

Veterans Cricket ACT 2020/21 Annual Report

Veterans Cricket Competition

This season saw the competition expand to eight teams. Joining the established teams of Eastlake Demons, Norths Blue Eagles, Norths Gold Eagles, Queanbeyan Greybaggers, Weston Creeky Knees and Canberra Ceylonese were Old Tuggers and Serendib Masters.

The competition consisted of 7 preliminary rounds and an extended finals series. The final table placings

TEAM	Pts
1 Greybaggers	25
2 North Gold Eagles	25
3 Eastlake Demons	22
4 North Blue Eagles	17
5 Old Tuggers	17
6 Canberra Ceylonese	13
7 Creeky Knees	11
8 Serendib Masters	7

At the end of the finals series, Greybaggers (who finished minor premiers) and Norths Gold Eagles played off in the Grand Final at Keith Tournier Memorial Oval.

Winning the toss, Greybaggers elected to bat first and compiled 9/179 (R Blewitt 40no, L Harris 27, S Smith 3/26, SA Moore 3/32). In reply, the Gold Eagles were held to 9/157 (J Gunning 37 no, W Allen 29 no, L Harris 4/30, G Alexander 2/19). The Greybaggers won by 22 runs to claim their first Ron Axelby Shield.



Back row: J Martin (scorer), G Gilbert, R Blewitt, D DiCampli, B Turner, L Harris, S Hooper, M Kennedy, R Bates

Front row: G Alexander, D Rebus, B Connell, S Moore (capt), L Kirke, K Bridgen

Outstanding Performances

Batting – John Cooper (309 @ 103, hs 43no), Gary Page (265 @ 66.25 hs 46 no), Salvatore Delorenzo (226 @ 32.29, hs 63), Les Harris (224 @ 44.80, hs 43 no), Peter Lee (219 @ 31.29, hs 41no)

Bowling – SA Moore (17 @ 11.82, bb 4/14), B Bradley (16 @ 9.44, bb 3/6), G Lemin (12 @ 8.0, bb 4/8), L Harris (12 @ 10.08, bb 4/30), W Allen (12 @ 11.92, bb 3/16), J Gunning (12 @ 13.0, bb 3/5), T Ryan (11 @ 10.64, bb 3/6).



This year's winner of the Ron Bates Shield for Player of the Year was Les Harris from the Greybaggers.

Representative Matches

With the Covid situation all Nationals were called off and moved to 2021.

However, some interstate tournaments were run and the season kicked off with a mini carnival in Berri, South Australia in early October, and we sent two teams, Over 60s and Over 70s. Although there were a number of good individual performances, we came away without a win against two almost full strength South Australian teams.

In late October, we also participated in an Over 60s regional carnival in Tamworth. This time we were able to send a stronger squad and the results showed as we won all three matches.

Jump ahead to February and we were invited to send a team to the Inaugural Bradman Invitational Over 60s Twenty/20 Tournament in Bowral and surrounds. With a number of new players and playing in a format which most players had not played before, the team performed exceptionally well winning the Tournament undefeated.



Gary Page being presented with the Bradman T20 trophy



Back row: Geoff Ledger, Peter Gunning, Peter Foley, Martin Kennedy, Geoff Gilbert, M Campbell, Stuart Parsons
 Front row: Joe Gunning, Wayne Lucerne, John Kidd, Gary Page (capt), Steve Moore, Steve Hooper

Also in February we were invited to field a team in an Over 65s mini tournament in Newcastle. The team consisted of a mix of players just under and over 70. The team won their first match but then just lost the second.

In March, Veterans Cricket NSW ran two tournaments, an Over 60s Covid Cup tournament in Orange and the Over 70s State Titles in Port Macquarie. We were successful in both tournaments winning all our matches.



Over 70s Team

Back row: W Hall, P Cullen (capt), N Brown, N Bulger, J Wadsworth, S Bowden, G Preston
 Front row: S Hammon, R Calvert, R Axelby, V Bulger, R Rose, B Dickenson

To wrap up the rep season, we again entered a team into the annual Echuca tournament. We narrowly lost our first match, but then went on to win the next three and finished 3rd overall.

Other matches.

Despite what was happening with Covid lock downs and restrictions, we were still able to organise a number of social matches against the Southern Highlands and Eurobodalla (regaining the Miers-Axelby Cup). The season then wrapped up with a match against the Queensland Trundlers. Unfortunately despite the best efforts our annual game against Bega was washed out.

Future

Covid has affected local cricket, which includes the Veterans Competition. All on the representative scene, most tournaments that would normally be played prior to Christmas, with the Over 60s Nationals being cancelled and the O50s and O70s being moved to the New Year. Other tournaments were also moved to the New Year.

Locally, Asoka and Ron A, will again work hard at organising our regular matches against Southern Highlands, Bega and Eurobodalla.