

Newcomb CC

Establishment of a Disability Cricket League

Newcomb CC already participated in the annual 2-day Barwon Region Disability Cricket Carnival but felt that more regular playing opportunities should be made available to its players with a disability.

Gaining the support of three other mainstream Clubs, Newtown & Chilwell CC, Drysdale CC & Collendina CC, Club President Scott Smith designed a competition structure that would best suit everyone.

A four game season was drawn up concluding in finals. Each round of competition had the four teams playing at the same ground with one game starting at 10:00am and the second game starting at 1:00pm. Each of the four Clubs hosted a round and supplied a BBQ lunch for the players of all teams.

Working with the local Access for All Abilities Project Officer, the Clubs secured sponsorship and support from prominent local community people, thereby ensuring minimal cost to participants.

Newcomb CC also sought to integrate the new players into main stream Club activities. All players were presented with Club shirts and encouraged to attend the Club's social functions. Training sessions were also held with players and coaches from the Club's other senior teams.

To launch the 'League', Newcomb hosted the first round of the competition and combined it with a Club 'Family Day' in which sponsors, life members, players and families celebrated the game of cricket.

The Club embraced the new team with its members forming a 'support crew' that attended all of the team's games.

In its first season, the League produced some great benefits:

- 45 new players played in the League, resulting in increased membership for each Club
- Led by Newcomb and the other three Clubs, a great community image has been developed in the Barwon area
- Some players have taken on roles within their Clubs including 'match day manager' and scoring which has helped the Clubs with those hard to cover volunteer roles

While many projects have provided one off experiences for people with disabilities to enjoy a particular activity, Newcomb CC have taken a giant step forward in creating and sustaining the Barwon Disability Cricket League.