

The Ninety - Third
ANNUAL REPORT
and
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
of the
ROSANNA CRICKET CLUB Inc.
Season 2020/21

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Annual Meeting:
De Winton Park
Grove Road, Rosanna
Wednesday, 11 August 2020 at 7.30 pm

**ROSANNA CRICKET CLUB'S
GOLD SPONSOR 2020/21**



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SILVER SPONSORS 2020/21**

**Tim Sheehan
TS Finance Broking**



Rosanna Legends Coterie Group

ROSANNA CRICKET CLUB'S BRONZE SPONSORS 2020/21



Miles
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Rosanna Legends Coterie Group

Anthony Lambert

Brian Flynn

Chris Vocale

Dan Flynn

David Crawford

David Jackson

Dean Waddingham

Denis Groom

Eamon Bourke

Garry Carlton

Gary Bryant

Geoff Davis (Joffa)

Geoff Wilson

Greg James

John McKenzie

Kevin Wacey

Marge Flynn

Mark Luby

Mick Langford

Peter Hodder

Peter Waddingham

PREMIERS – Heidelberg District Cricket Association & Diamond Valley Cricket Association

First Grade		1939/40	1947/48	1950/51	1954/55	1955/56	1957/58	1959/60	1961/62
		1962/63	1966/67	1969/70	1972/73	1974/75	1982/83	1986/87	1993/94
		1996/97	2005/06	2007/08	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13		
Second Grade		1957/58	1959/60	1961/62	1063/64	1964/65	1965/66	1969/70	1977/78
		1985/86	2012/13	2017/18					
Third Grade		1950/51	1961/62	1963/64	1964/65	2001/02	2005/06		
Fourth Grade		1968/69	1969/70	1970/71	1979/80	1997/98	2001/02	2012/13	2013/14
		2017/18							
Fifth Grade		1981/82	1983/84	1992/93					
Sixth Grade		1981/82							
Seventh Grade		1984/85							
Veterans Comp		2009/10	2010/11	2018/19					
Under 17 A		2008/09	2011/12						
Under 16 A		1970/71	1972/73	1977/78	1978/79	1984/85	1987/88	1988/89	1999/00
		2000/01	2003/04	2014/15	2017/18	2019/20			
Under 16 B		1971/72	1973/74						
Under 16 C		1966/67	1967/68						
Under 14 A		1981/82	1982/83	1983/84	1984/85	1986/87	1994/95	1995/96	1997/98
		1998/99	2002/03	2015/16					
Under 13 A		2010/11							
Under 12 A		1993/94	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	
Under 12 B		1999/00							

RUNNERS UP – Heidelberg District Cricket Association & Diamond Valley Cricket Association

First Grade		1934/35	1938/39	1949/50	1951/52	1956/57	1958/59	1960/61	1963/64
		1964/65	1970/71	1981/82	1988/89	1992/93	1994/95	1995/96	2004/05
		2014/15							
Second Grade		1940/41	1960/61	1966/67	1968/69	2002/03	2007/08	2016/17	2019/20
Third Grade		1965/66	1968/69	1975/76	2000/01	2002/03	2017/18		
Fourth Grade		1974/75	1981/82	1995/96	1999/00	2005/06			
Fifth Grade		1969/70	1974/75	1978/79	1982/83	1988/89	1993/94	1998/99	2018/19
One Day Grade		2003/04							
Veterans Comp		2013/14	2014/15	2017/18					
Northern T20		2020/21							
Under 17 B		2010/11							
Under 16 A		1969/70	1974/75	1976/77	1979/80	1982/83	1996/97	2002/03	2007/08
		2013/14							
Under 16 B		1968/69	1972/73	2007/08					
Under 15 B		2011/12							
Under 14 A		1971/72	1972/73	1978/79	1996/97	1999/00	2000/01	2005/06	2012/13
		2013/14	2017/18	2018/19	2020/21				
Under 12		1994/95							

ROSANNA CRICKET CLUB Inc.
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT
SEASON 2020/21

The 93rd Annual Report and Financial Statement for the twelve months ended 30th June 2021 is presented by the Committee of the Rosanna Cricket Club.

The General Committee members for 2020-21 were:

PRESIDENT	Michael Langford
VICE-PRESIDENT	Huss Almatrah
TREASURER	Gary Bryant
SECRETARY	Chris Payne
JUNIOR MANAGER	Eamon Bourke
CHAIRMAN OF SELECTORS	Luke Anderson and Michael Potenza
SPONSORSHIP & MARKETING MANAGER	Aayat Khanna
SOCIAL MANAGER	Mark Schott
BAR MANAGER	Max Balcombe

non-committee roles for 2020-21

CLUB STATISTICIAN	Ian Gordon
COACH	Neil Crosthwaite

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The Executive Committee comprised the President, Vice-President, Junior Manager, Secretary and Treasurer who attended to any matters requiring immediate attention.

LIFE MEMBERS

Number	Year	Name	Number	Year	Name
1	1948	Jack Maxfield (dec)	34	1989	John Ditcham
2	1952	Vern George (dec)	35	1992	Andrew Heath
3	1952	Bill Luby (dec)	36	1993	Garry Carlton
4	1952	Cec Myers (dec)	37	1993	Geoff Wilson
5	1952	Reg Stone (dec)	38	1993	Brian Flynn
6	1954	Charlie Carter (dec)	39	1993	Cecily Flynn
7	1959	Don Pritchard (dec)	40	1995	Anthony Lambert
8	1959	Dick Russell (dec)	41	1996	Dan Flynn
9	1964	Brian Carlton (dec)	42	1999	David Jackson
10	1964	Steve Durant (dec)	43	1999	Peter Jones
11	1964	Barney Luby (dec)	44	2000	David Jones
12	1968	Jack Sullivan (dec)	45	2001	Chris Leech
13	1968	Bill Wilson (dec)	46	2001	Darrel Leonard
14	1969	Bob Durrant (dec)	47	2002	Grant Pyers
15	1969	Ron Webster (dec)	48	2002	Peter Waddingham
16	1971	Alan Bell	49	2004	Peter Hodder
17	1973	Ron Beel	50	2005	Paul Leonard
18	1974	Bob Higgs (dec)	51	2009	John Raywood
19	1975	Bob Jamieson (dec)	52	2011	Steven Nikolovski
20	1976	Kevin Fahey (dec)	53	2011	Haedar Almatrah
21	1977	Ron Jones (dec)	54	2011	Luke Anderson
22	1980	Des Flynn (dec)	55	2011	Paul Fahey
23	1980	Roy Hartney (dec)	56	2014	Mark Muscat
24	1980	Bill Lambert (dec)	57	2016	David Crawford
25	1983	Paul Gregor	58	2016	Houssam Almatrah
26	1983	John McKenzie	59	2018	Andrew Wolczko
27	1984	Kevin Pyers	60	2018	Chris Payne
28	1984	Rod Webster	61	2018	Gary Bryant
29	1985	Mark Luby	62	2019	Scott Dunbar
30	1985	Denis Groom	63	2019	Mick Langford
31	1986	Dennis Hartney	64	2021	Nick Carlton
32	1987	Pat English	65	2021	Neil Crosthwaite
33	1989	Ivon Ditcham			

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Thanks to the Banyule City Council, the Parks & Gardens Department and Nicole Waldron, Sport & Community Liaison Officer, for their attention to matters raised by our club.
- Thanks to Cr Tom Melican of Banyule City Council for his support.
- Thanks to the Banyule City Soccer Club Committee for their co-operation and assistance.
- Thanks to the Macleod Football Club Committee for their co-operation and assistance.
- Thanks to Sean Winston, Josephine Turner and the DVCA Management Committee.
- Thanks to Peter Waddingham for auditing the club books.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Where to start – the 2020/21 season was always going to be challenging with the scheduled redevelopment of De Winton Park and the planned move to Banyule Flats as our home. With the chaos of COVID lockdowns and the uncertainty surrounding the season, planning was a nightmare. Meetings, including the AGM, being held virtually, we had basically no pre-season and no real idea of if, or when, the season would commence – so any planning was based on hope. In the end, the season started a couple of weeks late and became one day games in all grades. Training kicked off three weeks before the rescheduled season start and was initially held at Shelley Park while nets and pitches were upgraded at Banyule Flats.

