

1996 Presidents Message

Welcome all cricketers and enthusiasts to the 1996 season. The format this year will be the same as in the past and I wish all teams success in the League and Knockout competition. This year sees the official affiliation of the Victoria Women's Cricket Club with the VDCA. We wish them good luck and offer them our collective support. The Midweek League will again play on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings and we hope their inaugural 'friendly' season with St Michaels University School will prove to be popular and become a permanent part of the fixture list.

It is most encouraging to see renewed interest in the game at SMUS. Thanks to the fund established by the late Margaret Van Lijf and the many alumni and friends who have donated to it, two cricket practice nets have been constructed at the School. These are essential to the effective coaching of young cricketers and it is wonderful to see the tradition of cricket continuing at an institution that has been - and is - such an important pad of cricket locally.

Junior Development in the VDCA is up and running with an extended programme this year. We are fortunate to have such a good and proven Coach in Tony Cordle. With the recent formation of the Vancouver Island Junior Cricket Association, we hope to see a much broader base of youth exposed to our sport - and we wish them all success in finding the funds needed to make a good go of it.

We shall see more qualified umpires standing this season than ever before, thanks to the Vancouver Island Society of Cricket Umpires & Scorers. I trust interest in this aspect of the sport will continue to grow. The Beacon Hill Pavilion Society remains dedicated to the maintenance of the Pavilion and I wish them well in their further fund-raising activities.

In early August we shall host the sixth VISAS Festival and I hope David Billingham, the perennial Chairman of the event, will receive the support required to organize and stage it.

We host two school sides this year - Beacon House Sch, Pakistan in Late June and Dauntsey's Sch, England in late July - and two clubs, Sydenhurst Ramblers from England and I Zingari from Australia in late August.

The VDCA will pay increased attention to the safety of players this year. I hope all clubs will ensure that protective equipment is not only available at all games but used by their members at the appropriate times.

Finally, I should like to thank all those who work so hard in their many capacities on and off the field to ensure that cricket will run smoothly, safely and enjoyably in the coming season.
Happy cricketing in 1996.

Jan Aten