

Veterans Cricket ACT 2021/22 Annual Report

Veterans Cricket Competition

Due to Covid as well as some significant other factors, this year's competition was reduced to just 7 rounds with the team having the most points being awarded the premiership. This year the Gold Eagles had an unbeaten season and were crowned Premiers

Outstanding Performances

Batting – C Peiris (222 @ 111, hs 64*), M Swansborough (204 @ 51, hs 60*), B Teodorowych (198 @ 99, hs 48*), N Karunsekara (182 @ 45.5, hs 43*), G Lang, (180 @ 36, hs 40*), P De Silva (174 @ 58), hs 43), J Ahsan (174 @ 53.67, hs 82*).

Bowling – J Gunning (14 @ 8.43, bb 4/20), T Ryan (20 @ 19.9, bb 3/10), C Peiris (10 @ 21.50, bb 3/4), N Roberts (10 @ 16.8, bb 3/21).



Ron Axelby presenting Gold Eagles captain, Joe Gunning, with the premiership shield.



Gold Eagles Team

Back row: T Pigot, S Grimmett, S Taylor, W Allen, C Moxon
Front row: I Matesic, J Gunning, S Moore, G Lang

This year's winner of the Ron Bates Shield for Player of the Year was Chris Peiris from the Creeky Knees. Chris had a stellar season amassing 387 points.

Representative Matches

Despite Covid again forcing the abandonment of all National Championships, there were still a number of Regional tournaments in which we participated. However in a number of these tournaments, weather had the last say.

Over 60s

With no Nationals this season, we took every opportunity to enter team(s) into as many tournaments that we could.

Up first was the annual Queensland Vets Cricket Festival, played on the Sunshine Coast in early July. Given that this festival is focused on participation, the actual match results (including scorecards) were not recorded. However the ACT team did quite well with a number of outstanding performances from within the group.

Next was the VCNSW Over 60s State Titles, played in the Tamworth district at the end of November. We won our first match against Southern Highlands, then lost against Penrith, with the last round being washed out, a pattern that would go on to affect most tournaments played later in the season.

The next tournament was at the end of January with the inaugural VCNSW Over 65s. We entered two teams, one in division 1 made up of players 65 – 70 and the other (made up of our O70s members) in Division 2. Both teams finished with a win and a loss with the last day of play washed out.

With a break in the weather, the Bradman Over 60s T20s in Bowral was able to be played in what turned out to be good weather. This year there were only 5 teams participating. As defending champions we were keen to go back to back. However after losing first up to NE Victoria, we went on to win our next 4 matches. While NE Victoria lost their final match, and we finished equal first, they took out the tournament based upon bonus points (won by 1.27 bps).

The 60s season effectively wrapped up with the Annual pilgrimage to Echuca in late March. We got off to a good start, defeating the Twilighters from Tassie. We then lost to SA Wombats. We had a good win over the South East Coasters, but in the Interstate Division final we again lost to the Wombats.

Over 70s

The 4th National over 70s Championships, which was to be played in Launceston in November 2021 was again postponed when COVID intervened. Vets Cricket Tasmania then moved the Championships to February 2022, but unfortunately due to border closures and many players withdrawing from teams due to health concerns, were again postponed. The Championships have now been scheduled for November 2022.

With the Over 70s having limited opportunities to play regular games in the ACT region, there has been a strong focus on participating in NSW hosted Over 70s and Over 65 events.

As a result the ACT over 70s team were given the opportunity to compete in a number of events including the Warners Bay Mini Carnival and the inaugural NSW State over 65 Championships. Whilst the bad weather washed out the last two days of the Championships, the ACT (Monaro)

teams performed well. It should be noted that over 65 events will increase markedly over coming seasons, which will give the over 70s additional opportunities to play more cricket.

The final fixture for the 2021/22 season was the NSW State over 70s Championships which were held on the Central Coast. With the ACT (Monaro) team having won the 2021 State Championship there was high hopes that we could retain the title, but unfortunately, whilst the team performed well, we were unable to match the 2021 effort. As a result of our performances a number of ACT (Monaro) players were selected to participate at the annual Cooper/Findley Cup on the Gold Coast.

The VCACT Board acknowledges the importance of maintaining a strong relationship with VCNSW and as a means of further strengthening our relationship with the NSW regions, plans are underway to host an over 70s 'mini carnival' similar, to the Warners Bay event, next season.

Other matches.

Despite all the hard work Asoka put in, only 5 of the 6 matches that were organised this season were washed out. The only match that was played was against the Queensland Trundlers in April at Chisholm. This was only possible thanks to the assistance of John Kidd and the Tuggeranong club. The match was played as a Quarters match, with 20 overs in each quarter.

Another match was planned for two days later against Southern Highlands, but weather again had the last say.

Future

In all likelihood, next season will be back to normal, with all age Nationals being played in the November/December, 50s in Adelaide, 60s in the Barwon region of Victoria and 70s in Launceston.

In addition to that, plans are well underway for the inaugural Over 60s World Cup, to be held on the Sunshine Coast in September. 11 countries have entered teams, with a Rest of the World team replacing England.

The Over 50s World Cup will again be hosted by South Africa in March 2023.

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