

2 February 2009

Mr Mark Vergano
CEO
Cricket ACT

Cc Club Presidents
Grade Cricket Committee

Dear Mark

It is with regret and considerable frustration that I find it necessary to formally write to you about a matter that arose in the recently completed NCGCC v ANU first grade match.

This matter relates to the disgraceful wicket prepared for the second day's play of the on Saturday 31 January 2009. From the outset I wish to make it clear that I am not suggesting the wicket was purposefully "doctored" to ensure ANU won the game. However, from NCGCC's perspective it is difficult to accept what occurred on Saturday.

As you know NCGCC takes great pride and cost in preparing and ensuring the wickets at KT Memorial, Reid and Dickson are prepared to the highest standard. In the case of Reid this season there has been considerable challenges in preparing a suitable wicket when until last week no wicket irrigation has been available. Our club would prefer to forfeit a game of cricket if an opposing side considered that we have been party to preparing sub standard wickets to our advantage.

The wicket at ANU North last Saturday was not an acceptable grade cricket wicket. I believe that Captain's and umpire reports will confirm this. I reviewed the wicket at 4.30pm on Saturday and my comments are as follows:

- The wicket appeared to not have been mowed since the previous week.
- The playing surface had clearly not been satisfactorily watered during the days (48 hrs before) leading up to play
- The wicket displayed inconsistent cracking
- The wicket had clear "roller waves" which suggests it was rolled too wet probably as early as Wednesday
- The wicket played inconsistently throughout the day's play making it impossible for batsmen to play with any assurance

What is particularly irritating to NCGCC is the wicket gave no opportunity to NCGCC to win the game. I would like to draw your attention to the ACTCA Grade Handbook

3.2 Ground Preparation, which requires that pitches are "properly mown, rolled and marked". We believe that a breach of this rule has occurred and that ANU should not be awarded the points. Furthermore, we believe that the GCC and Cricket ACT should explore avenues to reverse the result and award the points to NCGCC as the result of this match has a significant effect upon the chances of NCGCC to qualify for finals this season.

It did cross my mind on Saturday to ask the NCGCC 1st Grade Captain to cease playing to make a clear statement to Cricket ACT. The preparation of this pitch was clearly unacceptable, particularly regarding the situation of the match and the significance of the result for both sides.

I await your response.

Regards,

Rob Docker
President
North Canberra Gungahlin CC

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