The effort of the committee, coaches and players to be ready for the season is to be commended. The support of the Banyule City Council in facilitating the move to Banyule Flats with the upgrades to the rooms and grounds was very much appreciated. Initial discussions with the winter tenant (Banyule City Soccer Club) were interesting in that they had no concept of ground sharing during the week but once they understood our ground requirements the relationship was very good and their willingness to work with us on and off the grounds was appreciated.

The restrictions placed on training and match days due to COVID were stringent – Matt Macauley took on the role of COVID officer for the club and his work in bringing himself and the club up to speed on these requirements was outstanding – Thank you Matt.

On field our results were varied with the 1st XI having a very good season, making the finals in a format in which we hadn't seen a great deal of success over the previous few seasons - congratulations to Sam Sheehan who led the team for the first time and took us back to finals cricket.

Adam Crosthwaite was welcomed back to the club as both our T20 coordinator and marquee player and led the team to the grand final – unfortunately Adam missed this game through injury but the team that took the field did the club proud, unfortunately falling at the last hurdle.

Neil Crosthwaite did an outstanding job coaching in difficult circumstances with split groups (due to COVID restrictions), only two fully usable nets and no access to our indoor facility for much of the season. Towards the end of the season Neil advised the committee and the playing group that 2020/21 would be his last season as head coach – Neil needs to be commended for his work over a number of years especially with developing our younger players and guiding them into senior and 1st XI cricket. Neil will continue assisting the club on an ad-hoc basis as a specialist batting coach. Thank you for your contribution.

The work done by the committee was again outstanding. The club is extremely fortunate to have Chris Payne and Gary Bryant as secretary and treasurer. Huss Almatrah as vice president with a focus on cricket operations again has done an outstanding job. Eamon and Ruth Bourke continue to be passionate and committed Junior Coordinators who work tirelessly to ensure the ongoing success of our junior programme. During the year the executive invited Eamon to join, to again become a five person executive.

Whilst there was limited opportunity to hold social events the events that were held (especially the \$2k draw) were very well supported. The work done to support the Toyota Good for Cricket raffle by Matt (Swanny) Jackson and others was superb raising in the vicinity of \$5,000.

Thanks also go to:

- The numerous general committee members
- All our captains
- Duncan Sanderson for both coordinating the Veteran team, which plays an important part in keeping older players around the club as well as providing an outlet for the frustrated coaches and parents of our juniors!
- Geoff Wilson and Sam Morey with the under 16s, Eamon Bourke and Aayat Khanna with the under 14s for the many hours spent ably coaching our juniors, along with their team managers. Patty Bourke and Jono Potenza assisted also.
- Steve Austin for successfully managing the In-2-Cricket program under the guidance of Eamon.

Finally, it will be great to be back at De Winton next season playing on a new surface, training in four new nets, parking in a sealed car park (at last!) with upgraded change rooms, new toilets, meeting room and additional storage, watching the games from under the extended veranda. We appreciate the support of the Banyule City Council, The state government and the North East Link for their contributions to this project. The Macleod Football Club have also been integral in ensuring we have a first rate facility both on and off field.

Mick Langford
President

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SECRETARY'S REPORT

The focus of 2020/21 was to get the season started, play some cricket and stick together. I think we did that well. Due to renovations, we moved to Banyule Flats and enjoyed the strange experience of having new facilities and two ovals together which was a huge bonus throughout a difficult year.

COVID was the constant throughout the season and we responded well to the regular changes to expectations, protocols and advice from Council, the DVCA and Cricket Victoria. A huge acknowledgement to Matty Mac, Andrew Logan and Steve Austin for the work done in making us compliant throughout the season.

As a club we are focused on the development of all players in the club – juniors and seniors. In that context I would like to thank Neil Crosthwaite and Eamon Bourke and all of those involved in coaching in the seniors and the junior programs. I would like to acknowledge the countless hours of work with players of all levels including individual sessions. As Neil has decided to stand down as coach, I would like to thank Neil for his contribution to the club over many years in a number of roles.

As Secretary I know that most Thursdays and Fridays and sometimes Saturdays, I will be contacted to ensure that players are registered and able to be selected in senior teams for the one-day competitions. This year we had a different structure with the Chair of Selectors split between Luke Anderson (1st & 2nd XI) and Mick Potenza (3rd, 4th & 5th XI), with Luke ably assisted by Haedar Almatrah. I would like to acknowledge the work of the selectors and captains and in particular Mick Potenza who spent far too much time filling teams and covering last minute changes. It has been great to see a number of juniors make their senior debut and an even higher number make a significant contribution to the senior teams.

I would like to thank all our team captains and junior team managers for their leadership during 2020/21. Great effort to make the T20 grand final. Well done to Adam Crosthwaite, all the players, the great crowds, and all with only one broken windscreen in the car park. Fantastic!

I would also like to congratulate Nick Carlton on being awarded the Geoff Wilson Medal for this season.

In 2021/22 season, we will be back at a new and improved DeWinton and will need to focus on consolidating the club in areas such as our junior program and on ground performance. The Junior Coordinator joined the Executive this year to strengthen communication and support for the program.

I would like to acknowledge the work of the entire committee and the executive which has guided the club through a difficult year. I would also like to acknowledge the good relationship that we were able to develop with the Banyule City Soccer Club while using Banyule Flats and the assistance provided by Banyule City Council.

Finally, I would like to thank all our members. All those people who feel connected to Rosanna Cricket Club. Thank you for coming to our events, for helping out and for playing the great game of cricket.

Chris Payne
Secretary

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TREASURER'S REPORT

As everyone knows, season 2020-2021 was challenging. Thanks to significant support from council and Government, the year was solid financially, with only a small loss recorded, despite the fact we spent a significant amount on infrastructure for when we return to De Winton next season.

The club posted a net loss of \$1,703.64 for the financial year.

The club's net asset position remains strong, dropping slightly from \$49,650.77 to \$49,005.55

The main financial performance trends were:

- Fundraising opportunities were fewer than we would have liked. Despite this, we had a strong fundraising year, thanks to the amazing support for the Toyota Good for Cricket Raffle (which raised \$5k). We also had our best ever \$2k draw – as this was delayed due to COVID we had more time to sell tickets, and also people were keen to socialise again, so this was a great success. We raised a net \$10,395.71, which went a long way to compensate for the other financial difficulties. Thanks to the whole RCC community for their support.
- For obvious reasons sponsorship was down significantly – thanks to Eamon and Ruth (Viewbank Early Childhood Centre) for their continued support, as well as our other sponsors the Harp of Erin, Café Matto and The Phantom. Hopefully we will be able to again engage with past and new sponsors in the upcoming season.
- Continuation of the successful coterie group (Rosanna Legends) – thanks to Peter Hodder for again running this.
- Due to COVID, Council waived all ground and pavilion fees, and reimbursed most utility costs. We also received government grants for COVID support. Combined, these measures amounted to several thousand dollars of support, for which the club is very grateful.
- The decision was made early to reduce all subs by 30-40%, due to the reduced season and the difficulties associated with COVID. Keeping this in mind, subscriptions were strong.
- Bar & canteen profit were solid given the reduced opportunities for social events, and despite the challenge of running the bar in two locations (De Winton and Banyule Flats).
- We also made significant investments in infrastructure at De Winton, including a new rollout portable net to be erected at the beginning of next season, and a new sound system and TV screens which will enhance the facility significantly.

