

Veterans Cricket ACT

2022/23

Annual Report

Awards

This year the VCACT Board introduced an awards system to recognise individual performances at the representative level.

This year's winners were:

- Jimmy Martin Memorial Award for Outstanding Service: Ron Axelby
- Over 40s Representative Player of the Year: Simon Fahey
- Over 50s Representative Player of the Year (Peter Solway Medal): Guy Randell
- Over 60s Representative Player of the Year (Murray Harrison Medal): Tom Purcell
- Over 70s Representative Player of the Year (Wal Hall Medal): Vince Bulger

Along with this, Chris Peiris was awarded the Ron Bates Shield as the Veterans Competition Player of the Year.

Veterans Cricket Competition

This season we welcomed a Ginninderra team to the Veterans competition. They fielded a team under the banner of Ginners NSL, which brought the number of teams to 9.

Whilst 9 teams meant a bye situation, this was not the most difficult thing to manage. The biggest problem was wet weather as we continued to be under the effects of the La Nina well into the new year. Apart from the wet weather, we had to manage the increasing number of competition cricket matches being scheduled on Sundays and the increasing number of Veterans tournaments being run.

At the end of the home and away rounds, Norths Gold Eagles topped the table with an unbeaten season, with the Greybagger in equal second place with the Canberra Ceylonese.

The last match of the season was between these two teams (as it was actually deferred from earlier in the season), which became an unofficial semi-final.

Winning the toss, Greybaggers chose to bat and score 6/217 from their 40 overs. The Ceylonese started their inning in style and it looked like they would get the job done. However the Greybaggers bowlers and fielders held their nerve and started taking wickets. But it went right down to the last couple of over. The Ceylonese needed about 20 runs with two overs to go, however they lost a couple of quick wickets and in the end could only manage to get the score to 8/201.

The other remarkable match was between Old Tuggers and Eastlake Demons, which ended in a tie with both teams scoring 240 runs. In the same round Canberra Ceylonese (9/212) defeated the Creeky Knees (7/211) off the second last ball of the match.

The final was played at Norths home ground of Majura.

The Greybaggers won the toss and elected to bat. At the end of their innings, they compiled 7/150 (L Harris 41 rtno, D Di-Campli 37 no. W Murdoch 3/18). In reply Norths were bowled out for 129 (J Shepherd 34, SA Moore 30, R Blewitt 2/19, M Frost 2/23, M Kennedy 2/29)



Greybaggers Team

Back row: Steve Moore, Dave Rebus, Peter Jensen, Les Harris, Martin Kennedy, Michael Frost
Front row: Richard Blewett, Graeme Alexander, Ian Hamill, Dom Di-Campli (c), Bill Rowe, Lawrie Kirk



Ron Axelby presenting Greybaggers captain,
Dom Di-Campli, with the premiership shield.

Outstanding Performances

Batting – Stephen Taylor 252 @ 126, John Shepherd 229 @ 45.8, Glen Lang 202 @ 33.67

Bowling – Chris Peiris 18 @ 8.17, Richard Blewitt 13 @ 10.54, Wal Murdoch 11 @ 14.36

Representative Matches Internationals

England Over 70s Tour of Australia

The England Over 70s team toured Australia on their 1st trip after the Covid lockdowns.

VCACT were invited to play against the tourists and the match was played at Chisholm Oval on 14 February.

Match details.

ACT won the toss and elected to bat on a well prepared deck. Runs were difficult to come by due to the accurate line & length bowling by our International visitors.

ACT compiled a gallant 8/145 (M Harrison 27, G Moore 27, T Paterson 20). Bowling - S Sheppard 2/32, (1 wicket each to E Hill, K Jones, B Shipley, M Woodward, D Towe).

Unfortunately, England were far too strong and reached the target VCACT total 4/149 from 35 overs (R Tidyman 33, J Evans 53 ret). Bowling – B Scott 2/16, I Kitching 1/14, G Ledger 1/22.



ACT Over 70s Team

Back row: Rob Haling Tony Paterson, Brian Scott, Peter Moore, George Preston, Geoff Ledger, John Dedman, John Wadsworth, Ron Axelby (Mgr)

Front row: Ian Kitching Vinnie Bulger, Bruce Dickinson, Ged Moore Murray Harrison

The evening prior to the match, the British High Commissioner her Excellency, Vicky Treadwell, CMG, MVO hosted an afternoon tea for the visitors and ACT team at Westminster House.



Pictured: Chris Lowe (England Team Manager), Chris Swadkin (Tour Captain), Ron Axelby, Vicky Treadwell (British High Commissioner) Olivia Thornton (CED Cricket ACT) Murray Harrison.

Representative Matches – Nationals

After the hiatus due to Covid, the Nationals resumed this season in all age groups.

Over 40s

This season saw the establishment of the National Over 40s Championships. It was held on the Central Coast and Vets ACT were invited to send a team.

Being put together on relatively short notice, the team was not really competitive and lost all 4 matches, but there were still some good individual performances. Simon Fahey captained the team and was amongst the top run scorers with 134 @ 67 with top score of 92.

