

2025 IPT WP 65s Report

1. Finalising the side:

Some confusion after the announcement of the side – squad was 12, pending a 13th player. No specific policy in place for Captain to fill the side.

Thankfully – a squad of 15 was established with a willing and efficient manager.

2. IPT Preparation:

Superbly organised – matches and training sessions – astro's booked/ opposition clarified.

3. Transport:

Many players delayed booking flights due to late fixture schedule
After the fixtures were published -WP65s were asked to play a later match on Sunday to accommodate KZN travelling by road – we didn't – but this could have been foreseen with more efficient/ earlier comms from LOC.
Many players travelled by car -well co-ordinated by players and other teams offering, as well as the WP committee input.

4. Accommodation:

Some confusion and frustration regarding this process – communication unclear/ changed re costs – led to players from 65s and other teams not being accommodated at same venue – players disappointed about this.
Official accommodation – City Lodge – perfect!

5. IPT venues:

65s played at Pearson & Victoria Park – both excellent facilities for matches.

Pearson, in particular, had some IPT atmosphere – stands/ refreshment hub/ 2nd astro/ change rooms – all appreciated.

6. 65s IPT matches:

65s very fortunate – had 3 competitive matches. Given some past GM IPTs where the numbers of teams per age group is limited – the 2025 IPT was of excellent value for competition for the 65s.

7. Match-related services:

Umpires – some players commented on the high quality of the umpiring. Others questioned this. Personally, I felt that there was a very wide range of umpiring quality – some excellent/ some still developing. I support Clive Belcher's proposal (and issue) that umpires need to be graded/ coached.

First Aid – all good. Personnel present at matches throughout/ physios at Pearson. 1 player stated that ‘it could have been better’ - he didn’t qualify the comment.

Refreshment hub– at Pearson - very good. Players commented re lack of post-match atmosphere at venue due to ‘no alcohol’, although the Bowling Club venue and service did create a true GM spirit. A concern for LOCs in the future when using school Astro’s – a challenge.

8. EP LOC:

Given the challenges.... This was a superbly run IPT – no player had anything but praise.

WP 65s Captain report:

Given that the side had some weaker players, the team believed that they performed above expectations.

Despite staying in different accommodation venues, the players met in the evenings which strengthened the existing positive atmosphere of the team.

On the disciplinary front: We did not receive any cards!

3 highly competitive matches – 2 victories against SG 65s and 70s – both quality opposition! A disappointing defeat against the local EP side on the final morning – however, having been 2-0 down, the team finished strong and dominated the 2nd half - losing 2-1.

Manager: Although Stephen Kelly was the pre-IPT manager, Vivique (Watson) was the manager at IPT and was superb – the team was hugely grateful for her contribution and efficiency.

I thoroughly enjoyed the honour and privilege of being captain of this side, and I thank the selectors and committee for their support and faith in me.

Gary Frayne

May 2025.