Treasurer acknowledgements

- Eamon and Ruth Bourke for their major sponsorship.
- Everyone who helped out in the bar, canteen (especially at major events such as the T20 games), in particular: Chris Payne, Siham Bryant, Michael Langford, Marguerite Langford and many others.
- Michelle Smith for catering at the \$2k draw and Life Members Day, and Gerald “Duck” Carey for cooking the spit at the \$2k draw.
- Max Balcombe and Chris York for doing a great job as Bar Managers.
- Everyone who contributed to running the \$2k draw and other social functions, as acknowledged in the President's report.
- All players and friends of the club who supported the club at functions and games.

Looking forward to a more normal season in 2021-2022 as we take advantage of the fantastic new facilities at De Winton.

ROSANNA CRICKET CLUB PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT

Year ending 30 June 2021

Sales	Bar	Sales		\$17,761.00	
		Less: Cost of Sales			
		Opening Stock	\$799.16		
		Purchases	\$10,092.47		
		Closing Stock	\$52.00	\$10,839.63	
		Gross Profit from Trading			\$6,921.37
	Canteen	Sales		\$3,936.02	
		Less: Cost of Sales			
		Opening Stock	\$0.00		
		Purchases	\$2,733.39		
		Closing Stock	\$0.00	\$2,733.39	
		Gross Profit from Trading			\$1,202.63
	Gear	Sales		\$2,706.00	
		Less: Cost of Sales			
		Opening Stock	\$8,358.30		
		Purchases	\$6,248.05		
		Closing Stock	\$11,180.70	\$3,425.65	
		Gross Profit from Trading			-\$719.65
Total Gross Profit from Trading					\$7,404.35

Other Income					
Fund Raising & Social Functions			\$18,597.29		
Less Costs			\$8,201.58		
					\$10,395.71
Senior Subs					\$8,510.00
Junior Subs					\$6,624.66
Sponsorships					\$4,063.00
Rosanna Legends (Net)					\$3,085.00
Match Fees					\$4,028.00
Amenities					\$722.74
Interest					\$28.88
Total Income					\$44,862.34

Expenses					
Utilities			\$5,867.82		
Less reimbursement from Council			\$3,759.60		
					\$2,108.22
Trophies & honour Boards					\$1,384.50
Coaching					\$10,380.00
Training Costs					\$380.00
Balls & Equipment					\$6,602.62
Match Day Costs & Fines					\$4,530.03
Amenities					\$5,977.27
DVCA					\$1,780.00
Merchant Facility Fees					\$721.40
Pavillion AV upgrades					\$9,131.96
Portable Net					3569.98
Total Expenses					\$46,565.98

Net Profit/Loss					-\$1,703.64
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BALANCE SHEET		
As at 30th Jun 2021		
ASSETS		
Savings (Transaction Account)	\$7,318.42	
Savings (Investment Account)	\$29,396.01	
Bar Stock	\$52.00	
Canteen Stock	\$0.00	
Gear Stock	\$9,927.00	
Ball Stock	\$1,253.70	
Unpaid Subs	\$440.00	
Debtors	\$618.42	
Total Assets		\$49,005.55
Liabilities		
Creditors	\$0.00	
Total Liabilities		\$0.00
Net Assets		\$49,005.55

Gary Bryant
Treasurer

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JUNIOR MANAGER'S REPORT

Season 2022/21 saw the club field 5 junior sides consisting of one U18 team, two U16 teams, one U14 team and one U12 team. Due to numbers not being sufficient our U12 and U18 squads were amalgamated with the Lower Plenty CC. In a tremendous effort four teams made the finals with one just missing out on percentage.

Our U12 consisted of 4 Rosanna players who were moved to the development grades on a Wednesday night which suited them as they were a very young group who benefited from playing against players of their own age & ability. Coached by Lower Plenty, this group finished fifth just missing the finals on percentage in what was a terrific effort from them.

The U14 squad was coached by Eamon Bourke and Aayat Khanna and consisted of 14 players who had an outstanding season finishing runners-up to a side that was a top aged group. Eleven of the squad came from our U12 side from season 2019/20 and all 14 played their first ever finals series. Their improvement across the season was outstanding and was highlighted by many outstanding performances against a number of top aged sides.

The U16 squad consisted of 23 players who were coached by Geoff Wilson. Playing in separate divisions both sides made the Semi-Finals but couldn't quite get across the line to the grand final. Regardless, a number of players played in representative teams and were selected in our senior teams for the first time. To be able to field two U16 sides was an outstanding effort as at this age many players tend to drop out of the system.

Six of last year top aged U16 squad amalgamated with Lower Plenty CC to form a U18 team. Super competitive and keen, the players acquitted themselves brilliantly across the season making the semi-finals. Last year's U16 captain Cameron Hodges co-captained the team and won the bowling award. My gratitude goes to Peter and Robyn Hodges for managing the Team on behalf of the club.

The season was a challenging one for all coaches. Pre-season was limited due to COVID and a lack of facilities due to the renovations at De Winton. All games were 20/20 which limited the coach's ability to develop players on game day due to insufficient overs to bat and bowl. Given these challenges the season was an outstanding success based on participation and the finals qualifications.

The season produced some outstanding highlights for the club:

- Thomas Bourke, Leo Dench, Idhant Yarlagadda, Ananya Goswami and Sienna Ferrara all made junior representative teams.
- Shayam Madan won the U14 White batting averages.
- Angus Gillies won the U14 White bowling averages.
- Thomas Bourke, Leo Dench, Idhant Yarlagadda, Angus Gillies, Shayam Madan, Jacob Jabezic, Noah Dench, Kevin Mathew and James Black were selected in the DVCA Winter Academy squads.
- Our numbers at our Junior Blasters increased despite logistical challenges.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the following:

- Our junior coaches for their outstanding work including assistants whose dedication week in / week out was much appreciated.
- Our Team Managers who provided great logistical support to the coaches and the teams.

- The Rosanna Executive lead by Michael Langford for their support over the course of the season.
- Lower Plenty CC for the support and organisation of the two combined teams.
- The DVCA Junior Executive for the efforts to get the season going and its ongoing continuation despite COVID challenges.
- Steve Austin for his outstanding work with the junior blasters along with the parents who assisted.
- Ruth Bourke for her dedication to the weekly administrative tasks associated with getting the season up and running.
- The parents who went to great efforts to get the players to training and games every week and for their support at games every Wednesday and Friday night.
- The Rosanna match committee for their efforts to get the junior players into senior cricket throughout the season, especially Michael Potenza.

Moving forward the club faces some challenges. There was only one new junior this year (U14) and whilst COVID probably played its part in that, the reality is that for the first time in years we did not pick up one U12 player! A priority going forward is to rebuild this group as it is the stepping stone to consolidating numbers in the upper age groups.

Without a junior football club to recruit from, priority needs to be given to ‘Junior Blasters’ as this must be the foundation on which the club builds a sustainable junior program. From here consideration should be given to the creating an U10 team to play on Wednesday nights to allow us to build an U12 team.

