N Young 1/10 (6 overs), R Hedrick 1/17 (6 overs)
Batting P Rogers 40 retired

Ferntree Gully Cricket Association played 26th January 2005

Masters Played at Bayswater: **RDCA** 9/139 tied with Ferntree Gully 6/139.
Bowling B Williams 1/11, M Algie 0/15 (six Overs)
Batting K Hudson 29, N Foden 29, C Farrington 27 not out

This was a particularly exciting game with the RDCA requiring a six off the last ball to win and Chris Farrington's shot falling only six inches short of the boundary to force a tie

Legends Played at Bayswater: **RDCA** 4/198 defeated Ferntree Gully 7/120
Bowling R Hedrick 2/11, G Seymour 2/8
Batting A Thatcher 40 retired, S Pascoe 42 retired, S Goodman 37

Congratulations should go to those players who gave up their time, particularly the Australia Day weekend, to represent the RDCA in these representative games. I know from first hand experience that 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 Wayne McCrimmon) and team coordinators for ensuring that the RDCA fielded competitive sides in all games. Thanks also to Ray Dean & Harry Sandford for their scoring contributions.

Veterans Annual Dinner Night

The Presentation Dinner night was held at Bramleigh Receptions. Approximately 90 attended this evening, which was very disappointing from the Executive and the Social sub-committee's perspective. Unfortunately the lack of, or 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. Those Club's that did not attend were billed by the Association for the cost of 2 tickets per Club.



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Player Milestones – RDCA Veterans 100 Game Club.

The 100 Games Club increased from 12 to 16 with a further 4 players playing their 100th Veteran's game throughout the season. The following players were presented with a certificate on reaching this milestone at the Annual Dinner:

Gary Walles
Carl Duncan

Ainslie Park
Mt Evelyn

Keith Houghton
Peter Hawkey

Warranwood
Mt Evelyn

In addition to the 100 Club, more players reached their 50 game milestone and Certificates for this achievement were issued to 4 players from a range of Clubs at the Annual Dinner.

Golden Oldies Tour to Sri Lanka & India in April 2006

The Executive has committed the RDCA Veterans (aka "The Ringwood Possums") to entering a touring team in next year's Golden Oldies Festival to be held in Sri Lanka from 23 – 30 April 2006. At this stage we have a preliminary touring party of approx 26 people.

It is not too late to participate. If anyone is interested please contact Bill Stafford.

Executive Committee Efforts

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

Ken Johnston (Patron & Chairman), Bill Stafford, Jim Dean, Michael Gavin, Carl Duncan, Daryl Stephens, Stuart Minetti and Don Simkin.

Particular thanks should go to Jim Dean for the enormous effort made during the year in trying to keep the results & ladders up to date. The one area of concern to the Executive is the failure of many clubs to uphold their responsibility in submitting team sheets & results after completion of each round. This causes untold trouble in trying to determine the ladders, look at player form when selecting inter-association sides, updating player milestone games (50 games etc), and checking player eligibility for finals.

Perhaps we will have to look at a penalty of some description for Clubs that habitually fail to lodge results.

Additionally many thanks to Marg Stafford for her continued input into the Social sub-committee and for her organisation of the Annual Dinner Night in conjunction with Carl Duncan.

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.

As stated in last year's report one of the aspirations of the Veterans' Executive is to receive a Veterans team nomination from every RDCA affiliated club. We are not quite there yet but are gradually making inroads

Graeme Seymour
Secretary

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