

1981 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we look forward to another cricket season, we should also reflect on the accomplishments of last season, both on and off the field. Congratulations to the Incogs C.C. on winning the league championship for the second time in three years and to Oak Bay C.C. for winning the knock-out cup. Oak Bay C.C. also won the gold medal at the B.C. Summer Games on their third try, after winning the Albion six-a-side competition three years in a row. The Victoria XI drew with the Vancouver XI in the inter-city match and the Victoria U-19 team beat Vancouver in an exciting game for the third time since 1971.

In 1980, Metchosin C.C. formed their team so that we now have nine league teams, up from the seven of a few years ago and this is a promising indication of the future of the game in the city. Last year was the first time that we used the players to umpire many of the games and on the whole this exercise worked very well.

Off the field, we saw the completion of the pavilion in Beacon Hill Park, a tremendous accomplishment for the association and my thanks go to all the people who made it happen. The pavilion was officially opened by the Lt. Governor of British Columbia, the Hon. Henry Bell-Irving, D.S.O.O.B.E.E.D. on July 12th, 1980 with over 300 guests attending.

This year promises to be another very interesting season with all the teams fielding stronger sides and the league should be another close race down the stretch.

In July we are hosting--a team from the Cayman islands in the West Indies, the first time a touring side from the West Indies has visited Victoria and we look forward to some "cavalier" cricket in the three matches played here. In September, we welcome our friends from the Kent Country C.C. for the third time in eight years and we are very proud that such a distinguished team of players enjoys coming to the west coast so often to display their skills to us and I am sure that many old friendships will be renewed, and many new ones made.

The facilities at Beacon Hill Park are also being improved this year, with a new wicket being laid down, new sight screens being built, a new practice wicket being laid down and many more benches for spectators being installed. The practice wicket at Windsor Park will also have a new mat. It is so hoped that arrangements can be made with the Capital Regional District for the Saanich C.C. to have their own field at Elk Lake for the 1982 season.

The junior cricket programme is being conducted on a large basis for the first time this year, with eight teams competing in the 8-17 year age group and considerable effort is being spent on junior cricket in the city as the association feels that the juniors will be the "life blood" of the sport for the years to come. My thanks go to the executive for all their assistance in the 1980 season.

David Billingham
President,
Victoria and District Cricket Association