A restructure of juniors may assist this process by splitting the juniors into two groups with a Manager/ Co-Ordinator for each group as the role is likely to be too big for any one person:

- Group A: Junior Blasters / Under 10 / Under 12
- Group B: Under 14 / Under 16 / Under 18

The focus of group A is participation and development. Putting in place programs to develop skills and ensuring all players get a fair go at all aspects of the game and ensure their enjoyment of the game.

Group B is continuing the development aspect but sees players starting to play their role more – those that bat, bat more and those that bowl, bowl more etc. It provides a recruiting group for the seniors as all players from the age of 14 onwards are eligible for seniors.

Next year the club should have the numbers to field an U18 side alone. This should be a priority each season, as it hopefully will provide a pathway for players to stay in the game with their friends whilst at the same time giving the players an opportunity to play senior cricket should they be inclined. They would train with the seniors so that they can further develop their games with experienced senior players around them.

To enable the development of our juniors in the senior ranks the club needs to closely examine how best to support these players in terms of the level of cricket they play and the conditions of the weekly game. This year has shown the difficulty of developing players when we are only playing the shorter versions of the game.

Eamon Bourke
Junior Manager

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CAPTAINS

The following players were appointed as Captain of their respective teams:

TEAM	CAPTAIN
First XI	Nick Carlton
Second XI	Matthew Jackson
Third XI	Jon Potenza
Fourth XI	Dougal McCulloch
Fifth XI	Gary Bryant
Veteran's XI	Duncan Sanderson

AWARD WINNERS

Representative Achievements

DVCA U18 Boys Phil Arnold Shield (turf)	Ananya Goswami
DVCA U16 Boys Jim Beitzel Shield	Tom Bourke
U17 Girls Falcons in Youth Premier League	Siena Ferrara

Association Awards

Shyam Madan	DVCA U14 White Batting Average 170 runs – Average 42.50
Angus Gillies	DVCA U14 White Bowling Average 11 wickets – Average 4.64

Club Awards

Geoff Wilson Medalist	Nick Carlton
W.P. Luby Memorial Award	Michael Potenza

<i>BARNEY LUBY AWARD – CLUB CHAMPION</i>	Nick Carlton
Runs Aggregate	Sam Sheehan
Wickets Aggregate	Nick Carlton
Senior Coach's Award	Aayat Khanna
T20 Player of the Season	Nick Carlton
Vets Player of the Season	Mark Van Poeteren

Club Champion Points

PLAYER	POINTS
Nick Carlton	231.25
Aayat Khanna	149.55
Sam Sheehan	139.5
Brett Smith	119.03
Scott Shelton	104.75

Senior Awards

	Batting	Bowling	Fielding	All Rounder
1st XI	<i>Dick Russell Trophy</i> Sam Sheehan	<i>Steve Durant Trophy</i> Aayat Khanna	<i>Brian Carlton Trophy</i> Houssam Almatrah	<i>Ron Webster Trophy</i> Nick Carlton
2nd XI	Dalton Marsh	Nick Rowe	Hayden Smith & Ben Ellis	Dalton Marsh
3rd XI	Tom Bourke	No qualifiers	Tom Bourke	Brett Smith
4th XI	Mark Van Poeteren	No qualifiers	Chris York	Jordan McCaig
5th XI	Michael Potenza	No qualifiers	Riley Woolfe	Michael Potenza

Junior Awards

U16 Most Improved	U14 Coach's Award
Archie Mansfield	Noah Dench
Nathan McConnell	Angus Gillies
Lachie McGregor	Jai Lundberg
James Young	Shayam Madan
	Kevin Mathews
U16 Coach's Award	
Siena Ferrara	U14 Player of the finals
Lachie Merory	Jude Birney

Senior Milestones

Sam Sheehan	150 Games	Houssam Almatrah	4,500 Runs
Steve Austin	100 Games	Nick Carlton	4,000 Runs
Matthew W Jackson	100 Games	Sam Sheehan	3,000 Runs
Dalton Marsh	100 Games	Haedar Almatrah	2,500 Runs
Michael Potenza	100 Games	Ian Gordon	2,000 Runs
Dean Spokes	100 Games	Nick Horsford	2,000 Runs
Eamon Bourke	50 Games	Dalton Marsh	2,000 Runs
Syd Dayal	50 Games	Mark Van Poeteren	2,000 Runs
Dharmesh Khanna	50 Games	Matt Macaulay	1,500 Runs
Duncan Sanderson	50 Games	Cam Douglas	1,000 Runs
Marcus Vethecan	50 Games	Hayden Smith	1,000 Runs
		Steve Austin	500 Runs
Nick Carlton	200 Wickets	Max Balcombe	500 Runs
Matthew R Jackson	100 Wickets	Thomas Bourke	500 Runs
Steve Austin	50 Wickets	Tim Lewis	500 Runs
Patrick Bourke	50 Wickets	Andrew Logan	500 Runs
Mitchell Crispe	50 Wickets	Jordan McCaig	500 Runs
Jordan McCaig	50 Wickets	Chris York	500 Runs
Sam Morey	50 Wickets		

Junior Milestones

Thomas Bourke	100 Games	Leo Dench	750 Runs
Benjamin Wolczko	75 Games	Idhant Yarlagadda	750 Runs
Nathan Ball	50 Games	Benjamin Wolczko	500 Runs
Alexander Jackson	50 Games	Noah Dench	250 Runs
Noah Jackson	50 Games	Siena Ferrara	250 Runs
James Black	25 Games	Shyam Madan	250 Runs
Ryan Bourke	25 Games		
Noah Dench	25 Games		
Angus Gillies	25 Games	Leo Dench	50 Wickets
William Halbish	25 Games	Sam Rackley	25 Wickets
Jacob Janezic	25 Games		
Shyam Madan	25 Games		
Luka Minarik	25 Games		
Krish Shetty	25 Games		
Riley Wolfe	25 Games		

Notable Season Performances

Seniors

5 or more wickets in an innings		20 or more wickets in the season	
Brett Smith	6/31 (Fourth XI)	Nick Carlton	37 Wickets
Cameron Douglas	5/14 (Second XI)	Aayat Khanna	30 Wickets
Vivek Kumar	5/21 (Fifth XI)	Patrick Bourke	26 Wickets
Nick Carlton	5/25 (First XI)	Brett Smith	20 Wickets
Aayat Khanna	5/33 (First XI)	Nick Rowe	20 Wickets
100 or more runs in an innings		250 or more runs in the season	
Nick Horsford	115 (Second XI)	Sam Sheehan	499 Runs
		Nick Carlton	491 Runs
		Mark Van Poeteren	410 Runs
		Nick Horsford	361 Runs
Hat-tricks		Dalton Marsh	350 Runs
		Chris Leech	275 Runs

Juniors

100 or more runs in a season		10 or more wickets in a season	
Ben Wolczko (U16)	220 Runs	Jude Birney (U14)	14 Wickets
Shyam Madan (U14)	213 Runs	Jude Lundberg (U14)	12 Wickets
Leo Dench (U16)	190 Runs	Angus Gillies (U14)	11 Wickets
Jude Birney (U14)	182 Runs	Noah Dench (U14)	10 Wickets
Idhant Yarlagaadda (U16)	165 Runs		
Thomas Bourke (U16)	146 Runs		
Lachlan Fraser (U16)	119 Runs	50 or more runs in an innings	
Noah Dench (U14)	113 Runs		
Kevin Mathew (U14)	108 Runs		

RECOGNITION OF OUR UNDER 25 YEAR OLD PLAYERS

Once again 'the Phantom' recognised senior players under 25 years of age across all Grades by donating financial benefits based upon players making in excess of 40 runs per innings and taking more than 3 wickets per innings. Sponsorship was based at \$1 per run and \$10 per wicket achieved over these levels. The following achievements are recognised, and the sponsorship graciously acknowledged.