Over 50s

The 50s Nationals were held in Adelaide and for the first time we were able to enter two teams for the first time.

Despite some good individual performances, we failed to win a match in both divisions. Whilst we did not get the rub of the green in some matches (sent in on a wet deck) it was compounded by a number of injuries to key players.

Div 1.

With Peter Solway standing down as captain, Michael Frost took over the reins. The team was competitive in two matches with two narrow losses, but were beaten in the other two.

Best performers were Peter Solway 177 runs @ 59 and an all-round effort by Guy Randell 103 @ 34.3, 7 wkts @ 9.57

Div 2

Joe Gunning captained the team. Day 1 was washed out and the match was moved to the Tuesday which meant 4 matches in 4 days. This took a significant toll on the team.

The team just could not get any consistency, with either bat or ball. No player scored more than 70 runs and no bowler took more 5 wickets. As a result apart from a close loss in the '1st' match the team was beaten in the other 3.

Over 60s

The 60s Nationals were held in the Geelong/Barwon region of Victoria and we entered 3 teams (Divisions 1, 3 & 5).

Div 1.

The team was not as competitive as in previous season winning only 1 match. This season Tom Purcell took over as captain and led by example. Unfortunately there was not enough consistency from the rest of the team to be a real threat. But there were signs that with a few of the 50s guys hopefully joining the group for the 2023 Nationals, we will be more competitive in the years to come.

Good performances with the bat from Tom Purcell 147 @ 73.50 & Roger Lonie 117 @ 39. With the ball, Michael Hurley was our best bowler with 7 @ 15.7 & Keith Bridgen with 6 @ 22.0.

Div 3.

The team, led by John Kidd, performed very well. After a poor start to the championships (comprehensively beaten by Victoria Blue after being put in on a damp deck), the team clicked into gear and won their next 3 matches.

Top performer with the bat and ball was Lal Wijesiriwardana with 90 runs @ 45 & 7 wkts @ 14.0.

Div 5

Bill Rowe skippered the team which was a mix of 60s and 70s players. Everyone tried their best, but were up against strong teams. However they did manage a great win over WA.

Good performance with the bat from Stuart Young 117 @ 39, with the ball all the wickets were shared around.

Over 70s

This year, VCACT were able to field a team the 70s Nationals in our own right. The tournament was played in Launceston. Unfortunately we were put into Division 2.

The team was captained by Tony Paterson, who led the team to our first final in many years. The team started the tournament off with a win over NSW, backed that up with a win over Victoria White. The 3rd match was washed out and the team topped their pool.

The team was up against Victoria Blue in the final. However the deck was quite soft and there was rain about which reduced the match to 37 overs each. The deck was not great and the rain didn't help. Tony won the toss and invited Vic Blue to bat. Thanks to a great bowling effort, at the end of their overs they could only muster 9/109. Unfortunately when it came our turn to bat, a top order collapse took its toll and could we finished with 8/71.

There were no stand outs in terms of batting or bowling, but all members of the team contributed in one way or the other during the tournament.

Other Representative matches.

NSW State Titles

This season we ended teams into the Over 60s and Over 65s. The Over 70s tournament was abandoned due to wet weather.

Over 60s @ Penrith.

The team won its first two matches against Hunter Taverners & Central Coast Cyclones, before losing to Port Jackson Reds (eventual winners). The last match was washed out.

Over 65s @ Ballina

The team lost its first match against Mid North Coast Sharks, then won the next two against Western Wildfires and Hunter Taverners. The team finished 3rd overall.

VCNSW Invitational Over 65s – Port Macquarie

Two teams into this tournament, a 1st XI and a 2nd XI made up of mainly players in their 70s.

ACT 1, started off with a win over Queensland Reds, but then lost to the NSW Blues followed by a win over Victoria White. However in the play-off match they lost to NSW Waratahs.

ACT 2, never really got going in this tournament and lost all 3 of their pool matches. However some consolation with a win over Victoria White in the play-off match.

Echuca Carnival

We again sent a team to the Echuca end of season tournament captained by Mark Campbell. We didn't get off to a good start, losing to Essendon by 11 runs. However the team bounced back in the

2nd match, defeating ACS by 21. In the 3rd match we beaten by 50 runs by North East Vets. In the consolation final, we defeated Sunbury by 14 runs.

Barossa Over 65s Cricket Festival

We were invited to participate in the inaugural Barossa Cricket Festival. It was a great carnival in terms of the camaraderie and was all about participation. Nearly everything about the carnival was perfect, the grounds, the weather and the participants.

The team performed really well. While no results were recorded, we won 3 of our 4 matches. There were a number of good performances over the week, with Vinnie Bulger probably being our player of the carnival.

VCNSW Invitational Over 75s – Albury/Wodonga

As a prelude to establishing an Over 75s Division in the Nationals, an invitational tournament.

We enter a combined team, made up of players from the ACT, Riverina and further afield aptly named ACT/Riverina Redbacks. The cricket was played at a good standard with the team performing reasonably well. While the team did not win a match but all results were close.