

Veterans Cricket ACT

2018/19

Annual Report

Over 50s

After a very successful 2017/18 season, it was disappointing that both the Canberra Masters and Goulburn Tigers decided not to field teams. However thanks to the work of Dave Fredericks, a good number of players were recruited from a number of sources, including the Over 60s group. This group of players then became the second Queanbeyan team and played under the name of the Silver Foxes. So the season began with 5 teams, being - Eastlake Demons, Northern Blue Eagles, Northern Gold Eagles, Queanbeyan Silver Foxes and Queanbeyan Greybaggers. Fortunately the Canberra Masters was able to muster a few more players and joined the competition after the Christmas break.

This year the Demons recruited a number of quality players and became very competitive and gave Gold Eagles a run for its money. However, in the end the Gold Eagles showed class and finished Premiers retaining the Ron Axelby Shield. To add to this, Gold Eagles player, Paul Ayers, had a great season with the bat and was awarded player of the year which kept the Ron Bates Shield at the North Canberra Gungahlin club rooms for another year.

Best batting performances – Paul Ayers (386 @ 96.5 hs 112 no), Andrew Minns (303 @ 101 hs 57 no), Steve Taylor (289 @ 144.50 hs 43 no), Dave Rebus (204 @ 68 hs 41 no).

Best bowling performances – Joe Gunning (13 @ 6.38 bb 4/29), Steve Grimmett (12 @ 15.17 bb 2/10), Dave Mankey (10 @ 14.50 bb 4/12)

Representative Matches

The Over 50s National Championships were held in Brisbane in early October due to the inaugural Over 50s Cricket World Cup being played in Sydney in November and December.

The ACT squad was: Peter Solway (c), Mick Frost, Boris Teodorowych, Gordon McGurk, Steve Taylor, Paul Ayers, Steve Smith, Joe Gunning, Darryle Macdonald, Andrew Minns, Paul Nemes, Steve Moore and Paul Jelfs

The team was unlucky not to make the final with a loss on day 1 against Victoria 1. Unfortunately we lost the toss and the team was put into bat on a wet pitch. Despite Mick Frost (45 no) holding the inning together and a brilliant cameo from Paul Nemes (43) at 11, we were bowled out for 185. Naturally by the time the Vics came to the crease, the deck had dried and was more batsmen friendly. All bowlers did a good job and at 4/67 we were in with a chance. However, a handy middle order partnership got the Vics within touching distance. We were able to grab a couple of late wickets but they passed our score with 3 wickets in the shed and 11 balls in hand.

In the other two pool matches, the team had very comprehensive wins, firstly against Vic 3 (7/119) and in reply we scored 2/121 (16.3 overs). Then against Queensland Gold (9/137) we scored 2/138 (35 overs). In the consolation final, we took on the NSW #1 team (Waratahs). We won the toss and batted first, however, the rain came after 41 overs with the score at 3/209 (41 overs) and the match was abandoned.

Peter Solway (138 @ 138), Gordon McGurk (121 @ 60.50), Mick Frost (119 @ 59.5) and Paul Nemes (99 @ 99) topped the batting. With the ball Paul Nemes (7 @ 9.14) topped the bowling.

After the tournament an Australia squad was selected for the World Cup and Peter Solway was named Captain.

Due to a full calendar of matches during the season, the Canberra Cavaliers only played one match, which was against a very strong Southern Highlands team in Moss Vale. The Southern Highlands batted first and scored 9/145 (40 overs). In reply the Cavaliers passed their score in the 33rd over- 5/147.

Over 50s Cricket World Cup

The Australian team, with Peter Solway as captain, went through the competition undefeated (winning 6 and 1 washout) which ironically enough was against Pakistan. In the semi-final, the Australian team had a hard fought win over New Zealand by 4 runs.

The final was held at Drummoyne Oval on an overcast and somewhat gloomy day. The match was one of the best matches of the tournament with both teams getting the upper hand only for the other to claw its way back into the match.

Australia batted first and uncharacteristically was bowled out for 165 (44 overs). In reply Australia had Pakistan on the ropes at 9/94 (26 overs). However, a gallant last wicket partnership got them to within victory, but a great over from the opening bowler John Short was rewarded when he dismissed their last batsman with the score on 162, a victory by 3 runs.

Peter Solway was named player of the tournament (369 @ 123 hs 151no).

Over 60s

National over 60's Championships

The 13th National Championships were played from 11 to 15 November at various grounds in the Penrith, Blacktown, Hawkesbury, Campbelltown areas of Sydney. A total of 32 teams from all States and Territories, and New Zealand contested the 4 Divisions (8 teams in each Division) over the 4 days of competition. The ACT again entered 3 teams which reflected the continued growth of Veterans Cricket in the Territory and Capital Region. As a result of efforts to spread our influence into the Albury/Wodonga area and to ensure that the ACT teams continue to remain competitive against the larger States, a number of players from the NE Victorian region were selected in ACT teams. It is hoped to further develop our relationship with the various southern NSW regions and Northern Victoria going forward.

The strength of Victorian over 60's cricket (over 700 registered players) was again demonstrated with Victoria winning Division 1 of the Championships. Having said that given the small numbers of over 60's cricketers the ACT has to draw upon the 3 ACT teams performed well. The Division 1 team did well in defeating Western Australia and losing to Tasmania by one run. If it were not for some inconsistent performances and injuries to Murray Harrison and Tom Purcell, the team could well have played in the final.

It was particularly pleasing to see the continued development of Veterans cricket in New Zealand. Their Division 2 team performed very well to defeat Victoria in the Division 2 Final. It is anticipated that NZ will be promoted to Division 1 for the 2019 Championships.

Over 70s Cricket

Whilst the ACT did not have enough over 70's players to enter a stand-alone team a number of ACT players were selected to play for NSW, Tasmania and South Australia at the 2018 Over 70s Championships held on the Sunshine Coast.

I am also pleased to report that a number of ACT 70s cricketers were selected to play for the Western Region Wildfires at the inaugural NSW State over 70's Championships held in Orange in March this year. The ACT players performed very well with the Wildfires finishing runners up.

The 2019 O70s championships will be held in Albury/Wodonga in November and we are hopeful of being able to field our first ACT team.

General Matters

With no local Over 60's competition, the ACT continued to look to Southern NSW for regular games during the 2018/19 cricket season. As has been the case for a number of years, regular home and away games are played against the Southern Highlands, Bega, Eurobodalla, Port Jackson and Benalla in NE Victoria.

An ACT team also contested the 4 day Echuca over 60's Carnival held in March, 2019. The team went through undefeated to win the event for the second time by beating the strong Geelong team in the Final. Batting first ACT scored 7/122 on a pretty ordinary pitch. In reply the bowlers led by Geoff Ledger 2/10 were able to restrict Geelong to 7/115.

To ensure that the ACT remains a competitive force against the larger States, efforts will continue to forge a relationship with the Albury/Wodonga Veterans organisation in an effort to recruit quality players to represent the ACT at future National Championships. With a number of players from the local over 50's competition moving into the over 60's age group we are confident that we will be able to continue to 'punch above our weight' at future National Championships and various regional carnivals.

Finally congratulations to Murray Harrison who toured with the Australian 60's team to NZ early in 2019 and for being selected in the Australian 60's cricket team which toured the UK in June/ July 2019.