Player	Age at 1 Sep 2020	Total Player \$
Nick Horsford	24.7	\$110
Dalton Marsh	21.8	\$66
Idhant Yarlagaadda	14.7	\$66
Harley Jackson	14.1	\$33
Brett Smith	22.3	\$33
Aayat Khanna	21.5	\$30
Pat Bourke	18.9	\$27
Jordan McCaig	20.9	\$25
	Total	\$390

Congratulations to all players under 25 that contributed on field through their efforts and raised \$390. Special thanks to 'the Phantom' for his/her wonderful gesture and contribution to the club

CHAIRMAN OF SELECTORS' REPORT

We had many challenges this season in how we communicated due to COVID. Haedar and I would like to thank everyone involved in getting the 5 teams on the park each week with minimal issues and stress.

Can we say a big thanks to Michael Potenza who did a mountain of work in his role with the bottom 3 grades. Michael, Jonathan & Dougall made this as easy as it can be at selection.

Also to Sam & Matt who were very well prepared in adapting to a new concept at selection. Having an idea of the first 2 selected teams on a Monday night made things a lot easier for selection for the last 3 grades. As there are always teething problems with a new concept I felt it worked and gave the bottom 3 captains the best chance to pick balanced sides. We would also like to thank the playing group for their communication around availability.

We look forward to this coming season!

Luke Anderson & Haedar Almatrah

Prior to the 2020-2021 season, the club asked me to assist the Chairman Of Selectors, Luke Anderson, with the selection and co-ordination of the third, fourth and fifth elevens whilst Luke focused on the firsts and seconds.

Selection during a season which was played under the constant cloud of COVID was made easier by the DVCA decision to only play one day games. Another change initiated by Luke Anderson to communicate first and second eleven squads early each week was also a good move. Big thanks go to Sam Sheehan and Matty Jackson for supporting this move.

The perennial problem of last-minute withdrawals and player shortages still remained, but I am glad to report that we always eventually managed to fill five senior teams for every round in 2020-21. Whilst the 3rds, 4ths and 5ths enjoyed modest seasons in terms of results, most players were grateful for the opportunity to get out and play cricket every Saturday after being locked up for extended periods during 2020.

One of the big positives of the season was the number of juniors who made their RCC senior debut. Players such as Archie Mansfield, Harry Foreman, Lachie Merory, Harry Gould, Riley Woolfe and Harley Jackson all made promising starts to their senior cricket careers when they joined our existing core of juniors playing senior cricket.

We saw some cameo appearances from past greats and Vets players throughout the season. It would have been great to have some more involvement from this group as many games were lost by close margins by the thirds and fourths purely due to a lack of experience and bit of extra polish. Obviously, our lack of depth in the lower grades remains a major concern and this was often exploited by the opposition on Saturdays. We need to recruit some new talent and get more players from the 3rds, 4ths and 5ths attending training on a regular basis. However, we should never lose sight of why we play cricket which is for the love of the game. Winning is a bonus when it comes along. A massive thanks to the Club Executive, Luke Anderson, Neil Crosthwaite (Club Coach), Jonathan Potenza (3rds Captain), Dougall McCulloch (4ths Captain), Gary Bryant (5ths Captain) and Geoff

Wilson (Under 16 Coach) for their open and honest communication during the season. A difficult role could have become unbearable without their important support. Plenty of phone calls and texts were exchanged between the three lower grade captains, Geoff and myself on Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings to finalize teams.

Finally, I would also like to thank the solid core of players from the thirds to the fifths who consistently turned up to training and always made themselves available for games.

Let's hope we can win more games next season whatever the format looks like.

Michael Potenza

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CLUB COACH'S REPORT

Congratulations to everyone at the club on what we achieved this season. Our biggest achievement is that we stuck together and survived a season that had the capacity to tear us apart. COVID, genuine COVID risks, COVID associated paranoia, ground renovations, temporary accommodation, disruption, financial uncertainty, political input from everywhere – this season had it all. And we survived it. We fielded 5 senior teams, an ultra-enthusiastic and revitalised Vet's team and we maintained a fantastic junior program. Please pat yourself (and everyone on your committee) on the back.

The 1st XI was brilliant. Barclay Shield has become a fantastic competition. Every team is competitive, and no game can be taken for granted. Rosanna old boy, Matthew Simpson, took North Eltham Wanderers CC to a premiership (congratulations Simmo) and we were one of only two teams to beat them and the only team to beat them twice. Make no mistake, we were right up there. Thanks to Sam Sheehan and Huss Almatrah for wonderful leadership and special mentions to Nick Carlton for an incredible season. To the likes of young players such as Aayat Khanna (winner of my coach's award) and Patrick Bourke for embracing the battle and taking on Barclay Shield with such success. The one-day format did not suit several clubs and I suggest we were one of them. However, our players responded brilliantly to the revised format and performed exceptionally for so much of the season.

Likewise, our T20 team. Under Adam Crosthwaite's guidance, we played T20 with energy, skill, aggression and smarts that took us to a grand final. It was great to see youngsters like Ben Wolczko and Ben Ellis contribute so much to the campaign. T20 requires a different mindset and a different skill set and we showed we can produce exactly what is needed. Congratulations to all involved and for all the supporters who got behind the campaign with such enthusiasm.

Our other elevens did not necessarily enjoy the success they might have expected or hoped for, but I trust that everyone enjoyed themselves. It was important for us all to get back out there, to circulate, to get ourselves involved and to enjoy our cricket. Special thanks to our appointed captains and to others who helped lead these teams in various manners and at various times throughout the season. We were able to offer opportunities to many juniors, including Harley Jackson who had a stellar season, a youngster who plays his junior cricket for a rival club. Their efforts were outstanding as were the efforts of the senior players who took such good care of these kids and mentored them throughout the season.

Special thanks to selectors Haedar Almatrah, Luke Anderson and Mick Potenza and congratulations to our committee on recognising Mick's enormous efforts in awarding him the W.P. Luby Memorial Award. In addition, my thanks to Mick Langford and his committee on a fantastic job. I hope everyone understands just how enormous the efforts have been this year and what it has taken to give you a game of cricket. Special thanks to Matt Macaullay, our COVID officer, for his fantastic efforts in keeping us healthy and compliant.

This is the last such report of this type I will be writing so I will close by thanking everyone involved at the club for providing me the opportunity and honour of coaching this great club.

Neil Crosthwaite
Club Coach

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1st XI CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Before we take the time to reflect on the 2020/21 1st XI Season, I want to thank the RCC Executive on giving me the opportunity to captain the 1st XI. I'd also like to acknowledge our previous captain in Nick Carlton who did a fantastic job in the previous four seasons.

The 2020/21 season presented a number of challenges, and even playing at all appeared to be unlikely at times due to the COVID situation in Victoria. However, once the Club was advised that the season was to proceed, with all matches being one-dayers, it presented a great opportunity for our group.

We went into the season opener with a host of regulars missing, including Scott Dunbar, Nathan Pietsch and Stephen Ryan, however this provided a number of our younger players, including Riley O'Sullivan, Matt Jackson (Swanny), Aayat Khanna and Pat Bourke a great opportunity at the level. Further to this, we welcomed back Huss Almatrah who missed the previous season due to injury.

