



WASTCA

West Australian Suburban Turf Cricket Association (Inc.)

CRICKETWEST CUP

VETERANS 28th October 2018

This season would see a dramatic change in the structure of the cricketwest competition with the amalgamation of the colts and seniors into one competition to be played on a block-buster weekend of 5th-6th January and the veterans fixtures to be played over 2 Sundays and not the traditional 4 Sunday structure all prior to Christmas. The format would continue as a T20 competition with the South Metropolitan Cricket Association not able to field a side, every match would be crucial in a bid to make the final to be played at the WACA.

ROUND 1- WASTCA – VS PCA

Perth Cricket Association have been the benchmark in the veterans competition for the past 5 years winning consecutive premierships and we have to go back as far as the season 2011-2012 when WASTCA last beat them so there was a lot at stake to win our first match and break the voodoo curse.....

A very high turn-over of personnel in this seasons squad with the only familiar faces from last season being Captain Tim Overton from the Kalamunda Cricket club, Greg Dimery from Double View Carine CC and Travis Rawlins from the Bedford Morley CC. Saturday night proved once again a challenge for selectors with the original squad falling away dramatically with a multitude of injuries and unavailability- new members had to be included at short notice.

Tim would win the toss and elect to bat with Greg Dimery to assume the customary opening position albeit under a limited pre-season due to work commitments and other extra curricular activities..... Kalamunda President and stylish opening bat Kent Millington would also open up for the first time.

After a cautious start by both openers we were away with Millington cracking a beautiful cover drive off the last ball of the second over then following up the next over with another couple of cracking drives using his long levers to advantage- the score now 0/17 from 3 overs. Dimery who appeared very rusty was now getting into his groove and started to follow his opening partner's lead cracking a couple of lofted boundaries over cover and mid wicket and we were now racing to over 7 per over from the first 10 overs.

Dimery was the first to go stumped for a well made 34 (3 fours and 1 six) with the score on 1/79 from 11 overs. Millington followed shortly afterwards LBW for a stylist 41 (5 fours and 1 six) with the score now 2/80 from 12 overs. Travis Rawlins fresh from an unproductive Saturday of cricket came to the crease with Captain Tim Overton but unfortunately Overton didn't last long chopping one onto his stumps for a duck.- The score now 3/82- a mini collapse.

Sean Richards joined Rawlins at the crease and both set about consolidating the innings picking up singles and rotating the strike with the left and right hand batting combination working effectively against the strong PCA attack.

At the 15 over mark it was time to launch and Rawlins took the bull by the horns and unleashed a tirade of lusty blows taking 9,11, 9 off the next 3 overs- he was well supported by Richards who cleverly rotated the strike and also chipped with the occasional boundary. Rawlins was finally out in the 18th over for a crucial 37 (3 boundaries and 1 six).

Scott Caporn (1) , Phil Hayman (2) and Ferdi Penheiro (0) all sacrificed their wickets in order to surge the score past 140 and with Richards remaining unbeaten on 17 would see our innings close out at a respectable 7/141 from 20 overs.

Noel Seneque and Tim Overton would open the bowl for us and needed to make quick inroads into the PCA batting line up if we were to put them under pressure to chase down the total. After a couple of tight opening overs the PCA batsmen had started to find the gaps and the pace of the bowling to their liking and at 0/34 Overton had to swing the changes- Alister Lowes set about turning the pressure back onto the opposition and he his home club president and team mate Seneque who was first to strike from a beautiful catch from skipper Overton- the score 1/37 from 5 overs.

Now enter the enigmatic Rawlins- with his left arm variation along with deceptive medium pace of Lowes dragged the game back our way- Rawlins taking a good catch of his own bowling- PCA now 2/60 with the game still in the balance. Lowes continued to keep the pressure on from the opposite end and Rawlins struck again with a superb outfield catch by Phil Hayman- the score now 3/70 in the 11th over with the result to hinge on what happened in the next 5 overs.

Lowes, who bowled extremely tight struck with his second last delivery now leaving PCA in a precarious position at 4/86 at the 14th over mark, needing 55 from 6 overs. Rawlins chipped in again with some sharp glove work from Dimery to remove the dangerous PCA opener and start to put a stake in the heart of PCA- the score now 5/92 from 15 overs.

Another Bassendean veteran entered the contest and then proceeded to put the game out of the grasp of PCA- Geoff Hodgson bowled a maiden in his first over then followed up with a double wicket over- an LBW then a beautifully judged outfield catch by his fellow clubman Lowes- PCA now 7/101 needing 10 an over off the last 4 to win.

This was too much for the PCA tailend batsmen to achieve and solid outfielding by the WASTCA team would see PCA finish 7 runs short. The pick of the bowlers was clearly Travis Rawlins -3/16 from his 4 overs and Geoff Hodgson 2/23 from his 4 overs- A great victory for the team considering we have not beaten them for over 7 years.

ROUND 2- WASTCA – VS NSCCA

Game two being played straight after the great win against PCA was going to be tough for a couple of reasons- 1 they are veterans for a reason and 2 we were down two players with no subs- Phil Hayman had torn the hamstring from the bone taking an outfield catch in the last match, Kent Millington rolling his ankle and a player was AWOL from the first match.....SK.....

Our skipper would lose the toss (which may have been a blessing as the team was still warm from the end of the first match) and were out in field.

Yes indeed it was going to be a challenge as the NSCCA had come to play taking 57 from the first six overs. Once again Lowes and Rawlins were called on to pull the momentum of the game back and they both delivered in spades- firstly Rawlins trapping the NSCCA dangerous opener LBW. Lowes then followed up in his 3rd over knocking over the NSCCA no.3- the score now 2/82 from 11 overs with still some work to do to pull the scoring back.

Rawlins then struck in his final over to finish with the impressive figures of 2/25 from his 4 overs with Geoff Hodgson picking up where he left off in the first match claiming the other dangerous NSCCA opener beautifully caught in the outfield by veteran Scott Caporn and with the innings starting to really stall for the opposition the WASTCA vets grabbed the ascendancy.

The team closed the bowling and fielding out well with Geoff Hodgson completing a wonderful bowling double taking 2/32 with the fittest and best looking man in the team Ferdi Penheiro chipping in with a wicket (1/12 from 2 overs) to restrict the NSCCA team to 7/148.- This was still going to be a difficult run chase as the casualty ward was brimming with bodies.....

The two biggest concerns were the total to chase and if the team would have enough fit players to finish the match. Greg Dimery would again open with Kent Millington- both players were cramping heavily. They started positively score freely although to their discomfort found hitting boundaries difficult at first, running a number of 1's and 2's until finally both started to find the middle of the bat.

Millington was the first to go LBW for 13 which then brought captain Overton to the crease who was disappointed at missing out on runs in the first game and he and Dimery set to chase down the big total. Overton started really positively smashing his first scoring shot for a boundary and then continued to pick up 1's and 2's at will.

Both batsmen made the chase look easy compiling a partnership of 41 until Overton was decider by the NSCCA spinner caught behind for a solid 27 including 4 boundaries. The match was evenly poised at the half way mark 2/75 and Travis Rawlins, who at this stage was screaming for the physio joined Dimery who also appeared terribly fatigued but set to chase down the total.

All fears with the run chase were put to bed within the next five overs with both batsmen able to accumulate 8-10 runs per over with little or no risk. Greg Dimery would finish the match unbeaten on 67 (7 fours and 1 six) with Rawlins chipping in with a very clever 33 no.- The match won inside 19 overs.

A couple of great wins to the veterans who now finish the day on top of the ladder and should progress to the final at the WACA on 13th January.
