Whyte hot form earns top gong in West’s party

Anthony Geppa
CRICKET

WITH the cricket season well and truly over, players traded in their whites for slacks and ties with clubs holding their annual presentation nights.

Premiers West celebrated their second consecutive three-peat this past season, with opening batsman Nick Whyte honoured by being named the club’s champion player in season 2015/16.

Whyte was a constant at the top of the batting order for the premiers, also chipping in with the ball when needed as he was a vital cog in a successful side all season long.

Whyte’s importance to West’s line-up was highlighted in the T20 final with Whyte’s 63 helping to guide his side to victory.

Gapwrek Works were on the end of two grand final defeats this season but it had little to do with the performance of skipper Ben Ellis, who was named the club’s champion player after yet another stellar year.

Ellis’ tall stood tall in defeat in the two-day final as he took 6/32 in a valiant effort to cap off a dominant year for the all-rounder in which he made 531 runs and took 28 wickets, winning the player of the competition along the way.

PROBuild Rovers young gun Jordi Nicolai proved he has an extremely bright future in the game after the 16-year-old took home his club’s A Grade best and fairest on Friday night.

Nicolai has had a breakout year in this season’s competition and established himself as one of the town’s brightest talents, while he has also performed well away on representative duties also.

Nicolai was named bowler of the carnival at the prestigious Marist Cricket Carnival late in 2015, the first time an Alice Springs player has won the award and his best and fairest cap off a terrific season.

At Federal Asbuild, spearhead bowler Kevin Thomas took out top honours this past weekend as he took home the senior cricketer of the year award.

Thomas terrified batsmen all season long with ferocious spells of fast bowling, often keeping his side in matches when they looked defeated and was recently selected in the Alice Springs side that travelled to Darwin to compete in the Carlton Mid Darwin and Districts Twenty20 competition.

Top players to Open challenge

Steve Menzies
TABLE TENNIS

FIVE Centralian table tennis players will take on Darwin’s best in the NT Open at the weekend.

They are Jacob Moore, Bhavna Soni, Kieran Lelis, Max Duffell and Laurel Duf- fel.

As these top players will be away, and due to the May Day long weekend, there will be no Sunday coaching next weekend.

The coaching sessions for Sunday, May 8 (Mother’s Day) have also been cancelled.

However training is available by appointment.

The Tuesdays table tennis sessions will go ahead as normal.

Plans are well under way for a countdown now on for the national junior titles being held in Alice Springs on July 24.

Offers of assistance are wel- come – even one shift can help give another volunteer a break.

Call Laurel Duffell on 0415 077 087 to discuss.

If you can present, table tennis member or supporter can help.

1. Load new tables in storage.

2. Be a canteen volunteer or general event volunteers.

3. Sell raffle books to be re- leased in the coming weeks.

Anyone who can help can place their name on the whiteboard table or send the Alice Springs Table Tennis Associ- ation an email.

Billetting or house sits are still required from June 28 to July 10 for guests coming to the nationals.

They include the Darwin NT team, members and former coach.

In particular, the associ- ation hopes to find accommoda- tion for TV Lee, Sonny Cartwright and Joe Hoal, a special mentor, coach and friend to Alice Springs Table Tennis over the years.

Race success drives team to expand field

Anthony Geppa
RUNNING/WALKING

WITH the inaugural edition of the Barrett Drive Mile run and won, planning has already begun to make the 2017 race better and better.

This year’s race drew 326 competitors to the event from both Alice Springs and interstate, including Paralympic world re- cord holder Michael Roeger and AIS ath- lete Philo Saunders, and far exceeded organisers’ expectations.

RDM committee member Mel Mutch said the event organising crew already had a host of ideas for next year’s event, hop- ing that a whole year of planning should help entice more entrants in 2017.

“Next year we want to come back bigger and better. This being our first event and seeing how it went, we’ve got lots of ideas on how to tweak it and make it even better next year,” Mutch said.

“We’ll aim to have a similar (prize pool) package from Lasseters, in the Barrett Drive Mile. Susie Armes was in the team that won the “Best Dressed” prize, an accommodation form Lasseters, in the Barrett Drive Mile.

Shane Caden saying the group was all- ready full of ideas.

“This year, we created the event in three months so next year we have the full year to put ideas in, which is exciting. It means we’ll be able to advertise inter- state.

“The RDM committee met last week to discuss possible ideas for the 2017 edition with Running and Walking Club president Shane Caden saying the group was al- ready full of ideas.

“We had a meeting at Lasseters to identify some of the learning and things we can improve on from this year’s event,” Mr Caden said.

“Through the day we identified that our numbers are greater than what the Mitchell Street Mile had in their first year so we were real- ly happy with it.

“I think we’ll take the word ‘corporate’ out of the corporate event because a lot of people didn’t enter thinking it was just for businesses, where our intention was for that to be open to everyone.’

“The prize pool for this year’s event stood at a total of $31,200 and Caden is hopeful of getting a larger pool for 2017.

“We’ll aim to have a similar (prize pool) next year but we’ve got a few ideas on how to improve it,” he said.

“Some of the things we’re going to look at whether local businesses would like to secure naming rights for an event and that way we can in- crease the prize pool there, which would be fantastic.”

The event received a government grant this year of $40,000 and Caden is hopeful of securing a similar grant this year.

“We got a grant from the community benefit fund and we will again be looking to apply for that next year.”