Having finished second last in the 2019/2020 season, losing key personnel and with this season being all one-day matches, it was certainly a pleasant surprise to be 4-2 heading into Christmas and sitting second on the ladder. Key performers which led to such results included Nick Carlton, Pat Bourke, Jack Langford and Aayat Khanna. I was lucky enough to make a few runs early as well which was pleasing.

We were presented with eight matches in the New Year heading into finals, and sitting at 4-2, our destiny was certainly in our own hands. Inconsistency in performance was a key issue throughout the season which was further illustrated by being 2-2 in the first month back (W, L, W, L). However, heading into the last month, we were excited with what the future could hold, understanding we were a game clear in the four, with a record of 6-4.

We closed out the season with a fantastic win against the ladder leading North Eltham, who lost only two matches for the season, both against Rosanna. That was a feather in our cap, noting how dominant they were throughout the season. We confirmed our spot in the finals, finishing 4th, with an exciting elimination final against Banyule to come.

Unfortunately, the final against Banyule didn't go our way, noting it was that inconsistency with performance, particularly with the bat that ultimately led to our demise. As we all remember, the game went right down to the wire, and it was a real credit to our bowling group who nearly got us over the line. However, it wasn't to be.

Upon reflection on the year that was, understanding it was my first year as captain, the number of talented players we lost and the one-day format arguably not suiting the way we play. I was really pleased with the overall improvement from the group, especially with our younger developing players. Pat Bourke and Aayat Khanna put together fantastic seasons, as well as Nick Horsford and Olly Toussaint who are developing into future leaders of the club.

In terms of overall highlights, a number spring to mind, including the following:

- Convincingly beating arch rival Macleod in Round 1 at our new home at Banyule Flats.
- Knocking off Nth Eltham in Round 5, noting they were 4-0 at the time and it being the first game against our old team mate, Matt Simpson.
- Chasing 128 against Diamond Creek on their patch only one down, with Jacky Lang being promoted to number 3 and whacking em to all parts.

- Nick Horsford's masterful 55* against Lower Eltham, noting we chased down their total of 102, none down.
- Aayat Khanna's maiden five wicket haul in the final round of the H&A season against ladder leaders, Nth Eltham.

I'd also like to acknowledge the performance of Nick Carlton who again put together a great year with bat and ball (409 runs @ 29 / 26 wickets @ 12). Nick was a member of the DVCA Team of the Year and was right up there in voting for the Player of the Season. Other consistent contributors included Pat Bourke (26 wickets @ 17) and Aayat Khanna (22 wickets @ 11).

In closing, I would like to thank outgoing coach Neil Crosthwaite for his outstanding contribution to the club as Senior Coach. Neil always went above and beyond for the club, particularly with our younger players and working on their skills with bat and ball. Further to this, I'd like to thank all the players that represented the 1st XI this season. It was as always, a lot of fun and with a some more improvement next year, I'm sure we can go deeper into finals. Finally, to President Mick Langford, thanks for all that you do and your continued support of the Club we all love.

I look forward to doing it all again next year, back at our home at De Winton.

Sam Sheehan
First XI Captain

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2nd XI CAPTAIN'S REPORT

After multiple finals appearances across the previous few seasons, it was not to be for the 2nd XI this year.

However, that does not mean that the season was wasted. The season provided a young group of players with the opportunity to develop their game in a one-day format that not many of them were used to playing. While we had our ups and downs, it was great to see improvement and increased confidence across the year from players.

Some memorable moments from the year are

- Nick Horsford making a 360-degree maiden 100 for the club against Montmorency,
- Cameron Douglas being Mr Reliable with his bowling,
- Dalton Marsh for his ongoing desire to improve and adapt to the game situation,
- Dean Spokes for almost winning us the game with the ball,
- Ben Wolczko and Idhant for making their debuts in the team as very young players and doing well, and
- Matt Jackson randomly hitting a six every now and then, for what seemed to be purely for our amusement.

I encourage all players to continue to learn and to discuss their games and how to approach different game situations with coaches and other players. We have a very good young group of potential long term 1st XI players, and this will be the next step in their development.

I would like to thank Luke Anderson, Neil Crosthwaite, Mike Langford and the committee for their support across the year. As well as to Matt Macauley for his assistance to me across the season in his role as Vice-Captain. I would also like to thank the playing group for their ongoing commitment to not only their cricket, but to ensuring that we always have fun on our Saturdays.

Matthew W Jackson
Second XI Captain

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3rd XI CAPTAIN'S REPORT

It was an all too familiar tale for the 3rd XI this season, with a season which promised opportunity turning into one full of missed opportunities. Rosanna finished the season again in 6th position with a record of four wins, 1 draw and 10 losses, neither truly threatening for a finals spot nor being vulnerable to relegation.

Our season started off in great fashion with a comprehensive victory over Old Paradians in Round 1. The match included our best individual performance for the year from Idhant Yarlagadda who posted an imposing 96 before needlessly running himself out to fall short of a deserved century. This was backed up by a strong team effort with the ball and in the field, including fantastic contributions from Sam Morey (3-13) and Chris Payne (2-7) on the day.

Following success in Round 1, the team experienced a patchy run of form, culminating in 3 wins and 3 losses leading into the Christmas break. Wins over Lalor Stars in Round 4 and Eltham in Round 6 meant that the team sat just outside the top four at the halfway mark of the season. Well done to Brett Smith (3-29), Ekansh Rao (33) and Ando (43*) for their solid contributions to get us across the line in a hard-fought contest against Lalor.

In our win against Eltham, we managed to restrict them to 8-103 off their allotted 35 overs, ensuring a comfortable chase in our innings. Well done to Sam Morey (3-17) and Jacob Janezic (2-11) for their performances with the ball to set up the win.

Following the Christmas break, close losses to eventual premiers Lower Eltham and rivals Banyule proved difficult to swallow. Despite quality performances in those games from Brett Smith (40) and Tom Bourke (57), we were unable to get across the line, which proved to be a common theme of the season. Lapses in concentration throughout games and not taking our chances also proved costly.

Unfortunately, the team was unable to gain any sort of momentum in the latter stages of the season and disappointingly did not win a game after Christmas (excluding a forfeit win).

Some other notable highlights of the season included:

- Harley Jackson making his debut in the 3rd XI against none other than his former/current club - Riverside. Harley took 1-13 off his five overs and was by far our best bowler on the day. A sign of things to come, I'm sure.
- Sam Morey's year with the ball taking 12 wickets at an average of 17.75.
- Brett Smith's consistency with the bat and ball, culminating in winning the All-Rounder Award.

I think it's important that this group does not remain satisfied with purely being competitive. At the end of the day, there is no column for honourable losses and given the quality of personnel at our disposal, it was clear that we underachieved this season.

I have never been one to settle for mediocrity and at the present time, this is where the team sits. It's up to each of us as individuals to find ways to continue to improve as cricketers and help propel this team to E-Grade and 80 over cricket.

On reflection, purely being able to play cricket this season was a privilege given the challenges which a COVID-19 plagued year provided. Thank you to the 30 players who took the field for the 3rd XI this year, even those who decided to leave halfway through a run chase!

I would like to thank all those who worked tirelessly to get this season up and running. In particular, thank you to Matt Macaulay for all your work as our COVID-Safety Officer.

Thankyou also to Neil, Mick Langford, Huss, Chris, Gary, Ando, other captains and the entire RCC executive for your enormous efforts this season. I am very grateful to have been entrusted with the captaincy for the last two seasons. It's something which I have not taken lightly.

Ultimately, I would be lying if I said that as captain of the team, I walked away from this season content with what transpired. To me, cricket is all about being part of a community, building bonds with your teammates and achieving success. It's my hope that the 3rd XI can translate this into reality next season.

