

Veterans Cricket ACT

2016/17

Annual Report

Over 60s Cricket:

Over 60s cricket in the ACT and surrounding regions has continued to grow with the ACT Galaxies now playing regular home and away matches against Bega, Eurobodalla, Southern Highlands and Port Jackson. Given that the ACT is a relatively small jurisdiction, regular games against opposition from surrounding regions is a must as it provides us with a great way to recruit good quality players from those regions to play with ACT teams at the National Championships. Obviously to compete with the large States such as Victoria, NSW and Queensland, it is very important that the ACT remain competitive by continuing to foster over 60s cricket in the surrounding areas and to recruit players from outside the ACT. In addition negotiations are currently underway to play regular matches against teams from the Albury/Wodonga area.

In November 2016 the ACT competed at the 11th National Over 60 Cricket Championships in Perth. The Division 1 team, captained by Murray Harrison, performed reasonably well but eventually finished 5th which was a little disappointing. The Division 2 team unfortunately did not perform well and perhaps should have been in a lower Division. Following the Championships, Veterans Cricket Australia, announced the Australian Team to tour the UK in July 2017 to play matches against County Over 60's teams and a series of International ODI's against Scotland, Wales and England. Three ACT players, Murray Harrison, John Dedman and Asoka Wijeratne, were selected in the Australian Team. Murray Harrison was appointed Australian Captain.

In April 2017, a team of ACT over 60s cricketers returned to Echuca to defend their title which they won at the 2016 inaugural Echuca Cricket Carnival. Unfortunately this was not to be as they were defeated by the strong Essendon team in the final.

With the 12th National Over 60s Championships to be held in Canberra in November 2017, the Championship Organizing Committee has been hard at work since January in organizing the Championships. A total of 32 teams from all States and Territories and NZ will converge on Canberra for a week of very competitive cricket. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Cameron French, Cricket ACT and all Grade Clubs for the support that has been given to Veterans Cricket in the ACT to ensure that we put on a well organised Championship.

Over 50s Cricket:

This season saw the return of the Over 50s Veterans Cricket Competition with 6 teams contesting for the Ron Axelby Shield. The competition had teams from Eastlake, North Canberra Gungahlin, Queanbeyan and Weston Creek Molonglo (who unfortunately had to withdraw after the competition commenced) as well as a team from Goulburn and a local ACT team from the Sri Lankan community (Canberra Masters).

The competition was keenly contested and there were a number of good individual performances as well as quite a few close matches. However Northies were too strong and went through to win the shield undefeated.

This season also saw the inaugural Over 50s National Championships which were played in Sydney and while the ACT were unable to field a team, a number of local players participated.

Out of this championship a squad was selected to form the first Australian Over 50 team to tour the UK. The tour consisted of 16 matches against County teams and 3 ODIs (1 against Wales and 2 against England teams). Initially Stephen Moore and Michael Frost were selected to be part of the squad, however Michael had to withdraw due to work and then Gordon McGurk was selected to replace him.

At the time of writing this report, the Aussies had won 7 from 11 county matches (with one being washed out) and in the ODIs narrowly lost against Wales (6 off the last ball of the match) and a losses in the both ODIs against England.