Jonathan Potenza
Third XI Captain

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4th XI CAPTAIN'S REPORT

“May you live in interesting times”, as the alleged traditional Chinese curse goes, certainly described 2020! Despite enduring extended lock downs due to the pandemic, we were very lucky to be able to get onto the park in November and have a shortened season of one-day games.

Without the outstanding work done by the RCC committee, playing would have been possible. A big thanks to the efforts of Mick Langford and all of his team for all their efforts. A particular thanks to Matt Macaulay for so expertly organising and managing all the COVID protocols required to safely play cricket. I would also really like to thank our coach Neil Crosthwaite who made enormous efforts organising training and finding time to help players at all levels in the difficult environment created by the pandemic.

After being relegated last season, the 4th XI had a much more competitive season. Although we ended up with 3 wins from 13 games, we were in most games and could have easily won another 3 or 4. During the season it was rewarding to see the development of some of our younger players. Jordan McCaig, Chris York, Max Balcombe and Jack Antonio-Taylor all had good seasons. However, it was the juniors in Harley Jackson, Archie Mansfield and Harry Foreman who really caught the eye with their undoubted potential.

I would like to thank all 42(!) players who played in the 4th XI during the season. It was just great to be out there playing. I especially would like to thank the other senior players for helping me out, particularly Geoff Wilson and Mark Van Poeteren.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Michael and Jono Potenza who for all their help running training during the season. Finally, in a pandemic season in which players availability could change at any moment, I would like to thank Michael Potenza for all his efforts in ensuring that all teams had sufficient players during the season.

Dougal McCulloch
Fourth XI Captain

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5th XI CAPTAIN'S REPORT

After entering a team in the One Day Competition (G4) in 2019-20, the shorter season with only one day games was not a stretch for us. The season was difficult, with only 1 win, and 12 losses from the 13 completed games, finishing bottom of the 8 teams. The solitary win coming in round 2 against Laurimar Teal, who eventually finished 4th. Insufficient depth in batting and bowling meant we averaged only 112 runs per game and took only 4.3 wickets per innings. This was disappointing given we finished 7th out of 13 teams in the previous season. However, this is partially explained by the fact that 5 of the 6 teams who finished below us were moved down to the new G5 grade, and the other team disbanded. Clearly, we were graded too high, and G5 next season will hopefully lead to more competitive cricket.

40 players took to the field in G4, and I would like to thank them all for representing the club in a positive manner, despite the behaviour of some opposition players. For providing the support a Captain needs, as well as remaining positive during some very one-sided losses. Juniors who debuted and all made contributions were Harry Gould, Harley Jackson, Xavier Jackson, Noah Jackson & Lachie Merorie.

Despite the losses, there were a number of highlights, including:

- Vivek Kumar took 5/21 to help bowl out Laurimar Teal for 89. In our innings, Harley Jackson making 43 on debut for Rosanna and combined some lusty hitting from Matt Torres, who scored 24*, brought us home with 5 overs to spare.
- Harley continued to impress, and played most games in F1 before coming back in round 13 against Old Paradians and putting on an opening partnership of 63 with Chris York (who made 35 in a strong finish to the season where he made 103 runs for 2 dismissals across 3 grades). Harley went on to carry his bat, bringing up his debut 50* off the last ball of the innings.
- Round 3, where a strong bowling effort saw us bowl out North Eltham for 127. After the top order failed, Mick Potenza made 55*, but with little support we fell 5 runs short. This game also saw Peter, Harley and Xavier Jackson all playing together for the first time.
- Duncan Sanderson making a cameo 53* against North Eltham in round 10, but with the only support being a well compiled 31 from Ian Gordon, it was not enough.

Mick Potenza won the batting and all-rounder awards, with 158 runs @ 39.50 and 7 dismissals. There were no qualifiers for the bowling award, with Syd Dayal taking the most wickets with 10. Riley Woolfe took out the fielding award, and showed great promise as a keeper, as well as showing mettle as an opening batsman, seeing off the new ball in several good innings.

I would like to thank in particular the club stalwarts who played most of the season despite the difficulties on-field: Syd Dayal, Dharmesh Khanna, Michael Potenza, Ian Gordon and Steve Austin who played 8 games or more and helped to provide some stability as players moved in and out. Particular thanks to Michael Potenza who captained for the first four games of the season, as well as being our most consistent batsman and showed us how to score runs by valuing his wicket.

I would also like to thank Mick Potenza for his role as selection of the lower grade teams, as well as the running around needed to fill the teams each weekend. His work is greatly appreciated. Thanks also the Exec and the rest of committee for supporting the club so well during a very difficult year.

Gary Bryant
Fifth XI Captain

VETERAN'S REPORT

The Vets after having a very lean season in Division A in 2019/2020, returned to Division B in 2020/2021.

The season started slowly with defeats to Banyule (who lost the grand final to Montmorency) and Rosebank who moved up to Division A after round 2. Round 3 saw us have our first win in 9 games after comfortably accounting for Bundoora. Sure, it was a walk over, but let's not let the facts spoil the joy of a win. The timing of the walk over played into our hands, enabling the Vets Punters Club function to start early. With a limit due to Covid restrictions, we had the most amazing BBQ and drinks session at Bourkey's place with many partners in attendance. Thanks again to Eamon and Ruth for hosting!!

I think the Vets Punters Club function was the pre-season training session we missed out on, because after the Christmas break, we played some fantastic team cricket to win 3 of our last 4 games. The only loss coming to Montmorency who won the Grand Final. Two of our three wins were absolute pressure cookers with wins coming in the final over of the day. On both occasions we were the fielding team and had some brilliant bowling spells from the like of Moons, Hendo, Payney, Springer and Vivek to get us back in the game and a position to win. These wins really reminded us of why we still love playing cricket, and how the competitive spirit and enjoying wins with your mates still burns strong.

We ended up finishing the season in 3rd place which was a very satisfying result for the 19 players who represented the club across the season. This year we welcomed Gerald Carey (aka Duck) who was a great addition to the team, both on and off the field. We also welcomed back Springer after missing almost 2 seasons of cricket after bicep surgery at the back end of the season. While we had great contributions from all players at different times throughout the season, we had two players who dominated the season and deserved their standing in the MVP awards. The winner was Moons making 200 runs at 67, to go with his 7 wickets at 18, 2 catches and a clear win in the verbal stoush stakes against Research. Leeky finished 2nd after playing in a different galaxy to the rest of us, peeling off 228 classy runs with an average of 228 and chipping in with 3 catches!! Not to be overlooked by any means, we had Pilks finish 3rd in the MVP, after having another great season behind the stumps, constantly offering words of encouragement to the team to go with his 4 catches, 4 brilliant stumpings and a hand in several run outs.

The season finished in customary fashion with the end of season trip up to Merrijig. Thanks again to Dan for hosting the boys. We certainly had a brilliant weekend of golf, drinking, punting, local footy and steaks to burn (great job on the BBQ Duck). Not sure what it was about the cold nights but clearly our South African boys had a problem getting passed 8:30pm.

We certainly look forward to doing it all again next season and we'd like to thank Neil for coaching and supporting the boys over recent seasons.

Cheers
Dunks

Duncan Sanderson
Vets Captain

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UNDER 16 COACH'S REPORT

Season 2020/21 was nothing like anything any of us have seen. The ability to adapt to changing circumstances was critical in normal life, as well as for the cricket season. With the season delayed due to the lockdown in Melbourne we weren't able to train until late October 2020, with our first game in mid-November 2020. As a group, we are able to do some virtual training via Zoom for 6 to 7 weeks prior to physical training, which the majority of the players actively involved in presentations and discussions. Obviously, it wasn't as good as training in person, but it was the best we could do in the circumstances. I hope those who participated got at least a little out of it.

We had 23 players in the group, which allowed us to put in two teams into the DVCA Under 16 competition, one in the top grade (Blue) and the other in White. Having won the premiership last season in the Blue grade, the pressure was on us to maintain the high standards. All games were 20 over matches, which we were not tremendously well-suited to, given the mix of players in the group. Perhaps the hardest thing to cope with was trying to give as many players as possible an opportunity to do at least something in each game, with only 20 overs to bat and 20 overs to bowl. This was quite challenging, but overall, I thought we did a pretty good job to spread the load.

We had a new coaching group, with Pat Bourke, Jono Potenza and Sam Morey providing the valuable back-up support needed to manage such a large group of players. I'm very grateful for their help in what were trying circumstances, especially early in the season. As we were not able to train in groups of any more than 11 initially, it meant that we had to split training into two distinct groups, which in itself was challenging and limiting.

Like last season, we had joint captains for the Blue team, this season being Leo Dench and Tom Bourke, both of whom did a fine job. We also added 4 players (Siena Ferrera, Jacob Janezic, Idhant Yarlagadda, and Ben Wolczko) to provide our leadership group for the season. We were very keen to give Leo and Tom extra responsibility this season, being actively involved in team selection. We hope they got something out of it and got a better understanding of just how hard the selection process can be. For the White team, we had a rotation of players captaining the team, including members of the leadership group (excluding Tom and Leo) who each played one game in the grade.

It's important to understand that we had a gap in talent between the different groups. Most of the players in the Blue team were very experienced and hence able to cope with the much higher standard. Those who played the majority of games in the White team tended to be players who were either in their first year in Under 16s or were still learning the game.

It was very pleasing to see that the White team won their first 3 games, which also included beating Riverside who eventually won the premiership in that grade. Unfortunately, the team was re-graded into a much tougher competition and we were soundly beaten in several games. We requested that the team be put back in the White competition and this was agreed to by the DVCA. Eventually, we finished third in the grade, meaning that we had the opportunity for both teams to play in finals (both at Banyule Flats against our local rivals Banyule), which was very pleasing. In White, Banyule made a very competitive score of 4/99. We weren't good enough to chase it down, at one stage being 9/49. Eventually, the last wicket partnership took the score up to 9/82 to make the score look much more respectable, but in reality we were soundly beaten. Giving all of the kids an opportunity to play in a final was terrific and hopefully they learn from that experience.

Coming into the last game of the season against Epping, the Blue team was sitting on top of the ladder, having only lost one game for the season against the eventual premiers, Riverside. However, Epping humbled us, keeping us to score of only 9/65 from our 20 overs, which wasn't anywhere near enough. They passed us very comfortably 5 wickets down with about five overs to spare. This meant that the Blue team finished third and had to play Banyule in the semi-final.

Banyule won the toss and elected to bat and we thought we did reasonably well to keep them to 6/100 off their 20 overs. Banyule had four leg spinners in the team who all bowled very well and we didn't cope particularly well with that. In addition, their opening bowler bowled brilliantly, without taking any wickets. His final figures were 4 overs, 3 maidens, 0/10, which is excellent in a 20 over game, putting a lot of pressure on our batsmen. Unfortunately, we lost wickets consistently, with only Ben and Idhant getting into the 20s. We ended up falling 10 runs short, meaning that we weren't able to defend our premiership from last year.

We were very happy with the overall effort of the players across the season, in a style of cricket that we weren't particularly well suited to. Our players would have been much better suited to 40 over matches. From a batting perspective, Ben Wolczko and Leo Dench stood out, with both of them scoring around 200 runs for the season. Leo also ended up being our best bowler as well, always looking threatening and picking up vital wickets when necessary.

Like many other sports, we saw more injuries than one would normally expect in the season. It seems like most of the season we had several players either out injured (which meant that we played short at times) or playing under some duress (which limited their capacity to compete). Most definitely, we couldn't accuse the players of not giving their best. While we had a couple of disappointing performances, notably Epping in the last home and away game, overall the Blue team played pretty well and it was very pleasing to see the development of many players, showing noticeable improvement.

Next season poses some further challenges, with a large number of the players moving on from Under 16s, hopefully to an Under 18s team, with no players coming up from the Under 14s. This means that we need to recruit players and retain our existing players to ensure that we have a competitive team.

I'd like to give thanks to the following people for making a massive contribution to our season:

- Pat Bourke, Jono Potenza and Sam Morey, who did heaps of work in their assistant roles, both pre-season and during the season proper.
- Eamon and Ruth Bourke for their tireless work behind the scenes.
- Neill Jackson, who in his role as team manager (as he has done for the last two seasons) did a great job in organising parents and players for game day.

Finally, to all of the players in the team, thanks for all of your support in what was a very tough season. I hope everyone got a little something out for the season and we look forward to significant improvement next season in all players, hopefully with everyone coming back either to play Under 18s or Under 16s.

Geoff Wilson
Under 16's Coach

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UNDER 14 COACH'S REPORT

Season 20/21 saw the under 14 squad play in White. The squad consisted of 14 players with 11 players coming up from the previous years Under 12 squad coached by Aayat Khanna. Two players remained from the previous season's U14 squad and one joined the club from Preston.

Prior to this season none of the squad had played finals so considering this, the Team had an outstanding year finishing the home and away season second and eventually finishing runners-up to an undefeated Mernda, in a close Grand Final.

The squad lost four games for the year, one to Banyule who were promoted after grading and three times to Mernda. Being a 'lower' aged squad, we were unable to get over the line against an 'upper' aged squad in Mernda who were too big and strong. However, all three games were close and a credit to our squad they were super competitive and refused to be intimidated by their bigger opponents.

The season presented a number of challengers from a development point of view due to its late start and lack of pre-season training. Furthermore, all games were 20/20 games which gave little opportunity for 'development and game time' for all players, especially those who needed time in the middle.

There were too many individual highlights to mention here but the overall strength of the squad was its ability to play as a 'Team' as evident by:

- Shyam Madan winning the U14 White batting averages
- Angus Gillies winning the U14 White bowling averages
- Noah Dench and his outstanding captaincy especially in the finals without assistance from his coaches.
- Our award winners showing a consistent weekly ability to perform – Noah Dench, Angus Gillies, Shayam Madan, Kevin Mathews, Jude Birney & Jai Lundberg.
- Our ability to come back from adverse situations and find a way to stay in the game.
- Our enthusiasm for training and our willingness to listen and learn from our weekly games.

The success of the season was not measured in 'wins' or the 'grand final' appearance. Rather it was the players ability to absorb what was being asked of them, to improve their game and to 'have a crack' at the challenges that we gave them every week. Their improvement from the first to the last game was outstanding and for this they can be very proud of the year.

I have thoroughly enjoyed the challenges of coaching this group I would like to thank the following people for their outstanding efforts over the season:

- My assistant coach Aayat Khanna for his knowledge of the game, the players and his assistance at training and on game day.
- Divya Shetty our Team Manager for her wonderful organisational skills.
- Ruth Bourke for her administrative assistance in getting the Team up and running in the pre-season.
- To all the parents for their support in getting the players to and from training and games.
- To all the parents who gave their time to help with training, scoring and running the canteen.
- To the senior players/ coaches who helped with training from time to time.

Eamon Bourke
Under 14s Coach